



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



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Progress on the Establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

1. At the Paris Conference on Biodiversity, Science and Governance, held in January 2005, a consultation to assess the need for and scope and possible form of an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) was proposed. This consultation, focusing on the need for an objective source of information about biodiversity change and its impacts on ecosystem services and human well-being, was held between 2005 and 2007 under the direction of an International Steering Committee comprising representatives of governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The consultation culminated in a request from the International Steering Committee that the Executive Director of UNEP continue to explore the establishment of an international interface between science and policy to address these issues.

2. Subsequently, UNEP convened three intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings to discuss the proposed Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). These were held in Putrajaya, November 2008; Nairobi, October 2009; and Busan, June 2010. Along with the other biodiversity-related MEAs, the CMS Secretariat, and the chair of the Scientific Council were invited to participate in these meetings. The Chair of the Scientific Council and the Secretariat attended the second, while the Secretariat participated in the third.

3. At the third and final meeting (Busan, June 2010) the representatives agreed to the establishment of IPBES¹ to strengthen the science policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and suitable use of biodiversity, long term human well being and sustainable development, with following core elements (see annex for the full text):

- Established as an independent intergovernmental body administered by one or more existing United Nations organizations, agencies funds and programmes, the new platform should be funded through voluntary contributions from Governments, United Nations bodies, GEF, other intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders.
- The Plenary, as the decision making body of IPBES, should be open to the participation of all member states of the United Nations and regional economic integration organizations. Intergovernmental organizations as well as other relevant stakeholders should participate in the Plenary as observers.
- The new platform should:
 - Respond to governmental requests related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and therefore it should identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers, and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge by dialogues with key scientific organizations, policy makers and funding organizations, without undertaking new research.

¹ The reports of all three meetings are available at: www.ipbes.net

- Perform regular and timely assessment of knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their inter-linkages and maintain a catalogue of relevant assessments. The assessments must be scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed, including identifying uncertainties, and there should be a clear transparent process for sharing and incorporating relevant data.
- Collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environment agreements and United Nations bodies, and networks of scientists and knowledge holders, to address gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication.
- Be scientifically independent and ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy through peer review of its work and transparency in its decision making processes.

4. On the next steps, the Busan meeting recommended that the 65th Session of the General Assembly be invited to consider their conclusions and take appropriate action for the establishment of an IPBES. Furthermore, it recommended that the UNEP Governing Council invite UNEP, in cooperation with UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, to continue to facilitate any ensuing process of implementing the IPBES until such time that the secretariat is established.

5. The CMS Secretariat will continue to monitor the progress in the establishment of the platform, including through attendance at the UNEP Governing Council in February 2011, and will report back to the CMS Parties at CoP10.

BUSAN OUTCOME²

The representatives of Governments at the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, convened in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010:

1. Recall decision SS.XI/4 of 26 February 2010, by which the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene, in June 2010, a third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and to transmit, on behalf of the Governing Council, the outcomes of and necessary documentation from the third and final meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the high-level segment on biological diversity in September 2010 and thereafter;
2. Note the outcomes of the first and second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008, and in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009, respectively;
3. Acknowledge the importance of terrestrial, marine and coastal, and inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services which, while critically important for sustainable development and current and future human well-being, particularly with regard to poverty eradication, are currently experiencing significant loss; also acknowledge that the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services must be strengthened at all levels; and further acknowledge the importance of ensuring that the science made available is of the highest quality and independence, of enhancing cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and of building capacity to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services;
4. Welcome the expressions of interest in supporting the proposed platform by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and encourage further consideration of their roles by their respective governing bodies;
5. Note the interest of the United Nations Development Programme in the proposed platform and the important role of that organization in capacity-building within the United Nations system;
6. Conclude, having now reached agreement, as requested by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme through its decision SS.XI/4, that an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development, as follows:

² The following text is the annex of the report of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES/3/3).

(a) Focusing on government needs and based on priorities established by the plenary, the platform should respond to requests from Governments, including those conveyed to it by multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services as determined by their respective governing bodies. The plenary should welcome inputs and suggestions from, and the participation of, United Nations bodies related to biodiversity and ecosystem services as determined by their respective governing bodies. The plenary should also encourage and take into account, as appropriate, inputs and suggestions made by relevant stakeholders, such as other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional scientific organizations, environment trust funds, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. To facilitate this, and to ensure that the platform's work programme is focused and efficient, a process to receive and prioritize requests should be established by the plenary;

(b) The new platform should identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers at appropriate scales and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge by engaging in dialogue with key scientific organizations, policymakers and funding organizations, but should not directly undertake new research;

(c) The new platform should perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, which should include comprehensive global, regional and, as necessary, subregional assessments and thematic issues at appropriate scales and new topics identified by science and as decided upon by the plenary. These assessments must be scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed, and must identify uncertainties. There should be a clear and transparent process for sharing and incorporating relevant data. The new platform should maintain a catalogue of relevant assessments, identify the need for regional and subregional assessments and help to catalyse support for subregional and national assessments, as appropriate;

(d) The new platform should support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, such as those arising from assessments, to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies, and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development;

(e) The new platform should prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities, as decided by the plenary, and catalyse financing for such capacity-building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding;

(f) The new platform should be established as an independent intergovernmental body administered by one or more existing United Nations organizations, agencies, funds or programmes;

(g) The plenary, which should be the platform's decision-making body, should be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations and by regional economic integration organizations. Intergovernmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders should participate in the plenary as observers, in accordance with the rules of procedure established by the plenary. Through its rules of procedure, the plenary should in general take decisions by consensus of government representatives;

(h) One chair and four vice-chairs, taking due account of the principle of geographical balance among the five United Nations regions, should be nominated and selected by Governments which are members of the plenary. The criteria, nomination process and length of service should be decided by the plenary;

(i) A core trust fund to be allocated by the plenary should be established to receive voluntary contributions from Governments, United Nations bodies, the Global Environment Facility, other intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders, such as the private sector and foundations;

7. Also conclude that in carrying out its work the platform should:

(a) Collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations bodies and networks of scientists and knowledge holders, to fill gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication;

(b) Be scientifically independent and ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy through the peer review of its work and transparency in its decision-making processes;

(c) Use clear, transparent and scientifically credible processes for the exchange, sharing and use of data, information and technologies from all relevant sources, including non-peer-reviewed literature, as appropriate;

(d) Recognize and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems;

(e) Provide policy-relevant information, but not policy-prescriptive advice, mindful of the respective mandates of the multilateral environmental agreements;

(f) Integrate capacity-building into all relevant aspects of its work according to priorities decided by the plenary;

(g) Recognize the unique biodiversity and scientific knowledge thereof within and among regions, and also recognize the need for the full and effective participation of developing countries and for balanced regional representation and participation in its structure and work;

(h) Take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that incorporates all relevant disciplines, including social and natural sciences;

(i) Recognize the need for gender equity in all relevant aspects of its work;

(j) Address terrestrial, marine and inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interactions;

(k) Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional assessments and knowledge, as appropriate;

8. Further conclude that the platform's efficiency and effectiveness should be independently reviewed and evaluated on a periodic basis as decided by the plenary, with adjustments to be made as necessary;

9. Recommend that the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session should be invited to consider the conclusions set out in the present outcome document and take appropriate action to establish the platform;

10. Also recommend that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme should invite the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until such time as a secretariat is established.