Knowledge, information and data needs for the Africa Regional Assessment

Luthando Dziba
BIMF/FBIP Forum
10 May 2016
What is IPBES?

- **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

- **Overall objective:** To provide policy relevant knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform decision making

- Established in April 2012, Panama

- 124 Members

- Secretariat hosted in Bonn

- Collaborative Partnership Agreement between FAO, UNEP, UNDP and UNESCO
A short history of IPBES

Identification of needs and gaps

We need an IPBES

Modalities of operation and establishment

Operation-alisation

- Nov. 2008 - Putrajaya, Malaysia
- Oct. 2009 - Nairobi, Kenya
- June 2010 - Busan, Republic of Korea
- Oct. 2011 - Nairobi, Kenya
- April 2012 - Panama City, Panama
- Jan 2013 – 1st Plenary meeting, Turkey
- Dec 2013 – 2nd Plenary meeting, Germany
- Jan 2015 – 3rd Plenary meeting, Germany
- Feb 2016 – 4th Plenary meeting, Malaysia
The 4 functions of IPBES

IPBES was established with four agreed functions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge generation</strong></td>
<td>Identify knowledge needs of policymakers, and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Deliver global, regional and thematic assessments, and promote and catalyse support for sub-global assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy support tools</strong></td>
<td>Identify policy relevant tools/methodologies, facilitate their use, and promote and catalyse their further development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity building</strong></td>
<td>Prioritize key capacity building needs, and provide and call for financial and other support for priority needs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IPBES assessment process

IPBES PROCESS (Triggered by Inquiry)

Addressed by Assessment
- Scoping
- Capacity Building
- KID Gap Identification
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Process Validation
- Archiving

Addressed by other means
- Expert Advice
- Capacity Building
- Policy Support
- Facilitation among / between other MEAs and other international processes
- Partnership / Networking Support
- Access to Knowledge Systems

Implementation
- Synthesis
- Peer Review
- Communication and Outreach

Design
- Questions
- Checklist
- Storage
- Versioning
The IPBES Conceptual Framework — connecting nature and people

Sandra Díaz1, Sebsebe Demissew2, Julia Carabias3, Carlos Joly4, Mark Lonsdale5, 87, Neville Ash6, Anne Larigauderie7, Jay Ram Adhikari8, Salvatore Arico9, András Báldi10, Ann Bartuska11, Ivar Andreas Baste12, Adem Bilgin13, Eduardo Brondizio14, Kai MA Chan15, Viviana Elsa Figueroa16, Anantha Duraiappah17, Markus Fischer18, 19, Rosemary Hill20, Thomas Koetz7, Paul Leadley21, Philip Lyver22, Georgina Mace23, Berta Martin-Lopez24, Michiko Okumura25, Diego Pacheco26, Unai Pascual27, 28, 29, Edgar Selvin Pérez30, Belinda Reyes31,
Objective 1: Strengthen the **capacity** and **knowledge** foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key IPBES functions

Objective 2: Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across the sub-regional, regional and global levels

Objective 3: Strengthen the knowledge-policy interface with regard to thematic and methodological issues

Objective 4: **Communicate** and **evaluate** IPBES activities, deliverables and findings
2015 in a nutshell

The 3 task forces implementing their plans

- Capacity building, knowledge and data and indigenous and local knowledge

2 full assessments deliver in February 2016 (IPBES-4)

- Pollination and food production
- Methodologies for scenarios analysis and modelling

5 new assessments are initiated

- 4 Regional/Subregional assessments
- Land degradation and restoration

4 possible future assessments are scoped

- Global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Invasive alien species
- Sustainable use
- Diverse conceptualisations of values
IPBES Africa Ecosystem Assessment

• CSIR appointed in June 2015 to host the technical support unit for the IPBES African Assessment

• The regional assessments are planned to take place over 3 years, culminating in a report in 2018

• TSU role is to provide support to the co-chairs and team of authors writing the assessment report, facilitate capacity building and liaise with IPBES secretariat and other TSUs
Selection of experts

Each group of 124 experts (max) is composed as follows:

- 2/3 co-chairs
- 12 CLAs (2 CLAs for each one of the 6 chapters)
- 6 coordinators for the 3 thematic assessments (2 for land degradation, 2 for invasive species, 2 for sustainable use), in charge of coordinating land degradation, invasive species and sustainable use work for each regional assessment.

- 92 Lead Authors (LAs):
  - 66 Lead Authors (11 LAs per each one of the 6 chapters), and
  - 26 Lead Authors from the 3 thematic assessments (10 for land degradation, 8 for invasive species, 8 for sustainable use)
- 12 Review Editors (2 for each of the 6 chapters)
IPBES scoping document for the Africa Region assessment

- **CHAPTER 1**: Setting the scene
- **CHAPTER 2**: Nature’s benefits to people and it’s impacts on quality of life
- **CHAPTER 3**: Status, trends of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature’s benefits to people (past, present and future dynamics)
- **CHAPTER 4**: Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives of quality of life (including positive drivers) (past, present and future dynamics)
- **CHAPTER 5**: Integrated and cross-scale analysis of interactions of the natural world and human society (institutions and governance) (past, present and future dynamics)
- **CHAPTER 6**: Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision making across scales and sectors (including lessons learned)
First Authors meeting

• Held in Pretoria – early August 2015

• Over 112 experts from the Africa Assessment, other thematic assessments and other TSUs participated in the meeting
Jo Mulongoy and Emma Archer van Garderen (IPBES Africa Assessment co-chairs) with Thomas Koetz from the IPBES Secretariat (L-R)
What Knowledge, Information and Data will IPBES assessments need?
What is an IPBES assessment?

- An IPBES assessment is a critical evaluation of the state of knowledge in biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- It is based on existing peer-reviewed literature, grey literature and other knowledge systems such as indigenous and local knowledge.

- It does not involve the undertaking of original research.

- The assessment may involve a literature review, but is not limited to such a review. The process of evaluating the state of knowledge involves the analysis, synthesis and critical judgement of information by experts and the presentation of such findings to governments and relevant stakeholders on their request.
IPBES scoping document for the Africa Region assessment

- **CHAPTER 1**: Setting the scene

- **CHAPTER 2**: Nature’s benefits to people and its impacts on quality of life

- **CHAPTER 3**: Status, trends of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature’s benefits to people (past, present and future dynamics)

- **CHAPTER 4**: Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives of quality of life (including positive drivers) (past, present and future dynamics)

- **CHAPTER 5**: Integrated and cross-scale analysis of interactions of the natural world and human society (institutions and governance) (past, present and future dynamics)

- **CHAPTER 6**: Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision making across scales and sectors (including lessons learned)
Specific considerations for Africa

Focus on:

- The **food-energy-water-livelihood** nexus;
- Land degradation;
- Climate Change;
- Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- Invasive alien species;
- Cross-cutting themes: trade agreements and foreign investment; and environmental health and zoonotic diseases.

- **Sub-regions**: East Africa and adjacent islands, Southern Africa, West Africa, North Africa, Central Africa
Knowledge and data considerations at each stage of the IPBES assessment process
Potential gaps and access barriers:

- KID not collected or discovered → Catalyse research for new data collection
- KID not mobilised or digitised → Mobilize resources for data mobilization and digitization
- KID not accessible → Encourage holders to improve accessibility
- Indigenous and Local Knowledge → Support diverse knowledge systems
- Language barrier and/or differences in knowledge systems → Seek expert advice on how to include KID in knowledge databases
ZOD Progress

• The table of contents has been drafted and progress has been made in adding content to all the chapters.

• Clear plan and advanced warning for the CLAs and LAs critical – many authors are busy

• Africa Assessment co-chairs are to report on the details of the ZOD
FOD Progress

• Content is being drafted into all the chapters in preparation for an internal review process.

• There are clearly challenges with inexperience in conducting assessments, writing a critical, analytical synthesis (as opposed to a literature review)

• Capacity building needs have been identified and resources are being mobilized to close the gaps
Challenges encountered

• Demanding timelines/deadlines – building staff capacity (recruitment)

• Lack of responsiveness (IPBES process)

• Lack of access to data and information (BIMF/GBIF Africa/GBIF, Map of Life etc)
Opportunities to support the Africa assessment

- **Sabbatical at the TSU** – e.g. Prof Robert Kasisi (Université de Montréal, Canada)

- **Post doc / staff exchange** – potential to get IPBES support

- **Internships** (currently 3 interns) and **student placement** (science-policy interface)

- **Contributing Author; Internal Reviewer; External Reviewer** etc
Challenges encountered

- Communication remains a challenge. Not all chapter CLAs being responsive to emails, deadlines or requests for updates – matter being addressed with co-chairs.

- Access to information remains a challenge to some authors – TSU is looking at options with GBIF Africa/SANBI.

- Some of the contributions are being delivered in French – the TSU has no French Language skills among the people involved. A creative solution for this problem needs to be sought.

- Lack of experience in conducting ecosystem assessments.
Other important considerations

• **A Glossary of common terminology.** A glossary of common terminology being developed in collaboration with the Task Force on Knowledge and Data. When might it be available?

• **Guidance on the selection of Contributing Authors.** There is a need for specific input into sections of particular chapters where current lead authors have no experience (e.g. tsunamis/earthquakes as drivers of change).

• **Capacity building interventions** – workshops, exchanges