



Media Release

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Better Planning for Biodiversity: Key to SDG Success

Montpellier, France (IPBES News) – A valuable summary of a new global resource to enable better policy planning on biodiversity was released in print today by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The ‘Summary for Policymakers of the Methodological Assessment of Scenarios & Models of Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services’ may be a mouthful – but it represents a major leap forward in ensuring that natural resources are properly harnessed and protected to ensure the success of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“Biodiversity is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Dr. Anne Larigauderie, IPBES Executive Secretary. “Food, water, energy, poverty alleviation, equity and peace all depend on the health of our natural environment. For sustainable development to succeed, however, we must move away from piecemeal decision-making about biodiversity and the benefits of nature to people. Science should instead be used to anticipate change – such as the loss of habitats, invasive alien species and climate shifts – to reduce the negative impacts on people and to help us make use of important opportunities.”

Approved in Kuala Lumpur in April this year by representatives of the 125 IPBES Member States, the Summary for Policymakers highlights key results of more than two years of work by expert authors from around the world. It presents a best-practice ‘toolkit’ of the scientific scenario and modelling approaches that can be used to decide on policies and actions by governments, the private sector and civil society.

“Scenarios and models help decision-makers to be proactive,” said Dr. Larigauderie, “Rather than just responding to the changes we observe, they allow complex predictions about how economic and social growth will impact and be impacted by changes in nature – helping us to plan and act more sustainably.”

She added: “The Scenarios and Models Assessment will also be an invaluable guide for our IPBES experts working on other ongoing assessments – such as the regional and global assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services.”

The release of the printed and electronic versions of the Summary for Policymakers today in France, was led by the two co-chairs of the Assessment, Dr. Simon Ferrier

(Australia) and Dr. Karachepone N. Ninan (India), with several other authors of the Assessment also participating.

The Summary for Policymakers can be downloaded from the IPBES website at: <http://goo.gl/LcrpbE>

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