



IPBES e-news

3 May 2012

Dear Colleagues,

After several years of international negotiations, **representatives of more than 90 Governments established IPBES in Panama City on Saturday 21 April afternoon**, at the end of the second session of the IPBES plenary (16-21 April, in Panama City, Republic of Panama). IPBES is thus now established! The first IPBES Plenary meeting is likely to occur in early 2013.

Other key achievements during the week included:

- A) Work Programme:** The 16 potential activities proposed to operationalize the four functions of IPBES were discussed only briefly; however, delegates agreed to start immediately some intersessional work, and to use the time between now and the First Plenary (early 2013) to prepare for the initial work programme. Some key deliverables of this intersessional work include:
- a-** An overview of existing assessments with a critical analysis of their policy impact;
 - b-** A draft multidisciplinary conceptual framework for IPBES;
 - c-** A draft compilation and analysis of capacity building needs for IPBES;
 - d-** Draft guidelines for governments and observers to submit requests to the Plenary.
- B) Functions and Structures of bodies** that might be established: It was agreed to establish two subsidiary bodies: a Bureau to perform the administrative functions of IPBES, and a Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) to perform its scientific and technical functions. The structures of working groups or of any regional support structures were not discussed.
- C) Rules and procedures** (members and observers, representation, credentials and accreditation, officers of the Bureau, conduct of business, decision making, etc.): Agreement was reached on many of the rules of procedure for the meetings of the plenary of the platform, although many gaps in the rules remain to be negotiated. Other rules for the full operationalization of IPBES will be agreed at the First Plenary.
- D) Physical location of the platform's secretariat** (5 applications received: France, Germany, India, Kenya and Republic of Korea): Germany won the bid to host the secretariat in Bonn. The offer from the German government includes an annual contribution to IPBES of 1.3 Million USD, plus 700K USD toward supporting individual projects (conferences, studies, etc.), and 6.5 Million USD toward bilateral capacity building activities related to the platform. UNEP will continue performing IPBES interim secretariat functions until the secretariat is fully in place in Bonn.
- E) Host institutions** (option envisaged: jointly hosted by FAO, UNDP, UNEP, and UNESCO); No agreement was reached on this issue. Representatives asked the four organizations to further elaborate on their joint proposal and present a final version at the first plenary meeting of IPBES. Clarifications were sought concerning, for example, the commitment of host institutions or which of the four organization's rules would be used for staffing and financing.
- F) Budget:** Delegates had before them several options ranging from a low end of 5 Million per year to a high end of 13 Million per year. This issue was not discussed.

Stakeholder day

In the margins of this meeting, IUCN and ICSU co-chaired 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.

Reports of both stakeholders' day and IPBES second plenary session will soon be available on the [IPBES web site](#).

Anne Larigauderie

ICSU representative to IPBES
Executive Director DIVERSITAS

1- [What is IPBES? See Frequently Asked Questions](#)

2- [What is the role of the scientific community in IPBES?](#)

3- [How can scientists get involved in the IPBES process?](#)

4- [A short history of the IPBES process](#)

5- [The Busan outcome](#)

6- [World governments establish biodiversity panel](#)

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

7.1 [Official documents](#)

7.2 Information documents produced by the scientific community:

> [Knowledge Generation](#)

(USGS/DIVERSITAS/ICSU)

> [Assessment](#)

(UNU/Japan/S-Africa/IHDP)

8- [IPBES Stakeholder Day](#)

8.1 [Opening statement](#)

8.2 [Closing statement](#)



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