



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.18.2

8 June 2023

Original: English

14th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12 – 17 February 2024
Agenda Item 18.2

**COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress on the implementation of Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP13) and Decisions 13.12 and 13.13 with regard to the cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The document also proposes amendments to Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP13), the deletion of Decisions 13.11 - 13.13 *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS*, and the adoption of new Decisions.

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its 13th meeting (COP13, 2020), reaffirmed the importance of engagement and cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) through the adoption of [CMS Resolution 10.8 \(Rev.COP13\) Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\) and CMS](#).
2. [CMS Decision 13.12-13 Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\) and CMS](#) also provides specific mandates to the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to engage in relevant IPBES processes:

13.12 Directed to the Scientific Council

The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to engage in relevant scoping processes and review of drafts of the IPBES thematic assessments adopted by IPBES-7 Plenary with a view to ensure that elements of connectivity are integrated.

13.13 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat is requested to: a) support the Scientific Council in engaging in relevant scoping processes of the new IPBES thematic assessments adopted by IPBES-7 Plenary; b) promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme by IPBES-9 Plenary in 2022; c) report to the Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.

Engagement of the Scientific Council and the Secretariat in relevant IPBES processes

3. The Secretariat has supported the engagement of members of the Scientific Council in the external review of drafts of relevant thematic and methodological assessments and other IPBES deliverables by regularly monitoring the IPBES calendar and bringing opportunities to provide input to the attention of the members of the Scientific Council. The Secretariat has also endeavoured to promote the participation of experts from the CMS constituency in working groups established for the scoping and drafting of assessments of particular interest to CMS, though these efforts have not been successful so far.
4. The Chair of the CMS Scientific Council is a permanent observer of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), and is invited to all of its meetings. When the Chair cannot attend, the Secretariat is accepted as a substitute. Since COP13, six meetings of the MEP and of the IPBES Bureau¹ have taken place: the first one was attended by the Secretariat, as the Chair had not yet been elected at that time; the others were attended by the Chair, supported by the Secretariat. The main input solicited from observers are reports on the consideration of IPBES deliverables by the respective organization.
5. The Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council, at its 5th meeting (ScC-SC5, online, 28 June–9 July 2021), and as part of its discussion on its programme of work, reviewed its cooperation with IPBES, and agreed to continue its engagement with IPBES on a similar level as in recent years.

¹ The Bureau comprises the IPBES Chair, four Vice-Chairs and five additional officers who oversee the administrative functions of IPBES.

6. With specific reference to the mandate of Decision 13.12 and Decision 13.13 a), the CMS COP-appointed Councillor on Connectivity and the Secretariat contributed to the scoping processes of the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (Nexus Assessment) and of the thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity (Transformative Change Assessment), and provided recommendations..
7. The scoping reports for the Nexus Assessment and the Transformative Change Assessment were finalized and adopted by the IPBES Plenary at its 8th session (June 2021). The first and second author meetings of both assessments took place in May 2022 and mid-2023 respectively.
8. The Secretariat provided written comments to the drafts submitted for review for the Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species, The Secretariat drew the attention of Parties and stakeholders to the finalization of the assessment and some elements of it of relevance to CMS through a news release published on the CMS website.
9. The CMS Standing Committee, at its 53rd meeting (StC53, Bonn, 19 – 20 October 2022), reviewed and took note of progress on CMS cooperation with IPBES.

Promotion of the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme

10. The IPBES Plenary, at its 7th session in 2019 (IPBES-7), received several requests, inputs and suggestions for an **assessment on the theme of connectivity**. A request for an assessment on connectivity conservation was jointly submitted by the Secretariat of CMS, on behalf of all its Agreements, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC), Secretariat to the World Heritage Convention. A complementary proposal was submitted by the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
11. In prioritizing the requests received for new assessments as part of the second rolling programme of work, IPBES-7 decided to defer consideration of the assessment on connectivity to IPBES-9 ([Decision 7.1](#) paragraph 8) which was held on 3-9 July 2022.
12. The IPBES-9 pre-session document concerning additional elements of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030 proposed that the Plenary consider postponing its consideration of the assessment to its tenth session (IPBES-10), together with the request for a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services and any further requests, inputs and suggestions which may be received by then ([IPBES/9/12 Requests, input and suggestions for additional elements of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030](#)).
13. Through [Notification 2022/009 IPBES-9: Assessment on Connectivity](#), the Secretariat provided information to CMS Parties and stakeholders on the IPBES-9 meeting. The notification encouraged CMS focal points to liaise with their IPBES counterparts regarding the importance of an assessment on connectivity. It also included additional elements related to a thematic assessment on connectivity complementing those included in document IPBES/9/12, and a proposal for alternative action for consideration by IPBES-9 – i.e., to conduct the assessment on connectivity as a fast-track assessment with only one review period, based on an initial scoping report prepared by the MEP. The full text of the notification can be found [here](#).

14. The CMS Secretariat, together with the UNCCD Secretariat and WHC, jointly submitted a document for IPBES-9 consideration, aimed at complementing the information included in document IPBES/9/12. The document was included in IPBES-9 documentation as information document [IPBES/9/INF/27](#).
15. At IPBES-9, under the relevant agenda item (Item 10 “*Requests, input and suggestions for additional elements of the rolling work programme of the Platform up to 2030*”), the CMS Executive Secretary delivered a joint statement on behalf of the Secretariats of CMS and UNCCD, and WHC, in support of having an assessment on connectivity included by IPBES-9 in the rolling work programme. During the discussion of the item, many IPBES members expressed support for an assessment on connectivity, while others expressed the view that no decision should be taken until IPBES-10, when such an assessment could be considered along with other priorities.
16. The Plenary adopted a decision calling for an initial scoping to be undertaken for an assessment on ecological connectivity prior to IPBES-10. The relevant part (i.e., paragraph 11) of Decision IPBES-9/1: *Implementation of the rolling work programme of the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services up to 2030*, is copied below:

Requests the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and the Bureau to prepare an initial scoping to form the basis of a fast-track assessment on ecological connectivity, with input from relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations, taking into account the draft elements related to a thematic assessment of connectivity outlined in document IPBES/9/12, annex III, as well as the outcomes of the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, for consideration by the Plenary at its tenth session;
17. The 19th meeting of the MEP and IPBES Bureau was held from 27 to 29 September 2022 in Bonn, Germany. The Secretariats of CMS and UNCCD, and WHC prepared a document, [Possible basis for an initial scoping report for a fast-track assessment on ecological connectivity](#), which was reviewed by the Chairs of the CMS Scientific Council and of the CMS Working Group on Connectivity, and submitted to the Secretariat of IPBES to share with the MEP and Bureau as an input to their work on this important topic.
18. The meeting concluded that the MEP and Bureau would conduct a process for reviewing, categorizing and prioritizing all additional requests received for future assessments in time for the consideration of IPBES 10 (28 August -2 September 2023, Bonn, Germany) following a call to be issued by the Secretariat.
19. The 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15, 7–19 December 2022) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes ecological connectivity in Goal A, and Targets 2, 3 and 12. COP15 also adopted other decisions, including a decision on IPBES, in which it requested IPBES to consider a number of assessments, including a fast-track assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity in its rolling work programme at its Plenary in 2023 ([Decision 15/19 and its Annex](#)).
20. The deadline for the submission of additional requests, inputs and suggestions closed on 24 February, and the IPBES Secretariat compiled all the requests received for consideration by the MEP and Bureau at their 20th meeting, which was held online on 28 March-3 April 2023.

21. During the meetings, the MEP and Bureau had a first discussion on the requests received, and subsequently prioritized the requests.
22. The Chair of the CMS Scientific Council attended the 20th meeting of the IPBES MEP and Bureau and gave a presentation highlighting recent and relevant CMS work, and welcoming the CBD request to IPBES-10 to include a fast-track assessment on integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity in its rolling work programme, as maintaining and enhancing ecological connectivity is an essential and integral function of spatial planning. The Chair also pointed out that connectivity goes beyond spatial planning and a separate and dedicated assessment on connectivity as envisioned by IPBES-9 would cover many other important aspects. The Chair reiterated the readiness of the CMS Secretariat and Working Group on Connectivity to support the IPBES work on connectivity.
23. On 5 June 2023, the IPBES Secretariat provided the CMS Secretariat with the initial scoping report for a *methodological* assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity for its input. The CMS Secretariat shared the report with the CMS Scientific Council Working on Connectivity for its expert review, and submitted its comments to the IPBES Secretariat on 12 June. It is the understanding of the CMS Secretariat that the initial scoping of an assessment on spatial planning and connectivity will be presented to IPBES-10, but that no initial scoping for the stand-alone, broader assessment on connectivity called for by IPBES-9 will be presented, based on the outcome of the CBD COP15.

Discussion and analysis

24. IPBES remains an important entity with which the Secretariat and the Scientific Council will continue to engage to ensure that CMS priority elements are addressed in all scoping processes for assessments agreed by IPBES-10, particularly the assessment on ecological connectivity and second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Recommended actions

25. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) provide guidance to the Secretariat with respect to further engagement with IPBES;
 - b) adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 10.8 (Rev. COP13) contained in Annex 1 of this document;
 - c) adopt the draft Decisions as contained in Annex 2 of this document;
 - d) delete Decisions 13.11-13.13.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 10.8 (REV. COP13)

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY
PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES) AND CMS**

NB. Proposed new text to Decisions originating from COP13 is underlined.
Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~.

Recognizing the need for regular and thematic assessments of the status of biodiversity to provide decision-makers with the necessary information basis for adaptive management and to promote the necessary political will for action addressing biodiversity loss in general and the loss of migratory species in particular,

Further recognizing the need to strengthen and improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being through the establishment of a science-policy platform,

Acknowledging the outcomes of the Conference on Biodiversity, Science and Governance held in Paris, in January 2005, highlighting that there is a need for an objective source of information on the status of biodiversity and its impact on ecosystem services and human well-being,

Welcoming the outcome of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting held in Busan, Republic of Korea in June 2010, and recalling the following recommendations:

- a) that an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) should be established that should be scientifically independent, should ensure credibility, relevance and legitimacy, and perform regular and timely assessments on knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their linkages,
- b) that the IPBES Plenary as a decision-making body should be open to participants of all Member States of the United Nations, and regional economic integration organizations as well as for intergovernmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders as observers,
- c) that IPBES should collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environmental agreements,

Recalling that the Standing Committee was briefed on progress on the establishment of the IPBES process by the Secretariat through document CMS/StC37/Inf.7 at its 37th meeting held in Bonn, Germany in November 2010,

Recalling the functions of the Scientific Council as set out in Article VIII of the Convention and as further elaborated in its terms of reference,

Taking note of decision GC.26/6 of the 26th UNEP Governing Council Meeting held in Nairobi in February 2011, endorsing the “Busan Outcome” and, based on resolution GA 65/162 of the United Nations General Assembly, requesting UNEP to convene a plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for IPBES in 2011,

Noting that the biodiversity-related conventions have an important role in setting the global agenda on biodiversity and ecosystem services and that the scientific processes informing policy under each of the conventions may provide useful inputs to the work of IPBES,
Noting also that the work of IPBES at the sub-global level can and should support the implementation of the conventions at the regional and sub-regional levels, strengthening the science-policy interface at these levels,

~~*Taking note* of the outcome of the IPBES 1 Plenary which took place in Nairobi October 2011 to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for the Platform, and of the need to contribute to the development of the IPBES work programme,~~

~~*Taking note also* of the outcome of IPBES 7 Plenary which took place in Paris in May 2019, and which adopted the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030.~~

*The Conference of the Parties to the
 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Urges* CMS Parties Focal Points and Scientific Councillors to communicate and liaise regularly with the national representatives in the IPBES to ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species, especially those listed under CMS, are being adequately addressed by IPBES;
2. *Calls* on the Standing Committee to participate in the development and implementation of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030 and, based on ~~a proposals~~ from the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, to submit inputs as necessary, in line with the priorities of the Convention;
3. *Invites* IPBES to address science-policy linkages and the need for assessments, policy support, capacity building and knowledge generation relating to the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species of wild animals;
4. *Invites* IPBES to include, to the extent possible, issues relevant to migratory species, including ecological connectivity as well as key threats to migratory species such as overexploitation and habitat destruction and fragmentation, in all ~~relevant future~~ assessments and technical papers;
- ~~5. *Encourages* IPBES 9 Plenary in 2022 to consider the inclusion of the assessment on connectivity in its rolling work programme up to 2030;~~
- ~~6. *Invites* IPBES to provide specific data and analysis on wildlife and on migratory species in future relevant assessments, when relevant and appropriate;~~
- ~~57. *Encourages* Parties and relevant organizations to make funds available to support the four functions of IPBES, namely assessments, policy support, capacity-building and knowledge generation aimed at improving the science-policy interface related to the conservation of migratory species;~~
- ~~68. *Requests* the Scientific Councillors to engage in all relevant processes of IPBES and in the development of new assessments including in their scoping processes, in collaboration with the scientific advisory bodies of other MEAs as appropriate;~~
- ~~79. *Instructs* the Secretariat to maintain cooperative working relationships with IPBES, to participate as appropriate in meetings of the Platform and to report on progress to the Standing Committee, resources permitting.~~

DRAFT DECISIONS

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY
PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES) AND CMS**

NB. Proposed new text to Decisions originating from COP13 is underlined.
Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~.

Directed to Parties

14.AA (13. 11) Parties are requested to:

- a) ~~liaise with IPBES counterparts to promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme by IPBES-9 Plenary in 2022;~~
- b) review the findings of the IPBES ~~global assessments on the importance of connectivity for conservation efforts,~~ and consider their relevance to CMS and how to reflect such findings in their conservation actions at the national level.

Directed to the Scientific Council

14.AA (13. 12) The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of resources, actively engage in relevant scoping processes and review of drafts of the IPBES thematic assessments adopted agreed by the IPBES-710 Plenary, including with respect to the assessment on connectivity and a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a view to ensure that elements of connectivity CMS priority elements are addressed.

Directed to the Secretariat

14.AA (13. 13) The Secretariat is requested to:

- a) support the Scientific Council in engaging in relevant scoping and other processes of the new IPBES thematic assessments adopted agreed by the IPBES-710 Plenary, including with respect to the assessment on connectivity and a second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services,
- b) engage with the IPBES Secretariat to further cooperate on issues of relevance to migratory species ~~promote the inclusion of an assessment on connectivity in the IPBES rolling work programme by IPBES-9 Plenary in 2022;~~
- c) report to the Standing Committee at its 52nd 6th and 57th meetings and to the Conference of Parties at its 14^{5th} meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.