



6 October 2025

EM/2025/52

Dear IPBES members, observers and other interested stakeholders,

It is a real pleasure and privilege to write to you today as the new Executive Secretary of IPBES. I would like to begin my tenure by acknowledging and thanking my incomparable predecessor, Dr. Anne Larigauderie, for the exceptional foundations and growth achieved by IPBES under her leadership.

My thanks also, on behalf of the whole IPBES community, to Neville Ash, for his tremendous stewardship as Officer in Charge of the secretariat over the last five months.

I would also like to pay tribute to the invaluable work of the thousands of IPBES experts, member States, stakeholders and our secretariat team, which has firmly established our Platform as the most credible, relevant and important global source of science and evidence on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

I am deeply honoured to lead the IPBES secretariat at this tipping point for science in the international community. The strength and credibility of our work has never been more urgent – to help decision-makers at every level make better informed policy, decisions and action.

My commitment to you – as IPBES Executive Secretary – is to support our experts, Governments and stakeholders in further unlocking the value of the work of IPBES, working closely with you all for people and the rest of nature.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luthando Dziba'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Luthando Dziba | Executive secretary
Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)