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Intergovernmental Platforms and Ecosystem Services Assessments

- MEA, IPBES, UNEP GEO, ...
- To address/inform global and regional issues (SDGs, CBD, ...)
- National Government and Expert involvement
- Global and regional assessments
  - The Americas
  - Europe and Central Asia
  - Asia and the Pacific
  - Africa
- Provide policy relevant information, but not policy-prescriptive advice
- Problem: provide policy relevant information and recommendations without knowing the position from which they are starting.
Aims:

1/ to identify **how national governments are conceptualising nature human-wellbeing relationships**;

2/ to provide a ‘snap shot’ of where and how national governments are **incorporating nature human-wellbeing relationships into national policies**;

3/ to understand how they are **implementing these national policies through programs**; and

4/ to **identify the gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities** nations face when incorporating nature human-wellbeing relationships into national policies and implementing them through programs.

5/ **furthering dialogue and monitoring on national policy uptake and implementation of nature - human wellbeing linkages**.
Survey: IPBES National Delegates and Focal Points

- **Target group:**
  Authorised national government representatives (not a homogenous group).

- **Questions:**
  English - introduction page in five official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish).
  22 questions in 5 parts - reviewed by IPBES experts from different regions and who operate in different roles.
  - Part 1 - respondent’s profile information.
  - Part 2 - national policy inclusion of nature-wellbeing relationships.
  - Part 3 - link between policy inclusion and implementation in practice.
  - Part 4 - explored strength of national policies, programs and strategies and areas for improvement.
  - Part 5 - challenges, needs, gaps and opportunities related to policy uptake and implementation.
responses

- Delegates to seek assistance if knowledge did not span all national policy areas.
- 83 respondents from 54 countries
  - Europe and Central Asia (n=19)
  - Asia and Pacific (n=13)
  - Africa (n=12)
  - Americas (n=10).
- All regions and sub-regions, except for Central Asia.
- Respondents
  - National Focal Points (n=39)
  - National Delegation (n=23);
  - Other (n=9) which included Observers to IPBES, members of national IPBES committees, members of IPBES expert groups or government officials.
- Which policy areas do you work?

Figure: Policy areas respondents across regions were most familiar with.
Europe & Central Asia
Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium (Federal and Flemish level), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
### Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Used / IPBES Region</th>
<th>Ecosystem goods &amp; services</th>
<th>Ecosystem goods &amp; services + Natural resources</th>
<th>Ecosystem goods &amp; services + Natures gifts</th>
<th>Ecosystem goods &amp; services + Nature’s benefits to people</th>
<th>Ecosystem services</th>
<th>Nature’s benefits to people</th>
<th>Total # Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia - Pacific</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Americas</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Total</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Different terms used to describe the relationship between people and nature and the number of countries in each region using them.
Global perspective of the ecosystem services incorporated into national policies

The Americas
Europe and central Asia
Asia Pacific
Africa

TEEB list of ecosystem services, plus others
ES most commonly included by ES category

[Bar chart showing the frequency of different ES categories, with the x-axis representing various categories such as Biodiversity, Recreational and tourism, Genetic resources, Erosion prevention, Educational opportunities, Climate regulation, Water storage and supply, Water regulation, Cultural heritage, Medicinal resources, Genetic pool protection, Spiritual and religious values, Pollution, Water purification, Aesthetics, Modelling extreme events, Biodiversity control, Air quality, Raw materials, Nutrient cycling, Soil formation, Waste treatment, Ornamental resources, Transport infrastructure. The y-axis represents the number of times each category is included. The categories are color-coded: green for Provisioning services, purple for Regulating services, orange for Habitat or supporting services, and blue for Cultural services.]
| Policy Area / Ecosystem Services | Provisioning | Ornamental resources | Raw materials | Food | Genetic resources | Medicinal resources | Transport infrastructure | Regulating | Air quality | Biological control | Climate regulation | Moderating extreme events | Erosion prevention | Soil formation | Waste treatment | Water purification | Water storage & supply | Water regulation | Carbon stocks | Nutritional cycling | Pollination | Cultural | Aesthetics | Cultural heritage | Recreational and tourism | Spiritual and religious values | Habitat | Biodiversity |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
How are these policies being implemented in practice?
what programs have been developed to support these policies and how they are being applied?

- Environmental programs and strategies
  - e.g. Forestry Management Plans and National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans.
  
- Within NBSAPs, there appear to be concrete measures for the implementation of concepts linking nature to human wellbeing.
  - e.g. within the European Union efforts are linked to Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy (European Union, 2011). Under this Action member states are mandated to map and assess the state of ecosystem services in their national territories and several reports have been published to provide guidance on how to do so (European Commission, 2013, 2014).

- Some respondents still seek ways to incorporate such concepts and have started with assessments and valuation projects.

- Others mention the lack of resources to sufficiently and effectively implement such concepts through policies.

- Results illustrate a distinct need for action: only few practice were described by respondents. Respondents referred to NBSAPs but without mentioning specific measures or applications.
  - not aware of practical implementation of such concepts.
  - practice uptake of such concepts has not yet evolved (focus has been more on assessment the current state of nature/biodiversity).
### Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Asia-Pacific</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>The Americas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>regulatory agency capacity;</td>
<td>knowledge of TEEB;</td>
<td>effective integration of values into policy decisions and national accounts;</td>
<td>convincing political relevant authorities;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lack of enforceable regulations;</td>
<td>widening gap rich/poor;</td>
<td>development of inter-regional mapping, database;</td>
<td>uptake by sectors - urban, agriculture, fishing, aquaculture and forest policy and practice;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>budgetary support;</td>
<td>&quot;tragedy of the commons&quot;;</td>
<td>getting more education;</td>
<td>incorporate into EIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the links between ES and biodiversity not well known;</td>
<td>urban development;</td>
<td>mainstreaming the concept and into practice;</td>
<td>improve understanding;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lack of data (baseline, trends, indicators, valuations);</td>
<td>lack of understanding;</td>
<td>lack of expertise;</td>
<td>getting information, methodologies and tools into the hands of the policy makers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low awareness of ES concepts by decision makers and communities;</td>
<td>technical capacity - regulatory mechanisms;</td>
<td>lack of funding;</td>
<td>technical support and training in the use of tools, data and methodology;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inadequate resources for carrying out awareness programmes;</td>
<td>financial resources;</td>
<td>intrinsic values of the goods;</td>
<td>dissemination of information;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>capacity to collect data and information on trends;</td>
<td>enforcement systems;</td>
<td>development of legal obligations;</td>
<td>knowledge of the linkages;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>technical capacity / technology;</td>
<td>facilities for analysing risk assessment;</td>
<td>integration into sectoral strategies, plans and sectoral policies, such as energy, industry, forestry, mining, etc;</td>
<td>many ES are the responsibility of sub-national governments;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sectors collaboration;</td>
<td>inadequate institutional capacity;</td>
<td>better understanding of the values of biodiversity and ES;</td>
<td>coordination across governments is a major challenge with respect to definitions, policies and their implementation;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>political will.</td>
<td>lack of human resources;</td>
<td>data, definitions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Overuse natural resources;
- Weak administrative procedures, framework;
- Weak monitoring - international boundaries;
- Conflict of interest.
- Many ES are the responsibility of sub-national governments;
- Coordination across governments is a major challenge with respect to definitions, policies and their implementation.
### Opportunities

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• constitution and laws support needs of people;</td>
<td>• reform structure and political will of ministry for the environment;</td>
<td>• experts and data could assist capacity building and influence decision-makers opinion;</td>
<td>• an appropriate national legal framework to support the change;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• high political will;</td>
<td>• knowledge exchange (between countries);</td>
<td>• change the paradigm by using the <em>knife for good, not for bad</em>;</td>
<td>• a global context that supports change;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• national vision being developed;</td>
<td>• international organisation cooperation;</td>
<td>• IPBES and MAES are major opportunities at the national level;</td>
<td>• improved understanding of society the link between conservation, protected areas and human welfare;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• national development plan;</td>
<td>• international conventions and platforms (e.g. CBD, IPBES);</td>
<td>• concrete linking of ES to human wellbeing makes the concept easier to understand and communicate;</td>
<td>• democratic and participatory local practices;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• overarching national environmental legislation;</td>
<td>• if the forestry sector changes as recommended above: 1/ the agriculture sector will follow; 2/ changes on the mainland will benefit the agriculture sector in all islands and provinces;</td>
<td>• set of indicators adopted by the Government- conservation and recovery of biodiversity and ecosystems and their services through restoration and development of green infrastructure.</td>
<td>• biodiversity law is under discussion in congress - opportunity to introduce concept of ES and to incorporate in the text of the law methodologies and guidelines to assess it;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Development of a national SD strategy;</td>
<td>• the review of national biodiversity strategies;</td>
<td>• EIA processes;</td>
<td>• EIA processes;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• high institutional willingness;</td>
<td>• better inter-sectoral cooperation;</td>
<td>• the development of models;</td>
<td>• willing partners at the local level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• the concept of ES is important to convince the decision makers if well presented;</td>
<td>• creation of Payments for ES.</td>
<td>• creation of Payments for ES.</td>
<td>• the CBD and Ecosystem Approach in national policies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strengths and Limitations

- English
- Mere glimpse
- Perspectives of a select group of government representatives, from a few governments.
- Respondents have exceptional knowledge on nature – human well-being policy uptake and implementation in their field (e.g. biodiversity), however, their knowledge may be limited on policies outside this field.
- Implementation of national policies usually occurs at scales other than national.
- Survey at an early stage of development of IPBES assessments, hence, information from these assessments were unable to inform or guide this research.
- Outcomes further assist national governments including the IPBES community in directing resources to the challenges, gaps, needs and opportunities.
- the method and the outcomes presented allow for the perspectives of experienced national government representatives to contribute to strengthening the link between science and policy for nature – human well-being relations
Thank you and Questions

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