

An Overview of IPBES-9 and the 2022-2023 Intersessional Period for IPBES

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The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is “an independent intergovernmental body established by States 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” (www.ipbes.net). IPBES is not a United Nations body, but the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to the Platform. Key decisions are made by the IPBES Plenary, which is composed of IPBES member States, and which has convened approximately annually since 2013. The ninth session of the IPBES Plenary, or IPBES-9, was held in Bonn on 3-9 July 2022. The Report of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the work of its ninth session will be available at <https://ipbes.net/events/ipbes-9-plenary>. The Plenary session was preceded by an IPBES Stakeholder Day on 2 July 2022, where the focus was on regional and national platforms and non-governmental stakeholder activities in support of IPBES, and their engagement in the Plenary.

This briefing note draws partly on information contained in meeting documents available on the IPBES website (<https://ipbes.net/events/ipbes-9-plenary>) and more detailed reporting by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (<https://enb.iisd.org/intergovernmental-science-policy-platform-biodiversity-ecosystem-services-ipbes9>).

Approved IPBES assessments

The Plenary approved the summary for policymakers of the “thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)”, or SPM of the Sustainable Use Assessment, for short. By approving the SPM, the full Sustainable Use Assessment report was accepted subject to changes to reflect negotiations on the text during the Plenary. This report provides the most comprehensive global analysis of the use of wild species. The report covers the topics of sustainable use of wild species as a key element of the relationship between people and nature; the status and trends in the use of wild species; key elements and conditions for the sustainable use of wild species; and pathways and levers to promote sustainable use and enhance the sustainability of the use of wild species in a dynamic future. An advance unedited version of the SPM is available here: <https://zenodo.org/record/6810036#.YsgdMOyxXeo> and the final versions of the SPM and chapters will be available later, on the IPBES website. A Japanese translation of the SPM will be available on the IGES website.

The Plenary approved the summary for policymakers of the “values assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)”, or SPM of the Values Assessment, for short. By approving the SPM, the full Values Assessment report was accepted subject to changes to reflect negotiations on the text during the Plenary. This methodological assessment explores how to balance economic, social, and environmental development in harmony with nature and good quality of life. It looks at the relationship between

different worldviews and values, a typology of values, the design and implementation of valuation methods and processes, and guidelines for integrating the diverse values of nature into decision-making for transformative change. The four background messages of the report are: understanding the diverse values of nature; measuring and making visible the diverse values of nature; leveraging the diverse values of nature for transformative change towards sustainability; and embedding the values of nature for transformative decision-making for sustainability. An advance unedited version of which is available here: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6522392> and the final versions of the SPM and chapters will be available later, on the IPBES website. A Japanese translation of the final version of the SPM will be available on the IGES website.

Upcoming and ongoing IPBES assessments

The Plenary approved a scoping report for a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people. An advance unedited version is available at <https://ipbes.net/resource-file/103757>. Approval of this scoping report specifies the scope, rationale, timeline, geographical coverage, methodological approach and chapter outline for the assessment, and allows the assessment itself to go ahead, for completion in the second half of 2025. The assessment is to be structured according to: how business depends on biodiversity; how business impacts biodiversity; approaches for measurement of business dependencies and impacts on biodiversity; options for action by business; and creating an enabling environment for business by Governments, the financial sector and civil society. As with previous and ongoing IPBES assessments, a technical support unit will be established to provide technical support.

Besides the upcoming methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people mentioned above, teams of IPBES experts including four IGES staff have begun work on a thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (nexus assessment) and a "thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity" (transformative change assessment).

The IPBES nexus assessment looks into the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation, including relevant aspects of the energy system, water, food and health. It takes a holistic approach, drawing on different knowledge systems and exploring thresholds, feedback and resilience, and synergies and trade-offs in different response options. The assessment further evaluates the role of the most important indirect and direct drivers of change, the role of institutions as well as the patterns of production, transport and consumption on nature, nature's contributions to people and good quality of life.

The IPBES transformative change assessment aims to understand and identify factors in human society at the individual and collective level (behavioral, social, cultural, economic, institutional, technological, etc.) that generate social change toward the conservation, restoration, and wise use of

biodiversity. It takes into account broad social and economic goals in sustainable development and assesses the determinants of transformative change, how it occurs, which barriers it may face, and which practical options exist to realize a sustainable world for nature and people.

The experts of these assessments convened their first author meetings, separately, in May 2022, and are developing the first order drafts of the chapters. The first external review of the chapters of each report is planned for early 2023. Both reports are to be presented at the 11th session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-11).

The IPBES thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control has entered its final phase and will be the only IPBES assessment presented for negotiation and approval at IPBES-10 in 2023. IGES will continue to host the technical support unit (TSU) for the invasive alien species assessment until its completion and subsequent outreach.

The Plenary also requested the subsidiary bodies of the Plenary to prepare an initial scoping to form the basis of a fast-track assessment on ecological connectivity and to consider requests, inputs, and suggestions for a second IPBES global assessment.

Other work that received the IPBES-9 go-ahead

Delegates agreed on decision text discussing further collaboration between IPBES and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). They welcomed a report on this topic but noted a poor response to a previous call for suggestions for thematic or methodological issues related to biodiversity and climate change that would benefit from collaboration between IPCC and IPBES, requests the Secretariat to issue a new call for contributions for consideration at IPBES-10 and appealing to the broader IPBES community to support such collaboration. The relevant working document upon which this discussion was based is available here: <https://ipbes.net/resource-file/103302>.

A work programme deliverables and task force work plan toward building capacity, strengthening knowledge foundations, and supporting policy was discussed, laying out deliverables and work plans of the five IPBES task forces (capacity building, knowledge and data, indigenous & local knowledge (ILK), policy tools and methodologies, and scenarios and models) for the intersessional period between IPBES-9 and IPBES-10. The relevant working document is available here: <https://ipbes.net/resource-file/103478>.

This discussion included the adoption of the foundations of the nature futures framework - a flexible tool to support the development of scenarios and models of desirable futures “for people, nature and Mother Earth¹” (<https://ipbes.net/scenarios-models>). The framework will provide an important

¹ The term “Mother Earth”, and equivalent terminology, is used in some cultures to portray nature or the Earth as a living entity.

grounding for further developing scenarios and models on human-nature relationships and their uptake in the ongoing and future IPBES assessments.

Dates & venues of future IPBES Plenary sessions

At IPBES-9 it was confirmed that, in accordance with decision IPBES-8/3, the tenth session of the Plenary (IPBES-10) will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, USA, in April and/or May 2023, subject to the successful conclusion of a host country agreement, with precise dates to be confirmed. The Plenary also decided that the eleventh session of the Plenary will be held in October 2024. The Bureau will decide on the specific dates of the session and countries have been invited to offer to host the session.

Upcoming IPBES opportunities & deliverables

In the coming months the following opportunities to contribute to IPBES work are expected:

- IPBES invasive alien species assessment SPM additional review by Governments in the third quarter of 2022 and the SPM final review by Governments in the first quarter of 2023;
- IPBES nexus assessment and transformative change assessment first draft external review in the first quarter of 2023; and
- IPBES business and biodiversity assessment call for nomination of experts in the third quarter of 2022.

Updates, links, and further information on IPBES can be found on the IPBES website at www.ipbes.net.