Decision and scoping report for the IPBES global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Decision

IPBES-4/1: Work programme of the Platform

The Plenary,

Welcoming the report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the work programme for 2014–2018, [1] which includes lessons and challenges during the second year of implementation,

Acknowledging the outstanding contributions made by all experts to date in the implementation of the work programme and thanking them for their unwavering commitment,

Decides to proceed with the implementation of the work programme in accordance with the decisions set out below and the approved budget set out in decision IPBES-4/2;

(…)

Global, regional and subregional assessments

Approves the undertaking of a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables[2] and as outlined in the scoping report for a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services set out in **annex I** to the present decision, for consideration by the Plenary at its seventh session;

[1] IPBES/4/2.

[2] Decision IPBES-2/3, annex.

Scoping report for a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services approved by IPBES-4 (Feb 2016)

Annex I to decision IPBES-4/1

I. Scope, geographic coverage, rationale, utility and methodological approach

A. Scope

1. The global assessment will critically assess the state of knowledge on past, present and possible future trends in multi-scale interactions between people and nature, taking into consideration different world views and knowledge systems. The assessment will examine status, trends (past and future), direct and indirect drivers of change, values[3] and response options regarding nature (including biodiversity and the structure and functioning of ecosystems on land and in inland waters, coastal zones and global oceans), nature's benefits to people (including ecosystem goods and services) and the interlinkages between the elements in the conceptual framework.[4] The assessment will also highlight thresholds, feedbacks and resilience in such linkages, as well as opportunities, synergies and trade-offs between different response options. The assessment will furthermore analyse the contributions of biodiversity, ecosystems and their benefits to a long-term good quality of life in the context of sustainable development as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals. The assessment will consider the synergies and trade-offs associated with meeting multiple goals and the interactions among the social (including cultural), economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This analysis will be undertaken in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its 2050 Vision and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as national biodiversity strategies and action plans.[5] The assessment is intended to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem goods and services at a range of spatial scales from local to global by providing the knowledge and policy support tools needed for informed
decision-making by Governments, the private sector and civil society**.**

2. The time frame of analyses will cover the current status, trends up to 2020 (going back as far as 50 years)[6] and plausible future projections,[7] with a focus on various periods between 2020 and 2050[8] that cover key target dates related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The conceptual framework of the Platform will guide these analyses of the social and ecological systems that operate at various time and space scales. The assessment will draw on and synthesize information from the four regional/subregional assessments of the Platform, as well as other previous and ongoing relevant assessments, and address issues of a global nature not covered in the regional and cross-regional assessments and

[3] Values will be assessed following guidance laid out in the preliminary guide regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem services (deliverable 3 (d)) (IPBES/4/INF/13).

[4] The terms "nature", "nature's benefits to people" and "good quality of life" correspond to the inclusive categories defined in the conceptual framework of the Platform (decision IPBES-2/4) and its glossary (see Diaz et al. (2015), The Platform's conceptual framework – connecting nature with people, Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 14:1–16).

[5] As expressed in deliverable 2 (b) of the work programme of the Platform (decision IPBES-2/5, annex I).

[6] Long-term historical data as well as the longer-term paleoecological record will be used to estimate species extinction rates.

[7] A range of techniques will be used as discussed in the methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services (see Annex IV to decision IPBES-4/1 and document IPBES/4/INF/3/Rev.1).

[8] Some projections may go to 2100 to assess the implications of projected changes in climate.

global indirect drivers, such as economic, demographic, governance, technological and cultural ones, among others. Special attention will be given, among indirect drivers, to the role of institutions (both formal and informal) and impacts of the patterns of production, supply and consumption on nature, nature's benefits to people and good quality of life. The assessment will also cover direct drivers such as climate change, pollution, land use change, invasive alien species and zoonoses, including their effects across regions. The assessment will also examine other relevant issues such as biological and cultural diversity and the links between them, globally important biodiversity hotspots and migratory species. The assessment will demonstrate how the integration of nature and ecosystems into development can advance human quality of life.

3. The global assessment will address the following questions:

(a) What is the status of and trends in nature, nature's benefits to people and indirect and direct drivers of change?

(b) How do nature and its benefits to people contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals? What is the evidence base that can be used for assessing progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?

(c) What are the plausible futures for nature, nature's benefits to people and their contribution to a good quality of life between now and 2050?

(d) What pathways and policy intervention scenarios relating to nature, nature's benefit to people and their contributions to good quality of life can lead to sustainable futures?

(e) What are the opportunities and challenges, as well as options available to decision makers, at all levels relating to nature, nature's benefit to people and their contributions to good quality of life?

B. Geographic coverage of the assessment

4. For the purposes of the global assessment, the geographic area includes land, inland waters, coastal zones and oceans.

C. Rationale

5. The rationale for this assessment is to undertake for the first time a comprehensive global intergovernmental assessment of nature, nature's benefits to people, their contribution to a good quality of life and the way in which they are affected by indirect and direct drivers, incorporating multiple world views, different knowledge systems and diverse values.

6. Nature and its benefits to people provide the basis for economies, livelihoods, spirituality and a good quality of life, including by contributing to security of people around the world. The assessment will address issues across regions and of a global nature, such as global drivers and processes and consequences for people that cannot be addressed in the regional assessments.

7. The assessment will contribute to the development of a strengthened knowledge base and interplay between policymakers,[9] scientists and holders of different knowledge (such as indigenous and local knowledge) [10] from different knowledge and value systems.

8. The assessment will contribute to the implementation of the Platform's functions as they relate to capacity-building (the assessment is an important vehicle for capacity-building and will identify future capacity-building needs), identification of knowledge gaps, knowledge generation and enhanced use of policy support tools. Furthermore, the assessment is critical to furthering the Platform's operational principle of ensuring the full use of national, subregional and regional knowledge and tools, as appropriate, including a bottom-up approach, in providing knowledge for informed
decision-making.

[9] Governments will be involved in the peer review process in accordance with the rules for the preparation of assessments.

[10] Procedures have been developed to ensure that indigenous and local knowledge will be incorporated into all the Platform's assessments. See annex II to decision IPBES-4/3.

D. Utility

9. The global assessment will provide users (e.g., Governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society, including indigenous peoples and local communities and non-governmental organizations) with a relevant, credible, legitimate, authoritative, evidence-based, holistic and comprehensive analysis based on the current state of scientific and other knowledge systems (including indigenous and local knowledge). For example, the assessment will analyse, model and synthesize the potential effectiveness of response options as they relate to the Sustainable Development Goals and the sustainable management of nature and nature's benefits to people under plausible global scenarios and present best practices and lessons learned. It will also catalyse critical knowledge generation and identify current gaps in capacity, knowledge and policy and options for addressing them at the relevant levels.

10. The assessment will provide information relevant to a range of stakeholders in the public and private sectors and civil society. The findings and key messages will be presented to a broad audience as outlined in the Platform's communications strategy. The outputs will also include a summary for policymakers, highlighting key policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive, findings. The information will be widely disseminated, including (but not exclusively) by making use of new information and communications technologies. The findings and key messages of the assessment will provide Governments and intergovernmental fora, e.g., the Convention on Biological Diversity and
United Nations General Assembly oceans-related processes, with a knowledge base (highlighting key policies) to inform national, regional and global policies on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems and their benefits to people. The assessment will also provide knowledge for a wide range of other decision makers as set out in the description of chapter 6 in the chapter outline below.

11. The assessment will be well placed in time to contribute to the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The fifth edition will report in 2020 on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and assess the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It will be based on the sixth national reports of parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the one hand, and on the outcome of the assessment and other relevant work of the Platform (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9), on the other. It is expected that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting in the fourth quarter of 2019 will consider this assessment and its implications for the future work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and that the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook will be launched at a meeting in the second quarter of 2020.

12. The completion of the assessment will be timed to provide information relevant to the assessment of progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the review of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 foreseen at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020 (recommendation XIX/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice). The scope of the assessment is designed to be complementary to and provide an input for the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. In this regard the assessment will be additional and complementary to the sixth national reports of parties to the Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/9).

13. The assessment, including in particular its scenarios and consideration of response options, is also well placed in time to contribute to the update/follow-up of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity beyond 2020, which will be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting (decision XII/31 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity), and to other fora.

14. The assessment is particularly well placed in time to contribute to the assessment of the achievement of several biodiversity-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant conventions and agreements, as appropriate and in accordance with the respective mandates of those conventions and agreements.

E. Methodological approach

15. The global assessment will be based on existing data (including, as appropriate, national data), published scientific and grey literature and other information, including indigenous and

local knowledge, according to the guidelines of the Platform. The expression "analysis and synthesis" is used frequently in the assessment. In the context of the assessment and in accordance with the principles of the Platform, analysis refers to a critical evaluation of the evidence base; it does not refer to new research. Synthesis refers to the combining of evidence from multiple sources, and is a key step in carrying out analyses in the context of assessments.

16. The assessment will draw on the Platform's regional/subregional, thematic and methodological assessments and guidelines, as well as other relevant global assessments such as the Global Biodiversity Outlook series, assessments by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environmental Outlook series, the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the first World Ocean Assessment (WOA I) and other assessments prepared under the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects. The assessment will also use existing data and information held by global, regional, subregional and national institutions such as relevant multilateral environmental agreements. The assessment will rely on existing scenarios and models and will also make use of scenarios and models that may be catalysed as part of the follow-up to the methodological assessment, among others. In this context, the Platform will work closely with the research communities, including those working on the shared socio-economic pathways (SSP) to be used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

17. The Platform's global assessment will build on WOA I, which was completed in 2015. The component of the assessment focused on the oceans will include elements such as values, indirect drivers, scenarios associated with marine biodiversity and its benefits to people and management of marine resources. The assessment will also directly address how changes in human quality of life are linked to the trends in ocean uses and ocean biodiversity documented in WOA I.

18. Experts involved in the assessment will work closely with the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems to ensure that the multiple sources of knowledge are drawn upon using indigenous and local knowledge procedures.[11] The group of experts for the assessment will, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, reflect the appropriate geographic, disciplinary, gender and expertise balance (policy, terrestrial and marine natural sciences, social and economic sciences and arts and humanities). The authors will work with expert groups undertaking regional, thematic and methodological assessments in order to ensure conceptual and methodological coherence. The authors will work closely with the task forces on knowledge and data, indigenous and local knowledge systems and capacity-building, taking into account the rights of knowledge holders. The group of experts will be supported by the guide to the production and integration of assessments (see IPBES/4/INF/9) and the preliminary guide regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including ecosystem functions and services (IPBES/4/INF/13).

19. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in overseeing the group of experts, will facilitate liaison with the scientific advisory bodies and secretariats of the relevant global processes at all stages of the preparation of the assessment to ensure that the needs of the end users are effectively addressed.

20. Stakeholders will be engaged throughout the assessment process through a number of mechanisms such as the participation of stakeholders, where appropriate, in the development of new scenarios and models developed in response to the needs of the Platform for the assessment, as well as through consultations between experts and stakeholders at meetings held with the support of the capacity-building deliverable of the Platform or with in-kind support.

II. Chapter outline

21. The assessment report will be a policy-relevant, six-chapter report, as set out below. The overall chapter structure outlined here does not preclude dividing the chapters into smaller components (as long as the high-level titles are maintained in the overall structure) in order to ensure clarity and manageable tasks for authors. Each chapter will include an executive

[11] Annex II to decision IPBES-4/3.

summary. A summary for policymakers will outline the key findings and messages most relevant to policymakers in a non-prescriptive manner.

22. **Chapter 1** will set the stage for the assessment by outlining the elements in the relationship between people, nature, nature's benefits to people, a good quality of life and indirect and direct drivers of change and anthropogenic assets and their major interactions, as defined in the Platform's conceptual framework. The assessment will incorporate multiple world views, multiple knowledge systems and diverse values. Chapter 1 will provide a road map and overarching rationale for the sequence of chapters in the assessment. In assessing the contributions of nature and nature's benefits to people to achieving a good quality of life, the chapter will recognize synergies and trade-offs associated with meeting multiple goals and the need for balanced integration between the social (including cultural), economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

23. **Chapter 2** will address question (a) in paragraph 3 above. The chapter will assess the global and cross-regional status of, and trends in, nature, nature's benefits to people, their contribution to a good quality of life, indirect and direct drivers of change and the major interactions among these elements as set out in figure I of the conceptual framework. The analysis and synthesis will cover ecosystems on land and in inland waters, coastal zones and global oceans and will include analyses of the roles of formal institutions as well as informal institutions (i.e., socially shared rules and cultural practices). The chapter will draw on multiple evidence bases, including natural and social sciences and indigenous and local knowledge, and will cover:

(a) Analysis and synthesis of the Platform's regional/subregional assessments and other regional scale assessments, focusing on status and trends. Emerging issues and lessons from case studies from the regions will be identified and commonalities and divergences across regional and subregional scales highlighted. Syntheses across regions regarding some key biomes or ecosystem types covered in the regional assessment could also be considered;

(b) Synthesis of prior global assessments, including the Platform's thematic assessments and those mentioned in paragraph 16, as well as new global-scale evidence, focusing on status and trends with an explicit consideration of linkages across regions;

(c) Evaluation highlighting the status and trends of institutional drivers at the global level and across regions such as investment initiatives and multilateral environmental, trade and health agreements, as well as their effects on other components of the conceptual framework;

(d) Identification of information and knowledge gaps, as well as needs for capacity-building.

24. **Chapter 3** will address question (b) in paragraph 3 above. The chapter will focus on the evidence available for assessing progress towards meeting major international objectives related to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, with special attention given to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and relevant Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the objectives of other biodiversity-related agreements. The analyses in this chapter will build on those in the previous chapter but will explicitly focus on internationally agreed targets and goals in consultation with relevant institutions (e.g., the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Statistics Division). These analyses will use multiple evidence bases, including natural and social sciences and indigenous and local knowledge. This chapter will cover:

(a) Analysis and synthesis of the evidence base that can be used to determine progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and relevant Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing that the final assessment of achievement of the Aichi Targets will be carried out for the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook using this evidence base and additional information, including national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) Analysis and synthesis of the underlying reasons why progress has or has not been made towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, relevant Sustainable Development Goals and other major international goals related to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. It will include consideration of the contributions of past and ongoing policy and management actions and resource mobilization to achieving these goals;

(c) Analysis and synthesis of the evidence base that can inform the development of new targets for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including analysis of the interactions between trends towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets with the aim of understanding how they contribute to reaching the 2050 Vision. The chapter will also include consideration of the availability of existing and emerging indicators, including indicators that are being developed in the context of the reporting obligations of the Parties to relevant biodiversity-related agreements;

(d) Identification of information and knowledge gaps, as well as needs for research and capacity-building, that would need to be addressed in order to enhance understanding of progress towards the achievement of these international goals.

25. **Chapter 4** will address question (c) in paragraph 3 above. The chapter will focus on plausible futures of nature, nature's benefits to people and their contributions to a good quality of life, by considering a wide range of scenarios of direct and indirect drivers, focusing on the 2030 and 2050 time frames. The assessment in this chapter will evaluate how these scenarios of direct and indirect drivers impact nature, nature's benefits to people and good quality of life using quantitative and qualitative models that mobilize a full range of world views and knowledge systems. Outcomes of the scenarios will be assessed in relation to internationally agreed goals related to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services such as the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, the 2050 Vision and other relevant conventions and agreements, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, in order to facilitate better understanding of which types of socio-economic development pathways lead to outcomes that are closest to or furthest from these goals. This chapter will include:

(a) Assessment of positive and negative feedback loops in social and ecological systems and their contributions to potential future shifts;

(b) Attribution of changes in nature, nature’s benefits to people and good quality of life resulting from direct and indirect drivers;

(c) Evaluation following consideration of a diverse set of values, following the preliminary guide regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (IPBES/4/INF/13) of policy actions or inaction;

(d) Evaluation of uncertainty, and methods for dealing with uncertainty in decision-making;

(e) Reflections on how the evidence from the scenarios may contribute to the elaboration of the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

26. Plausible future scenarios will be analysed based on three broad classes of methods: statistical extrapolations (like those carried out for the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook); exploratory scenarios of direct and indirect drivers coupled with quantitative or qualitative models (like the scenarios and models used in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment); and inferences from patterns in case studies that focus on general lessons that can be learned from such studies on a global scale (see also annex IV to decision IPBES-4/1).

27. **Chapter 5** will address question (d) in paragraph 3 above. The chapter focuses on scenarios and pathways towards a sustainable future, in particular on the means of achieving internationally agreed upon goals and targets related to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services. The chapter will focus on the components of sustainable development related to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services and, therefore, cover only a subset of sustainability issues. It will take into account trade-offs, synergies, feedbacks and opportunities; make extensive use of work based on participatory scenarios; take into consideration a nested range of decision-making processes in Government, the private sector and civil society; and recognize power and policy asymmetries. This chapter will:

(a) Describe the roles in, and contexts of, decision-making in identifying opportunities for future development, building on analyses from the Platform’s regional, subregional and thematic assessments, and explore:

(i) How drivers are relative to decision makers and can be seen as being within their control (endogenous) or beyond their control (exogenous);

(ii) The role of timescales and time lags (inertia) in social, cultural, economic and natural systems, including in human responses to endogenous and exogenous drivers of change;

(iii) Analyses of relevant policies and legislative tools at the local to regional scales and how they are congruent with or in conflict with global goals;

(b) Review the outcomes of the following types of scenarios by building on existing work and available new scenarios developed in response to, or of relevance to, the needs of the Platform: target-seeking scenarios that examine broad suites of actions needed to improve sustainable development; policy and management screening scenarios that explore the contributions and effects of specific interventions, including trade-offs and opportunity costs; and inferences from patterns in case studies and analyses across scales and regions (see also document IPBES/4/4);

(c) Analyse paths of dependency and adaptive (versus locked-in) institutional and governance structures as indirect drivers (in the context of the conceptual framework) that will determine dominant values and potential future impacts on nature and nature's benefits to people. This will take into account information from chapters 1–4 to identify the state of knowledge of relevant processes in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 Vision, thus contributing to the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

28. **Chapter 6** will address question (e) in paragraph 3 above. The chapter will focus on opportunities and challenges for decision makers at all levels and will build on the analysis of the roles of decision-making as well as the decision-making contexts of earlier chapters. The chapter will analyse specific issues and opportunities for action for a range of policymakers and decision makers at all levels, including relevant United Nations agencies, biodiversity-related agreements and other relevant conventions and agreements, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.

29. In identifying opportunities and challenges, efforts will be made to recognize the variety of decision-making processes, the role of timescales and time lags (inertia) in social, cultural, economic and natural systems and that for all decision makers some drivers will be seen as within their control and others as beyond their control.

30. The chapter will identify the target audiences and their needs that are to be addressed within a range of stakeholders such as policymakers, legislators, financial planners at overarching levels and decision makers, as well as all other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities, who are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services.

III. Data and information

31. The global assessment will draw on data and information from diverse knowledge systems, addressing all the components of the conceptual framework in order to explore the interrelationships between nature, nature’s benefits, drivers and human well-being. The assessment process will interact with the Platform’s regional/subregional assessments and other global assessments to explore, integrate and interpret emerging transregional issues of global importance.

32. Attention will be given, in accordance with the Platform’s data and information management plan, to ensuring access to metadata and, whenever possible, the corresponding underlying data, through an interoperable process to ensure comparability between assessments. Furthermore, the task force on data and knowledge will develop recommendations and procedures to assure that data and information used in the global assessment will be widely available for future Platform assessments and other uses.

33. The assessment will also identify and seek access to any other globally relevant data and information sources that may exist or emerge. These sources include global, regional and national institutions and organizations, scientific literature, and indigenous and local knowledge. The requirements of the assessment process will be communicated widely in order to identify and encourage the sharing of relevant data and information.

34. The task force on data and knowledge will provide active guidance on data and information quality, confidence, indicators, baselines and representativeness. A core set of

indicators with appropriate baselines will be used consistently across the global and regional/subregional assessments and will be closely aligned with existing international frameworks such as the indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals, building on and supporting existing international processes on indicators to share the same data and methods and to avoid additional reporting burdens.

35. Similarly, the task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems will guide the procedures for the analysis and use of indigenous and local knowledge. The collective ability to perform these tasks will be strengthened through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and international collaboration.

IV. Strategic partnership and initiatives

36. Under the operating principles of the Platform, partnerships are important in order to avoid duplication and promote synergies with ongoing activities. Strategic partnerships are a critical subset of the many possible forms of partnership with the Platform. In the context of the global assessment, strategic partnerships are those that promote, for example, opportunities to increase alignment and reciprocity, and reduce duplication, between global assessments, or to build and maintain relationships with multiple relevant bodies under one global umbrella. Strategic partners should be identified for the assessment process in accordance with the guidance on the development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements (decision IPBES-3/4). Among key strategic partners currently identified are Future Earth, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. Other interested organizations are invited to engage with the assessment process.

V. Technical support

37. Technical support for the assessment will be provided by a technical support unit, located within the Platform secretariat, in order to promote synergies with the rest of the work programme and with the regional and thematic assessments in particular. The unit will be composed of one full-time staff member, supported by one or more full-time staff members seconded to the secretariat. The technical support unit will liaise with other technical support units, including those for the regional assessments.

VI. Capacity-building

38. A key objective of the global assessment is to build capacity to undertake assessments at the global level and to encourage the creation of an independent capacity-building network that will continue after the assessment is complete. Capacity-building will also include the strengthening of effective contributions of indigenous and local knowledge systems to assessments. Furthermore, capacity-building interventions will be designed to enable the effective participation of experts from developing countries in the assessment. The assessment will be supported by the task force on capacity-building and its technical support unit, in particular through the implementation of the proposed programme on fellowships, temporary secondment of staff and exchange of individuals, mentoring and training presented in document IPBES/4/6. The assessment will identify a pool of experts that can be used to provide support for capacity-building activities related to the Platform.

VII. Communication and outreach

39. The global assessment report and its summary for policymakers will be published in electronic format and will be made available on the Platform website. The summary for policymakers will be available in all official languages of the United Nations and will be printed on demand. Outreach to a broad set of stakeholders, including the general public, will be based on the Platform's communications and outreach strategy and budget. Dissemination will target all Platform stakeholders and will be adapted to the specific interests of different users. Metadata used in the assessment will be made publicly available in accordance with relevant guidance developed by the Platform.

40. Communication and outreach will be undertaken from the outset of the assessment in order to build engagement with the wider scientific community and the end users of the

assessment. Engagement with users will help to define the type and range of communication products and policy support tools that will be developed as part of the assessment.

VIII. Process and timetable

41. The proposed process and timetable for preparing the assessment report, including actions, milestones and institutional arrangements, is set out below.

Time frame		*Actions and institutional arrangements*
2016	First quarter	The Plenary, at its fourth session, approves the undertaking of the global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and asks for offers of in-kind support for staff secondments for the technical support unit for the global assessment
		The Chair, through the secretariat, requests nominations from Governments and other stakeholders of experts to prepare the global assessment report
	Second quarter	Secretariat compiles lists of nominations
		*June: the Panel and the Bureau select the assessment co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors, using the approved selection criteria set out in decision IPBES-3/3, annex I)
		*June: meeting of the Management Committee (co-chairs, the technical support unit and Panel/Bureau members) to select the remaining members of the expert team and assign roles (i.e., coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors) and prepare for the first author meeting
		Selected nominees contacted, gaps filled and the list of co-chairs, authors and review editors finalized
	Early third quarter	*15–19 August: first author meeting with approximately 150 participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors and lead authors, Panel/Bureau members and technical support unit
	Third quarter	*22–26 August: co-chairs (and two or three relevant coordinating lead authors) of the global assessment participate in joint second author meeting of the regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment
	Fourth quarter	Zero order drafts of chapters prepared and sent to secretariat through the technical support unit
2017	First quarter	Preparation of first order drafts of chapters and submission to secretariat
	Second quarter	May–June: first order draft of global assessment sent for expert review (6 weeks)
		Collation of review comments by secretariat for revision (1 week)
	Early third quarter	Second author meeting, including: 3 co-chairs, 20 coordinating lead authors and 14 review editors, Panel/Bureau members and technical support unit
	Third quarter	Preparation of second order drafts of chapters, including graphics and first order draft of summary for policymakers prepared (5–6 months)
2018	First quarter	Second order draft of the assessment and first order draft of the summary for policymakers sent for Government and expert review (8 weeks)
	First quarter	Collation of review comments for second order draft of the assessment and first order draft of the summary for policymakers sent to authors (2 weeks)
	End of first quarter	Co-chairs to attend the sixth session of the Plenary to observe consideration by the Plenary of the regional and land degradation assessments
	Second/early third quarter	Third author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors, Panel/Bureau members and technical support unit)
	Third and fourth quarters	Preparation of final text changes to the assessment and the summary for policymakers (6 months)
2019	First quarter	Translation of the summary for policymakers into the six official languages of the United Nations (6 weeks)
	First quarter	Submission of the assessment report, including the translated summary for policymakers, to Governments for final review prior to the Plenary session (8 weeks)
	First quarter	Final Government comments on the summary for policymakers for consideration by authors prior to the Plenary session (2 weeks)
	Second quarter	May (to be confirmed): Plenary to consider and possibly approve and accept the summary for policymakers and the technical global assessment report, respectively

*These dates are tentative and may vary by a few weeks.

IX. Cost estimate

42. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting and preparing the assessment report.

Year	*Cost item*	*Assumptions*	*Estimated cost (United States dollars)*
2016	Meeting of co-chairs, secretariat/technical support and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel/Bureau members	Venue costs (0.5 week, 10 participants, in Bonn)	0
		Travel and DSA (5 x $3,750)	18 750
	First author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and Panel/Bureau members)	Venue costs (1 week, 115 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	37 500
		Travel and DSA (86 x $3,750)	322 500
	Co-chairs participation in joint regional land degradation and restoration assessment meeting	Travel and DSA (2 x $3,750)	7 500
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position; to be assisted by one or more people (in-kind contribution)	150 000
2017	Second author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, review editors and Panel/Bureau members)	Venue costs (1 week, 40 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	11 250
		Travel and DSA (30 x $3,750)	112 500
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position; to be assisted by one or more people (in-kind contribution)	150 000
	Co-chairs to attend the sixth session of the Plenary of the Platform	Observe negotiations on regional assessments	22 500
2018	Third author meeting (participants: co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors, review editors and Panel/Bureau members)	Venue costs (1 week, 130 participants)	37 500
		Travel and DSA (100 x $3,750)	375 000
	Communications	Graphic design, data visualization, dissemination and outreach (public relations and media, etc.)	500 000
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position; to be assisted by one or more people (in-kind contribution)	150 000
2019	Participation by the 12 co-chairs and coordinating lead authors in the sixth session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (9 x $3,750)	33 750
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position; to be assisted by one or more people (in-kind contribution)	93 750
Total			**2 022 500**