

Plenary meeting to determine modalities
and institutional arrangements of an IPBES,
Panamá City, Panamá,
16-21 April 2012

SIDE EVENT

Wednesday 18 April 2012
From 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Hotel Riu Plaza Panama
Salón Barcelona 1, nivel 2
Lunch provided

HOW EXISTING INITIATIVES CAN SUPPORT IPBES WITH DATA, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Jointly proposed by:

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)



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Background



The intergovernmental plenary meeting on IPBES in Panama will focus on a range of issues, including legal issues concerning establishment, the structures and functions of the future platform, and the rules and procedures that might be adopted in order to make possible the first operations of the platform. Among other items, interested parties will discuss procedures proposed by some governments during the intersession concerning the operating modalities of the platform, such as “procedures for the preparation of assessments”, and “procedures for the review and evaluation of the platform”.

While discussions on procedures are vital, it is important not to lose sight of the substantive work which the platform will be asked to perform. This potential work is outlined in the working document entitled ‘possible elements of the work programme’¹. This document refers at several points to existing initiatives, mechanisms, assessments which are already established and deliver valuable information to policy-making, particularly in the field of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Purposes of the proposed side event

- Showcase some existing initiatives aligned with the platform’s mandate, their origins, their key factors of success, and their aims;
- Illustrate how these initiatives are relevant to several potential activities of IPBES, including long-term observation processes, indicators and access to data;
- Provide a factual overview of the quality requirements and controls, and of the evaluation processes which have been established under these initiatives;
- Discuss how effective collaboration between these initiatives and IPBES could be ensured;
- Ultimately feed into the discussions on rules and procedures that might be necessary to adopt in order to ensure that IPBES will “collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services ... to fill gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication”².

1 UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2
2 In reference with the language of the Busan Outcome.

Programme

Facilitation: Cyrie SENDASHONGA, IUCN

Introduction

5 minutes

- Purposes of the side event
- Introduction of the speakers

Identifying how IPBES can build effectively on existing organizations and initiatives

15 minutes

Jerry HARRISON, UNEP-WCMC

IUCN Knowledge Products: The basis for a partnership to support the functions and the work programme of IPBES

15 minutes

Simon STUART and Jane SMART, IUCN

How a decade of government investment in data mobilization, informatics standards and capacity can now be leveraged to provide the dynamic and responsive data-science interface essential to supporting IPBES

15 minutes

Donald HOBERN, GBIF

Questions and debate

35 minutes

Wrap-up and perspectives

5 minutes

Inviting participants to stay tuned with the work of the 3 organizations, as presented on their respective websites.

Background documents

How the Sub-Global Assessment Network and IPBES can be mutually supportive - UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/12

Framework for collaboration between IUCN and IPBES - UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/13

Identifying how IPBES can build effectively on the work of existing organizations and initiatives - UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/15