



# Capacity Building for the Implementation of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment

SUBREGIONAL SCIENCE-POLICY DIALOGUE  
SOUTH ASIA AND WEST ASIA

HOSTED BY MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENT (MoFE),  
GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL

Park Village Resort Hotel | Kathmandu, Nepal | 27-28 February 2019

## Executive Summary

From 27-28 February 2019, in Kathmandu, Nepal, a subregional science-policy dialogue for South Asia and West Asia on the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment (APRA) was held in Park Village Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal, under the leadership of the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Nepal with the assistance of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC).

The dialogue is part of a capacity building project of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) and IPBES technical support unit for the Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment (IPBES-TSU-AP).

The two-day dialogue was participated by government delegates, academics, scientists and experts from the subregions of South Asia and West Asia with the aim of discussing the IPBES APRA report's key messages, and to demonstrate that biodiversity is among the planet's most important resources. The dialogue also highlighted the rich biodiversity and ecosystem services that the subregions provide as a vital support system for human wellbeing, and the function of IPBES to support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies. IPBES aims to enable decision-makers to gain access to available tools, methodologies and policy options identified in the IPBES APRA report and presented through the Summary for Policymakers (SPM).

The dialogue featured presentations of the key challenges indicated in the SPM with a focus on challenges in Sri Lanka on deforestation, the Maldives on coral reef conservation, Lebanon on conserving wildlife, and Bhutan on human and wildlife conflict. Parallel knowledge café sessions were convened, which facilitated interactive and in-depth discussions among delegates on relevant issues based on the examples of challenges presented. Additionally, to attain understanding of the varying trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the role of underlying drivers, posters containing key messages from the SPM were employed as a dissemination tool and displayed to support discussions.

The IPBES Capacity Building Technical Support Unit (CB-TSU) presented on how to use and uptake the regional assessment and highlighted four key areas of (1) capacity building, (2) uptake and impacts, (3) national ecosystem assessments, and (4) national platforms and networks. At the break-out sessions, delegates were asked about important elements at the national level of the regional assessment. The discussions resulted in recommendations for future uptake events and how raising awareness of IPBES assessments and its products can help frame national-level dialogues that promote the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and pave the way towards framing the Post-2020 Framework.

A session on support for using the regional assessment report and how to improve future IPBES assessments also received attention among the delegates. Dr Madhav Karki, Co-Chair of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment, framed the discussion

on support and tools for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments. In his presentation, he placed emphasis on mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies, plans and programmes, and stressed the importance of integrating biodiversity conservation into key development sectors (e.g. finance, agriculture, social development) and leverage on the synergies. He explained the importance of integrating indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES assessments and scenario development processes especially acknowledging multiple conceptualizations of values from different institutions and governance. As a take-home message, he introduced readily-available policy instruments such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Biodiversity Offsets and policy support tools such as IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and Protected Planet, and those listed in the Catalogue of Assessments.

One of the highlights of the dialogue was a special networking session organized by MoFE wherein key senior officials of Nepal joined and presented their interests and views in terms of how institutional frameworks and governance options can be aligned so as decision-making and planning processes not directly responsible for biodiversity conservation can effectively contribute to addressing biodiversity targets and the SDGs. The session provided an opportunity for delegates to understand the current dynamics of governance across sectors in Nepal and see commonalities and opportunities available and emerging in interweaving biodiversity and national development goals.

The dialogue, in summary, facilitated meaningful discussions among delegates on capacity and policy support needs which can be used to enable current and inform future IPBES deliverables, and serve as an avenue for exchange and experience sharing among policymakers and towards a better understanding of the region's current state of biodiversity and ecosystems.

## 1. Concept

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was established in 2012, with the aim of strengthening the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, to facilitate long-term human wellbeing and sustainable development.

The “Capacity Building Project for the Implementation of IPBES Asia- Pacific Regional Assessment” is funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Under the project’s third component, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), in collaboration with the IPBES technical support unit for the Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment (IPBES-TSU-AP), organized two subregional science-policy dialogues for South Asia and West Asia; and Oceania. A third dialogue is being organized by IGES for East Asia and Southeast in October 2019.

The purpose of the dialogues is to facilitate understanding of the findings of the Assessment, including the policy options to mitigate the deterioration of biodiversity and ecosystems in the region. The primary audience is national policymakers, while other decision-makers and stakeholders are invited.

### **Key components of the dialogues**

- Information sessions in which Assessment authors and others overview the findings of the Assessment
- Group discussions focused on relevant issues
- Collective problem-solving with the guidance of facilitators
- Contemporary examples of challenges faced
- Discussions on the uptake and use of the Assessment Report and on further needs

### **Preparation for the dialogues**

The dialogues are designed to allow discussion among participants, especially policymakers, around tools available and actions to implement in real life. To prepare for the dialogue, participants are encouraged to read the Assessment’s summary for policymakers (SPM) and consider current issues relevant at the subregional level for discussion among participants.

## 2. Inaugural Session

Moderator, Dr Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint Secretary (Technical) and Chief, Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal and Nepal national Focal Point of APN, introduced and welcomed all honourable speakers of the first session to take their place on the Dias.

### Opening Remarks:

#### **Session Chair Dr Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal**

Dr Bishwa Nath Oli welcomed the opportunity for his Ministry to host and engage in the first of a series of science-policy dialogues that bring together policymakers from the subregions of South Asia and West Asia to discuss biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In his remarks, he stressed the importance of harmony between humans and nature particularly as the Asia-Pacific region's biodiversity and ecosystem services are under increasing pressure. Importantly, biodiversity and natural resources are essential for economic development, livelihoods, food security and peoples' wellbeing. Noting that Nepal has been part of CBD since 1994, he stressed that the country is committed to achieving significant reductions in the rate of loss of biodiversity. This is being accomplished through commitments to the CBD Biodiversity Aichi Targets, among others, and strong regional cooperation. In this regard, he pointed out that Nepal has made significant progress in increasing forests and the number of protected areas. Significant action is needed to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020, he said, and therefore enhanced understanding of policymakers is extremely important.

Commending the work of IPBES in producing the report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment, and the Japan Biodiversity Fund for funding the series of science-policy dialogues, he stressed that clear actions are needed in order for countries to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to develop effective post-2020 biodiversity goals and targets.

He concluded by wishing all delegates a pleasant stay in Nepal and best wishes for a successful event.

*Guest of Honour, Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Forests and Environment, Mr Shakti Bahadur Basnet, inaugurated the session by watering a plant as a symbol of biodiversity conservation.*

Ms Naoko Nakajima, Head of the Tokyo Sustainability Forum (TSF) of IGES introduced the JBF-IPBES project and the objectives of the science-policy dialogues. The project is funded by Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF), which is provided by the Ministry of Environment, Japan and managed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). She explained the three components of the project: 1) Piloting approaches for bringing Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) into the Asia-Pacific regional Assessment; 2) Application of outputs from scenario analysis and

modeling assessment; and 3) Policy support for decision-makers and stakeholders. For the present component 3, Ms Nakajima explained that the aim is to strengthen the biodiversity science-policy interface around the topics of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and sustainability with a focus on the completed IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment (APRA); facilitate the understanding of APRA, the APRA report, and its uptake; and address challenges from key messages in the report's Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) with a view to discussing policy options and tools available to tackle these challenges.

The three science-policy dialogues cover 3 regions: South Asia and West Asia, Oceania, and Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia. Following an explanation of the structure of the present dialogue, Ms. Nakajima expressed her wishes for a successful event that will enhance discussions on nature's contribution to people at the science-policy interface.

**Dr Madhav Karki, IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment Co-Chair and IPBES MEP Member**

Dr Karki described the role of IPBES and the work that the body undertakes, noting that IPBES is an independent intergovernmental body established by Member States in 2012. The objective of IPBES is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long term human wellbeing and sustainable development. The function of IPBES is similar to that of IPCC in that IPBES does for biodiversity what IPCC does for climate change. With over 130 member states and other national and international bodies, including civil society organizations and indigenous and local community groups in the capacity as observers. Biodiversity and nature's benefit to people underpin every aspect of human development and are key to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Alarming, bio-resources are being depleted faster than any other point in human history in the Asia-Pacific region.

IPBES plays a catalytic role in the implementation of knowledge-based biodiversity related policies at all levels of government, private sector and civil society. The purpose of the present science-policy dialogue is to present the IPBES regional assessment for Asia and the Pacific and discuss specific challenges highlighted by IPBES Member States in South Asia and West Asia in regards to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and as outlined in the key messages in the summary for policy makers of the IPBES regional assessment report. IPBES is undertaking regional, global and thematic assessments, all of which have been embraced by CBD. IPBES also develops capacity by providing opportunities to young fellows and scientists so that they are better equipped to undertake national assessments in the future

*Dr Karki highlighted the main aim of the two-day science-policy dialogue, which is to ensure that key messages from the IPBES regional assessment are available to policymakers in a language and format that is readily understandable, and that can be used to inform decision-making processes. This, too, responds to the IPBES aim to enable decision-makers to gain access to available tools, methodologies and policy*



*options identified in the Asia-Pacific Assessment Report's Summary for Policymakers (SPM).*

The Asia-Pacific assessment report says that while there has been an overall decline in biodiversity there have been some successes. However, these will not halt the decline in biodiversity and ecosystem services and nature's contribution to people in the region. Climate change and associated extreme weather events further exacerbates current threats. There is an opportunity to reverse the current trend of biodiversity loss and he expressed that the discussions that will unfold in the two-day dialogue will allow us to take better care of nature for present and future generations.

### **Opening remarks by Hon'ble Dr Krishna Prasad Oli, Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal**

Welcoming the dialogue, Dr Krishna Prasad Oli expressed its relation to how biodiversity conservation policies have been researched, and how sustainable development policies are made at the national level and in the Asia-Pacific region.

He linked the IPBES science-policy dialogue agenda to the CBD agenda noting its 3 pillars: biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The highest policy instrument in Nepal has been implemented since 2015 - article 51, which gives full leverage for environmental conservation and biodiversity conservation. With this, Nepal is in the process of implementing this highest piece of legislation and MoFE is fully engaged in developing related policies, including those for forestry.

Research has been initiated on the impact of policy in ensuring conservation and this initiative is being undertaken by MoFE and the National Planning Commission. In the present dialogue we are gathered to discuss the major challenges that we face in the conservation of biological diversity and its management, use and benefit-sharing mechanism. We need to understand the status of the current living conditions of people and with respect to the implementation of SDG goals in Nepal, via an established SDG roadmap and SDG implementation costings.

One of the major challenges for the region, he said, is the impact of climate change and related best practices that can contribute to effective policymaking. Climate change has created tension among scientists, the public, and politicians, and we do not yet understand the exact impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services. He underscored that the region needs to strive to reduce the risk of crossing dangerous tipping points. Immediate action is needed and now is the time for scientists and policymakers to work closely together. In this regard, more data must be generated that is useful for policymaking systems and we need to increase the number of data observatories, particularly in developing countries. More discussion is needed at the policy-science interface, as well as capacity development among scientists, policymakers, and those people who are the most impacted.

In order to tackle the serious threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services, greater engagement is needed with global frameworks of UNCBD, IPBES, the UN Agenda for

SDGs, and other like-minded international and regional frameworks. In this regard, the importance of regional cooperation is paramount to developing capacity, particularly in developing countries. This will provide opportunities to share and develop knowledge-based solutions and best practices that will benefit the people of region.

### **Opening Address:**

#### **Guest of Honour: Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Forests and Environment, Mr Shakti Bahadur Basnet**

The opening address was delivered by the Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Environment, Mr Shakti Bahadur Basnet. In his address, Mr Basnet welcomed all participants. He described Nepal a mountainous country with very rich biodiversity and ecosystem services. There is abundant biodiversity, culture and indigenous knowledge practices and traditions. Forests are an important natural resource for Nepal covering more than 44% of Nepal's land, and supporting peoples' livelihoods by providing energy, water, food and medicinal plants.

Similarly, 24% of the land area coverage is under a protected area system that currently has twenty protected areas and thirty buffer zones, and forest-inhabited local communities engage in conservation and management practices. The forest and protected area system is a result of the strong commitment of the Government of Nepal who has invested a great deal of resources into biodiversity conservation.

Now, he said, this is the right time to have a dialogue on the sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing of ecosystem resources. He made a plea that all scientists and researchers provide evidence-based information and clarify to policymakers how much forest area protection should be established, and how to harness and optimize goods and services without any degradation of resources.

The county's wetlands are not only a source of freshwater for Nepal's people, but also support the growth and maintenance of Nepal's ecosystems. Nepal has more than 6000 rivers and rivulets, providing energy and freshwater resources to critical ecosystem services that provide potable water, sanitation systems, and irrigation services. These services also provide clean energy for industries, tourism and cultural activities.

Nepal's governance system has three tiers at central, provincial and local levels. Current forest and biodiversity governance systems are being transformed into a cooperative governance model. Effective REDD+ systems are also in place that contribute to global climate change mitigation. A new national forest policy is being implemented that outlines the key responsibilities of local communities and indigenous people in preserving biodiversity and ecosystem systems.

Currently, there are large gaps in knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and best-practice ecosystem policies to improve governance in conservation management systems are lacking. Regarding biodiversity and forest conservation, Nepal's policy is not only to protect biodiversity but also to improve the sustainable



use of its resources. This is vital to achieve sustainable economic development and poverty reduction, thus contributing effectively to the SDGs. Nepal is addressing the increasing pressure on its biodiversity through numerous programmes.

Nepal welcomes the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment and hopes that all countries can collaborate to fulfil the aim of harmonizing nature and its contribution to people. He further stressed the need for integrating biodiversity conservation into government policies at national levels. Least developed countries such as Nepal lack funds, capacity and technical knowledge. By improving regional collaboration national governments can ensure shared benefits, particularly as biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation does not end at national borders. All countries need to collaborate to achieve sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and best management systems for ecosystem services.

He closed the session by anticipating that the science-policy dialogue will be successful in discussing a common pathway to biodiversity conservation.

### 3. Dialogue

Government representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Lebanon, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Syria participated in the event. The dialogue covered a range of topics in plenary, breakout and information sessions. These included discussions on specific challenges being faced in the region, sharing information on best practices and available policy options, and discussing the policy support and capacity needs of governments as regards to the uptake and use of the IPBES APRA report.

#### 3.1 Key themes

Key themes for the dialogue were considered following a pre-dialogue survey that was distributed among delegates in South Asia and West Asia. Presentations were delivered by Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan and Lebanon on specific challenges:

1. Terrestrial ecosystem conservation including deforestation
2. Marine ecosystem conservation including coral reef conservation
3. Wild species / In-situ biodiversity conservation; and
4. Human and wildlife conflict

The ensuing dialogue centered on IPBES and the Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment report, in particular the key messages from the Summary for Policymakers (SPM). Some challenges, messages and recommendations are outlined in the following sections. These will be elaborated further into two policy briefs being prepared as an outcome of the dialogue.

#### 3.2 Challenges, messages and recommendations

##### 3.2.1 Challenges

In the context of the main themes of the dialogue, there are significant challenges in South Asia and West Asia as regards the complexity of (1) in-situ conservation and Protected Area (PA) management; (2) human-wildlife conflict that poses threat to human lives; (3) agriculture production and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) that degrade forests and agrobiodiversity (genetic resources); and (4) coral reef management and fishery problems and their implications to local livelihoods, which are presently not well captured.

For biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services in general, awareness and concern for biodiversity in policy matters has improved over the decade. However, many challenges persist. The primary challenge is the relative newness and multi-sectoral nature of biodiversity such as its contribution to improve human wellbeing.

There is a general lack of awareness of the need for a holistic, cross-sectoral approach to combat persistent challenges. Accordingly, there is a need to address an integrated approach to improve coordination across different government ministries and departments at the national level.

Sub-national and local governments and institutions have insufficient information on the IPBES process and capacity building tools need to be tailored to them. Similarly, there is a need for inter-collaboration to address common challenges at national borders.

More than 40% of the world's poor live in countries in South Asia and lifting people out of poverty will require multiple strategies including the protection of managed ecosystems such as agriculture, forests and aquaculture systems, which are the main livelihood sources in the region.

Combatting the increasing pressure and threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services is a global challenge, and stronger efforts are needed across the science-policy-societal interface at international, regional and national levels, and requiring cooperation and collaborative arrangements across national and international boundaries.

Regional and international synergy and capacity building are crucial, as is identifying the role of younger generations, and responding to the considerable challenge of lacking financial resources in the region's developing states.

### 3.2.2 Messages and recommendations

#### **On international engagement**

Responding to the international arena, the post-2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets is an opportunity for countries in South Asia and West Asia to realign their biodiversity strategies and set high priority to strengthening national accounting and reporting systems and, in addition, integrate the biodiversity targets with the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), where possible.

#### **Of national importance**

- Empowering local communities and including indigenous and local peoples for knowledge interaction, co-production of knowledge, coherence and alignment of actions and principles
- Strengthening the science-policy interface so that scientists are in a position to advise political leadership
- Addressing lack of institutional memory within government structures that are a result of changing governments or priorities
- Communicating innovation by producing powerful policy-briefs
- Maintaining science integrity as information crosses to decision-makers
- Providing opportunities to address inter-sectorial differences in relation to sectors such as tourism, energy, agriculture
- Increasing subregional cooperation on common cross-border issues
- Ensuring mentoring systems are in place for young scientists
- Boosting research, peer-reviewing, learning and support to produce more credible data
- Aligning data in the context of relevance to livelihoods, intersectoral results, SDGs, etc., which is more appealing to policymakers

- Financing for implementation, innovation, learning and sharing.

#### **On the IPBES process**

- The IPBES APRA Summary for Policy Makers is a useful tool and it would be a good opportunity for member states of the Asia-Pacific region to discuss the summary at the next IPBES plenary, as this will help to gain more attention from governments.
- Consider strengthening the island context in future assessments
- Provide for greater assessment on Indigenous and Local Knowledge
- Discuss and establish the role of local authorities and local communities
- Increase the engagement of social media as a useful tool to enhance communication between governments and the public
- Translate SPMs into local languages so that local governments are able to use the report for their policy development
- Place greater emphasis and effort on engaging governments in the IPBES process
- Though challenging, provide funding for key experts and human resources
- Consider establishing a common format for reporting to IPBES on the assessment report. This would make it easier for member states to report back to IPBES on the uptake of the assessment report.

#### **On capacity building and related country needs**

- Capacity building plans are needed as tools for the uptake of assessments
- Education and awareness-raising programmes at ministerial, school, and public levels
- Capacity development to strengthen scientific data collection, including better methodologies and technologies that will provide for higher quality data
- Capacity building of natural scientists on social and cultural knowledge and practices
- Capacity building of stakeholders, local communities and policymakers on the value of ecosystem services
- Increased dialogue at the science-policy interface
- Innovative communication tool(s), for example: that engage social media; that are effective for indigenous and local communities (elders, etc.), among others
- Capacity building of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) in the IPBES process for greater engagement

## **4. Closing Session**

Mr Seiji Tsutsui, Director of APN and Chair of the Steering Committee for Component 3 of the JBF-IPBES Capacity Building project, provided closing remarks.

“In the two-day dialogue, which was based on the Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service for Asia and the Pacific, we have had superb

discussions from the various aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem services in South Asia and West Asia,” he said.

He thanked all speakers for their excellent presentations, and all moderators, facilitators and rapporteurs for their excellent contribution in each session, and thanked attendees for their active participation and contribution to the dialogue.

Particularly, Mr Tsutsui expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) for hosting and organizing the dialogue, and providing very warm hospitality.

He commended Mr Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Hon’ble Minister of Ministry of Forests and Environment, Dr Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary of Ministry of Forestry and Environment Nepal, Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint Secretary (Technical), Ministry of Forests and Environment, Dr Madhav Karki, IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment Co-Chair and IPBES MEP Member for their active cooperation.

Through lively discussion, many ideas, options, and examples were exchanged among the participants expressing his belief that the dialogue provided knowledge, ideas, and clues toward conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in countries in the South Asia and West Asia regions.

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services is part of the SDGs, particularly target 14 on life below water and target 15 on life on land. These targets are interlinked with other SDGs targets, such as food, water, sustainable communities and so on. “Without conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services, we cannot achieve the SDGs,” he stated.

Mr Tsutsui highlighted a saying, “the end of everything leads to a new beginning” and expressed his hope that the dialogue had provided a good opportunity to promote the diffusion of the messages and contents of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment, and instill momentum to mainstream and take action for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity ecosystem services at national and local levels South Asia and West Asia.

## 5. Acknowledgements

IGES and APN are highly appreciative of the active participation of government delegates, scientists, researchers, experts and others who participated in the event.

Primarily, IGES and APN extends their sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Forests & Environment, Government of Nepal as official host of the dialogue, and for providing unwavering support and hospitality in the beautiful country of Nepal.

The undertaking and success of the two-day science-policy dialogue would have been impossible without the full support and engagement of MOEJ, SCBD and JBF who provided funding for the project; and IPBES APRA TSU, IPBES CB TSU, IPBES ILK TSU who shared their extensive knowledge and expertise.

Finally, we acknowledge NTNC who, as the Local Secretariat, has worked tirelessly on the logistical arrangements before, during and following the event.

## 6. Appendices



## 6.1 PROGRAMME



### Tentative Programme

(Version 25: 26 Feb 2019)

#### Science-Policy Dialogue on the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment for South Asia and West Asia

Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal

27-28 February 2019

#### Day One

##### 08:00-08:40 Registration

- Delegates are kindly asked to register and receive their badges and conference bags at the registration desk
- Delegates are kindly asked to be seated by **08:45**

##### 08:50-10:00 Session One: Inaugural Session

Moderator: Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 08:50-09:00<br>(10 min) | Opening remarks by Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal<br><i>Dr Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary to the Ministry of Forests and Environment,</i><br><br><i>Inauguration of the Session</i> |
| 09:00-09:05<br>(5 min)  | Opening remarks by Vice-Chair of JBF-IPBES(C3) Science-Policy Dialogues<br><i>Ms Naoko Nakajima, Director, Tokyo Sustainability Forum, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies</i>                  |
| 09:05-09:15<br>(10 min) | Opening remarks on Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment and showing the Asia-Pacific Assessment Video<br><i>Dr Madhav Karki, IPBES Asia-Pacific RA Co-Chair and IPBES MEP Member</i>                          |
| 09:15-09:20<br>(5 min)  | Opening remarks by Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal<br><i>Hon'ble Dr Krishna Prasad Oli</i>  |
| 09:20-09:30<br>(10 min) | <b>Opening Address by Guest of Honour</b><br><i>Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Forests and Environment, Mr Shakti Bahadur Basnet</i>   |
| <b>09:30-09:40</b>      | <b>Group Photograph</b><br><i>Delegates move outside</i>  |
| 09:40-10:10             | <i>Morning Break</i>  |



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| <b>10:10-11:10</b>   |  | <b>Session Two: Setting the Scene</b>                              |
| <i>Moderator: Dr Linda Anne Stevenson, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research</i> |  |  |
| 10:10-10:20<br>(10 min)  | Introduction of JBF-IPBES project and objectives of the dialogue<br><i>Ms Naoko Nakajima, Vice-Chair of JBF-IPBES(C3) Project<br/>Director, Tokyo Sustainability Forum, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies</i>      |  |
| 10:20-10:35<br>(15 min)  | Major highlights of the SPM of the Regional Assessment for Asia and the Pacific region with a focus on Status, Trends, Drivers and Scenarios<br><i>Dr Madhav Karki, Co-Chair of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment</i> |  |
| 10:35-10:50<br>(15 min)  | Presentation on the policy options identified in the AP Assessment Report<br><i>Dr Ganesh Raj Joshi, Lead Author of Chapter 6 of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment Report</i>   |  |
| 10:50-11:10<br>(20 min)  | Discussion session with speakers and delegates (Q&A)<br><i>Facilitator: Ms Noriko Moriwake, Head, Technical Support Unit for the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment</i>  |  |
| <b>11:10-12:00</b>   |  | <b>Session Three: Challenges from Key Messages of SPM (Part I)</b> |
| <i>Moderator/Facilitator: Dr Linda Anne Stevenson and Ms Chris de Guzman</i>               |  |  |
| 11:10-11:15<br>(5 min)   | Introduction of session and speakers<br><i>Dr Linda Anne Stevenson</i>   |  |
| 11:15-11:25<br>(10 min)  | Challenges in Sri Lanka: Deforestation<br><i>Ms Rajitha Kisagothami Lankathilaka Jagoda,<br/>Department of National Planning, Sri Lanka</i>  |  |
| 11:25-11:35<br>(10 min)  | Challenges in Maldives: Coral reef conservation<br><i>Dr Abdulla Naseer, Ministry of Environment, Maldives</i>   |  |
| 11:35-11:55<br>(20 min)  | Participatory Q&A session and discussion session on key challenges<br><i>All interested countries are welcome to share their challenges</i>  |  |
| 11:55-12:00<br>(5 min)   | Brief summary of main discussion points<br><i>Dr Linda Anne Stevenson and Ms Chris de Guzman</i>   |  |
| <b>12:00-13:00</b>   |  | <b>Lunch</b>   |



### 13:00-15:30 Session Four: Knowledge Café Sessions (Part I)

- Delegates move directly to their respective Knowledge Cafés for in-depth discussion
- Knowledge Café sessions are designed for interactive dialogue among delegates on specific and relevant issues and are facilitated by resource persons associated with IPBES

#### Parallel Thematic Knowledge Café Sessions

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Knowledge Café 1</b><br/>13:00-14:30</p>   | <p><b>Terrestrial ecosystem conservation including deforestation</b><br/> <i>Facilitator: Dr Ikuko Matsumoto</i><br/> <i>Dr Ambika Gautam (IPBES AP regional assessment)</i><br/> <i>Dr Gopal Rawat (IPBES AP regional assessment)</i><br/> <i>Ms Rajitha Kisagothami Lankathilaka Jagoda, (plenary presenter)</i><br/> <i>Dr Hemanthi Ranasinghe (expert)</i><br/> <i>Ms Carolle Alarcon Eichmann (rapporteur)</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Knowledge Café 2</b><br/>13:00-14:30</p>   | <p><b>Marine ecosystem conservation including coral reef conservation</b><br/> <i>Facilitator: Dr Nigel Crawhall</i><br/> <i>Dr Ram Prasad Chaudhary (IPBES AP regional assessment)</i><br/> <i>Dr Madhav Karki (IPBES AP regional assessment)</i><br/> <i>Dr Abdulla Naseer (plenary presenter)</i><br/> <i>Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran (rapporteur)</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Knowledge Café Stand</b><br/>13:00-14:30</p>                                     | <p><b>Common challenges in South Asia and West Asia sub-regions</b><br/>           The Knowledge café stand is an area intended to promote informal information-exchange providing an opportunity for delegates to network and share common challenges, write and display notes on these challenges particularly on the key messages in the SPM. During this session, key message poster boards are presented on status, trends and drivers with a view to discussing opportunities, knowledge gaps and capacity building needs.</p> |
| <p><b>Reports on Key Outputs</b> (<i>Delegates return to their assigned seats</i>)</p> |  |
| <p><i>Moderator: Linda Anne Stevenson</i></p>  |  |
| <p>14:30-15:00<br/>(30 min)</p>  | <p>Reports on key outputs:<br/>           Report on Knowledge Café 1: (10 min)<br/>           Report on Knowledge Café 2: (10 min)<br/>           Voices from delegates engaged in Knowledge Café Stand (10 min)</p>   |
| <p>15:00-15:30<br/>(30 min)</p>  | <p>Participatory Q&amp;A and discussion session on key outputs</p>   |
| <p>15:30-16:00 <i>Afternoon Break</i></p>  |  |



| <b>16:00-17:30 Session Five: Uptake of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Moderator: Dr Linda Anne Stevenson</i>   |   |
| 16:00-16:30<br>(15 min)<br>(15 min)   | Plenary presentation on uptake events and activities, outreach materials, and examples of raising awareness of IPBES assessments and its products<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran</li> <li>- Mr Yajna Nath Dahal and Dr Maheshwar Dhakal, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal</li> </ul> |
| 16:30-17:30<br>(60 min)   | Breakout Groups: Open discussions and reflections<br><br>Breakout Group I:<br><i>Facilitated by Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran</i><br><i>Rapporteur: Dr Ikuko Matsumoto</i><br><br>Breakout Group II:<br><i>Facilitated by Dr Nigel Crawhall</i><br><i>Rapporteur: Ms Noriko Moriwake</i>  |

**17:30-18:30 Session Six: Interaction/Dialogue Session with Nepal Government Policy Makers**

- Delegates will be guided to the venue in the main building

*Chair: Dr Maheshwar Dhakal*

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 17:30-18:30 | Special Session: Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal |
|-------------|---|

18:30-19:00 Informal networking session over light snacks and drinks

19:00~ Networking dinner hosted by the Government of Nepal  
*(Please refer to the Invitation provided in your conference bag)*





## Day Two

### 09:00-09:15 Session Seven: Summary of Day One and Introduction to Day Two

Facilitators: Linda Anne Stevenson and Chris de Guzman

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 09:00-09:10<br>(10 min) | Summary of key points from Day One<br><i>Dr Linda Stevenson</i> |
| 09:10-09:15<br>(5 min)  | Introduction to Day Two<br><i>Ms Chris de Guzman</i>            |

### 9:15-10:05 Session Eight: Challenges from Key Messages in SPM (Part II)

Moderator/Facilitator *Dr Linda Anne Stevenson and Ms Chris de Guzman*

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 09:15-09:20<br>(5 min)  | Introduction of session and speakers<br><i>Dr Linda Anne Stevenson</i>  |
| 09:20-09:30<br>(10 min) | Challenges in West Asia with a case study: Progress on conserving wildlife in Lebanon<br><i>Ms Zeina Hassane, Environment Specialist, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon</i>                  |
| 09:30-09:40<br>(10 min) | Challenges in South Asia with a case study in Bhutan: Human and wildlife conflict<br><i>Dr Phuntsho Thinley, Environment Research Forestry Researcher Ugyen Wangchuck Institute, Bhutan</i> |
| 09:40-10:00<br>(20 min) | Participatory Q&A and discussion session on key challenges<br><i>All interested countries are welcome to share their challenges</i>   |
| 10:00-10:05<br>(5 min)  | Brief summary of main discussion points<br><i>Dr Linda Anne Stevenson and Ms Christmas de Guzman</i>  |

### 10:05-12:25 Session Nine: Knowledge Café Sessions (Part II)

- Delegates move directly to their respective Knowledge Cafés for in-depth discussion
- Knowledge Café sessions are designed for interactive dialogue among delegates on specific and relevant issues and are facilitated by resource persons associated with IPBES

#### Parallel Knowledge Café Sessions

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Knowledge Café 1</b><br>10:05-11:35<br>(90 min) | <b>Wild species / In-situ biodiversity conservation</b><br><i>Facilitator: Dr Nigel Crawhall</i><br><i>Dr Ram Prasad Chaudhary (IPBES AP regional assessment)</i><br><i>Dr Madhav Karki (IPBES AP regional assessment)</i><br><i>Ms Zeina Hassane (plenary presenter)</i><br><i>Ms Carolle Alarcon Eichmann (rapporteur)</i> |
|--|--|



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Knowledge Café 2</b><br/>10:05-11:35<br/>(90 min)</p>   | <p><b>Human and wildlife conflict</b><br/><i>Facilitator: Dr Ikuko Matsumoto</i><br/><i>Dr Gopal Rawat (IPBES AP regional assessment)</i><br/><i>Dr Ambika Gautam (IPBES AP regional assessment)</i><br/><i>Dr Phuntsho Thinley (plenary presenter)</i><br/><i>Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran (rapporteur)</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Knowledge Café Stand</b><br/>10:05-11:35</p>  | <p>The Knowledge café stand is an area intended to promote informal information-exchange providing an opportunity for delegates to network and share common challenges, write and display notes on these challenges particularly on the key messages in the SPM. During this session, key message poster boards are presented on status, trends and drivers with a view to discussing opportunities, knowledge gaps and capacity building needs.</p> |
| <p><b>Reports on Key Outputs</b> (<i>Delegates return to their assigned seats</i>)</p>                                  |  |
| <p><i>Moderator: Linda Anne Stevenson</i></p>   |  |
| <p>11:35-12:05<br/>(30 min)</p>   | <p>Reports on key outputs:<br/>Report on Knowledge Café 1: (10 min)<br/>Report on Knowledge Café 2: (10 min)<br/>Voices from delegates engaged in Knowledge Café Stand (10 min)</p>  |
| <p>12:05-12:25<br/>(20 min)</p>   | <p>Participatory Q&amp;A and discussion session on key outputs</p>   |
| <p>12:25-13:25 <i>Lunch</i></p>   |  |
| <p><b>13:25-15:25 Session Ten: Support for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments</b></p> |  |
| <p><i>Moderator: Dr Madhav Karki Co-Chair of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment</i></p>                         |  |
| <p><i>(Before moving into discussions, summaries from Session 5 will be presented.)</i></p>                             |  |
| <p>13:25-13:45<br/>(20 min)</p>   | <p>Reports from Session 5: Uptake from IPBES AP regional assessment:<br/>Breakout Session on Open discussions and reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakout Group I: (10 min)<br/><i>Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran</i></li> <li>- Breakout Group II: (10 min)<br/><i>Dr Nigel Crawhall</i></li> </ul>  |





13:45-14:00 Presentation for framing discussion on support and tools for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments  
*Dr Madhav Karki, Co-Chair of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment*

14:00-14:45 (45 min) Delegates will form two breakout groups to discuss remaining policy support needs (for example, capacity building and cross-scale/cross-sector dialogues) that can be used to enable current and inform future IPBES deliverables.

**Breakout Group I:**  
*Facilitated by Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran*  
*Rapporteur: Dr Ikuko Matsumoto*

**Breakout Group II:**  
*Facilitated by Dr Nigel Crawhall*  
*Rapporteur: Ms Noriko Moriwake*

**Delegates return to their assigned seats**  
*Moderator: Dr Madhav Karki*

14:45-15:05 (20 min) Reports from Session 10: Support for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments

- Breakout Group I: (10 min)  
*Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran*
- Breakout Group II: (10 min)  
*Dr Nigel Crawhall*

15:05-15:25 (20 min) Participatory Q&A and discussion session

15:25-15:40 *Afternoon Break*

**15:40-17:00 Session Eleven: Feedback and Closing**  
*Moderator: Dr Linda Anne Stevenson*

15:40-16:20 Reflections from Delegates on the Dialogue and comments on the post 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets  
*(country delegates to be confirmed)*

- South Asia: Country
- West Asia: Country
- South Asia: Country
- West Asia: Country
- Reflections from other countries



16:20-16:40

Feedback survey

- Delegates are invited to complete a feedback survey available online or on paper

16:40-17:00

Summary

- A brief overview of the two-day event and subsequent outputs  
*Dr Linda Anne Stevenson and Ms Chris de Guzman*

Closing remarks (tentative)

- JBF-IPBES(C3) Project Chair  
*Mr Seiji Tsutsui, Director  
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- Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal  
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**End of formal proceedings**

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### 6.3 PRESENTATIONS

Presentations are available at the following link: <https://www.apn-gcr.org/?p=13530>

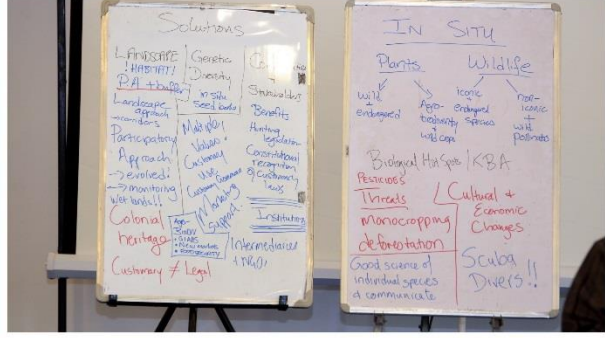
## 6.4 SELECTED PHOTOS







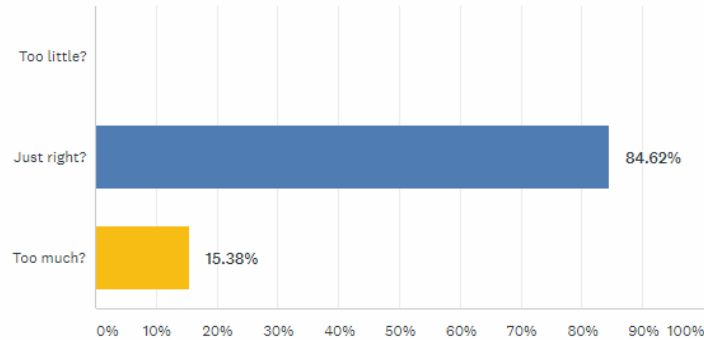




## 6.5 POST-DIALOGUE SURVEY

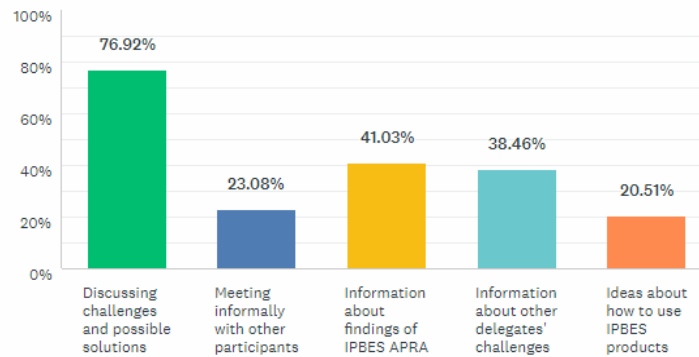
Was the amount of information provided at the Science-Policy Dialogue?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



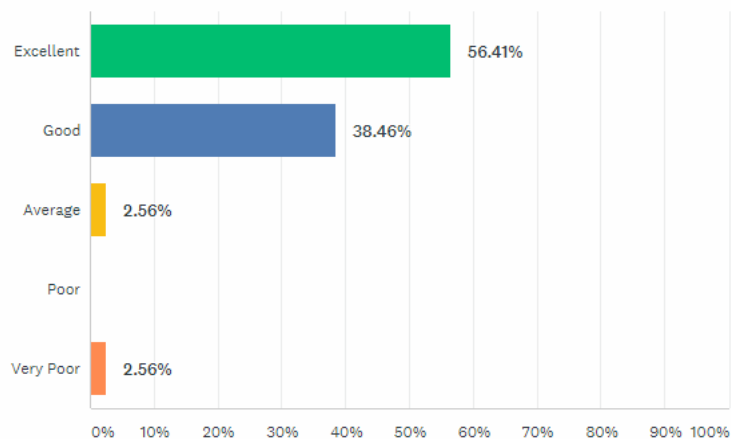
Which were the two most important aspects of the Science-Policy Dialogue?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



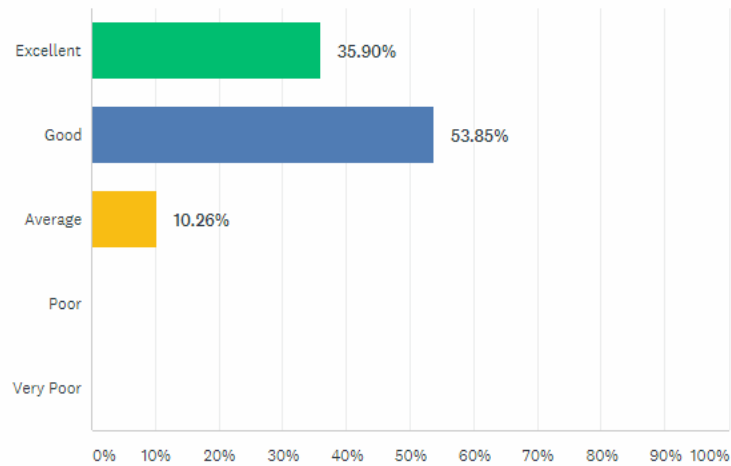
How useful would you rate the structure of the Science-Policy Dialogue? Would you suggest any changes for the next time? If so, please elaborate in the comments section.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



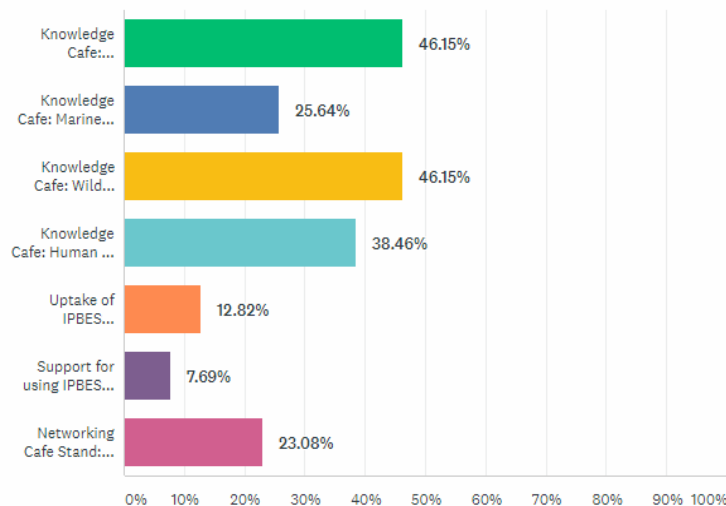
How useful would you rate the content of the Science-Policy Dialogue? Would you suggest any changes for the next time? If so, please elaborate in the comments section.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



Which of the breakout groups that you joined did you find most useful or interesting, and why?

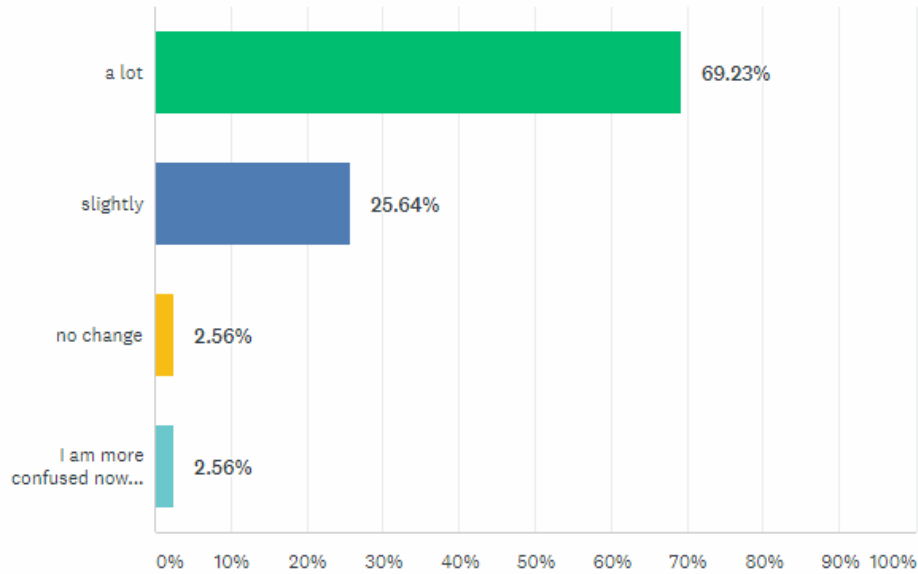
Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



- Knowledge Cafe: Terrestrial ecosystem conservation including deforestation
- Knowledge Cafe: Marine ecosystem conservation including coral reef conservation
- Knowledge Cafe: Wild species/In-situ biodiversity conservation
- Knowledge Cafe: Human and wildlife conflict
- Uptake of IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment
- Support for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessment
- Networking Cafe Stand: Common challenges in South Asia and West Asia

Through this workshop, how much did your understanding of the key messages of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Assessment Report improve?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



Do you think that the IPBES regional assessment for Asia and the Pacific will make a difference to policy in your country? Please say why you think it would or would not.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0

