Report of the Science-Policy Dialogue for South Asia and West Asia subregion on the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment

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

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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 was held in Park Village Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal, as a part of the "Capacity Building Project for the Implementation of IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment" funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and operated by 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).The dialogue was supported by the leadership of the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Nepal with the assistance of the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC).

The two-day dialogue was participated by government delegates, academics, scientists and experts from the sub-regions of South Asia and West Asia to discuss the Asia-Pacific regional assessment and its key messages and to demonstrate that biodiversity is among the planet's most essential resources. The dialogue 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 Asia-Pacific Assessment Report and presented through the Summary for Policymakers (SPM).

The dialogue featured presentations on 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 carried out 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 changing 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 emphasized 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. Key senior officials of Nepal presented their interests and views 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, to strengthen 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[1].

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. IGES is holding the third dialogue 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 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.

[1] IPBES. (n.d.). About What is IPBES?. Retrieved May 10, 2019, from https://ipbes.net/about

2. Inaugural Session

Moderator, Dr. Maheswar 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 Dais.

2.1 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 engage in and host 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 ecosystems 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, he said that 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 Nepal 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 active regional cooperation. Nepal has made significant progress in increasing forests and protected areas. Meaningful action is needed to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 and, therefore, enhancing the 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 for countries to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to develop practical 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 the 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 modelling assessment, and 3) Policy support for decision-makers and stakeholders. For 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. The main focus is centred on the completed IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment (APRA); facilitate the understanding of APRA, the APRA report, and its

uptake; and address the challenges from the key messages in the report's Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) and policy options and tools available to tackle these challenges.

The three science-policy dialogues cover three 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 the 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 well-being 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). Alarmingly, 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 present science-policy dialogue will present the IPBES regional assessment for Asia and the Pacific and discuss specific challenges highlighted by the 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 policymakers of the IPBES regional assessment report. IPBES is undertaking regional, global and thematic assessments, all of which have been embraced by CBD. IPBES also provides 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 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; and climate change and associated extreme weather events further exacerbate 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 three 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. This is article 51, which gives full leverage for environmental conservation, which includes biodiversity conservation. Based on this, Nepal is in the process of implementing that highest piece of legislation and MoFE is fully engaged in developing related policy, including forestry.

Research has been initiated on the impact of policy in ensuring conservation and this initiative is being undertaken by the Ministry and the National Planning Commission. In the present dialogue, we are gathered to discuss the significant 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 concerning the implementation of SDG goals in Nepal via an established SDG roadmap and its implementation.

One of the major challenges for the region 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. We do not yet understand the exact impacts of climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The region needs to strive to reduce the risk of crossing dangerous tipping points. Immediate action is needed now is the time for scientists and policymakers to work closely together. Data must be generated that will be useful in policymaking systems. Discussion must take place at the policy-science interface to increase the number of data observatories, particularly in developing countries. Capacity among scientists, policymakers, and those people who are the most impacted. Agencies in technology transfer can also play an essential role in this regard.

To tackle the severe threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services, higher engagement is needed with global frameworks of UNCBD, IPBES, the UN Agenda for SDGs, and other like-minded regional frameworks bodies. In this regard, the importance of regional cooperation is paramount to developing capacity, particularly in developing countries. This will provide opportunities to share and create knowledge-based solutions and best practices that will benefit the people of the region.

2.2 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 speech, Mr. Basnet welcomed all participants. Nepal is a mountainous country with vibrant biodiversity and ecosystem services. There are high biodiversity, culture and indigenous knowledge practices and traditions. Forests are an

important natural resource for Nepal and cover more than 44% of Nepal's land and support our 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 lot of resources into biodiversity conservation.

Now, this is the right time to have a dialogue on the sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing of ecosystem resources. Mr. Basnet made a plea that all scientists and researchers to 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. Nepal's wetlands are not only a source of fresh water for our 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 and sanitation systems, and irrigation services. These ecosystems 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+ methods are also in place that contributes to global climate change mitigation. New national forest policy is in place that outlines the key responsibilities of local communities and indigenous people in preserving biodiversity and ecosystem systems.

Currently, there are significant 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 enhance the sustainable use of resources. This is vital to achieving 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 for all countries to collaborate to fulfil the aim of harmonizing nature and its contribution to people. On this note, biodiversity conservation must be integrated into government policies. Least developed countries such as Nepal lacks funds, capacity and technical knowledge. National governments are vital for improving regional collaboration and governance for shared benefits, particularly as biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation does not stop at national borders. All nations must collaborate to achieve sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and best management systems for ecosystem services.

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

3. Dialogue

Government representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Lebanon, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Syria, as well as IPBES experts and relevant organizations, 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 Themes

Key themes for the dialogue were considered following a pre-dialogue survey and 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 centred on IPBES and its Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment Report, and in particular the key messages from the Summary for Policymakers. Some of the challenges, messages and recommendations are outlined in the following sections.

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 in-situ conservation and Protected Area management; human-wildlife conflict that poses a threat to human lives; agriculture production and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) that degrade forests and agrobiodiversity (genetic resources); and coral reef management and fishery problems and their implications to local livelihoods are not well-captured.

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

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, capacity tools would be useful to aid inter-collaboration to address common challenges across national boundaries.

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 primary 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 global biodiversity framework 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 a lack of institutional memory within government structures as 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 young scientists have access to mentoring and build up long-term memory and skills
- Boosting research, peer-reviewing, learning and support to produce more credible data. This can be more attractive to politicians in the context of relevance to livelihoods, intersectoral results, SDGs, etc.
- 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 an excellent opportunity for member states of the Asia-Pacific region to discuss the summary, as this will help to gain more attention from governments.
- Consider strengthening the island context in future assessments
- Provide for more significant 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 can 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 standard 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 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 including social media and other (elders and rural communities)
- Capacity building of indigenous peoples and local communities in the IPBES process for greater engagement

4. Closing

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. Analysis of Main Outcomes

5.1 Challenges and Solutions

The dialogue adopted a "challenges-solutions" structure that provided meaningful interactions that could help narrow gaps across knowledge, policy and practice. Seven key messages (Table 1) from the APRA SPM on varying region-wide challenges were shared through a pre-dialogue online survey to determine the applicability of the messages to "real-life" situations and its relevance to the country-specific needs of policymakers. Information on the identified country-specific challenges as well as common challenges gathered through the survey and were used to shape an agenda with a focus on representative case studies or challenges relevant at national and subregional levels.

Key Message (KM)	Description
KM 6	The population of large wild mammals and birds has declined across the region
KM 7	Invasive alien species have increased in number and abundance, and constitute one of the most serious drivers of biodiversity loss across the Asia-Pacific region
KM 8	Protected area coverage in the Asia-Pacific region has increased substantially but does not effectively target areas of important biodiversity, and progress is needed towards better overall management effectiveness
KM 9	Traditional biodiversity is in decline, along with its associated indigenous and local knowledge, due to a shift toward intensification of agriculture with a small number of improved crop species and varieties
KM 10	People in the Asia-Pacific region depend heavily on fisheries for food, with aquaculture growing by nearly 7% annually, but the capture fisheries sector is threatened
KM 11	Coral reefs are of critical ecological, cultural and economic, importance, supporting the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond through vital and valuable ecosystem services, such as food security or coastal protection, and are under serious threat.
KM 12	Climate change and associated extreme events are impacting species distribution, population sizes and the timing of production or migration; increased frequency of pest and disease outbreaks resulting from these changes may have additional adverse effects on agricultural production and human wellbeing
KM 13	The increase of waste and pollution in the Asia-Pacific region is impacting ecosystems and threatening the current and future health of nature and people.

Presentations of case studies on pre-identified challenges were followed by in-depth break-out group discussions centred on three (3) key questions:

1. Do you have examples of challenges in your country or area that are similar to the one presented? If so, please share them briefly with the group.
2. What are the causes (drivers) of the challenges that you have just explained?
3. Which measures may be able to address these challenges, and which obstacles are preventing these measures from being implemented?

From the discussions, we gathered inputs and viewpoints from participants on the challenges, its direct and underlying causes, and solutions (proposed and/or practiced). A list of viewpoints from the discussions at the subregional dialogues were noted, sorted and analysed to determine themes of key challenges that are considered relevant and urgent. The presented challenges in this brief were also mainly collected based on the following considerations: (1) element of exchange, (2) relevance, and (3) emphasis.

Solutions identified by policymakers, which were proposed and/or currently practiced, were also extracted from the discussions and identified and marked whether "present" or "not present" in the policy options included in the SPM[2].

Challenges

Theme I: Deforestation and forest degradation

1. Physical or direct environmental challenges: Infrastructure development, agricultural expansion, hydropower plants, mining; Population growth, encroachment, urbanization; Shifting cultivation; Natural hazards and climate change; Forest fires.
2. Governance or institutional challenges:
    - Lack of understanding and acknowledgment of the spiritual, cultural, ancestral value of forests and gap between policy makers and IPLCs
    - Lack of ownership, coordination and coherence among stakeholders, particularly across government sectors
    - Instruments: Lack of standardized definition of forests, lack of established procedures on EIA
    - Lack of integration between agricultural and conservation priorities (food security and biodiversity conservation)

Theme II: Marine ecosystem conservation including coral reef conservation

1. Physical or direct environmental challenges:
    - Pollution (Shipping pollution, Plastics, River pollution)
    - Impacts from industries (Illegal unreported and unregulated and unsustainable practices in fishing, Tourism leading to over consumption of freshwater, carrying capacity, damage on reefs, lagoons and small island ecosystems);
    - Environmental degradation and unsustainable consumption (Overconsumption, Overexploitation, Oil and gas exploration, Shell mining)
2. Governance or institutional challenges:
    - Challenges in environmental impact assessment and policies (e.g., infrastructure impacts not synchronized with science and local context)
    - Incoherence in decision-making
    - Inability to execute crucial environmental program, dependency over other departments which may not have similar goals
    - Less participatory approaches in addressing challenges on restoration and conservation of corals, mangroves, seagrass, lagoons

Theme III: Wild species and in-situ conservation

1. Physical or direct environmental challenges: Climate change, population growth and agricultural land expansion over forests with agrobiodiversity loss; Basic needs pressure; Changes in the financial return of crops incentivizing mono-cropping and new cultures

[2] These policy options include: Collaboration in decision-making, Mainstreaming biodiversity, Ecosystem-based approaches, Regional cooperation, Partnerships, and Sustainable options

instead of traditional crops; Problem of invasive species on wild areas, threatening wild species.

2. Governance or institutional challenges:
    - Hunting and poaching issues due to weak enforcement of regulations in protected areas
    - Policy inconsistencies: Lack of coordinated actions from the government, for example inconsistencies in law concerning the promotion of ILK on one hand and enacting laws that compromise food security on the other (e.g. not allowing community seed banks)
    - Lack of consideration of IPLCs: International funding for environmental projects that do not respect or consider or values customary laws and customs
    - Intrinsic, spiritual, cultural values of agrobiodiversity not captured by policy: Less recognition; respect of ILK-holders and customary laws/customs should be considered in the policy process
    - Too much attention on macro process of implementing international development agendas such as the SDGs: Less focus on local and specific issues on the ground

Theme IV: Human-wildlife conflict

1. Physical or direct environmental challenges: Human encroachment to protected areas, Expansion of agricultural areas; Infrastructure development; Tourism; Transboundary issues and species migration; Habitat loss and degradation; Climate change; Impacts of war/conflicts on land degradation
2. Governance or institutional challenges:
    - Lack of understanding of the underlying causes of human-wildlife conflict
    - Lack of institutional guidance on addressing the issue as human-wildlife conflict is context-specific and it is difficult to generalize issues and solutions
    - Science of wildlife damage management is new, and hence, examples of effective strategies and policies to create harmonious co-existence is not easily created and implemented
    - Lack of awareness of the importance of biodiversity and lack incentives for conservation

Solutions

In addressing the challenges policymakers were introduced to the APRA SPM (D. Policies, Institutional Frameworks, and Governance options) and came up with proposed solutions considering their individual local contexts.

In South Asia and West Asia, challenges revolve around both the geographic and physical conditions of the respective subregions. These include access to resources and land tenure systems, economic development, changing consumption patterns and lifestyle, and lack of financial and human resources. The main solutions identified were multi-level governance, capacity building and uptake of scientific findings.

Mainstreaming biodiversity issues into ministerial agendas in a way that attracts the interest of policymakers that would bring about national relevance and partnerships, is repeatedly mentioned in the dialogues as a long-term solution. Alignment of country's development agenda to the post-2020 biodiversity framework can be facilitated through solutions such as collaboration in decision-making, mainstreaming biodiversity, and ecosystem-based approaches.

5.2 IPBES Uptake and Future Assessments

Information on the use and uptake of the approved regional assessment was shared among delegates who then engaged in a discussion of the important elements at the national level in their respective countries that are reflected in the regional assessment. The talks resulted in recommendations for future uptake events and how raising awareness of IPBES assessments and its products can help frame national-level dialogues promoting the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thus paving the way towards framing the Post 2020 Framework.

Uptake: Challenges

Engagement of governments and other stakeholders

- Institutional memory within the government structure (role of government officials) need to be documented or recorded so that a new set of personnel does not have to start from the very beginning.
- Institutions or commissions or bodies help integrate inter-sectoral understanding of biodiversity; this is an excellent opportunity to do uptake to strengthen those processes as well.
- Long-term political buy-in (by presenting economic linkages, livelihood issues) plays an equally crucial role, especially when there is a need to emphasize particular issues and need for national initiation.
- More strategic involvement of the private sector is essential and a clear picture is needed how they can be involved.
- An inter-sectoral committee, trans-boundary initiations, inclusion of ministries, line agencies, NGOs, the private sector, representative from indigenous groups in a relevant forum, during policy formulation, implementing plan or monitoring and evaluating the event would be ideal for any environmental endeavor.
- Mapping exercises on ecosystem services are ongoing and possible future events related to IPBES could take place, especially on IAS as it is a priority issue. Currently, terrestrial data is limited and national assessments are needed first.

Training and Capacity building

- Training and capacitating young scientist, involving them in national assessment and guiding them to produce scientific deliverables, which could be adopted by local actors is another way to make the uptake effective.
- Intergenerational cooperation (role of the younger generation both in terms of conservation opportunities, but also ensuring young scientists have mentoring and build up long-term memory and skills;
- Research that generates more credible data.
- Intergenerational cooperation and the role of the younger generation need to be discussed.

Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge

- Local community empowerment including Indigenous and local peoples (for knowledge interaction, co-production of knowledge) are essential in national level uptake.
- Indigenous and local knowledge should be prioritized.

Communication Strategies and Tools

- Communication innovation (need for effective and powerful policy briefs)
- using media and technology is important
- Dissemination of IPBES, adoption of assessment and internalization of the strategies is important.
- The institutions or commissions/bodies that responsible for integrating an inter-sectoral understanding of biodiversity can take the opportunity to strengthen uptake.
- Communication innovation (need for effective and powerful policy briefs) using media and technology is important.
- Deliverables should be in clear language, concise and easily accessible to stakeholders, including non-scientist and experts groups.
- Not only social media but other types of tools should be utilized for the mass such as video and radio. These should be in local language.
- Related to the communication process of IPBES, there is limitation of the use of the assessment itself, particularly for very small island states.

Financing

- Lack of funding and resources (key experts, human resources)
- Lack of human resources working directly on IPBES
- Financing/investment is critical for implementation, innovation, learning and sharing. Old models of funding are more complicated, and innovation and connecting with developmental goals can help.
- Sustainable financial mechanisms and trust funds should be a consideration
- IPBES membership is highly stressed due to the benefits of contribution to plenary and influence in developing assessments.
- The financial motivation for biodiversity and ecosystem services has been a powerful tool to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity

National Relevance / Subregional Cooperation

- Sub-regional cooperation on similar socio-economic systems, cross-border issues is beneficial.
- More distinction between assessment outputs at the national level rather than the regional level.

- National level science-policy interface where scientists can advise political leaders in key environmental issues, but this is highly lacking.
- Local community empowerment including Indigenous and local peoples (for knowledge interaction, co-production of knowledge, coherence and alignment of actions and principles).
- Long-term political buy-in (by presenting economic linkages, livelihood issues).
- National level science-policy interface – scientists can advise political leadership, but currently, gaps exist.
- Institutional memory within the government structure (role of government officials) to mitigate policy uncertainty owing to rapid changes in governments or political priorities.
- Communication innovation (need for effective and powerful policy briefs) that maintains science integrity but gets across a relevant/action-oriented message across to political decision-makers (the message is not lost in translation).
- Young scientists can help with communication technology and innovations.
- Higher profiling of the assessment report (IPCC grew its credibility over time, putting IPBES to applied work will increase the credibility of IPBES knowledge products).
- Intersectoral differences need to be addressed – tourism, energy, agriculture can provide opportunities. Cross-sectoral engagement is vital to ensure IPBES messages are considered from a holistic viewpoint.

Uptake: Recommendations/Tools

- Agricultural biodiversity should be emphasized. Risk of monoculture and GMO's need to be clearly understood. Ex-situ conservation, seed banks, gene banks need to be prioritized.
- The deliverables should be in clear language, concise and easily accessible to stakeholders including non-scientist or experts group as well. In terms of communication tools, not only social media but other types of devices such as videos, radios that reach out to the broader mass should be used.

Future Assessments: Challenges

- We cover both biodiversity and climate change. Collaboration with NGOs, IUCN and others is a good message for us
- Local governments would be able to use the report for their policy development
- There are common elements of many countries. If there is a standard format for reporting to IPBES, it is easy for a country to report back to IPBES about report usage.

Future Assessments: Recommendations

For South Asia and West Asia, recommendations were grouped into two areas considered necessary: Capacity Building and topics/thematic areas that could be considered in the future by IPBES and, in particular, included in future assessments

Capacity Building

- Understanding IPLC; mutual understanding and having a dialogue with policymakers
- Intellectual property rights.
- Document and register biodiversity in-country.
- Innovative communication tools including social media (elders and rural communities).
- Develop capacity of resource holders.
- Capacity to use and engage in the assessment for future, to use methodology of data collection, including technology, and improving data quality.
- Training for all stakeholders who are disconnected from ecosystems,
- Awareness-raising for policymakers.
- Education for other ministries and people.
- Data has to be appropriately collected for policy-making.
- Educational programmes and developing school curricula on biodiversity.
- Build capacity on social and cultural aspects of both social and natural scientists learning more from communities.
- Training on environmental studies among stakeholders, local communities and policymakers on the value of ecosystem services.
- Conservation is becoming more multidisciplinary, and there is increasing collaboration with anthropologists and social scientists. Training programmes for policymakers are needed in this respect.

– Scientific knowledge for policymakers is required, particularly for an effective bridging of gaps and allowing for collaboration across sectors.

Topics to be addressed in future and for future assessments

– Island context needs to be strengthened.

– Boost research – produce more credible data. This is sometimes a difficult ask from politicians, but when tied to livelihoods / SDGs / intersectoral results, it becomes more attractive and relevant.

– Transboundary protected areas and landscape conservation.

– Peer-reviewing, peer learning and support.

– More study is required on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, which then needs to be mainstreamed into the assessment reports.

– Opportunities should be provided for Asia-Pacific nFPs to discuss the summary for policymakers during IPBES plenary sessions.

6. Acknowledgements

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

Primarily, IGES and APN extend their sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Forests & Environment, Government of Nepal as the 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 Ministry of the Environment and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity who provided funding and management support for the project; and the secretariat of IPBES, 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, worked tirelessly on the logistical arrangements before, during and following the event.

7. Appendices

7.1 Programme

Final Programme

(Version 26: 28 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 (10 min)	Opening remarks by Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal *Dr Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary to the Ministry of Forests and Environment.* *Inauguration of the Session*
09:00-09:05 (5 min)	Opening remarks by Vice-Chair of JBF-IPBES(C3) Science-Policy Dialogues *Ms Naoko Nakajima, Director, Tokyo Sustainability Forum, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies*
09:05-09:15 (10 min)	Opening remarks on Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment and showing the Asia-Pacific Assessment Video *Dr Madhav Karki, IPBES Asia-Pacific RA Co-Chair and IPBES MEP Member*
09:15-09:20 (5 min)	Opening remarks by Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal *Hon'ble Dr Krishna Prasad Oli*
09:20-09:30 (10 min)	**Opening Address by Guest of Honour** *Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Forests and Environment, Mr Shakti Bahadur Basnet*
09:30-09:40	**Group Photograph** *Delegates move outside*
09:40-10:10	*Morning Break*

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

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

Knowledge Café 1	**Terrestrial ecosystem conservation including deforestation**
13:00-14:30	*Facilitator: Dr Ikuko Matsumoto*
	Dr Ambika Gautam (IPBES AP regional assessment)
	Dr Gopal Rawat (IPBES AP regional assessment)
	Ms Rajitha Kisagothami Lankathilaka Jagoda, (plenary presenter)
	Dr Hemanthi Ranasinghe (expert)
	Ms Carolle Alarcon Eichmann (rapporteur)
Knowledge Café 2	**Marine ecosystem conservation including coral reef conservation**
13:00-14:30	*Facilitator: Dr Nigel Crawhall*
	Dr Ram Prasad Chaudhary (IPBES AP regional assessment)
	Dr Madhav Karki (IPBES AP regional assessment)
	Dr Abdulla Naseer (plenary presenter)
	Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran (rapporteur)
Knowledge Café Stand	***Common challenges in South Asia and West Asia sub-regions***
13:00-14:30	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.

Reports on Key Outputs *(Delegates return to their assigned seats)*
Moderator: Linda Anne Stevenson

14:30-15:00 (30 min)	Reports on key outputs: Report on Knowledge Café 1: (10 min) Report on Knowledge Café 2: (10 min) Voices from delegates engaged in Knowledge Café Stand (10 min)
15:00-15:30 (30 min)	Participatory Q&A and discussion session on key outputs

15:30-16:00	*Afternoon Break*

16:00-17:30	**Session Five: Uptake of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment**

Moderator: Dr Linda Anne Stevenson

16:00-16:30	Plenary presentation on uptake events and activities, outreach materials, and examples of raising awareness of IPBES assessments and its products
(15 min)	- *Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran*
(15 min)	- *Mr Yajna Nath Dahal and Dr Maheshwar Dhakal, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal*
16:30-17:30 (60 min)	Breakout Groups: Open discussions and reflections
	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*

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

09:00-09:10	**Outline of Day Two**
09:00-09:10 (10 min)	Outline of Day *Ms Chris de Guzman*

09:10-09:45	**Session Eight: Challenges from Key Messages in SPM (Part II)**

Moderator/Facilitator: Ms Chris de Guzman

09:10-09:20 (10 min)	Challenges in West Asia with a case study: Progress on conserving wildlife in Lebanon *Ms Zeina Hassane, Environment Specialist, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon*
09:20-09:30 (10 min)	Challenges in South Asia with a case study in Bhutan: Human and wildlife conflict *Dr Phuntsho Thinley, Environment Research Forestry Researcher Ugyen Wangchuck Institute, Bhutan*
09:30-09:45 (15 min)	Participatory Q&A and discussion session on key challenges *All interested countries are welcome to share their challenges*

09:45-10:00	*Morning Break*

10:00-12:00	**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 (Sakura Room and Nalanda Hall)

Knowledge Café 1 09:45-11:15 (90 min)	**Wild species / In-situ biodiversity conservation** *Facilitator: Dr Nigel Crawhall* *Dr Ram Prasad Chaudhary (IPBES AP regional assessment)* *Dr Madhav Karki (IPBES AP regional assessment)* *Ms Zeina Hassane (plenary presenter)* *Ms Carolle Alarcon Eichmann (rapporteur)*
Knowledge Café 2 09:45-11:15 (90 min)	**Human and wildlife conflict** *Facilitator: Dr Ikuko Matsumoto* *Dr Gopal Rawat (IPBES AP regional assessment)* *Dr Ambika Gautam (IPBES AP regional assessment)* *Dr Phuntsho Thinley (plenary presenter)* *Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran (rapporteur)*

Knowledge Café Stand	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.

Reports on Key Outputs *(Delegates return to their assigned seats)*
Moderator: Chris de Guzman

11:15-11:35 (20 min)	Reports on key outputs: Report on Knowledge Café 1: (10 min) Report on Knowledge Café 2: (10 min)
11:35-12:00 (25 min)	Participatory Q&A and discussion session on key outputs
12:00-13:00	*Lunch*
13:00-15:2	**Session Ten: Support for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments** *Moderator: Dr Madhav Karki Co-Chair of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment* *(Before moving into discussions, summaries from Session 5 will be presented.)*
13:00-13:20 (20 min)	Reports from Session 5: Uptake from IPBES AP regional assessment: Breakout Session on Open discussions and reflections – Breakout Group I: (10 min) *Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran* – Breakout Group II: (10 min) *Dr Nigel Crawhall*
13:20-13:35 (15 min)	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*
13:35-14:35 (60 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

14:35-14:55 (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*
14:55:15:15 (20 min)	Participatory Q&A and discussion session
15:15-15:40	*Afternoon Break*

15:40-17:00 Session Eleven: Feedback and Closing
Moderator: Ms Chris de Guzman

15:40-16:20	Reflections from Delegates on the Dialogue and comments on the post 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets *(Facilitated by Dr Madhav Karki)* *(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 post-SPD outputs *Ms Chris de Guzman*

Closing remarks (tentative)

- JBF-IPBES(C3) Project Chair
  Mr Seiji Tsutsui, Director
  Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research APN

- Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal
  Dr Maheshwar Dhakal

End of formal proceedings

7. 2 Summary of Breakout Group Discussions

The parallel Knowledge Café sessions and the parallel Breakout Sessions were designed for interactive dialogue among delegates on specific and relevant issues and were facilitated by resource persons on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including experts associated with IPBES and the IPBES process.

In addition to the café sessions and other breakout groups, Knowledge café stand areas were made available to promote informal information-exchange and provide opportunity for delegates to network and share common challenges, and write and display notes on these challenges particularly as related to the key messages in the SPM. During this session, key message poster boards were presented on status, trends and drivers with a view to discussing opportunities, knowledge gaps and capacity building needs.

Knowledge Café Sessions (Part I)

Knowledge Café 1: Terrestrial Ecosystem Conservation Including Deforestation

This session consisted of a small group of government officials and experts. The session was facilitated by Dr. Ikuko Matsumoto and Ms. Carolle Alarcon Eichmann was assigned as the rapporteur. The following summary captures the important points from the breakout session.

Common Challenges

Common challenges faced in the region are lack of ownership, coordination and coherence among actors and institutions, lack of financial resources to commit to long-term planning, and lack of awareness and capacity among frontline personnel for policy formulation and implementation. This is further exacerbated by a general lack of knowledge of local and indigenous communities regarding conservation of local resources. Similarly, there is ambiguity in the definition of forests resulting in different interpretations of forest area and marginal land use, or other land use practices that threaten conservation.

There is a marked challenge of inadequate documentation and policy legislation to guide conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The rate of deforestation is increasing in the region. Some of the main drivers are urban development and overgrazing, encroachment and infrastructure development, hydropower plants, mining, refugee or migrant settlement, shifting cultivation, forest fires, fragmentation and degradation of habitats, need for agricultural land, and climate change impacts.

Measures to address the challenge of deforestation

Decreasing the rates of deforestation can be realized in a number of ways such as streamlining ministerial coordination, partnering with private sectors, and increasing transboundary cooperation. Efforts to document ILK and recognize ILK at the policy level is important in strengthening local endeavours towards conservation. Incentives, standards and enforcement are also important to establish better standards and baselines on conservation work. Lack of understanding about the concept of PES or economic incentives in countries renders environmental values as less attractive. As such, major political awareness is required to increase the perception of the higher value in undertaking practices that ensure environmental sustainability.

Knowledge café 2: Marine Ecosystem Conservation Including Coral Reef Conservation

This session consisted of a small group of government officials and experts. The session was facilitated by Dr. Nigel Crawhall and Ms. Diem Hong Thi Tran was assigned as the rapporteur. The following summary captures the important points from the breakout session.

Common Challenges and Measures

Policies, legal documents:

Lack of adequate policy: The health of the ocean is directly related to the health of rivers. The lack of clear policy in dealing with the health of rivers and pollution checks on rivers is a major challenge. Thus, implementation of CBD and instruments such as NBSAP and IPBES could bring synergy and help to prioritise common goals.

Governance:

Similarly, lack of integrated approach with consensus within all the stakeholders, inter-sectorial units or organization is creating incoherence in decision making as well as the implementation of policies ensuring sustainability. The importance of bottom-up approaches and transboundary cooperation is often subsidized, and the national unit must integrate these local and inter-country agencies in their planning. Ecotourism promotion should be a primary consideration where vulnerable ecosystems are concerned. Only responsible tourism could protect the already dwindling status of these ecosystems.

Resources:

The lack of environment funding in concerned ministries often leads to the inability to execute even basic environmental programmes or dependency over other departments that may not have similar goals, thus often not helping to solve targeted issues. Public-private financing is being implemented in various countries such as Trophy hunting of

Markhor in Pakistan, which could supplement the ever scarce public resources and better contribute towards conservation as well as local needs. Green Taxes data are collected from tourism and other sources should be effectively used for conservation.

Capacity building:

Capacity building of fisherman, authorities and other stakeholders on crucial elements like fish stock and the optimum level of harvest so that the science, research and experiments could feed on to the gap and help in decision making. But this kind of knowledge should be in coherence with ILK.

Eco-labelling or standardization concept could help fisheries to document their catch.

Youth mobilization is quintessential for the sustainability of any endeavour, so is in the case of marine ecosystems and coastal area conservation; youth could be mobilized as they are equipped with the advancement of technology and science. More attention from government is needed to realise youth engagement.

Tourism and carrying capacity present different challenges, opportunities and threats as well.

The IPBES process should be familiarized among other stakeholders and authorities so that it can be uptake and implemented in various sector. All sectors, inter-ministries, trans-boundary stakeholders should be aware of the policy, strategies and action plans related to the environment. The isolated effort of one department could not bring the desired change. Youth empowerment and mobilization is crucial aspect like IPBES Young Fellowship program.

Knowledge Café Sessions (Part II)

Knowledge Café 1: Wild species / In-situ biodiversity conservation

This session consisted of a small group of government officials and experts. The session was facilitated by Dr. Nigel Crawhall and Ms. Carolle Alarcon Eichmann was assigned as the rapporteur. The following summary captures the important points from the breakout session.

Species conservation is important because they are fundamental to biodiversity conservation and species conservation is best done in their natural habitat. Thus, landscape conservation, as well as conservation of corridor and connectivity, will in turn help to conserves species, habitat, and seed banks. This should be complimentary to indigenous knowledge and practices and should be constitutionalized, especially the rights of indigenous groups. Conservation needs to be incentive-based, and benefit should be shared or trickled down to the community.

There are challenges such as the use of pesticides, mono-cropping, weak regulations, and the lack of multi-stakeholder approaches. There is bigger challenge in the breaking of customary practices from migration and population expansion, to increasing the number and frequency of inter-institutional dialogue in order to share knowledge that can aid the development of new governance mechanisms.

To further aid this process, the relationship between knowledge holders and the government is crucial. Likewise, governments could consider the value of lesser-known crops such as quinoa and Amaranth for international marketing. This could significantly enhance the livelihood of indigenous groups. Increasing the awareness and utilizing Indigenous knowledge or citizen science can go hand-in-hand with conservation strategies and strengthen the common goal of conservation.

Knowledge Café 2: Human and wildlife conflict

This session consisted of a small group of government officials and experts. The session was facilitated by Dr. Ikuko Matsumoto and Ms. Diem Hong Thi Tran was assigned as the rapporteur. The following summary captures the important points from the breakout session.

Challenges and solutions

Human-wildlife conflict is not only with mega species such as elephants and tigers but smaller species such as monkeys and porcupines. The decreasing forest area and encroachment on the habitat of wild species is causing human-wildlife conflict. The issue extends from local to regional levels and requires transboundary cooperation. Haphazard infrastructure development disturbing the habitat of animals, increased tourism, war, climate change impacts are some of the causes of human-wildlife conflict.

Dialogue between communities and local authorities to raise awareness on the importance of coexistence, particularly in the conflict zones, is needed. There should be increased use of ILK, including spiritual and cultural values of biodiversity. Scientific studies to look at comprehensive aspects of human-wildlife conflict issue with a holistic approach to understand the underlining causes should be undertaken. Further, there should be concerted efforts for balanced management in that conservation practices should not adversely impact the livelihood of the local communities. Similarly, there should be a sharing of best practices in controlling or avoiding conflicts. Likewise, modern technology could be used, such as animal tracking and learning their behaviour so that prior precautionary steps can be implemented. Frontline staff should be capacitated both on skills and technologies for effective rescue and rehabilitation of animals.

Ecotourism can be promoted in the buffer zone area, adding to increased local income and raising awareness of important of wildlife. Insurance plans should be available for crops and livestock. Providing incentives to local communities could also ensure the

coexistence of wild animals and humans. Scientific research and assessment, such as that of IPBES, on wildlife conflict in relation to ecosystem services and community benefits are important.

Session Ten: Support for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments

Delegates formed two breakout groups to discuss remaining policy support needs (for example, capacity building and cross-scale/cross-sector dialogues) that could be used to enable current and inform future IPBES deliverables.

(I) Policy support tools on how to improve the use of IPBES assessment

This session consisted of a small group of government officials and experts. The session was facilitated by Ms. Diem Hong Thi Tran and Dr. Ikuko Matsumoto was assigned as the rapporteur. The following summary captures the important points from the breakout session.

The engagement of multi-stakeholders, including ILK community is a must in IPBES assessments. Mapping of the stakeholder community is necessary to organize target group discussions to facilitate targeted discussion. The effective group is essential for science-policy dialogue. Similarly, the deliverable should be in clear language, concise and easily accessible to stakeholders including non-scientist or experts group as well. In terms of communication tools, not only social media but also other types of means such as videos, radios should also be incorporated, which reaches the mass. Likewise, Capacity building of stakeholders with explicitly spelt-out methodology, data collection techniques and resources are quintessential. The science policy dialogue which usually takes place in macro level should be communicated to local levels in simplified versions so that scientist as well as communities all has a common understanding.

Biodiversity is a multidisciplinary sector, thus understanding of science and cultures, and different sectoral knowledge is required. On mainstreaming beyond biodiversity, communication skills and tools play an important role in prioritizing biodiversity in the non-biodiversity sector. Thus, a cross-sectoral expert or institution who would lobby on biodiversity needs to be identified.

The Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) is a concise document with clear messages and even the structure of the document is useful for policymakers. The goals need to be more achievable, and it needs to be more accessible.

The link between biodiversity and poverty is important to highlight how biodiversity can contribute to reducing poverty. The relationship between biodiversity health and peoples' welfare should also be considered. While these relate to SDG goals 14 and 15, there are linkages to the other SDGs as well.

(II) Framing discussion on support and tools for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments

This session consisted of a small group of government officials and experts. The session was facilitated by Dr. Nigel Crawhall and Ms. Noriko Moriwake was assigned as the rapporteur. The following summary captures the important points from the breakout session.

It is necessary to ensure that biodiversity action plan like NBSAP can address the inter-sectoral implication of biodiversity conservation. There natural resource governance and ecosystems approaches are strengthened by capacity building of stakeholders. Most of the international conventions or negotiation or related tools and instruments are not well-informed at different levels such as sub-national, provincial or district levels. Thus, there requires capacity building at different levels of implementation. Likewise, the economic value of biodiversity or other values needs to be branded to allure the attention of different sectors in biodiversity conservation. It is possible to link information about biodiversity and ecosystems to poverty statistics to give multidimensional statistical representations on community resilience versus community vulnerability. There is too little capacity in most of the governments to understand modelling and scenario building. There needs to be more investment. Some intermediate bodies like INGO and NGO with the complimentary task of biodiversity conservation could be a crucial link. It is quite valuable to measure the action plan, and the assessment is an opportunity to reflect on NBSAP as well. Sometimes the line agencies and linking bodies are the one who requires this uptake events so that the conservation goals and target can be communicated on lower level.

Other key points that formed part of the discussions are summarized:

On uptake:

- Inter-ministry/sectoral coordination and Institutional mechanism are important
- Using NBSAPs as a tool will provide opportunity for IPBES reports to be reflected in NBSAPs
- Need for buy-in/engagement by high-level ministries
- IPLCs, sub-national and local governments/institutions require activities on awareness-raising and capacity building based on the most up-to-date information such as that contained in the IPBES report
- Framing IPBES work in connection to SDGs is important
- Social media can be useful tool to enhance the communication between the public and the government
- Translation of SPM into local languages can be a useful step for uptake

On post-2020 Biodiversity Targets:

- Important of linking poverty and biodiversity

- ILK has to be considered as an important element
- Capacity building
- Simple and achievable targets that are easy to assess
- Biodiversity data should be available for everybody
- Biodiversity contribution to health and peoples' welfare
- Data sharing among and between ministries

7. 3 Participants' List

*IPBES focal point
**CBD focal point
***CBD focal point nominee/alternate

1) Country representative

Country	Name	Organization	Position/Title
Afghanistan	Mohd Kazim HOMAYOON	National Environmental Protection Agency	Director of Environmental Planning Division
Afghanistan	Zolfaqar KARIMI BALOCH	National Environmental Protection Agency	Director of International Relations and MEAs Division
Bangladesh	Md Imdadul HOQUE***	University of Dhaka	Professor
Bangladesh	Akm Rafiqul ISLAM	Department of Environment	Deputy Director
Bhutan	Kinley CHODEN*	Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER)	Environment Officer
Bhutan	Phuntsho THINLEY	Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER)	Principal Forest Officer
Brazil	Carolle ALARCON EICHMANN	UNESCO	Trainee
India	Tarun KATHULA	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC)	Director, CS-III Division
India	Anil MOHAPATRA	Zoological Survey of India	Director
Iran	Akram MIRZAKHANI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Expert of Department of Environmental Affairs
Iran	Eskandar ZAND**	Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)	Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture
Lebanon	Mohammad AL ZEIN	American University of Beirut	Instructor and Researcher
Lebanon	Zeina HASSANE***	Ministry of Environment	Environmental Specialist
Maldives	Muhusina ABDUL RAHMAN	Ministry of Environment	Assistant Director

Maldives	Ilham Atho MOHAMED*/**	Ministry of Environment	Assistant Director
Nepal	Om Bahadur ADHIKARI	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Section Officer
Nepal	Ramesh ARYAL	Ministry of Finance, Nepal	Under Secretary
Nepal	Shakti Bahadur BASNET	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Minister
Nepal	Yajna Nath DAHAL**	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Joint Secretary
Nepal	Maheshwar DHAKAL	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Joint Secretary
Nepal	Manjeet DHAKAL	Climate Analytics	Head of LDC Support Team
Nepal	Somnath GAUTAM	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Section Officer
Nepal	Ram Prasad LAMSAL	Department of Forests and Soil Conservation	Director General
Nepal	Purshotam NEPAL	Ministry of Local Development and Administration	Joint Secretary
Nepal	Bishwa Nath OLI	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Secretary
Nepal	Surendra PANT	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Assistant Scientific Officer
Nepal	Prakash Sanjel SANJEL	Department of Agriculture, Nepal	Deputy Director General
Nepal	Deepak Kumar SINGH	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Executive Director
Nepal	Jwala SHRESTHA*	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Undersecretary (Technical)
Nepal	Sanjay TIWARI	Ministry of Forests and Environment	Undersecretary (Technical)
Pakistan	Muhammad Samar Hussain KHAN	Ministry of Climate Change	Deputy Conservator (Wildlife)
Pakistan	Naeem Ashraf RAJA*/**	Ministry of Climate Change	Director (Biodiversity Programme)

Saudi Arabia	Mohammed AL SHAMLAN	Saudi Wildlife Authority	Director of International Cooperation Department
Saudi Arabia	Faisal SHURAIM	Saudi Wildlife Authority	Executive Secretary of National Biodiversity Committee
Saudi Arabia	Hany TATWANY*/**	Saudi Wildlife Authority	Vice president
Sri Lanka	Rajitha Kisagothami Lankathilaka JAGODA	Department of National Planning	Assistant Director
Sri Lanka	Indika Amal Shantha RANAWEERA	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	Assistant Director
Syria	Belal ALHAYEK**	Ministry of Local Administration and Environment	Director of Biodiversity
Syria	Omar ZEREK	Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform	Head of Department

2)IPBES experts

Country	Name	Organization	Position/Title
France	Nigel CRAWHALL	UNESCO	Chief of Section
India	Gopal RAWAT	Wildlife Institute of India	Dean
Iran	Ghanimat AZHDARI	Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (CENESTA)	Senior Expert
Nepal	Ram Prasad CHAUDHARY	Tribhuvan University	Professor Emeritus
Nepal	Ambika P GAUTAM	Kathmandu Forestry College	Professor and Manager
Nepal	Madhav KARKI	Centre for Green Economy Development	International Specialist
Nepal	Kamal Kumar RAI	Himalayan Folklore and Biodiversity Study Program,	Chair

Norway	Diem Hong Thi TRAN	The Norwegian Environment Agency	Senior Adviser
Sri Lanka	Hewadhura Gedera Nimalasiri HEWANILA	Nirmanee Development Foundation	Director

3)Relevant organization

Country	Name	Organization	Position/Title
Maldives	Abdulla NASEER	Ministry of Environment	Minister of State for Environment
Nepal	Nakul CHETTRI	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development	Programme Coordinator
Nepal	Srijana JOSHI RIJAL	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development	Ecosystem Specialist
Nepal	Madan Lal SHRESTHA	Nepal Academy of Science and Technology	Academician
Sri Lanka	Hemanthi RANASINGHE	University of Sri Jayewardenepura	Dean

4)IPBES-TSU

Country	Name	Organization	Position/Title
Japan	Noriko MORIWAKE	IPBES TSU for Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment	Head

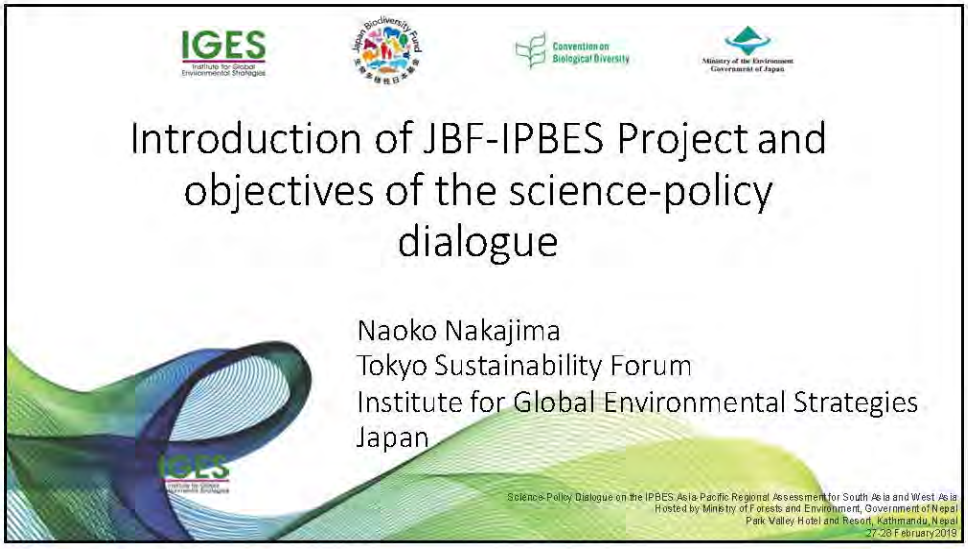
5) Secretariat

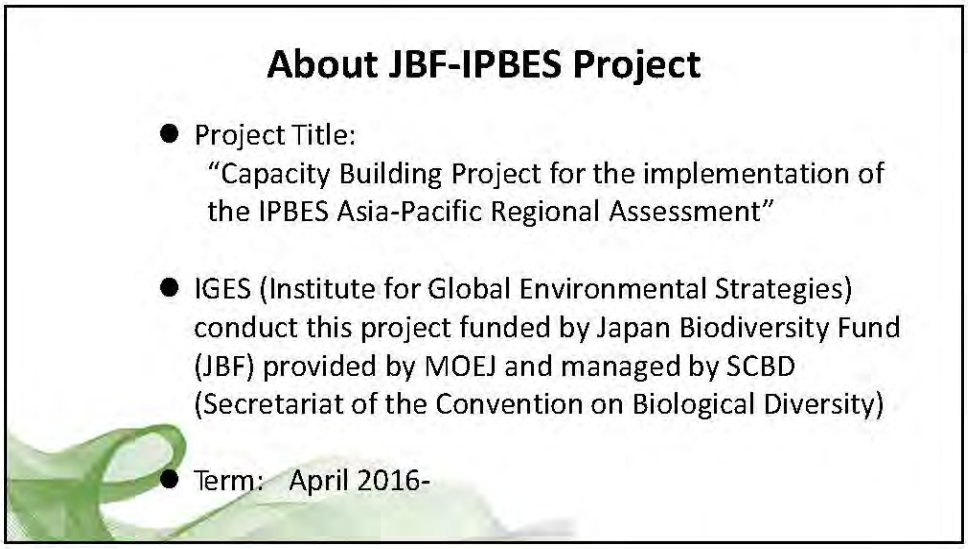
Country	Name	Organization	Position/Title

Japan	Christmas DE GUZMAN	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)	Programme Officer
Japan	Ikuko MATSUMOTO	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Researcher
Japan	Naoko NAKAJIMA	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Director
Japan	Aiko SEKI	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)	Administrative Officer
Japan	Linda Anne STEVENSON	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)	Division Head
Japan	Seiji TSUTSUI	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)	Director
Nepal	Lina CHALISE	Central Zoo	Conservation and Education Officer
Nepal	Bikram GOLE	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Trainee-Accounts
Nepal	Sarita JNAWALI	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Program Director
Nepal	Jayan PRADHAN	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Sr. Accountant
Nepal	Sikshya Adhikary RANA	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Officer
Nepal	Milan SEDAI	National Trust for Nature Conservation	M&E Associate
Nepal	Hari Bikram SINGH	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Sr. Administrative Officer

7.4 Presentations

Session two
Introduction of JBF-IPBES Project and objectives of the science-policy dialogue/Ms Naoko Nakajima





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Project Components

- **Component 1:** Piloting approaches for bringing ILK into the Asia-Pacific regional Assessment
- **Component 2:** Application of outputs from scenario analysis and modeling assessment (Deliverable 3c) to APRA and other regional assessments
- **Component 3** : Policy support for decision-makers and stakeholders

ILK Sub-regional Dialogue Workshops

Sub-region	Country	City	Partner	Dates
South-East & North-East Asia	Thailand	Chiang Mai	Indigenous Peoples' Foundation for Education and Environment (IPF)	October 14-17,2016
Pacific	New Zealand	Whangarei	He Puna Marama Trust	November 1-4, 2016
South & West Asia	Nepal	Dhulikhel	ReCAST	November 29 – December 2, 2016

+ Establishing ILK network at the sub-regional level

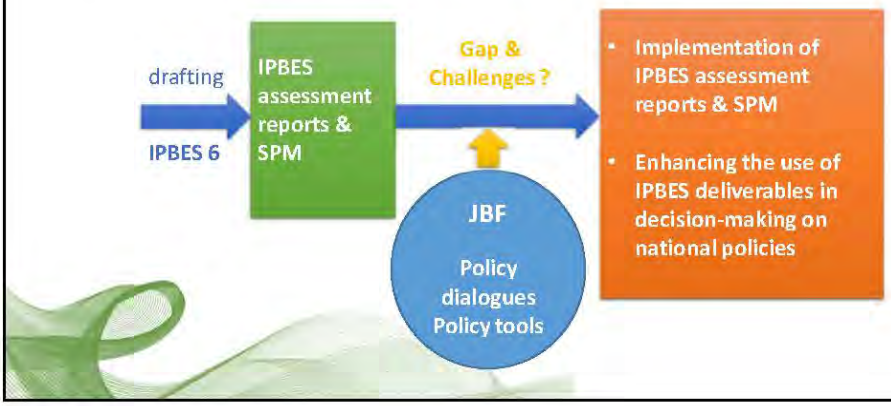
Number of participants to the sub-regional workshops

- SE and NE Asia; 38 (23 participants and 15 local ILK holders)
- Pacific; 24
- South and West Asia; 43 (28 participants and 15 local ILK holders)

Final reports of the Sub-regional Dialogue Workshops were published on IGES-website

Component 3

Policy support for decision-makers and stakeholders



Component 3 of the Capacity Building for the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment: Sub-Regional Science-Policy Dialogues

South Asia and West Asia:
27-28 February 2019 in Kathmandu
Nepal Government

Oceania:
4-5 April 2019 in Canberra
Australian Government

Southeast Asia and East Asia:
Late October (tentative) 2019 in Bangkok
Government of Thailand

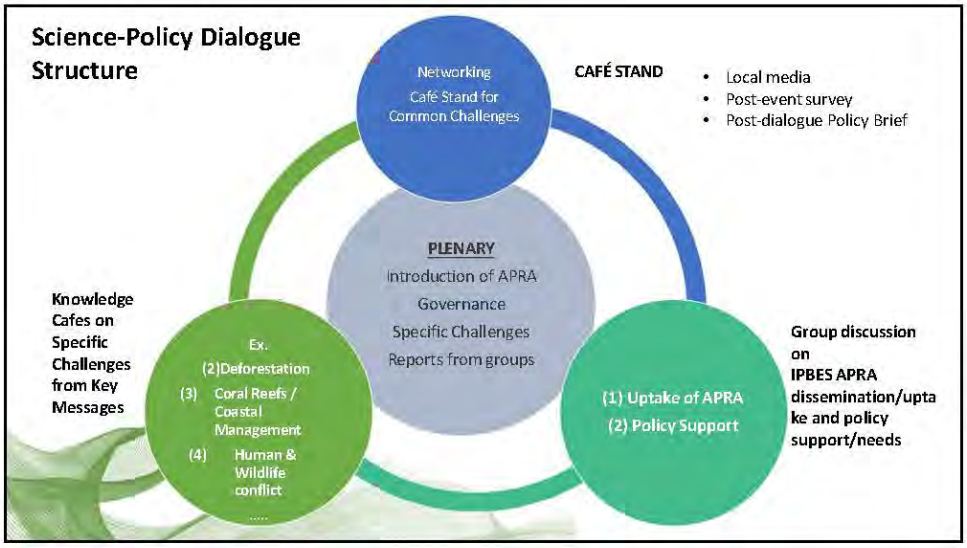
1. Aims to strengthen biodiversity science-policy interfaces through the uptake of the IPBES APRA
2. Aims to facilitate the understanding of APRA and its uptake
3. Aims to address challenges from the key messages in the SPM and policy options to deal with these challenges

Sub-Regional Science-Policy Dialogues
Key Components

The basis for discussion was focussed around Key Messages from the Summary for Policy Makers.

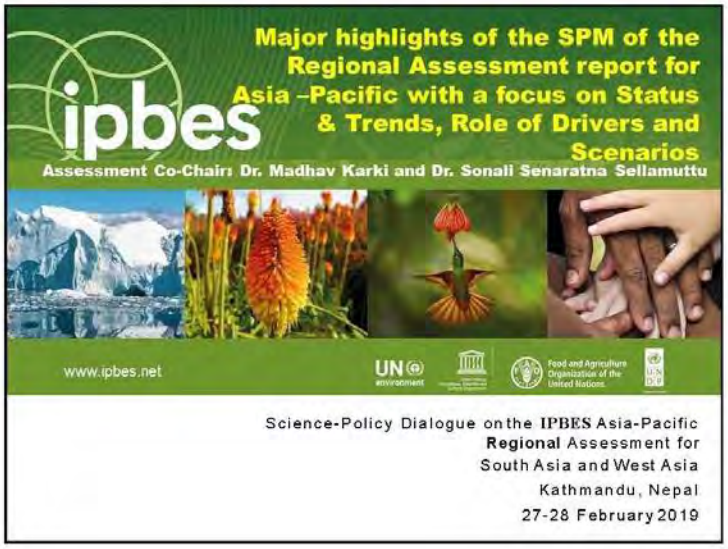
- **Information sessions** in which Assessment authors and others will overview the findings of the Assessment
- Contemporary **examples** of challenges faced – delivered by focal points
- **Groupwork discussions** focused on **specific and relevant issues**
- Collective **problem-solving (policy options)** with the guidance of facilitators
- Discussions on the **uptake** and use of the Assessment Report and on further needs of policy support by governments

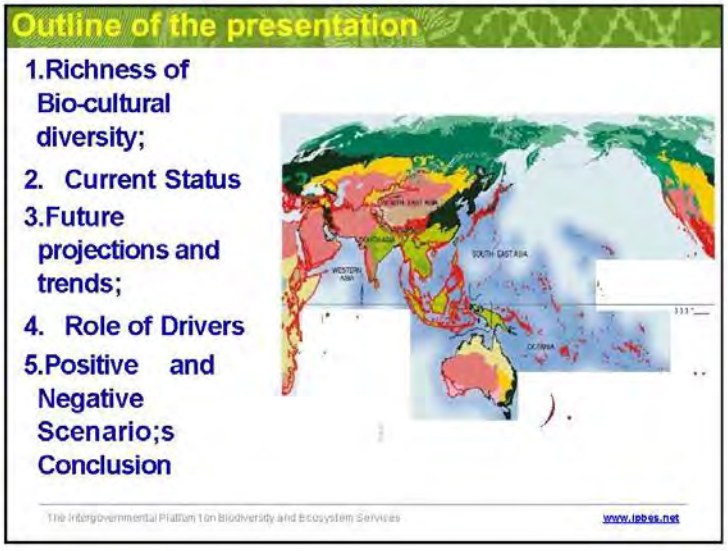
Science-Policy Dialogue Structure




THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Session two
Major highlights of the SPM of the Regional Assessment report for Asia-Pacific with a focus on Status & Trends, Role of Drivers and Scenarios/ Dr Madhav Karki





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Introduction

- One of the most biodiverse regions from social, cultural, biological, climatic and geo-morphological perspectives
- 17 of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots and 7 of the 17 mega-diversity countries
- 5 subregions comprising more than 62 countries & territories

Nature has benefitted the Asia-Pacific, but with consequences

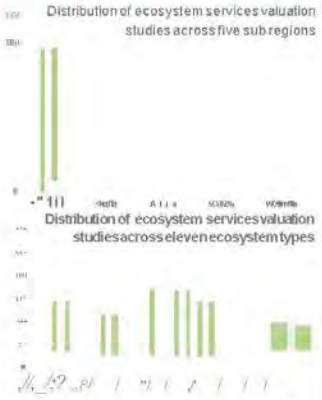
- A region undergoing rapid economic growth and change
  - 4.5 billion people
  - Rapid economic growth (7.6%o average in 1990-2010)
  - Among fastest rates of urbanization (2-3%o per year)
  - Agriculture lead employer but causing extensive land-use change since 1960s
- High poverty levels in some subregions resulting in high demand for provisioning services
  - More than 400 million poor (52%o of global poor earning below $1.90/day)
  - Nearly 200 million people depend directly on the forest for their non-timber forest products, medicine, food, fuel as well as other subsistence needs

Ecosystem services have a high economic Value in the regiOn

Provisioning and regulating services in the region are highly valued

- Wetlands: water regulating services ($3,957 per hectare per year for regulating water flows, $6,485 per hectare per year for regulating water quality)
- Temperate forest ecosystem: habitats ($864 per hectare per year), carbon store ($760 per hectare per year) and water reserve ($544 per hectare per year)

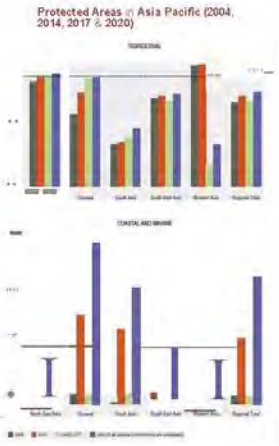
Number of studies is limited and economic valuation dominates



Contrasting trends in the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services

- All major ecosystems are threatened and habitats fragmented/degraded
- Steep decline in key emblematic wildlife
- Declining Crop Genetic Resources
- Growing number and abundance of Invasive Alien Species
- Increase in forest cover (South Asia and North East Asia) but impact on biodiversity unclear

Increase in both terrestrial and marine protected areas, but most key biodiversity areas still remain unprotected



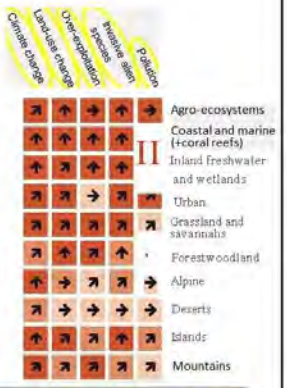
High rate of species loss and threat status

- 22 % of species and 25 % of endemic species in the IUCN Red List are either extinct, extinct in the wild, critically endangered, or vulnerable
- Largest number of species at risk are in South Asia (19 % of all species and 45 % of endemics)
- Roughly 1 in 3 species of freshwater fish assessed is threatened
- Capture fisheries in both ocean and inland water is at great risk due to over- harvesting, under-reporting, invasive alien species, disease and pollution

Proportion of species in each red list category

Driver interactions in pushing up biodiversity loss

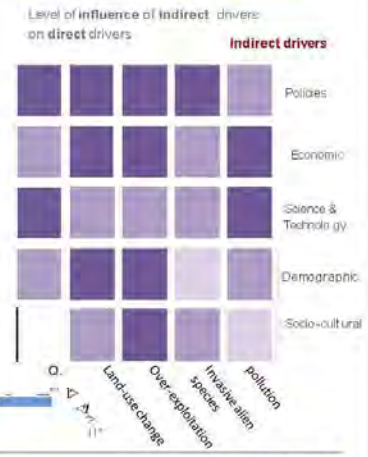
- Major ecosystems are directly threatened by a combination of drivers
- Climate change: sea level and temperature rise, glacier melting
- Land-use change: conversion of forest cover to agriculture and urban areas;
- Overfishing: capture fisheries declining from 70 to 40% of the region total fisheries ;
- Invasive alien species: Increase due to international trade, transportation, cross border migration, causing $33.5 billion economic loss in South-EastAsia;
- Wastesand pollution: threat to marine, freshwater, and human health



The Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services www.ipbes.net

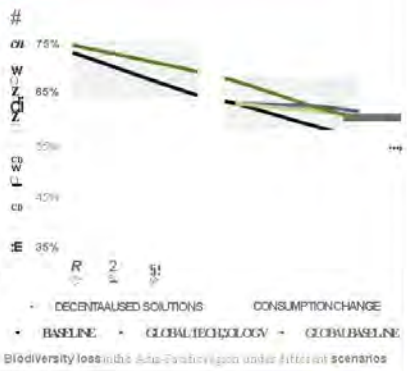
Projections to 2050 and implications for SDGs and Aichi targets

- Interacting drivers with climate change exacerbating biodiversity loss by:
  - accelerating biodiversity loss
  - posing an increasing risk to ecosystem services
- Indirect drivers are playing an increasingly prominent role
- Proper understanding of the complex interactions can help find solutions for reducing the negative impacts



Scenarios for 2050: Implications on SDGs and Aichi biodiversity targets

- Increases in protected area coverage but biodiversity loss continues
- Under business as usual (BAU) scenario by 2050:
  - 45 % anticipated loss of habitats and species
  - Up to 90% severely degraded corals
  - 24% and 29% of mammal and bird species likely to go extinct in lowland forests of Sundaland in South-East Asia in coming decades;
  - Rapid decline in fish stocks



Biodiversity loss in the Asia-Pacific region under different scenarios

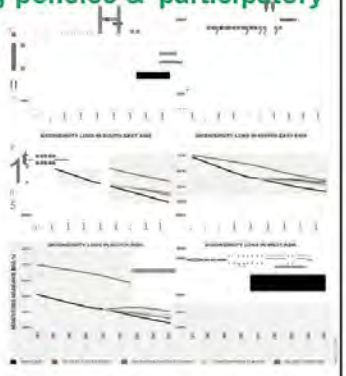
Positive scenario due to increase in forest and PA cover

- Progress in forest and protected area expansion increases the probability of meeting Aichi Targets and SDGs
  - The increase in forest and protected area directly help achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets (4, 5 & 11) and SDGs (12, 14& 15)
  - Decline in fuel wood extraction reduces pressure on forest
  - However: key biodiversity areas still might not be covered
  - Continued positive scenario under effective forest & PA management

Fuelwood removal in the Asia-Pacific sub-regions

Positive scenarios: enabling policies & participatory and multi-level governance

- Scenario based policy and governance reforms indicates better future
  - **Proactive policies** are found to slowdown and reverse the trend of loss
  - **Collaborative and coherent actions** provide better scenarios to harness multiple values of nature
  - **Effective and participatory governance** may reduce impact of driver interactions



Biodiversity loss in the Asia-Pacific Region in terms of mean species abundance under different scenarios

Examples of positive scenarios adapted to unique national and regional contexts

- Cross-sector and cross boundary l andscape and seascape improves conservation (e.g. tiger, coral reefs),
- Regional co-operation initiatives helps pollution control and illegal trade
- Indigenous and local community participation protects biodiversity
- Innovative partnership with private sector leverages finance.

Highlights of Key Findings

- Some positive trends, overall the health of biodiversity is poor, sustained supply of ecosystem services is at risk,
- Traditional drivers of change continue to impact; new drivers of change such as climate change, urbanization, invasive alien species, pollution and cultural change, migration are intensifying the impacts,
- Increased realization of economic and non economic value of biodiversity and ecosystems among stakeholders,
- Overall scenarios are challenging but opportunity for better future for biodiversity and nature's contribution to people exists,

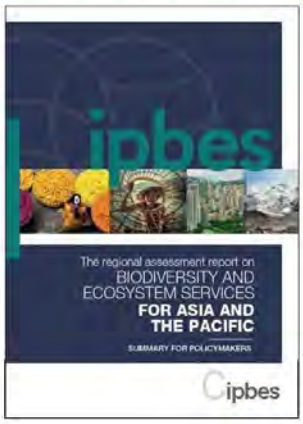
Conclusion

1. Overall, the health of biodiversity is poor, sustained supply of ecosystem services is at risk;
2. Increasing awareness on value of biodiversity and ecosystem services
3. Direct drivers continue to impact; indirect drivers are interacting and accelerating biodiv rsity loss
4. In general, future of biodiversity is at risk but some positive scenarios exist that can reduce and reverse the trend;
5. Overall, South and West Asia's biodiversity and ecosystems face multi-dimensional challenges.
6. Protecting the hotspots, species, habitats rich in endemic species, risk can be minimised.

For more detail visit IPBES website for full reports:

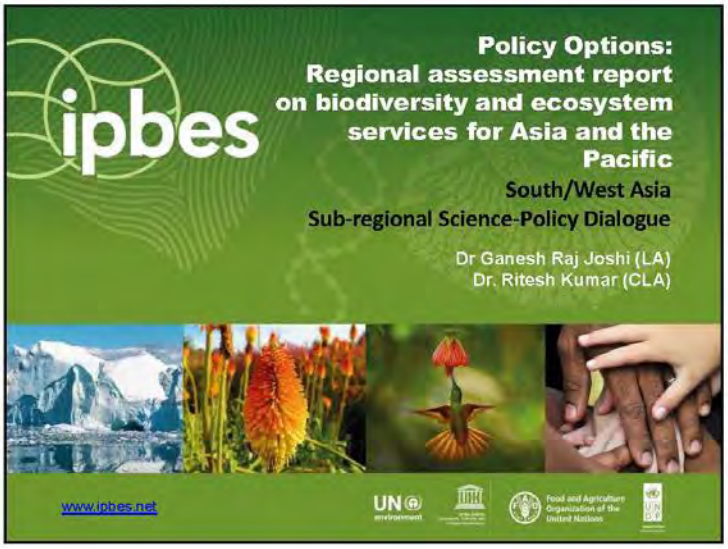
https://www.ipbes.net/assessment reports/asia-pacific

https://www.ipbes.net/assessment reports/asia-pacific




The sixth Plenary session
Thank you!
Approval of the Asia Pacific Assessment Report; May 18, 2018
Medellin, Colombia
ipbes
Science and Policy for People and Nature

Session two
Policy options: Regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Asia and the Pacific/Dr Ganesh Raj Joshi, Dr Ritesh Kumar



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Issue: Protected area coverage has increased, yet coverage of KBAs and IBAs remain low

IBAs gained peak protected area coverage during the 1990s

2004-2017 PA coverage gr.
Terrestrial: 0.3%
Marine 13.8%

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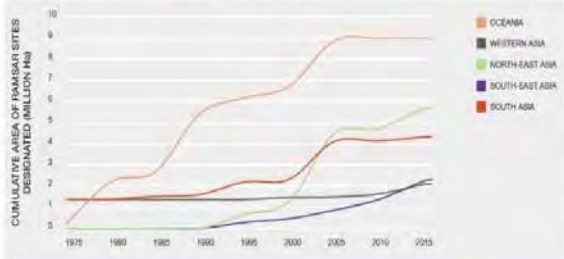
Opportunity: Increasing trend of Ramsar sites

Wetlands as water infrastructure and safety net against climate induced disasters



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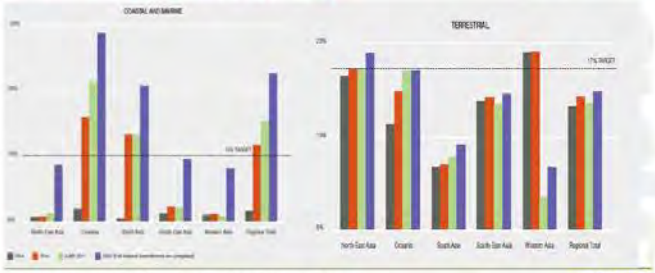
Opportunity: Conservation efforts can be intensified and made more effective

A nationally driven and regionally coordinated SFM and PAM. South Asia needs to improve PA management effectiveness; West Asia needs to increase PA coverage



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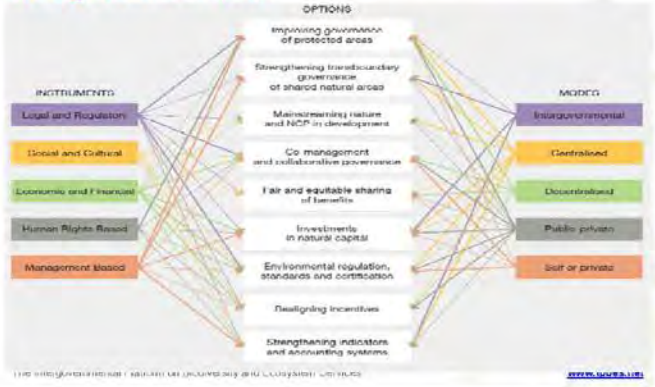
Opportunity: A mix of policies required to improve the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services



Opportunity: Use of scenarios adapted to unique local and national contexts of sub-regions

- Pro-active and cross-sector/scale policy reforms and incentive-based mechanisms show positive future for biodiversity,
- Trans-boundary and regional co-operation initiatives can actively engage countries in landscape/seascape level conservation
- Indigenous and local community participated conservation practices show good results ,
- Public-private-citizen partnership can leverage human and financial resources for conservation.

Key Policy Options

- Mainstream and integrate biodiversity conservation into key development sectors
- Enhance participation from different sectors and multiple stakeholders
- Ensure policy coherence and synergy
- Do proper accounting of nature's contributions to socio-economic development
- Ensure meaningful participation of indigenous and local communities

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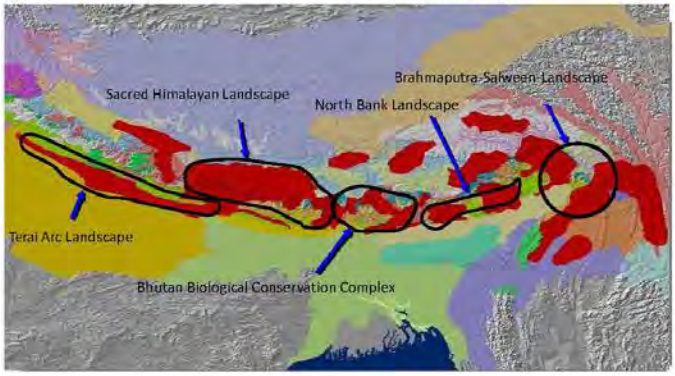
Key Policy Options

- Enhance private sector partnerships to leverage finance for biodiversity conservation
  - Innovative partnerships with the private sector, individuals, and non-governmental organizations, can help countries meet the growing gaps in funding to finance conservation efforts.
- Promote regional collaboration on both land and sea
  - Regional and transboundary management of important landscapes and seascapes is expanding and showing positive results

Important transboundary conservation areas

Example of landscape connectivity for trans-boundary conservation in the Eastern Himalayas

Fig. Critical landscapes in the eastern Himalayas



Possible Action 1: Innovative partnerships with private sector can meet the growing gaps in conservation finance

- Innovative funding through private-public-NGO partnerships:
  - examples: REDD+ and other Payment for Ecosystem Services instruments
- Partnership with financial institutions promotes:
  - transfer of technology and knowledge
  - Capacity building cross-scale and cross-sector
- Several Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives taking place in the region (e.g. India, Indonesia)

Action 2: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity los

The AP Regional Assessment provides a synthesis of progress towards Aichi Targets and SDGs through different intervention options in biodiversity....

Fi.g. 5. Progress and policy options towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in five subregions.

Action 3: Integrate conservation in poverty reduction and livelihood improvement programmes

Synergy options for progress towards SDG # 1 by increasing access and governance in biodiversity and ecosystem management

Figure 6. Contribution of Ecosystem Services (NCP) to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG	Synergies and trade-offs between Biodiversity-related SDGs (14, 15) and other SDGs, and possible policy options to integrate BES aspects into other SDGs
1 NO POVERTY **End poverty in all its forms everywhere**	• Globally and in the Asia-Pacific region, people's income levels tend to be low in biodiversity-rich areas, and where people depend more on BES for income and risk insurance. NCP: ● ● ● ● ● *(well established)* • Without simultaneously conserving BES and ensuring resource access by those dependent on BES, trade-offs occur between BES conservation and poverty eradication. Drivers: **LU EC ST** *(well established)* • Poverty eradication and BES conservation can be compatible through various intervention options, such as community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) and community-based ecotourism.

Action 4: South Asia and West Asia specific

Focus: Forest, coast, and protected area management

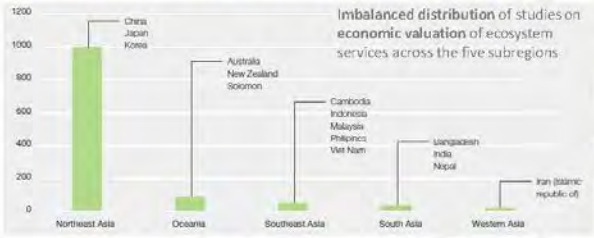
- Improving governance of protected areas
- Mainstreaming nature and NCPs in development
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits
- Synergizing water and energy intensive development models,
- Controlling air, land and water pollution

Table SPM 1 Progress and policy options towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in five subregions.

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS		PROGRESS					WAY FORWARD
Strategic Goal	Target	Western Asia	South Asia	North East Asia	South East Asia	Oceania	
A. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society	1. Awareness of biodiversity increased						• Realign incentives by various means, e.g. through integrating agroforestry in REDD+ to enhance carbon and rural livelihood benefits;
	2. Biodiversity values integrated						• Clarify NCP for justifying PES schemes; • Integrate urban ecosystems and NCP into urban planning;
	3. Incentives reformed						• Integrate policies covering positive and negative incentives that engage all relevant stakeholders; and
	4. Sustainable production and consumption						• Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships among companies, industry associations, civil society, and governments, to promote sustainable practices.

Filling Knowledge gaps

- Consolidation of experiences in multi-stakeholder governance and in embedding biodiversity in the decision-making of other sectors
- Application of science and technology to improve food, water and energy security while reducing pressure on ecosystems
- Scenarios and planning tools for better visualizing impact of various policies on biodiversity conservation at different scales
- Measure of diverse values and value systems across the region



Imbalanced distribution of studies on **economic valuation** of ecosystem services across the five subregions

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

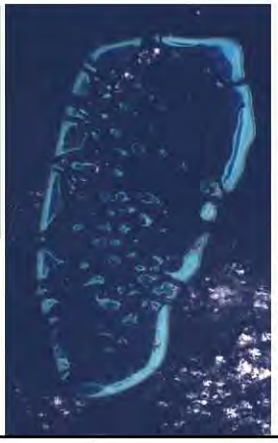
Coral Reef Conservation and Management: Challenges in the Maldives

Abdulla Naseer
Ministry of Environment
Maldives

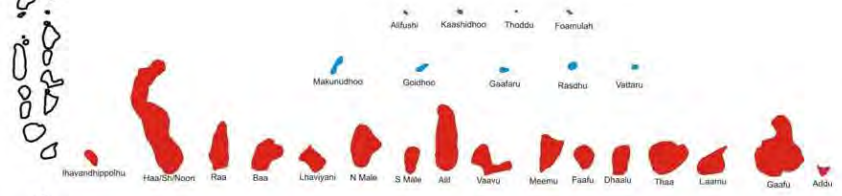
Science-Policy Dialogue on the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment for South Asia and West Asia
Hosted by Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal
Park Valley Hotel and resort, Kathmandu, Nepal
27-28 February 2019

The Maldives Coral Reef System

- 16 complex atolls
- 5 simple atolls
- 4 Oceanic reefs
- 2000 + reefs
- 1200 reef islands
- Largest 2 atolls of the world
- total reef area 5000 sq kms



Maldives coral reef system



Dependence on reefs

- Way of life
- Source of bait
- Lagoon and beach fisheries
- Island biodiversity
- Taro pits and mangroves
- Tourism – 1970
- Live grouper fisheries - 1990

Protecting coral reef species

- Coral and Sand mining
- Phasing out of coral mining
- Use of concrete blocks as alternatives
- Protected species:
  - Sharks and rays
  - Napoleon wrasse
  - Black corals
  - Lobsters
  - Sea cucumbers
  - Oysters

Dredging and Reclamation

- Land is scarce
- Population increase
- 60% vegetation loss on inhabited islands
- Tourism development
- Harbours, ports and airports
- Sedimentation and Coastal erosion

Management approaches

- IRRM, ICZM, LMMA
- State owned reefs – no tribal land
- Little local intervention until 2008
- Difficult to apply measures locally
- Decentralization law of 2009
- Local councils
- Whole reefs vs small areas

Management Success stories

- Baa atoll biosphere
- Nature parks and wetlands
- Community acceptance
- Case of Fuvahmulah Island
- Tourist resorts as conservation centers
- Private sector partnerships
- Grouper spawning aggregations

Challenges

- Coral bleaching
- Waste management
- Sewage and wastewater
- Marine plastics
- Frequent Political changes
- Laws and regulations
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Planning tools
- Education and awareness

Financing conservation

- External finance
- Green tax 2014
- Green Fund
- Investing in conservation
- Tourism and conservation

Session three
Challenges in South Asia with a case study in Sri Lanka: Deforestation/
Ms Rajitha Kisagothamii Lankathilaka Jagoda

CHALLENGES IN SOUTH ASIA WITH A CASE STUDY IN SRI LANKA: DEFORESTATION

Rajitha Kisagothami Lankathilaka Jagoda
Assistant Director
Department of National Planning
Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
Sri Lanka

Science-Policy Dialogue on the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment for South Asia and West Asia
Hosted by Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal
Park Valley Hotel and Resort, Kathmandu, Nepal
27-28 February 2019

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Figure 01.Map of Sri Lanka (Adapted from Sri Lanka, https://srilankaglocalcountryprofile.wordpress.com/

Economic Indicators:
- Middle Income Country
- GDP- US $ 87.2bn/(GDP per capita US $ 4,065
- Major Economic Sectors with GDP share- Agriculture (6.9%), Industry (26.8%),Services (56.8%) (CBSL, 2018)

Demographic and Social Indicators
- Population- 21.4 mn
- Population growth rate -1.1%
- Population density-342 per km2
- National Poverty Line-4.1%

Table 01: Forest Cover in Sri Lanka-2019

Forest Type	Extended-ha	%
Low Land Rain Forests	123, 302	1.9
Moist Monsson Forests	117,885	1.8
Dry Monsoon Forests	1,121,392	17.1
Montane Forests	44,758	0.7
Sub Montane Forests	28,513	0.4
Riverine Dry Forests	2,425	0.0
Mangrove Forest	15,669	0.2
Savannah Forest	68,043	1.0
Open Sparse Forests	429,485	6.5
Total	1,951,472	29.7

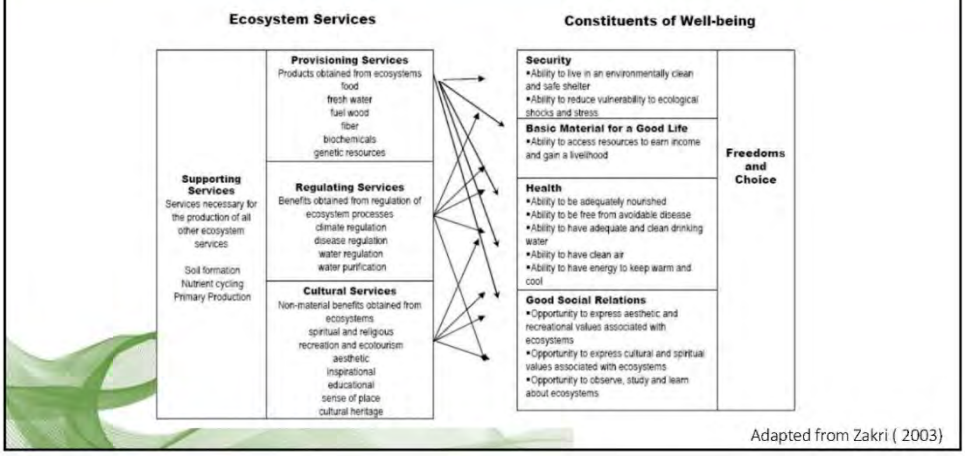
(Adapted from Department of Forest Conservation Sri Lanka)

- Very high in all forms of biological diversity
- Sri Lanka together with Western Ghats of India has been declared as one of the 34 biodiversity hot spots in the world.

Existing forest cover (29.7% of total land area) to be increased up to 32% by 2030 (MMDE,2016)

1

BENEFITS OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS



Adapted from Zakri (2003)

FOREST DECLINE AT A GLANCE

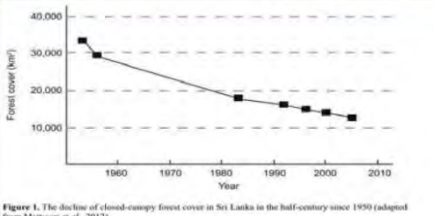
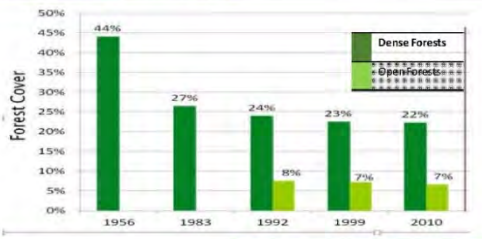
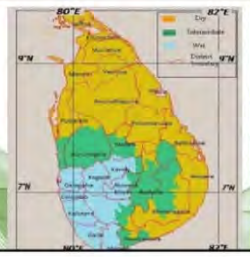


Figure 1. The decline of closed-canopy forest cover in Sri Lanka in the half-century since 1950 (adapted from Mattsson *et al.*, 2012).





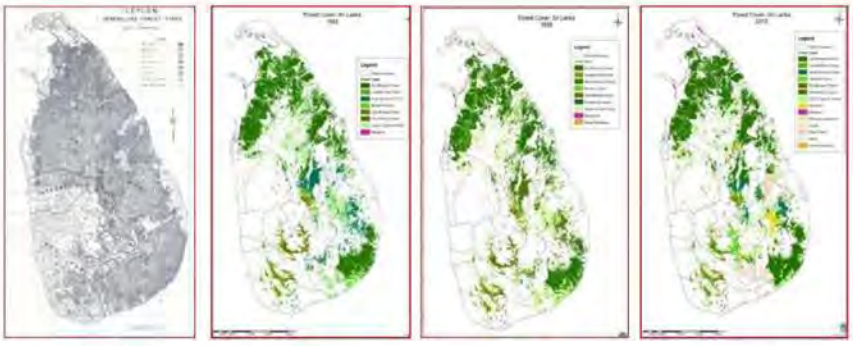
	% of Total Land of 6.56mn ha
Dry Zone	63.6%
Wet Zone	23.2%
Intermediate Zone	13.2%

(NPD, 2017)

- Btw 1990-2000- 26,800ha of forests were lost (Deforestation rate - 1.14% per annum)
- Btw 2000-2005 – 1.43% per annum
- Dry Zone- Significantly affected than wet zone

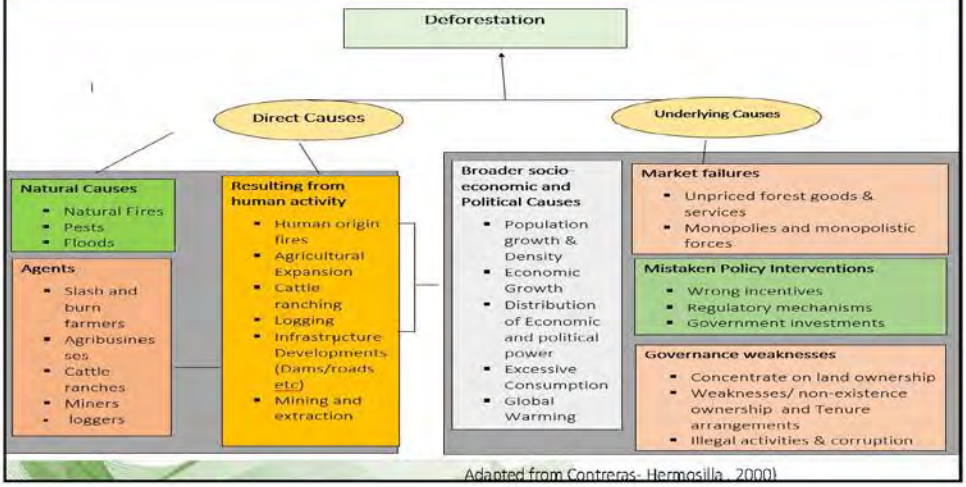
- At present Overall rate of deforestation - slowed down
- However, deforestation appears to be more scattered and widespread all over the country instead of being concentrated hugely into few selected areas

CHANGES OF THE FOREST COVER



1956 (44.1%) 1992 (35%) 1999 (32%) 2010 (29%)

CAUSES/DRIVERS



Adapted from Contreras- Hermosilla , 2000)

MAIN CAUSES/DRIVERS IN SRI LANKA

- Land policy
- Political interference
- Poor coordination
- Encroachments
- Infrastructure development projects
- Localized degradation
- Agriculture ventures
- Population growth
- Agricultural mechanization
- Commercialization

DRIVERS/CAUSES

Issues in Land Policy – Difficulties in determination of ownership of lands/ Less attention on land use pattern/ (NPD,2017)

- Large Scale Infrastructure Projects
- loss of habitat for terrestrial wildlife including the disruption of the movement patterns of wide ranging species such as elephants and ungulates
- Significant potential loss of threatened and endemic species, unique habitats and disturbance to migratory paths
- Eg: irrigation projects /Expressways
- Major/ mini hydro power projects

- Intensification of agriculture in shifting cultivati
  - Areas "in which shifting cultivation had become Intense (where the fallow period decreased)"
  - Areas "where a complete transition from shifting to permanent agriculture had occurred".

Encroachments -eg:- Agriculture, settlements, Coastal Shrimp farming)

DRIVERS /CAUSES

Forest Offences : includes illicit felling, forest clearing, illicit timber transport, gem mining, illicit possession of state timber and un-registered operating timber enterprises.

Year	No.of Offences
2015	2804
2016	3887
2017	3887

(FD Sri Lanka)

Forest Fires – all most all are human origin

- Throwing cigarette butts when travelling by train or walking through forest
- Burning of debris by workers maintaining highways and railway tracks without taking proper precautionary measures
- Burning dead grass in order to obtain fresh grass for cattle. These fires often spread to nearby forests
- Burning of degraded forests for shifting cultivation
- Setting fire to the forest by hunters to drive animals out.

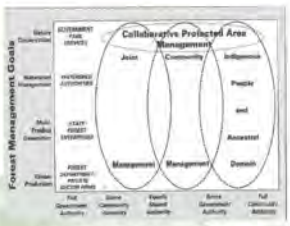
(FAO, FD Sri Lanka)

Year	Number of Fires Reported	Area Burned (ha)	Estimated Cost (USD)
1990	114	549	9,788
1991	100	186	15,245
1992	234	259	6,861
1993	58	174	8,204
1994	60	191	18,588
1995	126	372	19,458
1996	136	271	21,465
1997	205	610	44,958
1998	114	204	7,480
1999	47	417	42,227
2017	35	80	
2018	210.7	436	

CHALLENGES IN FOREST RESTORATION & REDUCE DEFORESTATION/DEGRADATION

The management/governance challenges

- Inadequate facilities for protected area management
- low capacity of institutions and resources to effectively manage forest and wildlife resources
- fragmented responsibilities and overlapping institutional mandates
- Non-integrated planning that takes the conservation and benefit sharing of natural resources
- Lack of awareness of general public / officers in the area of importance of maintaining biodiversity /endemic species / threatened species etc



Adapted from Poffenberger et al.,2000)

Specific Challenges for the Forest Restoration

- Very slow natural succession & growth of seedlings in dry and intermediate zone
- Limited number of native species & inadaptable to the severe site conditions (Eg: Nutrient –poor soils, exposure to sunlight, wind and high temperature, competition with weeds, browsing by wildlife
- Lack of community participation for raise tree seedlings for planting/ fire protection and local knowledge in species selection
- Lack of documented indigenous knowledge and practices
- Poor monitoring records lack in digitalization of records / remote sensing is not utilized
- Constrained maintenance activities – lack of funds/ low maintenance frequency
- Lack of vigilant maintenance in controlling invasive species such as *Lantana camara, Chromolaena odorata and Clidemia hirta*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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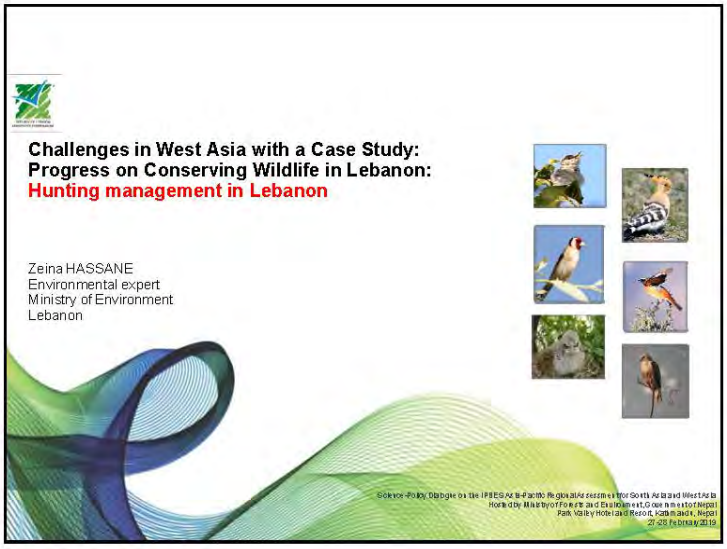
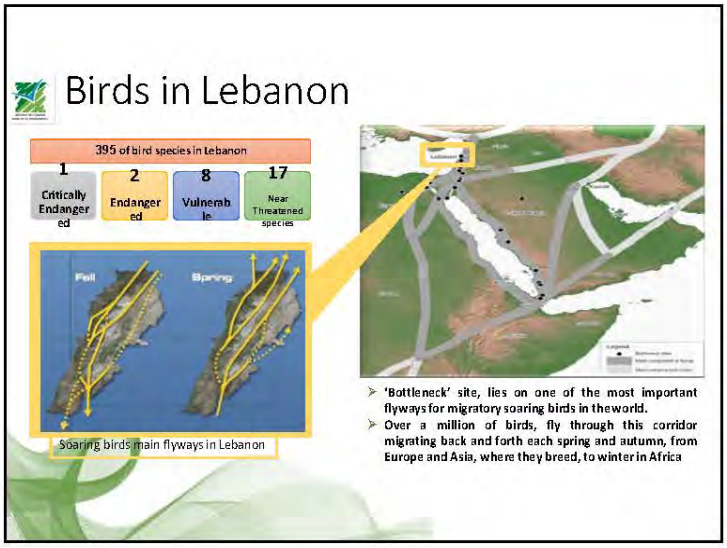
Session eight
Challenges in West Asia with a Case Study: Progress on Conserving Wildlife in Lebanon: Hunting management in Lebanon/ Ms Zeina Hassane



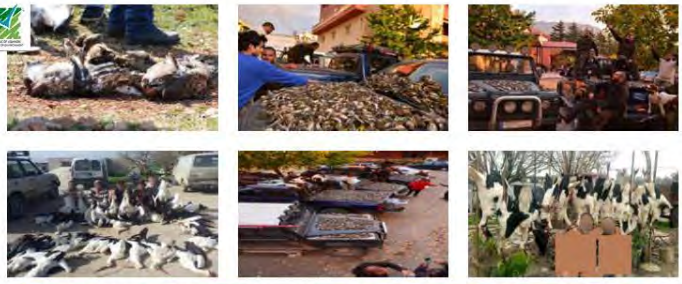


Important bird areas (IBAs)

Birdlife International

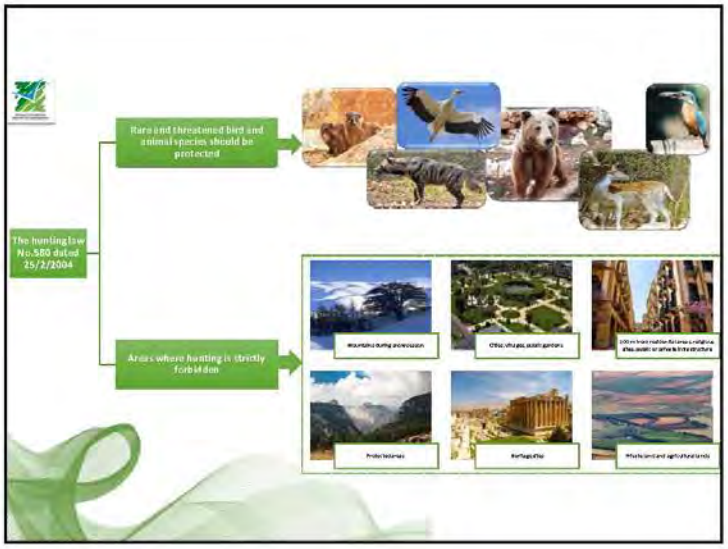
15 IBAs in Lebanon :

- 8 nature reserves and natural sites
- 2 conserved by local communities

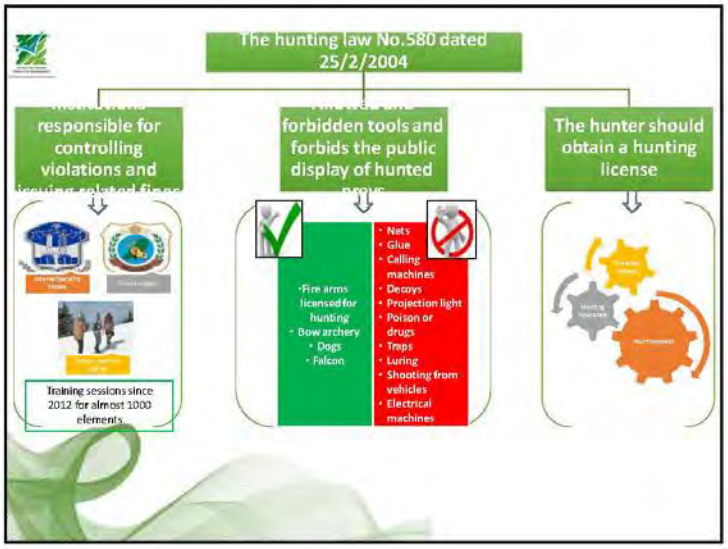


In order to regulate the relationship hunting and the hunters and to protect biodiversity, birds and wildlife in Lebanon

The hunting law
No.580 dated 25/2/2004


The hunting law No.580 dated 25/2/2004
Rare and threatened bird and animal species should be protected
Areas where hunting is strictly forbidden


The hunting law No.580 dated 25/2/2004
The opening and the end of the hunting season, the species that are allowed to be hunted
1st hunting season
15 September 2017 → 31 January 2018
2nd hunting season
1 September 2018→ 15 February 2018
Hunting during THE DAY
Specific bird and animal species allowed to be hunted and their quantities during each hunting trip

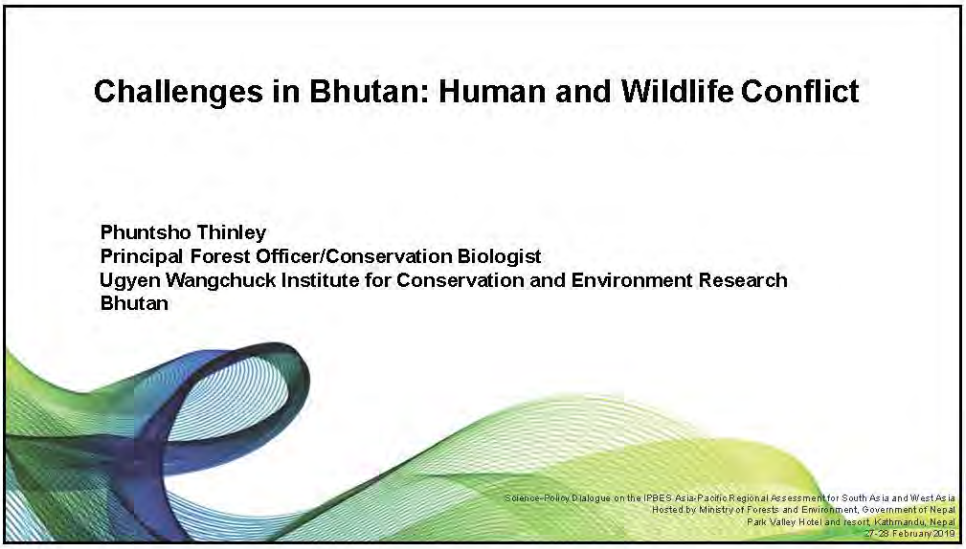

The hunting law No.580 dated 25/2/2004
responsible for controlling violations and
forbidden tools and forbids the public display of hunted
The hunter should obtain a hunting license
Training sessions since 2012 for almost 1000 elements
•Fire arms licensed for hunting
• Bow archery
• Dogs
• Falcon
• Nets
• Glue
• Calling machines
• Decoys
• Projection light
• Poison or drugs
• Traps
• Luring
• Shooting from vehicles
• Electrical machines


Electronic page for hunting regulations Lebanon:
http://hunting.moe.gov.lb/
ما تتصيد كيف ما كان

Responsible hunting competition

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Zeina HASSANE


Challenges in Bhutan: Human and Wildlife Conflict
Phuntsho Thinley
Principal Forest Officer/Conservation Biologist
Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment Research
Bhutan
Science-Policy Dialogue on the IPBES Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment for South Asia and West Asia
Hosted by Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal
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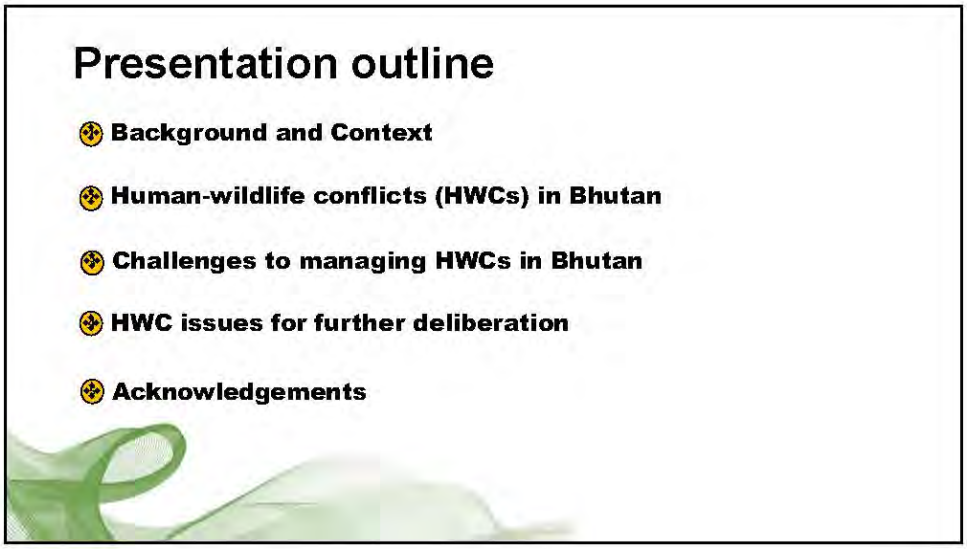
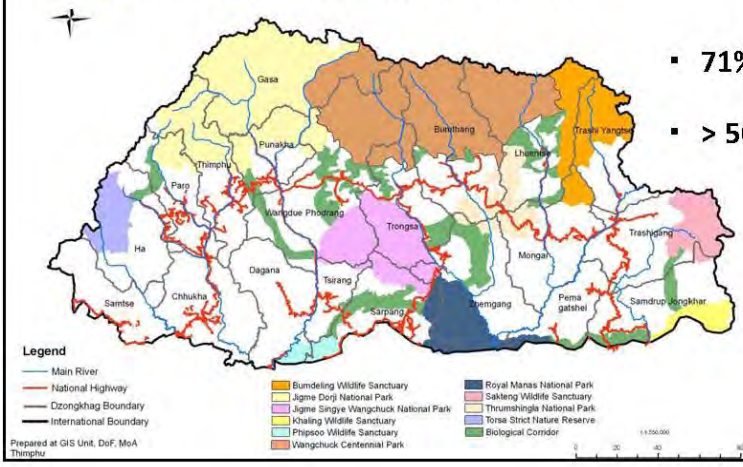

Presentation outline
Background and Context
Human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs) in Bhutan
Challenges to managing HWCs in Bhutan
HWC issues for further deliberation
Acknowledgements

1 Background and Context

- Located in the eastern Himalayas
- Known for rich biodiversity and sound environment policies
- 735,553 people as of 30 May 2017
- 62% live in the rural areas
- Subsisting on agro-pastoralism

1 Background and Context



- 71% forest cover
- > 50% protected

2 Human-wildlife conflicts in Bhutan

Livestock depredation by wild carnivores

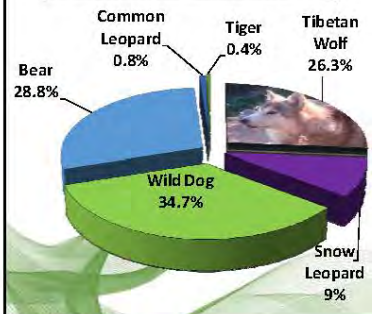




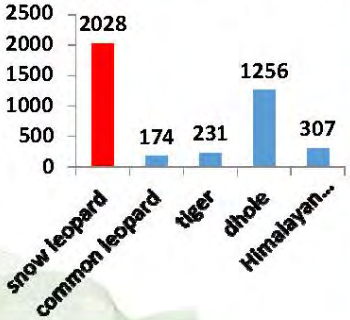

2 Human-wildlife conflicts in Bhutan

Livestock depredation by wild carnivores

Wangchuck Centennial National Park
(2009-2013; Norbu, 2018)



Jigme Dorji National Park
(2008-2012; Thinley et al., 2018)





2 Human-wildlife conflicts in Bhutan

Crop depredation by wild herbivores



2 Human-wildlife conflicts in Bhutan

Retaliatory killings and accidental killings



2 Human-wildlife conflicts in Bhutan

Poaching of wild predators

3 Challenges to managing HWCs in Bhutan

Conservation or Livelihood?

4 HWC issues for further deliberation

- HWC is still highly polarized (animal-centric vs human-centric)
- HWC is highly context specific and difficult to generalize issues and solutions
- The science of wildlife damage management is still young, and lack of effective strategies to create harmonious co-existence

5 Acknowledgements

The Royal Government of Bhutan for the administrative approval

The Department of Forests and Park Services for information and images

ipbes
Science and Policy for People and Nature

The IPBES for the opportunity


THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Session ten
Support for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments/Ms Diem Hong Thi Tran

2

Uptake events

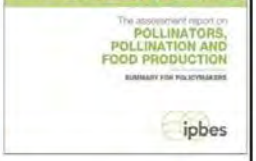
- The users of IPBES products

- Expanding list of uptake events for IPBES reports
  - 100+ events planned in all UN regions

- Examples of uptake events in AP region
  - Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), Thailand, 2018
  - International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific 2018 (ISAP2018), Japan, 2018
  - ESP MENA and Asia Regional Conferences Jordan and India, 2018
  - International Biodiversity Congress 2018 (IBC), India, 2018
  - Seminar to New Zealand Ministry of Environment, Foreign Affairs, Statistics and Trade, New Zealand, 2018
  - Uptake event on IPBES Assessments in Japan, Japan, 2018

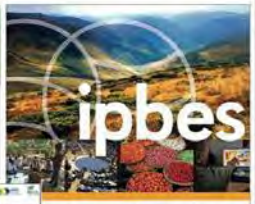
Impacts IPBES Pollination assessment (2016)

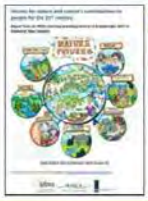
- World Bee Day: Bee with us on 20 May!
- CBD: Decision XII/15 (Dec. 2016): implications of the IPBES assessment on pollination for the work of the Convention
- FAO: International Initiative on Pollination
- UNDP: "Trialogues on pollination" (UNDP/BES-Net)
- Coalition of the willing
- National strategies and action plans



Impacts IPBES scenarios and models assessment (2016)

- BiodivERsA/ Belmont Forum joint research call for proposals on scenarios and models of BES - 28 million Euros
- Decision of the CBD (Global Biodiversity Outlook 5)
- Phase 2 of scenario work





Impacts IPBES land degradation and restoration assessment (2018)

- Ramsar Global Wetland Outlook
- New Zealand issues first report on land issues following IPBES AP and LDR Assessments
- French CEOs sign Act4Nature corporate pledge partly based on results of IPBES Assessment Reports
- IPBES Web Conference on LDR Knowledge Gaps and Needs

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services www.ipbes.net

Promoting national and (sub)regional ecosystem assessments

- Capacity Building for national ecosystem assessment – UNDP/BES-Net and UNEP WCMC
  - Phase I: Cameroon, Columbia, Ethiopia and Vietnam
  - Phase II: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Grenada
- Developing guidance which can support countries in carrying out national and sub-regional assessments

Promoting national and (sub)regional platforms and networks

•Developing guidance to can support countries in establishing national and (sub)regional science-policy platforms and networks

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and EcosystemServices www.ipbes.net

IPBES Impact Tracking Database: TRACK

•Record and share examples of the use of IPBES outputs in decision-making or in science.

- Type, scale, region, country of impacts generated
- TRACK submission portal: www.ipbes.net/impact-tracking

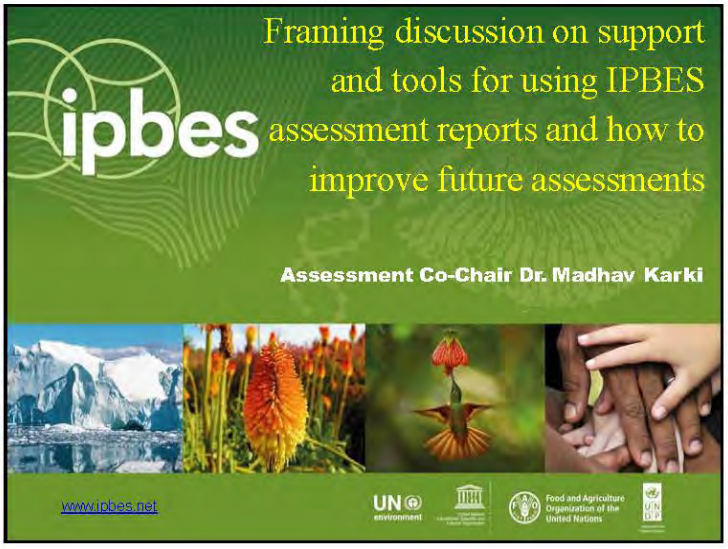
The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and EcosystemServices www.ipbes.net

Supporting use and uptake of approved IPBES assessment reports

- Types of uptake events
  1) Stand-alone uptake event
  2) Add an IPBES element to/aligning the agenda of already-planned event
- Examples of support from IPBES
  1) Facilitation of participation of IPBES officials (physical or online)
  2) Sharing templates for agendas
  3) Sharing concepts for uptake events
  4) Contribute to the organization of events
  5) Facilitation of sessions

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services www.ipbes.net

Session ten
Framing discussion on support and tools for using IPBES assessment reports and how to improve future assessments/ Dr Madhav Karki



IPBES mandate on policy support

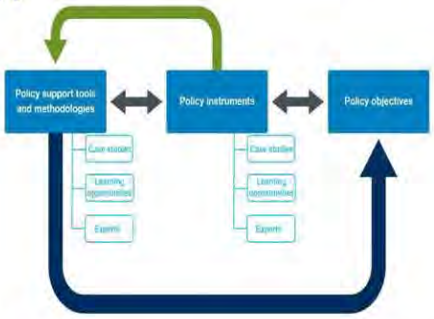
One of IPBES four main functions is... *to support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies and to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development.*

In the current work programme, this is being addressed by:

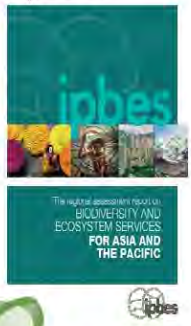
- Developing a policy support portal (including policy support tools and policy instruments linked to assessments, case studies, learning opportunities, guidance, and communities of practice)
- Preparing methodological guidance on how to address policy support tools and methodologies within IPBES assessments
- Delivering assessments covering methodological and thematic issues, which address policy-related issues

IPBES Policy Support Portal

https://www.ipbes.net/policy-support



Examples of resources from the Asia-Pacific assessment available through the portal



Policy instruments

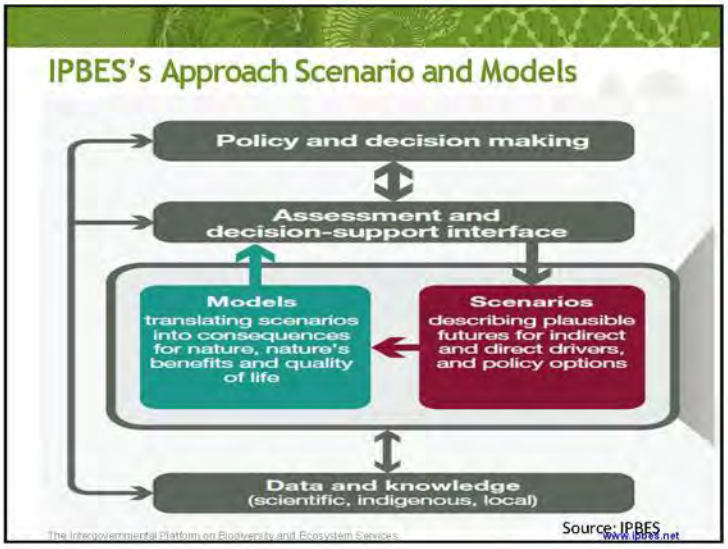
- Payment for ecosystem services (here)
- Biodiversity offsets (here)

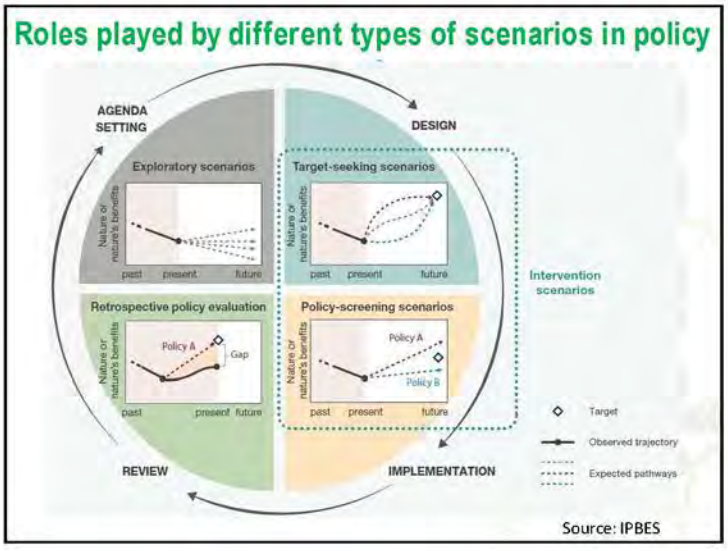
Policy support tools

- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (here)
- Protected Planet (here)

Scenarios and models

- Scenario development scenario analysis or scenario "planning is a systematic method for thinking creatively about dynamic, complex and uncertain biodiversity futures, and identifying strategies to prepare for a range of possible outcomes
- Models are used either to do scenario planning or implementation;
- Scenarios, especially narrative ones will be useful in improving future assessment


IPBES's Approach Scenario and Models
Policy and decision making
Assessment and decision-support interface
Models
translating scenarios into consequences for nature, nature's benefits and quality of life
Scenarios
describing plausible futures for indirect and direct drivers, and policy options
Data and knowledge
(scientific, indigenous, local)
The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Source: IPBES
www.ipbes.net


Roles played by different types of scenarios in policy
AGENDA SETTING
DESIGN
Exploratory scenarios
Target-seeking scenarios
Nature or nature's benefits
past
present
future
Intervention scenarios
Retrospective policy evaluation
Policy-screening scenarios
Policy A
Gap
Policy B
REVIEW
IMPLEMENTATION
Target
Observed trajectory
Expected pathways
Source: IPBES

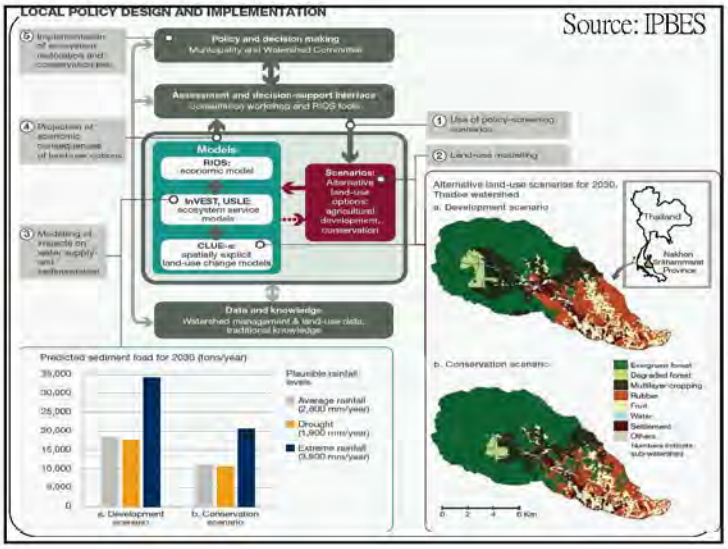
Scenario building approaches

Two general approaches to scenario analysis exist; forecasting and backcasting:

1. Exploratory (Forecasting) – Stakeholders create projections about what may occur in the future and the alternative paths to getting there.
2. Normative (Backcasting) – Stakeholder groups determine a desired future situation, and the group works backwards from this point to identify steps needed to reach the desired future position.

Participatory scenario development

- Involves stakeholders in the creation of scenarios;
- Uses shared learning dialogue (SLD) and debate to produce a shared vision of the future and a plan to achieve it
- Co-produces knowledge, and foster cooperation between different stakeholders
- Fits into multi-scale scenario building and foresight



Inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge in IPBES assessment

The IPBES Principles :

- ***Recognize and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems***

Busan Outcome: UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, Appendix 1, para. 2 (d)

Tasked IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel to:

- ***Explore ways and means to bring different knowledge systems, including indigenous knowledge systems, into the science-policy interface***

To oversee this work on ILK [Deliverable 1(c)], IPBES created

a **Task Force on Indigenous and Local Knowledge**

Approaches for Integrating ILK in IPBES Assessments

1.	Giving equal priority to indigenous and local people & practices
2	Defining mutual goals, benefits and benefit-sharing
3	Recognising and supporting rights and interests
4	Recognising and respecting diverse world views
5	Understanding and respecting different types of working culture
6	Building dialogue to address gaps, convergence and synergies between ILKS and science
7.	Establishing mutual trust and respecting intercultural differences
8	Practicing reciprocity, giving back and capacity building
9.	Recognizing and respecting intellectual and cultural rights
10.	Ensuring culturally appropriate storage of and access to information
11	Utilising formal and informal agreements and statements (ABS)

Capacity Building Needs

Task:

Developing capacity of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) especially ILK Knowledge Holders to participate in IPBES activities and other global, regional and national events.

- To share information and knowledge on IPBES work, especially assessments with ILK holders and experts and them enable them to participate meaningfully in the IPBES process.
- To engage knowledge holders from ILPC to contribute in the establishment of participatory mechanism to enhance their inputs in the IPBES work.
- To increase their participation and voice in their respective country in the preparation, implementation and sharing equitable benefits of NBSAP and other national BES management targets;
- To enhance their role in policy development process


Thank you !
www.ipbes.net

7.5 Selected Photographs

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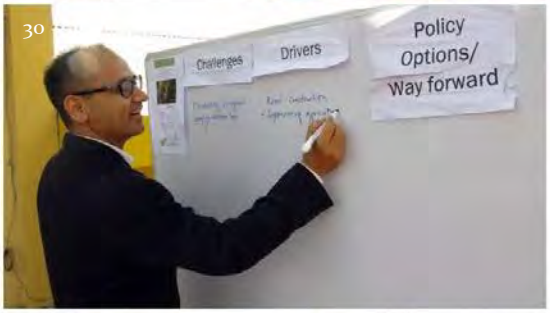

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Photo Captions:

1. Opening remarks
2. Opening remarks
3. Dr. Nigel Crawhall, Chief of Section, UNESCO
4. Moving outside for Group photo
5. Mr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal
6. Morning Break
7. Dr. Linda Anne Stevenson, Division Head, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
8. Group Photo
9. Morning Break
10. Ms. Christmas de Guzman, Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
11. Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal
12. Dr. Madhav Karki, Chair, Himalayan Folklore and Biodiversity Study Program
13. Ms. Zeina Hassane, Assistant Director, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon
14. Mr. Yajna Nath Dahal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal
15. Dr. Phuntsho Thinley, Principal Forest officer, UWICER
16. Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Dean, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
17. Breakout Group Discussions on Human and Wildlife Conflict
18. Breakout Group Discussions on Human and Wildlife Conflict
19. Ms. Noriko Moriwake, Head, IPBES-TSU for Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment
20. Mr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal
21. Mr. Seiji Tsutsui, Director, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), JBF-IPBES(C3) Project Chair
22. Ms. Akram Mirzakhani, Expert of Department of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran
23. Discussion after the session for the policy support tool

24. Ms. Zeina Hassane, Assistant Director, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon
25. Ms. Diem Hong Thi Tran, Senior Advisor, The Norwegian Environment Agency
26. Breakout Group Discussion on Wild Species/In-situ Biodiversity Conservation
27. Mr. Seiji Tsutsui, Director, Asia-Pacific network for Global Change Research (APN), JBF-IPBES(C3) Project Chair
28. Closing Remarks
29. Challenges/Drivers/Policy Options for each Poster
30. Challenges/Drivers/Policy Options for each Poster
31. Wall of thoughts
32. Deliverables of Breakout Group Discussion on Wild Species/In-situ Biodiversity Conservation

7.6 Pre-Dialogue Survey

QUESTION 1: *Respondent information*

MALDIVES
Muhusina Abdul Rahman
Ministry of Environment

PAKISTAN
Naeem Ashraf Raja
Ministry of Climate Change

SAUDI ARABIA
Mohammed Al Shamlan
Saudi Wildlife Authority

Faisal Shuraim
Saudi Wildlife Authority

Hany Tatwany
Saudi Wildlife Authority

SYRIA
Belal ALHAYEK
Ministry of Environment

LEBANON
Zeina Hassane
Ministry of Environment

BHUTAN
Phuntsho Thinley
Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment Research

Kinley Choden
Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Bhutan

BANGLADESH
Prof. Dr. Md. Imdadul Hoque
University of Dhaka

QUESTION 2

Please describe ONE key challenge that your country is currently facing, with regard to the management or governance of biodiversity (50-100 words).

MALDIVES

Challenges

(1) geographic dispersion of islands,
(2) lack of capacity at enforcement,
(3) lack of understanding on the value and importance of biodiversity to the economy and well-being,
(4) increasing demand for land for residential and economic purposes,
(5) illegal trade and IAS

PAKISTAN

Main threats to the terrestrial biodiversity are overgrazing, firewood collection, illegal hunting, and habitat disintegration due to infrastructure development. The main threats to biodiversity of inland waters are pollution from industrial and municipal waste. The coastal and marine ecosystems are also threatened from pollution. In addition, the major threat to marine biodiversity is netting of juvenile, for poultry feed, and catch of non-target species by trawler fishing.

Challenges

(1) Inadequate measures for Institutional arrangements to implement the convention at national level
(2) Lack of Institutional arrangements for implementation of Convention in provinces and regions
(3) Inadequate policy and legal framework for implementation of the Convention
(4) Low prioritizing of Basic studies on value of biodiversity, its contributions to human well-being and national economy
(5) Neglect of the importance of studies of biodiversity status and trends on provincial level

SAUDIA ARABIA

Saudi Arabia has developed a protected area system which covered most of the important biodiversity areas. Some of these protected areas have already declared and established, and others are suggested. Recently new royal protected areas are declared which greatly increased the area protected.

Challenges

(1) The need for effective management of PAs to achieve their objectives.
(2) Governance of protected areas
(3) Effective participation of local communities as well as other stakeholders (e.g. relevant governmental agencies) is needed for better management of protected areas
(4) Among the main challenges is with regard to the management or governance of biodiversity in the full integration of biodiversity in all sectors, additionally appropriate awareness and understanding of biodiversity value, function and creativeness.

SYRIA

The biodiversity at the current situation are facing more than challenges as

Challenges

(1) Impacts of war,
(2) over hunting, overgrazing,
(3) loss of habitats and climate change impacts,
(4) lack of financial support from donors like GEF and UNEP...etc., absent of approved projects related biodiversity since 8 years ago.

LEBANON

Lebanon is located on one of the world's key migratory bird corridors. Unfortunately, despite that hunting is forbidden officially until the official opening of the hunting season each year by the MoE,

specifying the type and number of game birds allowed for hunting only in the hunting season, many violations are witnessed due to unsustainable hunting practices and hunting malpractices, consequently migratory birds such as avian populations are being killed in high numbers.

BHUTAN

Bhutan is currently facing the challenge of managing human-wildlife conflicts, particularly crop depredation by wild herbivores and livestock predation by wild carnivores. It also involves poaching and retaliatory killing of top predators such as the tiger, leopard, and dhole. If unresolved or contained sooner, this issue can pose a serious threat to biodiversity conservation and has the potential to jeopardize Bhutan's many years of conservation inputs, achievements, and sacrifices made by both the conservationists and the affected farmers. The issue is aggravated by inadequate funding, increasing human-wildlife interface, and poor knowledge of the problem species.

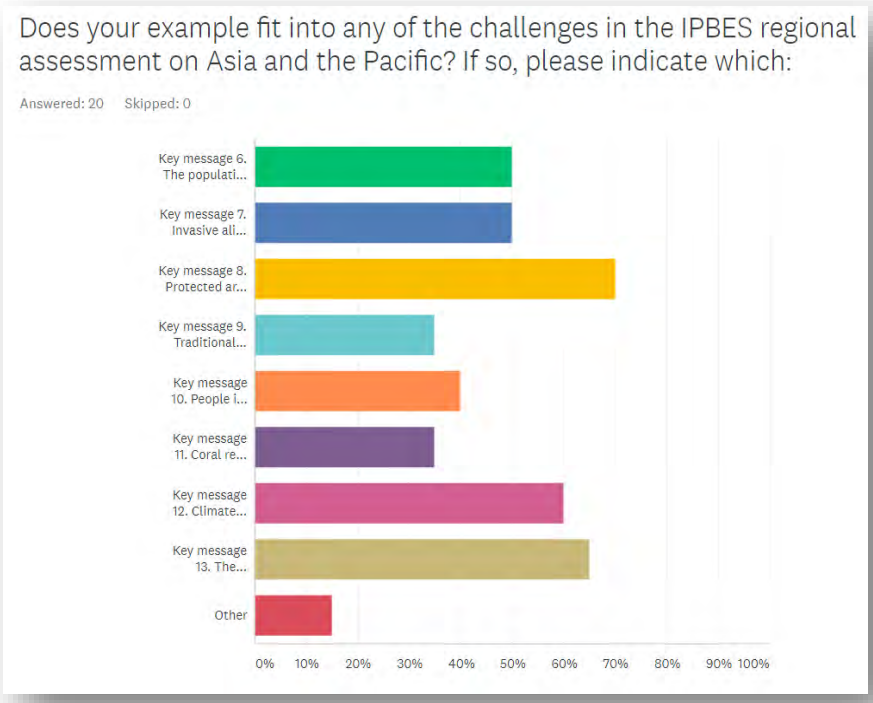
BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is considerably a small country having about 144,000 sq. KM land and population is more than 160 million. As described in the Fifth National Report of Bangladesh to CBD (2015), in Bangladesh, the main direct threats to biodiversity are habitat degradation; change in land use pattern; pollution; over exploitation of resources; uncontrolled tourism, invasive alien species, etc. The Encyclopaedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh described, 486 vascular plants are threatened. The Red Data Book (Vol. 1 & 2) of vascular plants of Bangladesh included 124 species as threatened following IUCN's Red List categories. The population pressure alone is posing major threats to the biodiversity of the country which resulted local extinction of 13 species of wildlife within the last half century. Impacts of climate change on Bangladesh's biodiversity are expected to be a serious concern in the coming decades.

QUESTION 3: *Does your example fit into any of the challenges in the IPBES regional assessment on Asia and the Pacific? If so, please indicate which*:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Key message 6. The population of large wild mammals and birds has declined across the region	50.00%	10
Key message 7. Invasive alien species have increased in number and abundance, and constitute one of the most serious drivers of biodiversity loss across the Asia- Pacific region	50.00%	10
Key message 8. Protected area coverage in the Asia-Pacific region has increased substantially but does not effectively target areas of important biodiversity, and progress is needed towards better overall management effectiveness	70.00%	14
Key message 9. Traditional agrobiodiversity is in decline, along with its associated indigenous and local knowledge, due to a shift towards intensification of agriculture with a small number of improved crop species and varieties	35.00%	7
Key message 10. People in the Asia-Pacific region depend heavily on fisheries for food, with aquaculture growing by nearly 7 per cent annually, but the capture fisheries sector is threatened	40.00%	8
Key message 11. Coral reefs are of critical ecological, cultural and economic importance, supporting the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond through vital and valuable ecosystem services such as food security or coastal protection, and are under serious threat	35.00%	7
Key message 12. Climate change and associated extreme events are impacting species distribution, population sizes and the timing of reproduction or migration; increased frequency of pest and disease outbreaks resulting from these changes may have additional adverse effects on agricultural production and human well- being	60.00%	12
Key message 13. The increase of waste and pollution in the Asia-Pacific region is impacting ecosystems and threatening the current and future health of nature and people	65.00%	13
Other	15.00%	3

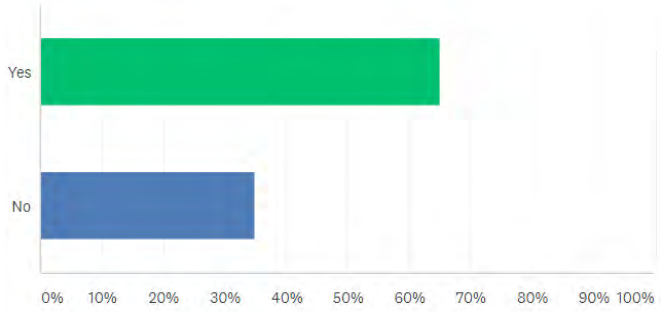
MALDIVES: 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13.
PAKISTAN: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13.
SAUDIA ARABIA: 6, 8, 9, 11, 13.
SYRIA: 9.
LEBANON: 6, 11, 12, 13.
BHUTAN: 6
BANGLADESH: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13



QUESTION 4:

Would you be willing to present such an example at the science-policy dialogue workshop?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	65.00%	13
No	35.00%	7
Total Respondents: 20		

QUESTION 5: *Do you have any examples of raising awareness about the IPBES Regional Assessment for Asia and the Pacific or any other IPBES products? Please explain briefly (50-100 words).*

PAKISTAN: As most of the environment and biodiversity related briefs for decision makers are prepared at Ministry of Climate Change the regional assessments are used in their preparation thereby mainstreaming the key messages from IPBES.

SYRIA: The protected areas are major example for IPBES for people and environment, and we did more raising awareness workshop about this matter.

LEBANON: MSB Lebanon (2010-2015) is executed by the MoE, funded by the GEF and implemented by UNDP and technically supported by BirdLife's partner in Lebanon, the Society for Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL). MSB Lebanon has produced some publications that support MoE in the management of the hunting sector. For that purpose, the project has developed the hunter manual guide as well as the guide for the hunting permit exam and have conducted in 2011, 2012, and 2013 several training workshops across the country to build the capacity of the hunting law enforcers (ISF, forests guards and nature reserves guards) on the enforcement of the hunting law and on birds identification and to the hunting clubs on the approach that should be adopted to run the hunting permit exams (since they are the responsible entities to run these exams).The project has also set-up a specific software and A computerized system so that the hunting exams are performed on computers at the certified hunting clubs and results go automatically to the MoE. A webpage (http://hunting.moe.gov.lb/) has also been developed to inform hunters about the hunting exam procedures, allow them to register for an exam, and keep them up-to-date with any new publications. Furthermore, the project has produced the following publication on conservation of birds: the Birds Atlas, Birds Identification Manual, the State of Lebanon Birds and IBAs and the Field Guide to the Soaring Birds in Lebanon and hunting clubs on bird identification and on the new hunting law. MSB Lebanon is also targeting the energy sector in its future activities through the updating of the National Physical Land Use Plan in cooperation with the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) through the integration of IBAs and bottlenecks areas into the NPMPLT and putting specific conditions for infrastructure in these areas in order to minimize the threats on the soaring birds during their migration over Lebanon.

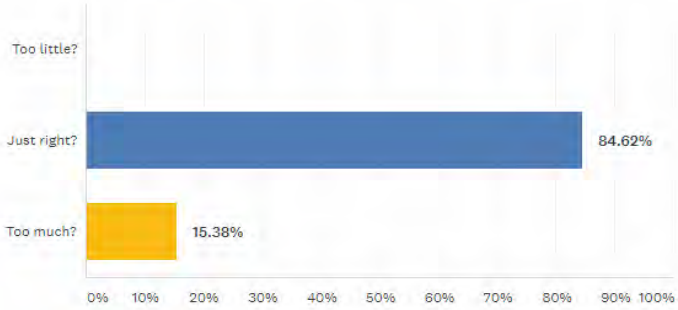
BANGLADESH: Bangladesh has made a good progress towards achieving several of the Aichi Targets, and in line to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. However, as indicated in the IPBES Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Asia and the Pacific an increase in forest and protected areas alone is not enough to reduce biodiversity loss caused by the negative impacts of monoculture, as for example Rice in Bangladesh.

BHUTAN: It has been a year or so since I became the NFP. I did not create awareness expect for sharing of link of IPBES assessments to my colleagues and heads of the Department of Forest. I want to listen to the examples of how other focal points has raised awareness in their country and practice it in my country too. We will be presenting on the particular issue (presented above) to biodiversity conservation in Bhutan.

7.7 Post-Dialogue Survey

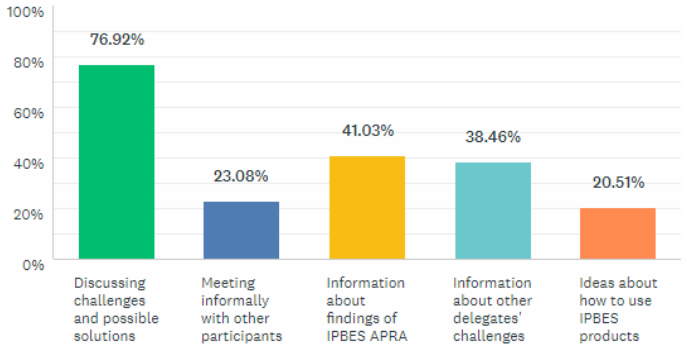
Was the amount of information provided at the Science-Policy Dialogue?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



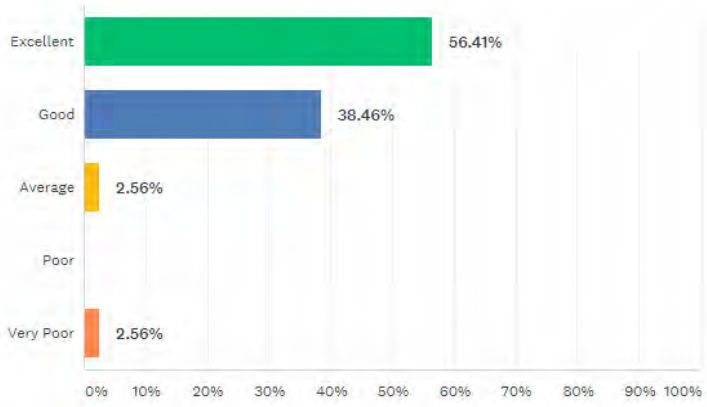
Which were the two most important aspects of the Science-Policy Dialogue?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



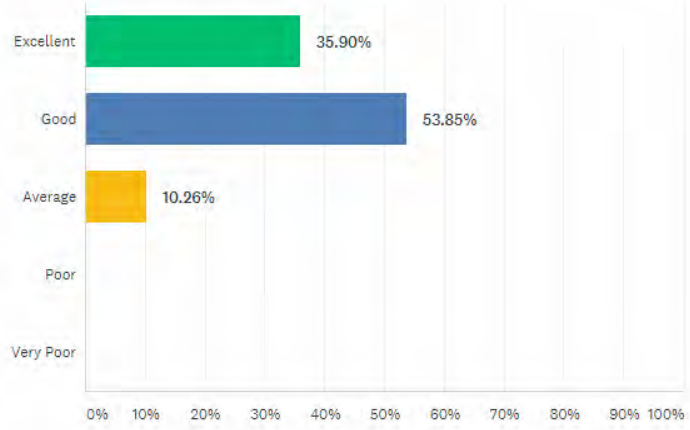
How useful would you rate the structure of the Science-Policy Dialogue? Would you suggest any changes for the next time? If so, please elaborate in the comments section.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



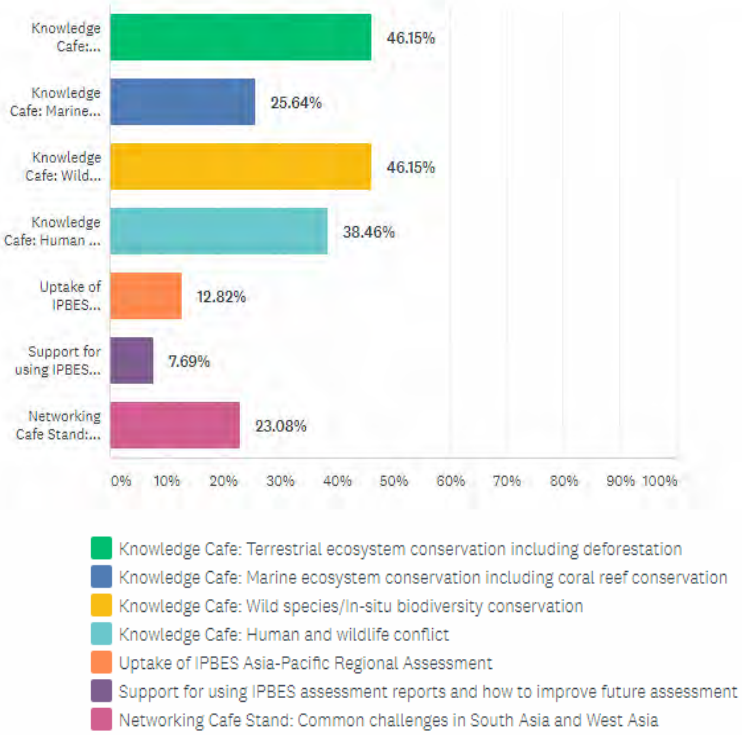
How useful would you rate the content of the Science-Policy Dialogue? Would you suggest any changes for the next time? If so, please elaborate in the comments section.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



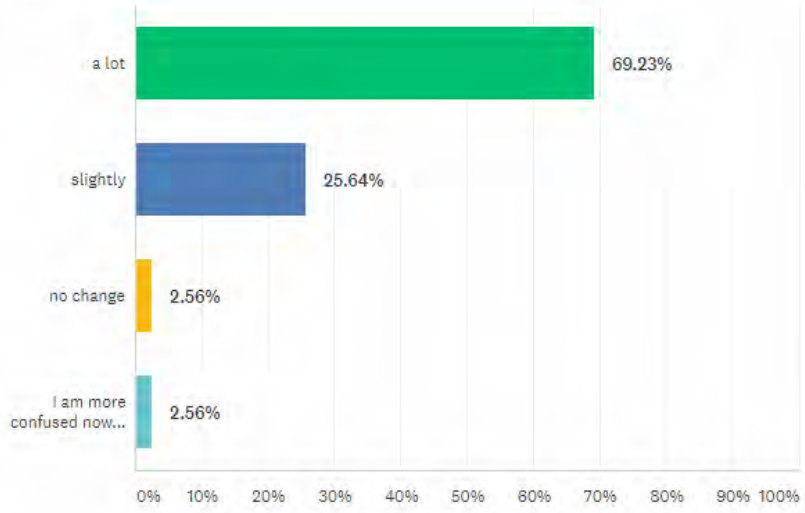
Which of the breakout groups that you joined did you find most useful or interesting, and why?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



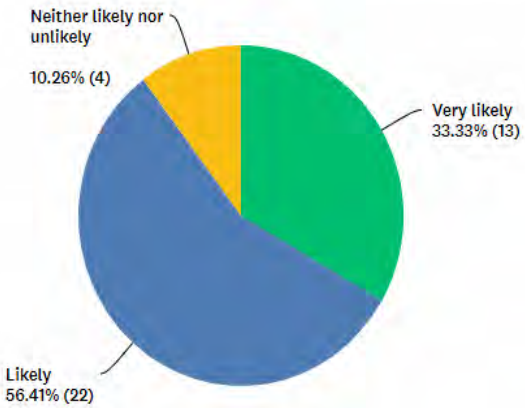
Through this workshop, how much did your understanding of the key messages of the IPBES Asia-Pacific Assessment Report improve?

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



The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413 St. Jacques, Suite 800, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9 Canada

TEL: + 1 (514) 288 2220

FAX: + 1 (514) 288 6588

E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org

Website: http://www.biodiv.org

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For inquiries, please contact IGES at cbdjf@iges.or.jp

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