

Bringing Biodiversity Science to International Policy: IPBES

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What is IPBES?



IPBES-1 (Jan 2013, Bonn)

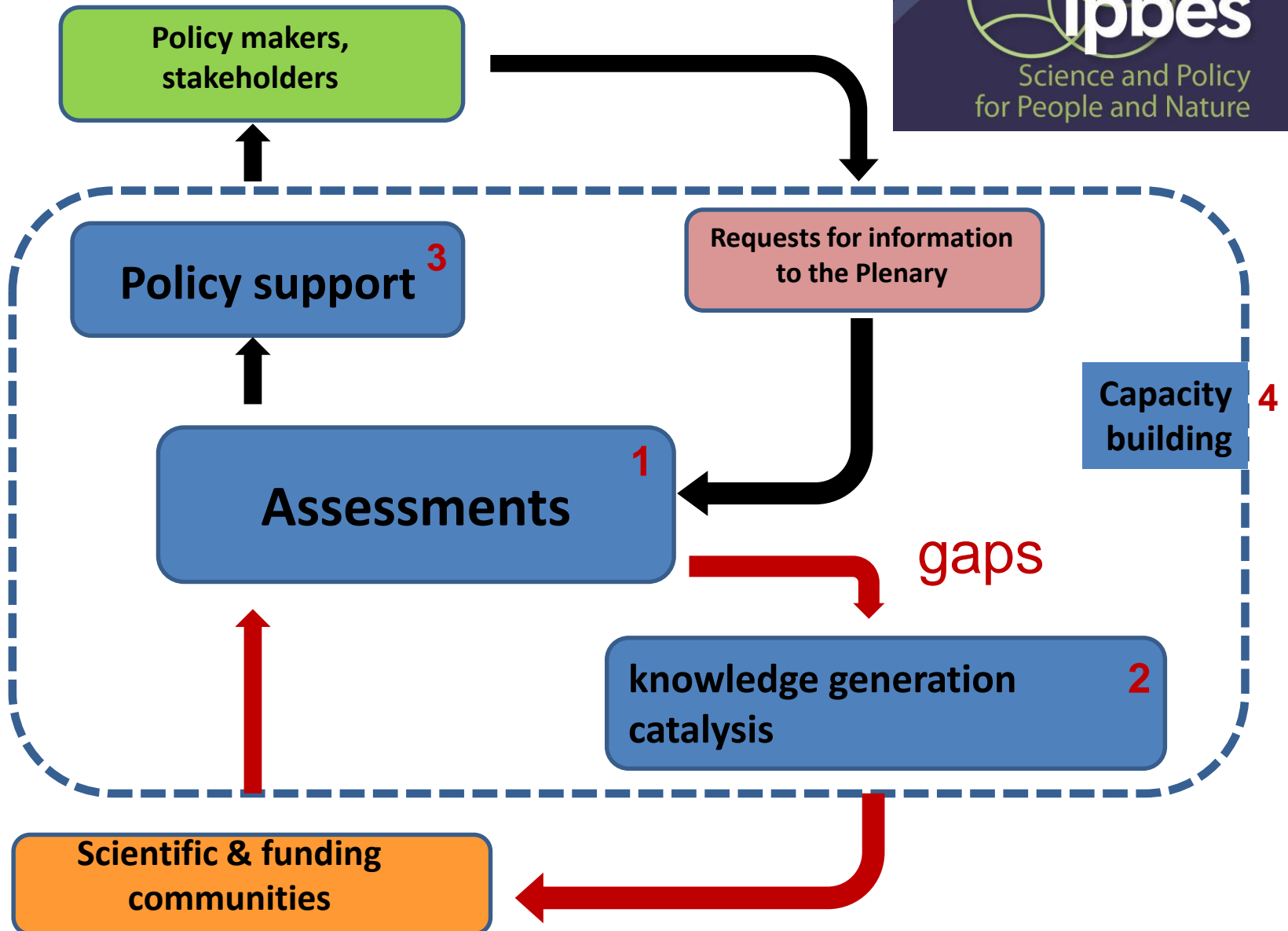
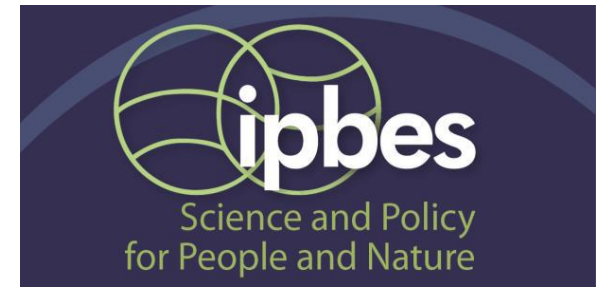


IPBES-2 (Dec 2013, Antalya)

- Overall objective: To provide policy relevant knowledge to inform decision making
- Grew out of a French initiative in 2005
- Finally established in 2012
- 118 Members
- Secretariat hosted in Bonn, Germany



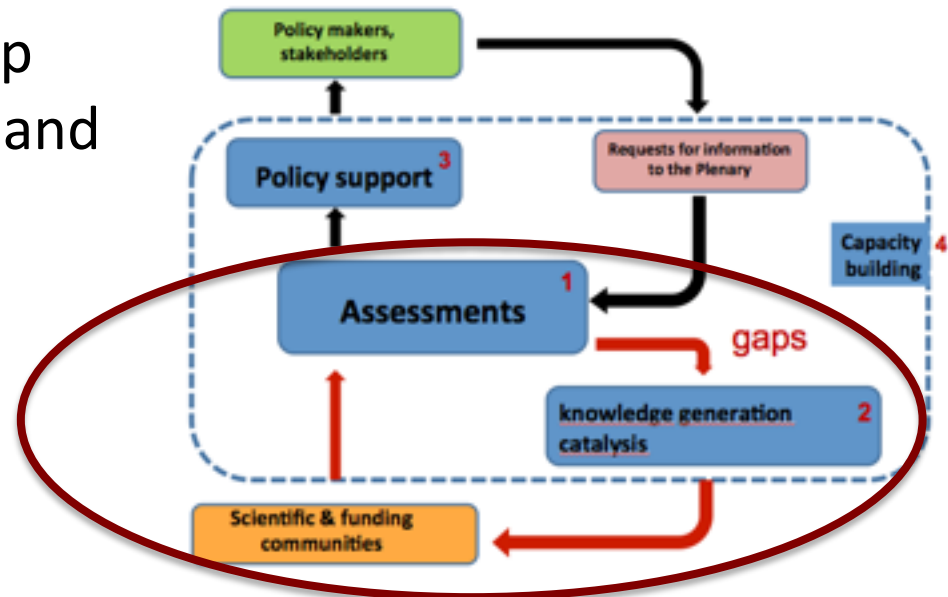
The four functions of IPBES



What does ‘policy support’ mean?



- “Policy support tools and methodologies are approaches and techniques, based on science and other knowledge systems, that can inform and assist the different phases of policy making and implementation at local, national and international levels.”
- Assessments should help evaluate feasible policy and management options



Which policy makers? At what scale?

- National governments
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- The six named 'biodiversity-related conventions'*
- MEAs related to biodiversity and ecosystem services
- United Nations agencies
- Other stakeholders
- governments (Australia, Belarus, China, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, France, Italy, Japan, UK)
- 10 requests from 4 MEAs (CBD, CITES, CMS, UNCCD)
- 20 suggestions from others (e.g. BirdLife International, GBIF, ICSU, IUCN)

* Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; Convention on Migratory Species; Convention on Wetlands of International Importance; the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

• 22 requests from 10

Work program objectives



- **Objective 1:** Strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key IPBES functions
- **Objective 2:** Strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across the sub-regional, regional and global levels
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen the knowledge-policy interface with regard to thematic and methodological issues
- **Objective 4:** Communicate and evaluate IPBES activities, deliverables and findings

Questions to be discussed at IPBES 3 (January 2015)



- How can ecosystems that provide ecosystem services be protected through investments, regulations and management regimes for terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine systems?
- What are the effects of production, consumption and economic development on biodiversity, ecosystem services and their contribution to human wellbeing?
- How can sectoral policies and new policy instruments make use of opportunities arising from the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being?

How might IPBES differ from previous assessments?

- IPBES offers an opportunity to inform policy in ways that differ from other assessments
- plenary sets both the problem and the policy options to be evaluated by working groups
- assessments report status and trends of biodiversity change in each problem area, along with the consequences for ecosystem services at multiple scales
- ‘scenarios’ project consequences of specific policy options for addressing the problem at defined spatial and temporal scales

The challenge for science

- the information required to respond to the plenary spans both the natural and the social sciences
- assessments should help governments, intergovernmental organizations, and multilateral environmental agreements evaluate the relative merits of specific strategies (mitigation, adaptation, and stabilization)
- they should include quantitative projections of the consequences of specific strategies in biophysical and value terms

Acknowledgements, advertisements

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Perrings, C. (2014) *Our Uncommon Heritage: Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Human Wellbeing*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

