

4 November 2016

EM/2016/41

Dear IPBES Member and Observer States,

The implementation of the first IPBES work programme, now in its third year, is well under way and proceeding according to the guidance received from the Plenary. The Plenary, at its 4th session, approved the first two IPBES assessments on pollination, pollinators and food production, and on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services this past February. IPBES currently counts more than 1,000 selected experts active in its various deliverables, including in the four regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the assessment on land degradation and restoration, and the global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which is off to a vigorous start.

These achievements would not have been possible without your generous financial and in-kind contributions.

The contributions and pledges made to the IPBES trust fund are, however, not sufficient to cover the full cost of the work programme. IPBES will be facing a major shortfall, starting in 2017, if significant additional pledges are not made in 2017. The projected budget shortfall for the period 2017-2019 is expected to be between \$ 8 and 10 Million, after allowing for all pledges to be honored and for a level of national contributions equivalent to that of previous years.

I would therefore like to urgently invite Governments to make pledges to the IPBES Trust Fund. I wish to draw your attention to the importance of receiving these pledges ahead of the 5th session of the Plenary in order for the Plenary to be in a better position to discuss the budget for 2017-2019.

If you are in a position to pledge financial support, please communicate this to the Executive Secretary by email (secretariat@ipbes.net) as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to kindly remind you to register on the IPBES web site for the 5th session of the Plenary by 15 November, and to let you know that an information note for participants has now been placed on line.

I thank you in advance for your continued support to IPBES.

Yours sincerely,



Robert T. Watson

Chair