

**5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)**

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**COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document summarizes COP13 requests to the Scientific Council and its individual members concerning cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The Sessional Committee is invited to consider options and make decisions for the further engagement of the Scientific Council in relevant IPBES assessments and other processes, and make any recommendations to its members in this regard.

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting (COP13, Ghandinagar, 2020) reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the cooperation between Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS through the adoption of Resolution 10.8 (Rev.COP13) *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS*. The resolution includes some specific requests addressed to the Scientific Council or its individual members. In particular, paragraph 1 *Urges CMS Parties Focal Points and Scientific Councillors to communicate and liaise regularly with the national representatives in the IPBES to ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species, especially those listed under CMS, are being adequately addressed by IPBES*; and paragraph 8 *Requests the Scientific Councillors to engage in all relevant processes of IPBES and in the development of new assessments including in their scoping processes, in collaboration with the scientific advisory bodies of other MEAs as appropriate*.
2. Through Decision 13.12 *Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS*, COP13 further specifies the mandate to the Scientific Council to engage in relevant IPBES processes:

The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to engage in relevant scoping processes and review of drafts of the IPBES thematic assessments adopted by IPBES-7 Plenary with a view to ensure that elements of connectivity are integrated.

Engagement of the Scientific Council in relevant IPBES processes

3. Individual members of the Scientific Council have engaged in the past in various IPBES processes, including scoping processes for ongoing assessments and development of proposals for assessment to be included in the IPBES Programme of Work, either independently or in conjunction with the Secretariat. Some details on activities prior to COP13 can be found in document [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.18.1](#).
4. Of particular interest to CMS is a proposal to include a thematic assessment on the role of connectivity in ensuring the integrity and resilience of socio-ecological systems, which was submitted to the 7th meeting of the Plenary of IPBES in 2019 as part of its second work programme. The proposal was developed with input from the Scientific Council and jointly submitted by CMS and its Family of Agreements, the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). The proposal will be re-considered by the Plenary at its ninth meeting, scheduled in 2022. The Secretariat is engaging in relevant fora to generate support for the proposal to be approved by IPBES for possible inclusion in its work programme in coordination with the other partners. In this regard, a joint CMS and UNESCO statement was made at the Formal Session for the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention of Biological Diversity. Individual members of the Scientific Council could consider contributing to this effort by liaising with the national representatives in IPBES in their country to sensitize them on the interest of this specific assessment.

5. The chair of the CMS Scientific Council is a permanent observer of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), and is invited to all its meetings. When the chair cannot attend, the Secretariat is accepted as a substitute. Since COP13, two meetings of the MEP took place: the first one was attended by the Secretariat, as the chair had not yet been elected at that time; the second was attended by the newly elected chair. The main input solicited from observers are reports on the consideration of IPBES deliverables by the respective organization.
6. The Secretariat has been endeavouring to support engagement of members of the Scientific Council in the external review of order drafts of relevant thematic and methodological assessments and other IPBES deliverables by regularly monitoring the IPBES calendar and bringing opportunities to provide input to the attention of the members of the Scientific Council. An example is the most recent notification issued by the Secretariat on the external review by Governments and experts of the second order draft of the chapters and the first order draft of the summary for policymakers of the IPBES assessment of the sustainable use of wild species. Already scheduled for the near future is an external review of the draft of the study on the use and impact of the IPBES conceptual framework.
7. In addition to contributions to IPBES processes by individual councillors, the Sessional Committee may wish to consider options for the submission of consolidated Scientific Council contributions to the review of some IPBES draft assessments, as an alternative, or in addition to contributions of its individual members. In this regard, differently from the provisions included in Res. 10.8 (Rev.COP13), which are directed to the individual members of the Council, Dec. 13.12 is addressed to the Scientific Council as a body of the Convention.

Participation of Scientific Councillors in IPBES Task Forces and Expert Groups

8. Most IPBES assessments and other deliverables are compiled through dedicated Task Forces and Expert Groups. Such groups are normally established through a process of nomination of candidates by member governments and observer organization, followed by a selection normally undertaken by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP).
9. Participation of members of the Scientific Council in relevant Task Forces and Expert Groups is expected to offer excellent opportunities to promote the consideration of elements of interest to the Convention in the related deliverables. The CMS Secretariat is entitled to submit nominations, and while nominees in the past have not been selected including the most recent one for the IPBES Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics, in case of interest and availability of Councillors this remains an option in the event of future opportunities.

Recommended actions

10. The Sessional Committee is recommended to:
 - a) consider options and make decisions for the further engagement of the Scientific Council in relevant IPBES assessments and other processes;
 - b) make any recommendations to its members in this regard.