



IUCN Statement at the Opening Session of the First Session of a Plenary Meeting to Determine Modalities and Institutional Arrangements for IPBES

3 October 2011, Nairobi, Kenya

Thank you Mr Chairman,

IUCN is pleased to take part in this first session and wishes to thank UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, UNDP for the organization of this meeting, and the Kenyan government for their ever gracious hospitality. We express our sincere condolences for the loss of Prof. Wangari Maathai to her family and her friends in Kenya and all over the world.

IUCN welcomes the considerable progress already achieved to establish the platform including the Busan Outcome which is fully recognized by governments as the basic principles for the future operationalization of the platform and congratulate all efforts already done by governments and other relevant stakeholders.

IUCN strongly supports the operational establishment in 2012 of IPBES designed as a global mechanism to further strengthen science-policy interface, through enhancing the credibility, legitimacy and saliency of the information on which policy makers and other relevant stakeholders depend for decisions on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing. IUCN urges governments and other relevant stakeholders to provide the platform with a strong set of operational modalities including an ambitious and robust interlinked work programme for the first years of implementation of IPBES with adequate funding.

IPBES will be of interest to the wide range of stakeholders involved in the fields of biodiversity conservation, natural resources management and development, at all levels.

Yesterday, a number of relevant stakeholders from civil society and the scientific community held a consultative meeting co-facilitated by ICSU and IUCN, to consider ways and means of enhancing their involvement in IPBES. The statement summarizing the recommendations of this consultation will be delivered by ICSU at an appropriate time during the proceedings of this meeting.

IUCN supports the principle along which non-governmental stakeholders are recognized as major knowledge providers and central users of the outputs of IPBES and considers that the platform should answer to the needs expressed not only by governments, which form the core of the platform, but also by civil society among which the scientific community, conservation NGOs and development actors. Other stakeholders such as the business/private sector community are also interested to become engaged. This is reflected in a joint statement co-signed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and IUCN which we have brought for the information of this meeting.

Due to its long experience on science, knowledge and policy tools on biodiversity and ecosystem services, its nature as a multi-stakeholders platform bringing together over 1,000 government and non-government member organizations, its 6 Commissions engaging more than 12,000 scientists in a unique knowledge network – which could provide a useful model for thematic working groups that IPBES might wish to consider establishing - IUCN has a lot to offer to IPBES. Having contributed to the negotiation process for the establishment of IPBES since 2008, IUCN is ready, willing, and able to support the work and governance of IPBES.

For this first session of the plenary, IUCN has prepared technical papers to share our experiences and lessons learned on knowledge management and assessments. We invite the distinguished delegates to take a look at those papers.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Stated by Cyrie SENDASHONGA, Head of the IUCN Delegation to the First Session of the Plenary Meeting to Establish an IPBES.