



## 1. Initial considerations

Recognizing the need to enhance efficient and effective science policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being and poverty eradication, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in Panama City, Panama on 21 April 2012 and other outcomes of that plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for this Platform.

IUCN would like to recall that the Platform's overarching objective is 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. This objective should inspire the decisions that might be taken during the first meeting of the supreme governing body of the Platform.

IUCN's recommendations and further commitments for this first plenary session of IPBES are inspired by resolutions adopted by the IUCN Members Assembly which deliberated at the IUCN World Conservation congress, held on 6-15 September 2012 in Jeju, Republic of Korea<sup>1</sup>. At this occasion, it should be noted that a declaration was signed by the IUCN President, the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, the Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and the Chairman of the Korean Organizing Committee committing to supporting the full implementation of IPBES<sup>2</sup>.

## 2. IUCN's contribution to the intersessional work

IUCN acknowledged the adoption of intersessional work to prepare for the first session of the

Furthermore, IUCN supported, both financially and substantively, the process to draft the background document for the development of a Conceptual Framework for IPBES (document



In order to streamline the possible activities proposed to be implemented by the Platform<sup>7</sup> and the requests, inputs and suggestions, IUCN recommends that the Plenary officially calls for requests, inputs and suggestions, during the present session and circulates widely this call for contributions.

In its intersessional comments, IUCN expresses warm appreciation of the procedures that have been prepared by the secretariat to support the implementation of the work programme, especially the procedures for the preparation of reports and the elements for recognizing indigenous and local participationdurze elo

## **8. IUCN's position on possible institutional arrangements for implementing the initial work programme (item 5(d) of the provisional agenda)**

IUCN recalls the importance of the principle providing that IPBES should collaborate with existing initiatives. The possible arrangements for implementing the work programme should include a section on strategic partnerships and establishing networks of organizations. This is particularly important given the sustained timeframes, investment, and capacity-building necessary to establish networks of biodiversity focused institutions. Hence, IUCN recommends that IPBES conduct a review of possible collaboration with existing organizations in view of the activities that might be implemented. This review should be completed for consideration by the second plenary meeting of the Platform, drawing on overviews of existing activities<sup>11</sup> and exploring the potential modalities that have already been documented<sup>12</sup>.

## **9. IUCN's position on nomination and selection of the members of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (item 6 of the provisional agenda)**

While regretting that the process to nominate experts excluded nominations from relevant stakeholders, IUCN acknowledges that many experts who are nominated have a solid background on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and on ecosystem services, which is at the heart of the platform's mandate.

However, IUCN recommends that the selection of experts to sit in the MEP take adequately into account experience and skills in working with business actors and experience and skills related to indigenous and local knowledge. These two components of the general expertise to be strengthened by IPBES are indeed critical.

IUCN would also like to point out that in considering the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel regions, the Plenary should retain the possibility of adding a few additional seats to the ones to be filled by regional nominees, in order to ensure geographical and disciplinary balance.

## **10. IUCN's position on initial budget of the Platform (item 8(b) of the provisional agenda)**

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2012 called on IUCN Members and

