The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and National Ecosystem Assessments: bringing knowledge and capacity closer together

Global workshop

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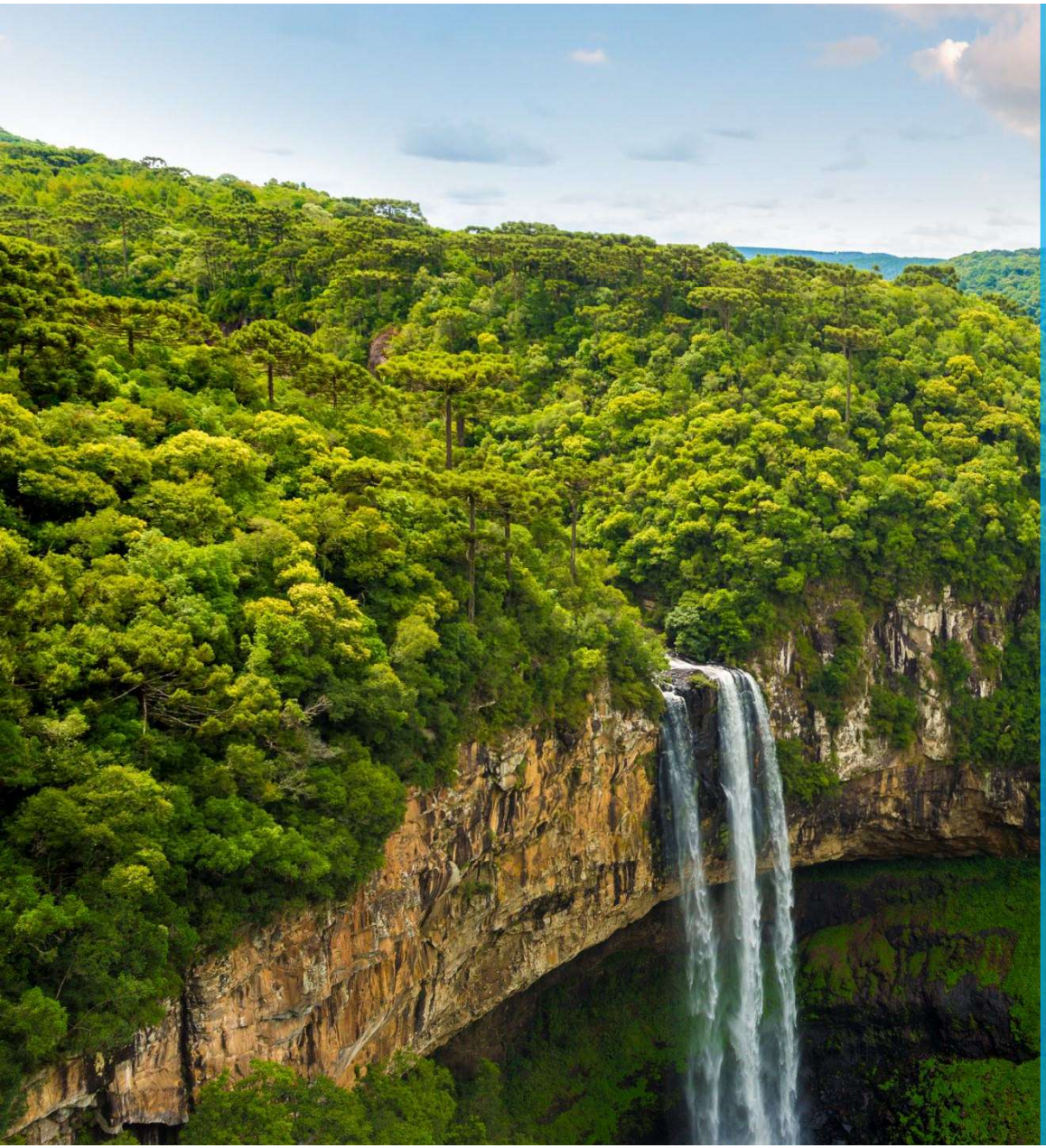

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- What does it do?
- How to engage with it?
- How can IPBES and NEAs benefit from each other

What is IPBES?

- Independent intergovernmental body, established in 2012.
- Objective: Strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human wellbeing and sustainable development.
- Provides policymakers with scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding:
  - planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and their contributions to people
  - tools and methods to protect and sustainably use these vital natural assets
- Provides options for policy responses, based on the best-available science.

What does IPBES do?

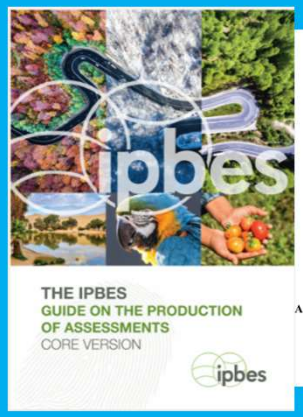
- IPBES has four functions:
  - **Strengthening knowledge foundations**: Identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge, but not to directly undertake new research.
  - **Assessing knowledge**: Perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages.
  - **Supporting policy**: Support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies and promote and catalyse their further development.
  - **Building capacity**: Prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities

Institutional arrangements

- **Plenary** – decision-making body
- **Bureau** – subsidiary body of the Plenary; oversees administrative functions. Each UN region is represented by two officers.
- **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel** (MEP) – subsidiary body of the Plenary; carries out scientific and technical functions. It consists of 25 members, with five members nominated by each of the five UN regions *(elected for their personal expertise and are not intended to represent any particular region)*
- **Task forces and expert groups** – support implementation of the work programme. Currently 5 task forces: capacity-building / indigenous and local knowledge / knowledge and data / policy support tools and methodologies / scenarios and models.
- **Stakeholders**
- **Secretariat** (including **technical support units**)

IPBES assessments

- Developed using the IPBES conceptual and methodological framework, and following the approved procedure for development of assessment reports



Decision IPBES-2/4: Conceptual framework for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Plenary,

Taking note of the report of the international expert workshop on the conceptual framework for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, convened by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in Cape Town, South Africa, on 25 and 26 August 2013,

Noting with appreciation the generous hosting of and financial support for the workshop by the Governments of South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the additional support provided by the Government of Japan,

Welcoming the outcome of the workshop and the further work of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel on the conceptual framework, which effectively addresses the objective, functions and relevant operating principles of the Platform and the relationship among them, including the incorporation of indigenous and local systems and world views,

Adopts the conceptual framework set out in the annex to the present decision.

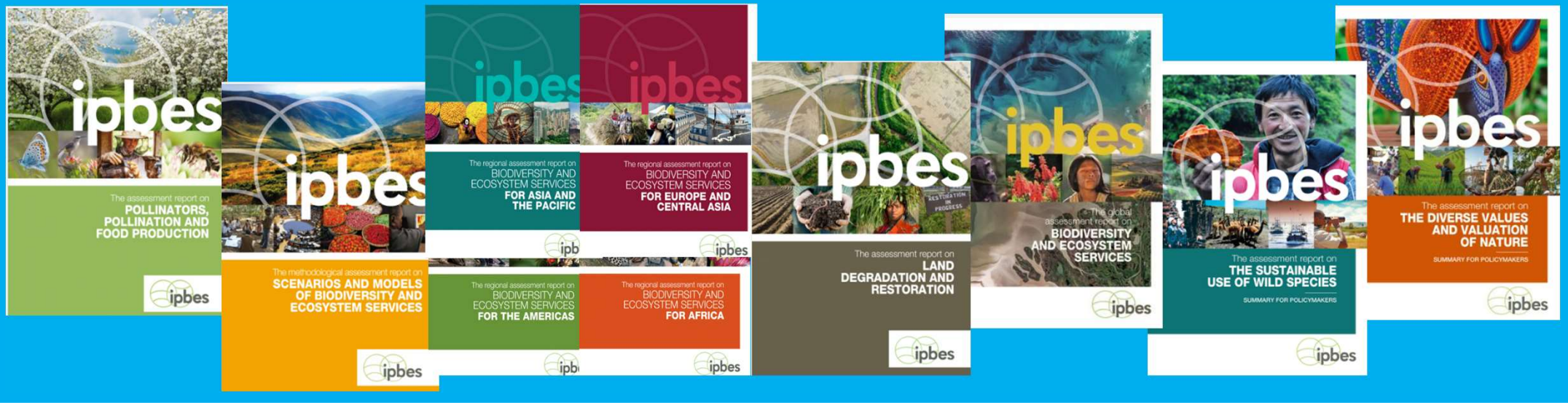
Annex

Conceptual framework for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

A. Introduction and rationale for a conceptual framework for the Platform

1. Human life would not be possible without biodiversity and ecosystems. The intervention in nature by human societies to meet their needs, however, has modified the composition, structure and functions of ecosystems and has caused detrimental changes that seriously threaten the long-term sustainability of societies around the world. In many cases, biodiversity loss and poverty are trapped in a mutually reinforcing vicious circle. Overall, the efforts made on conservation and on the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems have not kept pace with increasing human pressures. A stronger response by Governments, public organizations, communities, the private

- Global assessments
- Regional assessments
- Thematic and methodological assessments



IPBES assessments (currently underway)

- Thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control *(to be considered at IPBES 10, 2023)*
- Thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health in the context of climate change *(to be considered at IPBES 11)*
- Thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity *(to be considered at IPBES 11)*
- Methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people *(to be considered at IPBES 12)*

IPBES and other intergovernmental processes

Call for mutual cooperation and collaboration with intergovernmental processes at different levels:

- Collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environment agreements, United Nations bodies and networks of scientists and knowledge holders, to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication.

- Provide policy-relevant information, but not policy-prescriptive advice, mindful of the respective mandates of the multilateral environmental agreements.

- Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional assessments and knowledge, as appropriate, including by ensuring a bottom-up approach.

Engaging with IPBES

- Engaging with your IPBES NFP
- Contributing as a nominated expert to ongoing IPBES assessments – as an author, editor, reviewer.
- External review of drafts chapters of IPBES assessment reports and their summaries for policymakers.
- Contributing to the work of the IPBES task forces – as an expert.

Engaging with IPBES

- Supporting capacity & knowledge-building work by contributing expertise, data or other resources.
- Participating in the IPBES Fellowship Programme.
- Include examples of the use of IPBES assessments in the IPBES impact tracking database (TRACK) https://ipbes.net/impact-tracking
- O-NET and stakeholder engagement

How can IPBES and NEAs benefit from each other

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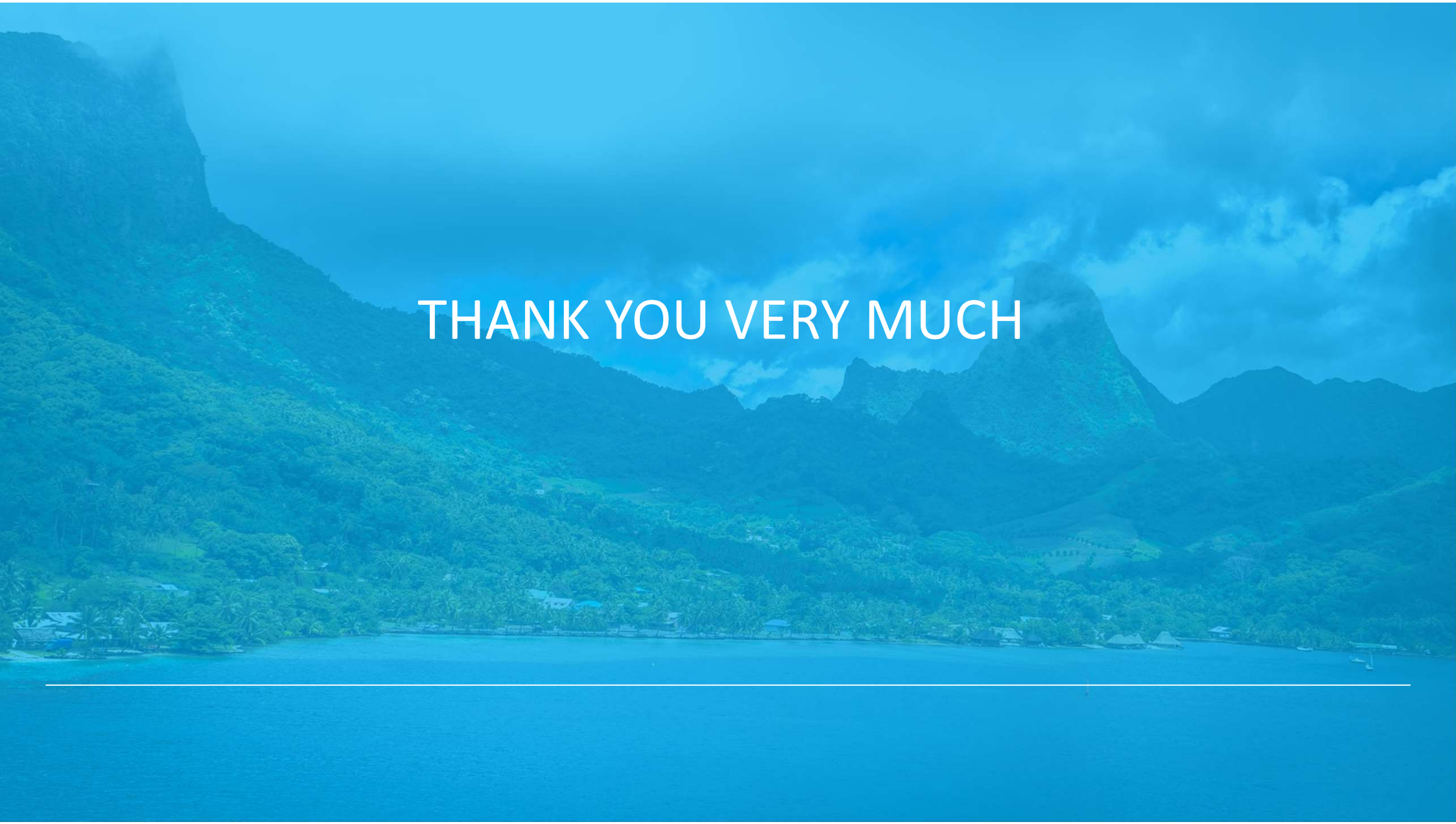
IPBES → NEA

- **Information** for national assessments
- Inspiration to identify policy questions.
- Capacity-building (IPBES task forces, webinars)
- Strengthen author's capacity – fulfill information gaps

NEA → IPBES

- Source of relevant information for IPBES assessments
- Identification of topics for possible new assessments
- Amplify some of the IPBES assessment findings for policy-making of most relevance to the country
- Strengthening capacities of potential IPBES authors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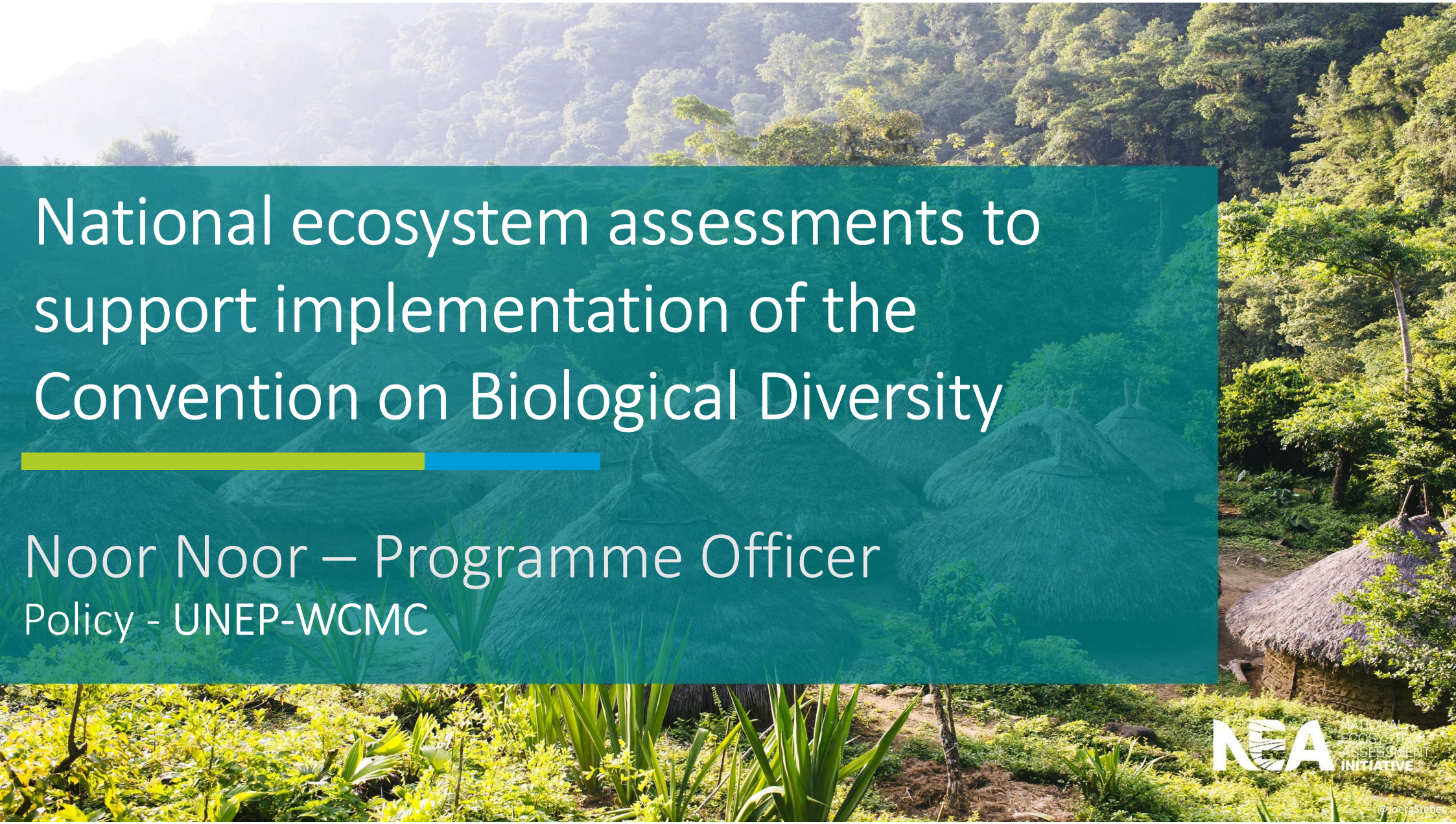

National ecosystem assessments to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Noor Noor – Programme Officer
Policy - UNEP-WCMC

The guidance document

CBD Decision 14/1 (COP 2018): calls on Parties to consider undertaking national assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services

Aims to increase awareness and understanding of the national ecosystem assessment process and how it can support implementation of the CBD at the national level

NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS
to support implementation of
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Convention on Biological Diversity

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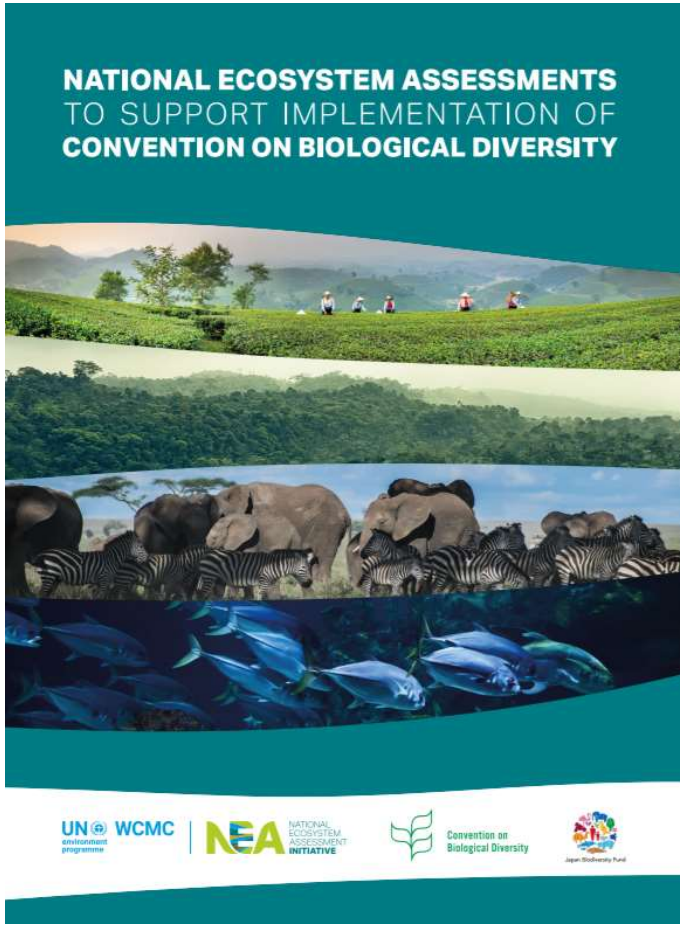
The guidance document



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The guidance document

Methodology

- Key participants: CBD and IPBES National Focal Points
- 2 workshops held in Kunming (China) and Bangkok (Thailand) with 73 participants
- A survey

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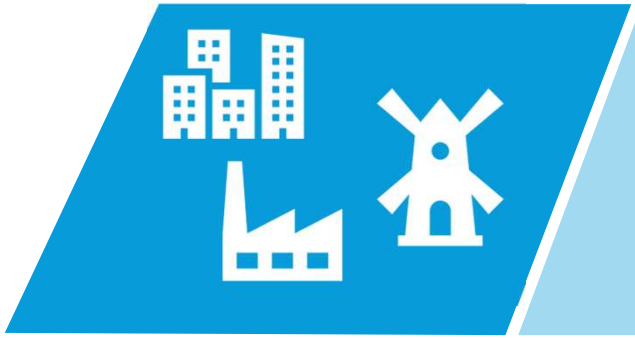
Biodiversity Planning

National ecosystem assessments can support through:



Systematizing the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations into sectoral and cross-sectoral policy

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Biodiversity Planning

National ecosystem assessments can support through:

- *Agenda setting*
  Provide planners with relevant, authoritative, comprehensive, cross-cutting, and up-to-date information

- *Design*
  Involve relevant knowledge holders and stakeholders throughout the assessment process

- *Implementation and review*
  Provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of existing biodiversity and ecosystem services policies

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National Reporting

National ecosystem assessments can support through:

- **Compiling and evaluating information** and knowledge from multiple sources, presented in a policy-relevant format.
- Identification of **knowledge gaps**
- Improving understanding of the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their drivers of change.
- Mobilizing **indigenous** and **local knowledge**
- Supporting the use of data/knowledge to **assess the progress and impact** of **biodiversity-related actions**

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Technical and Scientific Cooperation

National ecosystem assessments can support by :

- Matching expertise and skills through knowledge holder and stakeholder engagement within the national ecosystem assessment process
- Facilitating multidisciplinary cooperation as the national ecosystem assessment process aims to be consultative and inclusive
- Enhancing the national science-policy interface to institutionalize technical, scientific, and multi-stakeholder cooperation

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Technical and Scientific Cooperation

National Science-Policy Platforms

- Strengthen the interface between science, policy and practice
- Dedicated to sharing knowledge and discussing topics relevant to policy and country priorities related to biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Disseminating and facilitating access to knowledge **by sustaining long-term capacity-building efforts**

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Capacity-building

National ecosystem assessments can support by developing and enhancing capacity on:

- **Data, information, and knowledge handling** to identify tools, needs, and priorities
- **Identifying capacity gaps** and provide the necessary justifications for addressing them
- **Enhancing individual skills**, building links between knowledge holders and policy processes, and strengthening institutional coordination mechanisms.
- **Knowledge holder and stakeholder engagement and relationship-building** to mobilize resources and identify and engage partner organizations

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Communication, education and public awareness

National ecosystem assessments can support by:

- Raising awareness through a communication strategy, reinforcing CBD activities by supporting country-level action towards sustainable uses of natural resources
- Providing communication, education, and awareness-raising content.
- Translating the different outputs of an assessment into messages tailored to different audiences, e.g., the Summary for Policymakers

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Resource Mobilization

National ecosystem assessments can support by:

- **Identifying drivers of change**, playing an important role in detecting where subsidies are potentially harmful to biodiversity
- Leading communication with key economic sectors both public and private on the **value of biodiversity**
- Providing key stakeholders with an **economic valuation and/or natural capital** perspective
- **Drawing attention to non-financial resources** that can be deployed to be mutually reinforcing across sectors
- Lending support to developing **justifications for further funding requests**

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