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THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Revised note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties provided guidance relating to collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). It requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform, where relevant (decision XI/2, paragraph 28).

2. The Conference of the Parties decided that the Subsidiary Body, at its eighteenth meeting, taking into account the further development of the procedures and work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, should develop recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting, as to how the Convention, and in particular the Subsidiary Body, should collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (decision XI/13 C, paragraph 6). In addition, the Executive Secretary was requested to explore options for formalizing collaboration with the Platform and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has initiated consultations on a memorandum of understanding between the Secretariat of the Convention and the Secretariat of the Platform.

3. This note is intended to provide an update to Parties on the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular on the work programme for 2014-2018 (sections II and IV below). It also contains recommendations as to how the Convention, and in particular the Subsidiary Body, should collaborate with the Platform in the future (sections III and V), and lists suggested recommendations (section VII).

II. BACKGROUND

4. The Conference of the Parties invited the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary, to develop a work programme that includes the preparation of the next global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services (decision XI/2 E, paragraph 28). In particular, it requested the Executive Secretary to explore,

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with the Secretariat of IPBES, options for the preparation of a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including its implications for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and to report on progress to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (decision XI/3 C, paragraph 7 (b)).

5. Further, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to engage the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and others in the preparations of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates (decision XI/3 C, paragraph 7 (a)). The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services was requested to consider ways in which its activities could, as appropriate, build on, and contribute to, the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook; contribute to assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and provide information on policy options available to deliver the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision XI/13 C, paragraph 4). The Conference of the Parties mandated the Subsidiary Body to provide, at its seventeenth meeting, additional explanatory information on these requests and to convey this information to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (decision XI/13 C, paragraph 5).

6. The first session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-1) met from 21-26 January 2013, in Bonn, Germany. At this meeting, the plenary elected the IPBES Chair, Bureau, and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP); adopted an initial budget; and agreed on steps toward the development of an initial IPBES work programme. It requested the MEP and the Bureau to develop a draft work programme for 2014-2018, noting relevant requests, inputs and suggestions submitted, including by giving consideration to those made by multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services (decision IPBES-1/2, paragraph 2). The first session of the Plenary of IPBES also adopted, in decision IPBES-1/3, the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform.

7. Responding to the requests by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariats of the Convention and of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services jointly made relevant information available during the process for developing the Platform's work programme for 2014-2018 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/4/Rev.1). The Subsidiary Body, at its seventeenth meeting, welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat of IPBES as well as the draft work programme of the Platform, and noted that the draft of the work programme available in October 2013 responded to the invitation of the Conference of the Parties contained in paragraph 28 of decision XI/2. In recommendation XVII/3, the Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to continue and enhance collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services with regard to the further development, scoping and implementation of the work programme, and to transmit to the Platform the key findings on the scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as contained in recommendation XVII/1 of the Subsidiary Body, to provide further explanatory information on the requests contained in paragraph 4 of decision XI/13 C, in line with paragraph 5 of that decision. The Plenary of IPBES adopted the IPBES work programme for 2014-2018 at its second session, held from 9 to 14 December 2013 in Antalya, Turkey (decision IPBES-2/5).

III. SUBMITTING AND PRIORITIZING REQUESTS TO IPBES

8. At its sixteenth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice discussed issues, modalities and options for collaboration with IPBES on the basis of the analysis contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on this issue (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2). In recommendation XVI/1, the Subsidiary Body recommended to the Conference of the Parties that it decide that the Subsidiary Body, within its mandate and following further guidance of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Should identify the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan that could be considered by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(b) Should consider the relevant outputs from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and take them into account and complement them with further work as needed in its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

9. A further consultation process on how requests from the Convention would be conveyed to IPBES was initiated, and based on the outcomes, the Executive Secretary prepared further proposals for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/19/Add.1). The Conference of the Parties decided that the Subsidiary Body, at its eighteenth meeting, should develop recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting, as to how the Convention, and in particular the Subsidiary Body, should collaborate with IPBES, taking into account the further development of the procedures and work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (decision XI/13 C, paragraph 6).

10. The first session of the Plenary of IPBES adopted, in decision IPBES-1/3, the procedure for receiving and prioritizing requests put to the Platform. It decided that Governments and multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services can send requests to the Platform on scientific and technical matters that require the Platform's attention and action. It encouraged the submission of requests by Governments conveyed by multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services through their governing bodies or scientific subsidiary bodies, while allowing some flexibility to multilateral environmental agreements regarding the deadline for submissions due to their internal meeting schedules. The Plenary of IPBES also encouraged the joint submission of requests by multiple multilateral environmental agreements through their coordination processes, for example the Biodiversity Liaison Group or the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

11. The Plenary also decided (decision IPBES-1/3, paragraph 7) that requests that are submitted to the Platform will be accompanied by information on:

- (a) Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of the Platform;
- (b) Urgency of action by the Platform in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action;
- (c) Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes;
- (d) Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action;
- (e) Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action;
- (f) Previous work and existing initiatives of a similar nature and evidence of remaining gaps, such as the absence or limited availability of information and tools to address the issues, and reasons why the Platform is best suited to take action;
- (g) Availability of scientific literature and expertise for the Platform to undertake the requested action;
- (h) Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action;
- (i) Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action; and
- (j) An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted.

12. Considering that Governments can send their requests, and intergovernmental organizations their inputs and suggestions, directly to IPBES, requests sent from the Convention should be limited to matters

which are directly relevant and related to achieving the objectives of the Convention and, up to 2020, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

13. In light of decision IPBES-1/3, the Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting, could adopt a procedure for submitting and prioritizing requests to IPBES along the following lines:

(a) Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, including the other biodiversity-related conventions, and indigenous and local communities can, at any time, submit suggestions for requests to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the Executive Secretary. Proposals should (i) be accompanied by the information requested in paragraph 7 of decision IPBES-1/3, and (ii) state clearly the rationale for and the added value of submitting the request through the Convention;

(b) In preparation for each meeting of the Subsidiary Body, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the IPBES Secretariat, will compile the proposals received, prepare further information as necessary for the consideration by the Subsidiary Body, and consult the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions, as appropriate, with a view to sharing perspectives and, where possible, coordinating the submission of requests;

(c) The Subsidiary Body will consider the proposals, taking into account, as appropriate, the views from the other biodiversity-related conventions, and where necessary further information prepared by the Executive Secretary, and will decide which requests, if any, should be transmitted to IPBES. The Subsidiary Body will request the Executive Secretary to transmit these proposals to the IPBES Secretariat in accordance with the procedure established by IPBES. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body, in his function as an observer of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, will support the consideration in this regard.

IV. OUTCOMES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE IPBES PLENARY

14. The second meeting of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services took place from 9 to 14 December 2013, in Antalya, Turkey. The Plenary adopted the work programme of the Platform for 2014-2018 (annex I to decision IPBES-2/5), and a conceptual framework (annex II to decision IPBES-2/4), as well as procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (annex to decision IPBES-2/3).

15. Further decisions addressed amendments to the rules of procedure for the Plenary of the Platform with respect to rules governing the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (decision IPBES-2/1), the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (decision IPBES-2/2), financial and budgetary arrangements (decision IPBES-2/7), the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), communications and outreach (decision IPBES-2/9), as well as the budget for 2014-2015 (decision IPBES-2/6). The Plenary also considered draft guidance on the development of strategic partnerships with various categories of partners, such as multilateral environmental agreements and academic, scientific and United Nations system organizations, focused on supporting implementation of the work programme. However, due to lack of time, the Plenary decided to defer further consideration of the draft guidance to its third meeting.

16. The work programme for 2014-2018 is structured along four objectives, each underpinned by a number of deliverables: (i) to strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform; (ii) to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across subregional, regional and global levels; (iii) to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to thematic and methodological issues; and (iv) to communicate and evaluate Platform activities, deliverables and findings.

17. Under the first objective, strengthening capacity and knowledge foundations, the Plenary established a task force on capacity-building, led by the Bureau in consultation with the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, to facilitate the development of capacities needed to implement the work programme and the matching of priority capacity-building needs with resources. It also requested the task force to develop a fellowship, exchange and training programme. The Bureau was requested to convene, through the secretariat and with the support of the task force, regularly, a forum to advise the Plenary on the identification of priority capacity-building needs and the acceptance of financial and in-kind support, and to oversee the web-based matchmaking facility. The Plenary invited Platform members and observers to submit to the secretariat their capacity-building needs for the implementation of the Platform's work programme (decision IPBES-2/5 I).

18. Under the first objective the Platform also established (i) a task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems, led by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in consultation with the Bureau, for the implementation of procedures, approaches and participatory processes for working with indigenous and local knowledge systems; and (ii) a task force on knowledge and data to facilitate that priority knowledge and data needs for policymaking will be addressed through catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge and networking. The Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau to develop draft procedures for, and approaches to, working with indigenous and local knowledge systems and to establish a roster and network of experts and a participatory mechanism for working with various knowledge systems (decision IPBES-2/5 II).

19. With the objective of strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across subregional, regional and global levels (objective 2), the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau and an expert group established to this end, to develop a guide on production and integration of assessments from and across all levels. It also requested them to undertake a regional scoping process for a set of regional and subregional assessments (decision IPBES-2/5 III). The work programme also provides for a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including status and trends, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being, and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

20. Under the third objective, to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard to thematic and methodological issues, the Platform approved fast-track assessments on (i) pollination and pollinators associated with food production; and (ii) scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services (decision IPBES-2/5 IV). It also approved the initiation of scoping for thematic and methodological assessments on (i) the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people; (ii) land degradation and restoration; (iii) invasive alien species; and (iv) sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening of capacity and tools (decision IPBES-2/5 V).

21. With the objective of communicating and evaluating the Platform's activities, deliverables and findings (objective 4), the Platform requested the secretariat to maintain an online catalogue of assessments, and to develop, together with the Bureau, an information management plan. It requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau, supported as necessary by an expert group established to this end, to develop a catalogue of policy tools and methodologies, and to provide guidance on the promotion of the further development of such tools and methodologies. The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel was also requested to develop, in consultation with the Bureau, a procedure for the review of the effectiveness of administrative and scientific functions of the Platform (decision IPBES-2/5 VI to IX).

22. The Plenary also finalized the procedures for preparing the products of the Platform, including a standard approach for thematic or methodological assessments (annex to decision IPBES-2/3, section 3.1), a fast-track approach for thematic or methodological assessments (section 3.2), and an approach for regional, subregional or global assessments (section 3.3). It adopted general procedures for

preparing Platform reports, and procedures for the acceptance, approval or adoption of different parts of deliverables (sections 3.4 to 3.9).

V. CONSIDERATION OF IPBES DELIVERABLES BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY

23. As part of the work programme of IPBES for 2014-2018 (annex I to decision IPBES-2/5), the IPBES Plenary mandated the preparation of a number of deliverables, which are highly relevant to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In order to take full advantage of the activities undertaken by IPBES and to avoid any duplication of efforts, the Subsidiary Body may wish to consider the relevance and implications of the findings contained in each of these deliverables for the work of the Convention, and also provide input during their preparation.

24. The Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth meeting, could provide guidance for the consideration of deliverables of the Platform and the provision of inputs for their preparation, along the following lines:

- (a) The Executive Secretary will continue to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform in all relevant areas;
- (b) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Secretariat of IPBES, as appropriate, brings to the attention of SBSTTA focal points draft versions of relevant deliverables under preparation by IPBES when these become available for peer-review, and invites the focal points to participate in the peer-review processes in accordance with the procedures established by the Platform;
- (c) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Secretariat of IPBES, as appropriate, provides final deliverables of IPBES, as they become available, to the Subsidiary Body for its consideration with regard to the relevance of the findings for the work of the Convention and for the further development of these deliverables in the context of the Convention, as required. The Subsidiary Body will include an item into the agendas of its meetings, as appropriate.

VI. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK

25. As mentioned above, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to explore, with the Secretariat of IPBES, options for the preparation of a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including its implications for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and to report on progress to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (decision XI/3 C, paragraph 7 (b)). In response to this request, the document on the contribution of the Convention to the IPBES Intersessional Process prepared for the seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/4/Rev.1), discussed, in its section V, options for links of future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook to IPBES.

26. The Subsidiary Body, at its seventeenth meeting, considered this document and recommended that the Conference of the Parties request the Subsidiary Body to evaluate the scope and process of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, following the publication of its fourth edition (GBO-4), and in light of, and avoiding duplication with, the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on a global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to report to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to inform its consideration of the modalities of future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (recommendation XVII/3). This matter will be discussed further at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body following the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, where GBO-4 will be launched.

VII. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions XI/2 E and XI/13 C,

Welcoming the adoption of the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for 2014-2018,

1. *Adopts* the following procedure for submitting and prioritizing requests to IPBES:

(a) Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, including the other biodiversity-related conventions, and indigenous and local communities can, at any time, submit suggestions for requests to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the Executive Secretary. Proposals should (i) be accompanied by the information requested in paragraph 7 of decision IPBES-1/3, and (ii) state clearly the rationale for and the added value of submitting the request through the Convention;

(b) In preparation for each meeting of the Subsidiary Body, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the IPBES Secretariat, will compile the proposals received, prepare further information, as necessary for the consideration by the Subsidiary Body, and consult the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions, as appropriate, with a view to sharing perspectives and, where possible, coordinating the submission of requests;

(c) The Subsidiary Body will consider the proposals, taking into account, as appropriate, the views from the other biodiversity-related conventions, and where necessary further information prepared by the Executive Secretary, and will decide which requests, if any, should be transmitted to IPBES. The Subsidiary Body will request the Executive Secretary to transmit these proposals to the IPBES Secretariat in accordance with the procedure established by IPBES. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body, in his function as an observer of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, will support the consideration in this regard.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform in all relevant areas;

(b) To undertake the activities described in subparagraph 1(b) above;

(c) To bring to the attention of SBSTTA focal points draft versions of IPBES deliverables when they become available for peer-review, and to invite them to participate in the peer-review processes in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of deliverables of IPBES;

(d) To provide final deliverables of IPBES, as they become available, to the Subsidiary Body for its consideration with regard to the relevance of the findings for the work of the Convention, in consultation with the Secretariat of IPBES, as appropriate.
