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Work programme of the Platform: scoping report for a thematic
assessment of sustainable use of biodiversity

Scoping for a thematic assessment on sustainable use of wild species (deliverable 3 (b) (iii))

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, the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services approved the initiation of scoping, primarily using virtual approaches, for a thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools. In response to the decision, a scoping report was developed by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, supported by an open access web-based consultation, or e-conference, held from 7 to 25 September 2015. The scoping report was presented to the Plenary at its fourth session in 2016. At this session, the Plenary requested the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in consultation with the Bureau, to undertake a further scoping of the thematic assessment, in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the platform's deliverables (decision IPBES-2/3, annex) including by:

- a) Organizing a face-to-face scoping workshop of experts, involving relevant stakeholders, to produce a revised draft scoping report for the assessment that gives consideration to the revision of the title of the assessment;
- b) Organizing an open review of the revised draft scoping report by Governments and stakeholders, taking into account section 3.1, paragraph (g), of the procedures for the preparation of the platform's deliverables;
- c) Preparing a revised scoping report for the assessment for consideration by the Plenary at its fifth session.

2. The face-to-face scoping workshop of experts was organized from 2 to 4 August 2016, in Bonn, Germany. This document is the result of the scoping workshop. Scoping experts will be invited to provide further comments on this draft document. Once finalized, the document will undergo an open review by Governments and stakeholders from 5 September to 2 October 2016.

* IPBES/4/1.

24 The further revised scoping report for the assessment will be discussed and finalized by the MEP
25 and Bureau at their 8th meeting in October 2016 for consideration by the Plenary at its fifth
26 session (6-10 March 2017, Bonn, Germany).

27 **II. Scope, rationale, utility and assumptions**

28 **A. Scope**

29 3. The objective of the proposed thematic assessment is to assess various approaches to the
30 sustainable use of wild species, and to strengthen related practices, measures, capacities and
31 tools. Taking an integrative socio-ecological approach, the assessment will analyse relevant
32 dimensions regarding the sustainability of the use wild species, and assess status and trends as
33 well as direct and indirect drivers of change of sustainable use of wild species. It will further
34 explore possible future scenarios of the use of wild species and examine the range of
35 opportunities and challenges and policy options to further enhance the sustainability of the use
36 of wild species.

37 4. The assessment will elaborate a common understanding of what is meant by ‘wild
38 species’ that is consistent with the assessment’s overall approach and conceptual framework,
39 recognising that depending the context, there is often a continuum between what is considered
40 wild and what is considered domestic or captive. As a starting point, the term “wild species” is
41 understood to refer to species other than domesticated species and those species that are fully
42 dependent on human-made infrastructure. Thus the assessment will not address, for example, the
43 management of crops and livestock on farms. It will also not address the management of
44 populations in aqua-cultural facilities, or in artificial plantations, except in so far as these
45 provide alternatives to use of wild populations.

46 5. The assessment will take an integrative socio-ecological approach to the sustainable use
47 of wild species, recognizing the inseparable unity of nature and humanity linking to ecosystem
48 functions, nature’s benefits to people, and to a good quality of life, whilst living in harmony with
49 nature. The assessment will recognise the inherent interdependencies of the use of wild species
50 on its wider socio-ecological contexts, It will therefore take into account not only the effects on
51 other species and ecosystems, but also the governance regimes, practices and approaches,
52 methods and technologies, from various knowledge systems including indigenous and local
53 knowledge, the socio-political context and diverse patterns of sustainable management and
54 harvesting.

55 6. This assessment will specifically focus on consumptive and non-consumptive use of wild
56 species for i) food, ii) medicine and hygiene, iii) raw materials, iv) ornamental uses, and v)
57 sacred, spiritual, ritualistic and experiential use including restrictions and taboos. The
58 assessment will take into account a wide range of aspects characterising the actual usage of wild
59 species, including spatial and temporal scales, subsistence, commercial or recreational purposes,
60 consumptive or non-consumptive nature, customary, crisis, legal or illegal contexts, etc.

61 7. Within these five categories of consumptive and non-consumptive use of wild species,
62 the assessment will explore conditions for these uses to be sustainable by taking an integrative
63 socio-ecological approach. Building on internationally recognised definitions and principles of
64 sustainable use, such as the definition of sustainable use of biodiversity under the Convention on
65 Biological Diversity (article 2) and the Addis Ababa Principles and the concept of “non-
66 detriment findings” under CITES, the assessment will elaborate what sustainable use of wild
67 species means in the context of international targets such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (“and
68 the Sustainable Development Goals. In doing so the assessment will take into account the range
69 of conditions for a good quality of life as outlined by the IPBES’ conceptual framework,
70 including equity and equitable sharing of costs and benefits.

71 8. The assessment is solution oriented, recognizing sustainable use of wild species as a
72 means to ensure that the needs of both present and future generations are met. Drawing from
73 lessons learned from a wide range of perspectives and different knowledge systems, the
74 assessment will analyse related governance regimes, measures, capacities tools, and practices,
75 including alternative uses, and identify challenges and opportunities to establish or further
76 strengthen the conditions for the sustainable use of wild species.

- 77 9. The assessment will address the following questions of relevance to decision makers
78 dealing with sustainable use of wild species such as:
- 79 a) How can sustainable use of wild species be appropriately conceptualised and
80 operationalized? (Chapter 2)
- 81 b) What methods exist for assessing, measuring and managing for sustainable use of wild
82 species and are they appropriate and effective? (Chapter 2)
- 83 c) What are the impacts of levels of use of wild species on nature, nature's benefits to
84 people and good quality of life, and how does that interact with other anthropogenic
85 impacts? (Chapter 3)
- 86 d) What are the indirect drivers, and other direct drivers, that affect the sustainability of use
87 of wild species? (Chapter 4)
- 88 e) What are the plausible futures for the sustainable use of wild species by people within
89 the ecosystems they inhabit? (Chapter 5)
- 90 f) What policy scenarios and governance pathways relating to use of wild species can lead
91 to more sustainable futures? (Chapter 5)
- 92 g) What gaps in knowledge on methods, impacts, drivers and policy need to be addressed
93 in order to better understand options and opportunities in responses relating to
94 sustainable use of wild species? (Chapter 6)

95 **B. Geographic coverage of the assessment**

- 96 10. The assessment will have a global coverage including terrestrial and aquatic systems,
97 addressing all scales and levels (local, national, regional and global).

98 **C. Rationale**

99 11. The rationale for this assessment is to undertake for the first time a comprehensive
100 assessment of the status and trends of the use of wild species in terms of its sustainability and
101 within its socio-ecological contexts, as well as the ways in which the sustainability of the use of
102 wild species are affected by indirect and direct drivers. The assessment will be based on multiple
103 world views, different knowledge systems and diverse values.

104 12. The assessment will support the sustainable use of wild species, which promotes the
105 conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services while providing
106 opportunities for socioeconomic development. The assessment will contribute to the
107 development of a strengthened knowledge base regarding the concept of sustainable use as well
108 as indirect and direct drivers and ways to address them. It will, in particular, focus on existing
109 policy instruments and policy support tools and their effectiveness, and catalyse the
110 development of additional policy support tools and methodologies.

111 **D. Utility**

112 13. The assessment will provide users (e.g. Governments, multilateral organizations, the
113 private sector and civil society, including indigenous peoples and local communities and non-
114 governmental organizations) with a relevant, credible, legitimate, authoritative, evidence-based,
115 and comprehensive analysis based on the current state of scientific and other knowledge
116 systems.

117 14. The assessment will, in particular, contribute to the achievement of the goal of the
118 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),
119 which is to ensure that international trade in wild species of fauna and flora is conducted at
120 sustainable levels. The assessment will contribute by informing the determination by CITES
121 Parties, in the context of the issuance of permits, whether international trade will be detrimental
122 to the survival of species and by demonstrating how important and valuable sustainable practices
123 are for species conservation.

124 15. Furthermore, the assessment will contribute to the second objective of the Convention on
125 Biological Diversity, which focuses on the sustainable use of biodiversity. It will also support
126 the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and, in particular, Aichi
127 Biodiversity Targets 6 (sustainable consumptive use of fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic

128 plants) and 12 (conservation of threatened species), but also elements of targets 3 (incentives), 4
129 (sustainable consumption and production), 7 (sustainable management in particular of forests),
130 16 (Nagoya Protocol) and 18 (customary use of biological resources). The assessment will also
131 support the implementation of specific decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the
132 Convention on Biological Diversity, including on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for
133 the Sustainable use of Biodiversity (decision VII/12), regarding the differentiation of subsistence
134 uses, illegal hunting, and domestic and international trade of specimens of wild species and
135 products, as well as regarding an analysis of the impacts of “subsistence use” of wildlife on the
136 survival and regeneration of wild species, in the context of growing human populations and
137 pressures on wildlife resources (decision XII/18).

138 16. The assessment will also provide information relevant to the implementation of the
139 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits
140 Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Cartagena
141 Protocol on Biosafety.

142 17. Finally, the assessment will support progress towards achieving the Sustainable
143 Development Goals by directly contributing to goals 12 on sustainable production and
144 consumption, 13 on combatting climate change, 14 on conservation and sustainable use of
145 oceans, seas and marine resources, 15 on sustainable use of terrestrial systems, 17 on
146 strengthening global partnerships, and to goal 2 on ending hunger. In addition, as the assessment
147 aims to contribute to addressing the instances of current unsustainable and illegal use of wild
148 species, which undermine the achievement of broader societal goals and targets. It will also
149 contribute to goals 1 on ending poverty, 3 on ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing, 5 on
150 achieving gender equity 6 on sustainable water and sanitation, 7 on sustainable energy, and 16
151 on peaceful and inclusive societies.

152 E. Methodological approach

153 18. The assessment will be based on existing scientific literature, national assessments,
154 sources from other knowledge systems, including indigenous and local knowledge, and will
155 draw on the work of existing institutions and networks (see section V below on relevant
156 stakeholders and initiatives). It will take into account the regional and global assessments of
157 IPBES, as well as its assessment of land degradation and restoration, which cover many aspects
158 of sustainable use. Materials collected during the scoping process, including references to
159 published and grey literature, will be available to the assessment expert group. The production of
160 the assessment will follow agreed procedures. Confidence terms as outlined in the IPBES guide
161 for assessments will be assigned to all findings.

162 19. The assessment expert group will consist of 2 co-chairs, 12 CLAs, 30-40 LAs and 12
163 review editors, who will be selected in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the
164 Platform’s deliverables following a call for nomination after approval of the scoping report by
165 the Plenary.

166 20. Technical support for the assessment will be provided by a technical support unit,
167 located within the IPBES secretariat, in order to promote synergies with the rest of the work
168 programme and with the regional, thematic and global assessments in particular. The unit will be
169 composed of one full-time staff member, supported by one or more full-time staff members
170 seconded to the secretariat. The technical support unit will liaise with other technical support
171 units.

172 21. The assessment will be prepared over three years. Process and timetable are provided in
173 section VII below.

174 III. Chapter outline

175 22. The thematic assessment will consist of a set of six chapters and their executive
176 summaries, and a summary for policymakers drawing key messages from those chapters.

177 Chapter 1. Setting the scene

178 23. Chapter 1 will set the stage for the assessment by outlining how the sustainable use of
179 wild species will be addressed in the context of the IPBES conceptual framework. It will define
180 what is meant by “wild species” and provide a road map and overarching rationale for the

181 sequence of chapters in the assessment, as well as for the focus on consumptive and non-
182 consumptive use of wild species along the categories of i) food, ii) medicine and hygiene, iii)
183 raw materials, iv) ornamental uses, and v) sacred, spiritual, ritualistic and experiential use
184 including restrictions and taboos. In assessing the contributions of the sustainable use of wild
185 species to a good quality of life, the chapter will explain the integrative socio-ecological
186 approach taken, recognizing the inseparable unity of nature and humanity linked to ecosystem
187 functions, nature's benefits to people, and to a good quality of life. The chapter will outline how
188 the assessment will strengthen related practices, measures, capacities and tools, and help to
189 achieve relevant internationally agreed targets and goals, such as the Aichi Targets and the
190 Sustainable Development Goals.

191 **Chapter 2. Conceptualising sustainable use**

192 24. **Chapter 2** will elaborate on the necessary conditions for the use of wild species to be
193 sustainable and on essential criteria and elements to operationalise such sustainable use of wild
194 species. Building on internationally recognised definitions and principles of sustainable use, this
195 chapter will elaborate what sustainable use of wild species means in the context of international
196 targets such as the Strategic Goal D of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (“enhance the benefits to
197 all from biodiversity and ecosystem services”) and the Sustainable Development Goals, taking
198 into account a wide range of aspects characterising the actual use of wild species, including
199 spatial, temporal and quantitative scales, subsistence, commercial or recreational purposes,
200 customary sustainable use, crisis, legal or illegal contexts, etc. The chapter will provide a critical
201 assessment of sustainable use principles, including recognized standards on sustainable use of
202 wild species and the precautionary principle, and will address the aspects of intragenerational
203 and intergenerational equity and issues of justice. The chapter will draw on the preliminary
204 guide to the diverse conceptualisations of values of the IPBES. Different current methods of
205 measurement, assessment and reporting may need to be reviewed, compared, and standardised
206 for the purpose of this global thematic assessment.

207 **Chapter 3. Status and trends of sustainability of use**

208 25. **Chapter 3** will assess the status and trends of sustainable and unsustainable use of wild
209 species and the impact of use on nature, nature's benefits to people and a good quality of life,
210 taking into account conditions, criteria and elements elaborated in Chapter 2 regarding the
211 sustainability of their use. The chapter will assess the status of use by the different categories of
212 consumptive and non-consumptive uses introduced in Chapter 1. Within each of these categories
213 it will then cover all relevant terrestrial and aquatic units of analysis used by IPBES, also from a
214 regional perspective, and a range of plant and animal taxa. Analysis on sustainable use of wild
215 species covering all of the IPBES regions shall generate input for chapters 4-6.

216 **Chapter 4. Direct and in-direct drivers**

217 26. **Chapter 4** will assess the drivers for both sustainable and unsustainable use of wild
218 species, with the view to understand their influence on current status and trends. With the
219 assessment's focus on consumptive and non-consumptive use of wild species, a direct driver of
220 change itself, this chapter is to critically assess in particular the effects of other direct drivers and
221 of indirect drivers influencing the consumptive and non-consumptive use of wild species.
222 Indirect drivers include institutional arrangements, governance regimes and the socio-political,
223 economic, cultural and technological context of the use of wild species. Other direct drivers and
224 their institutional arrangements and governance, to be assessed in the context of consumptive
225 and non-consumptive use of wild species, should include degradation, habitat conversion, land
226 management practices, pollution, deliberate introductions, as well as climate change.
227 Consideration will be given to how institutional and governance arrangements contribute to
228 changes in biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services, nature's benefits to people,
229 and to the positive and negative interactions among drivers.

230 **Chapter 5. Future Scenarios**

231 27. **Chapter 5** will present scenarios of possible futures for sustainable use of wild species
232 within their wider social-ecological context. In assessing trends and scenarios of the use of wild
233 species in the context of past and present trends identified in chapter 3. This chapter will take
234 into consideration the conditions, criteria and elements fundamental to the sustainability of their
235 use elaborated in chapter 2, and the analysis of the direct and indirect drivers as assessed in
236 chapter 4. In developing the scenarios, the chapter also draws on the IPBES' work on scenarios

237 and modelling, as well as on IPBES preliminary guide to the diverse conceptualisations of
238 values, and the assessment of the effectiveness of policy responses provided in chapter 6. It will
239 make use of exploratory scenarios of plausible futures for wild species, their ecosystems and
240 people, subject to levels of use and also examine policy scenarios and governance pathways that
241 could lead to more sustainable futures.

242 **Chapter 6. Policy options and responses**

243 28. **Chapter 6** will assess the effectiveness of policy responses with regard to sustainable
244 use of wild species and outline possible options for decision makers for policy-relevant issues
245 set out in preceding chapters, particularly in chapter 5. Explorations of options will be policy
246 relevant, but not policy prescriptive, as outlined in the principles of the IPBES. Options explored
247 will include different policy instruments, including legal and regulatory, rights-based and
248 customary norms, economic and financial, and social and cultural instruments. The chapter will
249 look at options at different hierarchical spatial and temporal scales, from the international level
250 to local and indigenous communities and households. A major task of this chapter will be to
251 review opportunities and challenges regarding the possible policy mixes and options for decision
252 makers, looking at a range of governance systems and considering who would gain from or bear
253 the cost of their implementation. The chapter will also identify the enabling environments and
254 limitations for policy uptake and lessons learned, including solutions and methods for ensuring
255 success and capacity-building needs.

256 **IV. Indicators, metrics and data sets**

257 29. With support from the IPBES task force on data and knowledge, and taking into account
258 the core and highlighted indicators selected for the regional and global assessments of
259 biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the assessment of land degradation and restoration, the
260 assessment will review the use and effectiveness of existing indicators for assessing sustainable
261 use, such as those developed by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, and will explore other
262 possible indicators that could be used.

263 30. The assessment will survey the availability of data. Data selected for use in the
264 assessment should allow for disaggregation according to relevant variables such as
265 environment/system, taxa, level of income, health standards and equality. Attention will be
266 given, in accordance with the data and information management plan of IPBES, to ensuring
267 access to metadata and, whenever possible, to the corresponding underlying data, through an
268 interoperable process to ensure comparability between assessments. Furthermore, the task force
269 on data and knowledge will develop recommendations and procedures to ensure that data and
270 information used in the assessment will be widely available for future IPBES' assessments and
271 other uses.

272 31. The assessment will also identify and seek access to any other relevant data and
273 information sources that may exist or emerge. These sources include global, regional and
274 national institutions and organizations, literature by scientific, and indigenous and local
275 communities. The requirements of the assessment process will be communicated widely in order
276 to identify and encourage the sharing of relevant data and information.

277 32. The task force on indigenous and local knowledge systems will guide the procedures for
278 the analysis and use of indigenous and local knowledge, together with relevant indigenous and
279 local knowledge stakeholders. The collective ability to perform these tasks will be strengthened
280 through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and international collaboration.

281 **V. Relevant stakeholders and initiatives**

282 33. Under the operating principles of the Platform, partnerships are important in order to
283 avoid duplication and promote synergies with ongoing activities. Strategic partnerships are a
284 critical subset of the many possible forms of partnership with the Platform. In the context of the
285 assessment of sustainable use of wild species, strategic partnerships are those that promote, for
286 example, relationships with multiple relevant bodies under one global umbrella. Strategic
287 partners should be identified for the assessment process in accordance with the guidance on the
288 development of strategic partnerships and other collaborative arrangements (decision IPBES-
289 3/4). Other interested organizations are invited to engage with the assessment process.

290 **VI. Capacity-building**

291 34. A key objective of the assessment is to support the development and improvement of
292 approaches to the sustainable use of wild species, and to strengthen related practices, measures,
293 capacities and tools. The assessment will provide the basis for capacity-building activities to
294 improve human, institutional and technical capacities to foster the implementation of its key
295 messages after the assessment is complete. Capacity-building will aim in the long term for the
296 development and use of policy support tools and methodologies and for improving access to
297 necessary data, information and knowledge and indigenous and local knowledge systems.

298 35. Furthermore, capacity-building interventions will be designed to enable the effective
299 participation of experts from developing countries in the assessment. The assessment will be
300 supported by the task force on capacity-building and its technical support unit, in particular
301 through the implementation of the IPBES capacity building plan. The assessment will identify a
302 pool of experts that can be used to provide support for capacity-building activities related to the
303 Platform. In line with the plan, capacity-building will also include the strengthening of effective
304 contributions of indigenous and local knowledge systems to assessments.

305 **VII. Process and timetable**

306 36. The proposed process and timetable for preparing the assessment report, including
307 actions, milestones and institutional arrangements, will be set out below.

308 TABLE TO BE INSERTED AT A LATER STAGE

309 **VIII. Cost estimate**

310 37. The estimated cost of conducting and preparing the assessment report will be set out in a
311 table below.

312 TABLE TO BE INSERTED AT A LATER STAGE