

Web Annex 1:

Outcomes of the Tenth Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Diplomatic Conference on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources

Outcomes of the Tenth Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

1. The Tenth Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), hosted by the United States of America, took place in Bonn, Germany from 28 August to 2 September 2023.
2. Parties approved a new assessment of invasive alien species and their control. They adopted terms of reference for the mid-term review of the work programme, approved the scoping process for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and agreed to undertake two fast-track methodological assessments.

Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control

3. The Plenary approved the summary for policymakers of the invasive alien species assessment¹ and accepted its individual chapters on the understanding that the Secretariat would subsequently revise the chapters to ensure their consistency with the summary for policymakers as approved.
4. The report highlights that more than 37 000 alien species have been introduced by many human activities to regions and biomes around the world, of which more than 3 500 of these are harmful invasive alien species – seriously threatening nature, nature's contributions to people and good quality of life in all regions and in every country. Alongside causing dramatic changes to biodiversity and ecosystems, the global economic cost of invasive alien species exceeded USD 423 billion annually in 2019, with costs having at least quadrupled every decade since 1970. The report finds that nearly 80 percent of the documented impacts of invasive alien species on nature's contributions to people are negative – especially through damage to food supplies.
5. On a more positive note, the report highlights that future biological invasions, invasive alien species, and their impacts, can be prevented through effective management and more integrated approaches. The use of biological control for invasive alien plants and invertebrates has been effective – with success in more than 60 percent of known cases.
6. Although a large proportion of countries (156 out of 196) have targets in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) for managing biological invasions, and all (196) have national invasive alien species checklists, including databases – 83 percent are without specific national legislation or regulations on invasive alien species.
7. In a written statement for the preface of the summary for policymakers, FAO Director-General stated that “invasive alien species pose a substantial threat to livelihoods and food security around the world. They can, for example, manifest as destructive crop or forest pests or displace species targeted by fisheries. They are an important driver of biodiversity loss and hence a threat to the various ecosystem services that support agricultural production and sustainable livelihoods.”
8. He further noted that “the information contained in this report will contribute greatly to efforts to combat the spread of invasive alien species and to meeting Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It will be especially valuable for all of us who work to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the world's agrifood systems to enhance their productivity and resilience.” Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global

¹ [IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment: Summary for Policymakers](#) – Advance unedited version

Biodiversity Framework aims to: “Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 percent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.”²

9. In FAO, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) develops international standards and risk-based regulatory frameworks to reduce risks of unintentional consequences, including non-target impacts, from biological control that have been applied and continue to be effective across many countries. Other FAO tools and databases used in the report include the Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species and the FAOLEX³ database.

Ongoing and newly adopted assessments

10. Ongoing thematic and methodological assessments of IPBES address: (i) interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health;⁴ (ii) underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity;⁵ and (iii) impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people.⁶ The first two assessments will be considered by the Eleventh Plenary of IPBES in 2024 and the last one by the Twelfth Plenary in 2025. FAO has contributed in particular to the first assessment by reviewing the first draft of its chapters. A staff member of FAO is serving as the lead author on this assessment.

11. The Plenary at its Tenth Session also approved the three following additional assessments to be prepared up to 2030: (i) a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (ii) a fast-track methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people; and (iii) a fast-track methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity, for consideration. Calls for experts have been issued by the IPBES Secretariat for the first two assessments.

IPBES and FAO – Background information

12. The IPBES is an independent intergovernmental body, established by Member States in 2012. Its Secretariat is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The objective of IPBES 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.

13. By Decision IPBES-2/8⁷, the Plenary of IPBES approved the collaborative partnership arrangement to establish an institutional link between the Plenary of IPBES and UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The collaborative partnership arrangement acknowledges the role of the partners in the establishment and development of IPBES, and the relevance of their respective mandates and programmes of work to the functions of IPBES. The aim of the institutional link created between the Platform and these United Nations entities was to provide a collaborative framework whereby:

- the partners coordinate relevant activities and cooperate in areas related to the functions of the Platform;
- dedicated capacity and secondments or otherwise assigned staff are made available by the organizations to support the Secretariat of the Platform;

² [CBD/COP/DEC/15/4](#)

³ <https://www.fao.org/faolex/en/>

⁴ [Nexus assessment](#)

⁵ [Transformative change assessment](#)

⁶ [Business and Biodiversity assessment](#)

⁷ [IPBES-2/8](#)

- technical and programmatic support is provided by the organizations to support the implementation of the work programme of the Platform;
- joint fundraising is undertaken to enable the activities of the Platform to be implemented; and
- the communications activities of the Platform are supported by the communications capacity of the organizations.

Forthcoming Diplomatic Conference on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources

14. On 21 July 2022, the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) decided to convene a Diplomatic Conference to conclude an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources no later than 2024.

15. The creation and implementation of patent disclosure requirements related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge have been under discussion in the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) since 2001. In 2009, the WIPO Assembly had agreed to “undertake text-based negotiations with the objective of reaching an agreement on a text of an international legal instrument (or instruments) which will ensure the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions” (WO/GA/38/20, para. 217).

16. The IGC held a Special Session from 4 to 8 September 2023, with the aim to further close any existing gaps in the text of the draft international instrument on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge to a sufficient level. The session was attended by over 500 participants, including WIPO Member States and representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, industry and civil society. The session was the last opportunity for the negotiators to revise the substantive articles of the instrument ahead of the Diplomatic Conference in 2024. The IGC agreed on a number of revisions to the substantive provisions of the instrument.⁸

17. The Preparatory Committee of the Diplomatic Conference, which took place from 11 to 13 September 2023, approved the draft administrative provisions and final clauses for the instrument, the list of invitees and the draft rules of procedure of the Diplomatic Conference. The meeting of the Preparatory Committee was adjourned to be reconvened at a future date to consider the draft agenda, and the dates and venue of the Diplomatic Conference.⁹

18. The Diplomatic Conference will take place at a time when governments continue to seek in a number of fora, solutions to the adequate recognition of countries of origin of genetic resources (and related genetic sequence data) and/or the holders of associated traditional knowledge, including in the World Health Organization, under the Convention on Biological Diversity and under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

⁸ [WIPO/GRTKF/IC/SS/GE/23/4](#)

⁹ [GRATK/PM/5](#)