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MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

(Prepared by the IPBES Secretariat)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

Matters relating to UNFCCC and other international organizations

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This note presents the outcomes of the twelfth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES 12), held from 3 to 9 February 2026 in Manchester, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and provides an update on current work of IPBES relevant to the work of IPCC.

I. Ongoing IPBES assessments and other work

IPBES is in the process of implementing its rolling work programme up to 2030, adopted by the IPBES Plenary at its seventh session in 2019.¹

The Plenary, at its twelfth session:

- Approved the summary for policymakers and accepted the chapters of the methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (business and biodiversity assessment).² This methodological assessment found that businesses are central to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, but that many often lack information to address their impacts and dependencies, as well as the risks and opportunities relating to biodiversity and nature's contributions to people. The assessment finds that all businesses, including financial institutions, have a responsibility to address their impacts and dependencies and could take further actions, given an enabling environment. Although trade-offs exist that prevent some transformative actions, the assessment identified a range of actions that businesses can take already that benefit business and biodiversity.
- Approved workplans for IPBES work on building capacity, strengthening the knowledge foundations, and supporting policy. This included, for example, plans for a webinar on methods for working with Indigenous and local knowledge in different environmental assessment processes, to which IPCC representatives would be invited. The Plenary also welcomed the code of practice on the use of artificial intelligence tools in the delivery of the IPBES work programme.³
- Welcomed with appreciation the report on the midterm review under the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030 by the review panel.⁴ Recommendation 12 of the review includes to “enhance the opportunities for collaboration with United Nations strategic partners, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other international science-policy interfaces to align programmes, share information and tools, and secure the uptake of IPBES products.” The IPBES Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel have been requested to develop a proposal for the

¹ Decision IPBES-7/1, available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/resource-file/27458>

² The summary for policymakers and chapters will be available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/business-impact>

³ Available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/resource-file/108373>

⁴ Available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/resource-file/108253>

implementation of the review recommendations for consideration by the Plenary at IPBES 13 (October 2027, tbc).

All outcomes of IPBES 12 are available on the IPBES website.⁵

The following assessments are in the process of being prepared:

- The **monitoring assessment** (methodological assessment on monitoring biodiversity and nature's contributions to people), which will be finalized for consideration by the Plenary at IPBES 13.⁶ The assessment will be subject to an additional Government review, tentatively scheduled for September/October 2026.
- The **spatial planning and connectivity assessment** (methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity), which will be finalized for consideration by the Plenary at IPBES 13.⁷ The external review of a draft of the assessment is scheduled for mid-May to mid-July 2026.
- The **second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services**, which will be finalized for consideration by the Plenary in 2028. It is expected to be similar in scope to the first IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services but will also assess progress towards the achievement of the global targets and goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and of relevant Sustainable Development Goals.⁸ It will also support governments and other actors in implementing the objectives of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. The first external review of the assessment is planned for June to August 2026.

The Plenary, at IPBES 13, is expected to decide on future work of IPBES, including new assessments and other deliverables, and work on building capacity, strengthening the knowledge foundations and supporting policy, including institutional arrangements to support the work and related terms of reference. The IPBES Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will conduct a comprehensive intersessional process to develop a proposal for consideration of the Plenary at IPBES 13.⁹

The IPBES Secretariat will bring any opportunities to participate in the external reviews of draft assessments and proposals to the attention of the IPCC Secretariat for dissemination.

II. Engagement with IPCC

As reported to IPCC 62 and IPCC 63, the IPBES Plenary, in decision IPBES-11/1, addressed IPBES' engagement with IPCC.¹⁰

⁵ Available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/events/ipbes-12-plenary#pills-outcome>

⁶ The scoping report for the assessment is available at: https://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2024-08/decision_10_1_annex_1.pdf

⁷ The scoping report for the assessment is available at: https://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2024-08/decision_10_1_annex_2.pdf

⁸ The scoping report for the assessment is available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/resource-file/105830>

⁹ One input to this process, the report on the prioritization of requests, input and suggestions for additional elements of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030, is available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/resource-file/108669>

¹⁰ The full text of decision IPBES-11/1 is available as part of the report on IPBES 11 at: <https://www.ipbes.net/events/ipbes-11>

As part of the decision, the Plenary invited the IPBES Bureau, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, the relevant task forces of IPBES and the Executive Secretary to exchange information with IPCC on ongoing and planned activities and to share relevant experiences, including through participation in relevant meetings, workshops and side-events, in conformity with the decisions of IPCC and IPBES and within their respective policies and procedures, reaffirming the need for transparency of any activity. Such information exchange has continued regularly through various channels, including through the IPCC and IPBES Chairs, secretariats and experts involved in assessments and work on scenarios and models and on Indigenous and local knowledge informally exchanging relevant experiences and information.

In the same decision, the Plenary had requested the Executive Secretary to issue a call for submissions on existing voluntary collaboration between the IPCC and IPBES communities, and to compile any submissions. The compilation was made available to the IPBES Plenary at IPBES 12 for its information.¹¹

The Plenary had also decided to organize, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, a workshop on biodiversity and climate change in support of the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, making use of recent IPBES assessments and other materials. The Government of Switzerland will host the workshop in Geneva and provide the financial resources necessary to support the travel of eligible participants. As the workshop is intended to support the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, it will be organized following the first external review of the assessment in the second half of 2026. The Plenary invited IPCC to suggest to the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) a list of relevant IPCC experts to participate in the workshop. The Plenary also invited IPCC to consider co-sponsoring the workshop.

According to the IPBES rules of procedure, the Chair of IPCC is an observer to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, along with the chairs of the scientific subsidiary bodies of multilateral agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and representatives of the four UN partners of IPBES (UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, UNDP). In this capacity, the IPCC Chair attended IPBES 12 and addressed the Plenary with an update on relevant work of IPCC. The IPCC Chair will also be invited to attend the 25th meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel to be held from 11 to 15 May 2026 in Bonn, Germany.

¹¹ Available at: <https://www.ipbes.net/resource-file/108368>