

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): Opportunities for Science to Inform International Policy on Biodiversity Change



ACES 2014
Crystal City, VA



Panel Members

- Clifford Duke, Ecological Society of America
- Charles Perrings, Arizona State University
- Frank Hawkins, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- James Boyd, Resources for the Future

Background

- Intergovernmental body for compiling and synthesizing assessments of global biodiversity and earth's ecosystems, and the essential services both provide to society.
 - Modeled after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
 - Based on U.S. proposed principles
- Officially established in April 2012

IPBES Objective

- *“...to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development....”*

UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8 (10 October 2011)



How Does IPBES Achieve This Objective?

- **Identifies and prioritizes key scientific information** needed for policymakers
- **Performs regular and timely assessments** of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages
- **Identifies policy-relevant tools** and methodologies
- **Prioritizes key capacity-building needs** to improve the science-policy interface

How is IPBES structured?

Plenary – Decision making body of the Platform

- *Government Members (currently 121) and observers*

Bureau – Overseeing administrative functions

- *10 members (2 from each UN region including Chair and 4 Vice-Chairs)*

Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) – overseeing scientific and technical functions

- *25 members (5 from each UN region, including 2 Co-Chairs and 3 Vice-Chairs) and a number of observers (Bureau, Chairs of MEA scientific bodies, Chair of IPCC)*

ESA Role in IPBES

NSF-supported project to enhance U.S. engagement through:

- organizing sessions at professional society meetings to brief scientists on IPBES
- hosting meetings in Washington to engage a broad group of stakeholders
- Publicizing opportunities to participate
- Recommending expert panel nominees to U.S. government

Current Projects (Examples)

- Thematic assessment of pollinators, pollination and food production
- Scoping for assessment on land degradation and restoration
- Assessment of methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Assessment of tools and methodologies regarding multiple values of biodiversity to human societies

How to Get Involved

- Monitor calls for expert panels at www.ipbes.net (also see www.esa.org/ipbes)
- Get on ESA's mailing list, email to ipbes@esa.org
- Work through other societies and NGOs, e.g. IUCN
- Contact National Focal Point for your country