



# IPBES e-news

20 October 2011

**Dear Colleagues,**

In this second issue of our e-newsletter, we are happy to report on outcomes of the first session of a plenary meeting on IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services), which just took place at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, on 3-7 October 2011, under the auspices of UNEP, in cooperation with UNESCO, FAO and UNDP.

Representatives of 112 countries and 33 NGOs made significant progress toward defining modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES, in a very positive and constructive atmosphere. Discussions on these texts will resume at the second session of the plenary meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 2012.

## Outcome of the first session of a plenary meeting on IPBES

Key achievements of the week included:

- ▶ Restating the four functions of IPBES, as defined in the Busan outcome.
- ▶ Agreeing to perform inter sessional work on the rules of procedure and on the IPBES work programme for negotiation in April 2012.
- ▶ Narrowing a broad range of suggestions regarding governance to two clearly-defined options for the governance of the platform: **1)** two separate bodies: one multi-disciplinary science panel overseeing the scientific credibility and independence of the platform, and one small executive committee or bureau to oversee the administrative and procedural matters of the platform; or **2)** a single, multidisciplinary bureau including both decision-makers and members of the scientific community, and performing all functions. See **ICSU statement** on governance options.
- ▶ Agreeing on the process and criteria for selecting host institution(s) and the physical location of the secretariat. Governments are invited to signify their interest in providing the secretariat for IPBES by 15 January 2012; a decision will be made by governments at the second session in April 2012.
- ▶ There was some confusion as to the legal status of the platform and whether the UN General Assembly (UNGA) had already established IPBES or not. Many representatives expressed their support for the option to establish the platform by the current plenary meeting, at its second session in April 2012.

## Outcome of the IPBES Stakeholders day

IUCN and ICSU co-chaired the IPBES Stakeholders Day, organised by UNEP, in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP and FAO, on 2 October, immediately prior to the IPBES plenary meeting. Proposals were made on how to coordinate future input of scientific community and civil society in IPBES.

**Anne Larigauderie**

ICSU representative to IPBES  
Executive Director DIVERSITAS



If you have a relevant information or publication that you would like to be featured in this newsletter, please send it to:  
**secretariat@diversitas-international.org**  
**www.ipbes.net**

## 1- What is IPBES? See Frequently Asked Questions

## 2- Why is IPBES of interest to the scientific community?

## 3- How can scientists get involved in the IPBES process?

## 4- A short history of the IPBES process

## 5- The Busan outcome

## 6- Some relevant scientific publications

## 7- First session of a plenary meeting on IPBES (3-7 Oct 2011, Nairobi, Kenya)

7.1 **Official documents** considered at the meeting

7.2 Information documents produced by the scientific community:

> **Catalysing generation of new knowledge**

UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF11

> **Assessment**

UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF12

7.3 Statements made by ICSU, on behalf of the scientific community:

**Opening**

**Functions and operating principles**  
**Governance**

7.4 Outcome of first session of IPBES plenary

> **Report** UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8

## 8- IPBES Stakeholders Day (2 Oct 2011)

8.1 **Agenda**

8.2 Plenary **statement** made by Stakeholders

8.3 **Proposal** by Stakeholders on how to coordinate their future input into IPBES