

The IPBES Africa Regional Assessment – an overview

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What is IPBES?



IPBES-1 (Jan 2013, Bonn)



IPBES-2 (Dec 2013, Antalya)

- **I**ntergovernmental **P**latform on **B**iodiversity and **E**cosystem **S**ervices
- **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

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.

The 4 functions of IPBES

IPBES was established with four agreed functions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge generation	Identify knowledge needs of policymakers, and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment	Deliver global, regional and thematic assessments, and promote and catalyse support for sub-global assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy support tools	Identify policy relevant tools/methodologies, facilitate their use, and promote and catalyse their further development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building	Prioritize key capacity building needs, and provide and call for financial and other support for priority needs

IPBES conceptual framework



COMMUNITY PAGE

A Rosetta Stone for Nature's Benefits to People

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Díaz et al. 2015 *Plos Biology* 13(1)

Díaz et al. 2015 *COSUST* 14



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The IPBES Conceptual Framework — connecting nature and people

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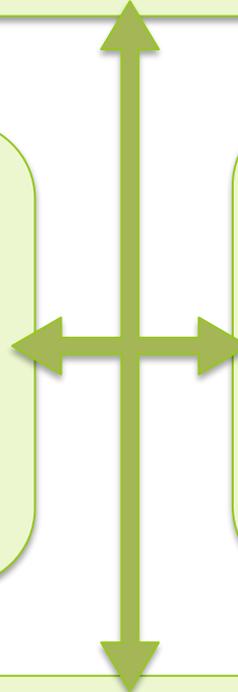
Structure of the work programme

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 (including a summary for policy-makers)
- 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)

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

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.



FOD Progress

- Submitted late May 2016 – open for external review until July 11th.



FOD chapters & CLAs

- *Chapter 1:* Setting the scene ([Mariteuw Chimere Diaw, Luis Tito de Morais, Khaled Allam Harhash](#))
- *Chapter 2:* Nature's benefits to people and quality of life ([Robert Kasisi, Pierre Failler](#))
- *Chapter 3:* Status, trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature's benefits to people ([Marie-Christine Cormier-Salem, Christopher Gordon, Ronald Kagwa](#))
- *Chapter 4:* Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives on quality of life ([Luthando Dziba, Wanja Nyingi](#))
- *Chapter 5:* Integrated and cross-scale analyses of interactions of the natural world and human society ([Fred Kizito, Belinda Reyers acting](#))
- *Chapter 6:* Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision-making across scales and sectors ([Lindsay Stringer, Balgis Osman Elasha](#))

Challenges encountered

- Demanding timelines (IPCC AR6 not dissimilar, so likely a trend)
- Communication and lack of responsiveness
- Lack of access to data and information (LD spoke about this at a previous meeting)



Challenges encountered

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





SPECIAL thanks to the TSU and our interns – some lessons for IPCC AR6