May 2025

Note on the nomination and selection process for members of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP)

The IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel is a subsidiary body of the IPBES Plenary (along with the IPBES Bureau), with functions specified through various IPBES resolutions, rules and procedures. This note was prepared by the IPBES secretariat, on the basis of the rules of procedure for the Plenary of IPBES,[1] the "functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements",[2] relevant decisions taken by the IPBES Plenary and other available guidance. It aims to support IPBES members in the process of proposing candidates for the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), for nomination by regions and election by the Plenary at IPBES 12.

I. Introduction

The "*functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements*" provide for a MEP as one of the two subsidiary bodies of the IPBES Plenary that will carry out a set of scientific and technical functions (reproduced in annex 1 to this note), including the provision of advice on scientific matters to Plenary. The MEP is therefore one of the central bodies of IPBES and key to its functioning and success. The term of office for the current MEP comes to an end at IPBES 12, and a new MEP membership will be selected by the Plenary at that time (see Annex II for details of existing MEP membership and eligibility for renewal).

According to Rule 26 of the rules of procedure, candidates for the MEP are to be **proposed by members of the Platform for nomination by the regions and election by the Plenary**. Each region will nominate **five candidates** for membership of the MEP, taking into account disciplinary and gender balances. In the event that a region cannot agree on its nomination, the Plenary will decide. According to rule 25 of the rules of procedure, **members of the MEP are elected for their personal expertise and are not intended to represent any particular region.**

Rule 26 also sets out **criteria**, which could be taken into account in nominating and selecting members of the MEP:

(a) Scientific expertise in biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to both natural and social sciences and traditional and local knowledge among the members of the MEP;

(b) Scientific, technical or policy expertise and knowledge of the main elements of the programme of work of IPBES;

[1] Adopted in decision IPBES-1/1 and amended by decision IPBES-2/1.
[2] UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9.

(c) Experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy development processes;

(d) Ability to work in international scientific and policy processes.

II. Proposals by IPBES members

IPBES members are invited to submit their proposals for candidates (with accompanying curricula vitae) by **30 September 2025** at https://www.ipbes.net/nomination-mep-ipbes12

Curricula vitae should be up-to-date and submitted in English. Names and curricula vitae of all proposed candidates will be made available on the IPBES website at https://www.ipbes.net/mep-nominees-ipbes12, together with the names of the IPBES members who submitted the proposals.

The Plenary, in decision IPBES-2/2, reiterated the need to ensure that the MEP reflects regional, gender and disciplinary balance consistent with the rules of procedure, in particular rule 26. It also urged the regional groups, in submitting nominations of MEP members, to take into account the need for gender balance and disciplinary diversity in order to attain an overall gender and disciplinary balance of the MEP.

In addition, the current MEP would like to draw the attention of IPBES members to the need for **candidates from developed countries to ensure that financial resources are at their disposal** to support their participation in up to two MEP meetings per year, as well as several other IPBES meetings. IPBES does not provide financial support to MEP members from developed countries (including nationals or residents of European Union member States or experts nominated by European Union member States) to attend IPBES meetings.

III. Nominations by regions

Regional groups are invited to consider the proposals from IPBES members that will be made available on the IPBES website at https://www.ipbes.net/mep-nominees-ipbes12 and as part of the documentation for IPBES 12, and inform the secretariat through the Bureau representatives of their provisional candidates for MEP nomination **as soon as possible**.

Regions may wish to maintain some flexibility in their final nominations with a view to achieving disciplinary and gender balance across the regions. All regions could consider developing a shortlist of 5-10 candidates, which could be further reviewed during the regional consultations prior to IPBES 12. Regions may want to engage in consultations within and among regions to ensure continuity and a satisfactory disciplinary and gender balance of the MEP.

IV. Election by the Plenary

According to rule 28 of the rules of procedure, the members of the MEP will be elected by the Plenary by consensus, unless the Plenary decides otherwise. If the Plenary decides to elect members of the Panel by vote, a specific procedure is set out in rule 28.

V. Work and roles of the MEP in practice

The procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables and other decisions by the Plenary specify the work and detailed roles of the MEP. They include, for example:

- Serving as co-chairs of IPBES task forces, for example task forces on data and knowledge; Indigenous and local knowledge or scenarios and models and overseeing and guiding their work;
- Serving on the management committees of IPBES assessments, overseeing and guiding the scientific and technical aspects of the assessments, in line with the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables, on a day-to-day basis;
- Selecting members of IPBES task forces and assessment expert groups;
- Guiding the scoping of IPBES assessments;
- Reviewing drafts of IPBES assessments in preparation at multiple times throughout the assessment process;
- Reviewing drafts of other IPBES deliverables and documents.

These tasks and roles include, for example as part of the selection of experts, the review of hundreds of applications or, as part of guiding the scientific and technical aspects of assessments, the review of large volumes of draft text, and therefore require a significant time commitment and in-depth knowledge of the relevant fields of science and other knowledge systems. More detailed information on the work of the MEP is set out in document IPBES/8/INF/22.

Annex I

Extracts from the functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Platform relevant to the functions of the MEP (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, appendix I)

B. Administrative and scientific functions to facilitate the work of the Platform

13. One or more subsidiary bodies will be established by, and report to, the Plenary to support the smooth, effective and timely operation of the Platform. The subsidiary body or bodies will, as decided by the Plenary, provide administrative and scientific oversight and facilitate the operations of the Platform.

15. Such scientific and technical functions include:

(a) Providing advice to the Plenary on scientific and technical aspects of the Platform's programme of work;

(b) Providing advice and assistance on technical and/or scientific communication matters;

(c) Managing the Platform's peer-review process to ensure the highest levels of scientific quality, independence and credibility for all products delivered by the Platform at all stages of the process;

(d) Engaging the scientific community and other knowledge holders with the work programme, taking into account the need for different disciplines and types of knowledge, gender balance, and effective contribution and participation by experts from developing countries;

(e) Assuring scientific and technical coordination among structures set up under the Platform and facilitating coordination between the Platform and other related processes to build upon existing efforts;

(f) [Exploring approaches to facilitating the sharing and transfer of technology in the context of assessment, knowledge generation and capacity-building according to the work programme of the Platform;]

(g) Exploring ways and means to bring different knowledge systems, including indigenous knowledge systems, into the science-policy interface.

C. Subsidiary bodies of the Plenary

16. The following subsidiary bodies of the Plenary will be established:

(b) A Multidisciplinary Expert Panel that will carry out the scientific and technical functions listed above.

Annex II

Eligibility of current MEP members

According to rule 29 of the rules of procedure, the term of office of all the Panel members is 3 years with a possibility of re-election for one consecutive term. "Not eligible" in the table below refers to those MEP members who will have completed two consecutive mandates by the end of IPBES 12. "Eligible for a second term" refers to those MEP members who will have served one mandate either in part or in full, and are therefore eligible for a second term.

AFRICA		
Luthando Dziba Wildlife Conservation Society, Rwanda	Not eligible	Terrestrial ecosystems, ecology/species interactions and interrelationships, conservation and restoration
Eric Fokam University of Buea, Cameroon	Not eligible	Animal diversity, ecology/species interactions and interrelationships
Christopher Gordon University of Ghana	Eligible for a second term	Ecosystem functioning and conservation
Dorothy Nyingi National Museums of Kenya	Not eligible	Ecology/species interactions and interrelationships, freshwater ecosystems, evolution/extinctions/genetics and ecology of wild species
Mohammed Sghir Taleb Mohammed 5 University, Rabat, Morocco	Not eligible	Ecology/species interactions and interrelationships, plant diversity, terrestrial ecosystems
ASIA-PACIFIC		
Shizuka Hashimoto University of Tokyo, Japan	Not eligible	Ecosystem services, land and sea use, scenarios and/or models

Rizwan Irshad Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad, Pakistan	Not eligible	Animal diversity, conservation and restoration, terrestrial ecosystems
Madhav Karki IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Nepal	Not eligible	Ecosystem services, natural resource management, policy-making
David Magintan Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Malaysia	Eligible for a second term	Wildlife Conservation and Ecology, Wildlife Management (including *in situ* and *ex situ* management, human-wildlife conflict, wildlife rescue, and wildlife habitat management)
Ning Wu Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China	Not eligible	Climate change, conservation and restoration, ecosystem services
EASTERN EUROPE		
Rovshan Abbasov Khazar University, Azerbaijan	Not eligible	Sociology, forest policy, conservation
Alla Aleksanyan Institute of Botany After A. Takhtajyan of the National Academy of Science of the Republic of Armenia	Eligible for a second term	Conservation and restoration, environmental and sustainability sciences, invasive alien species, forestry

Mihaela Antofie University Lucian Blaga of Sibiu, Romania	Eligible for a second term	Plant biotechnology, agriculture, environmental protection, policy-making
Özden Görücü Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University, Turkey	Not eligible	Environmental economics, policy-making
Milan Mataruga University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Eligible for a second term	Forestry, biotechnology, climate change
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
Germán Andrade University of the Andes, Colombia	Not eligible	Conservation and restoration, ecology/species interactions and interrelationships, environmental ethics and philosophy
Antonio Diaz-de-Leon Innovative Cutting Edge Solutions (ICES), Mexico	Not eligible	Marine systems, scenarios and/or models, governance/political ecology/political sciences
Marie-Louise Felix Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, Saint Lucia	Eligible for a second term	Environmental management and conservation, fisheries, costal zone and natural resources management, climate change
Adriana Flores-Díaz Universidad Iberoamericana and Global Water Watch, Mexico	Not eligible	Environmental and sustainability sciences, freshwater ecosystems, interdisciplinary studies
Ricardo Pinto-Coelho CEO RMPC-Meio Ambiente Sustentável, Brazil	Eligible for a second term	Community ecology, conservation and management of freshwater resources

WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS		
Catherine Febria University of Windsor, Canada	Eligible for a second term	Ecology/species interactions and interrelationships; environmental and sustainability sciences; freshwater ecosystems; conservation and restoration
Markus Fischer University of Bern, Switzerland	Not eligible	Ecology/species interactions and interrelationships, invasive alien species, conservation and restoration
Carolyn Lundquist National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA), New Zealand; University of Auckland, New Zealand	Eligible for a second term	Scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services, spatial planning, conservation and restoration, social-ecological systems, marine ecosystems
Isabel Sousa Pinto Biology Department of the Faculty of Science of the University of Porto and Ciimar, Portugal	Not eligible	Conservation and restoration, Environmental and sustainability sciences, marine systems
Josef Settele Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany	Eligible for a second term	Conservation biology, agriculture, land use and social-ecological systems, climate-change and biodiversity, science-policy interfaces