



IPBES e-news

11 April 2012

Dear Colleagues,

This e-newsletter, intended to inform the scientific community on IPBES, appears when significant developments related to IPBES take place. The occasion is the second session of the IPBES plenary scheduled 16-21 April, in Panama City, Republic of Panama.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is a new major international platform for scientists and policy makers. Following several years of negotiations, which culminated with the **Busan outcome** (June 2010) deciding that an IPBES should be established, IPBES entered in 2011 into an exciting design phase, made of a plenary meeting organised in two sessions.

At the first session (3-7 October 2011, Nairobi, Kenya), 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. Key achievements included:

- 1) Restating the four functions of IPBES, as defined in the Busan outcome (assessment, knowledge generation, policy support and capacity building);
- 2) Agreeing to perform intersessional work on the rules of procedure and on the IPBES work programme for negotiation in April 2012;
- 3) Narrowing a broad range of suggestions regarding governance to two clearly-defined options;
- 4) Agreeing on the process and criteria for selecting host institution(s) and the physical location of the secretariat.

At the upcoming second session (16-21 April 2012), representatives will consider issues related to:

- A) The Work Programme (16 potential activities** proposed to operationalize the four functions; **draft initial work programme** laying out a set of possible deliverables –e.g. a set of focused thematic assessments such as ocean acidification, or dry land ecosystem services– with suggested milestones and timing);
- B) Functions and Structures** of bodies that might be established (e.g. expanded bureau vs. bureau and science panel, structure of working groups and any regional support structures);
- C) Rules and procedures** (members and observers, representation, credentials and accreditation, officers of the Bureau, conduct of business, decision making, etc.);
- D) Physical location of the platform's secretariat** (5 applications received: France, Germany, India, Kenya and Republic of Korea);
- E) Host institutions** (option envisaged: jointly hosted by FAO, UNDP, UNEP, and UNESCO);
- F) Budget;** and **G) Legal issues.**

Stakeholder day In the margins of this meeting, IUCN and ICSU will co-chair the second IPBES Stakeholder Day, organised by UNEP, in collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP and FAO, on 15 April, in order to further discuss the involvement of scientific community and civil society in IPBES.

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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:
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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- Report of first session of a plenary meeting on IPBES (Oct 2011, Nairobi)

8- Second session of a plenary on IPBES (Apr 2012, Panama City)

8.1 **Official documents** considered at the meeting:

8.2 Information documents produced by the scientific community:

> **Knowledge Generation** UNEP/IPBES. MI/2/INF/11 (USGS/DIVERSITAS/ICSU)

> **Assessment** UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/10 (UNU/Japan/S-Africa/IHDP)

9- Agenda and information documents of IPBES Stakeholder Day (15 April 2012)