



Survey on IPBES capacity building needs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Institute for Biodiversity – Network



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Mikhail Shakhnazarov and Axel Paulsch



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E-Mail: info@biodiv.de
Internet: <http://www.biodiv.de>
Authors: Mikhail Shankhnazarov and Axel Paulsch

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List of abbreviations

BfN	Bundesamt für Naturschutz, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
BMU	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Ibn	Institute for Biodiversity Network e.V.
IGO	Intergovernmental organization
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
MEP	Multidisciplinary Expert Panel
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SPI	Science-Policy Interface
TSU	Technical Support Unit
UFZ	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WCMC	UN Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Center

1 Introduction

1.1 Short introduction to IPBES

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is the intergovernmental body which assesses the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to society, in response to requests from decision makers. It was founded in 2012. The objective of IPBES is to strengthen the science-policy interface (SPI) for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of s, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. In other words: IPBES wants to provide a scientific basis for global environmental decision making in order to allow that decisions are made on the best knowledge available. As the word 'intergovernmental' expresses, IPBES is a body between member states. Since the founding among 90 states IPBES meanwhile has 136 members. Nevertheless, to fulfill its tasks, IPBES depends on the work of individual scientists and experts from different disciplines, including natural sciences and social sciences. The reports provided by IPBES try to compile as much knowledge as possible on a given topic, stemming from different knowledge systems as e.g. scientific knowledge and indigenous and local knowledge, published in different sources like peer reviewed literature or grey literature and in different languages.

IPBES is structured around several bodies, the Plenary of all member states being the most important one, as it is the main decision-making body. It takes any substantial decisions (budget, work programme) in consensus. The IPBES Bureau oversees the administrative functions of IPBES and is formed of 10 elected persons, two of each UN-region. One of these persons gets elected by the Plenary as Chair of IPBES and chairmanship rotates among the regions every three years. For the scientific functions of IPBES the Plenary elects the Multi-disciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), consisting of 5 persons per UN-region, balanced in scientific discipline and gender. Bureau and MEP are supported by a secretariat based in Bonn, Germany, headed by Dr. Anne Larigauderie as Executive Secretary. Technical Support Units (TSU) support specific tasks e.g. capacity building or specific products, e.g. assessments. The funding of IPBES is on a purely voluntary basis through a trust fund. The work of individual scientists contributing to assessments is pro bono only. The IPBES Plenary allows registered observer organizations to take part, but without full speaking rights and no voting rights (meaning that the consensus of observer organizations is not needed for any decision).

The main products of IPBES are assessments. There is a clear procedure for the development of such an assessment, starting with a call for requests. Such requests are e.g. expressed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) or other biodiversity related international agreements. The Bureau recommends to the Plenary which requests should be considered for a scoping. After the decision of the Plenary the scoping lays out how the assessment could look like, which specific questions it should try to answer, how long it would take and what the budgetary needs would be. The Plenary then decides which assessments should really be started, and when, and allocates the budget. In a public nomination process co-chairs and lead authors are selected by the MEP and the assessments get developed through several draft versions and review opportunities. Finally, the Plenary has to adopt the Summary for Policymakers in a word-by-word process and to accept the full assessment report as a whole. Assessments published so far include topics like pollination/pollinators and food production; land degradation and restoration; biodiversity and ecosystem services (on regional and global scale). Others, like invasive alien species or the conceptualization of values of biodiversity are underway, further topics like transformative change or the relationship between biodiversity and business are planned to start in coming years.

The secretary hosts a website where all products can be found for download:

<https://ipbes.net/>

The Institute for Biodiversity Network in the current project produced a booklet “IPBES - An introduction for Stakeholders” in English and Russian, which can be downloaded for free:

<https://biodiv.de/en/projekte/aktuell/ipbes-capacity-building.html>

1.2 Summary of previous project components

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 (BMU) to implement a project ‘Capacity building on IPBES for administrations, scientists and civil society in Eastern Europe and Central Asia’, starting in 2017. The background for this project was the observation that the region was underrepresented in IPBES activities so far and lacked the capacity to actively take part in IPBES procedures. Therefore, one main component of the project was to hold capacity building workshops in the region that should provide basic information on IPBES, the way it works, the opportunities to participate, the products developed so far and the assessments to come.

A first workshop took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from October 15th to 17th, 2017. The 21 participants came from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Northern Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia and represented government institutions, scientific institutions and civil society organizations. The workshop was held back-to-back with a so-called IPBES Regional Trialogue meeting (addressing the three groups government, science, practice) organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the IPBES assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Security. Most workshop participants took part in both events, the idea being that the participants get informed about the IPBES basics in the project workshop before they work in more depth on a specific IPBES product.

The second workshop took place in Chisinau, Moldova, from October 15th to 19th, 2018. The 22 participants came from Armenia, Bulgaria, Belarus, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. The Norwegian Environment Agency gave financial support to enable a third workshop day with specific emphasis on the uptake of the Regional Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Europe and Central Asia (ECA-Assessment).

The third workshop finally took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from October 6th to 9th, 2019. The 23 participants came from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Throughout both working days simultaneous translation between English and Russian was provided by professional interpreters, as had been the case in Chisinau as well. The capacity building workshop again was held back-to-back with a BES-Net Regional Trialogue, this time called ‘Central Asia Regional Trialogue 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 Trialogue. In order to prepare participants for the Trialogue, the IPBES Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment was one focus of the capacity building workshop.

For all three workshops short reports and all presentations can be found on the ibn web page: <https://biodiv.de/en/projekte/aktuell/ipbes-capacity-building.html>

In addition to these three regional workshops with participants coming from surrounding countries, three national capacity building workshops were held as well, thanks to a close cooperation with the Central Asian Desert Initiative CADI, run by the Succow-Foundation and

local partners. These national workshops took place in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Astana (Kazakhstan) in September 2018, and in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) in May 2019, respectively.

For all workshops capacity building material was developed and provided to the participants, mainly in English but also in Russian. In all three regional workshops representatives of the IPBES secretariat or assessment co-chairs and young fellows and/or members of the Technical Support Unit for capacity building, based in Trondheim, Norway, were present and actively contributed to the workshop programme.

The current project will come to a close in November 2020 and the original planning included hosting a workshop in Germany in summer 2020 in order to discuss further capacity building needs in the region as a basis for possible upcoming projects. Given the COVID-19 pandemic the circumstances did not allow for such a physical meeting during the project duration and it was decided to instead conduct a survey on capacity building needs in order to get ideas on what would be beneficial for the region. The further chapters of this report inform about the results of this final project step.

1.3 Survey goals and structure

The main objective of this study was to determine IPBES-related capacity building needs in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, as well as in the individual countries in those regions. To investigate this, we asked 95 people from 16 countries in Central Asia and Eastern Europe to fill in the questionnaire using the Google Forms. We sent both an English version of the questionnaire and a translation into Russian. Responses in Russian were then translated by one of the authors of this report, who is a native Russian speaker. The questionnaire contained multiple choice and open questions. The full version of the questionnaire in English is attached to this report as Annex A. 47 people responded, of whom 28 were from the Central Asian region, and 19 were from Eastern Europe. Figures 1 and 2 show the distribution of responses by country.

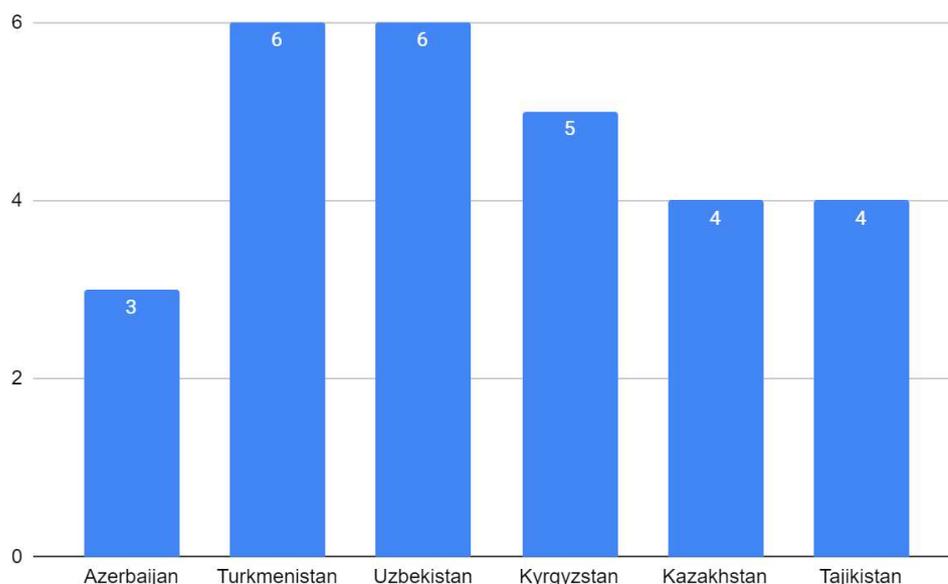


Figure 1: Number of responses by country (Central Asia)

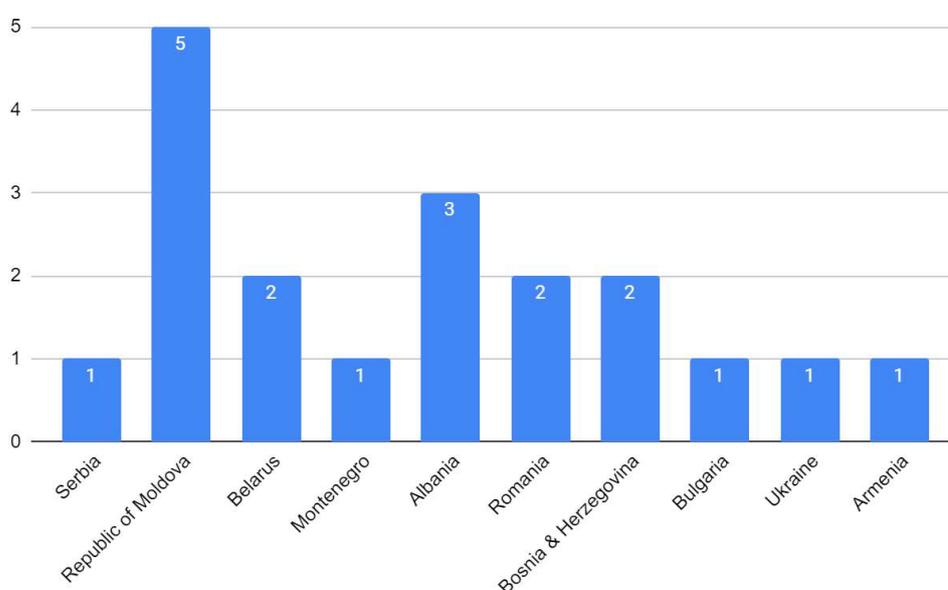


Figure 2: Number of responses by country (Eastern Europe)

The online questionnaire used in this study was broken up into the following sections:

1. Personal and contact information
2. Current engagement with the IPBES
3. Existing capacities and previous capacity building activities
4. Country-specific science-policy interface and policy making
5. Use and utility of IPBES resources

The central finding of this report is that while there is continued demand and need for individual capacity building measures aimed at empowering individuals in their professional engagement with the science-policy interface in general and IPBES in

particular, there is an equally important consideration of institutional development and institutional capacity building.

1.4 About the participants

The selection of the participants took place in two stages: first, we sent the questionnaire to the participants of the previous workshops that took place in the first phase of this project. As a part of this questionnaire, we asked that the project participants suggest others who may have professional experience relevant to us. While some participants suggested others, the core of the participant group remained those that took part in our workshops. Unarguably, this introduces a degree of bias to the research results. Nonetheless, we strongly believe that the conclusions drawn here will be of use in further efforts at capacity building in Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

The majority of the respondents indicated that their knowledge background was in science (20), policy-making (9), or both (14). 7 people indicated traditional or indigenous knowledge as their area of expertise. There was also a three-way split between people employed in governmental organizations (13), NGOs (11), and research institutes (13), with the rest of the participants belonging to universities (5), intergovernmental organizations (3), business (1), or a regional organization (1). Figures 3 and 4 indicate the distribution of the participants by organization type. In sum, the project saw good representation of academia, civil society, and governmental employees. While the small number of participants representing regional and intergovernmental organizations can be explained by the small number of such organizations in the two regions, low participation from the side of the private sector is worth mentioning here and represents an opportunity for further research.

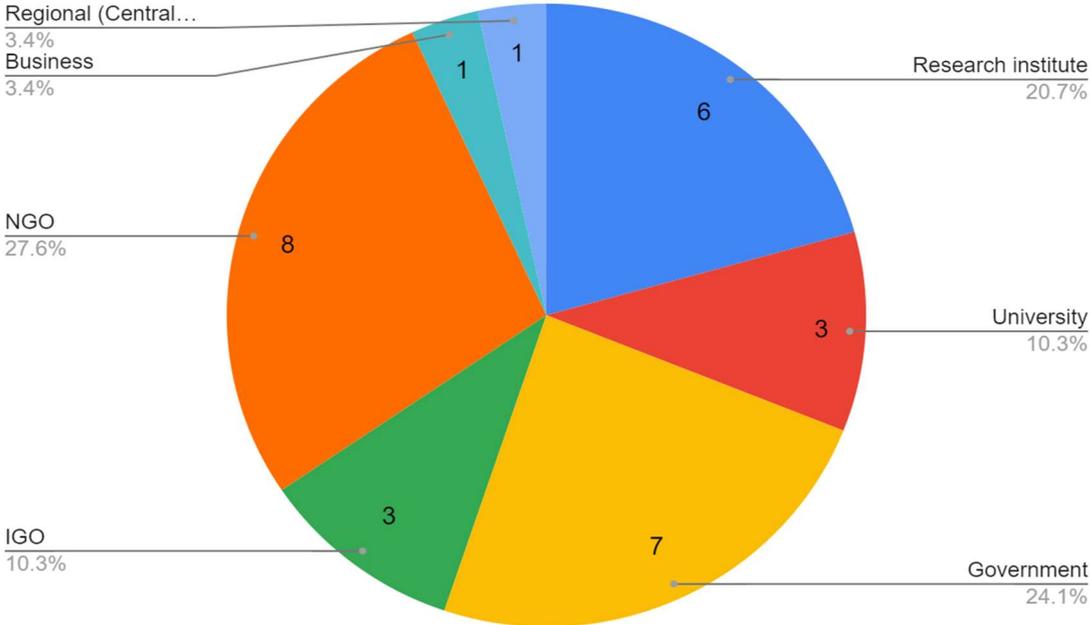


Figure 3: Respondents by type of organization (Central Asia)

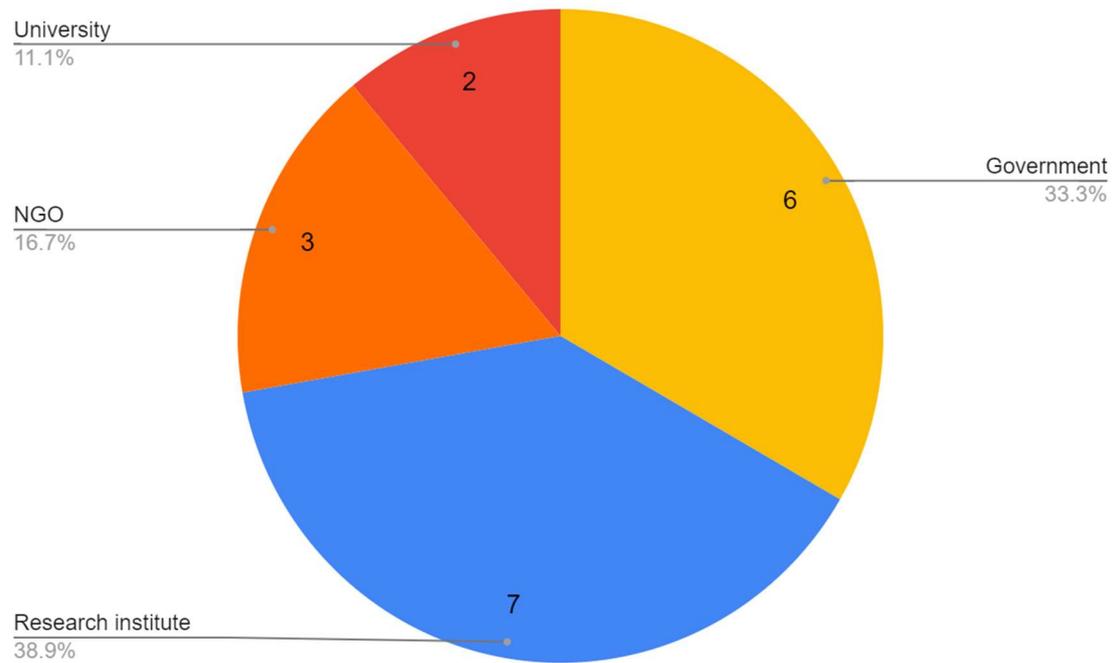


Figure 4: Respondents by type of organization (Eastern Europe)

Figure 5 below is a word cloud generated from the participants' responses with regard to their field of work or research. It was not unexpected that the majority are interested in some aspect of conservation work or another. "Nature conservation," "ecosystem services," "biodiversity," and "climate change" dominate the descriptions of the participants' fields of activity. The prevalence of "research" mentioned here indicates the academic background of a considerable number of the people surveyed.

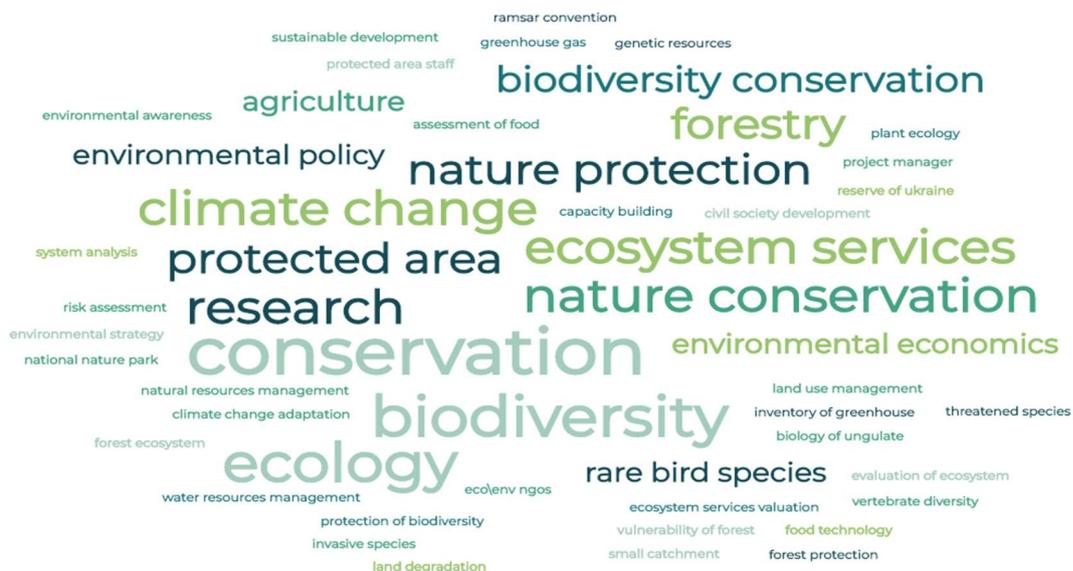


Figure 5: Word cloud generated from the respondents' answers with regard to their field of work or research.

2 Current engagement with IPBES

Both regions show similar levels of engagement with IPBES products among the participants of this research project. Only less than a third of the participants (13) indicated that they frequently (several times a month) use IPBES products. Another third (14) do not regularly use them, and 17 people (36%) indicated regular infrequent use (less than once a month). 9 people reported spending 45 - 50% of their work time on activities related to IPBES, 20 people estimated 10 - 25%, and 16 participants indicated spending no time on IPBES-related activities. 2 People reported engagement in activities related to IPBES taking up over 50% of their work time.

Figure 6 below is a graphical representation of the respondent's activities inasmuch as they concern IPBES. The majority of the respondents reported cooperating with IPBES in the conduct of national ecosystem assessments and work related to protected areas. Capacity building and biodiversity conservation was also mentioned frequently.

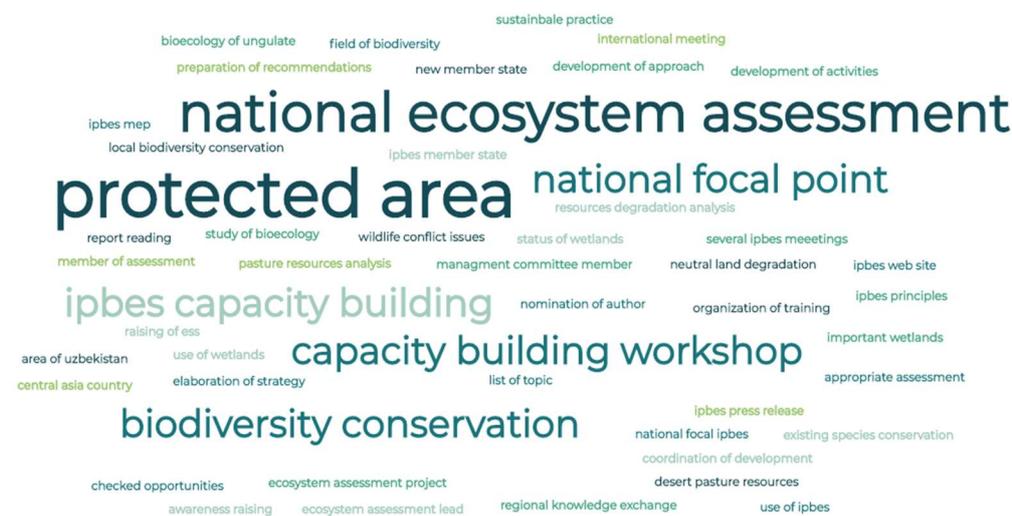


Figure 6: Word cloud generated from the respondents' answers with regard to their activities in relation to IPBES.

When asked about obstacles to engagement with IPBES that they experience in their work life, almost 70% (32) cited insufficient funding in this area. About a third (17) said they had too many other work commitments to engage, and 10 people indicated they did not know enough about IPBES in general to engage. 15% of the respondents (7) indicated they do not receive sufficient recognition for their work related to IPBES. At the same time, almost everyone (42) said that there is no budget linked to their IPBES-related activities, and that the money that is there is insufficient. Funding that is provided comes mostly from international donors, such as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), IPBES itself, or the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The lack of funding combined with insufficient recognition, high workloads, and a lack of knowledge about IPBES and its products indicates a lack of value being placed on such activities by local organizations and governments, and a lack of training in this area offered in the two regions.

At the same time, and in spite of the obstacles mentioned above, 27% of the research participants (13) found that there is sufficient staff in their organizations engaged with IPBES

and its products. Over half of the participants (27) find that there are not enough people involved with IPBES-related activities in their organizations. However, we observed a big disparity between the two regions in this regard (Figure 7). As can be clearly seen, there is higher demand for more people engaged with IPBES products in Eastern Europe than there is in Central Asia.

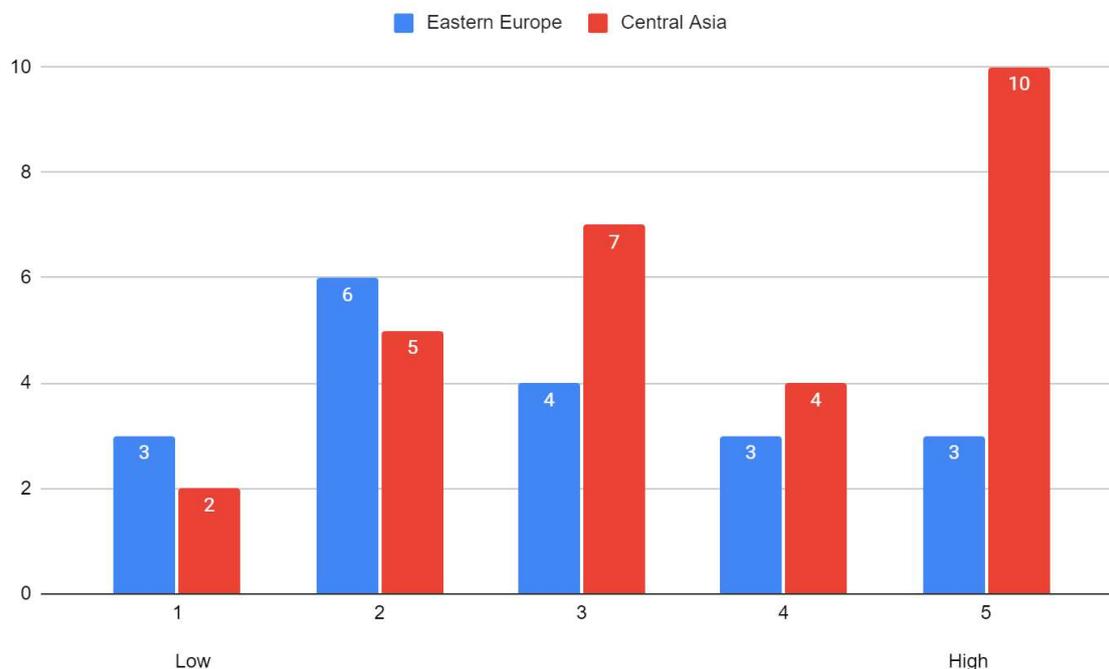


Figure 7: Staff engagement with IPBES

When asked about the means by which they receive information regarding the activities of other people or organizations working with the SPI or engaged with IPBES products, many of the respondents cited their private networks, e-mail or the official IPBES website. People also reported simply searching the internet for whatever information they needed. This indicates a clear demand for information, as well as the ability to find it if necessary. However, the use of private networks and the official IPBES website also underlines the absence of local structures focused on the SPI.

20% of the respondents (9) reported having regular workplace meetings, during which IPBES or its resources are discussed. The content and frequency of such meetings varied from one happening twice a week “for information exchange” to meetings between representatives of scientific institutes and policy-makers happening once every three months. One participant (Kazakhstan) reported participating in meetings that are not focused on IPBES specifically, but rather serving as an opportunity to discuss ongoing work in the area of conservation and the sustainable use of wetlands in Central Asia.

64% (30 respondents) indicated that they or their organization have access to the data necessary for their engagement with IPBES, such as scientific publications, and that they know where data, including IPBES products, can be accessed. Half of these respondents (15) said they source their data from dedicated scientific journals or databases. However, they also emphasized that the publications and databases they use are largely free access publications. The question of free access to data came up again when we investigated the obstacles. Of the 17 people who said they do not have access to the necessary data, many indicated

the presence of ‘paywalls’ as a serious issue in their work. This ties in with the aforementioned lack of funding and the indirectly indicated lack of value placed on SPI -related activities by organizational leadership in the two regions. Other sources reported here included IPBES mailing lists, podcasts, and individuals in their personal networks.

2.1. Overall SPI state and use of IPBES resources

This section reports the results of the questionnaire inasmuch as they concern the current use of IPBES resources in the region and the general state of the local SPIs. The section contains the analysis of the participants’ description of the institutional structure of their local SPIs and the reported levels of interaction between policy-makers and knowledge holders/producers, and a comparative analysis of the state of the local SPIs as it is described by policy-makers and knowledge holders/producers. Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this section present the self-reported use and usefulness of available IPBES resources.

We evaluated the institutional structure of SPI in the two regions by asking the participants to report the presence of formal or informal local biodiversity platforms, national biodiversity strategies, and whether their countries are party to international biodiversity platforms. Overall, 77% of the project participants reported that their countries do have a national biodiversity strategy. The percentage was equally high in both regions, which did not come as a surprise as the political move towards establishing such policies has been strong for some years now. However, as a number of the participants pointed out, the official presence of such strategies and action plans on the books sometimes makes little difference in practice. Thus, the presence of a national biodiversity strategy will yield little result in the context of a weak SPI where the exchange of data and experience between policy makers and knowledge holders happens rarely and is disorganized.

This research project used a number of proxies to estimate the organization and state of the SPIs in the two regions. One of these proxies was the presence of national biodiversity platforms. The two regions differed drastically in this respect. While many of the respondents from Central Asia (16 of 28) reported the presence of such a platform in their country, only 4 of the 19 Eastern European participants could say the same. This measure, however, is complicated by contradictory data (some respondents from the same country had contradictory answers here) as well as the fact that a number of the participants were not sure if such a platform exists in their country (3 in Central Asia and 6 in Eastern Europe). The contradictory reports may indicate that the platforms that do exist are either informal or are not widely known. One further contradiction is the fact that while a high percentage of the respondents from Central Asia said there was a national biodiversity platform, almost 70% (19) reported there not being any structures or networks that they can use to meet other people engaged in the IPBES process. All this contradictory data indicates the need for more focused research projects that take a more detailed look at the existing structures in these countries. Figures 8 and 9 summarize the findings in regards to national biodiversity platforms and strategies in the two regions.

National biodiversity platforms and strategies (Central Asia)

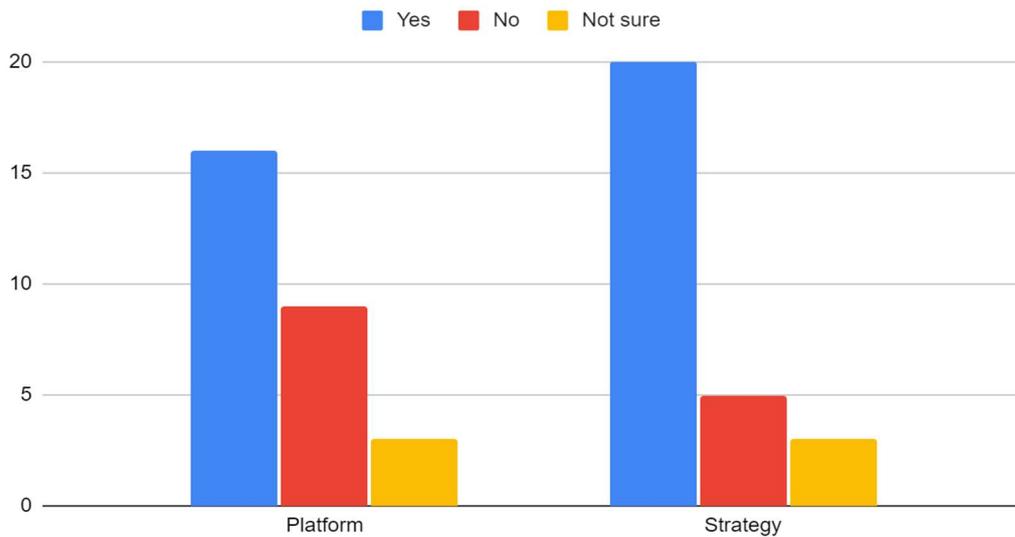


Figure 8: Presence of national biodiversity platforms and strategies (Central Asia)

National biodiversity platforms and strategies (Eastern Europe)

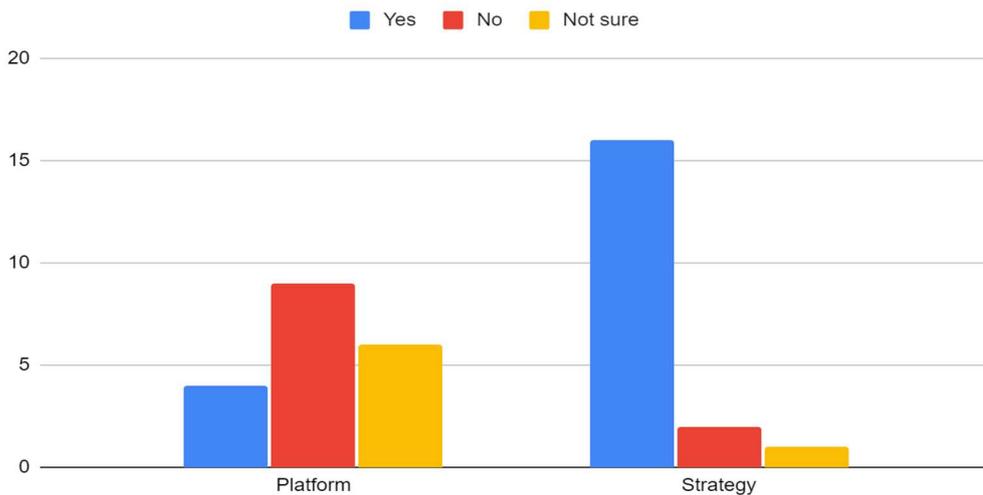


Figure 9: Presence of national biodiversity platforms and strategies (Eastern Europe)

The frequency with which knowledge holders/producers and policy-makers reach out to each other with requests for cooperation or assistance was another proxy we used to evaluate the local SPIs in the two regions. This yielded very similar results in Central Asia and in Eastern Europe with about 40% of the respondents saying such interaction happens sufficiently often, and the remaining 60% saying it takes place “sometimes.” We saw high levels of agreement between policy-makers and the project participants not involved in policy making in both regions. This provides further evidence to the possibility that SPI in Central Asia and Eastern Europe may take place in informal contexts or in isolated structures that are not very well known to people who are not part of them but may nonetheless benefit if they were to participate. This, again, calls for a more detailed overview of the existing structures than was possible within the framework of this project.

The two regions differed in what the research participants saw as obstacles to more frequent

interaction between policy-makers and knowledge holders. The majority of the respondents in both groups from Central Asia saw the absence of a platform for communication or the fact that they did not know who to contact. This was reported by 14 of the 19 participating knowledge holders or producers from the region and 7 of the 14 policy-makers. 4 respondents from each group indicated that there are no obstacles to communication. Other reported problems included bureaucratic procedures and the researcher’s and research institutes’ unwillingness to share their data.

Turning to the actual use of IPBES resources in the two regions, we saw that a considerable number of respondents in both regions indicated that IPBES assessments are not widely known in the political circles in their countries. This was reported by 54% of the participants from Central Asia (15) and almost half of those from Eastern Europe (9). About a third of the respondents from both regions said the assessments were used as sources of information, but not as guidelines for policy making (10 from Central Asia and 6 from Eastern Europe). Only about 10% of the respondents from either region said the assessments were regularly consulted when making relevant policy decisions. 2 people from Eastern Europe reported that the assessments are “known but ignored.”

Our findings that concern other IPBES resources are summarized in table 1 below. We graded the use and usefulness of each product on the scale from 0 to 3. The table presents the resulting averages. It is notable that for some of the resources, such as the Policy Support portal, IPBES Online Conferences, and other E-Learning opportunities presented by IPBES, the “use” score is significantly lower than the “usefulness” indicator. In our opinion, this may indicate two parallel capacity building needs. It may be that people who need those resources either do not know how to use them, or are not aware they even exist. These findings can be used in designing IPBES-related capacity building seminars or other informational events. Table 2 that follows summarizes our findings in regards to why these resources are not used.

Products	Central Asia		Eastern Europe	
	Use frequency	Usefulness	Use frequency	Usefulness
Capacity building web-pages	1.3	2	1.4	1.9
Catalogue of assessments	1.2	1.9	1.4	1.8
Impact tracking database	0.9	2	0.7	1.6
IPBES Assessment reports	1.3	2.2	1.8	2.5
IPBES Assessments Summaries for Policy-Makers	1.3	2.2	1.5	2
Meeting documents	0.8	1.8	1.1	1.7
IPBES online conferences	0.6	2.2	1.1	2
Policy support portal	0.8	1.8	1.1	2
IPBES social media channels	1.2	2	1.4	1.7
Webinars	0.8	1.9	0.8	2
E-learning	0.6	1.9	1	2

Guide on the production of assessments	0.8	1.8	1.3	2.3
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Table 1: Use and usefulness of IPBES resources in Central Asia and Eastern Europe (averages, scored 0 to 3).

Table 2 below is a summary of our findings as regards to why the products listed below are not used. Divided by region as the table above, the table below has three columns per product for each of the two regions. The three columns contain the number of people that indicated that (column 1) they are not aware of the existence of these resources, (column 2) that there are local capacities that fulfill the function equally well or better, and (column 3) that the respondents do not use this resource because it is irrelevant to her professional activities. The numbers are presented as absolute values. It is clear that there is a distinct lack of awareness of the online resources provided by IPBES, such as the E-learning opportunities, webinars, and online conferences, as well as the Policy Support Portal, and the Impact Tracking Database.

Products	Central Asia			Eastern Europe		
	Not aware	Local capacities	Irrelevant	Not aware	Local capacities	Irrelevant
Capacity building webpages	4	1	0	3	1	1
Catalogue of assessments	6	1	1	3	1	2
Impact tracking database	8	0	1	5	0	3
IPBES Assessment reports	5	0	1	1	0	0
IPBES Assessments SPMs	5	0	1	2	1	3
Meeting documents	6	0	4	5	0	4
IPBES online conferences	6	0	1	2	0	2
Policy support portal	8	0	4	5	0	4
IPBES social media channels	6	0	3	2	1	4
Webinars	9	1	2	1	1	1
E-learning	9	1	3	4	1	1
Guide on the production of assessments	7	2	3	3	1	1

Table 2: Reasons for resources not being used (absolute values).

3 Previous capacity building activities and existing capacities

IPBES-related capacity building measures have been ongoing in the region for quite some time. 60% of the participants (27) reported having participated in IPBES-related capacity building training sessions offered by either their local governments or international organizations. Excluding our NGO (ibn), the GIZ was cited as a provider of such capacity building measures, alongside the BfN, the UN Environment Programme World Conservation

Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). However, due to the sampling method used in this study (the initial pool of the research participants also participated in the preceding workshops), the prevalence of foregoing capacity building activities may be slightly exaggerated.

When asked about IPBES training programs or workshops available to them, 40% of the respondents answered in the positive. The majority of the respondents in both regions were either unsure if such capacity building possibilities were available to them or believed they were not. Thus, only two people in Central Asia indicated that there were capacity building opportunities offered by their governments. 11 Central Asian respondents said other institutions (such as our NGO). Similarly, only two participants from Eastern Europe reported having opportunities for IPBES capacity building measures offered by their governments, and 8 people said other organizations offer such training.

It is notable that answers to the negative and those from people who are unsure about what opportunities were present to them are both high. Just over half of the participants from Central Asia believed there were no IPBES capacity building measures offered by their national governments, with another 40% unsure (15 and 11 people respectively). When it came to capacity building measures undertaken by other organizations, 11 people were unsure and 6 answered negatively. Eastern Europe presented a similar picture. Here, over 60% of the participants (12) reported not being offered IPBES-related training by their governments, with another 5 people being unsure. 5 participants indicated not having access to training offered by other organizations, and 6 more people were unsure. This could indicate not only the absence of training opportunities (or their perceived absence), but also that the possibilities for capacity building exist, but are not widely known.

4 Regional breakdown of capacity building needs

The two regions differed in the respondents' identification of the obstacles they face in their engagement with IPBES in their daily professional life. While funding came up as the biggest obstacle in both regions (57%, or 15 of the participants in Central Asia, and 84%, or 16 of the participants in Eastern Europe), the two regions differed in terms of the other reported needs. Thus, a larger proportion of the respondents from Central Asia indicated a lack of knowledge of how IPBES works and how they can engage than did those from Eastern Europe - 34% (9), compared to only 10% (2) respectively.

Our survey of the state of the SPI in the two regions, as well as the analysis of national-level policy making in regard to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation showed that while many of the countries have national biodiversity strategies, and some even have national biodiversity platforms, a lot of opportunities for improvement remain unaddressed. Thus, half of the respondents (24) reported that IPBES assessments are "not widely known in policy-making circles" in their respective countries. Only 5 people (10%) said that the assessments are regularly used when making relevant policy decisions, with another third (16) indicating that IPBES assessments are sometimes used as sources of information, but never as guidelines for policy-making. Awareness of the role and identity of the national IPBES focal point is also low in both regions, with only 44% (21 respondents) aware of who the focal point is in their country.

This indicates the need for continued capacity-building in terms of how IPBES products in particular and scientific output in general can be used in policy-making. This was supported by both policy-makers and people involved in other aspects of the SPI in both regions. The following two sections present the regional breakdown of the self-reported capacity building

needs at the individual and institutional level in respect to the SPI in general and engagement with IPBES in particular.

Another need that was shared equally by both regions is the demand for an overall survey of the local SPIs and a stakeholder mapping. 85% of the respondents from both regions indicated this. As will be evidenced below, there is a considerable degree of confusion regarding existing structures and locally offered opportunities for capacity building and IPBES-related professional capacity training. A survey of the existing structures and opportunities would go very far in clarifying these questions.

This report distinguishes between individual and institutional capacity building. The two concepts are clearly closely related and in many ways can be addressed simultaneously. However, whereas human, or individual, capacity building generally focuses on the training and education of individuals, institutional capacity building goes beyond that and seeks to improve the institutional and organizational structures within which the individuals operate. One of the clearest findings of this report, as we will show below, is the need for organizational capacity building measures alongside those focused on individuals. It is the main driving argument of this report, elaborated further in the conclusion, that only if those two sets of capacities grow in unison will lasting effects be possible.

4.1 Individual capacity building needs in Central Asia

In regard to engagement with IPBES, and with funding, high work commitments, and insufficient recognition for their efforts excluded, the biggest individual obstacle to engagement with IPBES in Central Asia is training in how IPBES operates and how its work can be engaged with, both in terms of how one can contribute, and in terms of how it can be used to aid conservation efforts and environmental policy-making (34%, or 9 respondents). However, when we addressed the experience of our respondents when it came to the general state of the SPI in their countries not just in relation to IPBES, we found local obstacles that include availability and quality of local data, as well as the need for communication and professional training, both on the side of the policy-makers - and of the scientists and other knowledge holders. While we found that the majority of our respondents estimate the influence of science on environmental policy-making as "high" (10) or "somewhat high" (7), the same does not apply to traditional and indigenous knowledge. Here, the majority of the respondents rated its influence much lower (Figure 10).

Use of scientific and traditional knowledge in policy making (Central Asia)

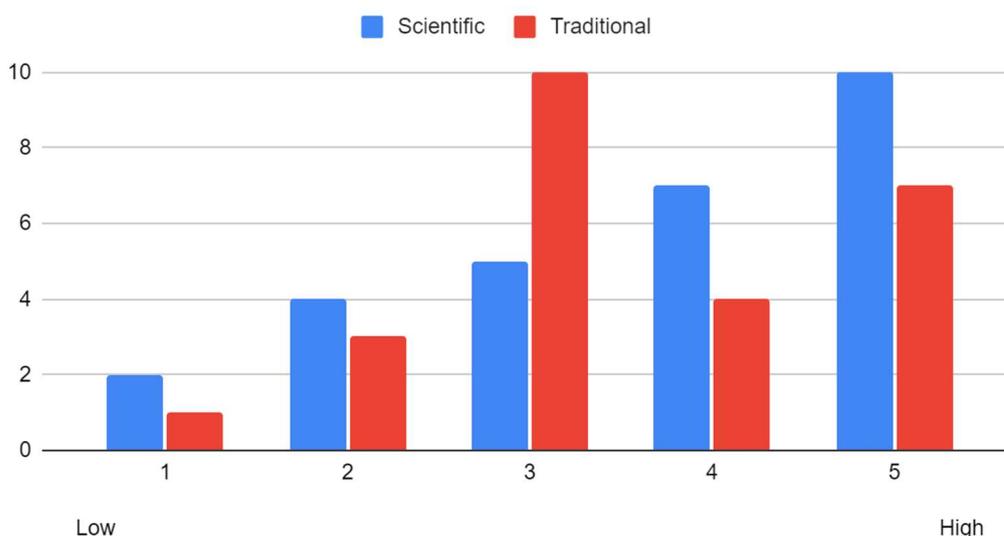


Figure 10: Use of traditional and scientific knowledge in policy making (Central Asia).

The use of both of these forms of knowledge is also hampered by issues of the availability and quality of local data and by the capacity of policy makers to use and find the necessary data, and of the scientists to communicate it. Surveyed separately, both policy-makers and knowledge producers in Central Asia indicated the need for capacity training for SPI-related activities. This included education on the value of coordinating and cooperating with scientists as well as with civil society, on the importance of setting out clear strategies and plans, and general training on the importance of the SPI. Specific topics for the training of policy makers included the evaluation of policy decisions on biodiversity, the process of conducting environmental assessments, and general environmental education. Both groups agreed that policy-makers tend not to be aware of the available knowledge (70% of the policy makers and 65% of the knowledge holders).

In regard to capacity building for scientists, there was less agreement between the two groups. While 55% (6) of the policy-makers who participated in this project indicated that scientists need training in science communication, 47% (8) of the scientists thought the same. Specific topics requested by knowledge holders included statistics and GIS technologies, research methodologies, modern means of communicating knowledge, and general training in environmental knowledge and theories. Training in topics requested by policy-makers for scientists included the ability to promote their research and training in communicating the results of their work to policy-makers. The biggest disagreement between the two groups lay in the topic of scientists needing science training, with half of the knowledge holders participating in this project reporting this need, and only 27% (3) of Central Asians participants representing the policy-making circles.

Other self-reported individual capacity building needs in Central Asia included general training on the function and structure of IPBES, and on the opportunities one has to engage with the organization (15), specific training on how IPBES assessments can be used in policy-making (16), as well as training on specific topics, the breakdown of which is presented in section 5. A full summary of the reported needs is presented in figure 11 below.

4.2 Institutional capacity-building needs in Central Asia

Institutional arrangements and institutional capacities in many ways determine the extent to which individuals can use their personal capacities in their work within these institutions. The lack of organizational capacities that would allow people to exercise their existing capabilities and gain new experience, both in relation to IPBES and simply in their work as contributors to their country's SPI, was indicted in a number of aspects of this survey. First, while IPBES and its products are theoretically relevant to everyone who participated in this project, over 80% of the respondents from Central Asia (23) reported not having meetings in which IPBES comes up. Similarly, over a third of the respondents (10) reported not having access to the data related to IPBES and its activities or related to the specific topics they were working on. In part, this indicates a lack of individual capacities because some of this data is in free access, such as IPBES publications. However, as has been argued above, this also indicates a lack of value being placed on work related to IPBES and the SPI by organizational leadership (along with a lack of funding).

We also observed a lack of cooperation among institutions alongside considerable demand for such cooperation. Almost 70% of the respondents from Central Asia (19) indicated that there are no national or regional structures or networks that would allow people engaged with IPBES to meet to discuss and coordinate their work, and yet, all of the respondents said they would be interested in participating in such a structure or network. When asked about the benefits they would derive from such a structure, respondents said it would help widen their professional networks, promote the exchange of information, reveal "great potential" within scientific and policy-making bodies that is currently underutilized, help to engage more people in the region, help scientists consolidate their lobbying activities on specific topics, promote regional efforts for biodiversity conservation, develop regional cooperation generally, and give regional and local experts and policy makers a well-defined way to provide IPBES with regional data and inform the organization on pressing regional issues. Additionally, 100% of the respondents who were members of national IPBES delegations said they would be interested in the establishment of a network of IPBES focal points to coordinate their efforts.

Other institutional capacity building needs included workshops and research projects looking into the establishment of national biodiversity platforms (23), training focused on the improvement of organizational engagement with IPBES (19), and the mapping and identification of SPI stakeholders (14). Finally, 75% of the Central Asian respondents (21) indicated that their organizations are in need of improved knowledge and information management systems.

In sum, there is a lot to be done in terms of capacity building in Central Asia, both in its individual and institutional aspects. Individual capacity building needs include continued work in raising awareness about IPBES and its products, but should ideally also include professional training for scientists and policy-makers involved in the countries' respective biodiversity and ecosystem services SPIs. Figure 11 represents a summary of all requested capacity building needs. The final column, specific topics, is elaborated further down in this report in section 5.

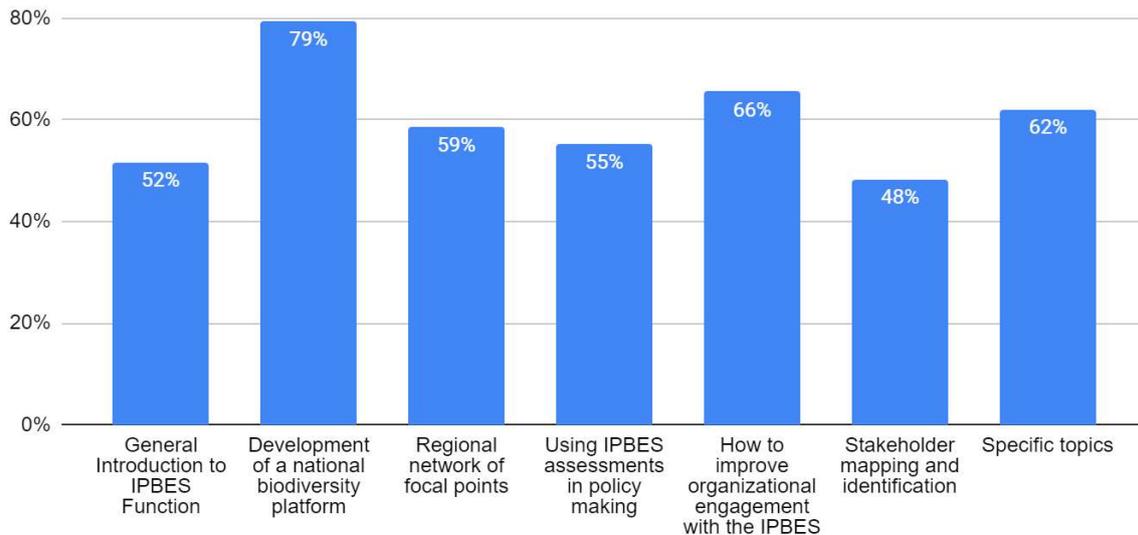


Figure 11: Self-reported individual and institutional capacity building needs (Central Asia)

4.3 Individual capacity building needs in Eastern Europe

As in Central Asia, insufficient funding (16) and high work commitments (8) turned out to be the biggest obstacles to individual professional engagement in Eastern Europe. Here, however, very few respondents identified the lack of knowledge about how IPBES works and how it can be engaged as a serious problem (2). The same was true of language (3) and insufficient recognition for their efforts (3).

The use of scientific and traditional knowledge in policy making was also reported lower in Eastern Europe than in Central Asia (Figure 12), which confirms the need for communication training.

Use of scientific and traditional knowledge in policy making (Eastern Europe)

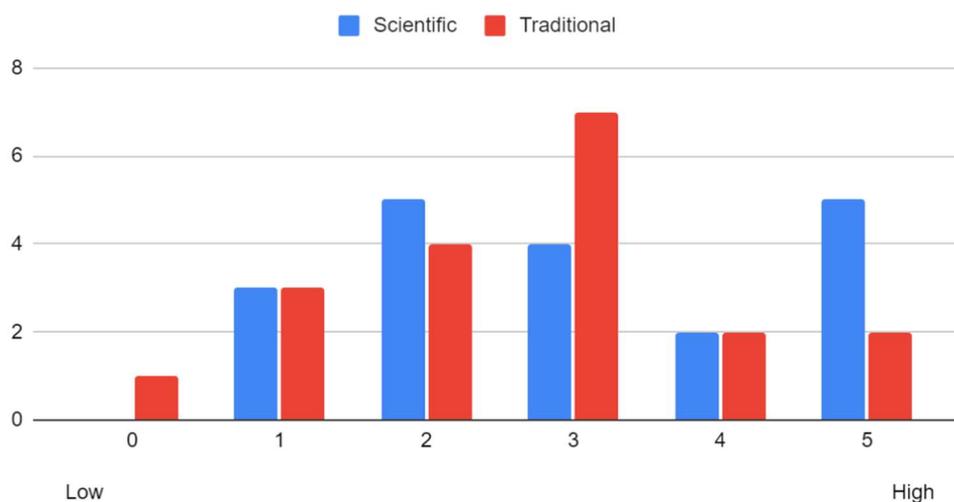


Figure 12: Use of traditional and scientific knowledge in policy making (Eastern Europe)

Issues of data availability and quality hamper the SPI in Eastern Europe (50% of the surveyed policy-makers and 60% of the knowledge holders). Another big difference between the two

regions is the degree to which the knowledge holders and the policy-makers agreed regarding the necessary capacity building for each group. Whereas almost every policy-maker from Eastern Europe who took part in this project (9 of 10) indicated that both knowledge holders and policy-makers need communication training, only about half (4 of 9) of the others indicated that policy-makers need training, and only a third (3) said scientists need communication training (summarized in figure 13 further on in the report). Suggested topics for capacity building for scientists and other knowledge holders included training on how to attract funds for their projects, how to present their data in a way that is understandable for policy-makers and applies directly to their work, professional training on the questions of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Policy-makers echoed the demand for capacity building for scientists to improve their communication skills, with one respondent saying “the scientists need to find the vocabulary to communicate the scientific results so that they can be easily understood by anyone without scientific training/background.” Another respondent stressed the importance of opening up access to scientific data, saying “An important issue is the closed nature of scientific data and insufficient communication about research results with the public and policymakers. Training on how to create open data and showcase its results to the general public, as well as on how to prepare policy proposals and communicate them at the policy level, will be useful. In terms of the specifics of IPBES work, training on the platform’s methodology and on how to apply it at the national level will be useful.” For policy-makers, topics suggested by knowledge holders included general training related to biodiversity and the value of environmental protection and training in the use of environmental and biodiversity-related data. Suggestions of the policy-makers themselves on the same topic were focused on IPBES and included looking at how IPBES and its products synergize with the conventions to which their countries are party, concrete thematic workshops on how the IPBES Summaries for Policy Makers can be used in policy-making and clarification of the meaning of the benefits of ecosystem services to the economy. Two of the nine policy-makers from Eastern Europe suggested training related to finding and using environmental data.

4.4 Institutional capacity building needs in Eastern Europe

Eastern Europe showed similar results to those from Central Asia when it came to institutional capacity building needs. 80% of the people surveyed (15) reported that IPBES does not tend to come up during meetings at their workplace. Unlike Central Asia, however, the majority of the respondents from Eastern Europe (12 of 19) reported having access to the data they need for their work with IPBES or with the local SPI generally. This leaves, however, a considerable minority (over a third) of the respondents without such access. In part, this may be a result of the lack of individual capacities. After all, much of the data necessary to forward the work of IPBES inasmuch as it relates to a given region, such as IPBES assessments, is published freely. This leaves access to data that is locked away in paid publications and ideally should be made available by the organizations that employ SPI professionals. While this is not as big an issue in Eastern Europe as it is in Central Asia, high work commitments, lack of a budget directly allocated for IPBES-related work, and the lack of access to necessary data indicates the lack of value placed on work related to the SPI and IPBES by organizational leadership (as well as simply a lack of funding).

A lack of coordination and cooperation among institutions and people involved in the SPI is as evident in Eastern Europe as it is in Central Asia, with 60% (11) of the participants reporting that there are no structures or platforms regionally or nationally that would allow for such coordination. However, 100% of the participants said they would be interested in seeing such a platform in their country and the region more broadly. One of the respondents argued that such a structure would help “push through important issues that cannot go through the

ministry in the CBD” (Convention on Biological Diversity). Others said such structures would help spread existing knowledge and coordinate the production of new data, help build local institutional capacities, and highlight opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation. Additionally, respondents saw regional and national platforms as capable of strengthening the role of civil society in the region by consolidating its lobbying power, allowing for opportunities for personal education and professional development, providing opportunities for professional networking, and helping address some more specific issues, such as “sustainable food resources, in the way to prepare and update study program MSC "Sustainable food production systems" (new study program of Faculty of Biotech and Food) [sic]” (Albania). As in Central Asia, 100% of the respondents from Eastern Europe who were also members of national IPBES delegations said they would be interested in the establishment of a regional network of IPBES focal points.

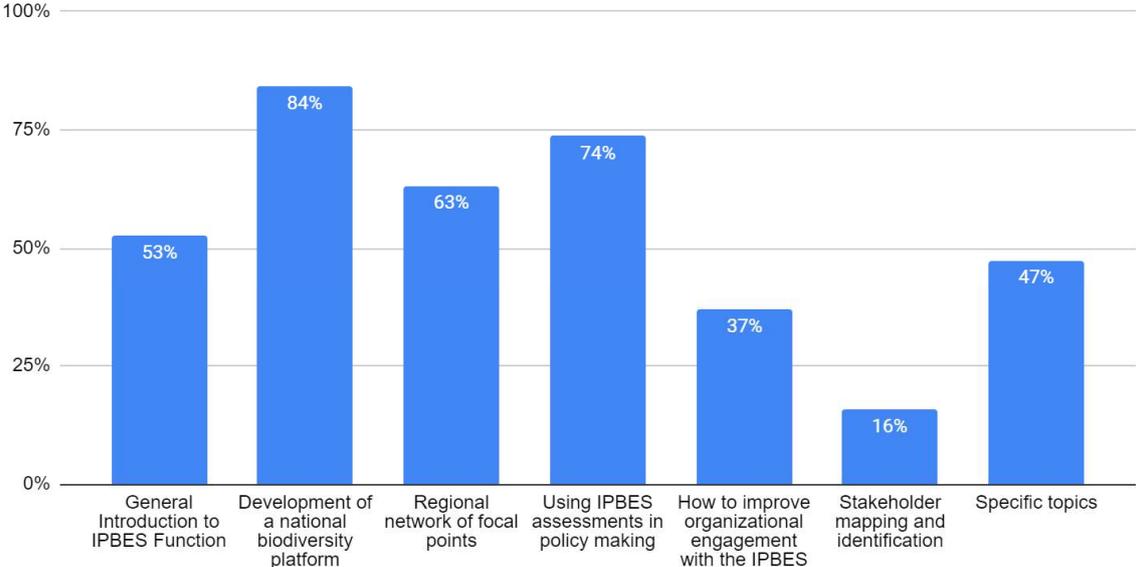


Figure 13: Self-reported individual and institutional capacity building needs (Eastern Europe)

5 Specific issues requested by country

Tables 3 and 4 below present the comments of the participants of the research projects in response to our request that they provide specific topics that they believe need to be addressed by capacity building measures in their countries. The comments are presented here with as little editing as possible, with a few of the comments translated from Russian. All in all, the comments are in line with the findings described previously in the report. Workshops on how national and regional biodiversity platforms can be established dominated the requests in both regions. Capacity building needs of both policy-makers and knowledge holders/producers include training in science communication and the importance of sharing their data. Participants from three countries (Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, and Armenia) provided no suggestions in this section of the questionnaire, with one participant from Armenia saying that the needs in the country are primarily financial.

It should be kept in mind that some of the countries below were represented by very few people in this survey. Verification and further research would therefore be beneficial for underpinning the results with more data.

Country	Specific topics	For knowledge holders and producers	For policy-makers
Albania	Climate change, pollution, natural resources depletion, ecosystem restoration.		
Belarus	Establishment of a national platform; Building a foundation for IPBES policy; Training for policy-makers in the benefits of IPBES tools.	Implementation and development of national regulations.	How to integrate IPBES Summaries for Policy-makers into national regulation options and clarification about "what are benefits of ecosystem services for national economy."
Bosnia and Herzegovina	National biodiversity platform is a sensitive issue in BiH, because of the complex administrative (political) structure.	Training in the relation between research and policy questions.	Training on the complexity of biodiversity data.
Moldova	Conservation and development of forest biodiversity in forest management planning; Strengthening and conserving biodiversity on forested degraded land.	Training in assessing ecosystems, especially degraded ones. In establishing costs for ecosystem recovery; Concrete orientation and specialization, modern methods of factor evaluation; How to attract funds in order to have everything necessary to provide qualitative results.	Assessing the synergism between IPBES and other biodiversity conventions by setting clear priorities, indicators and goals for the next decade, by 2030; Trust, appreciation and support of science; The biggest issue is the transfer of the policy into practice and compliance with the legislation.
Montenegro		Applicable training related to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services.	In general, awareness raising workshops related to the importance of biodiversity / nature / environmental protection, but also training how to use existing environmental data.
Romania		Scientists need to find the vocabulary to communicate the scientific results so that they can be easily understood by anyone without scientific training/background.	They need more awareness regarding the importance and the benefits coming from protecting biodiversity.

Serbia		How to prepare data to be understandable to the decision makers.	Elementary, starting points to begin with.
Ukraine	Pollinators, biodiversity, land degradation, water ecosystems, protected areas, invasive species.		

Table 3: Specific capacity building needs and suggested workshop topics by country (Eastern Europe)

Country	Specific topics	For knowledge holders and producers	For policy-makers
Kazakhstan		Communication with decision makers, modern means of communication.	It is those people who are related to the Committee for Forestry and Wildlife of Kazakhstan who need training to know exactly what they are talking about when certain amendments related to wildlife are proposed.
Kyrgyzstan	Use of indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES assessments; Success cases of the establishment of community-based protected areas; IT use in biodiversity conservation; Development of a national biodiversity platform; Use of IPBES assessments in policy-making.	Communication.	Communication.
Tajikistan		Communication; They need to have access to new knowledge and theories.	Communication of activities.
Turkmenistan	Protection of nature reserves, land and water degradation, climate change;	Language training (English).	They need to have a clear strategic planning outlined for them; Cooperation with civil

	The concepts of neutral land degradation, the carrying capacity of environmental systems in relation to agricultural activities.		society organizations, ability to use IT.
Uzbekistan	<p>Ecosystem restoration in Uzbekistan.</p> <p>Promotion of IPBES activities globally, regionally and locally;</p> <p>Development of a national biodiversity platform;</p> <p>Training for decision makers on the importance of sharing data with everybody, especially if we are aiming to create a singular biodiversity platform;</p> <p>Assessment of land degradation, resource saving in agriculture, green technologies, value of local knowledge, enhancing citizen and community participation in decision making;</p> <p>Land degradation, desertification, rare species conservation, climate change;</p> <p>Workshops on the study of and protection of biodiversity;</p> <p>Watershed management.</p>	<p>Ability to promote research findings/results;</p> <p>Creation of a singular database. For this, the researchers have to believe that sharing data is vital to develop a new strategy for saving biodiversity;</p> <p>Statistics, GIS technologies;</p> <p>Research methodology, statistical processing, analysis techniques.</p>	<p>Environmental Management and Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>Sufficient information on biodiversity</p> <p>General education levels, including environmental education</p>

Table 4: Specific capacity building needs and suggested workshop topics by country (Central Asia).

6 Conclusions, recommendations, and further research

This report ends with two general conclusions in addition to the findings specific to the regions and the individual countries. First, there is a distinct demand for institutional capacity building in both regions. We argue that individual capacity building measures should go hand in hand with measures aimed at existing institutions and efforts at building up new institutions and institutional networks. Within the framework of this report, the need to develop both forms of capacities was evident in such issues as availability of data and data sharing. For example, while individuals may know what data they need and how they can get access, if the data is locked behind a paywall in a publication to which their institution does not grant them access, these capacities will remain dormant. Similarly, if organizations hoard the data they produce and do not make it available to those who might benefit from this data professionally, the

impact of this data will be vastly diminished.

The building up of national and international structures/institutions is also very important. The vast majority of the participants of this research project indicated the need for national and/or regional biodiversity platforms. Their responses make it clear that such institutions would not only support work in conserving biodiversity and in the local SPIs in general, but they would also serve as force multipliers for IPBES inasmuch as they could take over the task of disseminating relevant IPBES resources locally, and possibly making them available in local languages. Additionally, respondents indicated that such structures would allow for better stakeholder coordination and strengthen the role of civil society in policy-making.

The second general conclusion is the need for further similar research projects, but with a much more narrow focus. Thus, while we were able to ask the participants whether their countries had biodiversity platforms and strategies, it was outside the scope of this project to verify the responses from every country. However, the fact that the responses are in some cases contradictory, indicates the possibility that institutions as national biodiversity platforms may already exist in some of the participating countries, but at an informal level, or without the awareness of the people who might benefit from them. This indicates the need for further surveys of individual countries that look into existing institutional arrangements and informal structures or networks that may serve as the basis for formal national and regional biodiversity-oriented structures and institutions. This conclusion is further strengthened by the overwhelming demand for a general survey of the local SPIs and stakeholder mapping (about 85% in both regions).

Finally, we conclude by emphasizing the importance of continued capacity building measures to improve cooperation with IPBES and further the use of IPBES resources in the region. As our analysis of the use of IPBES resources (summarized in tables 1 and 2) indicates, there is a range of potentially highly useful resources produced by IPBES that are not widely known in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

7 **Annex A: Questionnaire on country-specific capacity building needs to improve cooperation with IPBES.**



Institut für Biodiversität - Netzwerk e.V. ibn

Aim of the survey

The aim of this survey is to better understand country-specific opportunities to improve science-policy interfaces in Central Asia and Eastern Europe through capacity building. Results of the survey will help, for instance, to plan and organize upcoming national (and regional) capacity-building workshops and to identify areas of priority for future supporting activities

Completing the survey should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes. The questionnaire is divided into 4 themes (listed below). Please answer all questions for your inputs to be considered, in order to enable robust statistical analysis.

IBN is very grateful for your participation and kindly asks you to please provide detailed information to help us to improve our future engagement with you.

Please also accept the data sharing policy below. If you do not wish to accept the data sharing policy, we will be unable to include your responses in the results.

List of themes

About yourself

Engagement with the IPBES

Existing capacities and previous capacity building activities

Country-specific science-policy interface and policy making

Use and utility of IPBES resources

1. Personal information

1.	Name	
2.	Country	
3.	Area of professional activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Science (research) <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> Media or public relations <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
4.	Your field of interest/research/work	
5.	To which group of "knowledge holders" would you mainly designate yourself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional <input type="checkbox"/> Others, please specify:
6.	Organisation/institution	
7.	Type of organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental Organisation (IGO) <input type="checkbox"/> Research institute <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Media <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
8.	Your position and department within your organisation	
9.	Contact information in case we need further details (email, phone)	
10.	How often do you / does your organisation use IPBES products (reports, website, tools...)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never
11.	How much time do you currently spend on your activities related to IPBES?	<input type="checkbox"/> more than 50% <input type="checkbox"/> 25 – 50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 10 – 25% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <10 % <input type="checkbox"/> None Please provide a short summary of your IPBES-related activities.
12.	Do you have sufficient financial means to take part in meetings and other IPBES-related activities (e.g. travelling, access to information and data, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, provided by:
13.	What are your personal disincentives to take part in the IPBES process?	<input type="checkbox"/> High work commitments <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient funding to participate

	(Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not enough recognition for contributions <input type="checkbox"/> No research overlap <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear how IPBES works, lack of clear information <input type="checkbox"/> Language barriers <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
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2. Engagement with the IPBES on organizational and national levels

	<i>Resources</i>	
14.	How many people in your organization are currently engaged in IPBES-related activities?	
15.	How big is your organization (approximate total staff)?	
16.	To which extent do you think is the number of people as mentioned in question 14 sufficient to implement IPBES-related activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very high <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Very low
17.	Is there a budget linked to the IPBES-related activities in your organization?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, is it sufficient to carry out the entirety of activities? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	<i>Communication and exchange of information</i>	
18.	How do you receive information about the activities of other people or institutions engaged in IPBES within your organization?	
19.	Do you have regular meetings with other staff in your organization who deal with IPBES issues?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>If yes, how regularly do you meet, and what are the objectives of these meetings (information exchange, joint commenting on IPBES draft documents, etc.)?</i>
	<i>Access to data, information and knowledge</i>	
20.	Does your organization have access to data and information relevant for your engagement in IPBES (e.g. scientific publications)?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>If yes, what kind of resources do you use, e.g. scientific journals, data bases, key resource persons in other institutions/networks etc.?</i>
21.	If you do not have access to relevant information and data, what are the reasons for this?	
22.	Which other organisations are you working with in the	Local:

	course of your engagement in IPBES, both those from your country and from elsewhere?	Foreign / international:
23.	Are there any structures or networks, nationally or regionally, to meet other people engaged in the IPBES process (or willing to get engaged)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>If yes, how often do you meet (regularly) and what is the content of the meetings?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If no, would you be interested in attending such meetings?</i> What would be the benefits for you or your organization of these meetings?
24.	If you are a member of the national IPBES delegation, would you be interested in a network of IPBES focal points in order to e.g. exchange information on the IPBES process and coordinate joint activities, amongst others?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member
25.	Are there events on the IPBES process offered on national level that inform about the process and possibilities to engage?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>If yes, which events?</i>
26.	What other organizations, NGOs, private companies, departments within your organization, or people, do you think would also be interested to engage in IPBES?	

3. Identification of existing capacities and previous capacity-building activities related to IPBES

27.	Which area within your organization is in most need of improvement for better engagement with the IPBES? (Please tick one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge management <input type="checkbox"/> Information management <input type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify
28.	What training would be beneficial to your country's engagement with the IPBES? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> The function of IPBES and how you can participate in it. <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops on the development of a national biodiversity platform <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops on the establishment of a regional network of IPBES focal points <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops on using IPBES assessment findings in policy-making <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops with a general focus on how your organization's engagement with the IPBES could be improved <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops focused on stakeholder identification mapping <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic workshops dedicated to specific topics (e.g. land degradation in a given country) Please specify topics of interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
29.	Are there training / information sessions on IPBES activities or products offered by your national government?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>If yes,</i> The training was offered by:

		<p>Did you take part?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		<p>Content and type of the training:</p>
30.	<p>Did you take part in training on IPBES offered by (inter-/national) institutions apart from your government?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>If yes,</i> The training was offered by: <p>Did you take part?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		<p>Content and type of the training:</p>
31.	<p>What personal ability / skill / expert knowledge or other form of capacity helps you in your work with the IPBES?</p>	
	<p>If you do not work with the IPBES, what personal ability / skill / expert knowledge or other form of capacity helps you in your work in the sphere of biodiversity, ecosystem services and/or the science-policy interface in general?</p>	

4. Country-specific science-policy interface and national-level policy making in regard to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

32.	<p>Does your country have a National Biodiversity Platform?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
33.	<p>Does your country have a National Biodiversity Strategy?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
34.	<p>Is your country part of an international biodiversity platform?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
35.	<p>To what extent do you believe scientific knowledge affects policy-making related to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation in your country?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
36.	<p>To what extent do you believe local and traditional knowledge affect policy-making related to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation in your country?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all
37.	<p>To what extent do you believe the activities of the IPBES affect policy-making in your country?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> IPBES assessments are used when making relevant decisions <input type="checkbox"/> IPBES assessments are sometimes used as

		sources of information, but not as guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> IPBES assessments are known, but ignored <input type="checkbox"/> IPBES assessments are not widely known in policy-making circles
38.	If someone in your country serves as an IPBES focal point, do you know who they are?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure if there is such a person <input type="checkbox"/> There isn't a focal point
39.	Do you think there is a need for an overall survey of the science-policy interface and the involved stakeholders, including NGOs, knowledge-producing bodies, international resources, and local policy-making bodies in your country?	<input type="checkbox"/> No (Skip next question) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
40.	If so, how do you think that would improve its performance?	(Please write in your own words)
	<i>For scientists, other knowledge holders, and others not involved in policy making (Policy makers please skip to question 39)</i>	
41.	Do you / does your organisation exchange regularly with local and national policy makers in order to exchange information about questions relating to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Never <i>If yes, how often do you meet, who takes part in these meetings, what are the contents? Would you wish to intensify this exchange?</i>
42.	Are you ever approached by policy makers to scientifically advise them questions relating to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Never <i>If yes, do they actively ask for your information, data and knowledge?</i>
43.	What obstacles do you encounter related to the communication with policy makers? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know who to contact <input type="checkbox"/> There is no clear channel of communication <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify)
44.	From your perspective, how could science-policy communication be improved in your country? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Better availability <input type="checkbox"/> Better quality of environmental data <input type="checkbox"/> Better availability <input type="checkbox"/> Better quality of environmental statistics <input type="checkbox"/> Better uptake of scientific knowledge at the policy level If so, in your opinion, why? <input type="checkbox"/> Policy-makers are not aware that this knowledge exists and need training on how to access it <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _ <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity training for scientists <input type="checkbox"/> Science training <input type="checkbox"/> Science communication training <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity training for policy makers <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify)

	<i>For policy makers</i>	
45.	Do you actively approach scientists and other knowledge holders for advice on questions relating to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
46.	What obstacles do you encounter related to the communication with scientists and other knowledge holders? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know who to contact <input type="checkbox"/> There is no clear channel of communication <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify)
47.	From your perspective, how could science-policy communication be improved in your country? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Better availability <input type="checkbox"/> Better quality of environmental data <input type="checkbox"/> Better availability <input type="checkbox"/> Better quality of environmental statistics <input type="checkbox"/> Better uptake of scientific knowledge at the policy level If so, in your opinion, why? <input type="checkbox"/> Policy-makers are not aware that this knowledge exists and need training on how to access it <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _ <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity training for scientists <input type="checkbox"/> Science training <input type="checkbox"/> Science communication training <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity training for policy makers <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify)

5. Use and utility of IPBES resources

48.	Which of the following tools have you used in your professional activities?	Do you find this tool useful, or, if you have never used it, would you find it useful?
	Capacity-building webpages https://ipbes.net/o2-building-capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product
	Catalogue of assessments https://ipbes.net/catalogue-assessments	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements) Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
	Impact tracking database https://ipbes.net/impact-tracking	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product
	IPBES Assessment reports https://ipbes.net/assessing-knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements) Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
	IPBES Assessment Summaries for Policymakers https://ipbes.net/assessing-knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements)

	<input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product	Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
Meeting documents (e.g. of the MEP, Bureau, and Task Forces) https://ipbes.net/meeting-documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements) Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
Online conferences	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements) Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
Policy support portal https://ipbes.net/policy-support	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements) Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
IPBES social media channels	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements) Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
Webinars https://ipbes.net/webinars	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements)

	<input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product	Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
E-learning https://ipbes.net/e-learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements) Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)
Guide on the production of assessments https://ipbes.net/guide-production-assessments	<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently (several times a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes (less than once a month) <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely / not regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I am not aware of this product	<input type="checkbox"/> Highly useful <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately useful <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (local capacities fulfil the same requirements) Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> Not useful (irrelevant to my activities)

If you have any other suggestions or comments about SPIs that do not fit the questions above, or concerning the questionnaire itself, feel free to express them here. We would also be glad about your recommendation of other interviewees that might be interested in the topic.

	Additional comments	
	Suggestion for other interviewees	

