



Engagement in IPBES – the top priority for IUCN Outcomes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

6-15 September 2012, Jeju, South Korea
www.iucn.org/congress



“IUCN’s commitment to materialize the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) which concretely works at the science-policy interface marked another step during the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Jeju, South Korea.

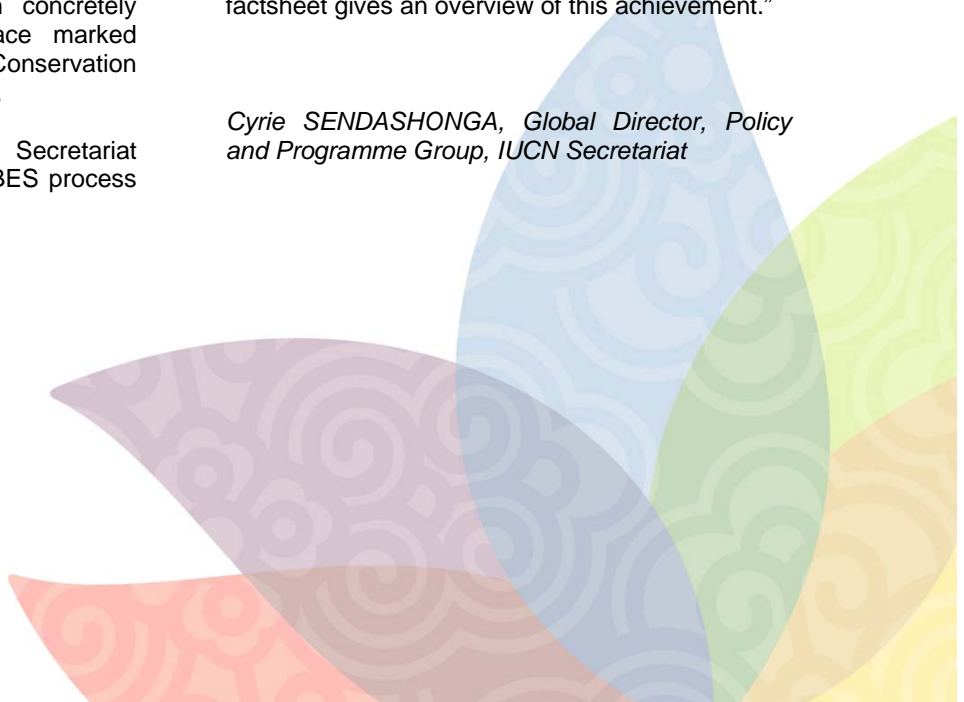
For a number of years, the IUCN Secretariat advised, informed and helped the IPBES process

to run smoothly. In Jeju, IUCN was as a proactive provider of practical steps for IPBES.

The overarching challenge was to raise awareness of this platform and to position it on the radar screen of the hundreds of conservationists that were gathered in Jeju. Several references to IPBES during the IUCN Members’ Assembly, two motions adopted and a number of Forum events made it all happen.

The second challenge was to bring new substance for IPBES to consider, and thus facilitate its early work: good connections with experts and governmental delegations resulted in new ideas that could inspire the IPBES process. Jeju was undoubtedly a milestone on the IPBES road. This factsheet gives an overview of this achievement.”

Cyrie SENDASHONGA, Global Director, Policy and Programme Group, IUCN Secretariat



Learning about IPBES

Workshop on how IPBES can bring us further in conserving the world's biodiversity

This workshop clearly indicated what is at stake of IPBES and provided an opportunity for IUCN Members and experts of the IUCN Commissions to learn more about IPBES. The workshop room was full of committed experts, ready to engage with the IPBES.

Julia MARTON-LEFÈVRE, IUCN Director General opened the workshop by encouraging IUCN constituents to stay informed and continue contributing to the IPBES process.

Ibrahim THIAW from the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** presented the latest developments of IPBES, while **Simon STUART** from the **IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)** and **Jane SMART** from the **IUCN Secretariat** presented IUCN's vision on IPBES and IUCN Knowledge Products which may be recognized by IPBES.

A panel then presented a range of views on IPBES from its potential users. **James GRIFFITHS** from the **World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)** shared his hopes of an IPBES which could provide simple facts and models to be used as business tools the same way as the CBD Strategic Plan is being used to design business policies.



Gilles KLEITZ from **Agence Française de Développement** recognized the utility of IPBES to design financial allocations, while guidance on the impacts of different policy options would also be needed. **Claudio PADUA** from **Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas in Brazil** insisted on the importance of practical science to be recognized by the IPBES.

Luis FUEYO from the **National Commission of Natural Protected Areas in Mexico** asked for assessments of biodiversity components that could



be useful for the design of protected areas systems, while **James NJOGU** from the **Kenya Wildlife Service** called for standards for all assessments related to natural resources.

Kurt ECKERSTROM from **ESRI** emphasized a need for clear standards of assessment data to facilitate spatial design for their clients. **Nigel CRAWHALL** from the **Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee** suggested IPBES to launch intercultural dialogues that are key to delivering local and traditional knowledge to the policy arena. **Sheila VERGARA** from the **ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity** proposed IPBES to focus particularly on flyways and the marine realm, which she sees as main gaps in biodiversity knowledge.

Christine DAWSON from the **Government of USA** and **Andreas OBRECHT** from the **Government of Switzerland** recalled the commitment of their governments to IPBES, especially in the context of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Yuan-Tseh LEE, **President of the International Council for Science (ICSU)** called for high credibility standards for IPBES and proposes that ICSU and IUCN, as gatherers of massive datasets, contribute rapidly to IPBES activities.

Participants also raised questions about national track record in protecting biodiversity and about the need to consider agriculture and food production as a priority topic for the IPBES.

The full video recording of the workshop can be viewed online at <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/25310083> or downloaded from https://files.ucloud.com/pf/D77237_6277555_40801

Meeting IPBES experts

Pavilion events

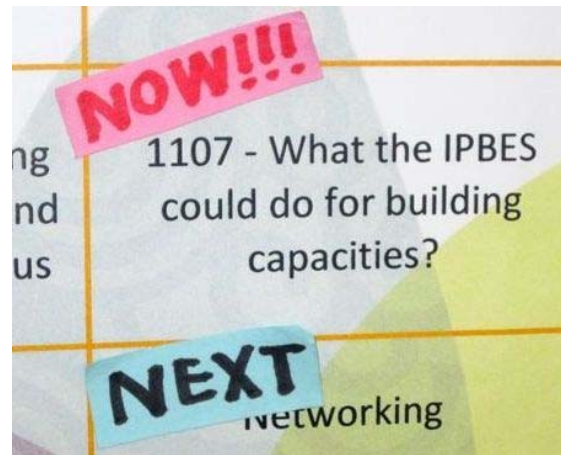


experience in capacity-building activities within the communities of scientists-policy-makers and implementers indicates that IPBES should work to reduce fragmentation between initiatives. Participants were interested in guidance on how to develop capacities at the every step of the assessment process and on how to develop individual and institutional capacities simultaneously.

These two events were opportunities for conservationists gathered for the WCC to meet a number of key players in IPBES and receive direct information from them.

At the Species Pavilion, a detailed presentation was given by **Thomas BROOKS** from **Nature Serve** who has been engaged in several IPBES-like assessments and shared his views about the added value of such reports.

A concrete initiative to prepare IPBES activities was presented at the Just World Pavilion. **Nik SEKHRAN** from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **Tone SOLHAUG** from the **Government of Norway** and **Philip BUBB** from the **UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)** presented the **BES-Net** initiative which will test building networks of existing initiatives related to ecosystem assessments. Their



IUCN is ready to contribute to IPBES

Two Motions adopted on IPBES

The IUCN Members' Assembly adopted two resolutions reinforcing the commitment of IUCN to the IPBES. The first calls for the Union to deliver contributions to IPBES in areas where their respective work programme aligns, the other calls for IUCN Members and governments to dedicate significant resources to the capacity-building activities of the IPBES. IPBES is now the priority for IUCN!

You can stay informed about the status of IPBES discussions and forthcoming activities at www.ipbes.net and get simplified messages and calls for contributions to the IUCN inputs at www.iucn.org/ipbes.



Photos by E.Cohen-Sacham, JY. Pirot, A.Berzina