Common Key Findings from the Four Regional Assessments

1. Biodiversity and nature's contributions to people are essential for a good quality of life. They play a critical role in providing food, clean water and energy, regulating climate, air quality, pollination services, and are fundamental to social cohesion, mental well-being and sense of place.
2. Biodiversity (genes, species and ecosystems) continues to degrade in all parts of the world, with a corresponding loss of nature's contributions to people. The dominant indirect drivers are increases in population and economic wealth leading to an increased demand for natural resources, which in turn result in fragmentation, conversion and overexploitation of ecosystems, i.e., unsustainable land-use changes. These are accompanied by pollution, invasive alien species and climate change.
3. The most sensitive and degraded terrestrial ecosystems, include high altitude and high-latitude ecosystems, e.g., cloud forests, and the most sensitive marine ecosystems are coral reefs.
4. Between now and 2050, a business-as-usual scenario is projected to result in a continued loss of biodiversity, with climate change becoming a dominant driver for most ecosystems.
5. Few of the Aichi targets will be met anywhere in the world, and a continued loss of biodiversity, especially when coupled with projected changes in climate, is likely to undermine achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and many of the climate-related goals.
6. There are some bright spots, including an increase in the number and area of both terrestrial and marine protected areas and the restoration of some degraded areas. However, many of the most important areas of biodiversity are not being protected.
7. Given most biodiversity is, and will always remain outside of protected areas, it is critical that biodiversity concerns are integrated into all socio-economic sectors, such as agriculture, water, energy, infrastructure, and cities.
8. We can do better. Biodiversity can be conserved and sustainably used with more holistic multi-sectoral policies, appropriate financing, use of appropriate technologies and behavior changes leading to sustainable production and consumption in many sectors including agriculture and forestry. Choice of healthy diets, coupled with a reduction in food and water waste, relieves pressures on biodiversity.
9. Better participatory governance systems, at national, regional and global scales, involving governments, private sector, civil society and IPLCs, is likely to result in the development and ownership of more sustainable practices.
10. While knowledge gaps were identified in each regional assessment, the general conclusion is that our current knowledge is enough to manage biodiversity in a more sustainable manner.
11. The bottom line is that while the loss of biodiversity is an important environmental issue, it is also an ethical, moral, social, economic and development issue. Human well-being depends on actions being taken now to address the loss of biodiversity and human-induced climate change. Decisions taken today by Governments, private sector and individuals will affect current and future generations, with poor people being the most vulnerable.
12. The IPBES assessments provide policymakers with the knowledge needed for informed evidence-based decisions.