

4th Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation (PESC-4)



***Bringing together biodiversity stakeholders from Europe and
Central Asia in support of the Intergovernmental Platform on
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services***

MEETING REPORT

12-14 June 2017

Centre for Ecological Research, Institute of Ecology and Botany
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Picture on cover by Robert Spaul

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Executive summary

- PESC is a great opportunity for capacity-building across the pan-European region and a wide range of stakeholders, thus enhancing participation to IPBES.
- For countries which are already active in IPBES, PESC is a good forum for exchange of best practices and lessons learned. It creates a momentum on IPBES and can foster new initiatives at the national, regional and international level that build on IPBES work and processes.
- For countries which are not IPBES members, or face issues to engage in IPBES, PESC allows stakeholders to get direct information and updates on IPBES. It generates an incentive for national stakeholders to promote a more active national participation in IPBES.
- One of the greatest achievements of the 4th PESC meeting was to provide time and guidance to National Focal Points (NFPs) and stakeholders to comment on the second order draft of the Europe and Central Asia regional assessment. PESC-4 exceptionally collaborated with the IPBES technical support units for capacity building and for the Europe and Central Asia regional assessment to embed a regional consultation of NFPs on the first draft of the summary for policymakers.
- Despite the variety of stakeholders profiles and levels of knowledge on IPBES, the content of the meeting can feed all participants' needs and expectations through the organisation of comprehensive sessions. Participants particularly appreciate the opportunity to share countries' and institutions' experience, highlighting the need to demonstrate concrete actions to engage in IPBES work. In the coming years, sharing experience on the uptake and impact of IPBES assessments will be crucial.

Introduction

The 4th Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation (PESC-4) was held in the Botanical Garden of Vácrátót, Hungary, from 12 to 14 June 2017. It gathered about 60 participants, coming from more than 30 countries of Europe and Central Asia (the geographic scope of the IPBES regional assessment). With 19 representatives of governments and 42 stakeholders (of which 22 were researchers and 20 were other stakeholders, such as NGOs or funding agencies), PESC-4 brought together decision-makers and knowledge-holders from various fields. One of the key aims of the meeting was to organize consultations and build capacity for the review process of the second order draft of the IPBES regional assessment for Europe and Central Asia (ECA), running from 1 May to 26 June 2017. This type of consultation took place in previous editions of PESC on a wide range of documents, including the first order draft of the regional assessment. With the support of the co-chairs and coordinating lead authors of the ECA assessment explaining the drafting process and the key points of the assessment's chapters, 186 comments were prepared by the breakout groups on Chapters 2 to 6. IPBES technical support units (TSUs) for capacity-building and for the ECA regional assessment also held a regional dialogue meeting between National Focal Points (NFPs) and authors parallel to the breakout group sessions (with stakeholders).

Background

"The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) aims at strengthening capacity for **the effective use of science in decision-making at all levels**" (www.ipbes.net). IPBES was established as a global science-policy interface in 2012 and it has the tasks to "synthesize, review, assess and critically evaluate relevant information and knowledge generated worldwide by governments, academia, scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous communities" (ibid.). Its first two assessments, the thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination and food security and the methodological assessment on scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services, were approved in 2016 during IPBES 4th plenary session, as well as their summaries for policymakers (SPM). IPBES expert groups are still working on the four regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the assessment on land degradation and restoration, due in 2018, and on the global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services due in 2019.

To implement the IPBES work programme and to make it relevant also for the regional, national and/or local level, at which many biodiversity-related problems need to be tackled, **the global IPBES mechanism needs national and regional structures to build upon**. Such structures can spread information about IPBES, enrich IPBES negotiations by feeding in diverse opinions, support the identification of experts relevant to the IPBES assessments, disseminate IPBES products, and help to meet urgent capacity-building and data needs.

The Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation was put in place for the first time in 2013. It was organised by NeFo, the Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany,

supported by several other European platforms for biodiversity. They have been organising PESCs together on a regular basis, this year 2017 being the 4th edition of PESC. It was organised by the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB), the Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Centre for Ecological Research (MTA-ÖK) and the Network Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany (NeFo), in collaboration with the IPBES technical support units (TSU) for capacity-building and for the assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services of Europe and Central Asia, the Belgium Biodiversity Platform and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum.

Summary of the PESC-4 meeting

PESC-4 objectives were as follows:

1. Promote stakeholders' engagement in IPBES work

- by building capacities to provide inputs to IPBES deliverables
- by sharing experiences on how to coordinate national biodiversity work to promote it in the context of IPBES

2. Strengthen collaboration on biodiversity research at the pan-European level, including central Asia

- by providing room for discussion, meeting and networking between all stakeholders
- by presenting and fostering research initiatives aiming to fill gaps identified in the scenarios and models and the pollination assessment
- by promoting the engagement of ILK and social science experts in IPBES work

3. Contribute to the preparation of IPBES products and develop capacities on the review process of IPBES reports

- by promoting dialogue on the second order draft (SOD) and the first draft of the summary for policy makers (SPM) of the regional assessment for Europe and Central Asia (ECA) to facilitate the provision of review comments by experts and governments during the external review phase
- by developing capacities related to IPBES assessment process and the process of approval and acceptance at IPBES-6
- by providing guidance to enhance stakeholders' engagement in IPBES

An assessment of PESC-4 achievements in regards to these objectives can be found in Appendix I. The programme of the meeting can be found in Appendix II.

Day 1: Understanding IPBES, the ECA assessment and its review process

Day 1 was an in-depth introduction to the ECA assessment, its summary for policymakers and the chapters, put in the broader framework of IPBES work programme, products and procedures for the preparation of deliverables. This allowed the break-out groups to start their work just after, having a clear view of their mission and objectives as reviewers of the second order draft (SOD). Stakeholders divided themselves into two groups to review and comment the technical chapters of the assessment. The third group, with government

representatives who were for the larger part IPBES national focal points (NFPs) but also representatives of countries that are not IPBES members yet, attended a specific dialogue meeting between NFPs and the assessment's authors, organised by IPBES TSUs for capacity building and for the ECA assessment.

András Báldi, Director of the Institute of Ecology and Botany of the Hungarian Centre for Ecological Research (MTA-ÖK), welcomed participants at the botanical garden. MTA-ÖK works on science to inform policies on the environment, at the national, European and international level. Very active at IPBES, Hungary has been a member of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) since the establishment of the Platform. After András himself and György Pataki, Katalin Török is now member of the MEP as one of the two representatives for Eastern Europe. This position gives them a leading role in encouraging more experts from the larger Eastern European region to get involved in IPBES, including by organising and hosting IPBES-related meetings.

Felice van der Plaats (IPBES Secretariat), gave an introduction to IPBES and its current work programme. She encouraged countries that are not members yet, but were represented at PESC-4, to join the Platform. She explained that IPBES aims to provide decision-makers (at a government or stakeholder level) with policy and management options based on sound science, in order to enhance governance on biodiversity. To do so, IPBES harnesses expertise from everywhere and everyone. Its assessments therefore include knowledge from communities of practice or indigenous and local communities as well as academic and scientific knowledge. IPBES does not undertake new research but works with knowledge that was produced already.



The Botanical Garden in Vácrtót (photo by Olesya Petrovitch)

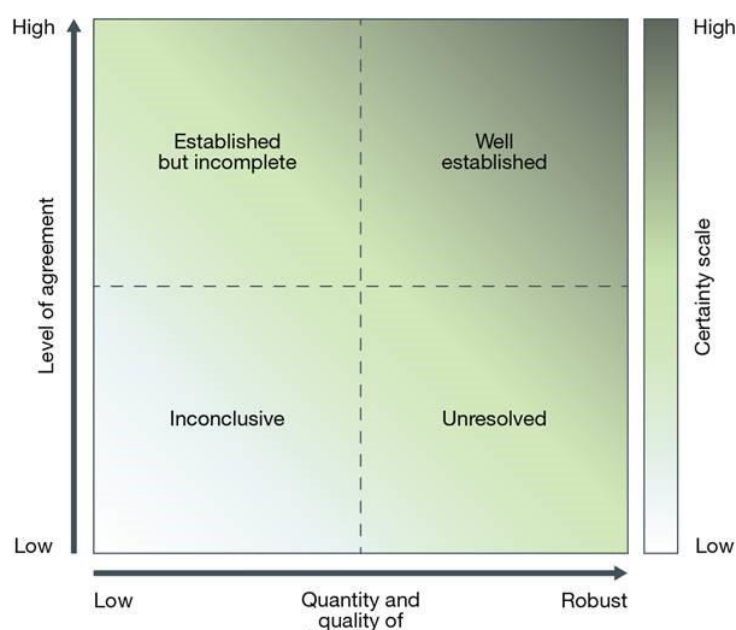
Besides the ECA assessment, three other regional assessments are ongoing and they will all feed into a global assessment due 2019. IPBES also produces thematic assessments: the pollination assessment was released in 2016 while the land degradation and restoration is expected for 2018, at the same time as the regional assessments. Methodological assessments are also key to support IPBES work: the assessments on scenarios and models, which was completed in 2016, was fundamental to several parts of the

ECA assessment, especially Chapter 5 which presents future interactions between nature and society. Felice reminded participants of the governance process at IPBES: the decision-making body is the Plenary, which gathers once a year and take decisions such as voting the budget and adopting the assessments' SPMs. Stakeholders can be observers during Plenary sessions once they got accreditation. They can also freely engage into IPBES process by providing review comments, as contributors and target audience of IPBES products. All comments and their response by the authors will be published on IPBES website after the assessment is completed.

Markus Fischer (University of Bern) and **Mark Rounsevell** (University of Edinburgh), co-chairs of the ECA assessment, presented the work achieved so far by the expert group (about 100 experts nominated by governments and stakeholders and 130 contributing authors who were directly contacted by the experts), and the use of the review process for stakeholders, who are encouraged to contribute as end users of the assessment. The co-chairs highlighted that the second and last round for review of the technical chapters and first round for review of the SPM is a great opportunity for them to get input to the assessment. They reminded participants that an IPBES assessment is a critical evaluation of the state of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Interactions of the assessment authors with governments and stakeholders as part of the review process and in Plenary aims to ensure the legitimacy, relevance and credibility of the assessments and their findings.

The ECA assessment is divided into six chapters. It is based on the scoping report for the regional assessments which was developed during a one-year period by a dedicated expert group at IPBES. Once the scoping is approved, the assessment is a three-year process, which includes two review rounds: in year 1 by the peers and in year 2 (2017) by experts, governments and stakeholders. The task assigned to the expert group by the Plenary via the scoping document was to assess the status, trends and future scenarios of biodiversity, to look at the impact of terrestrial, marine and freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem services on a good quality of life, with an emphasis on the policy aspects. On top of the general outline which is common to all regions, the ECA assessment had to specifically address how ecosystems providing services can be protected and what the effects of production, consumption and economic development are on biodiversity and human well-being, taking into account remote connections and the impact abroad of ECA region consumption. The ECA assessment is feeding into the global assessment, due in 2019, and the ECA assessment also articulates with the other regional and thematic assessments, while getting support from the expert groups dealing with methodological issues (scenarios and models, multiple conceptualisations of values, ILK...). **The expectations from the SOD review process are typically comments on the relevance of the assessment and on substantive issues such as the scientific information included.**

About the summary for policymakers (SPM), Mark highlighted that despite its name, the target audience is all decision-makers, including non-governmental ones (i.e. “stakeholders” in IPBES language). The format of the SPM is to convey a limited number of high-level messages, tailored to the target readers. The key messages consist of one sentence in bold, followed by a short explanation. The messages are the top of a hierarchical construction, building on the



Matrix used at IPBES to indicate the confidence level for findings

executive summaries of the chapters, themselves building on the chapters' content. Each key message can therefore be tracked down to the relevant chapter sections indicated into brackets (e.g. 6.5.2 means go to section 5.2 of Chapter 6 for more information). The messages of the SPM are policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive: they provide governments with a range of issues, and options to address them, but do not direct government's action by setting priorities or picking a specific measure. The key messages rely on evidence, using a standard approach to indicate the confidence level for each piece of evidence. The confidence level is determined by judgement of IPBES authors, guided by a matrix of the quantity and quality of the evidence. As part of the review process, authors are also seeking feedback on whether their judgements on confidence is appropriate.

The ECA assessment covers four subregions: Western Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, so the key messages are broken down for each subregion when relevant. 2017 is the first review of the SPM, while the technical chapters are at a much more advanced stage since they went through several rounds of internal and external review already. **One of the key objective of the SPM review here is for reviewer to indicate whether the way evidence is displayed in the SPM is usable for the work of the decision-makers.**

Answering a question about the use of the words "Nature's contributions to people (NCPs)" in the IPBES assessment and SPM, with which decision-makers are not familiar, Markus specified that in IPBES language, NCP means ecosystem services but wording was adopted to reflect better other conceptualisations of nature outside Europe. This is a standardized term now used across all IPBES assessment and a note in the SPM will be added to explain that.

Andrew Church (University of Brighton), **Piero Visconti** (University College London), **Thomas Hahn** (Stockholm Resilience Centre), Nick Zimmermann (Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL), **Jennifer Hauck** (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research) and **Camilla Sandstroem** (Umeå University), coordinating lead authors (CLAs) for Chapter 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the ECA assessment, then gave an in-depth presentation of each chapter, covering key content and structure, along with the challenges they faced and the main issues that they hope to address through the review process. They also explained the interrelationships between chapters.

Day 1-2: Review of the ECA assessment

After this first series of presentations, participants broke into three groups, which worked on the ECA assessment SPM and chapters for five hours each, spread across Day 1 and 2.

The regional dialogue on the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) was composed of decision-makers who were representatives of 18 different countries. It was chaired by the ECA co-chairs and the ECA Bureau member Senka Barudanovic, supported by ECA CLAs and with the contribution of the IPBES TSU for capacity-building and for the ECA regional assessment. This session focused on looking at the policy-relevance of the SPM and how to capture policy-relevant information from the chapters. Indeed, the SPM builds on the technical chapters of the assessment to draw policy-relevant key messages from them. The group provided feedback on the SPM and made suggestions to make the document

more targeted to policy-makers. This session also introduced the adoption process of the SPM which will take place at IPBES 6th plenary session and the outreach strategy for the release of the assessment to the decision-makers.

Two groups of stakeholders representing research institutions, NGOs and organisations specifically working at the science-policy interface for biodiversity worked on Chapters 2-4 and 5-6, respectively. Participants had been invited to prepare comments on specific chapters ahead of the meeting and they presented their comments to the group, leading to discussions among participants to make the comments most concise and useful for IPBES authors to address. The sessions were facilitated by staff from the partners organising PESC-4: Jonas Geschke (NeFo) and Eva Spehn (Swiss Academy of Science) for Chapters 2 and 3, Rainer Schliep (NeFo) and Kristina Raab (NeFo) for Chapter 4, Marie-Lucie Susini (Belgian Biodiversity Platform) and Agnès Hallosserie (FRB) for Chapters 5 and 6. CLAs participating to PESC-4 attended the discussions on their respective chapters as support persons. Participants' comments addressed issues such as knowledge gaps, mostly geographic (e.g. for the Balkan and Caucasus regions) and several ecosystem- or taxa-related gaps (e.g. marine ecosystems, reptiles). Many participants sent specific references (published articles or reports) during the week after the meeting, to complement their comments and provide relevant material to address the gaps they identified. The other type of comments addressed the ease of reading the chapter, highlighting when information was too detailed or too vague, text inconsistencies, length and depth balance across chapters' subsections and when possible suggesting a way forward. There was also some discussion on the readability and relevance of the figures (e.g. maps and diagrams) displayed in the SPM. Comments thus collected were crosschecked by facilitators and sent to participants for a final validation before being sent to IPBES TSU for the ECA assessment on behalf of PESC-4 participants, by the given deadline of 26 of June. 186 comments were submitted.

The general feedback from the three breakout groups was that even if the text is a bit long already, its policy-relevance would increase if key messages were clarified with some concrete examples. Messages could also provide clearer options to decision-makers; this would not make the SPM policy-prescriptive.



Break-out group on Chapter 6 (photo by Rob Spaul)

Discussions in the break-out groups were informal and the authors would not be allowed to address the comments made by participants if they had not been submitted to the IPBES TSU for the ECA assessment, using the template for review comments by the deadline of 26 June 2017. This process was required for transparency purposes, and therefore **all participants were encouraged to prepare and submit additional comments on their own, building on**

their experience and the exchanges having taken place at PESC-4. They were also

encouraged to spread the word around them to increase participation to the review process.

After the reports from breakout groups, countries briefly shared experience on how they organised their governmental review process of the SPM. They all involved external experts from academic background and stakeholder organisations to review the assessment and inform the ministries of the key issues that would need to be commented on as part of the review process. In several cases, a workshop with government representatives and experts was organised by the NFP or a [national platform working on IPBES](#) to gather feedback on the SPM. National leaders of the review process are also in charge of compiling comments and making sure that they are in the required format, and that there is no contradiction between them. In all cases, the NFP does the final validation of the collected comments. Germany indicated that they established a list of criteria to assess the quality of the SPM in a consistent way (e.g. robustness of scientific findings, fit within the scoping document, integration of other IPBES deliverables, relevance for German context etc). Norway reported that the country funds a specific project with the Research Council, dedicated to enlisting national experts to participate in IPBES groups and involving additional experts in the review process.

Day 2: Entry points for stakeholders' involvement in IPBES

When IPBES was created, it emphasized the importance of “encouraging and taking into account (...) inputs and suggestions made by relevant stakeholders, such as other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional scientific organizations, environmental trust funds, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities and the private sector”¹. This can prove challenging since stakeholder groups are sometimes difficult to reach; they may be unfamiliar with IPBES process; and before IPBES was created, there was no work yet on how to include non-scientific knowledge on biodiversity with research results, to take into account all forms of knowledge in IPBES assessments. Day 2 of PES-4 therefore presented some reflections on the topic, highlighting to NFPs the role of stakeholders engagement and to stakeholders the importance of their involvement in IPBES work, and the various entry points available.

Axel Paulsch (Institute for Biodiversity Network e.V.) and **Katja Heubach** (GIZ) gave a presentation on indigenous and local knowledge (ILK). Axel explained that as part of IPBES first work programme, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and a dedicated task force have to explore ways to bring ILK into the IPBES process. Indeed, IPBES is the first initiative to set the ambition to include ILK along with research findings in its work. IPBES has now several instruments which were approved by IPBES members at plenary sessions to frame its work with ILK, such as the procedures and the approach to working with ILK. Given the low number of ILK experts being nominated to participate in IPBES expert groups, a roster of experts of ILK holders and of experts on ILK is being set up at IPBES. Dialogue workshops were organised to integrate ILK into several IPBES assessments (such as the pollination and the regional assessments). The approach, adopted in March 2017, indicates that ILK should participate in IPBES assessments from the scoping phase, to synthesizing knowledge from multiple ILK sources, to involving ILK

¹ See *Functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. Available here: <http://www.ipbes.net/policies-and-procedures>

in the review and disseminating results. The approach relies on a participatory mechanism built around a web-platform with discussion forums, results of ILK workshops etc.

Katja then presented a local, concrete project aiming at integrating ILK and practices in a scientific assessment, to develop management options for a protected area in the Philippines. The assessment included a description of the physical environment (mostly from data collected by the local university), the community's practices, and how the practices impact local biodiversity. By involving the community, the project aimed at maintaining the traditional practices, while empowering people by giving them a voice in the protected area's decision process. In accordance with the rules of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC), community Elders designated members of the community to participate in the project, and decided what information held by the community can be used for this project. The joint analysis of results was conducted by the researchers and the ILK persons designated by the Elders, and helped to identify, among others, areas where access should be regulated and a list of species to be protected at different life stages. Results were presented to the management agency for protected areas. Running such a diverse team was challenging, and going through the FPIC process took a large part of the project time. However, the project achieved great success since the protected area management authority now recognizes the validity of ILK knowledge and takes it into account in its management. The community members who participated to this project are now trained to such processes and they can engage with other national ILK processes such as within the CBD. One technical paper on the project's approach was published and the methodology can inspire IPBES work.

Robert Spaul (IPBES Secretariat) and **Laurence Périanin** (IUCN) conducted a session on IPBES stakeholder engagement. It started with a general presentation on opportunities for stakeholders to participate in IPBES, and on the impact-tracking database that IPBES is currently putting in place. Robert first defined who stakeholders are in the IPBES context, i.e. everyone who is not a representative of an IPBES member state. An IPBES stakeholder can be an individual scientist or knowledge holder, an institution, an organization, an observer member state... One participant highlighted how difficult it is to engage with the private sector, for which policy-relevant findings are different depending on the sectors, activities, or business model. Incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by the private sector are also different from those for other stakeholders. IPBES is currently working on a flyer addressing the private sector, but messages will need to be targeted differently for each assessment (e.g. agro-chemicals for pollination). Based on the registry to which any stakeholder can [sign up to](#), IPBES Secretariat conducted a mapping exercise last year, to better know who current IPBES stakeholders are. Results are available [here](#). Stakeholders' engagement is key to supporting IPBES through advocacy for its work and its relevance. It is closely linked to IPBES outreach and impact and ultimately, to the mobilization of resources. There are specific opportunities for stakeholders' engagement in all four areas of work of IPBES, and stakeholders can also contribute at the very beginning of the elaboration of IPBES work programmes by submitting a request on matters that are of key concern to them. Besides supporting IPBES in the preparation of its products, stakeholders have a major role to play after the products are published: they can support the launch at the regional, national or local level, and research stakeholders can support the filling of knowledge gaps identified by IPBES, e.g. when hiring PhD students. Robert presented the communication

strategy developed for the regional assessments and the land degradation and restoration assessment to be accepted by Plenary in March 2018. He highlighted that IPBES efforts will focus heavily on the pre-launch and launch phases, but that after the regional launches a few months after the plenary, IPBES will rely on voluntary contributions from stakeholders to keep disseminating the assessments' findings. Finally, Robert encouraged stakeholders to increase IPBES brand recognition by referring to IPBES in their work and in the media. He called more specifically for support to do media monitoring on IPBES topics in one's country, as the Secretariat faces capacity hurdles to monitoring non-English media. IPBES is also seeking voluntary regional communication partners to translate IPBES press/news releases on social media and repost them through their own networks, in Russian for example.

Laurence then presented the impact-tracking database, "impact" here being the use or influence of IPBES outputs in the world. The database aims at compiling all evidence, in all languages, of the integration of IPBES findings into policies. It will not track real-world change: e.g. it will look at the integration of policies on pollinators but not at the status of pollinator populations. Stakeholders are expected to feed the public database by submitting documents through a form. All evidence submitted will have to make an explicit reference to IPBES work in order to be included in the database. The database will then offer the possibility to be searched, among others, by key word, region, output, or deliverable. One participant noted that the Plenary did not agree to have a monitoring of IPBES impact but Rob explained that this database will not be used to critically assess IPBES impact but for communication and outreach purposes only.

There will be a soft launch of the database towards the end of August 2017, and an official launch during the Stakeholder Day(s) at IPBES-6. Laurence also presented IPBES stakeholder networks who are, as per Plenary decision IPBES-4/4, the structures with which IPBES collaborates. The networks have different communication channels to pass on information between IPBES and the large community of stakeholders. One of them, named "IPBES Stakeholder Network", is co-organiser of the Stakeholder Days taking place one or two days before the opening of the plenary. This event is open to all, including government representatives. There will soon be a call for volunteers who wish to join the organizing team for Stakeholder Days at IPBES-6, and Laurence encouraged anyone interested in such an experience to join. Typically, half a day is dedicated to newcomers, to raise their awareness on IPBES. Stakeholder Days also include updates on IPBES work and breakout groups on topics suggested by stakeholders. At IPBES-5, there was also an opportunity for stakeholders to showcase their work relevant for IPBES.



Interactive exercise on stakeholders' engagement at IPBES (photo by Agnès Hallosserie)

Participants then broke into 3 groups and had to address the following questions:

- Question 1: According to you, what would be the best « non-financial » way to encourage stakeholders from ECA to engage/engage more with IPBES? The information provided will be used to promote engagement in IPBES to ECA stakeholders.
- Question 2: According to your experience, which specific parts of IPBES stakeholder engagement, as currently implemented, work best and worst – and why? Stakeholders' experiences reported will be used to orient, review or modify parts of IPBES stakeholder engagement.
- Question 3: In ECA (EE in the IPBES Survey [IPBES/5/INF/16](#)) the private sector, science networks and ILK groups have been identified as priority gaps in the IPBES stakeholder registry – please suggest three or more organizations/groups from your network of contacts that you believe would be good prospects to recruit as IPBES stakeholders. The list of stakeholders provided will be used in a specific outreach campaign launched to fill gaps identified in IPBES registry.

Information provided by stakeholders is documented in the PowerPoint file available in the documentation section on the conference webpage.

Day 3: IPBES as a catalyser for policy and research initiatives, from the national to the international level

Day 3 consisted of a series of presentations on initiatives building on the IPBES process, at the national, regional and international level. It illustrated that IPBES is a catalyst for working at the science-policy interface on biodiversity at all scales, and gave concrete examples of actions building on, or similar to, IPBES that can inspire other countries and stakeholders, promoting collaboration at the regional level.

The day opened with a joint presentation by **Solène Le Doze** (UNDP) and **Astrid Hilgers** (IPBES NFP for the Netherlands), on the policy uptake of the findings of the IPBES assessment on pollination. UNDP manages BES-Net, the “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network”. It aims to answer capacity-building needs at the science-policy interface identified by IPBES and UNDP. To do so, it developed a web portal (www.besnet.world), a matchmaking facility for those requiring and those offering biodiversity expertise. BES-Net also organises “trialogues” where policy-makers, scientists and practitioners are invited to discuss a specific topic. The first triologue will build on the findings of IPBES assessment on pollination, pollinators and food production and will take place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 18 to 20 October 2017. About 50 participants from the Eastern Europe region will gather to look at national and regional policies on pollinators, exchange best practices and latest news from science on pollinators. A high-level event will be organised to attract media attention on the topic. The days before the triologue, a capacity-building workshop will be organized, by the Institute for Biodiversity Network e.V., for people who have no background on the IPBES pollination assessment.

Astrid then presented on the [Coalition of the Willing \(CoW\) for Pollinators](#), an initiative taken by the Netherlands at the 13th Conference of Parties to the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and joined by 13 other countries as of today. The idea of the CoW was to build on the IPBES assessment on pollination to foster the development of national

strategies for pollinators through best practices and experience sharing. The topic of pollination was an opportunity to give IPBES work a larger outreach since the story of pollination and food production is fairly easy to communicate. The Coalition is expected to meet once a year, back to back with other international meetings (such as IPBES plenaries). The functioning of the Coalition is very light, and is currently managed by the small CoW secretariat in the Netherlands. [Super-B](#), a network of researchers working on pollination in 33 countries, provide scientific support to the CoW. For now, members of the CoW are encouraged to send a 2 pager describing their current activities to protect pollinators, for compilation by the Secretariat. The CoW officially contributes to the implementation of CBD's Strategic Plan and will therefore report every year to CBD Secretariat. Countries, local governments and NGOs are encouraged to join the CoW, especially at high-level events with sign up moments, such as the BES-net dialogue in Sarajevo and IPBES-6. The only condition to join is to be genuinely willing to work on pollinators and to agree with IPBES assessment's key messages. The private sector is not in the scope of the CoW yet, since members are still in disagreement on that question. The CoW Secretariat now strives to make the CoW grow bigger and more international, since its current focus is mostly European. Astrid then presented a high level event organised by the Netherlands on food and pollinators, gathering diverse stakeholders such as farmers, big industries (Bayer, Heineken...) or children. It produced guidelines with inspiring actions for all types of stakeholders, that will be shared with the other members of the CoW.

Ildikó Mándics (IPBES NFP for Hungary) and **Katalin Török** (IPBES MEP member for Eastern Europe) presented Hungary's experience in getting various national stakeholders involved, from decision-makers to researchers. Ildikó presented the two challenges she faces as a National Focal Point: (i) convincing higher-level country leaders and other ministries to get the country well involved in IPBES: the case needs to be built for why such an involvement is good for the country and what the country will gain from it; and (ii) getting national experts engaged in the process, by providing them background information on IPBES, on the type and amount of work it requires etc. There is no national biodiversity platform working on Hungary's engagement in IPBES so the NFP needs to keep individual contact with the nominated experts. Such exchanges are time demanding but provide very useful feedback and updates on IPBES work that would not be easily accessible to the NFP otherwise. As of today, Hungary focused its participation in IPBES through the MEP. The 3 successive Hungarian MEP members came from different science fields and this should allow for reaching a wider group of experts in their fields, to prepare the ground for a larger national involvement in IPBES. In IPBES first programme of work, more than 20 Hungarian experts have been involved as authors of assessments or in expert groups.

Katalin then presented more specifically on her role as a MEP member to engage the larger scientific community in IPBES work, highlighting the importance of convincing scientists to "move out of the Ivory Tower" to the science-policy interface and to adopt a multidisciplinary thinking. She also stressed the need for experts to be supported by their research institution when nominated at IPBES since IPBES work comes on top of usual research work.

Senka Barudanovic, IPBES Bureau member from Bosnia i Herzegovina, publicly thanked Hungary for its support to non-E.U. countries from Eastern Europe to participate in IPBES, highlighting Hungarian efforts to get everyone on board, including by providing financial support for meetings and travels.

The second batch of presentation focused on research-like initiatives, building on IPBES methodology, findings or process. **Cecilia Lindblad** (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and IPBES NFP for Sweden) presented the Nordic assessment of coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services, an initiative at the subregional level inspired by IPBES assessment process and focusing on the coastline of the Baltic Sea. The assessment is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers and national funds, with the aim to strengthen transnational cooperation and transdisciplinary work on an issue common to all these countries: the sustainable use of the shared coastal area. Like IPBES, they prepared a scoping report, including the difficult definition of the coast, as well as a specific report on the integration of ILK in this assessment. The assessment is based on exiting data, and will be populated by case studies. The Nordic assessment uses the IPBES conceptual framework and the chapter structure of the regional assessments. Cecilia presented several preliminary findings of the Nordic assessment, on the importance of various Nature's Contributions to People (NCPs) across the Nordic region, as well as the different drivers affecting Nature and NCPs. The assessment will be launched at a seminar in Stockholm in October, taking the opportunity to also give information on IPBES in order to increase awareness of the Platform in the region and its universities. An SPM will be developed for the high level meeting of the Nordic Council in November.

Frédéric Lemaître (BiodivERsA) presented an upcoming joint call for research proposals that includes knowledge gaps identified in IPBES' methodological assessment on scenarios and models for biodiversity and ecosystem services. BiodivERsA is the network of organisations that plan and fund research on biodiversity in Europe. In October 2017, it will launch a call with the Belmont Forum, thus including new international research funders beyond Europe. Alongside its funding activities, BiodivERsA is involved in research mapping and foresight, and dissemination of the results of the research projects. All funded projects are requested to have a stakeholder engagement component. In its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda 2017-2020 (SRIA), one of the transversal themes includes the development of scenarios. For this area of work, BiodivERsA will specifically look at filling the technical knowledge gaps identified by IPBES, and gaps in the interlinkage of scenarios from different scales and fields like climate change, socio-economics, and biodiversity. It will also include research needs identified in other fora such as the CBD. This area of work applies to the three core themes of the SRIA on biodiversity characterization, biodiversity functioning, and using biodiversity for nature-based solutions. The pre-announcement of the call in the summer will provide information on participating countries and the broad themes it will address. BiodivERsA will also build capacity for researchers, through mobility scholarships for young researchers and training on communication with policy-makers.

Zoi Konstantinou (University of Porto/CIIMAR) presented EKLIPSE, an IPBES-like research process at the E.U. level. EKLIPSE is a science-policy interface mobilizing expertise to answer policy-relevant questions on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It also aims to develop an expert network at the European level, with links to the international level. It does not have a policy body like IPBES plenary and the process is thus lighter and requests can be dealt with more quickly. Anyone can send a question or research topic to EKLIPSE, from the E.U. Commission to national or local governments to NGOs or other organised stakeholder groups, the only condition being that the request is relevant for the European level. Once a topic is selected, EKLIPSE launches a call for knowledge which enables a detailed scoping of the request, which may be further refined with the requester. A group of experts will then prepare a report to address the request over a 6-month period on average. After going through a review process, the report is published. A group was also established to work on the methodologies of knowledge synthesis that can be used by EKLIPSE. About 20 methodologies were identified and can be assessed (using a list of criteria), to **determine for each request which methodology is best to apply**. EKLIPSE is currently working to develop a webinar on this area of work. After a first request from the E.U. Commission on nature-based solutions to promote climate resilience in urban areas (the outcome of which will be presented in an upcoming webinar), a new call was opened in 2017 and three topics were selected, on agroecology,



In the Botanical Garden (photo by Olesya Petrovitch)

health and urban green spaces and on environmental regulation for small to medium size businesses. An additional request received was labelled as foresight since there is little knowledge on the topic: the effect of electromagnetic radiation on wildlife. Zoi encouraged stakeholders to get involved in EKLIPSE by providing their data, methods, in-kind support for conferences and capacity-building, and by participating to the calls for experts and reviewers, through the [KNOCK forum](#).

Agnès Hallosserie (FRB) presented the ECA (European and Central Asia) Network on behalf of **Angélique Berhault** (Belgian Biodiversity Platform). The network (<http://eca-ipbesnetwork.org/>) was created to facilitate communications between the National Platforms engaging in IPBES (see document IPBES/5/INF/23 for more information or [here](#)), and to make their knowledge, experience and

general information on IPBES available to other stakeholders interested in IPBES, especially in the larger European and Central Asian region. Currently, 9 countries are part of the network through a structure involved in IPBES at the national level. They have different formats, resources and scope of activities, but are all involved at the science-policy interface on biodiversity, working (some exclusively) on IPBES. The ECA network is a light structure: the website and an internal mailing list are the main tools to run the network. The network is willing to share the lessons learned (e.g. on answering IPBES calls for experts, participating in the review process) and to support interested countries in setting up a national platform to participate in IPBES or use IPBES findings at the

national level. Stakeholders who do not have a national relay of information on IPBES in their country can go to the ECA Network website to get news on IPBES related events and publications, and to read more about the different existing platforms. Countries interested in joining the network should email a.berhault@biodiversity.be

After this final presentation, **Kristina Raab** (NeFo), **Agnès Hallosserie** (FRB) and **Katalin Török** (MTA-ÖK) closed the meeting, thanking all participants for their interest and active involvement. Funders were also warmly thanked: the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Hungarian Centre for Ecological Research (MTA-ÖK), the Hungarian National Research, Development and Innovation Fund, the Science and Policy Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and Governments who contribute to the IPBES trust fund.

Appendix 1: Participants' feedback on the meeting

A feedback form was distributed at the end of PESC-4 to assess its key achievements in regard to the meeting's objectives. 28 participants out of 61 completed the form. Respondents represented equally the different categories of participants gathered at PESC-4: decision-makers, researchers and other stakeholders.

A very high proportion of respondents (>89%) considered that PESC-4 improved their knowledge on IPBES and its related procedures; provided options to better engage their government or institution in IPBES and allowed to meet potential future collaborators. A high proportion of participants (82%) also considered that PESC-4 gave them ideas to promote the use and uptake of IPBES assessments. **Objective 1 of PESC-4 "building capacities to provide inputs to IPBES deliberables" and "sharing experiences on how to coordinate national biodiversity work to promote it in the context of IPBES", and objective 2 "strengthen collaboration on biodiversity research at the pan-European level, including central Asia" were therefore reached.**

Regarding the sessions offered to participants, all respondents to the question (26, out of 28) provided **excellent feedback related to all or parts of the programme, highlighting its relevance for the variety of stakeholders types and knowledge on IPBES.** The break-out group sessions to review the SPM and chapters of the ECA assessment were mentioned as the most interesting in most answers (11), followed by the presentations on research and policy initiatives that have build on IPBES work since its establishment (7). Presentations on the content of the ECA assessment by co-chairs and CLAs (6) and on stakeholders' engagement on Day 2 (6) were mentioned by several participants. 3 participants mentioned the presentation on the ECA network.

17 participants provided feedback on what they would like to see more of at PESC meetings: **increase the focus on Eastern Europe experience, from countries and initiatives (4); increase the presentation of concrete examples of regional-relevant activities from and about IPBES (3);** dedicate more time to the group sessions for the review of IPBES documents (2) and presentation of IPBES assessments' impacts, including socio-economic impacts (2). Other suggestions included highlighting the links with CBD, involving more experts from Central Asia, offering more time for NFPs interactions and presenting the impact of PESC-4 work (how the comments provided by PESC participants contributed to enhance IPBES ECA assessment).

Feedback on what should be less covered at PESC-4 varied a lot between the 9 participants who answered the question. It was asked for less presentations on initiatives related to IPBES but not emanating from the Platform, while someone else asked for more presentations of this type. For participants who have an advanced knowledge of IPBES already, general IPBES information is less relevant. It was mentioned that PESC-4 could be exclusively for scientists, practitioners and community participants rather than including a part for government representatives (NFPs).

About the break-out group sessions dedicated to the ECA assessment and its review, 61% of respondents indicated that they would not have been able to provide comments on the SOD had it not been for PESC-4, while 65% indicated that they would not have been

willing to provide comments without PESC-4. **PESC-4 therefore achieved its objective 1 on building capacities to provide inputs to IPBES deliverables and objective 3 to contribute to the preparation of IPBES products and develop capacities on the review process of IPBES reports**, mostly because otherwise participants would have lacked time or information to do the review. During the break-out groups, participants mostly appreciated the opportunity to discuss with others about issues they identified in the assessment, and the opportunity to get clarifications from the CLAs regarding structure, content and pending issues of the assessment chapters and SPM. Such sessions could be improved in the future by making them longer, by improving the gender balance of the group, and by making sure that everyone's comments are taken well into account. It was suggested that the presentation by co-chairs and authors may influence the review process and that they should not be involved in such exercises. Recommendations for future consultations on IPBES draft assessments included: having shorter documents; organise the consultation in different regions (e.g. one per subregion of the assessment) and countries; allow for more exchanges between NFPs and national stakeholders; better assist participants from Central Asia for the finalization of comments; provide more guiding questions for the review and have one breakout group for each chapter. It was recommended to have speakers and microphones for the breakout group. Procedural aspects of the review, managed by IPBES Secretariat, such as the deadline for submitting comments and the registration steps to become a reviewer could be made easier.

10 respondents gave their opinion on the session on stakeholders' engagement on Day 2, finding it good and useful. They particularly liked the variety of options presented to stakeholders to get involved, and the interactive part of the session. Recommendations for better coverage of this area of work at IPBES were to present better what stakeholders can get from engaging with IPBES, since it was felt that the session highlighted more the benefits that IPBES gets from stakeholder engagement, but not what benefits stakeholders can gain from it. It was suggested that concrete and immediate collaboration opportunities between IPBES and stakeholders be presented, rather than the general procedural framework for stakeholder engagement.

As final remarks, participants suggested increasing the dissemination of IPBES-relevant information and organising an IPBES event in Central Asia. It was mentioned that allowing two official representatives per country would be better, and to check photo permissions before the meeting, especially for publications on Twitter.

Appendix 2: Programme of the meeting

Day 1: Monday 12 June

Chair: András Báldi (MTA-ÖK)

Time	Session	Presenter
12.00-13.30	Registration and buffet lunch	
13.30-14.00	Welcome	András Báldi (MTA-ÖK)
14.00-14.30	Introductory session: IPBES functions, objectives, work programme, structures and 'landscape' (TSUs, Task Forces, MEP etc.); links to other relevant processes (CBD/SBSTTA, SDGs)	Felice van der Plaet (IPBES Secretariat)
14.30-15.00	Introduction to the ECA assessment, the outcome of the first review process and what is expected from the 2 nd review	Mark Rounsevell & Markus Fischer (ECA co-chairs)
15.00-15.30	Coffee break	
15.30-16.15	Introduction to the assessment chapters, structure and potential pending issues	ECA co-chairs and CLAs
16.15-16.30	Organization of work at PESC-4 for 2 nd review <i>Participants will be asked to bring their own paper copy if they want to use this format; organizers will be able to provide a digital copy only. Participants will be expected to have read the chapter(s) they want to work so that the groups can focus on discussions of issues.</i>	Agnès Hallosserie (FRB)
16.30-18.00	Break-out into groups <div> <div> Group 1 <u>Location:</u> Carbon house <u>Look at:</u> SPM <u>Participants:</u> NFPs </div> <div> Group 2 <u>Location:</u> Castle 1 <u>Look at:</u> Chapters 1-3 <u>Participants:</u> stakeholders </div> <div> Group 3 <u>Location:</u> Castle 2 <u>Look at:</u> Chapters 4-6 <u>Participants:</u> stakeholders </div> </div>	Facilitators
19.00-21.00	Dinner at a nearby restaurant	

Day 2: Tuesday 13 June

Chair: Agnès Halloserie (FRB)

Time	Session		Presenter
09.00-11.00	Break-out groups <i>Group 1</i> <i>Group 2</i> <i>Group 3</i>		Facilitators
11.00-11.30	Coffee break		
11.30-13.00	End of break-out groups. Comments to be inserted in the review template. <i>Group 1</i> <i>Group 2</i> <i>Group 3</i>		Facilitators
13.00-14.00	Lunch		
14.00-14.30	Main conclusions from the review exercise, quick insights of national coordination by countries to move ahead and submit comments to IPBES		Reporters from break-out groups
14.30-15.00	Integrating indigenous and local knowledge in biodiversity assessments: challenges and opportunities		Axel Paulsch (Institute for Biodiversity Network e.V.) & Katja Heubach (GIZ)
15.00-15.30	Coffee break		
15.30-16.00	Presentation on IPBES work on stakeholders' engagement	<i>If need be: one group breaks-out to finalize work on review</i>	Robert Spaul (IPBES Secretariat) & Laurence Perianin (IUCN)
16.00-17.00	Discussion with participants on their needs, and guidance for IPBES work on stakeholders' engagement, based on the existing material or material under development, and close		
17.00-19.00	Visit to Vác historic town		
19.00-21.00	Dinner at Vác		

Day 3: Wednesday 14 June

Chair: Kristina Raab (NeFo)

Time	Session	Presenter
09.00-09.30	Recap of Day 1 & 2 and proceedings for Day 3	Kristina Raab (NeFo)
09.30-10.00	Facilitating the uptake of IPBES pollination assessment: BES-net dialogue in Eastern Europe and the Coalition of the Willing for Pollinators	Solène Le Doze (UNDP) & Astrid Hilgers (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Netherlands)
10.00-10.25	How can a country engage fully in the IPBES process: insights from science and policy stakeholders in Hungary	Ildikó Mándics (Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary) & Katalin Török (MTA-ÖK)
10.25-11.00	A two-way street: regional research and assessment in the broader IPBES context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Nordic assessment of coastal Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: a subregional study inspired by the broader IPBES context - The forthcoming BiodivERsA/Belmont Forum Call on biodiversity scenarios: a contribution to fill the knowledge gaps identified by IPBES 	Cecilia Lindblad (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency) Frédéric Lemaître (BiodivERsA)
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-12.00	EKLIPSE: first results of a European IPBES-like initiative	Zoi Konstantinou (University of Porto)
12.00-12.30	The ECA-network: an opportunity to engage with IPBES at the regional level	Angélique Berhault (Belgian Biodiversity Platform)
12.30-12.45	AOB and wrap-up	Kristina Raab (NeFo) & Agnès Hallosserie
12.45-13.00	Close	Katalin Török (MTA-ÖK)
13.00-14.00	Buffet lunch and goodbye	

Appendix 3: List of participants

Surname	Last name	Institution	Country
Aghasyan	Aram	Ministry of Nature Protection	Armenia
Aghasyan	Levon	Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology, National Academy of Sciences	Armenia
Akhobadze	Sophiko	Regional Environmental Center for the South Caucasus	Georgia
Arends	Jeroen	Ecosystem Services Partnership -ESP	Serbia
Baldi	Andras	Centre for Ecological Research	Hungary
Baratova	Adilia	Scientific-research laboratory for nature protection	Kyrgyzstan
Barudanovic	Senka	Faculty of science, University of Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bashta	Andriy-Taras	Animals Research and Protection Association "Fauna"	Ukraine
Bela	Gyorgyi	Environmental social science research group	Hungary
Borgström	Suvi	Ministry of the Environment	Finland
Borodin	Oleg	The Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Bioresources	Belarus
Bušković	Vasilije	Environmental Protection Agency	Montenegro
Diem Thi Tran	Hong	IPBES TSU for capacity-building	Norway
Dronova	Maria	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Russian Federation
Ergeneman	Candan	Center for Development Research - University of Bonn, Germany and International Association of Impact Assessment	Turkey
Fischer	Markus	University of Bern	Switzerland
Geschke	Jonas	Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, NeFo	Germany
Grant	Hilary	JNCC	United Kingdom
Hakobyan	Susanna	Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydrobiology, National Academy of Sciences	Armenia
Hallosserie	Agnès	FRB	France

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Hauck	Jennifer	UFZ & CoKnow Consulting	Germany
Heubach	Katja	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Germany
Hilgers	Astrid	Ministry of Economic Affairs	Netherlands
Karimov	Bakhtiyor	NGO "Scientific-consulting Center ECOSERVICE"	Uzbekistan
Kloos	Julia	German IPBES Coordination Office	Germany
Konstantinou	Zoi	University of Porto/Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research (Ciimar)	Portugal
Kovács-Hostyánszki	Anikó	Centre for Ecological Research	Hungary
Kujundzic	Kristina	GIZ Open Regional Fund for SEE- Biodiversity	Serbia
Lemaitre	Frederic	BiodivERSA	France
Lindblad	Cecilia	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Sweden
Mándics	Ildikó	Ministry of Agriculture	Hungary
Minchenko	Natalya	NGO "Bagna"	Belarus
Mkrtchyan	Arevik	Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)	Armenia
Murodaliev	Ismoiljon	National Biodiversity and biosafety Center	Tajikistan
Novikova	Elena	Research Laboratory for Nature Protection	Tajikistan
Novitsky	Ruslan	Centre for bioresources NASB	Belarus
Nozadze	Salome	Ministry of Environment an Natural Resources Protection of Georgia	Georgia
Palotás	Brigitta	Centre for Ecological Research	Hungary
Paulsch	Axel	Institute for Biodiversity Network e.V.	Germany
Perianin	Laurence	IUCN	Switzerland
Petrovych	Olesya	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine	Ukraine
Pokrajac	Sanja	IUCN regional Office	Serbia
Raab	Kristina	Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research	Germany

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Romero	José	Swiss Federal Office for the Environment	Switzerland
Rotaru	Ala	Ministry of Environment	Republic of Moldova
Rounsevell	Mark	University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom
Schliep	Rainer	NeFo - German Network-Forum on Biodiversity Research	Germany
Schoolenberg	Machteld	PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency	Netherlands
Skorin	Teuta	Society for Conservation Biology	Croatia
Skryhan	Hanna	NGO "EKAPRAEKT"	Belarus
Smaranda	Samad-John	Ministry of the Environment	Romania
Spaull	Robert	IPBES Secretariat	Germany
Spehn	Eva	Swiss Biodiversity Forum	Switzerland
Susini	Marie-Lucie	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Belgium
Török	Katalin	Centre for Ecological Research	Hungary
Torre-Marin	Amor	IPBES ECA TSU	Switzerland
van der Plaat	Felicitas	IPBES Secretariat	Germany
Vardhami	Edit	Ministry of Environment	Albania
Viestova	Eva	Ministry of environment	Slovakia
Vik	Nina Ingrid	Norwegian Environment Agency	Norway
Visconti	Piero	University College London	Italy