

Call for IPBES Experts

The [Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service \(IPBES\)](#) is a science-policy interface established to provide a robust evidence base, together with the necessary tools and local capacity, to help decision makers around the world identify solutions to pressures on global ecosystems and loss of biodiversity; thereby securing long term human wellbeing and sustainable development.

The third plenary of the Platform met in January 2015 and reviewed progress made during the first year's implementation of the 2014-2018 work programme, and agreed to take forward four regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and a thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration – all of which were scoped in 2014. Plenary also agreed to begin the scoping process for the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The official report will be available on the [IPBES-3](#) page of the IPBES website in due course.

The IPBES Secretariat has now issued a call for experts to participate in delivering the regional assessments, the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration, and to scope the global assessment. Governments and relevant stakeholders are invited to submit nominations from which the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of IPBES will select a maximum of 20% of experts from the stakeholder nominations, and the rest from the government nominations.

Belgium expects IPBES to make use of the best scientists/experts from all relevant disciplines - natural science, social science, economics, data and modelling and traditional knowledge, and to achieve a geographical and gender balance among those experts in the delivery of the IPBES work programme.

We are now seeking expert nominations for the Belgian Government to endorse and submit to the IPBES Secretariat, to participate in Expert Groups charged with the delivery of:

1. Deliverable 2b: Regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services

- a. A regional and subregional assessment for the Americas region (Decision IPBES/3/1 Annex V), involving up to 100 experts, with a first authors meeting scheduled for 20 -24 July 2015;
- b. A regional and subregional assessment for the Africa region (Decision IPBES/3/1 Annex IV), involving up to 100 experts, with a first authors meeting scheduled 3 -7 August 2015;
- c. A regional and subregional assessment for the Asia and Pacific region (Decision IPBES/3/1 Annex VI), involving up to 100 experts, with a first authors meeting scheduled 17 -21 August 2015;
- d. A regional and subregional assessment for Europe and Central Asia (Decision IPBES/3/1 Annex VII), involving up to 100 experts, with a first authors meeting scheduled 31 August – 4 September 2015.

2. Deliverable 3bi: Thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration

This will involve an expert group of up to 80 experts, with a first authors meeting scheduled 6 -10 July 2015

3. Deliverable 2c: The scoping of a Global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services– Global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services

This will involve up to 20 experts with a scoping meeting planned for 5 – 7 October 2015. The results of this scoping process will be considered by the Plenary at its 4th session.

Expert Groups will be chaired by members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and experts will be selected by the MEP from nominations with a view to ensuring scientific credibility and disciplinary, geographic and gender balance. Expert groups will work through face-to-face meetings, web-based meetings and electronic interactions.

Key points to note:

- Experts may be nominated for more than one deliverable, as long as they meet the relevant criteria.
- Expert nominations can be endorsed by more than one government, or by government(s) and by stakeholders.
- As regards regional assessments, when selecting experts the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will first consider the engagement of experts from the relevant region, but experts from other regions can be engaged when they can provide an important contribution to the assessment.
- To ensure the possibility of coordination with the thematic assessments of i) invasive alien species, and ii) sustainable use of biodiversity, it is foreseen to have 10 experts on invasive alien species and 10 experts on sustainable use of biodiversity within each of the regional and subregional assessments. Further, experts of chapter 3 to chapter 8 of the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration will perform their work as part of the regional and sub-regional assessments contributing to both the regional and sub-regional assessment and the land degradation and restoration assessment. Please register as an expert under chapter 3 to chapter 8 of the land and degradation assessment if you are interested in the regional/subregional aspects on land degradation and restoration.

Selection of Belgian nominations

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform will sift the nominations received in response to this call. It will recommend a final list of expert nominations for government endorsement for submission to the IPBES Secretariat.

The following criteria will be applied to nominations seeking endorsement:

1. Scientific/technical expertise demonstrated through publication record in a discipline and subject relevant to the work programme deliverable, or demonstrable practical expertise of relevance to the work programme deliverable;
2. Representation of institutions/networks that could have a significant role in enabling delivery of the IPBES work programme.
3. Knowledge of user needs of government, voluntary or business sectors relevant to the assessment products proposed.

In addition to:

4. Experience of collaboration and negotiation in large/international programmes or networks.

The final list of experts for endorsement will then be considered to ensure a balance by gender and to ensure it is multidisciplinary.

Application process

Nominations are to be made via the online application form provided by the IPBES Secretariat and available here – <http://www.ipbes.net/applicationform.html>

This form includes a section titled “**B. Details of Government/Organisation supporting your nomination**”, into which you must enter the following details for your application to be considered for support by the Belgian government:

- Type of nomination body: Government
- Position of contact person: Belgian IPBES National Focal Point
- Full name (nominator): Dr Hilde Eggermont
- E-mail (nominator): h.eggermont@biodiversity.be
- Phone number (nominator): +32-238 34 95

The deadline for submitting the IPBES online application form is **31 March 2015**. However, applicants seeking Belgian government endorsement are required to submit their forms to the IPBES Secretariat by **5pm 23 March 2015**. This is because it is necessary to sift the applications before the IPBES closing date. Consequently nominations made after **23 March 2015** cannot be reviewed by the Belgian panel and will therefore not be accepted. We would encourage you to submit your application sooner if possible, to aid us in our sifting process.

For any queries in preparing nominations, the process that will be followed or on the deliverables, please contact Dr. Hilde Eggermont (h.eggermont@biodiversity.be) or Dr. Hans Keune (hans.keune@inbo.be), or visit our [IPBES-National Focal Point website](#).

Biodiversity.be