

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Summary & Status Report for the Science Community

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

9 August 2012

Compiled by the US National Committee for DIVERSITAS of the National Academy of Sciences

On April 22, 2012, the final operational design of the IPBES was agreed upon by negotiators from 90+ nations; including the new location of the *IPBES Secretariat*, which will be Bonn, Germany.

Interim Joint facilitators: UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, and UNDP

Core functions of the work programme:

- To identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers and to catalyze efforts to generate new knowledge;
- To perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages;
- To support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies; and
- To prioritize key capacity building needs to improve the science-policy interface, and to provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities.

In respect to funding, a core trust fund will receive voluntary contributions from governments, UN bodies, the GEF, other intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders, e.g. private sector and foundations.

Scientific safeguards and practices:

Independent Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) to perform IPBES scientific and technical functions; reliance on peer review and transparent processes; policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive information; utilization of national, regional and subregional knowledge and assessments as appropriate.

The first plenary meeting of the platform is planned for early 2013.

The *Intersessional Process* will underpin development of the first IPBES work program: <http://www.ipbes.net/plenary/intersessional.html>

More information: <http://www.ipbes.net/>

Role of the Scientific community in IPBES: <http://www.diversitas-international.org/activities/assessment/ipbes>