

The four UN organizations increase the outreach of IPBES and its ability to rapidly initiate assessments, while accessing transdisciplinary expertise.

Through the convening power of the UN, they mobilize people, knowledge and resources in distinct but complementary domains and across scales.

By working together, they enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of IPBES while avoiding duplication.

*Biodiversity is essential for food security. Thousands of interconnected species make up a vital web of biodiversity in ecosystems upon which global food production depends. With the erosion of biodiversity, mankind loses the potential to adapt agro-ecosystems to new challenges like population growth and climate change. Achieving food security for all is intrinsically linked with maintaining biodiversity. We welcome the creation of this platform and are pleased to be supporting it.*

**José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO**

*We know that healthy ecosystems provide invaluable services that underpin development. IPBES can help ensure... access to sound scientific information to inform development policies, protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services in a way that addresses poverty alleviation and promotes growth with equity.*

**Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator**



**IPBES – Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**  
[www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net)



**UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme**  
[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)



**UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**  
[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)



**FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**  
[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



**UNDP – United Nations Development Programme**  
[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)



Working  
together...



... for biodiversity  
& ecosystem  
services

Consistent with the 'One UN' approach, four UN organizations – UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP – are joining forces to strengthen the contribution of IPBES to managing biodiversity and ecosystem services.

*The Secretariat of UNEP is privileged to be at the service of IPBES and stands ready to contribute to the future work of the platform in close collaboration with its UN partners.*

**Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director**

*Biodiversity loss is a key indicator of the changes that are affecting our planet. IPBES will provide a more efficient coordination tool between researchers and decision-makers in order to address this challenge. UNESCO has supported this process since its inception and will mobilize its scientific networks in the fields of water, oceans and biodiversity in the service of IPBES.*

**Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO**

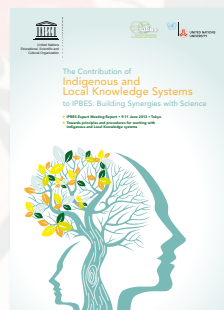
# UNEP – Conserving Biodiversity & Managing Ecosystems

UNEP is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system and ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation are at the core of the UNEP mandate. The organization has been facilitating the IPBES discussions since 2008 and entrusted to provide its Secretariat, soon to be established in Bonn, Germany. UNEP will provide a staff member to the Secretariat and will mobilize the wealth of its expertise and networks through its staff members and various stakeholders. UNEP will provide programmatic and administrative contribution of UNEP staff in the areas of policy and legal support, biodiversity and ecosystem management, assessment and monitoring and communications and public awareness in all four functions of IPBES.

The organization will contribute in terms of knowledge and data management through existing platforms such as UNEP-Live. UNEP will mobilize its expertise in terms of scientific assessments building on experience from work such as the SGA Network and the Global Environment Outlook (GEO).

UNEP will also bring its expertise in terms of valuation and accounting of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as in the case of the Natural Capital Project and The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative.

UNEP will use its 40 years of experience in supporting policy makers for the wise management of the environment and contribute to new capacity building activities.



# UNESCO – Mobilizing & Generating Knowledge

UNESCO's mandate in the natural and social sciences, and its proven track record on indigenous and local knowledge, are unique within the UN system. To guarantee the quality and impact of its contribution to IPBES, UNESCO has assembled a team of staff with expertise in biodiversity science and policy, ecosystem service assessments, indigenous and local knowledge, and multi-stakeholder dialogue. The team provided an in-kind contribution of \$600,000 and raised extrabudgetary resources for an amount of \$370,000 in 2012–13.

Host to the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board, UNESCO will mobilize the global scientific community, including the World Ocean Assessment, World Water Development Report, Future Earth, global observing systems, and assessments of global environmental change and social transformations. UNESCO will also support regional and sub-regional IPBES assessments through its 58 field offices, over 90 expert institutes and centres, more than 770 Chairs and Networks, and more than 800 UNESCO-designated sites in over 100 countries.

Based on its global expertise on indigenous and local knowledge (ILK), UNESCO will continue to work with IPBES to build ILK into the Platform. UNESCO has helped the MEP produce initial procedures and approaches for working with ILK, including through an international expert meeting, and will continue to support this element of the work programme.

# FAO – Biodiversity for Food & Agriculture

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of the efforts of the FAO. Rigorous information on and thorough analyses of the state of the world's biodiversity are crucial for the development of effective policies aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Through its bodies, treaties, conventions and agreements, FAO is involved in numerous country-driven assessments of biodiversity.

Through the collection, compilation and analysis of information relevant to food and agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, FAO provides a wealth of information relevant to the work of IPBES. FAO's global databases include, for example, FishStat Plus and the Global Land Degradation Assessment. Flagship FAO publications, such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment, the State of the World's Forests and the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, regularly analyse issues relevant for biodiversity and ecosystem services. In 2016/17 FAO will publish the first ever Report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.

FAO is in an excellent position to support IPBES in carrying out its functions, including in the implementation of the work programme 2014–18.

# UNDP – Focus on Capacity Building

As the development network of the United Nations, present in 177 countries and territories, UNDP was requested through the Busan Outcome to play a special role in developing capacity to support IPBES – integrating capacity building with assessment, knowledge generation, and policy-relevant tools and methodologies to help countries tackle science-policy questions critical to sustainable development.

In partnership with the Government of Norway, UNDP has made an in-kind contribution of \$335,000 in 2012–13, to lay the groundwork for a network of governments and organizations involved in capacity building. Member states and stakeholders attending a consultative meeting at IPBES-1 expressed support for such a network – to facilitate exchanges between science, policy and practice that lead to better decisions for biodiversity and ecosystems management.

UNDP is now working to raise \$6 million to establish a BES-Net capacity network, host a web portal and facilitate dialogue events over the period 2014–18. Operated by 4 full-time staff, the network will facilitate dialogue events and network meetings, send out e-newsletters, update links to participants' data, knowledge and tools, and respond to web users' requests. Staff will work with the IPBES Secretariat to ensure that BES-Net is aligned with the overall vision and priorities of IPBES and supports its work programme.

