



IPBES Assessments – Africa Region assessments

Luthando Dziba, CSIR
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What is IPBES?



IPBES-1 (Jan 2013, Bonn)



IPBES-2 (Dec 2013, Antalya)

- **I**ntergovernmental **P**latform on **B**iodiversity and **E**cosystem **S**ervices
- **Overall objective:** To provide policy relevant knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform decision making
- Established in April 2012, Panama
- 124 Members
- Secretariat hosted in Bonn
- Collaborative Partnership Agreement between FAO, UNEP, UNDP and UNESCO

A short history of IPBES

Identification
of needs and
gaps



Nov. 2008 - Putrajaya, Malaysia



Oct. 2009 - Nairobi, Kenya



June 2010 - Busan, Republic of Korea

We need an
IPBES



Oct. 2011- Nairobi, Kenya



April 2012 - Panama City, Panama

Modalities of
operation and
establishment



Intersessional process



Jan. 2013 - First plenary meeting

Operation-
-alisation

Inspired by the IPCC (with adaptations)

Content

4 Functions:

- Assessments **but not only**
- Capacity Building
- Science-policy tools
- Knowledge generation catalysis

And also:

- Indigenous and local knowledge

Process

- Mandatory geographical balance (5 UN regions)
- Multistakeholder
- Governance (Bureau+MEP)

What is an IPBES assessment?

- An IPBES assessment **is a critical evaluation of the state of knowledge in biodiversity and ecosystem services.**
- It is based on **existing peer-reviewed literature, grey literature and other knowledge systems** such as **indigenous and local knowledge.**
- **It does not involve the undertaking of original research.**
- The assessment may involve a literature review, but is not limited to such a review. The process of evaluating the state of knowledge involves the **analysis, synthesis and critical judgement of information by experts** and the **presentation of such findings to governments and relevant stakeholders** on their request.

An assessment is not a literature review

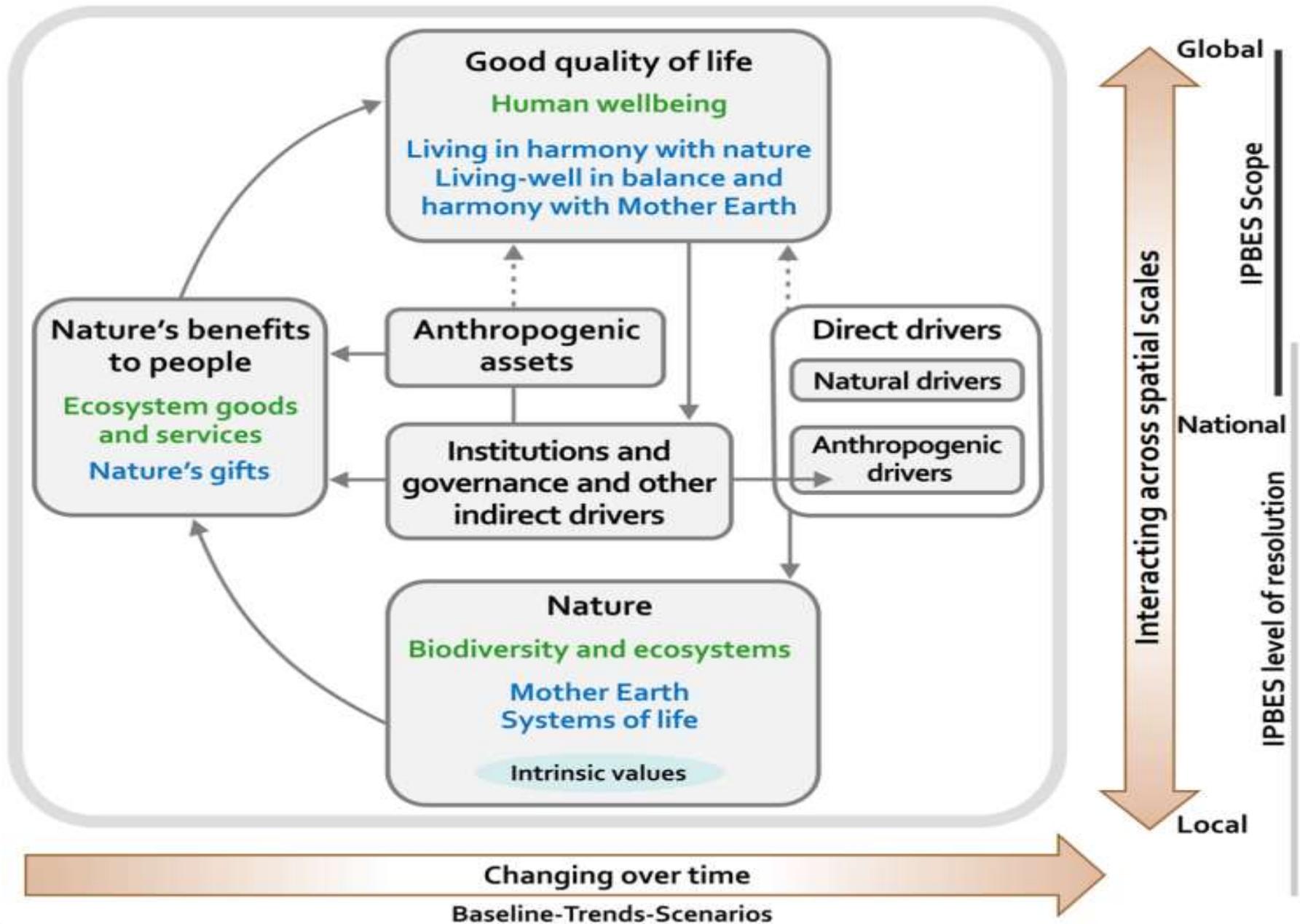
	A literature review	An assessment
Primary Audience	Scientists	Decision-makers
Authors	One or a few	Large, varied and transdisciplinary group nominated by governments and stakeholders
Identifies gaps in	Research: curiosity-driven	Knowledge for implementation: problem driven
(Un)certainty statements	Not required	Essential
Judgement of relevance to a policy question	Optional	Required but clearly flagged
Review	Peer review, typically anonymous and often a small number of scientific reviewers	Peer review as well as government and other stakeholders review. Typically reviewers are not anonymous.
Summary for a broader audience	Not essential	Essential to reduce complexity
Outputs	Scientific paper	Report, Summary for Policy Makers, etc.

The 4 functions of IPBES

IPBES was established with four agreed functions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge generation	Identify knowledge needs of policymakers, and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment	Deliver global, regional and thematic assessments, and promote and catalyse support for sub-global assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy support tools	Identify policy relevant tools/methodologies, facilitate their use, and promote and catalyse their further development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building	Prioritize key capacity building needs, and provide and call for financial and other support for priority needs

IPBES Conceptual Framework



IPBES conceptual framework



COMMUNITY PAGE

A Rosetta Stone for Nature's Benefits to People

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Díaz et al. 2015 *Plos Biology* 13(1)

Díaz et al. 2015 *COSUST* 14



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The IPBES Conceptual Framework — connecting nature and people

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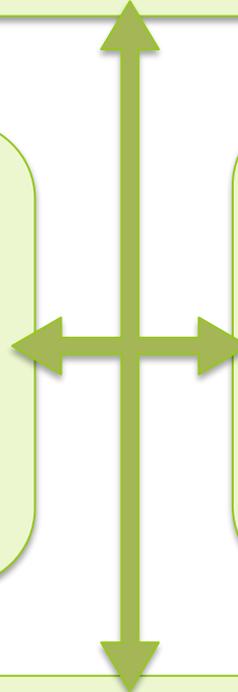
Structure of the work programme

Objective 1: Strengthen the **capacity** and **knowledge** foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key IPBES functions

Objective 2: Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across the **sub-regional, regional and global levels**

Objective 3: Strengthen the knowledge-policy interface with regard to **thematic and methodological issues**

Objective 4: **Communicate** and **evaluate** IPBES activities, deliverables and findings



Some statistics for 2014

- 14 expert groups established
- 516 experts selected from a total of 1691 nominations received
- 20 meetings held in 8 different locations
- Secretariat established in Bonn
- 5 Technical Support Units established

Capacity building:

Trondheim, Norway (Norwegian Environment Agency)

Indigenous & local knowledge:

Paris, France (UNESCO)

Knowledge & data:

Seocheon-gun, Republic of Korea (Ministry of the Environment/National Institute of Ecology)

Pollination assessment:

At IPBES secretariat in Bonn (IPBES)

Scenario assessment:

Bilthoven, The Netherlands (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency)

Regional Assessments

IPBES-3 approved undertaking of 5 new assessments

- 4 Regional assessments (Africa, Americas, Asia Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia)
- Land degradation and restoration

IPBES-3 approved scoping of 4 possible future assessments

- Global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Invasive alien species
- Sustainable use
- Diverse conceptualisations of values (one additional year)



Generic chapter outline for regions

- **Chapter 1:** Setting the Scene
- **Chapter 2:** Nature's benefits to people and quality of life
- **Chapter 3:** Status, trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature's benefits to people
- **Chapter 4:** Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives on quality of life
- **Chapter 5:** Integrated and cross-scale analysis of interactions of the natural world and human society
- **Chapter 6:** Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision-making across scales and sectors

NB: The chapter outline is derived from the Conceptual Framework.

Specific considerations for Africa

Focus on:

- the **food-energy-water-livelihood** nexus;
- land degradation
- Climate Change;
- biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- invasive alien species.
- Cross-cutting themes: trade agreements and foreign investment; and environmental health and zoonotic diseases.
- **Sub-regions:** East Africa and adjacent islands, Southern Africa, West Africa, North Africa, Central Africa



Selection of experts

Each group of 124 experts (max) is composed as follows:

- 2/3 co-chairs
- 12 CLAs (2 CLAs for each one of the 6 chapters)
- 6 coordinators for the 3 **thematic assessments** (2 for **land degradation**, 2 for **invasive species**, 2 for **sustainable use**), in charge of coordinating land degradation, invasive species and sustainable use work for each regional assessment.
- 92 Lead Authors (LAs):
 - 66 Lead Authors (11 LAs per each one of the 6 chapters), and
 - 26 Lead Authors from the 3 thematic assessments (10 for land degradation, 8 for invasive species, 8 for sustainable use)
- 12 Review Editors (2 for each of the 6 chapters)

What Knowledge, Information and Data will IPBES assessments need?



2015 in a nutshell

The 3 task forces implementing their plans

- Capacity building, knowledge and data and indigenous and local knowledge

2 full assessments deliver in February 2016 (IPBES-4)

- Pollination and food production
- Methodologies for scenarios analysis and modelling

5 new assessments are initiated

- 4 Regional/Subregional assessments
- Land degradation and restoration

4 possible future assessments are scoped

- Global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Invasive alien species
- Sustainable use
- Diverse conceptualisations of values

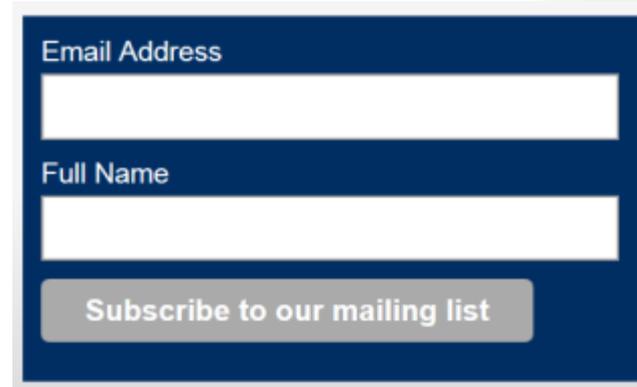
IPBES scoping document for the Africa Region assessment

- **CHAPTER 1:** Setting the scene
- **CHAPTER 2:** Nature's benefits to people and its impacts on quality of life
- **CHAPTER 3:** Status, trends of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature's benefits to people (past, present and future dynamics)
- **CHAPTER 4:** Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives of quality of life (including positive drivers) (past, present and future dynamics)
- **CHAPTER 5:** Integrated and cross-scale analysis of interactions of the natural world and human society (institutions and governance) (past, present and future dynamics)
- **CHAPTER 6:** Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision making across scales and sectors (including lessons learned)



Getting involved

- Call for experts closed on **31 March 2015**
- Visit www.ipbes.net and subscribe for email updates about all IPBES activities
- Africa Region Assessment
 - Contribute Knowledge, Data and Information
 - Participate as an expert (respond to calls for experts)
 - Participate in various IPBES capacity building initiatives
 - Know and work with your IPBES national focal point



Email Address

Full Name

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SADC regional workshop on ecosystem assessments

- February 2014; 2015
- SADC regional representatives
- Working towards a regional forum:
- **Objectives:**
 - Improve capacity for undertaking and using IPBES assessments
 - Link regional experts to the latest scientific thinking on BES
 - Facilitate learning and exchange between and amongst regional practitioners, scientists and policy makers
 - Identify regional priorities for ecosystem assessments and ensure our governments make requests for these to IPBES
 - Assess regional capacity building needs and prioritize them in IPBES

