

## **Matters arising from decisions of 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Standing Committee and Resolution XI.6**

- **Outcomes of the IPBES 1<sup>st</sup> plenary**

## 1. Before COP11

Nairobi, October 2011): secretariats and chairs of scientific bodies of the six biodiversity-related conventions presented a joint statement to draw attention to the role of the conventions in conveying requests from governments to IPBES and proposed that the conventions be represented in IPBES bodies

([http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2011/Joint\\_statement\\_IPBES.pdf](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2011/Joint_statement_IPBES.pdf)).

## 1. Before COP11

- Final report of Nairobi meeting reflected :
  - participants' discussions on the functions and operating principles of the platform,
  - Functions & structures of bodies to be established
  - Process and elements to consider in selecting host institution or institutions and physical location of the platform's secretariat.

## 1. Before COP11

- Panama City, April 2012:
  - the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB) submitted a Joint Statement (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF16)
  - the secretariats and chairs of the scientific bodies of the six biodiversity-related conventions also submitted a joint statement welcoming the establishment of IPBES and recognizing its potential to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of global biodiversity as well as to the implementation of the conventions.

## 1. Before COP11

- Panama City, April 2012:
  - Adoption of Resolution establishing IPBES as an independent intergovernmental body.
  - The resolution & its appendices and intersessional work agreed by participating States, are contained in the report of that meeting,  
<http://www.ipbes.net/previous-ipbes-meetings/second-session-of-plenary.html>.

## **1. Before COP11 : Relevant Decisions of the Ramsar Standing Committee**

- SC44 (Bucharest, July 2012): considered the Convention's progress with and engagement in IPBES, and through Decision SC44-6 the Committee "agreed to invite a drafting group comprising the USA, Denmark, the STRP Chair, and Dave Pritchard, and any other interested Parties, to develop suitable text on Ramsar's engagement with the IPBES process and make a recommendation to the Conference Committee."

- COP11 decided to incorporate IPBES texts into Resolution XI.6 on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*. See relevant portions of this Resolution in Annex I in Doc SC46-03

# IPBES & Ramsar after COP11



- Ramsar Secretary General and outgoing Vice-Chair of the STRP, Ms. Rebecca D’Cruz, attended the first session of the Plenary 21-26 January 2013 in Bonn, Germany.
- Interaction with over 500 participants representing IPBES member and non-member governments, UN organizations and conventions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and various stakeholder groups.



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- Exchanges with the representatives of the secretariats and the scientific bodies of the other five biodiversity-related conventions: CBD, CMS, CITES, World Heritage, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Ramsar SG conveyed a unified statement from 6 Conventions to the IPBES 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary, which is provided as Annex II in DOC SC46-03

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# Issues for future work with IPBES



- Voice of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) remains weak in the debate.
- The only way to address this challenge is through the voices of the representatives of the governments which are Contracting Parties to the conventions and are committed to using all available tools, including IPBES, to employ the conventions fruitfully as frameworks for effective scientific knowledge and policies that support sustainable development.



# Issues for future work with IPBES



- Voice of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) remains weak in the debate.
- The only way to address this challenge is through the voices of Contracting Parties
- Although Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions will participate in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) as observers, and though the convention secretariats have been afforded automatic observer status in the Plenary, observer status is not commensurate with the importance of MEAs in the work of IPBES.

# Issues for future work with IPBES



- Ramsar Secretariat respectfully requests the full support of Contracting Parties so that in the future IPBES members could consider some means to ensure effective consultation between the convention secretariats and the Bureau – perhaps drawing upon the established practice under IPCC. This might be an element of the strategic partnership with MEAs to be developed in the future.

# Issues for future work with IPBES



- Encouraging sign from IPBES: procedures recognize challenges that timing of IPBES submissions may pose for the conventions, given that each convention has its own timetables and decision-making processes.
- Ramsar Secretariat appreciates the flexibility that has been afforded to allow relevant input from the conventions.

# Issues for future work with IPBES



- IPBES members – and their representatives in the governing bodies of the conventions – might wish to consider developing further practical means to streamline these processes and facilitate the communication between the Platform and the conventions at the levels of governing bodies, scientific bodies, and secretariats.



# Issues for future work with IPBES



- From the outcomes of the first session of the IPBES Plenary, however, it remains unclear the extent to which IPBES will accept requests for assessments directly from MEAs to be included in its initial 2014-2018 work plan, rather than directly from a government or governments.

# Issues for future work with IPBES



- All secretariats and scientific bodies of biodiversity-related conventions are keen to work with the IPBES Secretariat and Panel to provide inputs to the intersessional process in line with the procedures established.
- Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) tentatively scheduled for June 2013, workshops on the IPBES conceptual framework, and working with different knowledge systems.

# Issues for future work with IPBES



- Opportunity (until 5 May 2013) for the submission of requests from IPBES members, as well as for inputs and suggestions from other stakeholders for submission of requests on scientific and technical matters that require the Platform's attention.

- STRP determined that the periodic “State of the World’s Wetlands and their ecosystem services” reporting task and aspects of its ecosystem service assessment task, including such assessment for Ramsar Sites, would be relevant;
- STRP considered that, pending clarification as to whether IPBES will receive requests directly from MEA bodies, it is premature to begin developing such internal guidelines, and it will keep this under review in the coming months.

# CONCLUSIONS



- In line with decisions of the Conferences of the Parties, the secretariat and the STRP are seeking guidance from the Standing Committee in order to address the issues raised in paragraphs 9-16 of DOC SC46-03 and thus facilitate the preparation of inputs to IPBES-2.