



BRIEFING SESSION

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Reconnecting science to policy Why? What? How?

Tuesday 29 May 2012

11:30 – 13:30

Room PHS 7C050, European Parliament, Brussels

Interpretation EN-FR

AGENDA

Chaired by:

MEP Gaston Franco, Member of the EP ITRE and ENVI Committee and Chair of the “Forestry” Group of the EP Intergroup “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”

The well-being of people in Europe and all over the world depends on goods and services that nature provides. The clothes we wear, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, as well as fuels, medicines and countless others, come to us, free of charge, from our planet’s ecosystems and biodiversity that supports them.¹

However, this natural heritage is showing an alarming decline and the world needs a stronger link between government policy and scientific facts regarding the state of the world’s

¹ J.A.McNeely, R.A.Mittermeier, T.M.Brooks, F.Boltz, N.Ash. The Wealth of Nature: Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity and Human Well-Being”, CEMEX, IUCN (2009)





ecosystems and natural resources. In a recent report, UNEP together with the top scientists from around the world identified 21 environmental issues for the 21st century with reconnecting science to policy ranking the top three.² By adopting a resolution³ on an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, the European Parliament recognized that biodiversity science is the necessary backbone for policy implementation.

After years of international negotiations, more than 90 governments have just agreed to officially establish the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

IPBES intends to be an independent body aiming to link scientific communities and policy-makers. Established on 21 April 2012 and to be based in Bonn, Germany, it will equal the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for issues directly linked with nature conservation, food security, sustainable development and human well-being. Measuring the latest trends of ecosystem services and biodiversity and identifying policy relevant tools, it will shape the international agenda and set the scene for legitimate and credible knowledge to inform policy making.

Ambitious? Come and learn about this newly launched initiative with a range of views from various key players and discuss solutions IPBES can provide to decision making both at the EU and global levels.

Opening session

11:30 – 11:40

Welcome and introduction, MEP Gaston Franco

11:40 – 11:55

Reconnecting science to policy: What is IPBES and why do we need it?

Dr Salvatore Arico, Sr. Programme Specialist, Biodiversity Assessments and Inter-agency Coordination and Leader, Natural Sciences Sector Cross-cutting Thematic Unit on Biodiversity, UNESCO

² 21st Issues for the 21st Century: Results of the UNEP Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues, UNEP (2012)

³ European Parliament Resolution of 20 April 2012 on Our life insurance, our natural capital: An EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (2011/2307(INI))



Roundtable

Moderator: MEP Gaston Franco

- 11:55 – 12:05** **Biodiversity and its benefits: Knowledge of conservation community for IPBES**
Pierre Commenville, Policy Officer, Global Policy Unit, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- 12:05 – 12:15** **A knowledge dialogue for the 21st Century: Indigenous knowledge, Traditional knowledge, Science and connecting diverse knowledge systems**
Dr Maria Schultz, Director, Resilience and Development Programme (SwedBio), Stockholm Resilience Centre - Stockholm University (via video)
- 12:15 – 12:25** **Science for IPBES: Top priorities for biodiversity research**
Dr Anne Larigauderie, Executive Director, International Programme of Biodiversity Science (DIVERSITAS), and International Council for Science (ISCU)
- 12:25 – 12:35** **An economist's point of view on IPBES: How can assessments of ecosystem services benefit decision-makers?**
Patrick ten Brink, Senior Fellow and Head of Brussels office, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)
- 12:35 – 12:45** **Science-policy needs in Europe and the added value of IPBES**
Dr Thomas Koetz, Policy Officer - for Coordination of Commission relations with the Convention on Biodiversity, Unit 2 "Bio-diversity", DG Environment, European Commission
- 12:45 – 12:55** **Involvement of EU Member States: Lessons from the IPBES hosting country Germany and from the European perspective**
Carsten Neßhöver, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany
- 12:55 – 13:20** **Debate with the audience**



Conclusions by the Chair

13:20-13:30

MEP Gaston Franco, Member of the EP ITRE and ENVI Committee and Chair of the “Forestry” Group of the EP Intergroup “*Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*”

Lunch and continuation of informal discussions

Lunch provided in front of the meeting room (PHS 7C050)