The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
LESSONS LEARNED FROM SOUTH AFRICA’S PARTICIPATION IN IPBES

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• Science Policy Interface still bias to the science: policy maker lagging behind because of criteria to contribute to the process.

• Challenge for governments to provide comments on draft reports, to nominate experts, and to make use of the reports once produced

• Challenge for the scientific community to produce the reports

• Too many reports & products might reduce the visibility and impact of IPBES

• Data non-existent / not accessible/ unreliable

• Lack of expertise, responsiveness and credibility

• Prioritisation is still bias towards where the funding is coming from.

• Funding Model for IPBES is flawed: It was adequate for establishing IPBES but as more pressure is placed on IPBES- sustainability is a challenge

• Consistency vs innovation: emergence of new terminology: Ecological Intensification, NCP:Natures contributions to people- co-creation, cross functional platforms

• Policy Relevance

• SA advancing with the science evidence policy agenda: Platform for dialogue and engagement- Annual Biodiversity Research and Evidence Indaba- 17 & 18 August 2017
BRIEF BACKGROUND

- **Overall objective**: To provide policy relevant knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform decision making
- Inspired and adapted from IPCC with 4 functions:
  - Deliver global, regional and thematic assessments
  - promote and catalyse support for national assessments
  - Identify policy relevant tools/methodologies
  - facilitate their use,
  - promote and catalyse their further development

- Identify knowledge needs of policymakers
- catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge
- Prioritize key capacity building needs, and provide and call for financial and other support for priority needs
- Identify knowledge needs of policymakers
- catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge

Indigenous and local knowledge
HOW IS IPBES ORGANIZED TO REALIZE IT'S MANDATE AND FULFILL IT'S FUNCTIONS

- Expert groups for assessments, policy support tools and other studies
- 14 Expert groups
- 3 Task forces
  - Capacity building, Knowledge and data
  - Indigenous and Local Knowledge
- 5 Plenaries held to date
KNOWLEDGE GENERATION
In order to implement the data and information management plan, 3 focal areas and sub groups established
1) Selection and use of indicators and data;
2) Development of a web-based infrastructure
3) Development of a plan to catalyse the generation of new knowledge

CAPACITY BUILDING
A rolling plan for capacity building
Pilot programme on fellowships, exchange and training
2 capacity-building forums already held and plans for a 3rd forum

INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
Piloting of ILK dialogue workshops
Approaches to working with ILK systems
A roster of experts and on a participatory mechanism, and their integration to the proposed approach to working with ILK
SOME TERMINOLOGY ACCORDING TO IPBES

- **Assessment** is a critical evaluation of knowledge for a specific theme or region (e.g. peer-reviewed literature, grey literature and other knowledge systems such as indigenous knowledge). It involves analysing, synthesising and critically judging available information.

- **Scoping** is the step which precedes a full assessment. It is a “feasibility study” which looks at all aspects of the future assessment (including outline, timeline, cost estimates, partners, etc.).
ASSESSMENTS

Thematic Assessments

Assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production
ASSESSMENTS

Thematic Assessments

Land degradation and restoration
• 2nd Order Draft out for External Review

Sustainable use of biodiversity
• Revised scoping report approved-Decision to go ahead with the full Assessment pending.

Invasive alien species and their controls
• Scoping report approved- Decision to go ahead with the full Assessment pending.
Methodological Assessments

- Assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services
Methodological Assessments

• Scoping report on the methodological assessment regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services approved- Decision to go ahead with the full Assessment pending.
Regional Assessments

- Regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services:
  - One of four regional assessments commissioned by IPBES
  - Regional representation (for Africans by Africans)
  - The external review by Governments and interested and affected stakeholders for the second order drafts of the chapters and the first order drafts of the summaries for policymakers (SPM) of the African regional assessments closes today to the national focal point. Official closing date is Monday 26 June 2017.

- Final draft to be completed end of August

- 2018: Plenary to review and accept the full assessment report and approve the Summary for Policymakers

Writing Workshop: Feb2017, Golden Gate National Park
POLICY SUPPORT TOOLS

- Catalogue of relevant assessments
- Regularly updated and available online
- Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies
- Two guides were further developed and revised:
  - Production of assessments
  - Value, valuation and accounting of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Catalogue of Assessments on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Welcome to the Catalogue of Assessments on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, a source of information on assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services from the global to the sub-national scales.

Get started! Try searching below.
COMMUNICATION AND EVALUATION

• Communication, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnerships
• Communication and outreach strategy
• Stakeholder engagement strategy
• Strategic partnerships
• Memorandum of cooperation with the MEAs related to biodiversity and ecosystem services
• Review of effectiveness of the Platform
• Terms of reference developed (Internal & External)
1,300 articles including scientific journals in 28 languages in 81 countries.
IPBES report presented to Senate in France and used as a basis for national law on the protection of pollinators

“Coalition of the Willing” on #Pollinators
Announced at CBD COP13

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Thirteenth meeting
Cancun, Mexico, 4-17 December 2016
Agenda item 17

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

XII/15.Implications of the IPBES assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production for the work of the Convention

IPBES and its work are explicitly referred to in 14 out of the 33 COP decisions

inspired by @IPBES Assessment: Science-Policy in Action #COP13
South Africa was well represented: 4 scientists contributed to the assessment.
LOCAL IMPACT

IPBES conceptual Framework conceptualised on South African soil-Cape Town 2013
LOCAL & REGIONAL IMPACT

IPBES Africa Ecosystem Assessment

Coordinated by the Africa Assessment Technical Support Unit (TSU) based at the CSIR in South Africa.

Approximately 120 experts involved in the Africa Assessment (23 S. African Authors). Chapter 5 on scenarios has more SA Authors.

Opportunity to comment on the assessment (closing date 23 June to focal point and 26 June to IPBES).

Currently Preparing for a regional consultation and Third Authors meeting in August 2017.

Regional consultations aimed at engaging governments on the process and finalization of the Assessment and summary for policy makers:

Discussion on the gaps, challenges, approval, rollout & use of the assessment.

Some Potential target structures:

Regionally: SADC, AMCEN, AU, TFCA structures
Nationally: Ministerial Working Groups, Across sectors?
GLOBAL & LOCAL IMPACT - SOUTH AFRICA AS A GIVING AND RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

- Global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Technical Support Unit established
- 2nd Author’s meeting taking place in September 2017: SA potential host country
- Lead Author- South African Scientist
- If the African Assessment is finalised and refined through addressing the comments adequately...... then potential to feed into global assessment
- Global Assessment is also important for the implementation of the SDGs
OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

- IPBES currently has 126 Members.

- A large number of NGOs, organizations, conventions and civil society groups also participate in the formal IPBES process as observers, with several thousand stakeholders, ranging from scientific experts to representatives of academic and research institutions, local communities and the private sector, contributing to and benefitting from IPBES work.
OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

There are a wide range of opportunities to engage with IPBES, some of which include:

- Joining as a Member (Governments only)
- Contributing as a nominated expert to ongoing IPBES assessments — as an:
  - Author
  - Editor
  - Reviewer
- Supporting capacity & knowledge-building work by contributing expertise, data or other resources.
  - Serving as a regional or subregional communication and outreach partner
  - Coordinating a sectoral or industry-specific network of stakeholder engaging with IPBES
  - Participating in the IPBES Fellows Programme

The first step is to register as an IPBES Stakeholder. It’s free and will ensure you receive regular information about the work of IPBES as well as opportunities to get involved.

- To register go to: www.ipbes.net/stakeholders
- Or use any smartphone or mobile device to scan this QR Code:
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• Kiruben Naicker
• Director: Science Policy Interface
• Department of Environmental Affairs