



# IPBES Capacity Building Workshop

Almaty, 6.-9. October 2019



# IPBES capacity building workshop

Almaty, Kazakhstan, October 6th - 9th, 2019

## 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, and Nuclear Safety to hold a two-day capacity building workshop in Central Asia on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This workshop took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from October 6th to 9th, 2019. The 23 participants came from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and represented government institutions, scientific institutions and civil society organisations. Throughout both working days simultaneous translation between English and Russian was provided by professional interpreters. The capacity building workshop was held back-to-back with the 'BES-Net Central Asia Regional Dialogue on Land Degradation, Biodiversity and Climate Change' (9th to 11th), organized by UNDP, and many participants of the ibn-workshop took also part in the Dialogue. In order to prepare participants for the Dialogue, the IPBES Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment was one focus of the capacity building workshop.

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. Aibek Samakov, who was a young fellow to the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, added his experiences and insights into the work of IPBES in a complementary presentation.

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 identify 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 IPBES products.

Malte Timpte also presented the network of national IPBES platforms (ECA-network) as one way of national response to IPBES and as an instrument to stimulate stakeholder and knowledge holder engagement and to foster national input to IPBES

A second presentation by Axel Paulsch introduced IPBES products which are already available, currently prepared or to be started in the near future. The global assessment on Pollination,

Pollinators and Food production was presented in detail, including the uptake through the CBD and the formation of a Coalition of the Willing as a political response to the assessment.

In the last session of the first workshop day three national initiatives/projects dealing with sustainable use and measures against land degradation were presented by workshop participants: Murat Djumashev reported about community involvement with small protected areas in Kyrgyzstan, Ludmilla Kiktenko introduced the Nexus initiative in Kazakhstan, and Evgeny Botman (UZ) informed about watershed management as strategy for afforestation in the mountains of Uzbekistan.

On the second workshop day Malte Timpte and Aibek Samakov together introduced in detail the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as the most recent product of IPBES. Slides for that presentation were kindly provided by Hien Ngo from the IPBES secretariat, including on the development of the assessment as well as the key messages.

The Technical Support Unit (TSU) for capacity building, based in Trondheim, Norway, was also kind enough to provide slides about their work and IPBES capacity building activities like the fellowship programme, the dialogue workshops, the capacity building forum, and the rolling plan for capacity building.

Axel Paulsch then introduced the key messages of the IPBES Assessment on Land Degradation and Restoration (LDR) as one of the products that have been approved at IPBES 6.

In the afternoon the participants in a group work participants from the six different countries then discussed along the following guiding questions:

- Which are the problems linked to land degradation you face in your country?
- What could be possible solutions?
- What kind of support would be needed to implement such solutions?

This session was also meant as preparation for the Trialogue organized by UNDP BES-Net back-to-back with the ibn-workshop.

Each country then presented their findings to the whole group. Among the most frequently mentioned points were the following:

- Problems/factors: overgrazing, deforestation, unsustainable irrigation schemes, land slides/mud slides/floods during rainy season, drop of ground water level, loss of arable land.
- Solutions: adapted farming systems, crop rotation, more sustainable irrigation schemes, corridors for grazing cattle, mulching systems, afforestation of degraded lands, alternative energy sources in order to reduce the need for fire wood.
- Support needed: financial support, introduction of innovation technologies, capacity building, analysis of further needs.

In a 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. They were also asked how the workshop could have been improved in their perspective.

The programme of the workshop:

<b>Sunday, Oct 6th 2019</b>		
All day	Arrival in Almaty and to Hotel Kazzhol	
20:00	<b>Dinner at Hotel Kazzhol</b>	
<b>Monday, Oct 7th 2019</b>		
08:00 - 09:00	<b>Breakfast</b>	
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome and introduction round	Ibn team
09:30 - 10:45	IPBES background: Where does it come from? What is it for? How does it work?	Axel Paulsch (ibn)
10:45 - 11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:15 - 12:15	Participation and Stakeholder engagement	Malte Timpte (ibn)
12:15 - 13:00	Insights from Fellows	Aibek Samakov (KY)
13:00 - 14:30	<b>Lunch break</b>	
14:30 - 15:00	Products of IPBES: Pollinator Assessment, uptake by CBD, Coalition of the Willing	Axel Paulsch (ibn)
15:00 - 16:00	The ECA-Network	Malte Timpte (ibn)
16:00 - 16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16:30 - 17:30	Restoring Ecosystems: Community involvement  Nexus project  Watershed management as strategy for afforestation in the mountains of UZ	Murat Djumashev (KY) Ludmilla Kiktenko (KZ) Evgeny Botman (UZ)
19:00	<b>Dinner at the hotel</b>	
<b>Tuesday, Oct 8th 2019</b>		
08:00 - 09:00	<b>Breakfast</b>	
09:00 - 9:30	Short introduction to BES-Net Dialogue	Yuko Kurauchi (UNDP)
9:30 - 10:00	Products of IPBES: Global Assessment (GA) and Current and upcoming assessments, new work programme	Aibek Samakov (KY), Malte Timpte (ibn)
10:00 - 10:30	Questionnaire on capacity development needs	Daris Gettueva (ibn)
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00 - 11:30	IPBES capacity building activities and TSU	Axel Paulsch (ibn)
11:30 - 12:30	Products of IPBES: Land degradation and restoration assessment (LDR)	Axel Paulsch (ibn)
12:30 - 14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
14:00 - 16:00	Group work for break down of LDR Assessment	All participants
16:00 - 16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16:30 - 18:00	Presentation of group work results	By participants
17:30 - 18:00	Feedback	All participants
19:00	<b>Dinner at the hotel for those who stay</b>	
<b>Wednesday, Oct 9th 2019</b>	<b>Breakfast for those who stay</b>	

**ibn IPBES capacity building workshop**  
**Hotel Kazzhol, Almaty, Kazakhstan 7./8.10.2019**

**ibn IPBES Capacity Building Workshop, Almaty 7./10.2019**  
**Feedback session (based on 22 answered questionnaires)**  
**How would you evaluate the following statements?**  
 Как бы вы оценили следующие утверждения?



Which issues that were important to you were not addressed?

Which questions were not answered sufficiently during the workshop? Which open questions remain?

Какие важные для вас вопросы не были обсуждены?

На какие вопросы в ходе семинара не было получено достаточных ответов? Какие вопросы остаются открытыми?

## IPBES structure and history

Further information on the structure and the history of IPBES are available here:

- <https://www.ipbes.net/about>
- [The IPBES Assessment Guide Summary](#) (2018)
- ibn - "IPBES - An Introduction for Stakeholders" [English](#) / [Russian](#) (2019)
- Open-Ended Network of IPBES Stakeholders – "[Guide to IPBES Plenary meetings for new observers, IPBES-7 edition](#)" (2019)
- NeFo / GIZ ValuES – "IPBES- A brief introduction for scientists, policy makers, and practitioners" [English](#) / [Russian](#) (2017)

## Instruments and approaches / methodologies in assessing degradation (tracking)

Experience of ibn or IPBES in developing strategies on tracking degradation.

Further information:

- [IPBES Summary for policymakers \(SPM\) - Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment](#)
- [IPBES Assessment report on Land Degradation and Restoration \(Full report, including SPM and chapters\)](#) > see Chapter 4 / 4.1.3 Detection of degradation

Question to be clarified:

### 1) Financing

- Global Environmental Fund (GEF) helps to fund implementation of CBD and UNCCD

2) Taking measures based on research results / The practical use of the assessments is unclear to me. How to use them in practice?

- IPBES regional, global and thematic assessments include chapters with recommendations for policy makers.
- The Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators is an example how governments can include IPBES results into national policy: <https://promotepollinators.org>
- The IPBES Policy Support Portal / Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies provides an overview over studies and implementation tools on various levels: <https://www.ipbes.net/policy-support/about>
- BES-net will publish the outcome of the Almaty Trialogue, including the results for national policies on degradation and pollinators > see <https://www.besnet.world/node/5097>

**The role of business for preserving biodiversity and for sustainable land use that addresses the needs and objectives of entrepreneurs.**

- The SPM of the IPBES Global Assessment lists activities that should be carried out by the private sector in its section on policy recommendations (IPBES Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services, p.32, Table SPM.1. Approaches for sustainability and possible actions and pathways for achieving them. [English](#) / [Russian](#))
- The IPBES members discussed to carry out an "methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people" in the near future.

The starting date for this assessment should be decided at the next plenary meeting. (see, p.18 ff,(d) Deliverable 1 (d), IPBES/7/10. Report of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the work of its seventh session)

**Questions related to cooperation in Central Asia on the IPBES.**

- One IPBES Bureau member for the region is from Azerbaijan, a MEP member as well. They could help to facilitate regional cooperation.

It seems to me if the target areas is related to Central Asia, it might be better to address the global, national and regional level of the subject. With this I mean that the audience will be interested in regional problems by international expert's overview.

- Compare the IPBES Regional Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service for Europe and Central Asia <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/eca>

**It would be better if they provided detailed information on how IPBES helps the member states and how member states contribute to IPBES**

- The IPBES Task Force on Capacity Building will organise events for member states and national focal points. More about the work of the IPBES Task Force on Capacity Building: <https://www.ipbes.net/capacity-building>
- BES-Net Dialogues are multi-stakeholder dialogues focusing on specific policy questions at the national and regional levels > <https://www.besnet.world/events?dialogues>
- UNEP-WCMC is hosting a project that should support national assessments in the IPBES context (see <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/featured-projects/national-ecosystem-assessments>)
- The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ in Germany is hosting a project on national platforms for IPBES (<https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=38006>)

Less information on biodiversity (wild animals, extinction of species).

**Open feedback – What else would you like to tell the organisers? Ideas, recommendations for improvements and other comments....**

**Обратная связь в свободной форме– Что еще вы хотели бы сказать организаторам? Идеи, рекомендации по улучшению и другие комментарии....**

Thank you

IPBES implies participation of representatives from governmental institutions. In order to make IPBES anchored in countries with observer status, it will be very useful to ensure participation of governmental officials.

I propose to continue the capacity building workshop in Tajikistan.

It is necessary to translate all presentation into Russian. It is also necessary to present the results of measures taken by the commission (based one example per country).

There is a need to include more scientists and academics of science and universities that could contribute to the IPBES process.

Also, support for the involvement of national focal points is needed. Also, present the SPM and use it in further work.

**Please to don't use plastic bottles and when possible, do not print out the material that can be presented on screen.**

- Thank you for raising this issue. We will try to consider the reduction of plastic and paper waste in the planning of future workshops.

**Organise such seminars for countries in Central Asia on regular basis.**

**Thank you for the seminar, everything was perfectly organized.**

**Involve participants in the workshop from:**

- a) Ministry of Agriculture
- b) Ministry of Energy
- c) Academic of Science
- d) Governmental representatives
- e) Professional business association

**It would be very useful if organisers provide reports and brochures related to the subject. At least, material related to the presentations should be distributed by email before arrival. In that way, the audience will get a better impression of the subject.**

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