



Terms of Reference for the SCB Sub-committee on IPBES

Background

In April 21, 2012, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was established. At present (2015) more than 130 countries are members of the platform. IPBES will be the first global mechanism, formally recognized by governments, bringing together information regarding the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, synthesizing information in a policy-relevant manner, and providing analyses of information for decision makers.

The subcommittee was formed in 2009 (then as an ad-hoc committee) in order to follow the establishment process of IPBES. This came from an initiative of the Europe section, but included representatives from all sections. During the first phase SCB was represented at all meetings during the establishment phase (up to Panama 2012). In mean time the ad-hoc committee was restructured and repopulated (leaving the section representation aside) into the current sub-committee under the global Policy Committee.

The IPBES sub-committee shall

1. Prepare for and participating in plenaries

An IPBES plenary is scheduled to take place every year and represent the decision making body of the Platform. As SCB has an observer status we may participate in the plenary meetings and also express opinions on items on the plenary agenda. Being present at the plenaries provides SCB with visibility and express our willingness to contribute to the work programme of IPBES. Equally important to influence government decisions is the opportunity to link and interact with other observers during the plenary meetings.

2. Support the work of the open-ended SH network

An open-ended Stakeholder network is currently being established where the SCB subcommittee shall play, together with a few other organizations, a leading role. The purpose of the network is to provide an entry point for interaction between IPBES and a wide range of stakeholders. This is to provide IPBES with access to experts and knowledge and to support the dissemination and use of IPBES products. The network will be the most important structure for IPBES related issues during the inter-sessional periods between plenary meetings.

3. Inform SCB Board of Governors and global PC on IPBES

The work of IPBES is extensive and requires that the subcommittee follows and monitor the progress of both the work programme and the issues to be considered by the plenary. The subcommittee shall on a regular basis, inform and update the BoG and global PC and to provide information sufficient to take informed decision on our future involvement.

4. Maintain contacts with section Board of Directors

SCBs global structure is a key asset to contribute to the stakeholder network since currently the knowledge and involvement in IPBES has been strongly dominated by “western” scientists and perspectives. Building on our regional sections we will both strengthen our contribution to IPBES and also support our regional sections in their work. The sub-

committee shall, as appropriate, link with the Sections in order to support regional engagement in IPBES.

5. Collaborate with the Executive office with

- a. Managing call for experts and reviewers to the SCB membership
Informing in a timely manner members on open calls for experts and reviewers.
- b. Maintaining the sub-committee webpages
Providing an information portal for SCB members with information on call for experts, links to documents, dissemination of information from meetings and other relevant IPBES information
- c. Maintain as far as possible a list/directory of SCB members engaged in IPBES
- d. Developing the use of the SCB expert database
Exploring the potential to utilize the expert database to proactively identify experts for IPBES