



## **IPBES Assessments** – Africa Region assessments

**Luthando Dziba, CSIR**  
GSSA Congress 50

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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

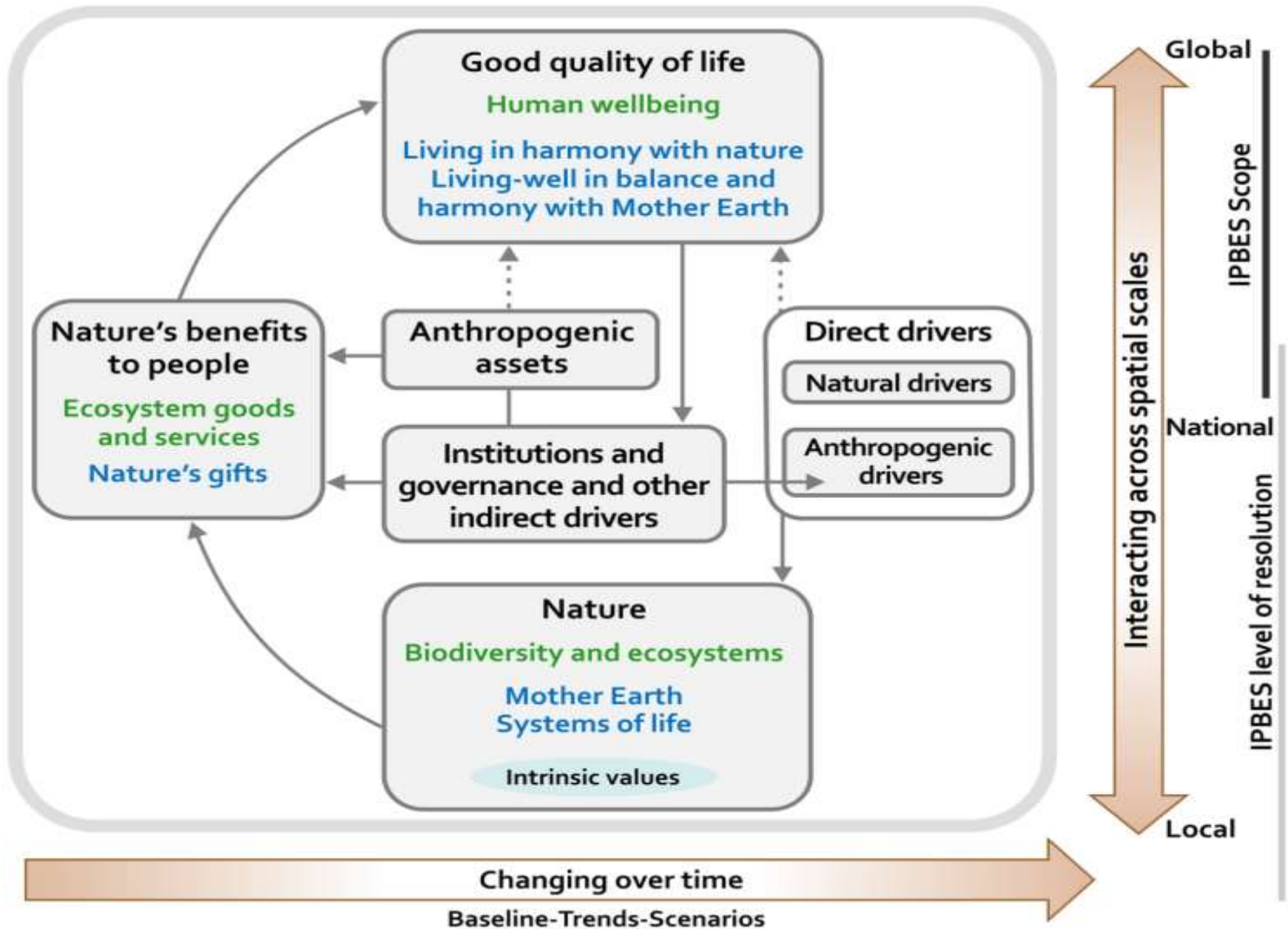
	A literature review	An assessment
<b>Primary Audience</b>	Scientists	Decision-makers
<b>Authors</b>	One or a few	Large, varied and transdisciplinary group nominated by governments and stakeholders
<b>Identifies gaps in</b>	Research: curiosity-driven	Knowledge for implementation: problem driven
<b>(Un)certainty statements</b>	Not required	Essential
<b>Judgement of relevance to a policy question</b>	Optional	Required but clearly flagged
<b>Review</b>	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.
<b>Summary for a broader audience</b>	Not essential	Essential to reduce complexity
<b>Outputs</b>	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"><li>• <b>Knowledge generation</b></li></ul>	Identify knowledge needs of policymakers, and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Assessment</b></li></ul>	Deliver global, regional and thematic assessments, and promote and catalyse support for sub-global assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Policy support tools</b></li></ul>	Identify policy relevant tools/methodologies, facilitate their use, and promote and catalyse their further development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Capacity building</b></li></ul>	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

Sandra Díaz<sup>1\*</sup>, Sebsebe Demissew<sup>2</sup>, Carlos Joly<sup>3</sup>, W. Mark Lonsdale<sup>4</sup>, Anne Larigauderie<sup>5</sup>

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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

Sandra Díaz<sup>1</sup>, , Sebsebe Demissew<sup>2</sup>, Julia Carabias<sup>3</sup>, Carlos Joly<sup>4</sup>, Mark Lonsdale<sup>5, 87</sup>, Neville Ash<sup>6</sup>, Anne Larigauderie<sup>7</sup>, Jay Ram Adhikari<sup>8</sup>, Salvatore Arico<sup>9</sup>, Andrés Báldi<sup>10</sup>, Ann Bartuska<sup>11</sup>, Ivar Andreas Baste<sup>12</sup>, Adem Bilgin<sup>13</sup>, Eduardo Brondizio<sup>14</sup>, Kai MA Chan<sup>15</sup>, Viviana Elsa Figueroa<sup>16</sup>, Anantha Duraiappah<sup>17</sup>, Markus Fischer<sup>18, 19</sup>, Rosemary Hill<sup>20</sup>, Thomas Koetz<sup>7</sup>, Paul Leadley<sup>21</sup>, Philip Lyver<sup>22</sup>, Georgina M Mace<sup>23</sup>, Berta Martin-Lopez<sup>24</sup>, Michiko Okumura<sup>25</sup>, Diego Pacheco<sup>26</sup>, Unai Pascual<sup>27, 28, 29</sup>, Edgar Selvin Pérez<sup>30</sup>, Belinda Reyers<sup>31</sup>

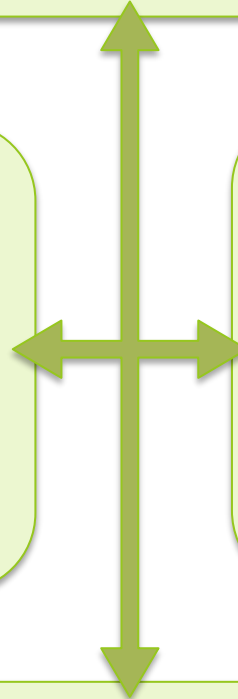
# Structure of the work programme

**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

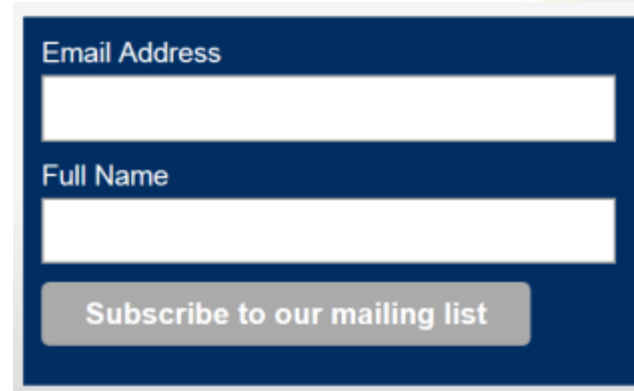
- **CHAPTER 1:** Setting the scene
- **CHAPTER 2:** Nature's benefits to people and its impacts on quality of life
- **CHAPTER 3:** Status, trends of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinning nature's benefits to people (past, present and future dynamics)
- **CHAPTER 4:** Direct and indirect drivers of 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](http://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

