

**NEA**

NATIONAL  
ECOSYSTEM  
ASSESSMENT  
**INITIATIVE**



In partnership with:



**HELMHOLTZ**  
Centre for Environmental Research

## Webinar Guidebook Launch

# National Biodiversity Platforms to Support the Interface of Science, Policy and Practice for Nature and People



The Sub-Global Assessment Network (SGAN)



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# Webinar Agenda

- **Opening remarks** - *Julia Oliva, UNEP-WCMC*
- **Opening remarks** - *Dr. Heidi Wittmer, UFZ*
- **National biodiversity platforms and guidebook launch** - *Sabina Jehan Khan, UFZ*
- **National Biodiversity Platforms and their role in national ecosystem assessments** - *Juanita Chaves, UNEP-WCMC*
- **Q&A**
- **Panel discussion** - *Candice Stevens (Wilderness Foundation Africa, South Africa), Dr. Sié Sylvestre Da (WASCAL, Burkina Faso), Dr. Eva Maria Spehn (Swiss Biodiversity Forum, Switzerland), Daniela Guaras (UNEP-WCMC), Ulrike Troeger (UFZ, Facilitator)*
- **Q&A**
- **Close**





## The Sub-Global Assessment Network

A community of practice that connects and supports individuals and organisations involved in sub-global ecosystem assessments

In August 2021, UNEP-WCMC reconvened SGAN members and welcomed new partners with the intention of strengthening the activities of the network by:

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*Supporting national ecosystem assessments*

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*Encouraging and fostering knowledge sharing between and amongst sub-global assessments*

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*Providing opportunities for training in specific tools and approaches related to ecosystem assessments*

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The Sub-Global Assessment  
Network

Join the  
network and  
stay up to date  
with upcoming  
events

Delivered  
**23/03/2023**

*Webinar: How National Ecosystem Assessments can Support the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework - An Overview*

Delivered  
**12/04/2023**

*Webinar: How National Ecosystem Assessments can Support the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework- Part 2*

**10/05/2023**

*Webinar: Guidebook Launch on National Biodiversity Platforms to Support the Interface of Science, Policy and Practice for Nature and People*

**TBC - June**

*Webinar: Climate Change and Biodiversity Nexus*

**TBC - June**

*Webinar: Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit*







# Opening remarks

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Julia Oliva

Head of Policy, UNEP-WCMC





# Opening remarks

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**Dr. Heidi Wittmer**

Deputy Head of the Department of Environmental Politics,  
Leader of the Working Group on Transformative Governance,  
Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research- UFZ





# National Biodiversity Platforms and Guidebook Launch

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Sabina Jehan Khan

Lead contributing author of the guidebook,  
Independent Environmental Consultant



# GUIDEBOOK ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORMS: **CONNECTING NATURE AND PEOPLE**

Sabina Jehan Khan, Johannes Förster, Miriam Brenck,  
Kristina Raab, Shena Garcia Rangel, Heidi Wittmer



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## National Biodiversity Platforms:

Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Denmark, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Grenada, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Vietnam

## Regional Biodiversity Platforms:

- ECA-Network: Europe & Central Asia Network of organizations engaging in IPBES
- WABES: West African Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services



## Some key insights on National Biodiversity Platforms...

- Bridge knowledge, policy and practice to enable social learning, influence and impact.
- There is no ideal “one-size-fits-all” configuration. They must be tailored to the needs of the national context, with a view towards adding long-term value to the science-policy-practice interface.
- Credibility, relevance and legitimacy are the attributes which determine influence and impact. These attributes require strategic decisions and active management.



*Bridging knowledge, policy and practice  
for social learning, influence and impact*

## National Biodiversity Platforms

**Science-policy-practice interfaces convene stakeholders in dialogue and collaborative relationships that lead to an improved consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in decision-making.**

- Transdisciplinary initiatives working at the intersection of sectors, stakeholders and knowledge systems
- Knowledge brokerage, capacity-building, supporting science-policy processes, building networks and alliances

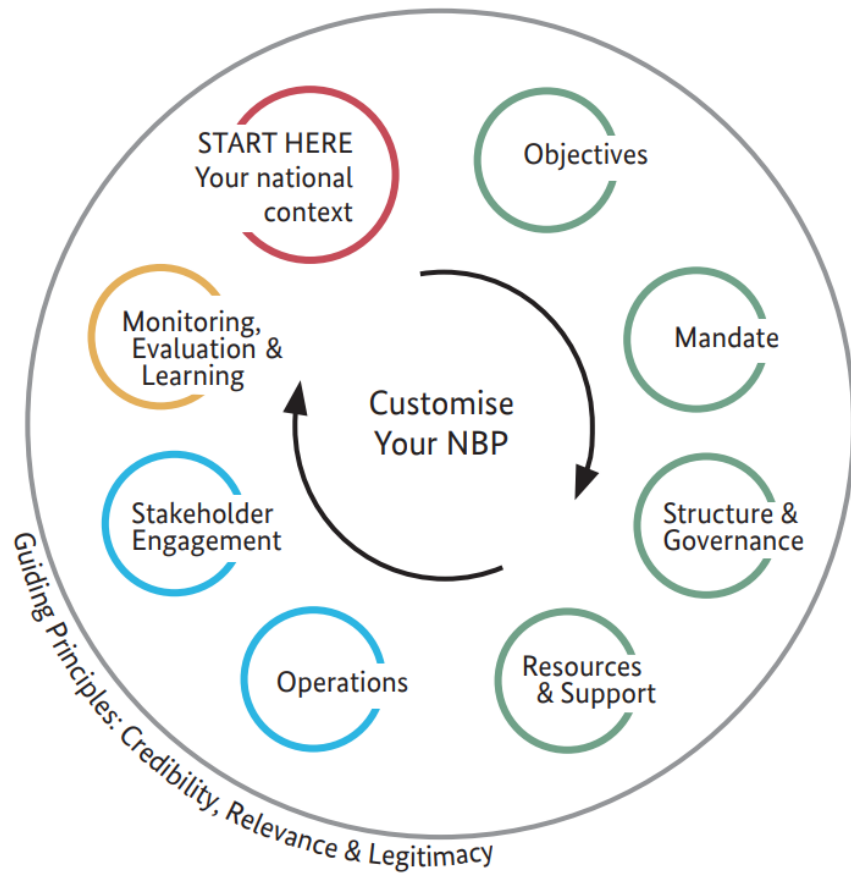
**Brazil:** *“Our platform helped to put the subject of biodiversity and ecosystem services more into the evidence-base for policy-making.”*

**Colombia:** *“Our platform has been particularly helpful in discussions about how to incorporate indigenous and local knowledge into the decision-making processes.”*

**Sweden:** *“The natural scientists seldom meet environmental psychologists. So, we created a network that was not there before; transdisciplinary interest has increased.”*

**Madagascar:** *“We contribute to the implementation of our ratified international commitments and conventions on protected areas, biodiversity, climate change.”*

*There is no “one-size-fits-all” for a  
National Biodiversity Platform*



- Tailor to the needs of the national context, with a view towards adding long-term added value
- Can have different levels of complexity
- Can evolve over time to respond to changes national circumstances
- Aim for inclusivity, transparency, accountability and adaptivity



*If there is no ideal configuration, then what makes  
a platform influential and effective?*

*...credibility, relevance & legitimacy.*

## Attributes which require strategic decisions and active management

**Credibility:** Quality, validity and adequacy of the expertise, processes and knowledge

**Relevance:** Usefulness of information, activities, solutions to address societal needs

**Legitimacy:** Political, social and procedural fairness, transparency, inclusiveness and accountability

## Common strategies for building... *(based on van der Hel and Biermann, 2017)*

### Credibility

#### Peer Review

Quality via formal procedures for peer review of knowledge products

#### Credentials

Engage knowledge holders which hold distinguished credentials

#### Community of practice

Combined expertise of different knowledge holders to develop solutions

**Denmark:** *“We work with the best scientific expertise in our country to develop consensus briefs. We expect these papers to have a political impact because they are based on the broad scientific community giving a uniform statement to the public and decisionmakers.”*

**Brazil:** *“Being independent from government is not always the best option. While there is no compromise in the credibility of assessment results which would hinder uptake by the government and there is enormous flexibility (e.g., to get the best results, bringing in the right people, etc.), you will need to find means of getting your conclusions up to policy-makers.”*

## Common strategies for building... *(based on van der Hel and Biermann, 2017)*

### Relevance

#### **Integration**

Comprehensive and integrated knowledge products, in actionable formats

#### **Fit for Purpose**

Timely and applicable knowledge inputs to decision-making processes

#### **Solutions**

Develop approaches and tools to aid in problem-solving and decision-making

**France:** *“Stakeholders request specific information from IPBES findings which is relevant to their business activities. When the IPBES assessment on scenarios and models took place, the luxury goods company Louis Vuitton wanted to understand how to use scenarios on biodiversity and climate change to determine implications on business activities (e.g., production of wine).”*



## Common strategies for building... *(based on van der Hel and Biermann, 2017)*

### Legitimacy

#### Representation

Diverse knowledge systems, disciplines, genders & geographical regions

#### Recognition

Mandate or an institutionalised role in governance mechanisms

#### Participation

Different stakeholders in co-designing objectives, activities, outputs

**Switzerland:** *“We are hosted by the Swiss Academy of Sciences, which is an overarching and independent national level institution. Not being linked to a specific university increases credibility and legitimacy, because the NBP’s work and policy positions are not considered to be a public relations machine for any specific institution.”*

**Brazil:** *“Participation is from the stage of co-developing the research questions” ... “the ILK [indigenous and local knowledge] Assessment is an experiment in co-production of knowledge with [indigenous peoples and local communities] IPLCs.”*

## Summary of key insights on National Biodiversity Platforms...

- Bridge knowledge, policy and practice to enable social learning, influence and impact.
- There is no ideal “one-size-fits-all” configuration. Tailor to the national context and bring added value.
- Credibility, relevance and legitimacy need to be strategically managed for influence and impact.



GUIDEBOOK ON  
NATIONAL  
BIODIVERSITY  
PLATFORMS:  
**CONNECTING  
NATURE AND PEOPLE**

Sabina Jehan Khan, Johannes Förster, Miriam Brenck,  
Kristina Raab, Shena Garcia Rangel, Heidi Wittmer



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*Download guidebook at:  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.57699/qm4c-nz16>*

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# National Biodiversity Platforms and their contribution in national ecosystem assessments

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Juanita Chaves

Project Lead of the NEA Initiative,  
Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC





The Sub-Global Assessment Network (SGAN)

# NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORMS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS



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# NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS

- Expert **evaluation of knowledge**
- **Communicates complex information** to decision-makers
- **Address policy questions**
- **Synthesizes available information & identifies knowledge gaps**



# AIMING FOR IMPACT

- Building **shared knowledge** through **knowledge-exchange**
- Promoting **platforms** that strengthen engagement between decision-makers, knowledge-holders and stakeholders
- Developing **capacity**, sharing **lessons learned**
- Supporting national engagement with international processes (**IPBES**, **CBD**)

# HOW CAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORMS SUPPORT ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS?



**Call for experts/authors**



**Validate key outputs** (i.e. scoping report, technical document, communication strategy, SPMs)



**Facilitate knowledge-exchange**



**Co-produce knowledge**, including with Indigenous Peoples and local communities

# HOW CAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORMS SUPPORT ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS?



Building networks, alliances and communities of practice



Support governmental processes



Support international and regional science-policy processes



Sharing information and increasing public awareness

# EXAMPLES

- National Platform for Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services- Cameroon
- National IPBES Committee- Colombia
- National Biodiversity Platform -Azerbaijan



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# THANK YOU

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Q&A



# The Role of National Biodiversity Platforms in the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements



Ulrike Troeger

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ  
Scientist in the Department of Environmental Politics

# PANEL DISCUSSION

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORMS  
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
AGREEMENTS

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**Facilitator:** **Ulrike Troeger (UFZ)**

**Panellists:** **Candice Stevens**  
(Wilderness Foundation Africa,  
South Africa)

**Daniela Guaras**  
(UNEP-WCMC)

**Dr. Sié Sylvestre Da**  
(WASCAL, Burkina Faso)

**Dr. Eva Maria Spehn**  
(Swiss Biodiversity Forum,  
Switzerland)



# Thank you!



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