GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES:
A REGIONAL 'STOCK–TAKE' OF NATIONAL POLICY
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES CONCEPT

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Help!

Rationale

- **many multi-lateral environmental agreements and programs** (e.g. MEA, IPBES, IPCC, UNEP Global Environment Outlook, CBD, Ramsar)
- biodiversity and ecosystem service **assessments at global and regional scales** > providing policy suggestions (**linking science-policy**)
- repeated every 5 – 10 years
- **no 'stocktake' of what is already being done** by nations or regions
- **no knowledge of how successful nations and regions have already been** in ecosystem services policy development
- **no identifying of challenges, opportunities, needs or gaps** to national policy development – netherlone policy implementation
- **policy suggestions, with no consideration of existing national capacity** (e.g. institutions, policies, programs, individuals), and therefore no knowledge of what level of capacity they are trying to build on
- **no knowledge of whether nations have adopted policy suggestions** derived from previous assessments

Questions arise such as *how to incorporate outcomes of assessments in national policies (downscaling); and implement policies through on-ground programs (downscaling again)?*

This research (presentation) will ...

(1) provide a global and regional overview of how the concept of ecosystem services has been incorporated in different national policy areas;

(2) identify how and to what extent these policies are being implemented in practice; and

(3) determine what the most prominent challenges, needs, gaps and opportunities related to national ecosystem services policy development and implementation are.

We aim to open dialogue about the actual policy-uptake of ecosystem services; and seek to provide recommendations to strengthen the national science-policy-implementation interface.

Method

- IPBES support
- Developed online survey – peer reviewed
- 22 questions sent (September 2015) to registered IPBES National Delegates and/or National Focal Points (encouraged to send to others)
- English – introduction translated into all six official UN languages – respondents encouraged to contact authors if language issues
- Questions related to the incorporation of ecosystem services in national policies and its implementation through programs
- Reminder email (October 2015)
- Follow up at IPBES4 Plenary in Kuala Lumpur (February 2016)

Questions

Q1: 'Nature's benefits' is the term used in this survey. It is recognised however that this term is not always used across nations and programs. IPBES proposes three different terms in their Conceptual Framework - please tick the term your nation is mostly using.

Q2: Which country are you referring to when answering these questions?

Q3: What is your affiliation to IPBES?

Q4: In the table below, the left column provides a list of national government policy areas. In which of these national policy area(s) do you work in? Please tick all relevant areas.

Q5: In the table below, the left column provides the same list of national government policy areas as in Q4. a) In your country, which of these policy area(s) has '[Q1]' been explicitly included at the national level? Please tick all relevant areas in column 1 "Policy Inclusion". If the policy area is not listed, please write it under 'other'. b) Did you consult experts/colleagues from other areas to respond to this question? Please tick the relevant areas in column 2 "Experts consulted from".

Q6/Q7: Consider the national policy area(s) selected in the question before. Choose up to 2 of these policy areas that you are most familiar with. Please write your selection of policy areas in the following fields and use them for the questions that will follow.
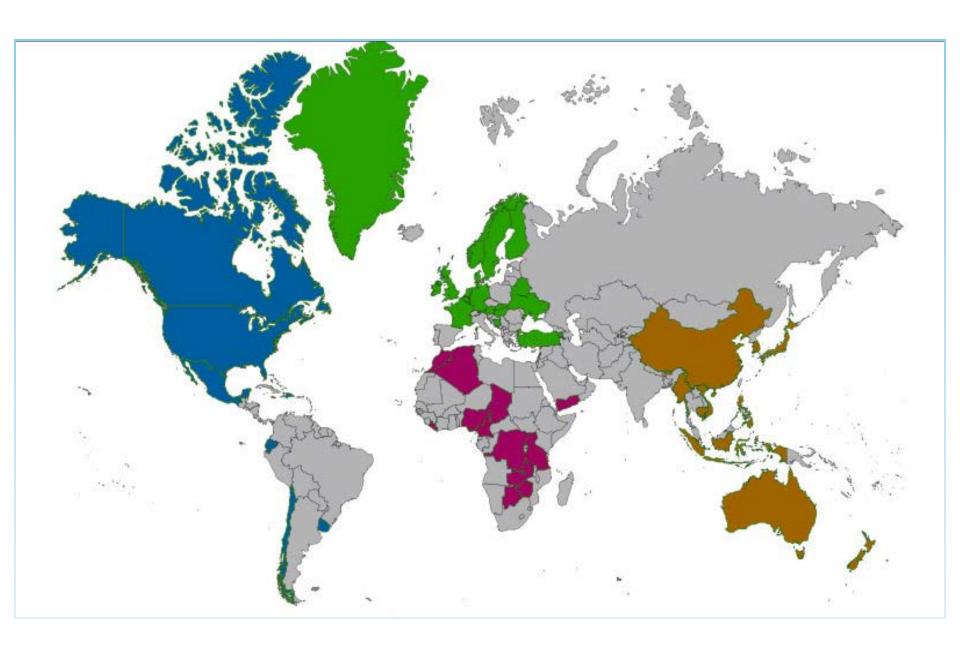
Questions cont'd

Q8: Column 1 provides the list of '[Q1]' used in The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). Which of these '[Q1]' are included under each policy? Underneath each heading, tick all relevant '[Q1]' that are included in that policy. If the '[Q1]' is not listed, please write it under 'other'.

Q9/Q10: Consider the same national policy area(s) selected. How and to what extent has the concept of '[Q1]' been included into these policies? Please describe these inclusions below. (Example: The national energy law is currently being revised – power suppliers need to report on 2 '[Q1]' (aesthetics and air quality) when applying for a construction permit.)

Q11/Q12: Consider again the same national policy area(s) you selected in the questions above. How are these policies being implemented in practice (i.e. what programs have been developed to support these policies and how are they being applied)? (Example: Nature/biodiversity conservation – the concept of '[Q1]' is explicitly written in our national biodiversity strategy. To support this, the government is organizing a TEEB-report. This report will be primarily used for raising awareness within business and industry. This strategy and report is supported by scientists in our country)

Q13/Q14: Consider again the same national policy area(s) you selected in the questions before. In your opinion, how could '[Q1]' concepts be better included to strengthen these policies?
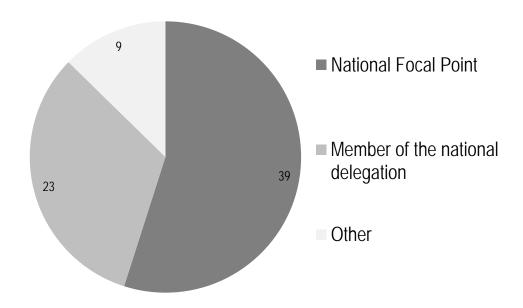
Questions cont'd

Q15/Q16: Consider the programs/strategies discussed in Question 11/12. In your opinion, how could these programs/strategies aimed at implementing the corresponding national policies be improved? Note: By 'improving' we would like to know what steps should be taken in order to improve the on-ground management of '[Q1]' through these programs/strategies so to better meet the objectives of the policies.

Q17/Q18/Q19/Q20: What challenges, needs, gaps and opportunities exist for national policy uptake of '[Q1]' concepts and its implementation in practice? (Example: identifying links between biodiversity and '[Q1]'; better mapping data; improved definitions of '[Q1]'; practical consequences of '[Q1]' policies; political will; more education; indicators)

Q21: Please provide any additional comments to your answers. Any comments on this survey are also welcome.

Q22: Please provide an email address for further correspondence:

IPBES (SUB)REGION	IPBES SIGNATORY NATIONS = 123	SURVEY RESPONDENTS = 54
Africa	**n=37**	**n=12**
East Africa and adjacent islands	Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania	Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania
Southern Africa	Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Central Africa	Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon	Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo
North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia	Algeria, Morocco
West Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea–Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo	Liberia, Nigeria
Asia & Pacific	**n=25**	**n= 13**
Oceania	Australia, Fiji, New Zealand,	Australia, New Zealand
South–East Asia	Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Viet Nam
North–East Asia	China, Japan, Republic of Korea	China, Japan, Republic of Korea
South Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	Bhutan
Western Asia	Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Yemen (Arabian peninsula), Iraq	Lebanon, Yemen
Europe & Central Asia	**n=35**	**n=19**
Central and Western Europe	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Slovakia, Turkey (Group of Central European countries)	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Slovakia, Turkey
	Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Group of Western European countries)	Austria, Belgium (Federal and Flemish level), Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Eastern Europe	Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation	Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine
Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	–
The Americas	**n=26**	**n=10**
North America	Canada, United States of America	Canada, United States of America
Mesoamerica	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama	Mexico
Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago.	Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago
South America	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay
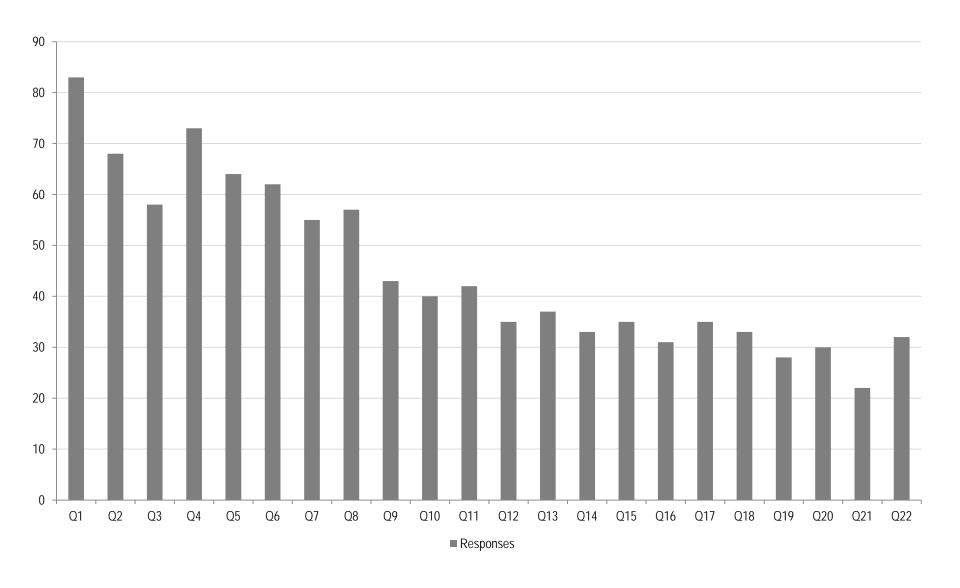
Responders

- (Q4) 84 respondents = 57 nature/biodiversity conversation, 32 PA, 29 NR
- Not all answered all questions
- 68 respondents answered more than the first question
- Received multiple answers per country
- Analysis included all responses irrespective of incomplete survey questions or multiple per country
- No contradicting responses from multiple responses per country - mostly responses concerned different policy areas (therefore helpful to gain a broader insight into national policy-uptake of ecosystem services)

National Focal Point
Member of the national delegation
Other

9
39
23
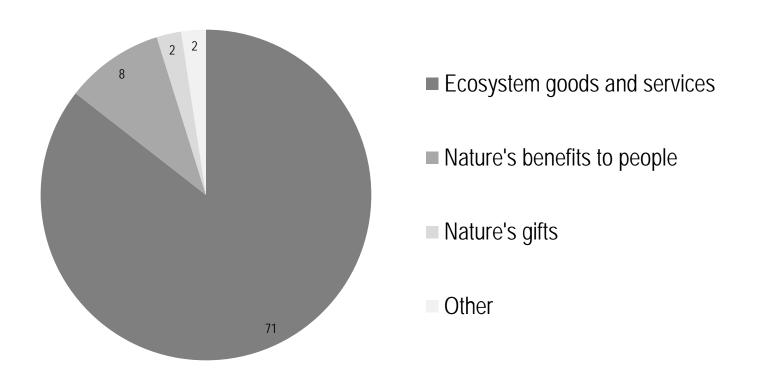
(Q3) What is your affiliation to IPBES?
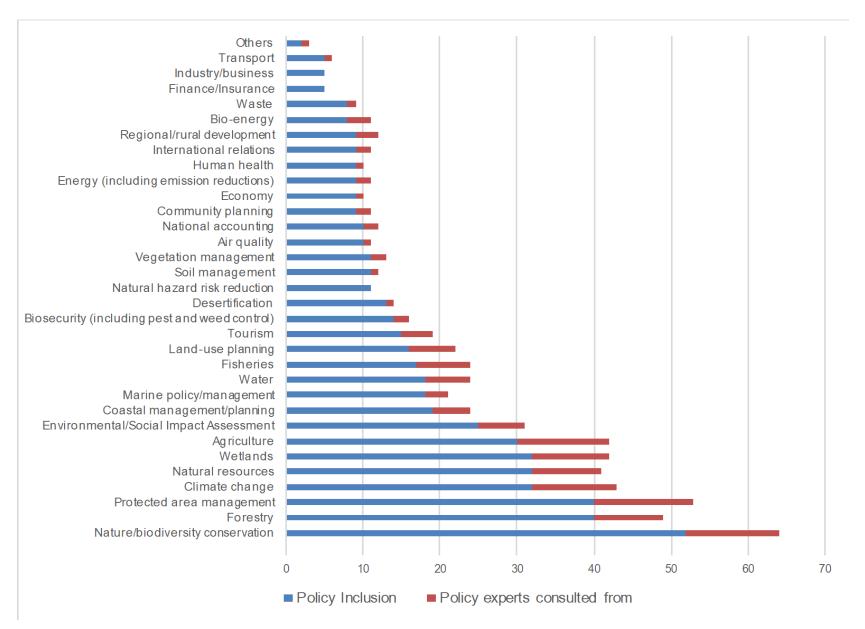
number of responses for each question
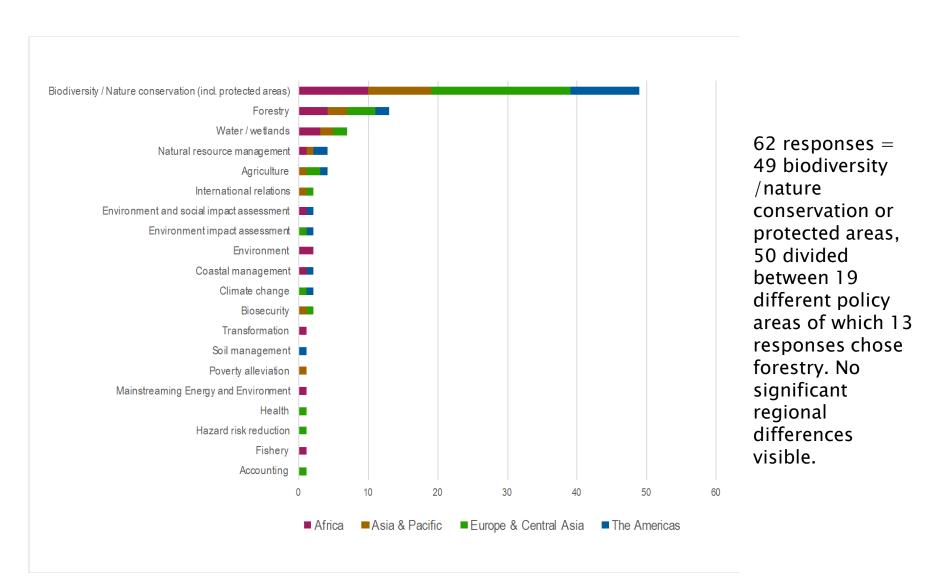
Q1: 'Nature's benefits' is the term used in this survey. It is recognised however that this term is not always used across nations and programs. IPBES proposes three different terms in their Conceptual Framework – please tick the term your nation is mostly using.

- Ecosystem goods and services
- Nature's benefits to people
- Nature's gifts
- Other

Q5: In your country, which of these policy area(s) has '[Q1]' been explicitly included at the national level? Did you consult others to respond to this question?

Q6/Q7: Consider the national policy area(s) selected in the question before. Choose up to 2 of these policy areas that you are most familiar with. Please write your selection of policy areas in the following fields and use them for the questions that will follow.

62 responses = 49 biodiversity /nature conservation or protected areas, 50 divided between 19 different policy areas of which 13 responses chose forestry. No significant regional differences visible.

Q8: Column 1 provides the list of '[Q1]' used in The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). **Which of these '[Q1]' are included under each policy?** Underneath each heading, tick all relevant '[Q1]' that are included in that policy. If the '[Q1]' is not listed, please write it under 'other'.

			Agriculture	Biosecurity	Climate change	Coastal management/planning	Environmental/Social Impact Assessment	Fisheries	Forestry	International relations	National accounting	Natural hazard risk reduction	Nature/ biodiversity conservation	Natural resources	Protected area management	Regional/ rural development	Water	Wetlands	Environment	Forest Resources Management	Ecosystem Conservation and Management	Rural livelihood, poverty alleviation (National Medium Term Priority Framework)	Deforestation analysis and development policy formulation	Agenda For Transformation	Mainstreaming Energy and Environment in National Development Processes	# of times each ecosystem service was included in policies	# of times ecosystem services under each category were included in policies
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	Provisioning	Food	1	1				1	3		1		16	2	3	1		4	1		1			1		36	183
		Raw materials					1	1	5		1		9	2	2			2	1	1						25	
		Genetic resources	1			1	1	1	4	1	1		16	1	7			4	1		1					40	
		Medicinal resources					1		3		1		13	2	1			3	1		1					26	
		Ornamental resources					1	1	3		1		6		1			1	1		1					16	
		Transport infrastructure					1						2	1				3	1	1						9	
		Water storage & supply	1		1		1		3		1		9	2	5		2	4	1		1					31	
	Regulating	Air quality	1				1		3		1		9	1				2	1							19	280
		Biological control	2					1	1				12	1	5			3	1	1						27	
		Climate regulation	1		1	1	1		4		1		14	2	5			4	1		1					37	
		Erosion prevention			1	1	1	1	5				12	1	3		1	4	1	1	1	1	1		1	36	
		Moderating extreme events					1		3		1	1	9		3		1	4	1		1					25	
		Nutrient cycling	1			1			3				5		1			4	1							17	
		Pollination	1				1		2	1	1		12		1			3	1		1					24	
		Soil formation							4		1		6	2	1			1	1		1		1			18	
		Water regulation	1		1				3		1	1	10	2	4		2	5		1	1					32	
		Waste treatment				1	1	1			1		5	1	2			3	1							18	
		Water purification	1					1	3		1		9	1	3		2	4	1		1					27	
	Cultural	Aesthetics	1				1	1	6				9	1	2			2	1		1					26	223
		Biodiversity	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	1			16	2	8	1		5	1	1	1	1	1		1	52	
		Cultural heritage	1				1		2	1	1		10	1	6			4	1	1	1	1	1			32	
		Educational opportunities				1		1	6	1			14	2	5		1	4	1	1	1					38	
		Recreational and tourism	1		1	1	1	1	6		1		18	2	7	1		4	1		1				1	47	
		Spiritual and religious values					1		3	1	1		11	2	4			3	1		1					28	
	Habitat	Gene pool protection	1					1	3				14	1	6			3	1		1					31	31
		Carbon stocks							1																	1	
		# of times an ecosystem services was included in each policy	17	2	7	8	17	13	85	6	18	2	266	32	85	1	11	83	23	10	21	3	4	1	3		

Q9/Q10: How and to what extent has the concept of '[Q1]' been included into these policies? Please describe these inclusions below.

Q11/Q12: How are these policies being implemented in practice (i.e. what programs have been developed to support these policies and how are they being applied)?

Q13/Q14: Consider again the same national policy area(s) you selected in the questions before. In your opinion, how could '[Q1]' concepts be better included to strengthen these policies?

Q15/Q16: Consider the programs/strategies discussed in Question 11/12. In your opinion, how could these programs/strategies aimed at implementing the corresponding national policies be improved?

Q13/Q14: Consider again the same national policy area(s) you selected in the questions before. In your opinion, how could '[Q1]' concepts be better included to strengthen these policies?

- More need to be done in terms of conservation and protection of biodiversity as well as alternative livelihood
- Practical application requires further work
- Adaptation and review of national laws
- Should serve as basis for economic instruments: develop incentive measures; review budgets; enforce penalties etc.
- The values of biodiversity and protected areas should be assessed, integrated into national planning
- A compensation program should be developed
- Awareness programs for the national decision makers on the benefits of the ecosystem goods and services how can strengthen the national polices.
- Need practical information and tools for implementing the concepts, particularly around spatial planning and modelling with regard to management actions.
- Strengthen Institutional capacities
- Ecosystem goods and services should be tagged to payment of ecosystem services
- Biodiversity contribution to GDP needs to be included in national accounting
- It should be a part of Development Plans
- Through more information sharing and capacity building

Q17/Q18/Q19/Q20: What **challenges**, needs, gaps and **opportunities** exist for national policy uptake of '[Q1]' concepts and its implementation in practice?

Challenges

Africa	Asia Pacific	Europe and Central Asia	The Americas
Lack of awareness of concept	Capacity – lack of technical skills, human and financial resources	Lack of integration of values in decision making	Getting buy-in at the highest level
Data and information (mapping)	Conflict of interest	Integration of ecosystem services into sectoral strategies, plans and sectoral policies	Link social, economic and environmental aspects into one al strategy
Lack of finances for awareness raising	Huge demands for economic development	Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services	Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services
Lack of knowledge of the linkages	Insufficient enforcement	Data and information	Persuading institutions to financially support
Weak legal framework (including lack of synergy)	Lack of coordination and integration across policies	Definitions	Synergies among agencies
Lack of incentives	Getting agreement on the concept		Education and awareness
Baseline and trend data and indicators	Weak monitoring		Dissemination of information
Political will	International boundaries		

Opportunities

Africa	Asia Pacific	Europe and Central Asia	The Americas
High institutional willingness	Ministry reform structure and political will	Large number of scientists	Involvement of financial institutions
Forest goods and services are of high value	Knowledge exchange . – international organization cooperation; conventions	International organization cooperation; conventions	International organization cooperation; conventions
Payments for ecosystem services	ES can be a very powerful and engaging conceptual framework	Payments for ecosystem services	Learning from experiences in other countries
High political will	Conflict	Change the paradigm by using the knife for good, not for bad.	Local level partnerships
National development Plans	Biodiversity richness, investment for biodiversity conservation	Inter-sectoral cooperation	Inter-sectoral cooperation
Donor support			Endangered species profiling

Research Strengths and Limitations

- **Language** barriers
- Verification of answers (**are the responses true ?**)
- Reliability of the respondents (does the respondent **miss "important" information?**)
- IPBES National Delegates and Focal Points tend to be **experts on "biodiversity" or "nature protection"**, so main focus of the responses – but this also shows the lack of integrated policy making at the national level
- We don't know whether the **respondents work** for ministries, agencies or other institutions
- The **position and roles of respondents is variable** (e.g. heads of delegation or National Focal Points could be policy developers or policy facilitators)
- **Tricky qualification!** What do they mean exactly ? Require interpretation.
- **Independent** research
- **Large number of responses**
- **Using IPBES National Delegates**

Conclusion and way forward

▸ We argue that until now the focus has been on "natural science" rather than "policy".

▸ We recognise IPBES Operating Principle no. 5 – that IPBES should "provide policy relevant information, but not policy-prescriptive advice".

▸ But policy relevance cannot be simply created or easily assessed, even by using a conceptual framework that connects nature and people.

▸ Platforms like IPBES produce "global environmental knowledge" but downscaling this kind of knowledge for national or local policies remains difficult.

▸ Compare results against outcomes of assessments and programs – useful to see how nations are meeting obligations under MEAs, addressing SDGs, adopting policy suggestions etc

▸ Need to continue research and repeat every 5-10 years to assess national, regional and global progress

▸ Groundtruth with researchers/practitioners

Acknowledgements

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- Those who reviewed draft survey
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- IPBES National Delegates and Focal Points who participated in the survey

Thank You
Questions, advice and feedback?

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