Oceans and Seas, Forests, Biodiversity

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introduction

- UNGA resolution 65/161
- 2011-2020 UN Decade on Biodiversity
- The strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- Oceans and Seas, Forests, Mountains, etc. are ecosystems constituted by biodiversity and other resources
- Biodiversity and its services promote development
- The Earth's Life Support systems must be expressed in the SDGs

The sustainability of Human development

- hinges on the basic requirements of life which include the need to reduce poverty, eradicate hunger and prevent malnutrition, secure and promote health, reduce risks of disasters, generate employment, promote equity and social justice.

- These requirements are provided by biodiversity and its services

The special role of Ecosystem services in Sustainable Development debate

- the global systems that furnish, replenish and sustain life in general continue to satisfy human needs

- must be made prominent in sustainable development goals.

- This reflects the intent of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in 2005, the International Assessments on Agricultural Science and Technology for Development in 2008 and the Global Energy Assessment of 2012..

The position of IPBES in the debate

- The **Intergovernmental Platform on science-policy interface for Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES),** established in April 2012, by the world's governments for assessing the state of the planet's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the essential services they provide to society, seeks to fill in the gaps in our knowledge of biodiversity and in particular its ecosystem services for environmental sustainability and human well-being

IPBES has four (4) functions, including

- **policy support** formulation and implementation;
- generation of **new knowledge**;
- regular and timely **assessments** and
- prioritizing **key capacity building needs** in the on-going science policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services at the global and sub-global levels to supplement the successful implementation of the biodiversity strategy and contribute to environmental sustainability in sustainable development agenda.

- IPBES has the aim of accomplishing an iterative strengthening of the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services across a polycentric set of interactive governance and knowledge systems at different scales (at and across sub-regional, regional and global levels). IPBES thus considers, as extremely important, **the bridging of our knowledge gaps in current state and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for long-term human well-being and sustainable development**..

- Science-policy interface refers to ways in which **scientists, policy makers and other actors [stakeholders]** link up to **communicate, exchange ideas and develop knowledge jointly to enrich policy and decision making processes** and or research.

- **Indigenous and Local Knowledge** (ILK) group formed; no group in the biodiversity stakeholder community would be left out, illustrating inclusiveness..

- IPBES **government membership at 115** as of December 2013

- **collaborative partnership** arrangement with FAO, UNDP, UNEP and UNESCO
- a vibrant **stakeholder engagement** with scientific communities, civil society organizations and indigenous and local communities.
- works with **the biodiversity-related conventions** and also the other Rio conventions, receiving requests from them, from governments and other stakeholders.
-   It is from these requests that the Programme of Work (PoW) of IPBES for 2014-2018 has been shaped.

The Programme of work of IPBES

The PoW has 4 objectives,

strengthen **the capacity and knowledge foundations** of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform;

strengthen **the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services at and across sub-regional, regional and global levels**;

strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services with regard **to Thematic and Methodological issues**; and

communicate and evaluate Platform activities, deliverables and findings

Initial Assessment Plans of IPBES

- One fast track assessment on **Pollinators, Pollination and Food production to address Target 14** [on safeguarding and restoring ecosystems that provide essential services]

- Three Thematic Assessments **on Land Degradation and Restoration to address Aichi targets 14 and 15** [safeguarding and restoring ecosystems that provide essential services] and provide for UNCCD for its 10 year Strategic Plan and Framework [2008-2018]); **Invasive Alien Species and their control** to contribute to the enhancement of national and international policies on invasive alien species both on terrestrial and aquatic marine environments and address **Aichi target 9**; and Sustainable Use and conservation of biodiversity and **strengthening capacities and tools to address Aichi targets 3, 4, 6, 7, 12 and 18** and provide for CBD, CITES and CMS working in all ecosystems.

Additionally, there are plans to **produce policy support tools and methodologies** for two deliverables as follows:

scenarios analysis and **modelling** of biodiversity and ecosystem services on a fast track assessment and a guide by August 2015;

and the diverse **conceptualization of values of biodiversity and nature's benefits** to people including ecosystem services based on an assessment and a guide.

Recommendations

have strong support among the Parties to the biodiversity-related **MEAs which include CBD, CITES, WHS, CMS, ITFGRFA, and Ramsar** and also **IPBES** membership.

Additionally, Parties **to UNFCCC and UNCCD** identify biodiversity as intricately linked to climate change mitigation and adaptation and land degradation, rehabilitation and restoration respectively and therefore ascribe to these recommendations.

For the IPBES membership, there is the belief that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity will **ensure ecosystem services and promote sustainable development**

- to **develop biodiversity-related targets for SDGs** related to the different determinants of human well-being such as food, health, water, energy;

- to **integrate biodiversity-related issues into overarching goals** addressing broad concepts such as poverty eradication, an inclusive "green economy", human well-being, and sustainable development; and

- to **develop a set of targets to ensure the conservation of intrinsic value of biodiversity and its role in the maintenance of the Earth "life-support system"** as part of an SDG on biodiversity and ecosystems

Conclusion

- The real and pressing demands on landscape and waterscape resources for energy, food, sanitation, shelter, and other needs of the human communities will continue

- it will be a real challenge to politicians, among several other stakeholders to have the unresolved issues of global concern which include land degradation, water scarcity and degradation of water quality and biodiversity loss, which contribute to sustainable development, become urgent global issues that demand immediate and effective global attention and solution.

- that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Targets can address these concerns within the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.
- that Biodiversity should be a central component of any Sustainable Development Goals which will emphasize on global Life Support Systems

Thank you