



3 April 2025

EM/2025/14

**Officer-in-Charge designated for IPBES secretariat: May 2025**

Dear IPBES members, observers and other interested stakeholders,

I wanted to share with you some very good news. Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of UNEP, has announced that Neville Ash, the Director of UNEP-WCMC, has been designated as the Officer-in-Charge of the IPBES secretariat from the end of April when I will retire, until the process to appoint the next Executive Secretary has been completed.

Neville has always been a stalwart supporter of IPBES and our work – and was, in fact, in charge of the interim secretariat when IPBES was first formed. I am tremendously pleased therefore to be leaving the stewardship of the secretariat in his very capable hands – supported of course by all of the rest of our excellent secretariat team. I know you will all join me in welcoming Neville back to IPBES for this period of transition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Anne Larigauderie'.

**Dr Anne Larigauderie** | Executive Secretary  
Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)