



An Introduction to IPBES



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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Resilient nations.

Outline

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1.

What is IPBES?



The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

- An independent intergovernmental body, established by Governments in 2012 – currently 126 Members.
- In response to requests from Governments, IPBES provides policymakers with objective scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding:
 - The planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and their contributions to people
 - Tools & methods to protect and sustainably use these vital natural assets
- Provides options for responses based on the best-available science.
- IPBES's Mission:
 - To strengthen knowledge foundations for better policy through science, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.
- IPBES does for biodiversity what the IPCC does for climate change





2.

Why Does IPBES Matter?

Why Does IPBES Matter?

- Biodiversity & nature's contributions to people underpin almost every aspect of human development.
 - Production of food
 - Clean water
 - Climate regulation
 - Disease control
- Also key to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Yet they are being depleted & degraded faster now than at any point in human history
- IPBES is unique:
 - Harnessing best expertise from across disciplines & knowledge communities
 - Providing policy-relevant knowledge and options for responses
 - Catalysing implementation of knowledge-based policies at all levels of Government, the private sector and civil society



3.

What Does IPBES Do?



What Does IPBES Do?

The work of IPBES can be broadly grouped into four complementary areas:

- **Expert Assessments (synthesis & critical evaluation of available knowledge)**
 - On specific themes (e.g. “Pollinators, Pollination & Food Production”)
 - On methodological issues (e.g. “Scenarios and Models”)
 - At both the regional and global levels (e.g. “Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”)
 - Scientific credibility ensured by IPCC-inspired processes: selection of experts by experts, based on CVs and thorough peer-review (thousands of comments, addressed individually, posted online).
- **Policy Support**
 - Identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies
 - Facilitating their use & catalysing their future development
- **Building Capacity & Knowledge**
 - Identifying & meeting priority capacity, knowledge & data needs of IPBES Members, experts & stakeholders.
- **Communications & Outreach**
 - Ensuring the widest reach and impact of IPBES’s work

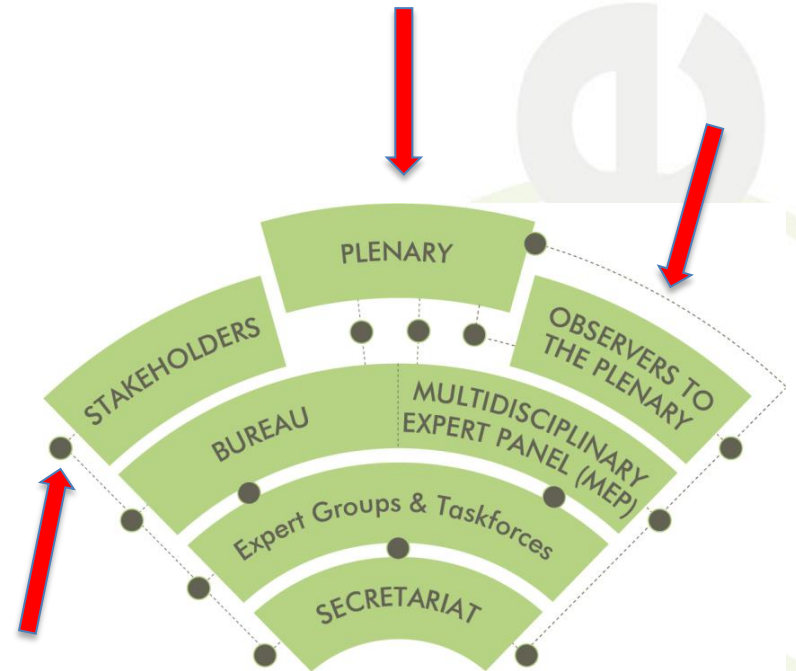


4.

How is IPBES Structured?

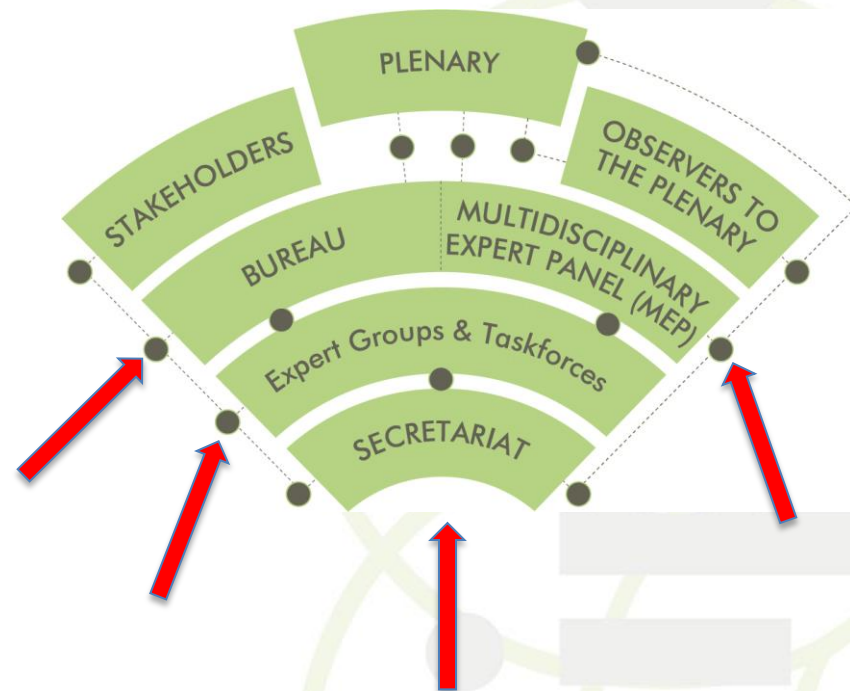
How is IPBES Structured?

- **The Plenary**
 - Governing body of IPBES
 - Made up of member States
 - Usually meets once per year
- **Observers to the Plenary**
 - States not yet Members
 - Biodiversity-related conventions (e.g. CBD)
 - Related UN bodies
 - Other accredited organizations & agencies
- **Stakeholders**
 - All contributors to & end-users of IPBES outputs.



How is IPBES Structured?

- **The Bureau**
 - Oversees all administrative functions
 - Comprises Chair, four Vice-Chairs & five additional officers.
- **Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP)**
 - Oversees all scientific & technical functions
 - 5 Experts from each of the 5 UN regions
- **Expert Groups & Taskforces**
 - Selected scientists & knowledge-holders
 - Carrying out assessments & other deliverables
- **Secretariat (incl. Technical Support Units)**
 - Implements IPBES work & administration
 - Supports Plenary, Bureau & MEP
 - Led by Executive Secretary
 - Hosted in Bonn, Germany



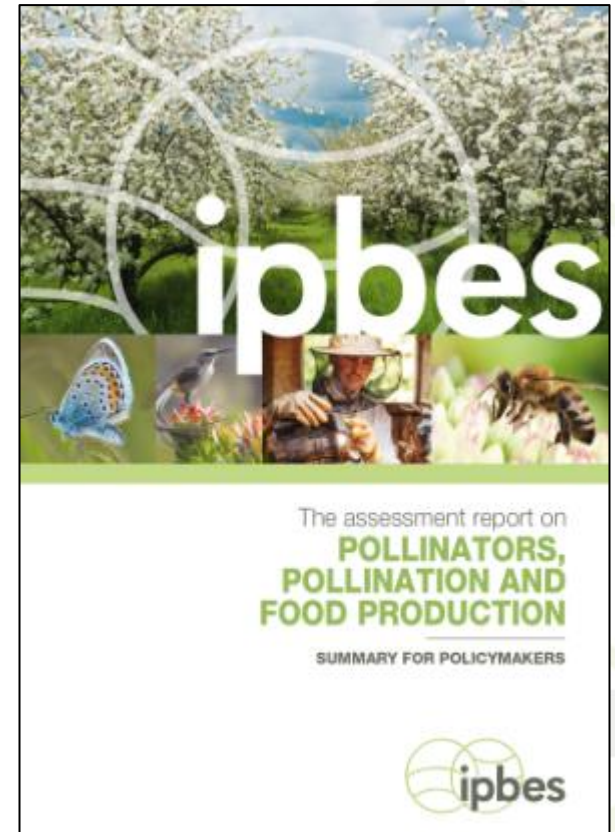


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What Does an IPBES Output Look Like?

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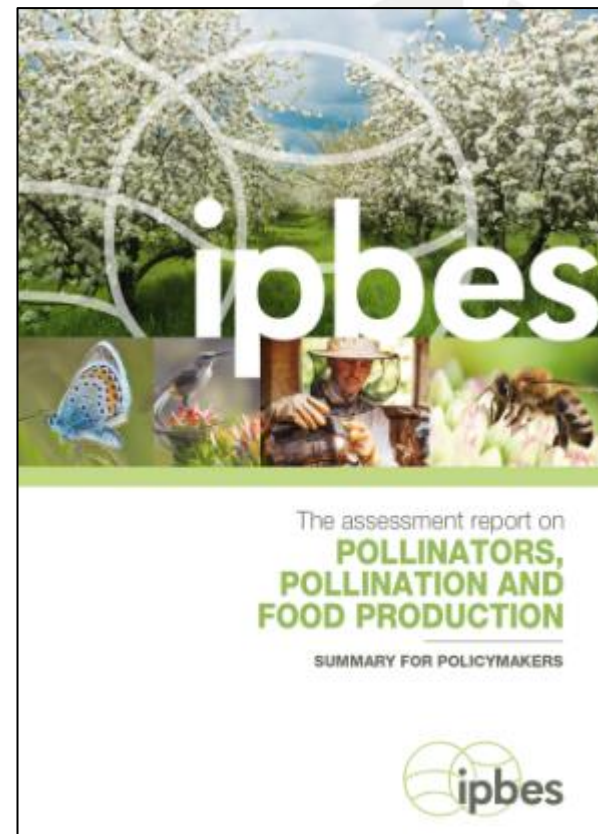
- 1st IPBES Thematic Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination & Food Production
 - Completed in 2016
 - Result of 2 years work by 77 experts from around the world
 - Cites about 3,000 scientific papers
 - Includes info about indigenous & local knowledge from more than 60 locations
 - Summary for Policymakers (SPM) approved word-by-word by the IPBES Plenary



What Does an IPBES Output Look Like?

- Examples of Findings & Key Messages:

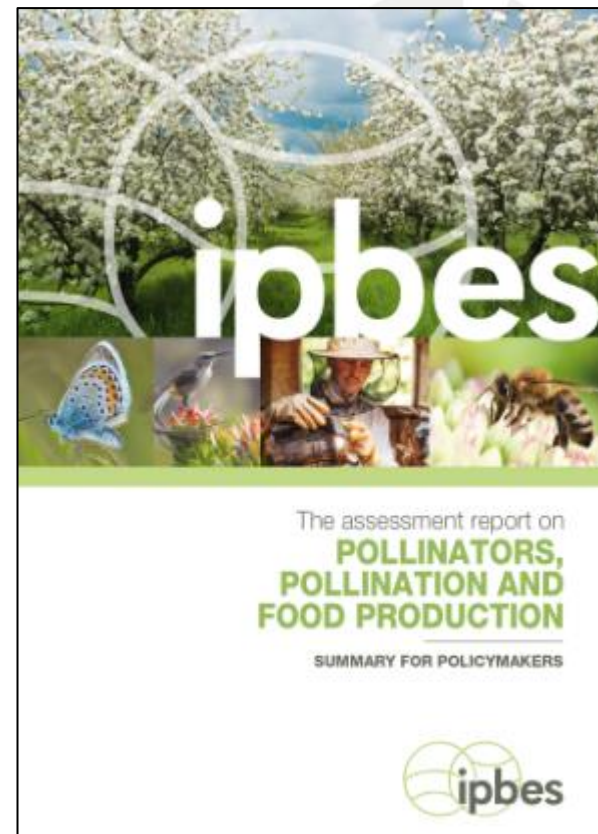
- Up to \$577 billion in annual global food production relies on pollinators.
- Agricultural production dependent on animal pollinators increased 300% over past 50 years.
- Nearly 90% of wild flowering plants depend on animal pollination.
- 16% of vertebrate pollinators are threatened with global extinction.
- Pesticides threaten pollinators worldwide, although long-term effects still unknown.
- Range of actions can be taken to safeguard pollinators such as:
 - Ensure greater habitat diversity
 - Promote sustainable agriculture
 - Support traditional practices such as crop rotation
 - Improve managed bee husbandry



What Does an IPBES Output Look Like?

■ Policy Impact?

- Formal endorsement of key messages by the Parties to the CBD COP13 in Mexico.
- The formation of a “Coalition of the Willing” by a growing number of Governments around the world, to protect pollinators and to promote pollination.
- The publication, in both the Nature and Science journals, of major articles building on and reviewing the assessment.
- An ever-expanding list of national strategies and action plans on pollination, premised on the outcomes of the assessment, in countries including, among others: France, the Netherlands, Brazil, South Africa and the Republic of Korea.





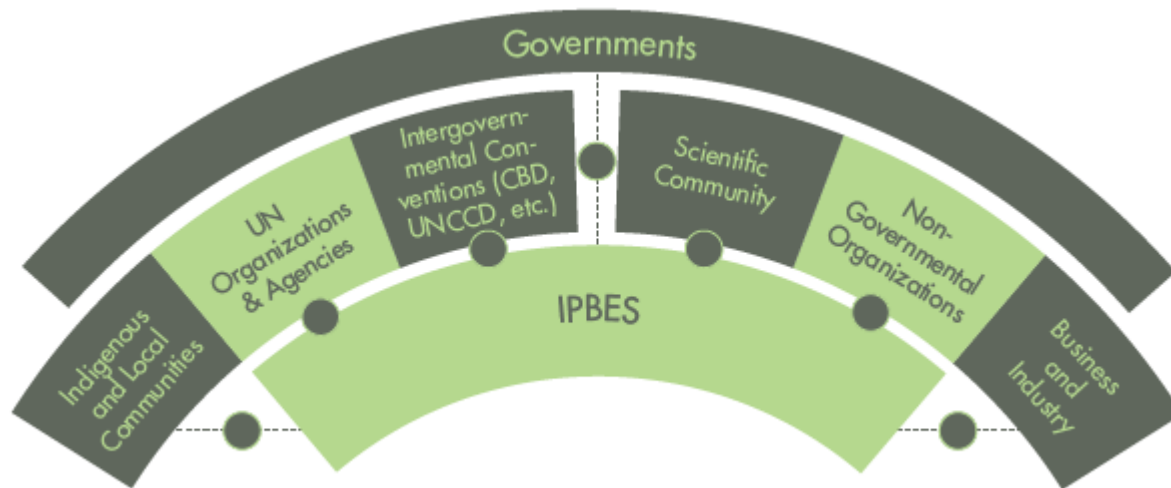
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How Can You Get Involved?



How Can You Get Involved?

IPBES currently has 126 Members. A large number of NGOs, organizations, conventions and civil society groups also participate in the formal IPBES process as observers, with several thousand stakeholders, ranging from scientific experts to representatives of academic and research institutions, local communities and the private sector, contributing to and benefitting from our work.



How Can You Get Involved?

There are a wide range of opportunities to engage with IPBES, some of which include:

- Joining as a Member (Governments only)
- Contributing as a nominated expert to ongoing IPBES assessments – as an:
 - Author
 - Editor
 - Reviewer
- Supporting capacity & knowledge-building work by contributing expertise, data or other resources.
- Serving as a regional or subregional communication and outreach partner
- Coordinating a sectoral or industry-specific network of stakeholder engaging with IPBES
- Participating in the IPBES Fellows Programme

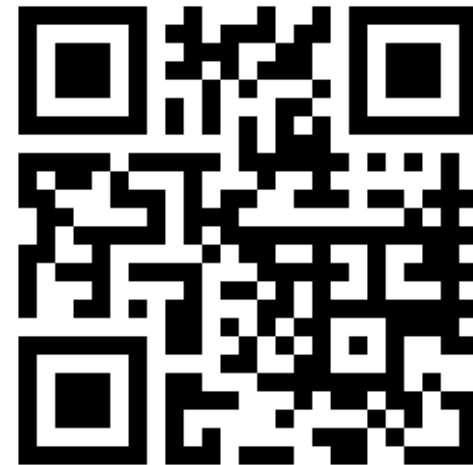
How Can You Get Involved?

The first step is to register as an IPBES Stakeholder. It's free and will ensure you receive regular information about the work of IPBES as well as opportunities to get involved.

To register go to: www.ipbes.net/stakeholders

Or use any smartphone or mobile device to scan this QR Code:

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Want to Know More? Watch the 5 Minute Video Below



