

09 May 2017

EM/2017/11

Dear IPBES National Focal Points, Stakeholders and Friends,

The external review for the second order drafts of the chapters and the first order drafts of the summaries for policymakers (SPM) of the IPBES regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia, as well as the IPBES land degradation and restoration assessment, is well under way and will continue until 26 June 2017. The review period for the Americas assessment will take place from 29 May until 24 July 2017.

As part of IPBES' efforts to encourage and support Government engagement in the external review, a series of assessment-specific webinars are being recorded. The webinars are primarily intended for National Focal Points, Government officials and stakeholders already engaged in, or considering participation in the review process. The objective of the webinars is to explain the scope of the respective assessments, to describe what a summary for policymakers (including its key messages) entails and to provide examples from each respective SPM to illustrate these processes. The co-chairs of each respective assessment will present the webinar for their assessment.

The webinars for the Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia regional assessments and for the land degradation and restoration assessment will be pre-recorded and made available online in the week of 22 May 2017. The webinar for the Americas assessment will be made available online as of 16 June 2017. The webinar for the Africa regional assessment will be given both in English and in French and the webinar for the Americas regional assessment will be given both in English and in Spanish.

Only those experts and knowledge-holders who have registered as participants in the current external review will be able to access the relevant webpage, following these three steps:

- Experts and Governments wishing to access the webinars will first need to register as users of the IPBES website (<http://www.ipbes.net/user/register?destination=sod-review>).
- They can then apply to become an IPBES external reviewer for individual chapters per assessment as well as for the summaries for policymakers at www.ipbes.net/sod-review (this will only work when logged in first as IPBES website users).
- They will immediately receive an email providing confidential access to the draft chapters and summaries for policymakers for everyone who have registered as

reviewers for this review period. From 22 May, the webinars will also be made available on the same web page.

Government and stakeholder engagement in the review process is critically important to ensure the quality, credibility, and policy relevance of IPBES assessments, and their future use. We would therefore strongly encourage you to take part in this external review, and we hope that these webinars will be a useful resource to this end.

We are happy to receive any questions on how to engage in the review process by email at secretariat@ipbes.net.

Best regards,
IPBES Secretariat
Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services