

Stakeholders' Statement at the First Session of the IPBES Plenary (IPBES-1)

21 January 2013 – Bonn, Germany

A group of over 100 stakeholders met on 20 January 2013. The meeting was convened by the interim IPBES Secretariat and co-facilitated by IUCN & ICSU.

Participants:

- Expressed appreciation to the interim IPBES Secretariat and to the Government of Germany for providing an opportunity for consultation prior to and during the first plenary meeting of IPBES;
- Noted that the interest, engagement and participation of all relevant stakeholders along the entire process are key for the relevance, impact, credibility and legitimacy of IPBES but that their key roles are not yet fully reflected in the proposed rules, procedures and structures of the platform;
- Urged for a stakeholder engagement strategy to be developed together with the stakeholders before the second plenary meeting that would ensure the full and effective participation of all stakeholders in the work, the governance and the operations of the platform taking into account the diversity of expertise that they could contribute and the need for financial support to enable this;
- Urged this plenary meeting to clarify the respective roles of the MEP and Bureau in prioritizing requests, inputs and suggestions for activities to be undertaken by the platform. The MEP should have the responsibility to rank in a transparent manner requests as part of its scientific and technical functions;
- Strongly urged that Observers be allowed to nominate members for the MEP;
- Underlined the importance of having a conceptual framework for IPBES, and called for an effective involvement and participation of relevant stakeholders in the timely preparation of this framework;
- Recommended this plenary meeting request the MEP to further develop the elements of an initial work programme, taking into account input by Governments and other stakeholders during the intersessional work with a view to making a recommendation to the plenary for its second session;
- Further recommended that IPBES initiate the establishment of partnerships with existing initiatives to support and expedite the implementation of its work programme and reports on progress at the second plenary meeting.

Read by Cyrie Sendashonga (IUCN) on behalf of stakeholders