6th Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation (PESC-6)

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

5-6 October 2020

Online event, organised by the European and Central Asia Network of organisations engaging in IPBES (ECA Network)

Table of content

PARTICIPATING IN THE REVIEW OF IPBES THEMATIC ASSESSMENT ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND THEIR CONTROL

One of the main activities planned for PESC-6 is the discussion and review of the first order draft (FOD) of the IPBES thematic assessment on invasive alien species and their control (IAS assessment), in order to provide comments as part of the IPBES external review process.

How to obtain the draft assessment

Mandatory! All participants to the workshop need to be registered as expert reviewer for the FOD IAS assessment. This needs to be done well before the meeting, following these 3 steps:

A) Register or log in as a user on the IPBES website: www.ipbes.net/user/register

B) You can then apply to become an IPBES external reviewer. Note that you will sign a clause of confidentiality, because the drafts of the assessment cannot be cited, quoted or circulated. This confidentiality clause implies that **every participant to the PESC meeting should have applied to be an external reviewer before the meeting. Organisers are not allowed to circulate the draft among participants.** Please register here to be an external reviewer and access the documents: https://ipbes.net/invasive-alien-species/FOD-review-registration

C) After validation by IPBES Secretariat (this can take up to 48 hours), you will receive an email with the link to the webpage where you can access and download the draft documents and the review comments template.

Your review during, and after PESC-6

The breakout group sessions at PESC-6 are designed to build your capacity to participate in the review process, and to stimulate thoughts through group discussions. **Note that the draft chapters of the IAS assessment are in English only, and the review comments need to be submitted in English.** PESC-6 organisers will submit comments on behalf of the group (each comment being related to the person formulating it for transparency purposes). Breakout groups can work in Russian and facilitators will support the translation into English. However, we strongly encourage you to **submit your own review comments template** (see example below) after PESC-6 meeting **and no later than 18 October 2020** for your comments to be addressed by IPBES expert group when preparing the second order draft of the assessment. The review comments template is to be sent to ipbes-tsu-ias@iges.or.jp.
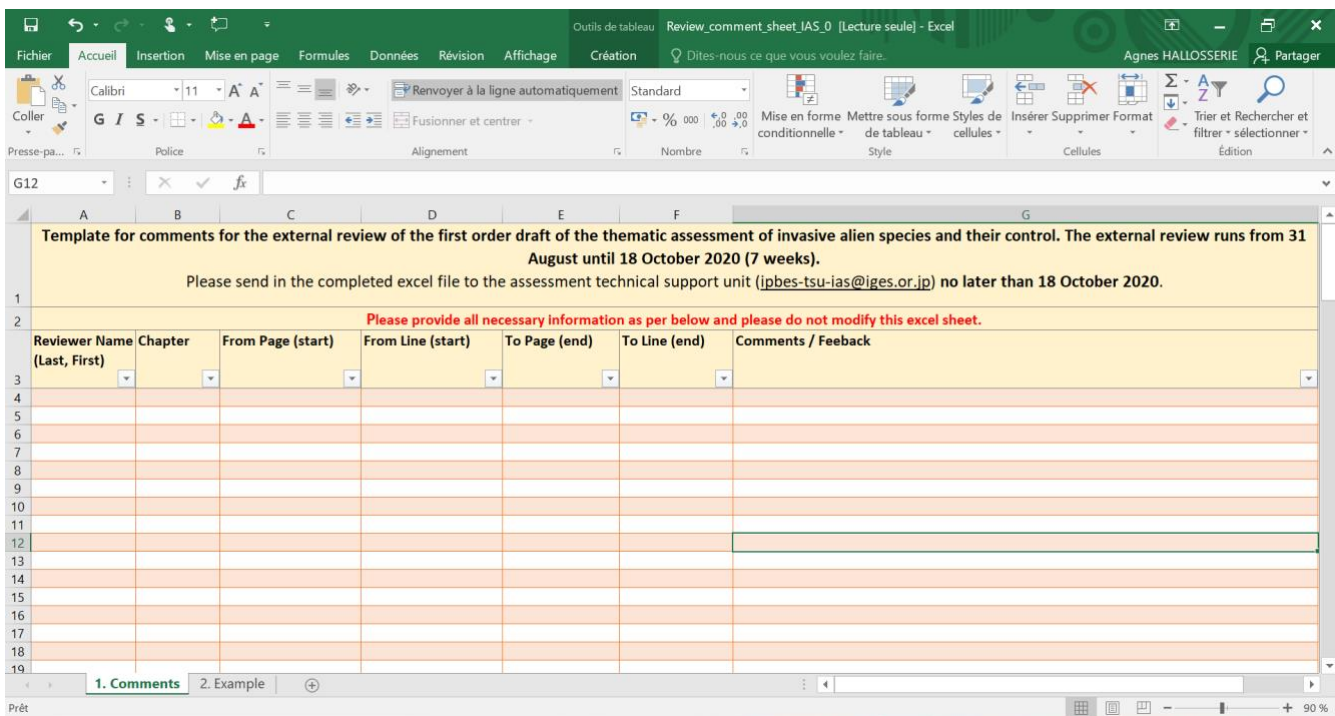
Participating to the review of IPBES draft assessment is entirely voluntary, so you can choose what chapter(s) you would like to review. You can look at specific sub-sections of the assessment only, depending on your own knowledge and expertise. All contributions from volunteer reviewers are welcome, if they are constructive and allow for improvements of IPBES assessment. Comments should be supported by published references where relevant.

Overview of the chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction
Introduces the concepts, terminology and definitions, the risks posed by invasive alien species (IAS) to marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems, perceptions of IAS in different value systems, roadmap to the chapters.

Chapter 2: Status and trends
Analysis and synthesis of previously completed assessments on IAS, scientific, grey literature and information from indigenous and local knowledge systems. Synthesis of past and future trends in the spread, pathways, evolutionary change and distribution of IAS.

Chapter 3: Indirect and direct drivers affecting the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive alien species
Analysis and synthesis of direct and indirect drivers responsible for, inter alia, the introduction, spread, abundance and dynamics of IAS.

Chapter 4: Impacts of invasive alien species on Nature, Nature's Contributions to People, Sustainable Development, and Good Quality of Life

Analysis and synthesis of the environmental, economic and social impact of IAS, including their impact on non-economic values, e.g., cultural, social and shared, recreational, scientific, spiritual and aesthetic values.

Chapter 5: Management: lessons learned
Review of the effectiveness of past and current programmes and tools for the global, national and local prevention and management of IAS and their impacts, including the role of trade and economic development, the precautionary approach, risk assessments, quarantines, biosecurity approaches, the management of potential conflicts around the use of IAS, the use of social media and citizen science, control options, the management of IAS in protected areas etc.

Chapter 6: Future options for the prevention and management of invasive alien species
Options for global awareness-raising, for creating early warning systems, for capacity-building and for sharing knowledge internationally and regionally in respect of prevention and management, for strengthening international networks and customs controls, developing strategies and procedures for forecasting the spread of invasive alien species and preventing and controlling such spread. The chapter will explore, where possible, information using scenarios and models for future invasive alien species trends, including their spread

Glossary

Organisation of the work at PESC-6

- Break-out groups will be organised according to working language (English or Russian). Break-out group will focus on specific chapters. The number of break-out groups running in parallel will be defined after participants' registration to PESC-6.
- Each participant **should register on IPBES website to participate in the IAS assessment external review** (see the description of registration process step-by-step above) and download the external comment review template as well as the chapter(s) in which they are interested.
- We highly recommend participants to **read the chapters or sections in which they are interested prior to the meeting**, in order to participate efficiently in the break-out groups.

Guidance questions

The following questions are meant to guide your reading and reviewing of the draft IAS assessment and **are indicative only**. Your comments are not expected to answer these questions specifically.

While reviewing the assessment, I can think about…

a) whether the chapter is capturing the challenges/issues and reflecting my knowledge about IAS;

b) which key findings are relevant for policy- and decision-making in my country, and across the regions?

c) which actions are effective in my country to address IAS issues and whether they are reflected in the assessment;

d) which are the parts of the assessment that I do agree or do not agree with, and why;

e) whether the following policy-relevant questions from the scoping report are being addressed adequately (note that some chapters are better suited to address those than other):

1. *What progress has been made in tackling the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of relevance to invasive alien species globally?*
2. *What global and national level policy initiatives would assist in invasive alien species prevention and management?*
3. *What are the obstacles to the uptake of invasive alien species prevention and management measures?*
4. *What methods are available for prioritising invasive alien species threats?*
5. *How can networks assist in the prevention and management of invasive alien species? What role can regional partnerships play?*
6. *Are there perverse policy drivers that unintentionally create risks in relation to invasive alien species?*
7. *How can decision makers decide which issues to tackle first given limited resources?*
8. *Would there be value in developing a database of effective legislation, monitoring and response systems for invasive alien species, and of those countries and other stakeholders in need of capacity-building?*
9. *What are the impacts, risks and benefits of invasive alien species for biodiversity and ecosystem services, sustainable development and human well-being?*
10. *How might policy sectors, businesses, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders benefit from better prevention and management of invasive alien species?*
11. *How does one prevent and manage invasive alien species that cause harm to biodiversity but contribute to economic activities?*

f) How do policy sectors, businesses, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders assess the usability of the produced knowledge in the invasive alien species assessment for policy development?

g) whether the options for preventing and managing IAS are relevant for my country/region/organisation.

ABOUT PESC-6

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 organisations, non-governmental organisations and indigenous communities" (ibid.). The Platform has already released a series of assessments, including a [regional assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe and Central Asia](). Its summary for policymakers is available in English, Russian and French. Currently, several new thematic and methodological assessments are underway, including one dedicated to [invasive alien species and their control]().

The **Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation** was put in place for the first time in 2013, supported by several [European platforms for biodiversity]() (i.e. the ECA network). Those meetings aim to **bring together a wide range of IPBES stakeholders** coming from the region of Europe and Central Asia. It provides **a forum for discussing engagement in IPBES**, therefore supporting the work of the Platform to mobilise stakeholders and **provide inputs to the current programme of work of IPBES**, such as, currently the first order draft of the assessment on invasive alien species. This also allows to **share experience across countries and stakeholders** about engaging efficiently with IPBES (through the national biodiversity platforms for example). PESC builds capacity through presentations on IPBES processes, and also through learning by doing when working in groups to review IPBES documents for example.

Objectives of the PESC-6 meeting

1. **Promote stakeholders' engagement at the science-policy interface**
    - by building capacities to provide inputs to IPBES deliverables *(e.g. group discussions with experienced facilitators to review the first order draft of an assessment and formulate relevant comments)*
    - by sharing experiences on how to coordinate national or subregional biodiversity work to promote it in the context of IPBES *(e.g. activities of the ECA network; capacity-building activities by the Institüt for Biodiversität in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; work of EKLIPSE)*

2. **Contribute to the preparation of IPBES products and develop capacities on the review process of IPBES reports**
    - by promoting dialogue on the first order draft (FOD) of the IPBES thematic assessment on invasive alien species (IAS) and their control to facilitate the provision of review comments by experts and governments during the external review phase
    - by informing on the next steps for the development of the IAS assessment and other activities by IPBES

Targeted audience

Knowledge holders from Pan-Europe (spanning Western and Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia, i.e. parts of the UN-regions Western European and Others Group, Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific). These knowledge holders may be affiliated to governmental and administrative bodies of IPBES member

states or non-member states (e.g. national focal points, especially of Eastern Europe and Central Asia), IPBES subsidiary bodies, scientific institutions, non-governmental organisations, other civil-society organisations, or the business-sector, dealing with issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Enhanced efforts will be dedicated to the participation of social science and experts on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, and of biodiversity practitioners.

Background information on the key topics

Capacity building

Capacity building is one of the four core functions of IPBES and is therefore given special attention in its rolling work programme up to 2030. A task force on capacity building, consisting of experts from around the world and supported by the technical support unit (TSU) provided by Norway (Norwegian Environment Agency), has developed the IPBES rolling plan for capacity building which was adopted at IPBES 5th plenary session (IPBES-5) in March 2017. The plan aims to address the priority capacity building needs agreed in plenary (see doc IPBES/3/18), related to scientific capacity to conduct assessments on one hand, and decision-makers capacity to use the assessments on the other hand. Several actions of the rolling plan for capacity building are implemented by the IPBES Secretariat through IPBES trust fund, such as the fellowship programme and expert training, and many activities rely on contributions from partners supporting IPBES work.

PESC-6 is contributing to the general implementation of the plan, especially to Strategy 3: strengthening national and regional capacities and the promotion of national and regional platforms and networks on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Stakeholders' engagement

IPBES is an intergovernmental initiative at the interface of science, policy and society. To ensure a larger engagement, it aims to reach to a large cross-section of stakeholders, from local governments to research institutes to NGOs to businesses, among others. There are several entry points for stakeholders to engage with IPBES, such as (i) nominating experts when IPBES is forming an expert group (as agreed in the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, 80% of experts are nominated by Governments and 20% of experts are nominated by stakeholders)[1]; (ii) sending inputs and suggestions for the IPBES programme of work[2]; (iii) providing comments on IPBES products to be addressed by the expert group in charge of the product; and (iv) disseminating and using IPBES findings in one's everyday activities.

Stakeholders are also invited to participate directly to the implementation of IPBES work programme activities related to capacity-building, policy support and knowledge generation (for instance, by developing new curricula for students or research projects on knowledge gaps identified in IPBES assessment reports). Stakeholders may contribute to the uptake of IPBES products and tools, participating to IPBES webinars and e-conferences or organising *ad hoc* uptake events. They may also more actively engage through the participation in advance of the IPBES Plenary sessions ('Stakeholder

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[1] Nominating experts or participating in IPBES review processes allow stakeholders to share their practical and technical knowledge, which is often not documented in peer-review literature and therefore may be less easily accessible to IPBES expert groups. It is however part of the IPBES mandate to try to incorporate as many knowledge systems as possible in its assessments, including those of practitioners.

[2] Suggestions from stakeholders about IPBES work programme help to make IPBES more relevant for decision-makers at all levels, therefore providing an enhanced support to the design and implementation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use policies. Such actions are promoted through the large dissemination and uptake of IPBES findings among biodiversity stakeholders.

Days') and/or participation as accredited observer to the Plenary sessions, or by volunteering within the self-organised networks of IPBES Stakeholders (e.g. the Open-ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders, ONet; and the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services IIFBES).

Several challenges remain for a more meaningful participation of stakeholders in IPBES, such as constraints related to time availability, language or format of work.

Several challenges remain for an even larger and more meaningful participation of stakeholders in IPBES. Imbalances persist among regions (with a predominance of stakeholders from Western Europe and North America), disciplines (considerably fewer social science stakeholders than natural sciences), and professional categories (limited presence of decision-makers, NGOs, business and industry sector, etc.). Language barriers, a high number of competing work commitments and perceived complexities of IPBES processes are also obstacles to the more active participation of stakeholders in IPBES processes. The PESC-6 meeting, with the participation of the IPBES Secretariat (Technical Support Unit on Capacity Building), ONet and other collaborators, aims to address precisely some of these obstacles within the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions.

IPBES thematic assessment on invasive alien species and their control
The thematic assessment on invasive alien species and their control (IAS assessment) was initiated in 2019; for the Scoping Document, see here (Annex III, pg. 41). This first order draft (FOD) includes a review of existing evidence, from scientific and grey literature, to address the policy-relevant questions guiding the preparation of the assessment (see the questions below). At this stage, the six chapters of the assessment are structured and the process for them to address the policy-relevant question is developed. The literature review may still be ongoing, and the first external peer review will support IPBES expert group in identifying current gaps in their work, and advise them on how to develop the assessment further.