

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 24-28 March 2014

DOC. SC47-19

## Outcomes of the second plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-2)

### Action requested:

Standing Committee is invited to note this report and approve (1) the approach proposed regarding governance issues between multilateral environmental agreements and IPBES, and (2) the interim guidelines for submission of proposals to IPBES.

### Background

1. In Decision 46-03, the Standing Committee “requested the Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to submit relevant assessment reports such as the TEEB water and wetlands report to the IPBES catalogue of assessments; and further requested both bodies to initiate the preparation of the interim guidelines requested by COP11 in Resolution XI.6 and to circulate these guidelines electronically for Standing Committee approval”.
2. *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Water and Wetlands* report has been submitted to the IPBES catalogue of assessments.
3. The Secretariat and the STRP have prepared interim guidelines for the formulation, approval and transmission of new requests by Ramsar stakeholders to IPBES for its future work programmes, when the opportunity arises. The guidelines are attached at Annex I.

### Outcomes of IPBES-2 and Ramsar participation

4. IPBES-2, which was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 9 to 14 December 2013. The Work Programme for the period 2014-2018 (Decision IPBES/2/5) and procedures for the preparation of the Platform’s deliverables (Decision IPBES/2/3) were adopted, and strong commitment shown to implementation shown by the pledging of over half the required funding. All decisions are contained in the report of the session, which is available at [www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net).<sup>1</sup>
5. The top two thematic priorities in the Work Programme are (1) pollination and food production and (2) land degradation and restoration; both are relevant to the Ramsar community.
6. The Ramsar Convention was represented at IPBES-2 by the Secretary General and the STRP Chair. STRP members Randy Thaman and Matt Walpole also participated as, respectively, a member of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and a representative of UNEP-

<sup>1</sup> An advance version in English of the report and decisions is available at: <http://www.ipbes.net/news-centre11/434-advance-report-and-decisions-from-ipbes-2-now-available-along-with-letter-from-ipbes-chair-requesting-nominations-of-experts-for-implementation-of-work-programme.html>.

WCMC. In his opening remarks, the Secretary General emphasized the need for multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to be 'full partners' in the IPBES process. At the conclusion of the session, the STRP Chair delivered a statement on behalf of the MEAs present (CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar and UNCCD), noting that they look forward to contributing to and benefiting from the Work Programme. The joint statement is attached at Annex II.

### **Future engagement with IPBES**

7. The progress on the Work Programme was not matched by progress on governance issues, and MEAs including Ramsar continued to promote a closer relationship with IPBES, to ensure that the IPBES process is fully integrated with their programmes of work. The Secretary General and the STRP Chair propose to engage with the new Head of the IPBES Secretariat in Spring 2014, in order to seek a meeting in Bonn along with members of the other MEAs and an arrangement to enable at least one representative of the MEAs to attend IPBES Bureau meetings. We also propose to include representatives of all the MEAs in the MEP at future IPBES meetings. The Chair of the STRP has been fulfilling this role for Ramsar, including at IPBES-2.
8. In the same spirit, it is proposed that the MEAs within the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) consider inviting IPBES representatives including the Head of the Secretariat to join the BLG, to ensure symmetrical engagement in the governance of the different bodies. The BLG, at its next meeting will consider the rules for entry into BLG in order to pave the way for any later decision on IPBES participation.

### **Procedures for nominating experts**

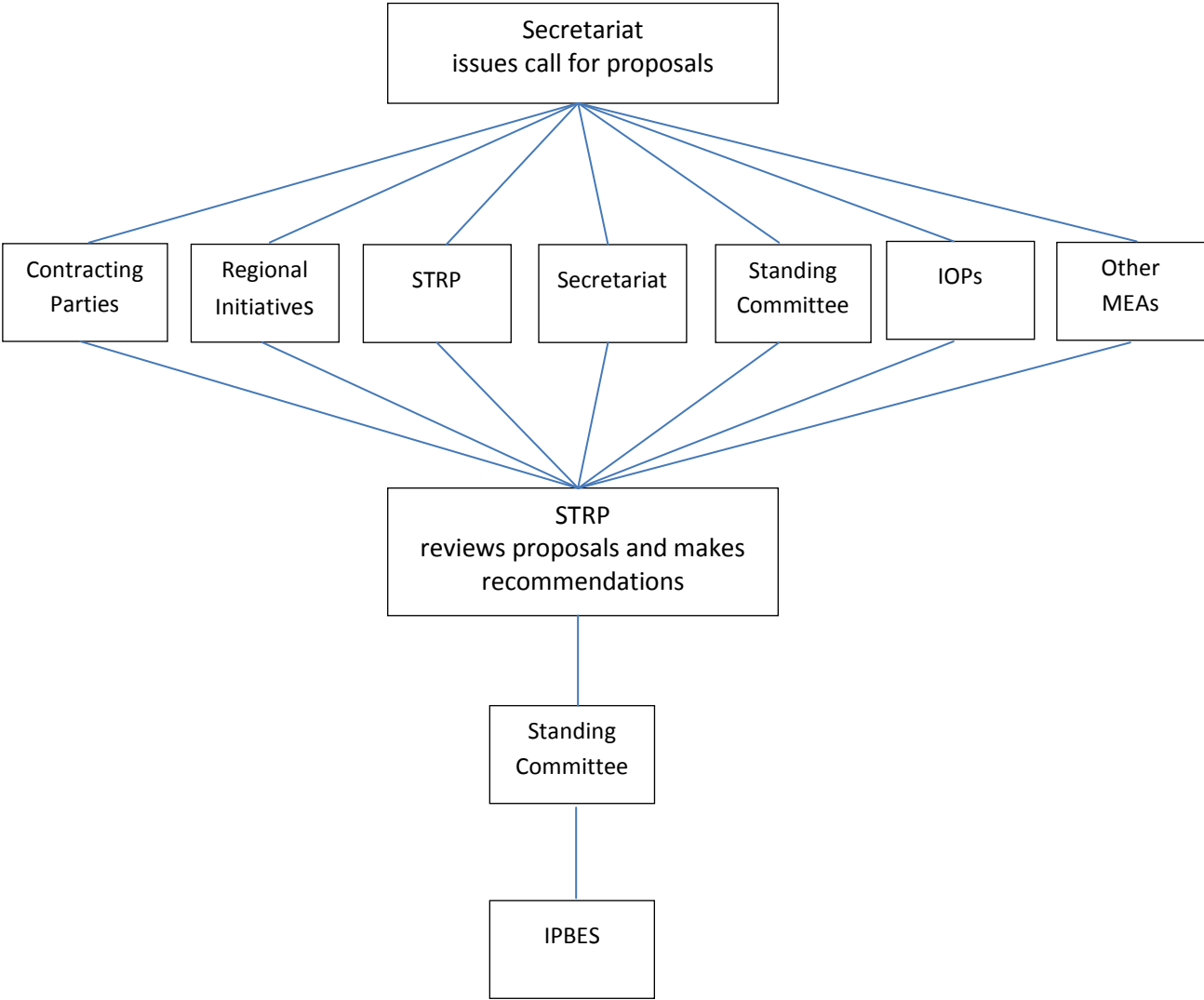
9. At IPBES-2, there was much discussion about who is permitted to nominate experts to conduct the scoping, writing and reviewing of IPBES assessments. It was decided that nominations may be made by IPBES Members and 'relevant stakeholders', defined as 'qualified national, regional and international scientific organizations ... known for their work and expertise ... on issues related to the Platform's functions and programme of work'. The STRP and Secretariat appear to meet this definition.
10. Accordingly, the Secretariat and the STRP have agreed on the following procedures for soliciting and submitting nominations of experts to scope, draft and review IPBES assessments on behalf of Ramsar:
  - Calls for nominations will be publicized through the Ramsar listserv and STRP web portal, highlighting areas of assessments or specific assessments, which are particularly applicable to Ramsar, and explaining the process that must be followed.
  - The Secretary General and STRP Chair will write jointly to urge Contracting Parties which are IPBES members to make nominations.
  - The Secretariat and the STRP will review nominees' CVs, and the STRP Chair will forward the agreed nominations to the appropriate IPBES body.
  - The STRP Chair and the Scientific and Technical Support Officer will monitor and report to the Secretary General on the acceptance of any experts nominated by Ramsar.
  - The STRP Chair will report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of Contracting Parties on the process and outputs.
11. These procedures were followed after the 7 January 2014 call for nominations issued by IPBES. It is expected that another call for nominations, which will include a call for experts on land degradation and land restoration, will be issued towards the end of March 2014.

## Annex I

### Proposed process for developing requests to IPBES for its future work programmes

1. The Ramsar Secretariat notifies the Ramsar community of the opportunity to develop requests to be submitted to IPBES and provides guidance on the form and detail of such requests.
2. Any Contracting Party, Regional Initiative, the STRP, the Secretariat, the Standing Committee, IOPs, and other MEAs may develop a proposal for consideration.
3. All proposals are submitted to the STRP, which reviews them and makes recommendations to the Standing Committee. The STRP's review and recommendations will take into account the extent to which the requests advance the Ramsar Strategic Plan and are consistent with IPBES priorities.
4. It is important to note that the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel prioritizes requests based on the following information:
  - a) Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of the Platform;
  - b) Urgency of action by the Platform in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action;
  - c) Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes;
  - d) Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action;
  - e) Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action;
  - f) Previous work and existing initiatives of a similar nature and evidence of remaining gaps, such as the absence or limited availability of information and tools to address the issues, and reasons why the Platform is best suited to take action;
  - g) Availability of scientific literature and expertise for the Platform to undertake the requested action;
  - h) Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action;
  - i) Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action; and
  - j) An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted.
5. The Standing Committee decides which proposal or proposals to submit to IPBES. Due to timing constraints, it is likely that the proposals will need to be presented to Standing Committee members virtually and approval or comments provided within a short period.
6. The Secretariat submits the proposal or proposals to IPBES on behalf of the Ramsar Convention.

Figure 1. Proposed Process for developing IPBES requests



## Annex II

### Joint Statement by the Multilateral Environmental Agreements to IPBES-2

Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Delivered by the Chair of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel

14 December 2013

Mr Chairman,

In my capacity as Chair of the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel, I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of all the MEAs participating in IPBES-2, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The MEAs represented here in Antalya by their Secretariats and/or their Chairs of the Scientific Subsidiary Bodies welcome the adoption of the IPBES work programme for 2014 - 2018 and look forward to contributing to it and benefiting from its implementation.

We recognize that this work programme responds to the requests from the MEAs.

The MEAs expect that the thematic assessments will help countries in their efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a number of objectives established under the MEAs. For example: the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration will contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 and efforts under the UNCCD on desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the efforts by the Ramsar Convention to promote the wise use of wetlands. While the assessment on sustainable use will contribute to the implementation of several of the MEAs, in particular CITES and the CBD, the assessment on pollination is, among others, linked to the work of CMS.

The MEAs welcome the sub-global assessments that will not only provide the building blocks for a comprehensive global assessment, but also will be engines for capacity building, engaging national and sub-regional expertise, and broadening the pool of scientists available to participate in global assessments. We also welcome their multidisciplinary approach, drawing upon the full range of relevant social and natural science disciplines as well as indigenous and traditional knowledge.

The methodological assessments to be undertaken by IPBES are likely to be useful to the work of all MEAs.

As stated earlier in the Plenary, the MEAs are keen to further strengthen their partnership with the Platform, working with the Secretariat, Bureau, MEP and participating in task forces, as the need may be, on all four functions of the Platform: assessment; capacity building, policy support and knowledge generation.

The MEAs would like to join others in congratulating Dr. Anne Larigauderie on her appointment as the Secretary of the Platform, and we look forward to working with her.

In concluding, the MEAs would also like to thank our host Turkey for its kind hospitality, and congratulate you, Mr Chair, and the interim Secretariat, as well as the MEP, Bureau and members of the Platform on the good progress that has been made in this meeting and would like to wish the experts working on its implementation every success.

Thank you.