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Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Institutional arrangements: secretariat: joint proposal by the
United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food
and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the
United Nations Development Programme**

**Administering the secretariat for the Intergovernmental
Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem
Services: a joint proposal submitted by the United Nations
Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and
Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the
United Nations Development Programme**

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Responding to the collaboration between relevant United Nations organizations envisaged and requested in the Busan outcome, in General Assembly resolution 65/162 and in United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council decision 26/4, the first session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services was convened by UNEP in Nairobi, from 3 to 7 October 2011, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). At that session, representatives of Governments

* IPBES/1/1.



decided, in relation to the hosting of a single administrative secretariat for the Platform, to invite UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP to submit a joint proposal, which should highlight possible collaborative arrangements, including electronic networking, clarify the responsibilities of each entity and highlight the advantages and disadvantages and the indicative costs of any options proposed, for consideration at the second session of the plenary meeting.

2. At the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Panama City from 16 to 21 April 2012, it was recognized that the proposal submitted by the four organizations was only indicative, and the four organizations were requested to further elaborate on their proposal and present a final version at the first session of the Plenary of the Platform. The issues that the representatives requested the four organizations to clarify in the final proposal included:

- (a) Potential implications of the discussion on environmental governance at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on the secretariat arrangements;
- (b) Relationship between the secretariat and the host country;
- (c) Relationship between the proposed Management Group of the secretariat and the subsidiary bodies and Bureau of the Platform;
- (d) Estimated costs and how overhead costs would be minimized;
- (e) Potential role of the regional hubs and their relationship to the secretariat;
- (f) Further clarification concerning the commitment of host institutions;
- (g) Clarification concerning which organization's rules would be used for staffing and financing.

3. In addition, the functions of the secretariat were agreed in appendix I to the report of the second session of the plenary meeting (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9):

“19. The secretariat will have the following indicative administrative functions, acting under the direction of the Plenary:

“(a) Organizing meetings and providing administrative support for meetings, including the preparation of documents and reports to the Plenary and its subsidiary bodies as needed;

“(b) Assisting the members of the Plenary, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel to undertake their respective functions as decided by the Plenary, including facilitating communication between the various stakeholders of the Platform;

“(c) Facilitating communication among any working groups that might be established by the Plenary;

“(d) Disseminating public information and assisting in outreach activities and in the production of relevant communication materials;

“(e) Preparing the Platform's draft budget for submission to the Plenary, managing the trust fund and preparing any necessary financial reports;

“(f) Assisting in mobilizing financial resources;

“(g) Assisting in facilitating the monitoring and evaluation of the Platform’s work.

“20. Furthermore, the secretariat may be tasked by the Plenary with undertaking technical support functions, such as providing relevant assistance to ensure that the Platform implements its work programme. Such potential functions need to be developed following discussion of the work programme and would be implemented under the direction of the Plenary.

“21. There will be a single central secretariat dealing with administrative functions only. In such an arrangement, one or more United Nations organizations and specialized agencies (such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme) may consider seconding fully dedicated staff to the Platform. At its inception, the secretariat will operate from a single location while exploring networking with regional and thematic technical structures.”

4. The proposal by the four organizations considers the practical arrangements that they might put into place in relation to these functions. It is envisaged that the provision of administrative support by the United Nations organizations to the secretariat might include a central coordinating body to carry out liaison with regional hubs based in the regional offices of the various United Nations organizations or other entities. The central coordination unit would therefore be relatively small, and its work would be focused on the global administrative functions in support of the Plenary, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, as well as on financial management and communications. In addition, it is envisaged that the secretariat would have a key role in liaising with and supporting any regional support structures/hubs that may be established to support regional implementation of the work programme.

5. It is anticipated that the four United Nations organizations will be required to confirm the details of their support to the secretariat through decisions of their governing bodies and/or approval of the heads of organizations, as appropriate, subject to the availability of financial resources and based on the final decisions on the structure of the secretariat.

6. Although the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, makes reference to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 204), taking note of the establishment of the Platform, and invites an early commencement of its work, it appears that the discussion on environmental governance at the Conference had few implications for the future arrangements for the secretariat.

7. A rationale for the joint proposal, indicating the added value of collaboration between the relevant United Nations organizations in providing secretariat support to the Platform, is outlined in section II below. Section III considers, in greater detail, how the secretariat might be composed and might function as a collaborative arrangement between United Nations organizations operating out of Bonn, Germany, to provide administrative support to the Platform as well as technical

support to any regional hubs that might be established. Such potential collaborative arrangements, which are further outlined in appendix I to the present document, may form the basis of an agreement between the relevant United Nations organizations to provide secretariat support to the Platform. These arrangements include both the indicative arrangements between the United Nations organizations, and the possible relationship between the secretariat and the Plenary and/or Bureau. Appendix II provides a summary of the relevant mandates, functions and experiences of the four United Nations organizations in relation to the possible elements for consideration in determining the host arrangements of the secretariat and provides indications of the possible commitments that might be made by each of the organizations, subject to agreement by their governing bodies, as appropriate.

II. Rationale of the joint proposal

8. A joint proposal from the four United Nations organizations would allow the joint and collective benefits of the different organizations to be brought to bear on the administration of the secretariat. Building on existing collaborations in support of a number of partnerships, multilateral environmental agreements and other intergovernmental processes, these benefits include the collective networks of the organizations, the widespread collective national, regional and global presence, the collective financial and oversight capacities, the collective capacity for putting in place arrangements for sessions of the Platform, in addition to the various benefits of joint communications and the collective scope of programmatic linkages between the programmes of work of the four organizations and the Platform.

9. Collectively, the four United Nations organizations have a presence in over 190 countries in all regions of the world. The networks of the four organizations bring together scientific, capacity development, policy support and administrative expertise from across the globe. For example, UNDP has a network of offices in 177 countries and territories, the academic UNESCO University Twinning and networking scheme includes over 800 institutions in over 130 countries and the UNEP Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability brings together over 120 universities from all over the globe. FAO is present in over 130 countries. National commissions of the four organizations form a vital link between the organizations, government bodies and civil society.

10. All four organizations have extensive experience in administering regular programmes as well as trust funds using extrabudgetary resources provided by bilateral Government donors, the United Nations system, multilateral development banks, the European Commission, foundations and the private sector. FAO, UNDP and UNEP are accredited agencies by the Global Environment Facility and UNESCO is currently under consideration. UNEP, UNDP and UNESCO are accredited as multilateral implementing entities under the Facility's Adaptation Fund.

11. Each organization maintains strong internal oversight functions, with significant expertise in the evaluation of science- and environment-related projects and programmes, and each has extensive experience in providing all necessary logistics for intergovernmental and international meetings, including: conference facilities around the world; interpretation services in the six official languages of the United Nations; catering services and medical services in the event of need;

exhibition and reception space; and remote conferencing capacities. Each organization also has significant and coordinated dedicated communications capacities, through the UNEP Division of Communications and Public Information, the UNESCO Sector for External Relations and Public Information, the FAO Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations and the UNDP Office of Communications. The organizations are already collaborating on communications for the Platform through the coordination of websites, publications and media releases.

12. The four organizations have coordinated bilaterally or collectively on almost all the recent international assessment initiatives, including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, the Global Biodiversity Outlook, the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, the Assessment of Assessments and the *World Water Development Report*. The four organizations are also partners to UN-Water, UN-Oceans and UN-Energy along with several other organizations of the United Nations system. These mechanisms promote coordination and coherence between United Nations organizations in order to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve their water, oceans and energy-related Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme), which was launched in 2008 to assist developing countries in preparing and implementing national strategies in this field, builds on the convening power and expertise of FAO, UNDP and UNEP. The joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative is a flagship collaboration addressing the links between ecosystems and human well-being. A similar flagship collaboration between UNEP and UNESCO is the Great Apes Survival Partnership. All four organizations are active in the United Nations Environmental Management Group, including in the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity in support of the effects of Member States to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

13. Collaboration between the four organizations has been ongoing since the first intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on the Platform, and has included input from all agencies on document preparation, agenda and meeting planning, stakeholder engagement and communications and the development of a joint communications strategy.

III. Hosting modalities and proposed collaborative arrangements

A. Potential structure of the secretariat

14. Responding to the functions agreed upon at the first and second sessions of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for the Platform, and based on experience with establishing and operating other secretariat structures, the following proposal is made for the structure of a central secretariat of the Platform. The proposed structure would allow for administrative support to be provided at the time of the establishment of the secretariat, including for the convening of meetings, the servicing of the Plenary, the Bureau and the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, the management of the Platform trust fund, assistance with the mobilization of financial resources, the dissemination of public

information and assistance with outreach activities. In addition, administrative functions and possible technical support to the overall implementation of the work programme of the Platform are also provided, including for engagement and management of staff at any regional structures that may be established in support of regional implementation of the work programme. Such an arrangement is proposed to ensure the consistent application of procedures and policies in relation to the implementation of the work programme (for example, peer review procedures, style and presentation of outputs, administrative procedures for financial arrangements and progress reporting).

15. The proposed grades of staff are based on an initial assessment of the likely responsibilities in relation to United Nations staff grading and on a comparison with existing United Nations-hosted secretariat functions. The grades will be confirmed upon the finalization of the job descriptions. The final structure will depend on the available and agreed budget for the Platform, and on the extent of administrative and technical support provided by the secretariat to the implementation of the work programme and the establishment and nature of regional support structures.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Function(s)</i>
Secretary	D-1	Head of secretariat
Senior Programme Officer	P-5	Deputy Secretary, with responsibility for work programme oversight
Assessment Officer	P-3/4	Administration and coordination of assessments functions
Capacity-building Officer	P-3/4	Administration and coordination of capacity-building
Knowledge-Generation Officer	P-3/4	Administration and coordination of knowledge generation
Policy Support Officer	P-3/4	Administration and coordination of policy support
Financial Officer	P-3	Management of the trust fund and financial arrangements
Programme Officer	P-3	Communications and engagement with stakeholder
Associate Programme Officer	P-2	Meetings planning and support
Administrative support staff (x3)	G-5	Administrative support to the operations of the Platform

16. The annual budget required to cover the above proposed structure of the secretariat in Bonn would be approximately 1.3 million euros. However, it is anticipated that the recruitment of the proposed staff could be undertaken in an incremental manner, with the four work programme coordination support functions

and the Deputy Secretary potentially being recruited after other staffing is in place (a further breakdown of the budget for the secretariat is presented in IPBES/1/10).

17. It is proposed that the post for the Secretary of the Platform be fully funded from the Platform trust fund, with other positions being resourced either through the recruitment of the proposed staff from the trust fund or through secondment/staff loan/exchange arrangements made with, and decided upon by, the four United Nations organizations (see appendix II). Such arrangements will be subject to the approval of the respective United Nations organizations, including of their governing bodies, as necessary, and would result in a reduced budget requirement from the trust fund to cover the costs of the secretariat.

B. Potential operating modalities and collaborating arrangements

18. Pending a decision on the administrative hosting of the secretariat by the Platform's Plenary at its first session (in line with para. 4 of annex II to UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9), the four United Nations organizations have agreed in principle on the following arrangements for providing the administrative hosting of the secretariat.

19. The four United Nations organizations would collaboratively provide administrative oversight to the secretariat, and collaborate on the support provided through their collaborative arrangements anticipated in appendix I. At the same time, each organization would bring its value-added expertise and experience in relation to the administration of the various elements of the Platform's programme of work corresponding to its four main functions, as follows:

(a) UNESCO in relation to the administration of the knowledge-generation programme element of the Platform;

(b) UNEP and FAO in relation to the administration of the assessment programme element of the Platform;

(c) UNDP in relation to the administration of the capacity-development programme element of the Platform;

(d) Administrative support provided by each of the organizations on the policy support functions of the Platform.

20. To ensure that each organization contributes to the overall functioning of the secretariat, and that inputs to the secretariat from the organizations are well coordinated, the four organizations would establish a management group of senior staff from each of the organizations to oversee, in consultation with the Platform's Bureau, the administrative work of the secretariat.

21. The main functions of the management group would include: (a) a preliminary overall evaluation of the effective discharge by the secretariat of the administrative tasks attributed to it, prior to a formal evaluation by the Plenary (this would be complemented by independent and external reviews and evaluations on a periodic basis as decided by the Plenary in line with paragraph 25 of appendix I to UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9); and (b) the selection, in consultation with the Bureau, of the Secretary of the secretariat and the appraisal of his/her performance, as well as administrative oversight of the staffing of the secretariat, including the secondment of staff. The Secretary, under the authority of the Platform management group,

would carry out, under the direction of the Plenary and in consultation, as appropriate, with the management group, the administrative and coordination functions related to the daily operations of the secretariat.

22. A draft agreement on collaborative arrangements between the four United Nations organizations to provide secretariat support to the Platform is contained in appendix I to the present joint proposal. It is anticipated that these collaborative arrangements will be updated in the light of the outcomes of the first session of the Plenary, and subsequently agreed upon by the heads of the four United Nations organizations on behalf of their governing or management bodies or by the bodies themselves.

23. Moreover, the four United Nations organizations have agreed that the staff to be recruited for the secretariat would be appointed through a competitive process in accordance with the rules of only one of the four United Nations organizations (see appendix I) and that the four United Nations organizations would second, loan or assign staff, if any, to the secretariat in line with the decisions and authorizations of their respective management and/or governing bodies, as per the offers anticipated in appendix II of the present document.

24. In addition to sharing the responsibility of jointly administering the secretariat and trust fund on the basis of the modalities presented in this section of the joint proposal and expanded upon in appendix I, the four United Nations organizations intend to provide programmatic support to the Plenary and its subsidiary bodies, as well as to any working groups or other structures established to implement the Platform's work programme, consistent with their relevant expertise.

25. The four United Nations organizations would also promote efficient networking between the secretariat and any relevant thematic and regional technical structures established, including structures of the four United Nations organizations, as described in detail below.

26. Ongoing discussions with the Government of Germany are progressing, both to ensure an interim secretariat presence in Bonn and to put in place longer-term host country arrangements, which are to be finalized after agreement by the Plenary on the institutional arrangements for the secretariat. It is anticipated that a host country agreement will be signed between the organization(s) responsible for the administration of the secretariat and the Government of Germany, in which the relationship between the secretariat and the host country will be further elaborated, in accordance with existing arrangements for the United Nations presence in Bonn.

C. Potential role of regional hubs and their relationship with the secretariat

27. In response to the request made at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services that the four United Nations organizations clarify, inter alia, the issue of the potential role of the regional hubs and their relationship to the Secretariat (UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, para. 32), a number of issues and suggestions for consideration by the Plenary are set below.

28. The institutional arrangements adopted by delegates at the second session of the plenary meeting in Panama City agreed that a single central secretariat would be

established, dealing with administrative functions only, while recognizing that the secretariat might also be tasked by the Plenary with undertaking technical support functions. It was also agreed that, at its inception, the secretariat would operate from a single location while exploring networking with regional and thematic technical structures. In terms of the proposed arrangements outlined herein, the United Nations organizations would promote efficient three-way networking between the central secretariat, any regional and thematic technical structures established and any relevant thematic and regional technical structures of the four organizations that might further support the implementation of the Platform's work programme.

29. In providing this support to the work programme in the regions led by regional hubs, the United Nations organizations would liaise closely with the secretariat. It is proposed that the secretariat take a key role in overseeing and providing overall technical support to any regional support structures that might be established to support regional implementation of the work programme. It is envisaged, therefore, that the secretariat may include a dedicated officer for each of the Platform's functions. These individuals, an Assessment Officer, a Capacity-building Officer, a Knowledge-Generation Officer and a Policy Support Officer, will each play a key role in coordinating the relevant functions of the Platform, both at a global scale and through providing coordination of the regional implementation of those functions through the regional hubs. The United Nations organizations would thus need to liaise closely with these officers in order to add value to the regional and global implementation of the four functions.

30. In relation to the role of the regional hubs, the following points are proposed for consideration by the Plenary:

(a) That the work programme of the Platform may be carried out to a large extent at the regional (and subregional) level, with global and interregional coordination functions carried out through the secretariat;

(b) That support for the delivery of the work programme at the regional level may be integrated, with a single regional structure in each region providing support for all four functions of the Platform;

(c) That a regional support structure may be identified or established in each of the five United Nations regions, thus supporting the regional implementation of the work programme in those regions, while noting that it is anticipated that the regional structure for the implementation of the work programme is to be updated in line with the updated regional structure of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel;

(d) That common goals may be defined for all of the regional structures and for the regional implementation of the work programme, related to overall goals, functions and operating principles of the Platform, ensuring a coherent approach and synergy of efforts across regions;

(e) That progress in the work of the regional structures may be monitored by the central secretariat, with regional structures providing collated narrative and financial reporting to the Plenary through the central secretariat;

(f) That staff functions in the central secretariat may include overseeing the work of regional structures, coordination and monitoring their work, ensuring administrative and procedural consistency across the hubs and receiving regular reports from them;

(g) That various options might be considered for hosting arrangements for the regional structures, including the option of using of the regional offices of United Nations organizations, and the option of inviting Governments or designated national or regional entities to provide financial and/or in-kind resources to host a regional structure in a particular region;

(h) That a process be determined by the Plenary through which the final hosting arrangements for each regional support structure would be decided by the members of the Platform in that region, and that memorandums of understanding may be signed between those partners and the secretariat, whereby the dedicated staff of the regional support structures would have additional reporting lines to the central secretariat;

(i) That each regional structure may be staffed by two to three dedicated staff members, with functions allocated so that each staff member is addressing aspects of all four functions of the Platform;

(j) That core resources of the Platform would be used to support regional staff costs only in cases where support from the host Government or organization is insufficient to cover those costs;

(k) That core resources of the Platform would be used to carry out the implementation of the regional work programme, and that they would be supplemented by resources raised by the regional structures in line with the decisions of the Plenary in relation to such additional resources;

(l) That United Nations organizations may be invited to provide technical and programmatic support to regional structures;

(m) That regional working groups may be established and supported by the regional structures to oversee regional assessments and other work programme activities, as needed.

Appendix I

Draft collaborative arrangements between the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme for the performance of the functions of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (hereinafter referred to as “the organizations”):

Noting the agreement reached at the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Busan, Republic of Korea, 7-11 June 2010) that an intergovernmental science-policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be established 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, with the following overarching functions:

(a) To identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers at appropriate scales and catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge by engaging in dialogue with key scientific organizations, policymakers and funding organizations, but should not directly undertake new research;

(b) To perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages, which should include comprehensive global, regional and, as necessary, subregional assessments and thematic issues at appropriate scales and new topics identified by science and as decided upon by the Plenary. The assessments must be scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed, and must identify uncertainties. There should be a clear and transparent process for sharing and incorporating relevant data. The new Platform should maintain a catalogue of relevant assessments, identify the need for regional and subregional assessments and help to catalyse support for subregional and national assessments, as appropriate;

(c) To support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies, such as those arising from assessments, to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies, and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development;

(d) To prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels and then provide and call for financial and other support for the highest-priority needs related directly to its activities, as decided by

the Plenary, and catalyse financing for such capacity-building activities by providing a forum with conventional and potential sources of funding;^a

Recalling that at the first session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Nairobi, 3-7 October 2011) the organizations were invited to submit a joint proposal for hosting the administrative secretariat of the Platform, and that this joint proposal should highlight possible collaborative arrangements, including electronic networking, and clarify the responsibilities of each entity;^b

Noting that at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Panama City, 16-21 April 2012) the organizations were requested to further elaborate on their proposal and present a final version at the first session of the Plenary of the Platform;^c

Acknowledging that at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services UNEP was requested, working in collaboration with interested Governments and UNESCO, FAO, UNDP and the Government of Germany, to continue to provide the interim secretariat, to organize the first session of the Plenary of the Platform, to receive any financial support that is provided for the Platform and to transfer to the trust fund for the Platform the remaining funds from such contributions at the time the trust fund is established;^d

Whereas the administrative functions of the Platform were agreed upon at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services;^e

Have agreed as follows:

1. General principles

1.1 The functions of the secretariat are those set out in appendix I, section E, to document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9.

1.2 Pursuant to the functions of the secretariat, and the provisions of these collaborative arrangements, the organizations will jointly carry out secretariat responsibilities for the Platform.

1.3 Each organization will assume the responsibilities as described in these collaborative arrangements, in support of the effective and efficient performance of the functions of the secretariat of the Platform.

^a UNEP/IPBES/3/3, annex, paras. 6 (a)-(d).

^b UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8, annex III, para. 6.

^c UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9, para. 32.

^d Ibid., annex II, para. 5.

^e UNEP/IPBES.MI/1/8, annex II, para. 20.

2. Working mechanisms

2.1 The organizations will share the overall responsibility for carrying out the responsibilities indicated in these collaborative arrangements. The organizations will designate senior representatives to represent them in a management group, which will be composed of one representative from each of the organizations.

2.2 The Management Group, in consultation with the Bureau of the Plenary, will oversee the administration of the secretariat.

2.3 The Secretary of the Platform, who will head the secretariat, will be selected jointly by the Management Group, in consultation with the Bureau of the Plenary, in accordance with such conditions as the Plenary may decide. His/her performance will be appraised by the Management Group in consultation with the Bureau of the Plenary. The Secretary will be appointed for an initial term of three years, renewable only once.

2.4 The Platform will be assisted by the secretariat, which will fulfil the following indicative administrative functions:

(a) Organize and provide administrative support for meetings, including the preparation of documents and reports to the Plenary and its subsidiary bodies, as needed;

(b) Assist the officers of the Plenary, the Bureau, the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and any further subsidiary bodies established by the Plenary in undertaking their respective functions as decided by the Plenary, including facilitating communication between the various stakeholders of the Platform;

(c) Facilitate communication among any working groups that might be established by the Plenary;

(d) Disseminate public information and assist in outreach activities and in the production of relevant communications materials;

(e) Prepare the draft budget of the Platform for submission to the Plenary, manage the trust fund[s] and prepare any necessary financial reports;

(f) Assist in mobilizing financial resources;

(g) Assist in facilitating the monitoring and evaluation of the work of the Platform;

(h) Undertake any related task, as may be requested by the Plenary.

2.5 The organizations will provide and assign staff to the secretariat in line with the decisions and authorization of their respective management and/or governing bodies, and the secretariat staffing structure and budget approved by the Plenary.

2.6 Staff within the Platform secretariat will be appointed in accordance with the rules of UNEP and in consultation with the Management Group. In appointing staff to the secretariat, paramount importance will be given to securing the highest standards of efficiency and technical competence, with due consideration to be given to wide geographical representation and gender equality.

3. Administration of the trust fund of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

3.1 It is proposed by the organizations that the Plenary will authorize the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office of UNDP to establish a specific trust fund for the Platform to receive and administer the funds for the work of the Platform, with a governance structure designed to meet its needs, and taking into account the collaborative administrative arrangement of the secretariat, in addition to the overall Platform governance arrangements (further details on Multi-Partner Trust Fund opportunities and existing arrangements can be found at <http://mptf.undp.org>).^f

4. Final clauses

4.1 These collaborative arrangements shall be deemed to constitute an agreement between the organizations and shall enter into force upon signature by them or their authorized representatives.

4.2 These collaborative arrangements may be amended or terminated as agreed between the organizations.

4.3 Each organization may withdraw from this agreement at any time by giving notice to the other organizations and the Plenary one year in advance of the withdrawal date. The organizations shall, in such case, take all necessary measures to finalize joint activities under this agreement in an appropriate manner in order to ensure the continued performance of secretariat responsibilities.

^f It is anticipated that these collaborative arrangements for the trust fund will be updated in the light of the outcomes of the first session of the Plenary of the Platform and subsequently agreed upon by the heads of the four United Nations organizations on behalf of or by the organizations' governing or management bodies.

Appendix II

Relevant mandates, experiences and anticipated contributions of the four organizations

United Nations Environment Programme

Mandate, functions and experience

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established with the mandate to keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments. Its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. Working with States and all major groups and stakeholders, UNEP helps to bridge the science policy interface by keeping the state of the global and regional environment under review, identifying threats at an early stage, supporting the development of sound environmental policies and helping States to successfully implement these policies. Ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation are at the core of the UNEP mandate.

2. UNEP has extensive experience in providing administrative and programmatic support to the hosting of science-based and administrative secretariats, including of various multilateral environmental agreements (including the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species; and the Regional Seas secretariats) and scientific advisory bodies and others (including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, for which UNEP also initiated the 2010 InterAcademy Council review process; the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility; the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; and the UNEP International Resource Panel). UNEP has also established strong programmatic links with hosted secretariats, for example on climate change science through emissions gap analysis, climate change adaptation programmes and work on the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. Similar significant opportunities exist with respect to the science of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The current programme of work of UNEP is organized under six subprogrammes: ecosystem management; environmental governance; climate change; harmful substances; disasters and conflicts; and resource efficiency. These thematic areas are underpinned by a recently adopted Science Strategy that supports the work of UNEP in strengthening scientific support to Member States and the science policy interface.

3. For 40 years, UNEP has been engaged in managing and supporting assessment, early warning, knowledge generation, policy support, capacity-building and communications activities. The experience of UNEP in scientific assessments includes taking the leading role in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its follow-up process, the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity and the *Global Environmental Outlook* series (the fifth comprehensive assessment was launched in 2012), and contributing to the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and

Technology for Development, the marine “assessment of assessments” and many additional regional and thematic assessments, including coordinating the sub global assessment network of over 60 assessments at local, national and regional scales, in partnership with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and The Cropper Foundation. The structure of UNEP includes the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, which dedicated to assessment activities, the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, focused on ecosystem management, and the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions.

4. UNEP supports capacity-building in developing countries, including for the conduct of scientific assessments at the national and subregional levels. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building was adopted at the twenty-third session of the UNEP Governing Council, in 2005, as a framework for UNEP to strengthen the development capacity of Governments and the capacity of transitional economy countries to achieve environmentally sustainable outcomes consistent with the programmatic goals of the Council. The Bali Strategic Plan mandates UNEP to develop and to update a database, giving access to information on major existing technology support and capacity-building activities, including those undertaken by UNEP, with links to the programmes of relevant partners, and establishes South-South cooperation as one of the primary mechanisms for the implementation of the capacity-building and technology support objectives set forth in the plan.

5. UNEP has many successful ongoing partnerships with United Nations organizations and other partners across a range of intergovernmental, scientific and broader civil society organizations to support the integration of science into policy. Through its Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, UNEP involves a wide range of stakeholders across all major groups involved in the fields of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, natural resources management and economics. UNEP has considerable experience with the administration of partnership, donor and programmatic funds. The organization is currently administering a portfolio of over 80 trust funds.

United Nations Environment Programme and the Platform

6. UNEP has been central to the discussions on strengthening the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services from the outset. After hosting the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and providing support to the International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity, UNEP convened an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 November 2008. The outcomes of the first meeting were presented at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UNEP. At that session the Governing Council adopted its decision 25/10 on the Platform, calling on UNEP to undertake a further process to explore ways and means to strengthen the science-policy interface. The Council requested UNEP to convene a second intergovernmental multi-stakeholder meeting on the Platform in 2009. The meeting was held in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009. At the eleventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council, held in Bali, Indonesia, in February 2010, the outcomes of the second meeting on the Platform were presented. Subsequently, in its decision SS.XI/4 on the Platform, the Governing Council endorsed the organization of a final meeting on the Platform.

7. The third and final meeting on the Platform was convened by UNEP in Busan, Republic of Korea, in June 2010. The outcomes of the meeting, including the decision to establish the Platform, were considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. In its resolution 65/162, the General Assembly requested UNEP to convene a plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. At its twenty-sixth session, by its decision 26/4, the Governing Council of UNEP decided to convene the plenary meeting, based on the request by the General Assembly and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order to fully operationalize the Platform. In that decision, the Governing Council also requested the Executive Director of UNEP to continue to facilitate the process to implement the Platform until such time as a secretariat was established and to submit an offer of interest to be considered along with other offers, signifying the interest of UNEP in hosting or otherwise supporting the secretariat.

Anticipated contributions of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Platform

8. Subject to the approval from its Governing Council, UNEP anticipates providing a direct contribution to the secretariat in the form of a dedicated secondment or assignment of a Professional officer. In addition, a significant in-kind contribution to the Platform will be provided through the intellectual, programmatic and administrative contribution of UNEP programme staff in the areas of policy and legal support, biodiversity and ecosystem management, assessment and monitoring and communications and public awareness. This team will work in collaboration with the secretariat to support the overall administration of the Platform and its work programme, to promote the contribution of relevant UNEP programmes and activities to the work programme and to build on the work of the Platform to inform and strengthen the UNEP programme of work.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Mandate, functions and experience

9. The mandate of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is to contribute to peacebuilding, poverty eradication, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. The organization focuses on five overarching objectives: mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development; attaining quality education and lifelong learning; addressing emerging social and ethical challenges; fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace; and building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication. Since its inception in 1945, UNESCO has developed and run intergovernmental bodies, programmes and arrangements on the basis of modalities similar to those upon which the Platform will operate. To date, 35 UNESCO institutes and centres have also contributed to programme priorities in the natural sciences.

10. The long-standing UNESCO intergovernmental and international sciences programmes in the areas of water, ocean and terrestrial ecosystems have extensive networks among the scientific communities of direct relevance to the Platform.

UNESCO also plays an active and long-standing role in setting normative standards in the field of the environment, for example, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and National Heritage, to which UNESCO provides the secretariat, and the Convention on Wetlands (the Ramsar Convention), for which UNESCO acts as the legal depositary. UNESCO provides services to the statutory meetings of the governing bodies of its intergovernmental and international scientific programmes and the meetings of the parties to its conventions, which are convened on a periodic basis.

11. Several UNESCO intergovernmental and international scientific programmes address issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. The International Hydrological Programme addresses, inter alia, ecohydrology and freshwater ecosystems; the UNESCO-hosted World Water Assessment Programme coordinates the flagship publication *World Water Development Report*, which encompasses a biodiversity and ecosystem services component; the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, deals, inter alia, with inventorying marine biodiversity and the generation of knowledge on ocean processes and marine biodiversity, and contributes to the Global Reporting and the Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment; and the Man and the Biosphere Programme fosters international cooperative research and capacity-building on terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem services through the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The UNESCO Programme on the Management of Social Transformation covers the same functions in the field of social sciences. The International Hydrological Programme, the International Oceanographic Commission, the Man and the Biosphere Programme and the UNESCO Programme on the Management of Social Transformation all rely on a system of national committees to catalyse efforts to generate knowledge by engaging in dialogue with key national scientific organizations, policymakers and funding organizations. UNESCO implication in assessment-related work includes its co sponsoring of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development. UNESCO, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and organizations, has also established the Global Ocean Observing System (through its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) and the Global Terrestrial Observing System.

12. UNESCO promotes the participation of its member States and scientists in international biodiversity research programmes and in global observing systems that focus on parameters and processes relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including satellite monitoring of natural World Heritage sites and other relevant sites. UNESCO is one of the founders and co-sponsors of the international research programme DIVERSITAS and of the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society, which provide an international multidisciplinary research framework to address complex scientific questions posed by the loss and change in biodiversity.

13. UNESCO science-policy and capacity-building programmes can assist with the policy response and capacity-building functions of the Platform, especially through the provision of technical assistance to make identified policy responses operational in the context of relevant national strategies and action plans. The organization's mandate in the cultural field makes it well suited to support assessments and other activities under the Platform, taking into account cultural services and the influence of human factors on biodiversity. The World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, led by UNESCO, can assist the assessment and policy responses functions through the formulation of ethical principles that could provide

decision makers with criteria that extend beyond utilitarian considerations. This aspect could be crucial to ensure the Platform's relevance.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Platform

14. UNESCO contributed to the pilot analysis of the global ecosystems project, which led to the design of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. UNESCO was also a co sponsor of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a member of its Bureau and of the follow-up consortium, which led to the sub-global assessment and to the design of international research programmes to fill identified knowledge gaps.

15. In 2005, France and UNESCO organized an International Conference on Biodiversity: Science and Governance. The main outcome of the conference was the decision to initiate a consultative process on an international mechanism of scientific expertise on biodiversity, which later converged with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up process into the single intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder process on the Platform.

16. At the 185th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO, held in October 2010, the important developments relating to biodiversity science and policy during the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, including the Busan outcome, were noted. The Board took note of the intention of UNESCO to seek institutional association with the Platform, if established. The Board expressed its satisfaction at the excellent cooperation between UNESCO and UNEP, UNDP and FAO in relation to the Platform and its expectation that such cooperation would continue until the Platform was formally established, as well as thereafter. The UNESCO programme and budget for 2012-2013, adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the organization's General Conference, in 2011, includes an expected result on the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. To that end, the UNESCO-wide Biodiversity Initiative (encompassing the natural and social sciences, cultural aspects, communication, education and public awareness) is improving understanding of, and seeking solutions to, the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. UNESCO participation in and support to the Platform will constitute an integral part of its Biodiversity Initiative.

17. Since the second session of the plenary meeting, in Panama, UNESCO has been coordinating the initial work to identify and discuss main issues related to elements of a draft conceptual framework as an information document for the first session of the Plenary of the Platform. The organization has also led a discussion process to provide guidelines on the recognition and contribution of traditional and indigenous knowledge in the context of the Platform, on which initial reflections will be presented at the first session of the Plenary as an information document. In addition, UNESCO has undertaken initial reflection on possible ways to interact with the global observing networks, the envisaged foresight function of the Platform and main issues related to a scoping process for the assessment reports of the Platform. The organization looks forward to assisting with these and other aspects of the future work of the Platform.

18. Currently, a number of programme specialists from the areas of biodiversity science and policy, traditional and indigenous knowledge and social sciences, as

well as administrative personnel, are involved in work of relevance to the Platform, including professionals in the various UNESCO field offices.

Anticipated contributions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Platform

19. UNESCO anticipates providing significant in-kind contributions to the Platform through the intellectual and programmatic work of UNESCO staff in the areas of biodiversity science and policy, traditional and indigenous knowledge, social sciences, and communications and public awareness. UNESCO will work in collaboration with the secretariat to support the work programme of the Platform, to promote the contribution of relevant UNESCO programmes, sites, networks and activities to the Platform's work programme and to build on the outcomes of the Platform to inform and strengthen the relevant areas of the UNESCO work programme.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Mandate, functions and experience

20. The mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. Biological diversity and the related ecosystem services are of pivotal importance in fighting hunger and achieving food security for all. Objective information on and thorough analysis of the state of the world's biodiversity are key requirements for the development of effective policies aiming at the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. FAO, through its bodies, treaties, conventions and agreements, is involved in various country-driven assessments of (components of) biodiversity.

21. FAO has a proven track record of providing periodic assessments of the state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture. The FAO intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has overseen the preparation of two global assessments on biodiversity for food and agriculture: *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (1996, second report in 2010) and *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (2007). In response to and based on those assessments, the Commission developed policies, action plans, codes of conduct and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, all of which confirm the relevance of credible scientific information and analysis for the development of effective policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture at the national and international levels.

22. The Commission's rolling 10-year programme of work foresees global assessments of the state of the world's plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture, ultimately leading to the first-ever integrated global assessment of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (due in 2017). Currently, the Commission has three subsidiary intergovernmental technical working groups on plant genetic resources, on animal genetic resources and on forest genetic resources to address issues specific to plant, animal and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture.

23. FAO is also responsible for the collection, compilation and analysis of data and information relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture, in particular for forestry and fisheries. Relevant also are a number of FAO global databases, including, for example, the FAO flagship report on the *State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture*, national and regional land cover mapping of the Global Land Cover Network, the Global Agro Ecological Zones programme, the Global Terrestrial Observing System, FishStat Plus and the Global Land Degradation Assessment. Flagship FAO publications, such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme, the *State of the World's Forests* and *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, regularly analyse issues relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services. All these assessments guide the policy formation of FAO members and governing bodies. Recent issues of the annual publication, *The State of Food and Agriculture*, have also tackled matters of relevance to this process, such as biofuels (2008), paying farmers for environmental services (2006) and agricultural biotechnology (2004).

24. FAO cooperates with other international organizations, processes and mechanisms that aim to strengthen cooperation between Governments, and with intergovernmental mechanisms in the development of analyses of the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their relationship with human well-being to support decision-making at all levels. For example, FAO has been involved in the Global Biodiversity Outlook, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development.

25. FAO and UNEP jointly introduced the Prior Informed Consent procedure in 1989 and jointly perform the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. The role of FAO in the secretariat capitalizes on cooperation with its regional and subregional offices as well as on the existing pillars of work in the area of pesticide risk reduction. By providing tools on data collection on hazardous pesticide formulations and particular resource kits, the secretariat contributes to building the capacity of assessing and managing the risks to human health and the environment posed by pesticides.

26. Capacity-building has been at the heart of the mandate of FAO since its foundation. Today, it is a core function highlighted in the organization's new strategic framework, encouraging developing nations to design and implement national policies that will help reduce poverty and foster food security through sustainable agriculture, rural development and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Platform

27. At its thirty-seventh session, the FAO Conference, the highest governing body of FAO, noted the outcome of the third meeting of the ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It recognized the experience and long-standing role of FAO in relation to periodic assessments of the state of the world's genetic resources for food and agriculture and other assessments relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services and welcomed the decision of Governments to establish the Platform. The FAO Conference, through its resolution 14/2011, requested the Director-General of FAO to work closely with UNEP and other

relevant international organizations and bodies in the preparation of the forthcoming meetings for the operationalization of the Platform and authorized the Director-General to offer to establish and (co-)host, or otherwise support the Platform, along with other relevant international organizations, provided that costs would be met through extrabudgetary resources with appropriate administrative and operational support costs reimbursed in accordance with the prevailing FAO support cost policy.

Anticipated contributions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the Platform

28. FAO anticipates providing in-kind contributions to the Platform through the intellectual, programmatic and administrative contribution of its staff in the areas of policy and legal support, biodiversity and ecosystem management, assessment and monitoring and communications and public awareness. The FAO team will work in collaboration with the Platform's secretariat to support the Platform's work programme, to promote the contribution of relevant FAO programmes and activities to the Platform's work programme, and to build on the work of the Platform to inform and strengthen FAO programme of work. Any commitment by FAO is subject to its internal approval process, including by FAO governing bodies, in accordance with its rules.

United Nations Development Programme

Mandate, functions and experience

29. Established in 1966, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the global development network of the United Nations, an organization advocating change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. Working in 177 countries and territories, UNDP supports the efforts of countries to build and share solutions to challenges in four focus areas: environment and sustainable development, poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, democratic governance and crisis prevention and recovery. A cross-sectoral approach enables synergy between these areas and the delivery of multiple dividends. In each country office, the UNDP Resident Representative also often serves as the Resident Coordinator of development activities for the United Nations system as a whole. Through such coordination, UNDP seeks to ensure the most effective use of United Nations and international donor resources. UNDP has a track record of strong performance through decades of successful delivery on its multifaceted development mandate, and it is a trusted partner of national Governments. The organization's proven ability to generate cutting edge ideas and new approaches to advance sustainable human development also make it a key player in the global policy arena.

30. UNDP has the largest programme on biodiversity and ecosystems in the United Nations system, working in 146 countries and managing 512 ecosystems and biodiversity projects worth \$1.5 billion in the Global Environment Facility and other funding, with financing of \$3.5 billion. The ecosystems and biodiversity programme has been successful in: helping to establish over 2,000 protected areas in 85 countries, covering 272 million hectares; undertaking interventions in production sectors and development planning in 38 countries, covering 244 million hectares; and promoting ecosystem-based adaptation to or mitigation of climate change in 71

countries. Through the provision of policy and technical advice, support for accessing finance and the development and implementation of programmes that help demonstrate sound biodiversity management practices, and build the capacity to sustain them, UNDP helps countries to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and to secure ecosystem services that are vital to human welfare and to their development efforts. The programme has generated a strong body of knowledge on best practices in this field, and has a wealth of experience in policymaking based on interaction with the scientific community working on biodiversity on the state, drivers, trends, and outlooks in that field, with an emphasis on the impact of changing biodiversity on human well-being.

31. UNDP is also well placed to help make the links between science, policy and implementation on the ground. UNDP has focal points for civil society organizations and indigenous peoples in its regional bureaux and at its headquarters, and works to strengthen and amplify community voices in policymaking by bridging upstream policy work (national and international enabling conditions) and downstream delivery work (local resource management and project delivery). In addition to its large portfolio of ecosystems and biodiversity projects, 73 per cent of which involve local communities, indigenous peoples, community-based organizations, local government or non-governmental organizations, UNDP also implements two programmes focused on the local scale. The first is the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility, implemented by UNDP, which has been working with communities around the world for almost two decades to combat critical environmental problems. The programme has generated \$600 million in the Global Environment Facility and other funding for 14,500 initiatives, 50 per cent of which are biodiversity-focused, in 125 countries. The projects funded use community-based approaches to deliver global environmental benefits and build on traditional knowledge to develop capacities to effectively manage the environment. The Equator Initiative is a UNDP-managed multi-sector partnership that works with indigenous peoples and local communities doing groundbreaking work in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development throughout the developing world. This includes the biennial Equator Prize, which recognizes outstanding local/community initiatives, with nearly \$1.5 million awarded to 152 groups since 2002, the Equator Dialogues, through which winning communities have participated in dialogues at 13 international policy events, and Equator Knowledge, which supports peer-to-peer learning exchanges and documentation of best practices, working to share knowledge (including traditional knowledge), scale up best practices and influence policy.

32. UNDP has a strong commitment to developing national capacities for sustaining development, through stronger institutions, delivery capacity and domestic resourcing. Its extensive presence at the national level is combined with a participatory approach that ensures both national ownership of country programmes of work and a hands-on approach to developing the capacity of Governments and civil society partners. UNDP capacity-development and knowledge-management professionals work with programme countries on capacity development that is based on sustainable and measurable demand and operates at all three levels — developing individual, organizational and systemic capacity. Through a global and regional network of practitioners, UNDP conducts research and analysis, provides policy advice and contributes technical expertise on designing and conducting capacity assessments, formulating capacity-development responses and measuring returns on

capacity investments. UNDP also has a strong emphasis on South-South cooperation and works to mobilize resources and to connect developing countries in order to share experiences and learning and to develop their capacity. Capacity-building for effective governance is also a key part of the ecosystems and biodiversity project portfolio, which aims to remove barriers to effective biodiversity management. The experience of UNDP in capacity-building equips it well to play a role in capacity-building in the interface between science, policy and implementation.

United Nations Development Programme and the Platform

33. In 1999, seeking to build on the value of the annual World Resources Report initiative of the World Resources Institute, UNDP, as a co-sponsor, along with UNEP, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, called for the establishment of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. UNDP was involved in all aspects of the subsequent Millennium Ecosystem Assessment process, including the follow-up process, in particular by providing tools and methodologies to help countries manage their environment and natural resources through the above-mentioned portfolio of national-level ecosystems and biodiversity projects.

34. The Busan outcome, agreed by Governments at the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in June 2010, requested collaboration between United Nations organizations in support of the Platform. At the first session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Nairobi in October 2011, representatives of Governments noted “the important role of UNDP in capacity-building within the United Nations system”. The Busan outcome resolved to prioritize key capacity-building needs, among other priorities. UNDP has expressed an interest in providing programmatic support, through a team of programme specialists, to the Plenary of the Platform and to its subsidiary bodies, working groups and other structures in the area of capacity-building.

35. During 2011 and 2012, UNDP has contributed resources in kind, working in partnership with the Government of Norway’s Directorate for Nature Management and the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, to consider and to consult stakeholders on ways of responding to the capacity-building needs of the Platform in the science-policy-implementation interface. The partnership submitted a consultative paper to the Platform’s secretariat in August 2012, in response to an invitation issued at the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in April 2012. In addition, UNDP made a submission on the concept of a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES)-Net web portal. The consultative paper outlines potential activities and broader partnerships, and welcomes feedback from stakeholders through the Platform’s website. Consultations on proposals for capacity-building were also held with representatives of Governments and civil society stakeholders at the above-mentioned second session of the plenary meeting, held in Panama in April 2012.

Anticipated contributions of the United Nations Development Programme to the Platform

36. UNDP anticipates making a significant contribution to the Platform by continuing to work with a range of partners, including Governments, civil society organizations, the secretariats of the Rio Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements and the United Nations organizations UNESCO, FAO, and UNEP, to leverage resources for and undertake strategic activities in support of capacity-building in the interface between science, policy and practice, guided by the needs and priorities of the Plenary of the Platform. This will involve contributing knowledge generated through the large portfolio of ecosystems and biodiversity projects that UNDP manages, including experience on strengthening governance and markets for biodiversity and ecosystems services, mediating the uptake of science and diverse and traditional knowledge systems in development. This involves knowledge generated through three signature programmes — on integrating biodiversity and ecosystem management into development planning and production sector activities to safeguard biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services that sustain human well-being; unlocking the potential of protected areas, including indigenous and community conserved areas, to conserve biodiversity while contributing towards sustainable development; and managing and rehabilitating ecosystems for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
