

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services**Distr.: General
12 November 2015

Original: English

**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy
Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Fourth session**

Kuala Lumpur, 22–28 February 2016

Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Work programme of the Platform: revised scoping
report for a methodological assessment on diverse
conceptualization of multiple values of nature and
its benefits****Scoping for the methodological assessment regarding diverse
conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits,
including biodiversity and ecosystem services (deliverable 3 (d))****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. At its third session, in its decision IPBES-3/1 on the work programme for the period 2014–2018 (sect. V, para. 3), the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services requested the expert group established for scoping a methodological assessment on the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people and developing a preliminary guide, to revise the report on scoping for the methodological assessment regarding diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (see IPBES/3/8), based on comments received following an open review by Governments and stakeholders, for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session.

2. The scoping report for the methodological assessment on values was submitted to Governments and stakeholders for review from 26 February to 31 March 2015. Comments received were discussed by the expert group for this deliverable at its meeting held in Budapest from 8 to 11 June 2015, and the scoping document was revised accordingly. Thereafter, the scoping document was the subject of an internal expert group review before being submitted for a second review by Governments and stakeholders from 28 September to 31 October 2015. The scoping document was revised again in the light of this second open review. The present note constitutes the scoping document developed by the expert group in accordance with the draft procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables (IPBES/2/9). The preliminary guide on the conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits to people is set out in the note by the secretariat on the matter (IPBES/4/INF/13).

* IPBES/4/1

II. Scope, rationale, utility and assumptions

A. Scope

3. The objectives of the proposed methodological assessment are to assess: (a) the diverse conceptualization of values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating and cultural) consistent with the Platform's conceptual framework; (b) the diverse valuation methodologies and approaches; (c) the different approaches that acknowledge, bridge and integrate the diverse values and valuation methodologies for policy and decision-making support; and (d) knowledge and data gaps and uncertainties.¹

B. Geographic boundary of the assessment

4. The assessment will enable valuation to be incorporated into decision-making at any geographic scale from local to global.

C. Rationale

5. At present, the design of governance, institutions and policies rarely takes into account the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits to people.² The advantages of taking into account the diversity and complexity of these multiple values include: (a) making visible the different types of values and the wide spectrum of benefits derived from nature; (b) choosing and designing appropriate valuation methodologies and approaches; (c) identifying and addressing inherent conflicts that may arise due to different perspectives on values and valuation; (d) empowering individuals and groups whose voices are typically unheard or not attended to in discussing values; and (e) providing a wide, balanced view of value that extends the use of valuation beyond conventional cost-benefit assessments and analyses. Valuation, if carried out in a context-sensitive way, can be a significant resource for a range of decision makers, including Governments, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, managers of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and the private sector, in making informed decisions.

6. Therefore, a critical evaluation of the concepts and methodologies regarding the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature (including biodiversity and ecosystem structure and functioning) and its benefits (including ecosystem services), will provide the knowledge base for guiding the use of existing policy support tools and the further development of such tools, as well as assisting in assessing sources of information for assessments, taking into account different world views, cultural traditions, and national policy frameworks and circumstances.

7. This assessment will build upon the revised preliminary guide (IPBES/4/INF/13) for the methodological assessment regarding the diverse values of nature and its benefits. The preliminary guide, referred to in the previous sentence, did not critically assess different valuation methodologies and approaches or how to integrate and bridge, where appropriate, the diversity of values, or how different world views and values have been included in decision-making, or lead to the evaluation of policy support tools and policy options. The assessment, which will also take into account experiences learned during the regional and thematic assessments, will result in revised practical guidelines.

8. The assessment, and revised guidelines, will facilitate the undertaking, in a consistent manner, of the global assessment, as well as any future Platform assessments undertaken after the implementation of the first work programme (2014–2018), focusing on the relevance of the findings to a range of stakeholders. The assessment and revised guidelines will also facilitate national assessments, national policy formulation and implementation of the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including Aichi Biodiversity Target 1, “by 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably,” and Target 2, “by 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems,” which require assessment, synthesis and communications regarding the multiple values of biodiversity.

9. The assessment will result in the development of tools and methodologies for incorporating an appropriate mix of biophysical, social and cultural, economic, health and holistic (including indigenous and local community-based) values into decision-making by a range of stakeholders,

¹ Using the Platform's confidence framework in the Platform's guide on assessments (IPBES/4/INF/9).

² The conceptual framework defines the term “nature and its benefits to people” and its use in the context of the Platform (decision IPBES-2/4, annex).

including Governments, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, managers of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and the private sector. The consideration of biophysical values, in accordance with the preliminary guide, will acknowledge them but will not involve a detailed assessment of the mechanistic links between ecosystem processes and functions and the delivery of benefits to people, which is the subject of other assessments of the Platform.

10. This work will be directly applicable to the work of the expert group on policy support tools and methodologies,³ and the task forces on knowledge, information and data, indigenous and local knowledge systems and capacity-building. It will help identify relevant gaps in knowledge, including scientific, indigenous and local community-based knowledge, and in practical policymaking as well as in capacity-building needs. In addition, it will highlight approaches and methodologies that are particularly helpful for acknowledging and bridging the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits to people.

11. The assessment will be based on the recognition of culturally different world views, visions and approaches to achieve a good quality of life in the context of the conceptual framework of the Platform.

D. Assumptions

12. The work will be carried out by a multidisciplinary group of experts with a range of backgrounds, such as anthropology, biology, communication science, ecology, economics, environmental science, geography, law, philosophy, political science, policy implementation, psychology, sociology, and relevant fields of interdisciplinary inquiry, as well as stakeholders and practitioners relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services decisions (e.g., business, Governments and non-governmental organizations) and holders of indigenous and local knowledge with a range of cultural traditions. These experts will be nominated by Governments and Platform stakeholders and selected by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables and will build upon previous and ongoing relevant initiatives (see paragraph 21).

13. The different world views, disciplines and knowledge systems will be acknowledged in each chapter.

III. Assessment outline

14. The assessment will comprise a summary for policymakers and six chapters, each with an executive summary of the key findings and messages most relevant to decision makers.

15. Chapter 1 will consist of an introduction that makes explicit the relevance of a diverse conceptualization of values of nature and its benefits for governance and institutional and policy design in different decision-making contexts, and the explicit links to the conceptual framework. The chapter will also provide an explanation of how it can be used in connection with the Platform's catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies (deliverable 4 (c)).

16. Chapter 2 will assess the coverage of diverse conceptualizations of values of nature and its benefits to people in the scientific literature through, for instance, systematic reviews and meta-analysis, as well as through qualitative case studies associated with indigenous and local knowledge, and practical policymaking, among others. This work will identify the way in which different world views associated with different types of values have been included in decision-making contexts. In accordance with the Platform's conceptual framework and the preliminary guide, the focuses of value will be nature, nature's benefits to people, and a good quality of life, and the values to consider will be intrinsic, instrumental (including e.g., use and non-use values, bequest values, option values) and relational values. It will also consider how ecosystem accounts have been incorporated into national policies and accounting systems, as appropriate to national circumstances. It will also provide qualitative and quantitative information on how the inclusion of diverse values into decision-making contexts has been addressed across: (a) spatial scales, (b) temporal scales, (c) social-organization scales, and (d) types of stakeholders, and how the impacts of (a) environmental change, (b) social change and social learning, (c) power relations, (d) inclusion and agency, and (e) institutions, both formal and informal, have affected the values at stake in decision-making processes.

³ The application of valuation techniques can be considered critical policy support tools, e.g., multi-criteria analysis and cost-benefit analysis, among other things, in some decision-making contexts.

17. Chapter 3 will assess different valuation methodologies and approaches, including biophysical, social and cultural, economic, health and holistic (including indigenous and local community-based), as well as approaches for the integration and bridging of different types of values. The perspective of different genders and generations will also be considered. It will be based on a broad review of valuation methodologies and approaches that have been applied in the different specialized sources of information. It will highlight those methods and approaches that allow for articulation, integration and bridging among valuation approaches, and the acknowledgement of the inherent differences between valuation approaches considering different world views and knowledge systems. Part of this will be the consideration of how different methods and approaches help in acknowledging and dealing with potential conflicts or synergies between the values of different aspects of nature to different stakeholders and sectors. Emerging key findings will be identified, especially those related to assessing the links between different types of values according to different world views, and those linking nature, nature's benefits and a good quality of life.

18. Chapter 4 will assess both quantitatively and qualitatively the main findings and lessons learned on valuation methodologies and approaches, covered in chapters 2 and 3, and in decision-making and policymaking at different levels and in different contexts (including community, private, and public). This will allow for the identification of the most commonly used methods and the methods that may effectively be used under various constraints (e.g., financial or time constraints) for linking the diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits to governance, institutional and policy design. The chapter will also assess how valuation methodologies and approaches address various socially shared values, including those associated with different notions of intra-generational and intergenerational equity (including procedural, recognition and distributional aspects) as well as the methodological implications of addressing equity between social actors who value an entity (nature and its benefits, in this case) differently, even when agreeing on the types of values underlying the process of valuation. Special importance will be placed on those methods that have been regarded as successful by decision makers in particular contexts or at particular spatial, temporal or social-organization scales. Emerging key findings will be identified, especially those related to the identification of policy support tools and approaches that have proven to be successful.

19. Chapter 5 will highlight knowledge, data gaps and uncertainties in terms of the bridging and integration of diverse conceptualizations of values of nature and its benefits to people into governance, institutional and policy design relevant to policymaking and decision-making. It will emphasize: (a) the types of conceptualizations of the value of nature and its benefits to people that have not been explicitly addressed or have not been explicitly incorporated into decision-making; (b) the types of valuation approaches as well as their articulation, integration and bridging, that are under-developed or have not been explicitly incorporated into decision-making; (c) the obstacles that have hindered the incorporation of diverse conceptualizations of values of nature and its benefits in a range of decision-making and policymaking contexts and levels as well as their implications for sustainability, and (d) the fairness and equity implications for different stakeholders of applying a subset of values rather than the full suite of relevant biophysical, social and cultural, economic, health-related, and holistic (including indigenous and local community-based) values when these values are at stake.

20. Chapter 6 will highlight capacity-building needs and the steps required to respond to those needs, including capacities for policy uptake, development and implementation. It will draw on the findings of previous chapters and emphasize the kinds of capacity-building needed for (a) the explicit acknowledgment of the different types of conceptualization of nature and its benefits; (b) the different types of valuation methodologies and approaches that are needed to reflect them; and (c) their explicit incorporation into decisions and policymaking at different levels and in different contexts.

IV. Key information to be assessed

21. All sources of relevant information will be assessed, including peer-reviewed literature and grey literature, such as assessment reports, for example reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity; the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting; the United Nations Environment Programme; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the World Bank (e.g., wealth accounting and the valuation of ecosystem services); regional assessments (e.g., the European Union's mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services); national assessments (e.g., the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's national ecosystem assessment); national and international non-governmental organizations; and indigenous and local knowledge (in accordance with the indigenous and local knowledge task force recommendations).

V. Operational structure

22. The operational structure will consist of a technical support unit (at least one full-time equivalent professional-level staff member and 1 full-time equivalent administrative staff member). The Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will select 2 or 3 co-chairs, 60 authors and 12 review editors, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform's deliverables. The co-chairs and the technical support unit will have proven abilities in facilitation to ensure the communication across disciplines and sectors, as well as the incorporation of different types of knowledge held by the participants.

23. The co-chairs will come from different backgrounds, i.e., biophysical/geographical, social sciences and the humanities, with strong experience in incorporating a diversity of values of nature and its benefits. Each of the chapters will include 2 or 3 coordinating lead authors, 7 or 8 lead authors and 2 review editors. The experts will come from among academia, key stakeholder groups and indigenous and local knowledge holders to ensure broad coverage of a diversity of world views. The authors will cover the five United Nations regions, a range of disciplinary backgrounds, and will be invited to lead different sections of each chapter.

24. The management committee will consist of the technical support unit, the co-chairs and one coordinating lead author per chapter, as well as two Panel and one Bureau members.

VI. Process and timetable

25. The table below shows the proposed process and timetable for undertaking and preparing the methodological assessment report.

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>
February	The Plenary, at its fourth session, reviews and approves the scoping report
March–mid April	The chair, through the secretariat, requests, from Governments and other stakeholders, nominations of experts (co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors) to conduct the assessment based on the scoping report approved by the Plenary at its fourth session
2016 Mid-May	The Panel selects the co-chairs, coordinating lead authors, lead authors and review editors using the approved selection criteria
April–June	Establishment of the technical support unit, meeting of the management committee to plan the first author meeting, together with the technical support unit
Mid-July	First author meeting to further develop the annotated outline and the sections and chapters, and assign writing roles and responsibilities
August–November	Preparation of first draft of the assessment report
Late December–mid-February	Expert peer review
2017 Mid-March	Second author meeting to address the review comments in order to develop the second draft of the assessment report and first draft of the summary for policymakers
April–July	Preparation of the second draft of the assessment report and the first draft of the summary for policymakers
August–September	Government and expert review process of the second draft of the assessment report and the first draft of the summary for policymakers
Early October	Third author meeting to address the review comments in order to develop the final draft of the assessment report and the final draft of the summary for policymakers
October–mid-December	Preparation of the final draft of the assessment report and the final draft of the summary for policymakers

<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Actions and institutional arrangements</i>
Mid-December	Submission of the final documents to the secretariat for editing and translation
Mid-February	Submission of the assessment, including the summary for policymakers, to Governments for final review prior to the plenary session (6 weeks before the sixth session of the Plenary)
Early March	Submission of final Government comments on the summary for policymakers in preparation for the sixth session of the Plenary
Late March (tentative)	Sixth session of the Plenary of the Platform

VII. Cost estimate

26. The table below shows the estimated cost of conducting and preparing the methodological assessment report.⁴

(United States dollars)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost item</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>	<i>Estimated cost (United States dollars)</i>
2016	First meeting of the management committee in Bonn	Venue costs (3 days, 4 participants)	0
		Travel and DSA (3 x \$3,750)	11 250
	First author meeting	Venue costs (1 week, 68 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	15 000
		Travel and DSA (51 x \$3,750)	191 250
	Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position (50 per cent in kind)	75 000
2017	Second author meeting	Venue costs (1 week, 80 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	18 750
		Travel and DSA (60 x \$3,750)	225 000
	Third author meeting	Venue costs (1 week, 30 participants) (25 per cent in kind)	7 500
		Travel and DSA (23 x \$3,750)	86 250
		Technical support	1 full-time equivalent Professional position (50 per cent in kind)
	Dissemination and outreach		117 000
2018	Technical support	3 months of 1 full-time equivalent Professional position (50 per cent in kind)	18 750
	Participation by co-chairs and authors in the sixth session of the Plenary	Travel and DSA (9 x \$3,750)	33 750
Total			874 500

⁴ The budget assumes that a maximum of 75 per cent of authors and Panel members are funded from the Trust Fund, and that the rest are self-funded.

VIII. Communication and outreach

27. The assessment report and its summary for policymakers will be published and the summary for policymakers will be available in the six official languages of the United Nations. These reports will be made available on the Platform's website (www.ipbes.net). In accordance with the Platform's communication strategy, relevant international forums will be identified with a view to presenting the findings of the report and its summary for policymakers. Such forums will include national and international scientific symposiums, and meetings of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations entities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

IX. Capacity-building

28. Capacity-building activities will be undertaken in accordance with the implementation plan of the capacity-building task force (for example, the fellowship programme).
