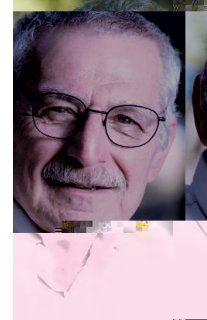
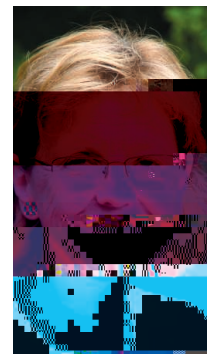


Biodiversity Policy Challenges

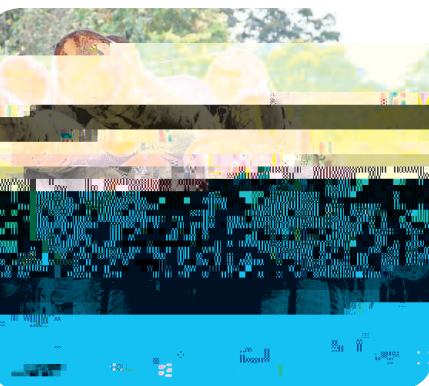
GLOBAL RESPONSES TO THE DETERIORATION OF BIODIVERSITY HAVE BEEN SLOW TO EMERGE, BUT next month the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme hosts a meeting* in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss the next steps in establishing a new science/policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The response in this arena still lags far behind negotiations related to climate change, but the meeting is a chance to boost international action, based on strong scientific evidence. An important motivation for creating this interface is meeting the goals of international multilateral agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Unlike the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which has the Interw



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ence Partnership, and through international organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. What is lacking is an effective dialogue between science-based information and relevant policy mechanisms to ramp up the speed and clarity of information flow.

We urge that scientists not only continue to generate the science that underlies good policies and decisions, but also become informed on policy issues that relate to their expertise and are highlighted in published research. In each nation, scientists need to take the crucial step of ensuring that research information reaches the relevant decision-making levels of government. In October, the 100 or so participating countries should bring not only their best policy negotiators but also their best scientists to the Nairobi conference. A commitment to an intergovernmental science/policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services is possible only if scientists take a serious step forward and become centrally involved. – Harold Mooney and Georgina Mace

10.1126/science.1180935

*<http://ipbes.net/en/2ndMeeting/index.asp>