IPBES Stakeholders Day

Organised by UNEP, in collaboration with UNESCO, FAP and UNDP
Facilitated by IUCN and ICSU
UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya, 2 October 2011

Summary of discussions

Preamble

This document presents summary of discussions and key outcomes of a one day meeting of representatives of a wide range of civil society and scientific community organisations, who met on 2 October 2011, at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was organised by UNEP, in collaboration with UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, and co-chaired by IUCN and ICSU. The meeting took place immediately prior to the first session of a plenary of IPBES (3-7 October 2011).

Background

IPBES will respond to requests for scientific information related to biodiversity and ecosystem services from Governments, relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and United Nation bodies, as well as other relevant stakeholders. These are varied and include academic scientific organizations, research coordination organizations, funding agencies, foundations and other donors, international, national, regional and local non-governmental organizations, regional and local community organizations, agriculture organizations, the industry sector, and the services sector.

Once IPBES is in operation, it is expected that these stakeholders will both act as contributors and as end users of the platform. It is thus very important for this large range of stakeholders to become familiar with the IPBES process, and discuss how they could contribute both as users and providers of information.

Goals

The goals of this meeting were for representatives of civil society and scientific community:

- To receive background information on the IPBES process so far;
- To receive information on the objectives of the first two sessions of the upcoming IPBES plenary;
- To have a first opportunity to meet and exchange views on issues under consideration for IPBES, as non-governmental stakeholders in the IPBES process.

See agenda and list of participants in annexes 1 and 2 to this document.

Summary of discussions

<u>Opening</u>

1. In their opening statements: UNEP welcomed participants, and underlined the importance for stakeholders to speak as much as possible with a unified voice, in order to have more impact; UNESCO underlined the relevance of IPBES to UNESCO's mandate, especially with respect to strengthening innovation, high school education, and interdisciplinary research; FAO welcomed the forthcoming establishment of IPBES; and UNDP stressed the importance of bringing a development perspective in IPBES and of having a strong non-governmental stakeholders component in IPBES. ICSU and IUCN expressed

pleasure for the opportunity to facilitate the meeting, and their commitment to organising and strengthening the contribution of stakeholders to IPBES.

Engagement of civil society and scientific community in IPBES

2. Following a set of background presentations on IPBES, participants welcomed the opportunity of the meeting, and confirmed their interest in IPBES. They underlined the importance of strengthening the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the roles they see themselves playing as both users and contributors to IPBES. They saw a particular role for NGOs in helping engagement of civil society in IPBES at the local and regional level to increase IPBES relevance, particularly in developing countries, and in helping to access and use traditional knowledge.

3. Participants overall understood that IPBES is a process designed primarily for governmental engagement. They however expressed concern regarding the current lack of recognition of non-governmental organizations as knowledge providers and final users of IPBES products, in the current IPBES process and governance, pointing out that this could, ultimately, decrease the relevance of IPBES.

4. Various models for stakeholders' involvement in IPBES were discussed, based on presentations made by UNEP on their major groups system, and by IUCN on lessons learnt from past and on-going experiences of stakeholders' engagement in similar processes (e.g. MA, IPCC, etc.). The model of stakeholders' 9 Major groups, as a possible way to structure civil society engagement was particularly discussed. This model, is, for example, being used to prepare for the Earth Summit 2012 ("Rio+20") and had already been introduced in RIO 1992 through Agenda 21.

5. In order to ensure satisfactory future stakeholders' engagement in IPBES, participants proposed that:

1. An organised mechanism for stakeholder participation in the IPBES is established;

2. Best practice for stakeholder involvement, including the mechanism of the 9 Major Groups, be explored by the interim IPBES secretariat in collaboration with stakeholders; and,

3. The interim IPBES secretariat engages with members of civil society and the scientific community during the intersessional period to develop options for consideration by the second session of a plenary.

Characteristics of IPBES

6. Scientific organisations present at the meeting (including ICSU, DIVERSITAS, IHDP, SCB and UNU) indicated that they wished to be seen as remaining neutral in the IPBES process, and were committed to not make any policy prescriptive statements at any point in the IPBES process. For this reason, they preferred the use of the terminology "civil society and scientific community" to designate the non-governmental stakeholder community,

7. Participants discussed and agreed on the importance of the following characteristics for IPBES, and made the following suggestions to ensure that these characteristics are realised:

Saliency (relevance): a bottom-up approach should be favoured since informal regional consultative groups can bring the highest level of saliency. IPBES should consider establishing a multi-stakeholder consultative mechanism, either as a subsidiary body of the Plenary, or as a consultative forum, in order to receive input from diverse groups at the local scale;

Independence: the need to have science operate independently of any political influence was seen as key. Some participants proposed the establishment of an independent Science Panel.

Credibility: It was recommended by some participants to establish an independent review panel, selected by an independent scientific organisation and approved by the plenary in order to ensure credibility.

8. It was felt important, if and as IPBES working groups get established, to keep flexibility in these working groups and sub-working groups, in order to adapt to the conceptual framework.

9. Participants discussed the importance for IPBES to ensure equity in the representation of developing

countries and of all relevant disciplines. With respect to disciplinary balance, it was proposed that each future working group should be co-chaired by a member of the natural sciences community and a member of the social sciences community.

Final statement

10. Participants discussed and agreed on the content of a statement (annex 3) summarising key points agreed during the day. The statement will be made during the opening segment of the plenary on behalf of the group of stakeholders from the scientific community and civil society that met on 2 October.

Follow-up

It was decided that:

11. An informal liaison will be maintained by email among the organizations which attended the session (coordination: IUCN).

12. Participants will work intersessionally by email to prepare for the 2nd session, and beyond, and, in particular will:

1. Further explore how to organise stakeholder participation in IPBES;

2. Work with the interim IPBES secretariat to seek further information on best practice for stakeholder involvement, including the mechanism of the 9 Major Groups;

3. Engage with the interim IPBES secretariat during the intersessional period to develop options for consideration by the second session of a plenary.

13. Annex 1: Agenda

Time			Speakers	Related documents
10h00–10h15	**15'**	**Opening of the Meeting**	UNEP UNESCO and FAO UNDP	
10h15-13h00		**Morning session**	**Chair:** IUCN: C. Sendashonga	
		1 Background information		
10h15-11h00	15' 15' 15' 	*Update on IPBES* - Objectives of the two sessions of a plenary meeting on IPBES; - Agenda for the first session. *Stakeholders' involvement* - Involvement of stakeholders in IPBES so far; - The Major Groups and stakeholders support Questions & discussion	UNEP : N. Ash UNEP :S. Le Doze UNEP: A. Juras	All preparatory and information documents
		2 Governance		
11h00-11h15	15'	Lessons learnt from similar past and on-going experiences and possible options for participation of stakeholders in IPBES	IUCN : P. Commenville	UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/13
11h15-11h30	15'	Views from scientific organizations, on involvement of civil society and scientific organisations in IPBES	ICSU-DIVERSITAS-IHDP: A. Duraiappah	UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12
11h30-13h00	90'	Discussion on governance: Options for status and involvement of stakeholders in IPBES in the light of the governance structure -Functions and structures of bodies that might be established -Rules of procedure		UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/4 UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/5
13h00-14h00	60'	LUNCH		
14h00-16h00		**Afternoon session**	**Chair:** ICSU:A. Larigauderie	
14h00-15h00	60'	Discussion on governance continued Conclusion & next steps: -Stakeholder statement at IPBES first session of a plenary -Opportunities for stakeholders to work together in future		
15h00-16h00	60'	3 Initial considerations on aspects of the work programme -catalysing generation of knowledge -assessment Presentation Discussion & Close	ICSU-DIVERSITAS-IHDP : W. Cramer & A Duraiappah	UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/7 UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/3/Add.1 UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/4/Add.1 UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12 UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/11

Annex 2 List of participants

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Berhanu	ABEGAZ	TWAS (Academy sciences for the Developing world)
Clarissa	ARIDA	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
Mamadou Bailo	BALDE	Association of Volunteers for Sustainable Development
Edmund	BARROW	IUCN - World Conservation Union
Leon	BENNUN	BirdLife International
Yawovi	BOKO	Planete Bleue et developpement durable
Pierluigi	BOZZI	Sapienza university of Rome, research centre of development studies (SPES)
Claire	BROWN	UNEP-WCMC
John	CAESAR	Caribbean Academy of Sciences
Jocelyn	CARINO	Tebtebba
Anna	CHENERY	UNEP-WCMC
Arnaud	COLLIN	IUCN - World Conservation Union
Pierre	COMMENVILLE	IUCN - World Conservation Union
David	COOPER	Secretariat of the CBD
Wolfgang	CRAMER	International Council for Science (ICSU)
Corazon	DE JESUS	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
Anantha	DURAIAPPAH	UNU/ICSU/IHDP
Soeren	DURR	Senckenberg Natural Research society
Carlo	FADDA	Biodiversity International
Asghar Mohammadi	FAZEL	ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technologies (ECO-IEST)
Colin	GALBRAITH	UNEP/CMS Secretariat (Convention on Migratory Species)
Maxwell	GOMERA	UNEP-WCMC
Jerry	HARRISON	UNEP-WCMC
Geoffrey	HOWARD	IUCN - World Conservation Union
Jon	HUTTON	UNEP-WCMC
Marie	JAKOBI	Infra Eco Network Europe
Albert	van JAARSVELD	NRF, S-Africa and ICSU
Bengt Gunnar	JONSSON	Society for Conservation Biology
Alexander	JURAS	UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch
Anne	LARIGAUDERIE	ICSU and DIVERSITAS
Carolyn	LUNDQUIST	Society for Conservation Biology
Richard	MBITHI	Miti Mingi Conservation Center
Harold	MOONEY	Stanford University, ICSU, DIVERSITAS
Volker	MOSBRUGGER	Senckenberg Natural Research society
Dorothy Wanja	NYINGI	Kenya Wetlands Biodiversity Research Team (KENWEB)
Ruth	ONIANGO	Rural Outreach Program, Kenya
Philip	OTIENO	Kenya young greens biodiversity
Anne-Helene	PRIEUR-RICHARD	International Council for Science (ICSU) and DIVERSITAS
Cyriaque	SENDASHONGA	IUCN - World Conservation Union
Nicholas	SENYONJO	Uganda Environmental Education Foundation (UEEF)
Ricarda	STEINBRECHER	EcoNexus
Koboyoh	TARO	United Nations Association of Togo
Sheila	VERGARA	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
Marceil	YEATER	CITES Secretariat
Laetitia	ZOBEL	UNEP Major Group and Stakeholders Branch

The following officials participated in this meeting as observers

Representing UNEP: Neville ASH, Solène LE DOZE-TURVILL, Ibrahim THIAW

Representing UNESCO: Salvatore ARICO, Gretchen KALONJI

Representing UNDP: Charles McNEILL

Annex 3 Statement on behalf of the participants, read by A. Larigauderie (ICSU) at the opening session (3 October 2011)

A group of stakeholders from scientific community & other stakeholders from civil society interested in IPBES met on 2 October, 2011. The meeting was convened by UNEP in collaboration with UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, and co-facilitated by IUCN & ICSU.

- Expressed appreciation to UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP for providing an opportunity for consultation prior to the 1st session of a plenary meeting of IPBES;

- Re-affirmed their strong interest in IPBES, both as contributors of knowledge and end users of IPBES products;

- Noted that the interest and engagement of stakeholders are key for the relevance, impact and legitimacy of IPBES;

- Emphasised the importance for the scientific community contributing to IPBES, to provide policy relevant information but not policy prescriptive advice, as outlined in the Busan outcome;

- Underlined the importance of the following key principles for the success of IPBES: saliency (ie. policy relevance), scientific independence and credibility.

  In order to enhance the implementation of these principles in the work of IPBES, the following modalities for the participation of scientific community & other stakeholders from civil society are recommended:

- On **Saliency**:
  (ii) Firstly, a mechanism within IPBES needs to be established and be financially supported within the budget of the platform, to ensure a structured exchange with stakeholders in between sessions; this multi-stakeholder consultative mechanism would have an important regional/sub-regional component, and could be set up as:
  a Subsidiary body of the Plenary, or
  a Consultative forum.

  (iii) Secondly, representation of scientific community & other stakeholders from civil society in the governance structures, including plenary and appropriate subsidiary bodies (such as bureau or executive committee) should be considered.

- On **Scientific Independence,** an independent Science Panel should be established.

- On **Credibility,** an external review panel should be also established.

  In addition to the above principles, participants underlined the need to ensure **Equity** in the representation of developing countries and of all relevant disciplines.

  Thank you.