The recently released IPBES assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services has highlighted a number of key challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region. These include:

- climate change, particularly sea-level rise, increased intensity of extreme storm events, ocean acidification,
- population growth and poverty,
- human consumption of natural resources,
- land degradation and deforestation,
- invasive alien species,
- the impact of trade including the illegal trade in wildlife and non-timber forest products,
- rapid urbanization,
- coastal pollution,
- poor governance of natural resources and
- the impact of altered fire regimes.

Despite these growing challenges, the report also highlights positive trends, such as an increase in awareness, forest cover and protected areas and a reduction in the region’s carbon footprint.¹

This session is designed to provide invitees and all members with an overview of the IPBES report on the Asia-Pacific Region, and update on the interactions between IUCN and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) pursuant to Resolutions WCC_2012_RES 117 and WCC_2012_RES 118. How can members use this platform to engage and be involved in science and policy at the regional and international level? What are the benefits of this engagement to Members and how they should be engaged?

¹ [https://www.ipbes.net/deliverables/2b-asia-pacific](https://www.ipbes.net/deliverables/2b-asia-pacific) sighted 22 May 2019.