Dear Colleagues,

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a new major international platform for scientists and policy makers, is now entering a very exciting phase. The design of IPBES and its detailed draft work programme will be discussed during a plenary meeting to be organised in two sessions.

The first session (3-7 October, Nairobi, Kenya) will discuss principles and procedures governing the work of IPBES, its governance structure, processes for nomination and selection of host institution(s) and host country, and initial elements of the work programme. The second session (to be held early 2012) will be in a position to determine these modalities and institutional arrangements, and consider the detailed draft work programme of IPBES.

This e-newsletter, which will appear when significant developments related to IPBES take place, is intended to provide information on IPBES to, and seek further involvement from, all interested individuals, and in particular, the scientific community. The scientific community has provided strong support to this initiative during its consultative phase, and intends to continue to do so, as IPBES starts being built. IPBES, once fully established, will represent a great opportunity for your scientific work to contribute to informing decision making. For this new assessment body to be able to truly reach out to policy and society, it will be crucial to better understand the causes of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the role of humans and human well-being. It is thus particularly important for the success of IPBES to have the involvement of our community at large, including natural and social scientists.

Please note that all interested stakeholders participating in the first session will have the opportunity to exchange informally at an IPBES Stakeholder Day, organised by UNEP, in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP and FAO, and facilitated by ICSU and IUCN, to be held on 2 October, immediately prior to the plenary meeting on IPBES.

We look forward to hearing from you, and to seeing some of you in Nairobi in October.

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, or visit www.ipbes.net.