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Announcement of the First Review by experts of the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Dear IPBES National Focal Points, Stakeholders and Friends,

We would like to announce that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will circulate the draft chapters of the IPBES **global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services** for first review by experts, **for a period of eight weeks, from 15 June – 15 August, 2017.**

This assessment will be the first global snapshot of the state of the world's biodiversity in over a decade since the release of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The global assessment will provide decision-makers with the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people, as well as the options to protect and use these natural assets more sustainably. Furthermore, the global assessment will provide vital data for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

One of the most important phases in drafting any assessment report is the period in which it is opened for external review by any interested experts including, among others, scientists, decision-makers, practitioners and the holders of indigenous and local knowledge.

The widest-possible participation and most diverse engagement of experts in this first external review is vital to strengthen the credibility, legitimacy and policy relevance of the global assessment.

I would like to therefore request your kind and urgent assistance in alerting all relevant experts and knowledge holders in your Government, institution or network to this important opportunity to engage with IPBES to help shape and improve the global assessment.

Steps to become an external expert reviewer will be specified in detail at a later stage. They will involve registering as a user of the IPBES website, applying to become an external expert reviewer for individual chapters of the global assessment, obtaining confidential access to the draft chapters, and submitting comments in English on a template.

This message is to alert the community at large about this upcoming opportunity.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping us to ensure the widest possible range of expert participation in the external review– the more substantive comments we receive, the better the global assessment will be.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Larigauderie | Executive Secretary