

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME REPORT ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

This document has been submitted by the Secretariat at the request of UNEP*.

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Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

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**United Nations Environment Programme report on
intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services**

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I. Introduction

1. This information document is submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), for considerations at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It contains updates on the continued process on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), to be used as supplementary information in relation to the agenda item 10 on “Cooperation with other organizations”, specifically, 10.1 on “Synergy with biodiversity-related international initiatives”.

II. Updates on IPBES Process

A. Background

2. In March 2008, a concept note was prepared by UNEP detailing the needs and rationale for an intergovernmental multi-stakeholder platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, based on a request from the international science committee of the International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMOSEB) process and the partners of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up strategy. The note was made available as an information document to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting, held in May 2008.

3. The consultative process towards an IMOSEB and the global strategy on Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up both reflect a general agreement on the need for such a platform. This need was further strengthened by decision IX/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, by which the Parties welcomed the above mentioned concept note and agreement of the UNEP Executive Director to convene an ad hoc open ended intergovernmental multi-stakeholder meeting to consider establishing an efficient international science-policy interface on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well being, invited Parties to ensure that appropriate science and policy experts were made available to attend and also encouraged the participation of experts from various regions and disciplines.

B. Outcomes of two ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on IPBES

4. Accordingly, two ad hoc open ended intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on IPBES have been convened so far. The first meeting was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008¹. It was attended by 77 countries and 26 organizations. Participants generally agreed on the need to strengthen the science-policy interface and recommended that the UNEP Executive Director should report to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fifth session on the outcome of the meeting, and that the Governing Council should request the Executive Director to convene a second such meeting.

5. By its decision 25/10, the Governing Council called for the Executive Director to undertake a further process to explore ways and means to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well being and sustainable development, aiming to report on progress at the special session on biodiversity of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly and other relevant meetings. Specifically, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to convene a second intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting in 2009.

¹ A report of the first ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES/1/6) is downloadable at the following website: www.ipbes.net.

6. In response to the above decision, the UNEP Executive Director convened the second meeting in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009². It was attended by representatives of 96 countries and 32 organizations. The discussions focused specifically on the needs for: generating knowledge (for improved collaboration and coordination to generate knowledge for a common and shared knowledge base); assessing knowledge (for regular and timely assessments to generate and disseminate policy-relevant and not policy-prescriptive information); using knowledge (to support policy implementation by providing scientific support in the form of decision-support tools and methodologies); and capacity-building (building capacity to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being). Representatives also exchanged views on the possible functions and governance structure of the potential mechanism.

7. The main outcome of the second IPBES meeting was a Chair's summary, which calls for a third and final negotiation meeting to decide whether to establish a new mechanism. There was strong support expressed by the participants at the second meeting for a new intergovernmental mechanism, provided that it did not duplicate or substitute the mandates or programmes of work of existing mechanisms. The outcomes of this meeting were presented to the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia from 24-26 February 2010.

C. Way forward

8. The UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session adopted a decision on IPBES (attached in Annex), which endorses the Executive Director of UNEP to organize a third and final meeting on IPBES in June 2010 in collaboration with relevant partners, including the secretariats of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish a new mechanism. The decision also requests the Executive Director to transmit, on behalf of the Governing Council, the outcomes of and necessary documentation from the third and final meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the high-level segment on biological diversity in September 2010 and thereafter.

9. Based on the above decision, the third IPBES meeting is scheduled for 7-11 June 2010 in the Republic of Korea, co-hosted by UNEP and the Government of the Republic of Korea. The exact venue of the meeting is currently being finalized by the Korean authorities. Further details on this meeting, including the exact venue, will be posted on the following website: www.ipbes.net.

10. For this third meeting on IPBES, UNEP has been requested to prepare the following analyses: 1) current and planned capacity-building activities; 2) assessment landscape, including the state of play of existing and current indicators; 3) a note on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change governance structure and procedures; 4) options and criteria for a possible secretariat; and 5) information on possible financing needs and possible platform governance structures. Information documents on these analyses, as well as a working document that contains key decisions to be made at the third meeting, will also be made available on the above website at a later stage.

11. In view of the importance of this third and final meeting on IPBES for reaching agreement on whether to establish a new mechanism, active participation of all the relevant stakeholders is sought in order to ensure that their views are fully reflected in the final decision to be made on this important matter.

² A report of the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES/2/4) is downloadable at the following website: www.ipbes.net.

Advance copy of Governing Council decision adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

SS.XI/3: Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services

The Governing Council,

Recalling its main functions and responsibilities set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, under which the Governing Council is, among other things, to promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Taking note of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up process, the consultative process towards an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity and decision IX/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling its decision 25/10 of 20 February 2009,

Noting the outcomes of the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009,

Recognizing the need to strengthen and improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,³

1. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations to finalize in 2010 their deliberations on improving the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to support efforts by Governments and relevant organizations to finalize the above-mentioned deliberations and, in so doing:

(a) To convene, in June 2010, a third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

(b) To make available to all parties concerned, including participants in the third meeting, the information requested at the second meeting⁴ in good time for the third meeting;

(c) To transmit, on behalf of the Governing Council, the outcomes of and necessary documentation from the third and final meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the high-level segment on biological diversity in September 2010 and thereafter;

3. *Invites* Governments and organizations in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the above-mentioned process;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely with the relevant secretariats of the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, multilateral financial institutions and relevant international organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the

³ UNEP/GCSS.XI/7.

⁴ UNEP/IPBES/2/4/Rev.1, annex, para. 29.

United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, to ensure the full involvement of key stakeholders in the preparation of the third meeting.