

## Invitation to nominate experts to aid in delivering the IPBES work programme

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### Call for expert nominations

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 second plenary of the Platform met in December 2013 and agreed an ambitious work programme for 2014-2018: Details of the agreed work programme are available in the [advanced meeting report](#) of the Plenary.

The IPBES Secretariat have now issued a call for experts to help scope, advise on and deliver the 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.

The UK 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 UK Government to submit to the IPBES Secretariat, for the following deliverables:

#### 1) *Task force on capacity building*

For implementation of work programme deliverables 1a and 1b, in accordance with the ToRs set out in Annex II to Decision IPBES/2/5.

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.

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.

The first meeting of the task force is anticipated in the week commencing 2nd June 2014;

#### 4) *Expert group to develop a guide to the production and integration of assessments from and across all levels* (work programme deliverable 2a)

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.

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.

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 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 catalyzed* (work programme deliverable 4c)

A meeting of the expert group is anticipated in the week commencing 5th May 2014.

Further information on the deliverables, terms of reference and scoping statements can be found in the [advanced meeting report](#) of the Second IPBES Plenary.

### Further information on roles of experts

Time-bound and task-specific **expert groups** (deliverables 4 and 8) will be chaired by members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and up to 20 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. The expert group will be important for mobilizing in-kind support from experts and institutions.

Time-bound and task-specific **task forces of strategic partners** and other organisations (deliverables 1, 2 and 3) will help to implement the strategic partnership strategy. Task forces will be chaired by members of the Bureau and up to 20 experts will be selected by the Bureau/MEP from nominations, including representatives of relevant organisations, initiatives and networks. Task forces will work through face-to-face meetings, web-based meetings and electronic interactions. The task force will facilitate collaboration with existing initiatives.

For **assessments** (deliverables 5 and 6) **the co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors will be selected by the MEP**. The procedures for the preparation of assessment reports are set out in Annex 1 to the Procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (available in the [advanced report of second Plenary](#)). The composition for the group of coordinating lead authors and lead authors for a given chapter, report or summary will reflect the range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views and expertise; geographical representation; diversity of knowledge systems that exist; and gender balance. Roles in assessments will be as follows:

- Report co-chairs have responsibility for overseeing the preparation of reports.
- Coordinating lead coordinates a number of lead authors preparing major sections or chapters of the report.
- Lead authors produce designated sections or parts of chapters and synthesise material drawn from available literature.
- Review editors ensure that all substantive expert and government review comments are afforded appropriate consideration and advise on handling of controversial issues

Coordinating and lead authors must have a proven ability to develop text that is scientifically, technically and socio-economically sound and that faithfully represents contributions made by a wide variety of experts. .

For **scoping workshops** (deliverable 7) the nominated experts must reflect the range of scientific, technical and socio-economic views and expertise; geographical representation; diversity of knowledge systems that exist; and gender balance. The participants in the scoping workshop should include a range of multidisciplinary experts and stakeholders, including from user groups and members of the Platform.

### Selection of UK nominations

An independent review panel is being established by Defra to sift the nominations received in response to this call. The review panel will recommend a final list of expert nominations to be endorsed by Defra before submission to the IPBES Secretariat. The following criteria will be applied in the sift process:

1. Scientific/technical expertise demonstrated through publication record in a discipline and subject relevant to the work programme deliverable, or demonstrable expertise in other relevant knowledge systems;
2. Experience of collaboration in large/international programmes or networks;
3. Gender (UK will be seeking to submit a list of nominations balanced by gender);
4. Availability to participate in meetings as specified in the list of deliverables above, as well as a commitment to attend further meetings as necessary for the relevant deliverable and to working between meetings to an intensive timetable.

And where relevant:

5. Experience of leading major collaborative programmes/international collaborative partnerships/networks etc (for co-chairs, co-ordinating lead authors, task force members)
6. Representation of institutions/networks that could have a significant role in enabling delivery of the IPBES work programme (task force members, expert groups)

Experts may be nominated for more than one deliverable, as long as they meet the relevant criteria. Nominations are not limited to UK nationals or UK-based institutions.

### **Financial support**

Defra has a small budget available to support expert participation in IPBES but cannot guarantee support for all experts nominated. The IPBES Secretariat has also invited in-kind contributions to support the IPBES work programme. We therefore request that in addition to information on the above personal expertise, information is also provided on any potential institutional/network support. Please indicate whether you have agreement from your institution/network to:

- (a) commit time to support your participation;
- (b) provide additional resources to support you and/or the IPBES work programme;
- (c) provide financial support for you to attend meetings.

This information will not be used in the selection of experts.

### **Making a nomination and timetable**

Nominations are requested to be submitted on the attached form by Thursday 6 February to [christiana.millard@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:christiana.millard@defra.gsi.gov.uk). CVs should accompany the nomination form.

Where you are making a nomination for more than one deliverable, only one form need be returned, but it should clearly identify each of the deliverables to be considered. Please note that 20 experts are sought for each of the expert groups and task forces, but a larger number of experts are sought for the preparation of assessments. Submission of nominations via the UK Government does not preclude direct nomination by relevant stakeholders to the IPBES Secretariat.

The timetable is envisaged as:

Deadline for nominations: 6 February.

Review panel: Week commencing 10 February.

Submission of UK government endorsed list of nominated experts: 28 February.

A further call for experts is expected in March 2014, to contribute to scoping and authoring regional and sub-regional assessments, and assessments relating to land degradation and restoration, invasive alien species, and sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity (work programme deliverables 2b and 3b).