

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

IPBES' 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Prepared by 150 leading international experts from 50 countries, balancing representation from the natural and social sciences, with additional contributions from a further 250 experts, working with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will inform better policies and actions in the coming decade.

Important aspects of the Global Assessment

Building upon earlier IPBES assessment reports, *especially the recently-released Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment and the Regional Assessment Reports for Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe and Central Asia (March, 2018), the Global Assessment:*

- Covers all land-based ecosystems (except Antarctica), inland water and the open oceans
- Evaluates changes over the past 50 years — and implications for our economies, livelihoods, food security and quality of life
- Explores impacts of trade and other global processes on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Ranks the relative impacts of climate change, invasive species, pollution, sea and land use change and a range of other challenges to nature
- Identifies priority gaps in our available knowledge that will need to be filled
- Projects what biodiversity could look like in decades ahead under six future scenarios: Economic Optimism; Regional Competition; Global Sustainability; Business as Usual; Regional Sustainability and Reformed Markets
- Assesses policy, technology, governance, behavior changes, options and pathways to reach global goals by looking at synergies and trade-offs between food production, water security, energy and infrastructure expansion, climate change mitigation, nature conservation and economic development.

Structure of the Global Assessment

The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Global Assessment will be based on a set of six chapters, which provide all the technical support for the key messages of the SPM.

The chapters are described below:

1. Providing a road map and outlining key elements in the relationships between people and nature
2. Highlighting the current status and trends in nature, nature's contributions to people and drivers of change
3. Assessing progress towards meeting the Aichi Targets, SDGs and the Paris Agreement
4. Exploring plausible future scenarios for nature and people to 2050
5. Focusing on the scenarios, pathways and options that lead to a sustainable future
6. Showcasing opportunities and challenges for decision makers at all levels and in a range of contexts

- *The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report warns of “an imminent rapid acceleration in the global rate of species extinction.”*
- *The pace of loss “is already tens to hundreds of times higher than it has been, on average, over the last 10 million years,” it notes.*
- *“Half-a-million to a million species are projected to be threatened with extinction, many within decades.”*
- *Many experts think a so-called “mass extinction only the sixth in the last half-billion years -- is already under way.*
- *The most recent saw the end of the Cretaceous period some 66 million years ago, when a 10-kilometre-wide asteroid strike wiped out most life forms.*

The accelerating loss of clean air, drinkable water, CO2-absorbing forests, pollinating insects, protein-rich fish and storm-blocking mangroves -- to name but a few of the dwindling services rendered by Nature -- poses no less of a threat than climate change

- Scientists estimate that Earth is today home to some eight million distinct species, a majority of them insects.
- A quarter of catalogued animal and plant species are already being crowded, eaten or poisoned out of existence.
- The drop in sheer numbers is even more dramatic, with wild mammal biomass --their collective weight -- down by 82 percent.
- Humans and livestock account for more than 95 percent of mammal biomass.

The direct causes of species loss, in order of importance, are shrinking habitat and land-use change, hunting for food or illicit trade in body parts, climate change, pollution, and alien species such as rats, mosquitoes and snakes that hitch rides on ships or planes, the report finds.

Expected impacts

The IPBES Global Assessment will:

- Provide an agreed, evidence-based knowledge base to inform policy making for the decade ahead
- Contribute an analysis of the implications of the loss of biodiversity for achieving the Paris Climate Agreement, global biodiversity targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and other major world objectives
- Offer a multidimensional valuation of common global assets and how to sustain them
- Recognize and emphasize the role each actor has in improving conditions for nature and ecosystems, and the importance of aligning efforts

- Raise awareness of the importance of transformational multi-sectoral policies and governance structures, including the effects that policies and other indirect drivers have at a global scale and options to improve trans-regional policy-making
- Be a starting point for in-depth analyses of the role of actions and their global implications.

Additional Information

IUCN and IPBES share common goals and similar priorities: undertaking authoritative assessments, generating robust knowledge inclusive of local and indigenous perspectives, supporting policy and developing capacity-building across continents, for a just world that values and conserves nature.

- IUCN/IPBES strategic partnership: an alliance for nature and people
- IUCN/IPBES complementarities

Since the creation of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2012, IUCN and the global biodiversity conservation community have gained a key partner in strengthening the science-policy interface for nature and people.

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Meanwhile, though, IUCN and IPBES have different but complementary governance structures. IUCN is a union of governmental, non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organization members, while IPBES is a fully intergovernmental body. The ability of IUCN to convene thousands of participants to its World Conservation Congress and to conduct high-level dialogues contributes to advancing new ideas and to strengthening stakeholder engagement in global biodiversity frameworks.

IPBES is to perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their inter linkages at the global level. Also addressing an invitation by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological

Diversity (CBD) to prepare a global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services building, inter alia, on its own and other relevant regional, sub-regional and thematic assessments, as well as on national reports.

The overall scope of the assessment is to assess the status and trends with regard to biodiversity and ecosystem services, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being and the effectiveness of responses, including the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is anticipated that this deliverable will contribute to the process for the evaluation and renewal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Jeju 2012: a clear mandate for collaboration

In Jeju, at the 2012 World Conservation Congress, IUCN members mandated IUCN to collaborate with IPBES through Resolutions WCC 2012 Res 117 and WCC 2012 Res 118. Further to these decisions, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a strategic partnership between IUCN and IPBES was signed in 2016.

IUCN, with the support of the government of France, provides in-kind support to IPBES Secretariat for implementing the IPBES Stakeholder Strategy. During IPBES first work programme, multiple experts from IUCN's Commissions, Members, and Secretariat have been involved in elaborating or reviewing the IPBES assessments. IUCN knowledge products and data are leveraged to contribute to global, regional and thematic IPBES assessments.

A two-way partnership for post-2020 global framework on biodiversity

In line with the Jeju Resolutions, IUCN will pursue its engagement with IPBES through IPBES second work-programme, in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Conversely, IUCN will also facilitate the up-take of IPBES deliverables in the IUCN constituency, sharing methodologies, policy guidance, capacity-building tools and assessment key findings among IUCN members and experts.