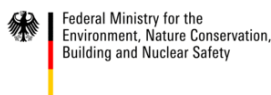# IPBES capacity building workshop

Sarajevo, October 15th - 17th, 2017

Report

The Institute for Biodiversity Network e.V. (ibn) was entrusted by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) through funds of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety to hold a capacity building workshop in Eastern Europe on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This workshop took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from October 15th to 17th, 2017. The 21 participants came from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia and represented government institutions, scientific institutions and civil society organisations.

The main goal of the workshop was to inform especially newcomers to IPBES on how the intergovernmental platform works, what the work programme includes, what the main products are so far and what options there are for active participation, for individuals as well as for organisations or even states. Accordingly, the introductory presentation (by Axel Paulsch, ibn) elaborated on these aspects. The IPBES Bureau member for Eastern Europe, Senka Barudanovic from Bosnia and Herzegovina, then informed about the specific situation of Eastern Europe countries in IPBES.

A session on stakeholder engagement, led by Malte Timpte (ibn), informed about the stakeholder engagement strategy of IPBES and asked participants to locate themselves and their institutions as contributors to IPBES, users of IPBES products or supporters of IPBES, in one of the four sectors academia, public, private or civil society. The second part of this session asked all participants to name further possible stakeholders for their respective countries and also locate them in the same scheme. The results revealed that there is a broad potential stakeholder basis in all countries although many of the named organisations or institutions do not yet participate in IPBES or use the products. The results are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Possible stakeholders in countries in different sectors

Country	Academia	Civil society	Private sector	Public sector
Bosnia and Herzegovina	University of Sarajevo University of Banja Luca University of Mostar	Centar za Biodivezitet Greenway Fond EKO	Tourist Agencies Bee-Keeping Organisations	Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Education on canton and national levels
Albania	Science Academy, Agricultural University of Tirana: Faculties of Forestry, Agriculture and Environment, Biotechnology and Food, Veterinary Medicine, Economy	UNDP, GIZ, Albania Agricultural Council, Beekeeper, Pepnea Association, INCA Institute	MORAVA Comf.	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Infrastructure and

	Tirana University: Faculty of Natural Science			Energy, National Food Authority, National Water Authority, National Agency for Research
Macedonia	University 'Cyzil and Methodius" Skopje, Faculties of Ecology, Environment, Life Sciences	NGO MED, FARMAHEM		Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Agency for agriculture
Montenegro	Marine Biology Institute, Faculties UDG, Mediterranean, Faculty of Biotechnology incl. Advisory Board for Agriculture	National Beekeeper Organisation Fisher Association, Hunter Association, Farmer Association, Greenhome, OZON	Agricultural Companies, Hotel Association, Chamber of Economy, MNE Business Alliance	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Protection Agency, National Forestry Directorate, Directorate of Waters, National History Museum, National Parks,
Moldova	State Universities, Polytechnica, Institute of Zoology, Botanical Garden ASPI, Institute of Genetics, Physiology and Plant Protection	NGOs of ecotourism, ecology Bee-Keepers	Hotels, Tourist Industries, Chamber of trade and industry, National Federation of Farmers	UNDP Moldova, IUCN Moldova, Ecological Fund, Fund for Regional Development, BERD BET, National Agency for Food Security, Ministries: MARDE, ME, MFA Agencies: Forestry, Water,
Serbia	National Universities (BL, NS, NI, KG)		Danube Business Forum	Ministry for Environment, Environmental Protection Agency, Institute for Nature Conservation Vojvodina
Georgia	Agricultural University, Academy of Agri-cultural Sciences, Institutes of Botany, Zoology, Agriculture,	Beekeepers, GFA, CENN, ERKANA, UDP, UNEP, FAO, GIZ	Bioproducts Company BPC, LTD Kula, LTD Tentorium	Ministry of Environment with Department for Biodiversity, Ministry of Agriculture with Science and Research Centre and State Laboratory National Food Agency, Parliamentary Committee of Agrarian Issues

A second presentation by A. Paulsch introduced IPBES products, especially the global assessment on pollination, pollinators and food production and the methodological assessment on scenarios and

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models. The co-chair of the regional assessment in Europe and Central Asia (ECA-region), Mark Rounsevell, then presented how the ECA-Assessment is structured and progressing towards the planned adoption at IPBES 6 in March 2018.

In the last session of the first full workshop day Katja Heubach (ibn and GIZ) gave examples for projects that try to support IPBES, make use of products or build capacity. These examples included national biodiversity platforms like Network-Forum in Germany or similar approaches in other European countries, international networks like the ECA-network of national platforms and its Pan-European Stakeholder Conferences (PESC), or the WABES project (West African Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).

On the second workshop day participants worked in a world-cafe-format on the questions how such projects could also be useful in eastern European countries and under which conditions they could possibly be set up.

Azra Velagic-Hajrudinovic from GIZ Bosnia shortly introduced the Open Regional Fund for Biodiversity of GIZ as a possible funding mechanism for IPBES-related projects in the region. Anne Jueppner from UNDP announced the first UNDP-BES-Net trialogue on pollination and food security taking place directly back-to-back with the capacity building workshop, starting on October 18th, 2017. Half of the participants of the ibn-workshop also took part in the trialogue.

As the IPBES secretariat had just a few days before the starting of the workshop opened a demo-version of the catalogue for policy tools for commenting, the workshop participants were given the opportunity to access the catalogue online. Mark Rounsevell introduced the catalogue and the content categories and workshop participants came up with ideas on how the catalogue could still be improved. These ideas included comments on the lay-out as well as on the form of presenting information, proposals for further content were made (e.g. links to relevant environmental legislation) and interactive tools like the opportunity for discussion groups were recommended. The comments were summarised and brought to the attention of the IPBES secretariat as follows:

Commenting on the online catalogue

Question 1: *How could you use the content?*

Research:
- ideas for conducting projects on national level
- integrate policy support tools in own research
- literature as good evidence or basis for research
- get insight into topics of national interest and plan research accordingly
- use the published data as argument for further research funding

Governance/Policy:
- use the policy tools in advocacy (e.g.as NGO)
- find arguments for political debate
- support for policy action

Education, Capacity Building:
- learn from examples and training materials
- find contacts and networks
- links to community of practice

Question 2: *How could the catalogue be improved?*

Layout:

- should be possible to enlarge text
- more graphics and figures, less text
- introduction video to the portal itself

Education/Training:

- support creation of master study programme
- offer workshops

System as such:

- easier entry procedure
- broader access on the website, not only through 'policy tools'
- question and answer section should be updated regularly
- make it useful for a broader user community
- link to online translation tools e.g. Web Accessibility Initiative www.w3.org/WAI
- links should open in new TABs
- how is user information validated (you can enter any user organisation to get access without any validation, at least in the current version)
- structure is still confusing

Community of Practice:

- allow for regional sub-communities
- allow for user groups/discussion groups

Content:

- How can new content be integrated?
- How can new tools be uploaded?
- split assessments into two groups: IPBEs assessments and others

Question 3: ***What should be added?***

- Question-Answer service
- Opportunity for Lice-Chat
- Application for mobiles (Android)
- More video material
- Webinar on usage of the portal
- more information on policy relevant legislation
- list/data base of possible consultants (to allow matchmaking between consultants and policy makers)
- Questionnaire for feedback
- Glossary
- Tool for Global Risk Assessment SRAS
- IBAT Tool
- more links to data bases

In an final evaluation session the participants were asked to mention what they captured during the workshop, what was only partly understood or what still stayed somewhat unclear.