

January 13, 2014

Dear colleague,

The Secretariat of the **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** has now issued a **call for experts** to help scope, advise on and deliver the **2014-2018 work programme**. Governments and relevant stakeholders can put forward 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. IPBES will make use of the best scientists and experts from all relevant disciplines (natural science, social science, economics, traditional knowledge), and will aim at a geographical and gender balance among those experts in the delivery of the IPBES work programme.

Herewith, we are seeking **expert nominations for the Belgian government** to submit to the IPBES Secretariat. Background information on the IPBES, and specific information for the applicants is provided below.

### **Background information on IPBES:**

Emerging from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up processes, IPBES was established in April 2012 in Panama to protect the planet's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the services they provide to humanity. It provides a mechanism recognized by both the scientific and policy communities to synthesize, review, assess and critically evaluate relevant information and knowledge generated worldwide by governments, academia, scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous communities. By doing so, it aims to strengthen capacity for the effective use of science in decision-making at all levels. The Platform focuses on four areas of work:

- To identify and prioritise key scientific information needed for policymakers and to catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge
- To perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their linkages
- To support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies
- To prioritise key capacity building needs to improve the science-policy interface, and to provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities

Focusing on these key tasks, IPBES aims at a strong collaboration with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), United Nations bodies and networks of scientists and all knowledge holders (including indigenous peoples and local communities), to fill gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication. It also strives to be scientifically independent and ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy through peer review of its work and transparency in its decision-making processes. As such, it hopes to gain similar global scientific authority and policy influences for biodiversity to what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has for climate change.

The first session of the Plenary (IPBES-1) met from 21-26 January 2013 in Bonn, Germany (report available on <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb3106e.pdf>). The second session (IPBES-2) was held from 9-14 December 2013 in Antalya, Turkey (report available on <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb3113e.pdf>). During this session, the Platform's first work programme for the period 2014-2018 was adopted. The successfully conducted the various decisions and steps within this work programme, the input from experts is highly needed

## Call for experts:

As agreed during IPBES-2, the Plenary has established a number of task forces and expert groups to take forward the elements of the 2014-2018 work programme. In line with the agreed procedures, Governments and other relevant stakeholders are invited to nominate and present names of experts to participate in any of the task forces (items 1 to 3 below) or expert groups (items 4 to 8, below) as follows:

(1) **Task force on capacity building**, for implementation of the work programme deliverables 1a and 1b, in accordance with the Terms of Reference (TORs) set out in Annex II to Decision IPBES/2/5 (document attached, pp. 66). The first meeting of the task force is anticipated in the week commencing 19th May 2014;

(2) **Task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems**, for implementation of work programme deliverable 1c, in accordance with the TORs set out in Annex IV to Decision IPBES/2/5 (document attached, pp.68). The first meeting of the task force is anticipated in the week commencing 16th June 2014;

(3) **Task force on knowledge and data** for implementation of work programme deliverables 1d and 4b, in accordance with the TORs set out in Annex II of Decision IPBES/2/5 (document attached, pp. 66). The first meeting of the task force is anticipated in the week commencing 2nd June 2014;

(4) **Expert group** to implement work programme deliverable 2a, **on the development of a guide to the production and integration of assessments from and across all levels**. A meeting of the expert group is anticipated in the week commencing 5th May 2014.

(5) **Assessment on pollination and pollinators associated with food production** (work programme deliverable 3a), as outlined in the initial scoping document for this assessment, set out in Annex V to Decision IPBES/2/5 (document attached, pp. 72). A meeting of the assessment author group is anticipated in the week commencing 30th June 2014;

(6) **Methodological assessment on scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services** (work programme deliverable 3c), as outlined in the initial scoping document for this assessment, set out in Annex VI to Decision IPBES/2/5 (document attached, pp. 70). A full scoping meeting for the assessment is anticipated in the week commencing 28th April 2014;

(7) **The scoping of a methodological assessment on the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people** and development of a **preliminary guide** on the subject (work programme deliverable 3d). A full scoping meeting for the assessment is anticipated in the week commencing 28th April 2014;

(8) Expert group to support the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and Bureau in developing a **catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies**, and providing guidance on how the further development of such tools and methodologies could be promoted and catalysed (work programme deliverable 4c). A meeting of the expert group is anticipated in the week commencing 5th May 2014.

## Applicant information:

Nominees are requested to complete the attached IPBES nomination template and attach a current CV. All nominations must be submitted **by 31 January** to the Belgian Biodiversity Platform

(to: [h.eggermont@biodiversity.be](mailto:h.eggermont@biodiversity.be)). Please note that due to the tight schedule agreed for the work programme, late applications will unfortunately not be considered. All applicants should be requested to ensure they are available on the above indicated dates to participate in the relevant meetings.

The nominated experts will reflect the range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views and expertise that exist in Belgium; as well as gender balance. The list of Belgian nominations that are submitted to the IPBES Secretariat will be published.

We look forward to receiving your applications, and kindly request you to circulate this invitation amongst your networks. For more information, please contact Dr. Hilde Eggermont ([h.eggermont@biodiversity.be](mailto:h.eggermont@biodiversity.be)) or Dr. Hans Keune ([hans.keune@inbo.be](mailto:hans.keune@inbo.be)), Belgian Biodiversity Platform.

With very best regards,



Dr. Hilde Eggermont, Belgian Biodiversity Platform

ANNEX1: IPBES2 Decisions and Annexes

ANNEX2: Nomination Template

