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JOINT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN IPCC AND IPBES

(Prepared by the Co-Chairs of Working Group II)

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

JOINT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN IPCC AND IPBES

IPCC and IPBES co-sponsored workshop on biodiversity and climate change

Background

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Plenary, at its seventh session held in Paris from 29 April to 4 May 2019, adopted “the rolling work programme of IPBES up to 2030” (set out in annex I to decision IPBES-7/1), which includes, under its first objective, a technical paper on the interlinkage between biodiversity and climate change.

In decision IPBES-7/1, the Plenary agreed to the preparation of a technical paper on biodiversity and climate change, based on the material referenced or contained in the assessment reports of IPBES and, on an exceptional basis, assessment reports of the IPCC, with a view to informing, inter alia, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its 15th meeting (CBD COP 15) and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its 26th session, with the technical paper to be produced in accordance with the clearance processes for technical papers set out in the procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables and based on the concept note for the technical paper.

The Plenary requested the Executive Secretary to explore, to this end, with the Secretariat of IPCC, possible joint activities on biodiversity and climate change, including the possibility of jointly preparing the technical paper mentioned above, and to report on the discussions on further options for potential joint activities and deliverables related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and climate change, with reference to the time and resource implications thereof, to the Plenary at IPBES 8 and also requested the Executive Secretary to transmit this decision to the secretariat of the Panel in a timely manner.

The Executive Secretary of IPBES transmitted the decision by the Plenary to the IPCC Secretary on 5 May 2019, ahead of the 49th Session of the IPCC, held from 8 to 12 May 2019 in Kyoto, Japan. During that session of the IPCC, some Governments raised the issue of collaboration between IPCC and IPBES, but no decision on the matter was taken by the IPCC.

At its 50th Session (2-6 August 2019, Geneva, Switzerland), the IPCC considered collaboration between the IPCC and IPBES under item 6 of its agenda, any other business. The Deputy Secretary of the IPCC recalled the decision by the IPBES Plenary and noted that while there is much interest and scope to increase collaboration between IPBES and IPCC, in line with governments' IPBES decision, the timeline of the work makes it extremely challenging for the IPCC. The IPCC Chair concluded by referring the matter for further preparation by the IPCC Secretariat in consultation with the IPBES Secretariat and for discussion at the 57th Session of the IPCC Bureau (24-25 October 2019, Singapore).

Following informal consultations, in which the option of an IPCC/IPBES co-sponsored workshop emerged as a possible compromise, the IPBES Bureau considered the matter. The IPBES Bureau concluded that the option of a joint technical paper was not feasible at that time, considering the ongoing work load of the IPCC and considering that the IPBES Plenary decision required the paper to be available in time for CBD COP 15, which would be held in October 2020, while the next opportunity for IPCC to approve the preparation of a joint technical paper would have been at its 52nd Session, to be held in February 2020. The IPCC Bureau also concluded that the preparation of a technical paper by IPBES alone between October 2019 and September 2020, and, in addition, an IPCC/IPBES co-sponsored workshop report in early 2020 may lead to a duplication of efforts. The IPBES Bureau therefore agreed to the organization of a co-sponsored workshop with IPCC.

The IPCC Bureau, at its 57th Session, agreed, in principle, to a co-sponsored IPBES/IPCC workshop on biodiversity and climate change and mandated the Working Group II Co-Chairs, in close collaboration with Working Group I and III Co-Chairs, to explore the modalities for a co-sponsored workshop together with the Secretariat of IPBES, and the IPCC Executive Committee to approve the modalities.

Objectives

In the light of the urgency of bringing biodiversity to the forefront of discussions regarding land- and ocean-based climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, the IPCC and IPBES co-sponsored workshop would address synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This would include exploring the impact of climate change on biodiversity, the capacity and limits to the capacity of species to adapt to climate change, the resilience of ecosystems under climate change considering thresholds to irreversible change, and the contribution of ecosystems to climate feedbacks and mitigation, against the background of an ongoing loss in the biomass of biota and associated risks to key species and biodiversity as well as ecosystem services (nature's contribution to people).

The workshop report will provide information relevant to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The workshop report will contribute to the scoping of, and feed into, the IPBES assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health and also feed into the IPCC AR6 main and Synthesis Reports.

Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the workshop include:

1. A workshop report documenting the meeting outcomes drafted under joint leadership of IPBES and IPCC WGII, with relevant support from IPCC WGI and WGIII.

The final workshop report will be made available on the IPCC and IPBES websites. It will be provided to IPCC plenary 53 (Oct. 20) or 54 (April 21), and the 8th session of the IPBES Plenary (Feb. 2021) as an information document. The CBD and UNFCCC secretariats may also choose to make the workshop report available to their respective Conference of the Parties as an information document.

All materials will prominently display the following disclaimer: "IPCC and IPBES co-sponsorship does not imply IPCC or IPBES endorsement or approval of these proceedings or any recommendations or conclusions contained herein. Neither the papers presented at the workshop nor the report of its proceedings have been subject to IPCC or IPBES review".

2. A scientific publication on synergies and trade-offs between the need to protect and use biodiversity sustainably, and to mitigate and adapt to climate change, featuring the key messages of the workshop as set out in the workshop report.

Scientific background

The scientific background to this workshop, outlined below, originates from IPBES assessments, and the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in particular; from IPCC assessments, and the three Special Reports released during the AR6 as well as ongoing work for all IPCC Working Group main reports and the WGII main report in particular; and from the outcome of a workshop on "biodiversity and climate change: integrating science for coherent policy" held in October 2018 under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CBD/COP/14/INF/22):

- (a) Climate change and biodiversity loss are inseparable threats to humankind and must be addressed together; environmental shifts elicited by climate change are among the many drivers of biodiversity loss that interact to produce compound and cascading risks. Furthermore, biodiversity loss has implications for climate change through feedbacks, and for the capacities and limits of nature-based adaptation and mitigation efforts;
- (b) Climate change is already having an impact on nature, from genes to ecosystems. There are significantly greater risks to ecosystems and human systems in a world warming to 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures compared to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures with some ecosystems already under high risk;
- (c) Protecting and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems are critical for maintaining and increasing the resilience, and reducing the vulnerability, of ecosystems and people in the face of the adverse effects of climate change, as well as for maintaining the capacity of ecosystems to store carbon;
- (d) The effectiveness of conservation measures to increase the resilience of ecosystems and species vis a vis climate change relies on ambitious reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. It also includes setting aside targeted surface areas of land and ocean for reduced human uses or to be excluded from human uses altogether. Spatial planning such as the development of protected area networks on agreed fractions of land and ocean surface areas provides capacity for large scale species displacements under climate change. Accordingly, expanding and effectively managing the current network of protected areas, including terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas, is important for safeguarding biodiversity, particularly in the context of climate change;
- (e) In order to limit global warming to well below 2°C and closer to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, strong actions are needed to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and to protect and enhance carbon sinks on land and in the ocean through ecosystem-based approaches;
- (f) Ecosystem-based approaches to biodiversity conservation through, for example, the elimination of ecosystem degradation and the restoration of ecosystems, provide significant co-benefits for the stabilization of warming to well below 2°C if not 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels while delivering multiple co-benefits for sustainable development;
- (g) Investing simultaneously in ecosystem restoration, the rehabilitation of degraded agricultural and pasture lands and ways to sustainably enhance agricultural productivity can contribute to combatting climate change and biodiversity loss and enhance food security at the same time;
- (h) Some large-scale land-based mitigation measures are projected to come with significant risk for biodiversity and human food security. The land areas required for bioenergy crops, afforestation and reforestation to achieve targeted carbon uptake rates are projected to be very large, and to compete with areas set aside for conservation including restoration, or for agriculture:
- (i) When considering bioenergy and biomass-based measures, attention should be given to the direct and indirect effects of related land-use changes, including the resulting changes in net greenhouse gas emissions, water and nutrient constraints and changes in albedo, as well as the consequences for human and ecosystem/species adaptation;

- (j) An integrated approach regarding biodiversity and climate change is required at the local/national level in order to be able to address the systemic interactions and identify the synergies that could be strengthened by adequate policy packages;
- (k) There are opportunities to use scientific knowledge as well as indigenous and local knowledge systems about the links between climate change and biodiversity for policymaking.

Focus of the workshop

The workshop would provide an overview of the relationships between biodiversity and climate change including:

- (a) The impacts and risks of plausible future changes in climate (e.g., on different time horizons and for different warming levels such as 1.5°C, 2°C, 3°C and 4°C compared to pre-industrial, considering non-linearities and associated thresholds for irreversible changes in the climate system and in ecosystems) for terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity, nature's contributions to people and quality of life;
- (b) The feedbacks of plausible changes in biodiversity on climate characteristics and change.

Building on scientific as well as indigenous and local knowledge, the workshop would then focus on opportunities to meet both climate change and biodiversity related objectives, and on the risks of considering these two issues separately, including:

- (a) The opportunities, challenges and risks of climate change mitigation and adaptation options (e.g., bioenergy and carbon capture and storage and large-scale afforestation, reforestation and ecosystem restoration) for biodiversity, nature's contributions to people, and the quality of life;
- (b) The impact of biodiversity conservation and sustainable-use practices on greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., climate feedbacks);
- (c) An evaluation of the synergies, trade-offs and effectiveness of policies and governance structures that simultaneously address climate change and biodiversity loss at all scales, including in urban areas;
- (d) Key scientific uncertainties.

Partner Organizations

The workshop will be co-sponsored by IPCC and IPBES. Organizational, administrative and logistical arrangements, including the administration of the financing of the workshop, will be handled by IPBES based upon voluntary financial contributions received for the workshop from IPBES members.

Timing and Duration

The workshop is proposed for 12-14 May 2020, lasting three to three and a half days.

Location

To be decided.

Tentative Agenda

Day 1:

- Opening plenary: discussion topics and panel debate

Day 2:

- Parallel working groups, plenary discussion

Day 3:

- Parallel working groups, plenary discussion
- Closing plenary

Conference Participants

The workshop is planned to include participation from approximately 50 experts, with equal representation from the IPCC and IPBES communities. These 50 experts would be selected by the members of the Scientific Steering Committee.

The composition of workshop participants will aim to reflect:

- (a) The relevant range of scientific, technical and socioeconomic views and expertise;
- (b) Appropriate geographical representation;
- (c) The existing diversity of knowledge systems;
- (d) Gender balance;
- (e) Appropriate stakeholder representation.

Scientific Steering Committee, and Management arrangements

A Scientific Steering Committee will be established. For IPBES, representatives of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel should be involved in the Scientific Steering Committee, among others. For IPCC, WGII Co-Chairs, relevant science expertise from WGII TSU and from all three WG Bureaus will be involved.

Timeline

The conference organizers propose the following schedule of events:

1. Submission of the workshop proposal to the IPCC ExCom (December/January 2019), and IPBES MEP and Bureau (January 2020).
2. Defining the composition of the Scientific Steering Committee (January 2020).
3. Confirmation of conference location (January 2020).
4. Announcement of the co-sponsored workshop (January 2020).
5. Selection of 50 participants by the Scientific Steering Committee (February 2020).
6. Co-sponsored workshop of IPCC and IPBES on biodiversity and climate change (12-14 May 2020).
7. Finalization of draft workshop report (June 2020).
8. Peer review of workshop report (July 2020).
9. Finalization of the workshop report (August 2020).
10. Submission to CBD in time for COP 15, as an information document (End of August 2020, to allow for the report to be considered in the finalization of working documents to COP, which will be published 6 weeks before COP 15).
11. Submission to UNFCCC in time for COP 26, as an information document (October 2020).
12. Finalise preparation and submission of a journal article (September-October 2020)

Financial support

The costs of the meeting will be borne by offers made by several Governments including Switzerland, Norway, and the United Kingdom, subject to confirmation by these Governments. There will be no financial implications for the IPCC and IPBES.

Other considerations in light of IPCC procedures (Section 7.2 IPCC Procedures Appendix A) and IPBES procedures (section 6.2 of the Procedures for the preparation of Platform deliverables, annex I to decision IPBES-3/3)

The meeting organizers confirm that the meeting is designed to meet all criteria set out in section 7.2 of the IPCC procedures Appendix A:

- The meeting satisfies the criterion of relevance to the work of the IPCC, as it is intended to inform the AR6.
- We fully acknowledge that IPCC co-sponsorship does not convey any obligation by the IPCC to provide financial or other support. Full funding for the activity will be available from sources other than the IPCC.
- The activity will be open to government experts as well as experts from non-governmental organizations participating in the work of the IPCC (with the selection of participations to be determined by a Scientific Steering Committee that will be looking for a mix of participants from relevant backgrounds, including government experts as well as experts from non-governmental organizations participating in the work of the IPCC).
- Provision will be made for participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- The proceedings will be published and made available to the IPCC in a time frame relevant to its work. These proceedings will:
 - include a full list of participants;
 - indicate when and by whom they were prepared;
 - indicate whether and by whom they were reviewed prior to publication;
 - specify all sources of funding and other support;
 - and prominently display the following disclaimer at the beginning of the document: "IPCC co-sponsorship does not imply IPCC endorsement or approval of these proceedings or any recommendations or conclusions contained herein. Neither the papers presented at the Workshop/Expert Meeting nor the report of its proceedings have been subjected to IPCC review."

The meeting organizers confirm that the meeting is designed in line with in section 6.2 of the procedures for the preparation of IPBES deliverables:

- The Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel determined that the workshop is supportive of Plenary-approved activities, in particular deliverables 1(b), assessing the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change, and deliverable 1(a), assessing interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health, as well as decision IPBES-7/1, section II, paras 6 and 7.
- The IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will be involved in the scientific steering committee for the design and organization of, and selection of experts for the workshop.
- The workshop will be funded by a number of Governments. There will be no financial implications for the IPBES trust fund.
- The workshop will be open to government experts as well as experts from other stakeholder entities, including non-governmental organizations, and indigenous and local knowledge holders participating in the work of IPBES.

- Provision will be made for participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- The proceedings will be published and made available to IPBES in a time frame relevant to its work. In particular, in line with decision IPBES-7/1, in time for CBD COP 15 and UNFCCC COP 26. These proceedings will:
 - include a full list of participants;
 - indicate when and by whom they were prepared;
 - indicate whether and by whom they were reviewed prior to publication;
 - specify all sources of funding and other support;
 - and prominently display a disclaimer stating that IPBES co-sponsorship does not imply IPBES endorsement or approval of the proceedings or any recommendations or conclusions contained therein, and that neither the papers presented at the workshop nor the report of its proceedings have been subjected to IPBES review.

References

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Other relevant IPCC reports, such as AR5 and AR6 WGI, II and III main assessment reports under preparation.