

International Science Workshop on Assessments for IPBES

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Table of Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2. PREAMBLE	8
3. THE GLOBAL SURVEY	9
4. RECOMMENDATIONS	10
For the document “Possible elements of the work programme of the platform” (UNEP IPBES.MI/2/2)	10
Recommendation 1	10
Recommendation 2	11
Recommendation 3	12
Recommendation 4	13
For the document “Functions and structures of bodies that might be established under an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services” UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3. ...	13
Recommendation 5	13
Recommendation 6	16
Recommendation 7	16
Recommendation 8	17
For the Document “Rules of procedure for the meetings of the platform’s plenary” UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4	18
Recommendation 9	18
Recommendation 10	20
5. ANNEX 1. FINDINGS OF THE GLOBAL SURVEY.....	21

1. Executive summary

- 1 The nature and functioning of the physical, biotic and social elements of our planet has been changing dramatically in past decades. Part of maintaining stable biotic-social systems in the future is to understand the drivers of change and their individual and collective impacts on the biophysical and social systems so that we can make informed choices on those responses.
- 2 The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) provides a unique opportunity for both the science and policy communities to work together in order to deliver the information and guidance needed to help society manoeuvre the challenges it will face in the future.
- 3 Significant progress was made at the first session of the plenary meeting held in Nairobi, October 2011, where over 130 countries began the discussions on the scientific scope, institutional modalities and rules of procedures for the implementation of IPBES. Final agreements on these issues will be decided at the second session of the plenary meeting, to be held in April, 2012 in Panama.
- 4 The second session meeting in Panama will be a corner stone event for the establishment of IPBES. Establishing a complex science-policy interface such as IPBES will require many decisions. The challenge in Panama will be to agree on a minimum set of decisions to enable an effective and efficient process for the implementation of the platform.
- 5 In response to this challenge, participating scientists from the international scientific community submitted the following considerations and recommendations for the second session of the IPBES plenary. They are based on a workshop convened by the Governments of Japan and South Africa and hosted by the United Nations University, February 27-29, Tokyo, Japan.
- 6 In preparation for the workshop in Tokyo, the United Nations University, on the request from the Ministry of Environment, Japan, launched a global survey in January 2012. The objective of the survey was to gather feedback from the larger scientific community on many of the issues to be deliberated in Panama. Over 2000 scientists participated in the survey with 1607 respondents from over 136 countries fully completing the survey. The survey feedback by the international scientific community sends a strong message to the policy community calling for their support as well as recommendations for strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- 7 This document draws upon the first and second informal science workshops on assessment held in Tokyo, the first session plenary meeting of IPBES and the

global survey. Participants at the second informal science workshop on assessments highlight four key messages (See Box1) that cut across the working documents prepared for the second session plenary meeting of IPBES.

Box 1. Key Messages

Key Message 1: *Ensure a bottom up and integrated programme of work:* The scientific community recommends a programme of work according to which assessment, knowledge generation, policy support and capacity-building are undertaken in an integrated way, taking into account social, cultural, economic and ecological components through regional working groups—coordinated by a science panel—that address all four of these functions in all four dimensions.

Key Message 2: *Establish a transdisciplinary common conceptual framework to guide the work programme:* There is a strong recommendation from the scientific community for the development of a common conceptual framework to provide for consistent and coherent assessments at different scales and in different regions, developed in a transdisciplinary multi-knowledge way and addressing the needs of the different end users.

Key Message 3: *Establish a governance structure and rules of procedures that ensure scientific independence and credible review processes:* There was strong support for the independence and credibility of the science of IPBES as well as for an effective and efficient governance within IPBES. The scientists suggest the mechanisms of a science panel and an independent review process to support independent and credible science.

Key Message 4: *Ensure equitable and inclusive participation for IPBES:* IPBES to integrate capacity building into all components of the IPBES work program and plenary to request United Nations organizations to work closely with scientific and educational organizations for the successful implementation of IPBES work program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8 Based on a review of the documents for discussion in Panama and the four key messages, this document provides recommendations for delegates to consider while deliberating and making key decisions at the second session meeting of IPBES in Panama, 2012. Below, we outline these key recommendations for each working document in the order they are presented in the agenda (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/1).

For the document “Possible elements of the work programme of the platform” (UNEP IPBES.MI/2/2)

Recommendation 1

- 9 The IPBES plenary be requested to undertake a one-year scoping exercise whereby all Potential Activities (PA) are designed in an integrated manner to the implementation of its work programme and not as separate components as presented in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2.

Recommendation 2

- 10 Based on a review of existing assessment frameworks (PA1), to develop a trans-disciplinary common conceptual framework, methods and approaches (PA2) and maintain a dynamic catalogue of the relevant assessment landscape with the establishment of a state of art knowledge management system at the very beginning of IPBES.

Recommendation 3

- 11 Ensure engagement with a wide set of users in the development and screening of requests and priorities to determine the work programme (Section II A paragraphs 13, 14, and 15), and ensure effective communication to secure wide ownership and audience, full engagement, awareness and interest (Section II C 1 paragraph 23).

Recommendation 4

- 12 Make capacity-building an integral part of the platform’s work programme as articulated in Section III A 4 in order to ensure full global participation of scientists and policymakers in the work programme. We further support Potential Activities 13 and 14 in Section B on priorities and funding for capacity-building and recommend they be considered as early stage activities.

For the document “Functions and structures of bodies that might be established under an IPBES” (UNEP IPBES.MI/2/3)

Recommendation 5

- 13 Establish two subsidiary bodies – a science panel and an administrative bureau – as articulated in Section III B 15 Option 2. The science panel should be composed of a multidisciplinary group of scientists chosen through an open nomination process and selected by the plenary to carry out the scientific and technical functions of the platform. An administrative bureau is selected by the plenary to carry out the administrative functions of the platform (see Figure 1).

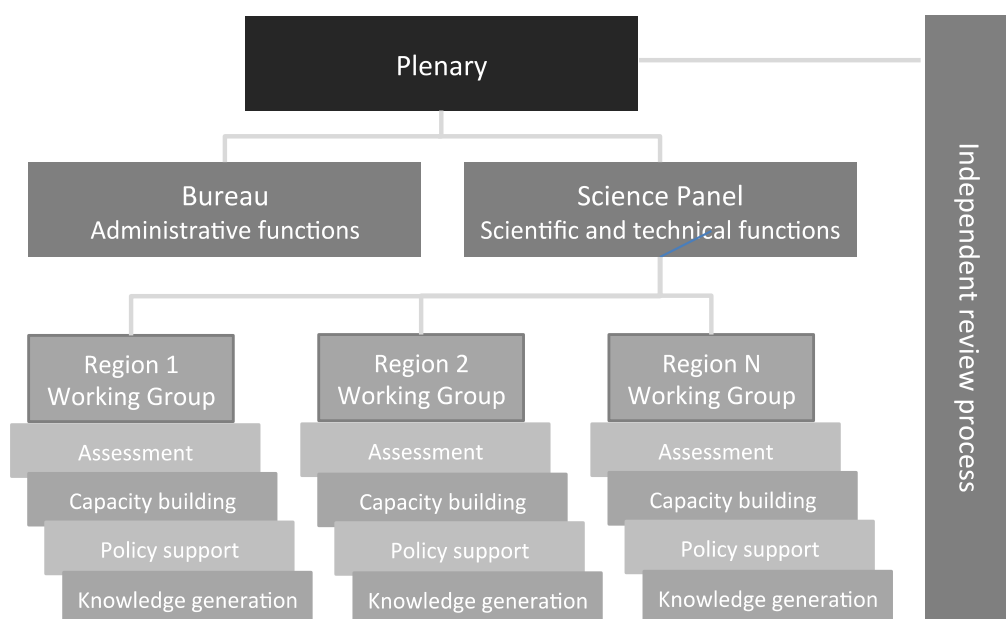


Figure 1. Governance structure with a science panel and a bureau

Recommendation 6

- 14 In the case of Option 1 (expanded bureau) being the favoured option, establish the necessary governance, rules and procedures within the expanded bureau to ensure the independence and credibility of the science function.

Recommendation 7

- 15 Establish regional integrated working groups to oversee work programmes which fulfil the 4 functions of assessment, knowledge generation, policy support and capacity-building and overseen by the science panel to ensure consistency and coherence across all regions and work components of IPBES. Make allowance for the appointment of ad-hoc and time-bound integrated global and thematic working groups as articulated in Section III C 19 Option 3 (see Figure 1).

Recommendation 8

- 16 Establish an independent review process to oversee the review of the scientific outputs of IPBES and the review of the platform itself (see Figure 1).

For the document “Rules of procedure for the meetings of the platform’s plenary” UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4

Recommendation 9

17 Request inter-sessional meetings to be organized by countries between the end of the second session meeting of the plenary in Panama and the first plenary meeting of IPBES—engaging the scientific community—to develop rules of procedures proposed under paragraph 7 for specifically items 7b and 7g of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4, and present at the first IPBES plenary meeting. The IPBES plenary will be requested to develop the rules for the remaining items as listed below:

- **Nomination and selection of authors, reviewers and review editors (7b);**
- Preparation, review, acceptance, adoption, approval and publication of reports and other deliverables (7c);
- Assigning and defining levels of uncertainty (7e);
- Reflection of minority and majority views in reports (7e);
- Addressing errors in reports (7f);
- **Guidelines for the treatment of traditional and indigenous knowledge (7g);**
- Independent review and evaluation of the platform (7h);
- Management, oversight and external review of the IPBES secretariat (new item).

Recommendation 10

18 The inclusion of observers from UN bodies, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (Section II B in UNEP IPBES.MI/2/3) in the plenary.

2. Preamble

- 19 The nature and functioning of the physical, biotic and social elements of our planet has been changing dramatically in past decades, primarily due to the influence of human growth and development. These impacts have been so profound that this era has been compared to major shifts that have occurred in past geologic eras. Our current societies have evolved in a historic period of relative earth stability. The changes that are now occurring bring enormous challenges to the maintenance of those biotic-social systems that have developed to provide the livelihoods and well-being of societies. We are now challenged to mitigate, buffer and adapt to the changes we are facing. Part of this challenge is to understand the drivers of change and their individual and collective impacts on the biophysical and social systems so that we can have informed choices on those responses that will serve to maintain our sustained existence.
- 20 During recent decades, there have been numerous efforts to document what is occurring to the earth system, and to assess how well we understand what exactly is changing, what is driving the changes and how they are interconnected. From these assessments we have learned what we know and where there is need for further information as well as what is the best way to structure the assessment process itself. Some of these assessments are directly linked to intergovernmental agreements on particular components of the earth system, such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), where assessments (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC) at intervals are mandated.
- 21 There is now an intergovernmental mandate for a new assessment process for another critical component of the earth system, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). In constructing this new assessment process, it is of value to learn from the IPCC and similar efforts. However, in making these comparisons, it must be understood that the very natures of these various assessments differ in some fundamental ways. The IPCC, for instance, has traditionally focused at the global level since nations share the same relatively well-mixed atmosphere where the greenhouse gas drivers of change reside. In contrast, IPBES will report not only at the global level but also at the regional and subregional levels, since the biota are not well-mixed, except by trade elements of globalization. Since most biota is relatively locally distributed, our knowledge about their characteristics is built not solely on science experiments and observations but also on knowledge that has accrued for centuries by local societies. Thus IPBES needs to take into account not only the knowledge residing in scientific journals but also in the storehouses of local and indigenous knowledge. Further, decisions about responses to change will in large part have to be made at local levels.

- 22 Another key difference between the IPCC and IPBES is that the latter serves more than a single intergovernmental convention. IPBES will serve not only the Convention on Biological Diversity but also other biodiversity related conventions: the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, and the World Heritage Convention (WHC); it will also serve the two other Rio Conventions: the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the UN Convention on Climate Change. This wide mandate brings challenges but also the opportunity to gain a more holistic view of the complexities of society-nature interactions.
- 23 By designing a way forward in launching this new assessment, we have a rich history of assessment designs to build upon that includes not only the IPCC. In many ways, IPBES builds on the structure of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA). This latter assessment included global to local analyses, however, it was heavily weighted toward the global. While it considered not only scientific literature but also information from alternative knowledge systems in its findings, it did so to a somewhat limited extent. Further, it had a multi-stakeholder board rather than being under direct governmental control.
- 24 Thus, as we engage in a new assessment process, we have rich experience to draw from. In addition, we now have a scientific community, experienced in being involved in these challenging enterprises and having opinions about how they can contribute best as well as about the benefits and costs of doing so. With this document we call upon this collective knowledge, through a broad survey, to inform us all as we complete the foundational ground rules of engagement for the complex interaction between the many actors in this process.

3. The Global Survey

- 25 Many of the scientists who attended the first informal science workshop on assessments, convened by the ministry of environment of Japan and South Africa in July 2011, decided on the need to reach out to the wider scientific community in order to inform and gather feedback on IPBES (see report UNEP/IPBES/MI/1/INF/12). Therefore, at the completion of the first session plenary meeting of IPBES in Nairobi, October 2011, the Ministry of Environment, Japan requested the United Nations University to undertake a global survey of scientists working in areas relevant to IPBES. The survey was prepared in collaboration with the United Nations University –International Human Dimension Programme, United Nations University-Institute for Sustainability

and Peace and DIVERSITAS, the International Programme dedicated to Biodiversity Sciences.

- 26 The objective of the survey was to gather feedback from the scientific community in particular on: (i) the work programme on assessments; (ii) the governance structure of IPBES; and (iii) the rules of procedure. The survey was open from January 8 to February 1, 2012. 3000 participants visited the survey with 1607 from 136 countries fully completing the survey. More than 1000 respondents had more than 15 years of experience, 94% had advanced degrees, with 80% involved in field work and science-policy-related work. Furthermore, 1400 respondents had participated in assessments (see Appendix 1 for an executive summary for the findings of the survey).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 27 The recommendations below draw upon the first and second informal science workshops on assessment held in Tokyo, the first session plenary meeting of IPBES and the global survey. Based on a review of the documents for discussion in Panama, this document provides recommendations for delegates to consider while deliberating and making key decisions at the second session meeting of IPBES in Panama, 2012. These recommendations come from the second informal science workshop on assessment convened by the Governments of Japan and South Africa and hosted by the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan. Below, we outline these key recommendations for each working document in the order they are presented in the agenda (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/1).

For the document “Possible elements of the work programme of the platform” (UNEP IPBES.MI/2/2)

Recommendation 1

- 28 The IPBES plenary be requested to undertake a one-year scoping exercise whereby all Potential Activities (PA) are designed in an integrated manner to the implementation of its work programme and not as separate components as presented in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/2.
- 29 In response to the document entitled ‘Possible elements of the work programme of the platform’ (UNEP/IPBES/MI/2/2), the participants of the second informal science workshop on assessments drawing from the global survey would like to recommend the integration of the four functions of the work programme, i.e. assessments, knowledge generation, policy support tools and methodology, and capacity-building as illustrated in Figure 1.

- 30 The IPBES plenary will be requested to undertake a one-year scoping exercise whereby all Potential Activities (PA) are designed in an integrated manner to the implementation of its work programme. This will require a one-year scoping study to undertake a review of assessments (PA1), develop a common shared conceptual framework (PA2), requirements of global and regional assessments (PA 3), national and sub-regional assessments (PA 4) and thematic assessments (PA 5) in order develop the work programme for regional working groups, the goals and objectives of thematic and global assessments, and to identify gaps and needs for knowledge (PA 6), policy tools (PA 10) and capacity-building (PA 13).
- 31 These functions are closely related, with each function supporting the others – and all functions together determining the quality of the assessment process, its outcomes and impact. ***68% of the scientists who responded to the survey prefer an integration of the four functions (Annex 1-E4).***

Recommendation 2

- 32 Based on a review of existing assessment frameworks (PA1), to develop a trans-disciplinary common conceptual framework, methods and approaches (PA2) and maintain a dynamic catalogue of the relevant assessment landscape with the establishment of a state of art knowledge management system at the very beginning of IPBES.

There is overwhelming support—89% of the survey respondents—from the scientific community for PA 2:

- 33 Develop, adopt, publish and widely promote a trans-disciplinary (see box 2) common conceptual framework and guidance on processes and methodologies to help ensure a consistent approach across regions, scales (including with national assessments) and themes (Annex 1 - C1, C2).
- 34 It is important that this activity precedes all other activities, in order to ensure that the work programme of IPBES is led by a unifying framework for assessments at different scales and in different regions, addressing the needs of different end users.

Box 2. Trans-disciplinary research

Trans-disciplinary connotes a research strategy that crosses many disciplinary boundaries to create a holistic approach. It applies to research efforts focused on problems that cross the boundaries of two or more disciplines, and can refer to concepts or methods that were originally developed by one discipline, but are now used by several others. Trans-disciplinary requires addressing of the complexity of problems and the diversity of perceptions of them, and that abstract and case-specific knowledge are linked. Trans-disciplinary arises when scientists, experts and users interact in an open discussion and dialogue, giving equal weight to each perspective and relating them to each other.

- 35 In that sense, potential activity 2 becomes a key activity of potential activity 1. IPBES should not develop a new set of indicators, but rather build on what is already available (Annex 1 - C2, C3). There is a particular need to focus on indicators and metrics for ecosystem services for human well-being.
- 36 Based on support from the assessment community – as evidenced by the survey results (Annex 1 - C1, C2, C4, D1, D2, D3, and E2), we recommend that the IPBES plenary in Panama endorses Potential Assessment Activities 1 to 5, taking into account the following considerations:
- The conceptual framework needs to be transdisciplinary and accommodate different types of knowledge systems including Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (see paragraphs 51, 52 of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2). There is overwhelming support from the scientific community (Survey, C4) for incorporating different knowledge systems, but leaving the specific mechanisms for how to do this to be defined by the IPBES plenary.
 - The conceptual framework must make clear the delineation of regions and/or sub-regions for assessment based on examination of user needs and assessment questions, as well as specify the sequencing of implementation of global, regional and subregional assessments.

Recommendation 3

- 37 Ensure engagement with a wide set of users in the development and screening of requests and priorities to determine the work programme (Section II A paragraphs 13, 14, and 15), and ensure effective communication to secure wide ownership and audience, full engagement, awareness and interest (Section II C 1 paragraph 23).

Results from the survey indicate wide support—over 70% of survey respondents—for establishing a process whereby there is an open and transparent channel through which the IPBES plenary accepts requests for undertaking assessments at all scales, thematic and new issues assessments (Annex 1 - E15, E16, E17).

- 38 In support of these activities, it will be important to initiate enabling activities like stakeholder engagement processes (PA 7), processes to enhance access to data (PA 15) and tools (PA 11), processes to catalyse funding for capacity-building (PA 14) and processes to ensure balanced participation in the work programme (PA 16).
- 39 Effective communication to secure wide ownership and audience, full engagement, awareness and interest (Section II C 1 paragraph 23) will need to be put in place early on in the operationalisation of IPBES. Both national and sub-national assessments need to be promoted and catalysed with the conceptual framework developed to enable analysis of cross-scale interactions and to facilitate a smooth scaling up and down of results between assessments at various scales.

Recommendation 4

- 40 Make capacity-building an integral part of the platform’s work programme as articulated in Section III A 4 in order to ensure full global participation of scientists and policymakers in the work programme. We further support Potential Activities 13 and 14 in Section B on priorities and funding for capacity-building and recommend they be considered as early stage activities.
- 41 There are many ways and methods for capacity-building. The survey identified a number of options ranging from a young fellows programme to workshops that might be considered by the IPBES plenary when it designs the capacity-building activities (Annex 1 - B4, B5). The survey also highlighted the need for a combination of United Nations agencies and scientific organizations to oversee capacity-building activities for IPBES (Annex 1 - E20, E21).

For the document “Functions and structures of bodies that might be established under an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services” UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3.

Recommendation 5

- 42 Establish two subsidiary bodies – a science panel and an administrative bureau – as articulated in Section III B 15 Option 2. The science panel should be composed of a multidisciplinary group of scientists chosen through an open nomination

process and selected by the plenary to carry out the scientific and technical functions of the platform. An administrative bureau is selected by the plenary to carry out the administrative functions of the platform (see Figure 1).

43 Two options are proposed in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3 for a governance structure of subsidiary bodies that might be established by the plenary:

- *Option 1: One subsidiary body would be established, to be an expanded bureau of the plenary. This body would perform all the functions listed above. The bureau would include the chair, four vice-chairs and additional members (such as an additional three members from each region) in a manner respecting geographical, gender and disciplinary balance. The bureau might also include additional stakeholders, such as representatives of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations as observers (see Figure 2).*
- *Option 2: Two subsidiary bodies would be established. In this option, the plenary might establish a small bureau comprising of only the chair and vice-chairs to oversee the administrative functions listed above, and a larger science panel that would carry out the scientific and technical functions listed above. The science panel would be established in a manner respecting geographical, gender and disciplinary balance. The science panel might also include additional stakeholders, such as representatives of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations as observers (see Figure 1).*

Overall, over 65% of survey respondents (Annex 1 - E1, E2) show a preference for Option 2 (separate science panel) with the following considerations:

- Co-chairs of the bureau and the science panel will have ex-officio status in each other's respective bodies to ensure close cooperation.
- The bureau will comprise government appointees with co-chairs and additional members as approved by plenary (with terms of reference as outlined in document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12 paragraph 69)
- The science panel will comprise a multidisciplinary group of scientists (with terms of reference as outlined in document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12 paragraph 69)
- "Open nomination and independence of the selection process of scientists vs. government appointees" for the bureau and science panel (Annex 1 - E7 and E11)

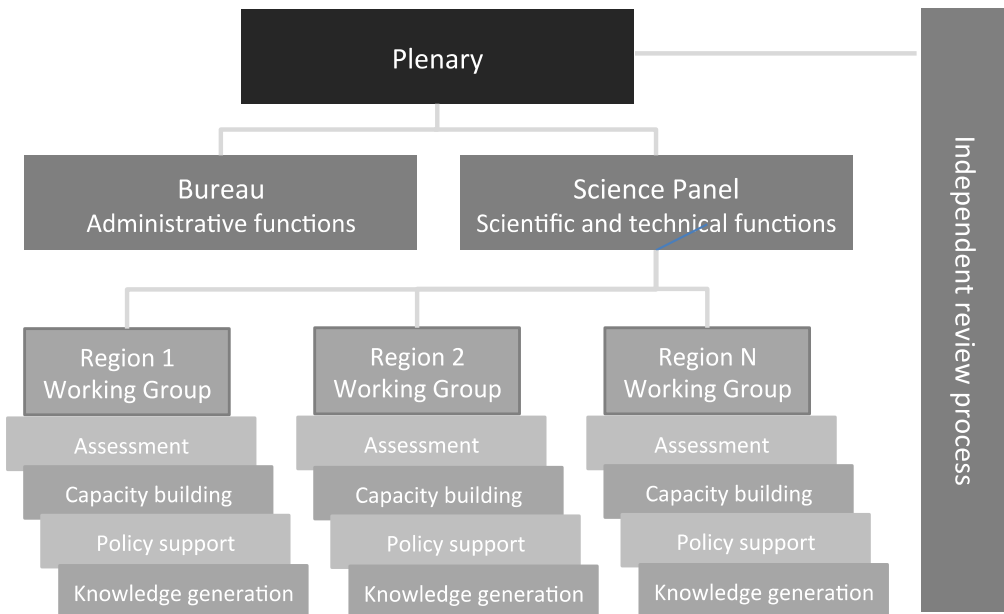


Figure 1. Governance structure with a science panel and a bureau

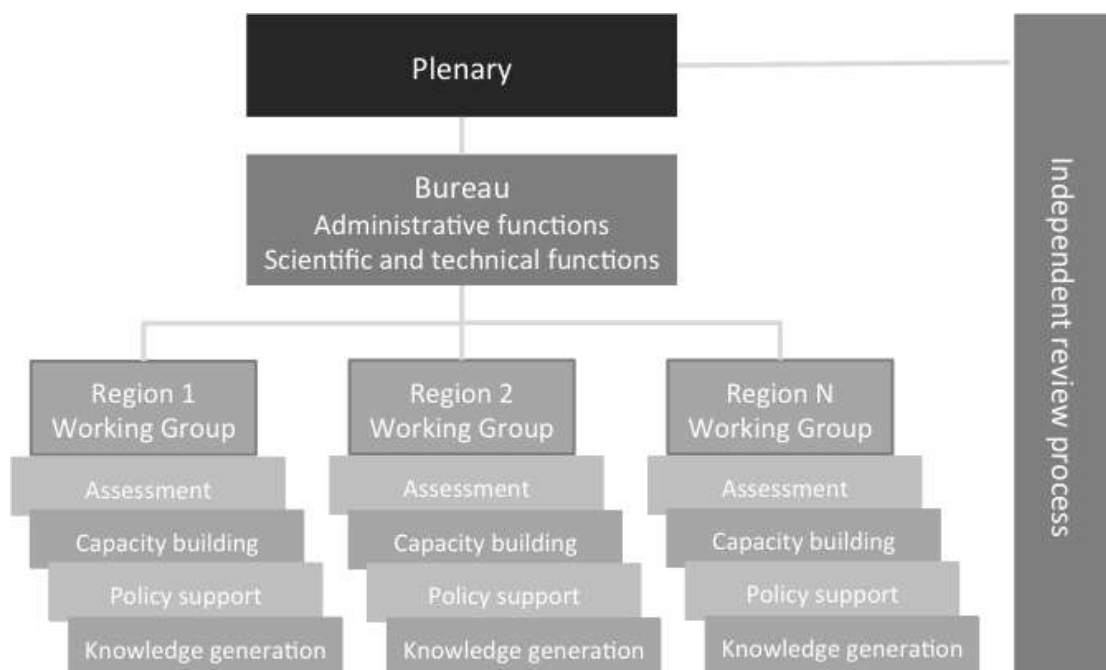


Figure 2. Governance structure with just a bureau

- 44 There are good reasons to believe that Option 1 proposed as “Extended Bureau” might involve higher risks with respect to ensuring scientific independence (one of the key principles – Principle 3 of the platform, as outlined in UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8 Section II Paragraph 2 (b)). It is believed that the most efficient and effective operationalisation of the work programme of IPBES can be achieved through the separation of administrative and scientific/technical functions. One suggestion for assisting an “extended bureau” with administration functions is to adopt the recommendation by the IAC review for IPCC, which suggests the establishment of an “executive committee” to support its bureau (IAC, 2010).
- 45 If option 2 were adopted, the relationship and independence between the small bureau and the science panel would have to be clarified to avoid conflict, duplication or confusion. Under this option, the secretariat might provide administrative support to the bureau in the implementation of its administrative functions.

Recommendation 6

- 46 In the case of Option 1 (expanded bureau) being the favoured option, establish the necessary governance, rules and procedures within the expanded bureau to ensure the independence and credibility of the science function.

Recommendation 7

- 47 Establish regional integrated working groups to oversee work programmes which fulfil the 4 functions of assessment, knowledge generation, policy support and capacity-building and overseen by the science panel to ensure consistency and coherence across all regions and work components of IPBES. Make allowance for the appointment of ad-hoc and time-bound integrated global and thematic working groups as articulated in Section III C 19 Option 3 (see Figure 1).
- 48 Note: It should be made clear that regions used to define regional working groups need not determine the scale or scope of regional and/or sub-regional assessments. The scale of assessments should be determined as part of the conceptual framework based on questions to be addressed, user needs and ecological considerations.

There was a clear message from the survey—over 80%—for the option of “Establishing Regional Structures (Option 3 in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3) for the implementation of the IPBES work programme (Annex 1 - E4, E18).

- 49 Participants were also clear of the key role the science panel will play in coordinating the regional working groups to ensure consistency and coherence across the working groups. In addition, participants from the workshop

suggested the science panel to be responsible for the formation of ad-hoc and time-bound working groups to undertake periodic global assessments and thematic and new topic assessments as and when requested by the plenary.

- *Option 3: Regional structures are established (whether working groups or centres), to oversee the full programme of work (knowledge generation, assessment, policy support and capacity-building) at the regional level. Regional working groups would comprise regional experts with disciplinary, gender and within-region geographic balance. In addition, ad-hoc and time-bound working groups might be formed to undertake global and/or thematic assessments. Such global and/or thematic groups would be formed with geographic, disciplinary and gender balance.*

50 This configuration will satisfy two of the operating principles of IPBES (as outlined in Document: UNEP/IPBES/MI.1/8). Annex 1: Section 2, page 7, as shown below:

(g) Recognize the unique biodiversity and scientific knowledge thereof within and among regions and the need for the full and effective participation of developing countries and balanced regional representation and participation in its structure and work.

(k) Ensure the full use of national, subregional and regional assessments and knowledge, as appropriate, by ensuring a bottom-up approach.

Recommendation 8

51 Establish an independent review process to oversee the review of the scientific outputs of IPBES and the review of the platform itself (see Figure 1).

52 Two levels of review are required for the efficient and effective implementation of IPBES. The first relates to a robust and scientific credible review process of all scientific outputs produced by IPBES. The second relates to the evaluation of the operation of the platform. Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3 (Section VI) recognizes that “The platform’s efficiency and effectiveness should be independently and externally reviewed and evaluated on a periodic basis as decided by the plenary, with adjustments to be made as necessary”.

53 ***Respondents of the global survey—over 80%—recommend the review of IPBES’s assessment outputs to be independent (Annex 1 - E.3), with the plenary developing the terms of reference for an external and independent scientific body to undertake the review process as necessary.*** The terms of

reference provided in paragraph 65 of Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12 might be used by the plenary.

- 54 In the event, delegates perceive commissioning an external body to undertake the review process cumbersome, participants of the assessment science workshop suggest the establishment of a subsidiary body—separate from the science panel and the bureau—to undertake the review process and report directly to plenary with clear terms of reference as provided in UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12.

For the Document “Rules of procedure for the meetings of the platform’s plenary” UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4

- 55 The following section on rules of procedure is structured around issues in three IPBES documents - Document: UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4 (paragraph 7); UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/5; and Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/3 (relating to the evaluation of the platform’s operations). Emerging considerations are made on the basis of the results of the IPBES Assessment Survey, and the information presented in Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12.

Recommendation 9

- 56 Request inter-sessional meetings to be organized by countries between the end of the second session meeting of the plenary in Panama and the first plenary meeting of IPBES—engaging the scientific community—to develop rules of procedures proposed under paragraph 7 for specifically items 7b and 7g of UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4, and present at the first IPBES plenary meeting. The IPBES plenary will be requested to develop the rules for the remaining items as listed below:

Item 7b: Nomination and selection of authors, reviewers and review editors

- 57 The following considerations were deemed important by the survey respondents for author nomination and selection (Annex 1 - E7, E11):
- There is need to ensure that the process satisfies Principle 2 (Scientific credibility and independence) outlined in Annex 1 (II.2b) of Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8. This is supported by paragraphs 60 and 61 of Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12.
 - It is important to ensure that Principle 6 (Equity) is also met in the selection of authors (see Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12 paragraph 74). There is strong support for this in the IPBES Assessment Survey through the establishment of a Young Fellows programme which provides

financial support for young scientists to work (as authors) with key scientists on leading assessments.

- Authors should be selected in a manner respecting geographical, gender and disciplinary balance.

58 In the context of the nomination and selection of reviewers:

- It is recommended for reviewers to be nominated by governments, civil society, business and scientific organizations and selected by the independent review panel using criteria established and accepted by the plenary (document UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/INF/12 paragraph 63).

Item 7g: Guidelines for the treatment of traditional and indigenous knowledge

59 Respondents of the survey and participants from the second informal science workshop on assessments recommend the development of rules and guidelines pertaining to the treatment of traditional and indigenous knowledge in IPBES (as called for in Paragraph 7, item (g) of Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/4). Experts of traditional and indigenous knowledge be included in the assessment working groups under IPBES and a separate criteria system to ensure the credibility of traditional and indigenous knowledge be developed by experts from other knowledge systems (Annex 1 -D2, D3)

60 The scientific panel of the IPBES plenary, once established, can develop rules of procedures for the remaining issues listed below:

- Preparation, review, acceptance, adoption, approval and publication of reports and other deliverables (7c);
- Conflict-of-interest policy (7d);
- Procedures for assigning and defining levels of uncertainty in relation to the platform's findings and scenarios and for the reflection of minority and majority views in reports (7e);
- Procedures for addressing errors in special reports, methodology reports and technical papers (7f);
- Independent review and evaluation of the platform (7h) (Annex 1 -E3);
- Management, oversight and external review of the IPBES secretariat (new item)

Recommendation 10

- 61 The inclusion of observers from UN bodies, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (Section II B in UNEP IPBES.MI/2/3)) in the plenary.

- 62 A key message emerging from the survey was the plea for an open, inclusive and transparent process (Annex 1 – E15, E16, E17). Participants of the survey suggest having open channels through which other relevant stakeholders aside from governments can submit request to the plenary and engage in the process. This would increase the ownership of the process as well as the outcomes from IPBES by a broad group of stakeholders who would be able to facilitate change at a much faster pace at the scale where changes are occurring.

5. Annex 1. Findings of the Global Survey

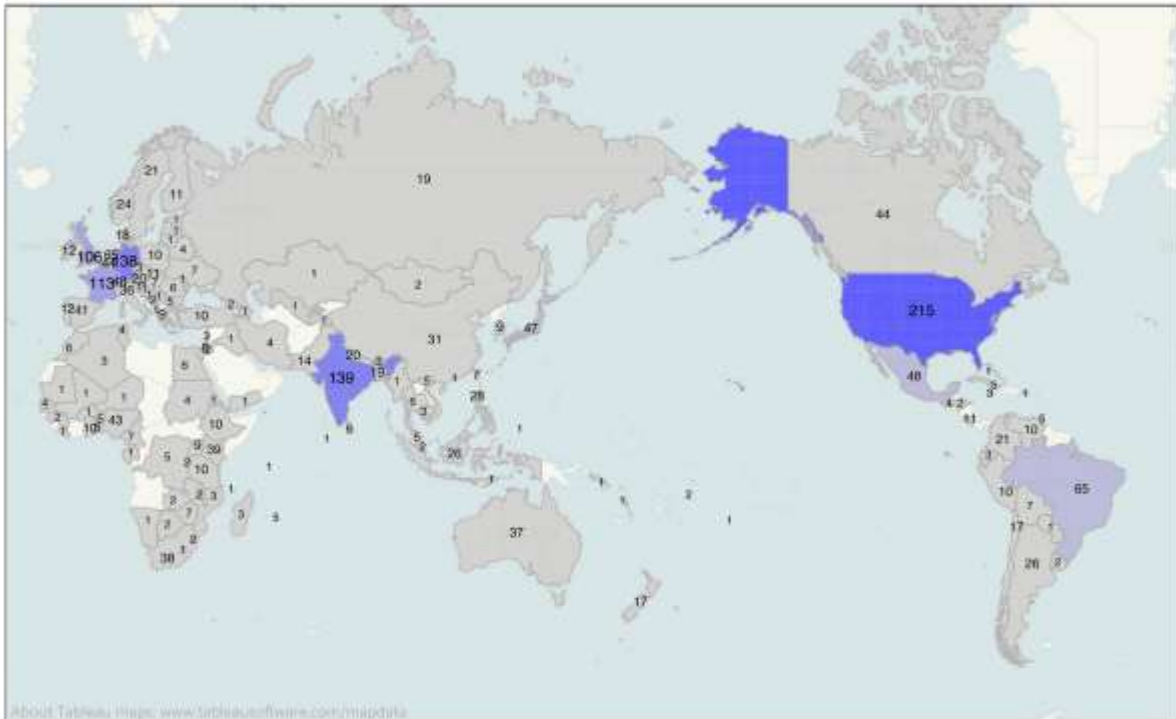
Executive Summary

- 63 The IPBES Assessment Survey was conducted from Jan 8th to Feb 1st 2012. The survey was organized to seek feedback primarily on the assessment component of IPBES and some aspects of the governance structure for the implementation of IPBES.
- 64 The target audience for the survey was Natural and Social scientists throughout the world. Some of the organizations that provided contact information for the target audience included: UNEP, DIVERSITAS, ICSU, IUCN, IHDP, World Climate Research Program (WCRP), International Geosphere and Biosphere Program (IGBP) and the United Nations University (UNU). To a lesser extent, policy makers who are either NGOs or government employees involved in environmental policy work were also reached, and in particular government representatives who attended the first session meeting of the IPBES in Nairobi in 2011.
- 65 Email invitations were sent to 6,841 natural and social scientists throughout the world. The IPBES website, DIVERSITAS website and IHDP website publicized the survey on their homepage and a number of organizations also invited their membership to take the survey. Three-thousand one-hundred and fifty-eight people visited the survey.
- 66 Two-thousand two-hundred and thirty-five people from 136 countries took the survey. The survey results represent over 2,200 person-years of experience with over 1,000 respondents having over 15 years of experience in the scientific field. Eighty per cent of the respondents are involved in both field-work and science policy.
- 67 The survey was designed to be completed in 15 minutes, but also included an optional section on governance that took an additional 10 minutes. To eliminate bias, most of the multiple choice questions were randomized.
- 68 This report is a summary of the results.
- 69 The complete survey report that includes in-depth analysis of each question is available at the IHDP website : www.ihdp.unu.edu/article/ipbes-survey.

1. Respondents

1.1 Countries

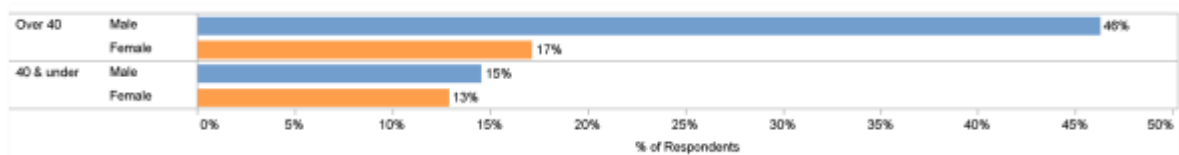
Respondents from over 136 countries took the survey



Respondents listed over 136 countries as their country of origin.

1.2 Gender and Age

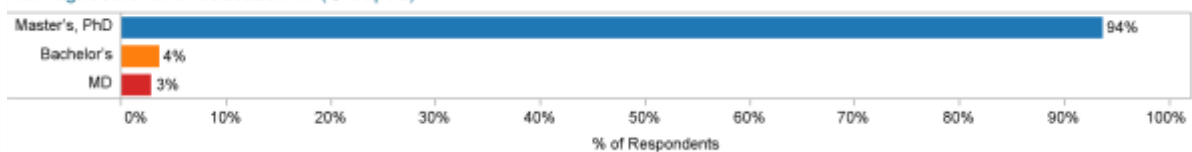
The majority of respondents are over 40 years old.



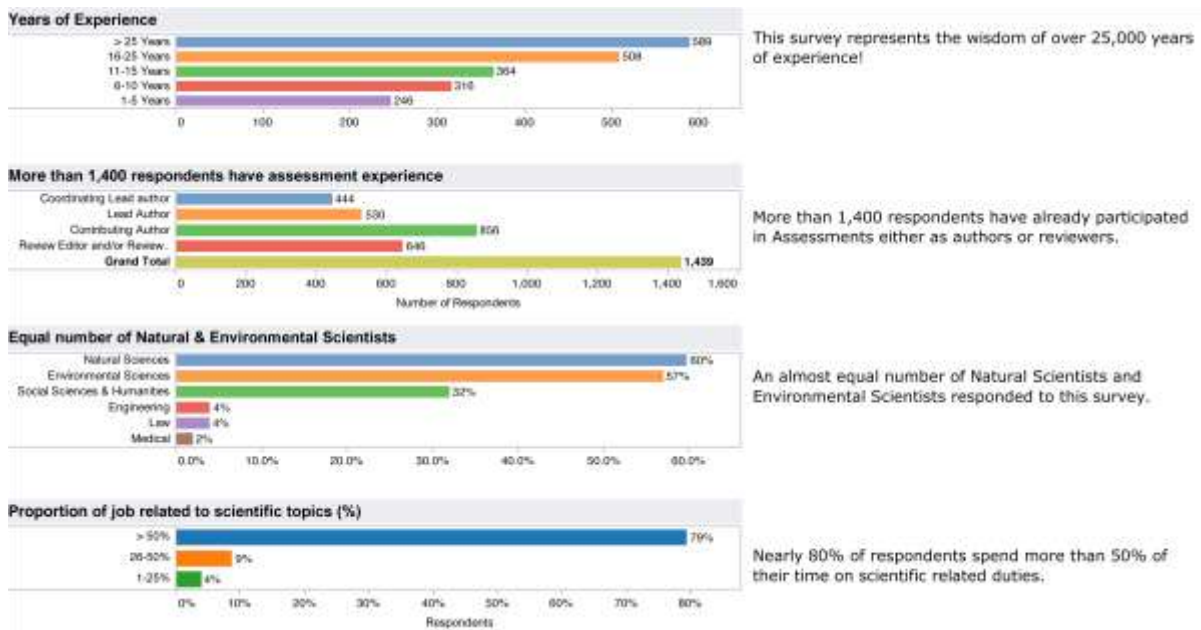
1.3 Education

Over 90% of respondents have advanced degrees – Masters and Ph.Ds

A6. Highest level of education % (Grouped)

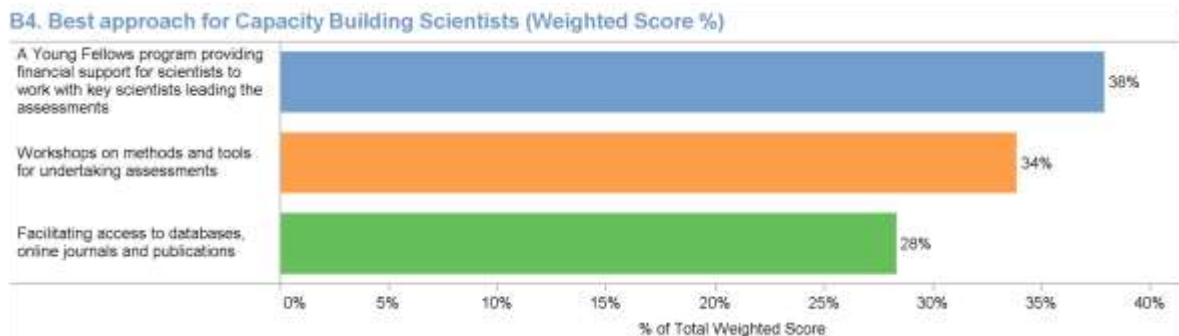


1.4 Experience

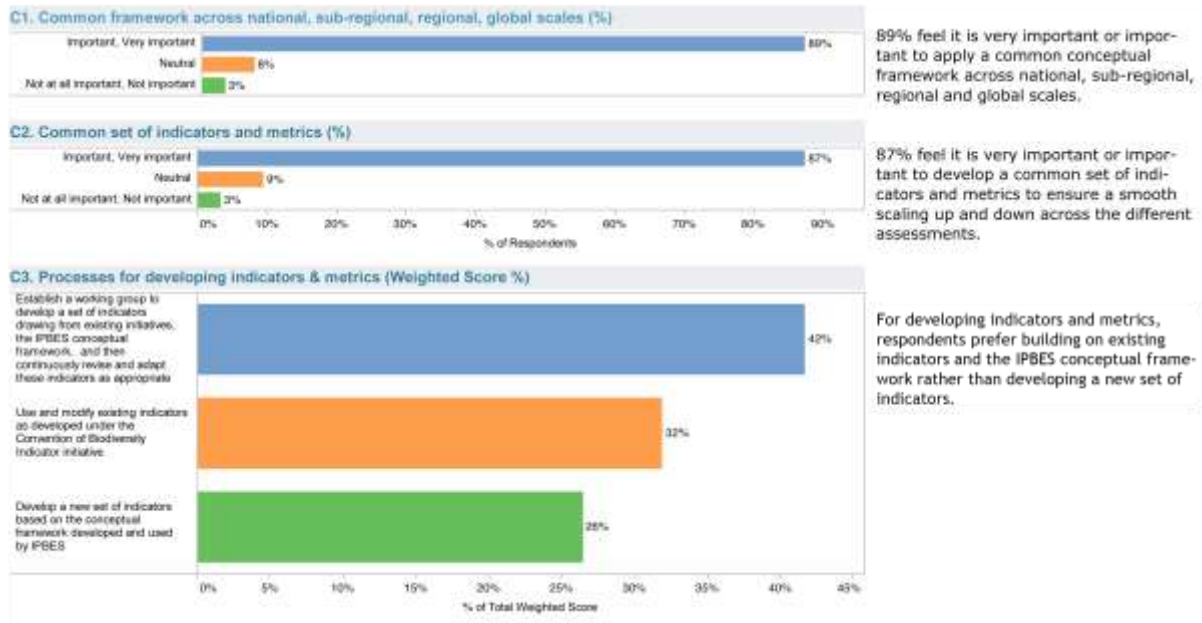


2. Capacity Building

Out of the 3 options, respondents ranked the Young Fellows program 1st (38%) and Workshops 2nd (34%) as the best way to build capacity of scientists in developing countries. Facilitating access to databases and journals ranked 3rd (28%).

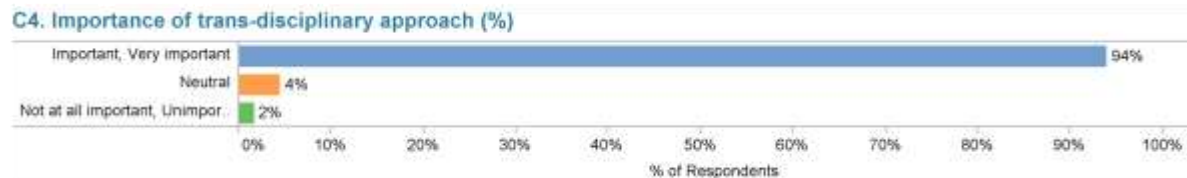


3. Conceptual framework, metrics & indicators

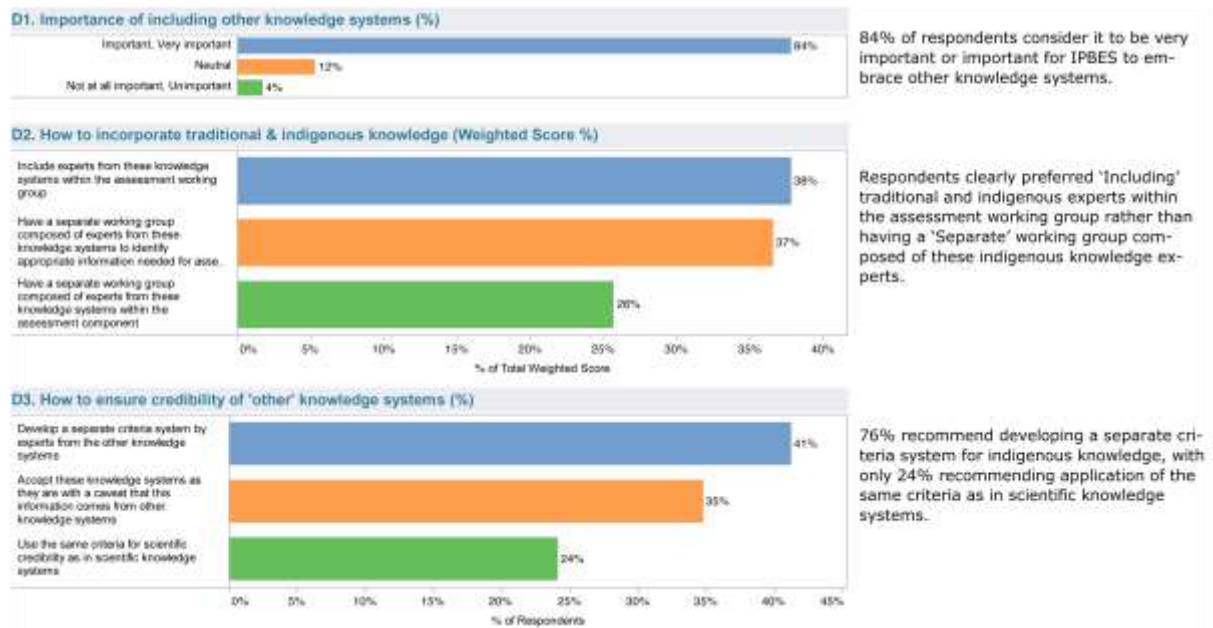


4. Trans-disciplinary approach

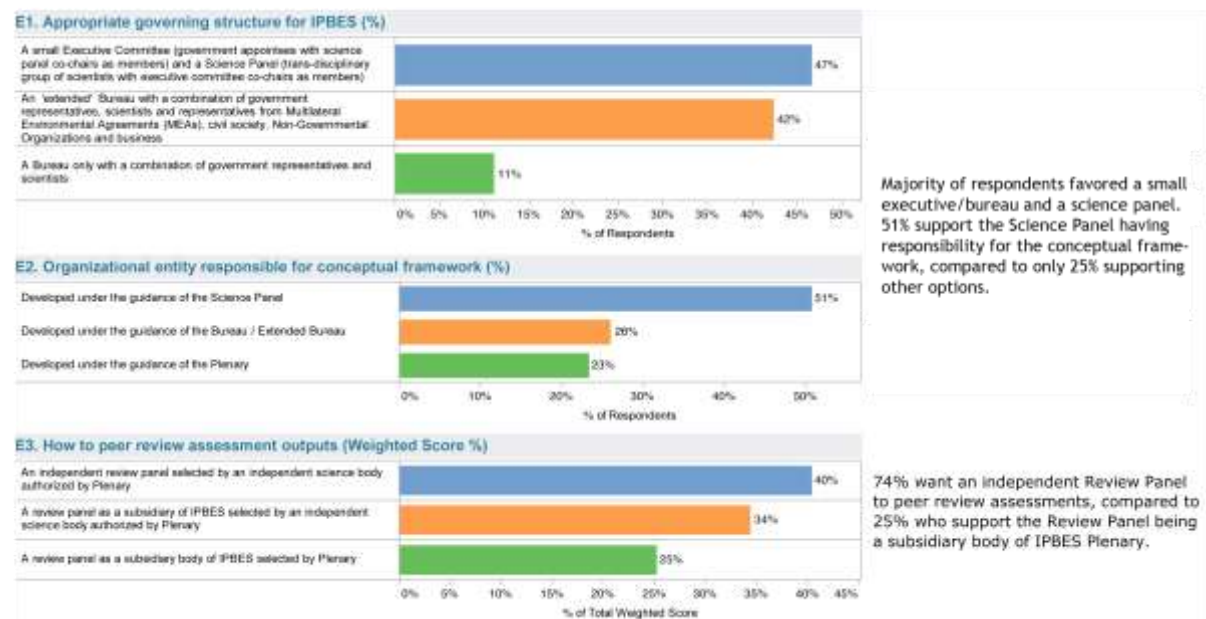
94% of respondents feel it is very important or important for IPBES to have a trans-disciplinary approach.



5. Other knowledge systems

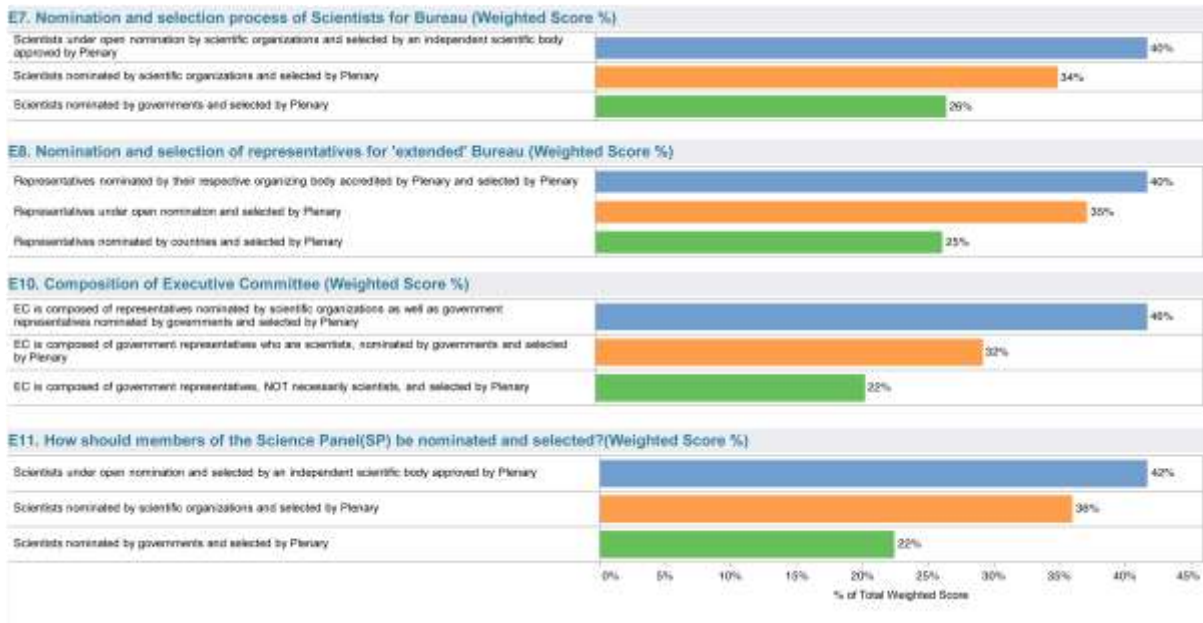


6. Governance Structure



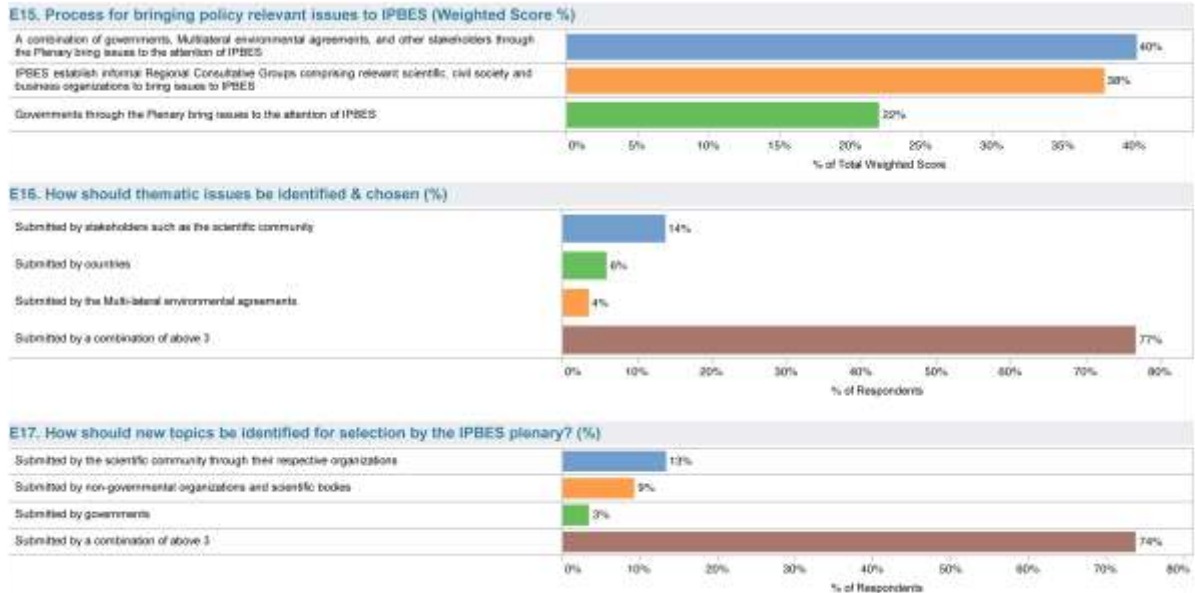
7. Selection of Scientists

Respondents are clearly for an open nomination and selection process for scientists, with little support for governments given the sole responsibility of nominating and selecting scientists.



8. Communicating with IPBES

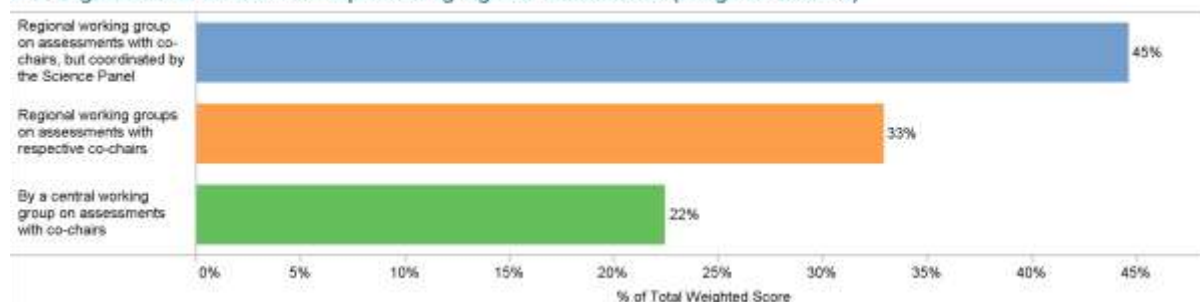
On the process for (1) Bringing policy relevant issues to IPBES, (2) Identifying and choosing thematic issues by IPBES and (3) Identifying and selecting new topics by IPBES: Over 70% favour keeping all channels of communication open, and are certainly not in favour of making governments the only conduit to IPBES.



9. Organizational structure for implementing regional assessments

Close to 80% preferred localizing responsibility at the regional level with only 22% voting for a centralized structure

E18. Organizational structure for implementing regional assessments (Weighted Score %)

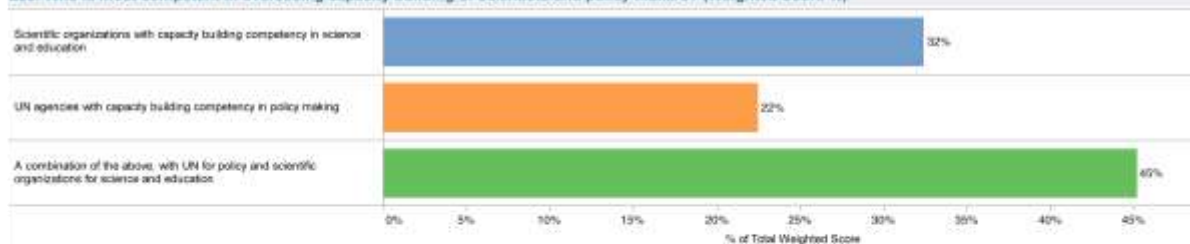


10. Role of UN and Scientific Organizations in Capacity Building

On overseeing capacity building of scientists and policy makers, the majority want both the scientific organizations and the UN to work jointly rather than give either organization sole responsibility.

On mobilizing the scientific community to support IPBES assessments, the majority want the UN and scientific organizations to work jointly rather than independently.

E20. Who is most competent in overseeing capacity building of scientists and policy makers? (Weighted Score %)

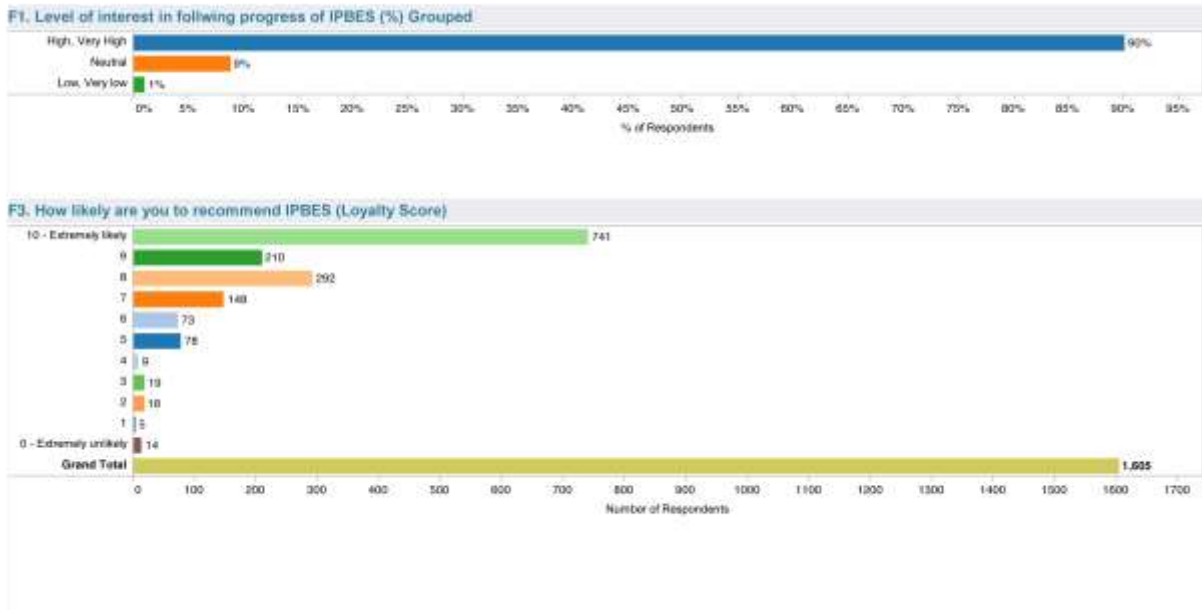


E21. Who is most competent in mobilizing scientific community? (Weighted Score %)



11. Measure of Loyalty

90% of those who completed the survey have a high level interest in following the progress of IPBES and the majority can be depended on to recommend IPBES to their organizations.



Conclusion

There is a lot of goodwill towards IPBES and thousands of ardent supporters for the IPBES cause. IPBES must find a way to channel this enthusiasm and goodwill and put it to work so that they can contribute towards this urgent cause. One approach would be to provide them with a technology platform so they can collaborate electronically and add to the knowledge-base. This can be up and running fairly quickly and evolve without significant funding requirement.