IPBES: Science and Evidence for Biodiversity Policy and Action

Dr Anne Larigauderie
Executive Secretary




www.ipbes.net

UN environment programme

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UNDP

IPBES in a nutshell

- IPBES' mission:

  To strengthen knowledge foundations for better policy through science, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development
- Started its work in 2014:
  - 1st work programme 2014-2018
  - Work programme up to 2030
- An independent intergovernmental body with over 130 Member States
- Secretariat hosted by Germany, in Bonn

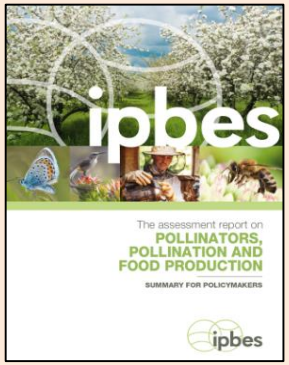
H. Zakri: 1st Chair

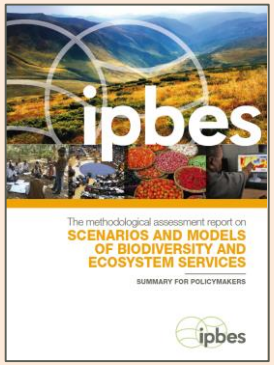
B. Watson: 2nd Chair

A.M. Hernandez: current Chair

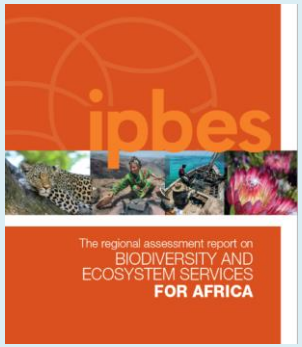
Establishing the knowledge base for decision making: 8 assessments produced

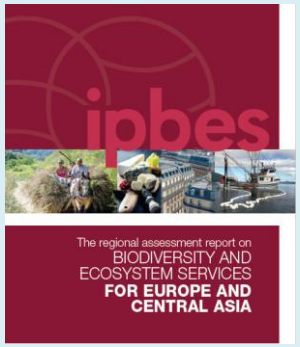
2016

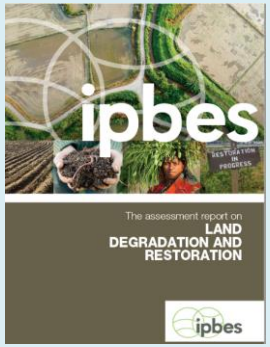


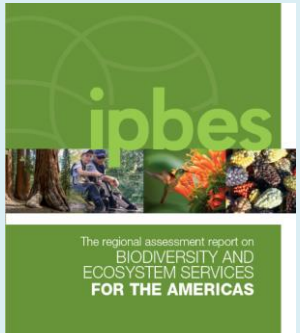


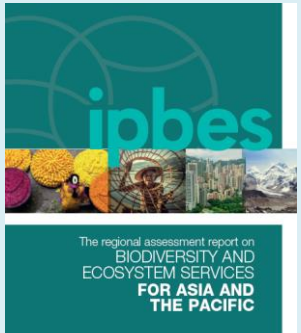
2018



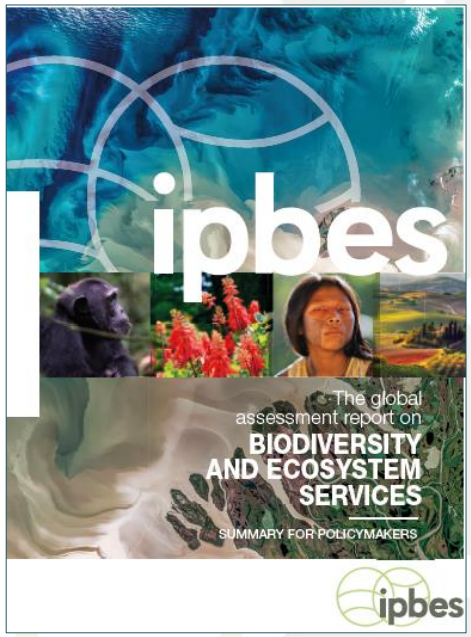








2019



www.ipbes.net

The knowledge base for decision making: IPBES is much more than assessments

A set of innovative approaches

- An innovative conceptual framework
- A new approach to recognize and work with indigenous and local knowledge
- A capacity building programme
- A method to address knowledge gaps

An involvement of the community at large

- 136 Governments as Members
- Over 1,500 scientists and other knowledge holders
- 35, 000 scientific publications analyzed
- 50,000 peer review comments received

The biosphere upon which humanity depends, has been deeply reconfigured by human activities

75%

of the land area has been significantly altered, negatively impacting the well-being of 3.2 billion people

3%

of the oceans is unaffected by human activities

>85%

of wetland area has been lost

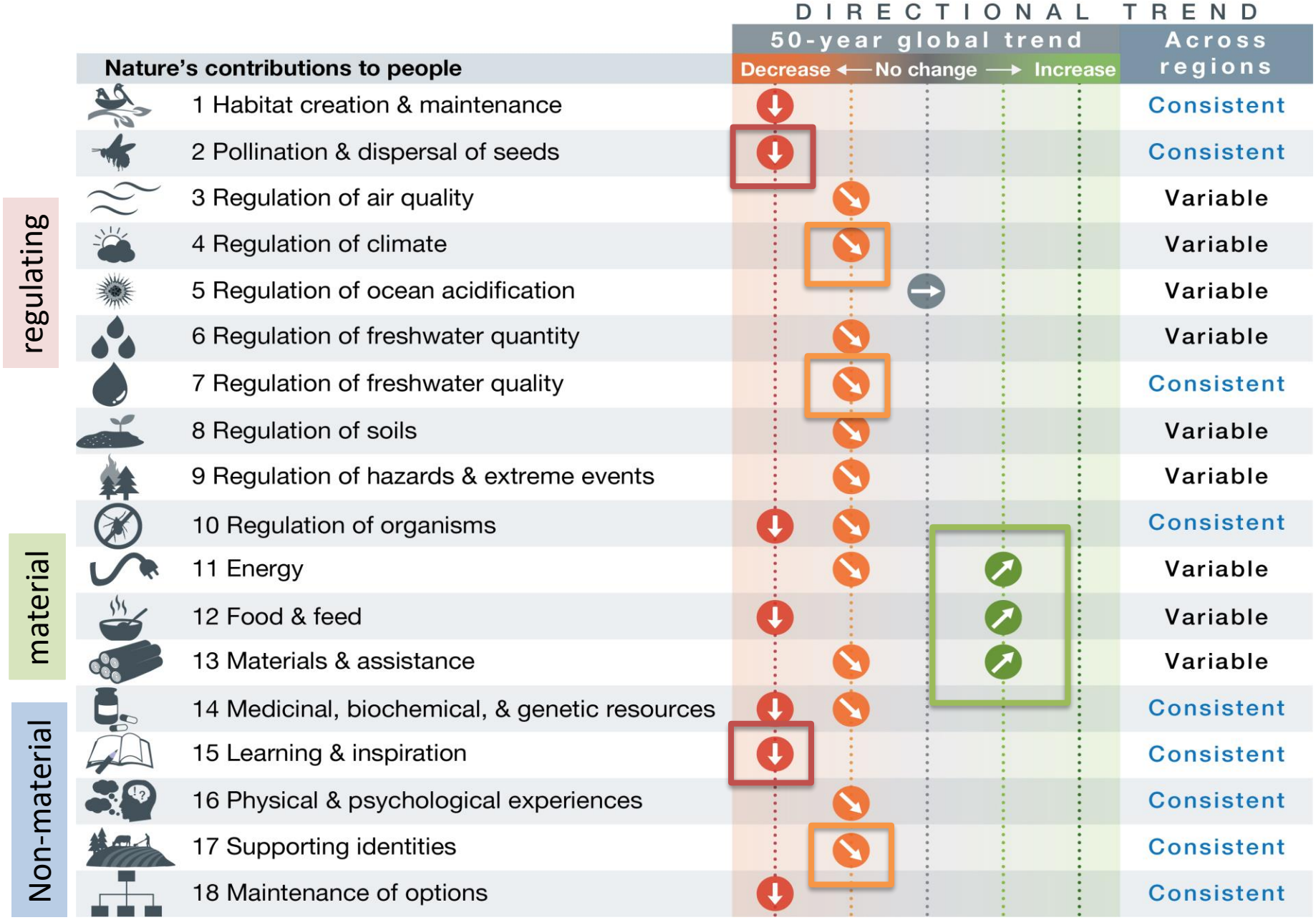
90%

of land is projected to be significantly altered, by 2050

1 million

of plants and animal species out of an estimated total of 8.1 million species are at risk of extinction

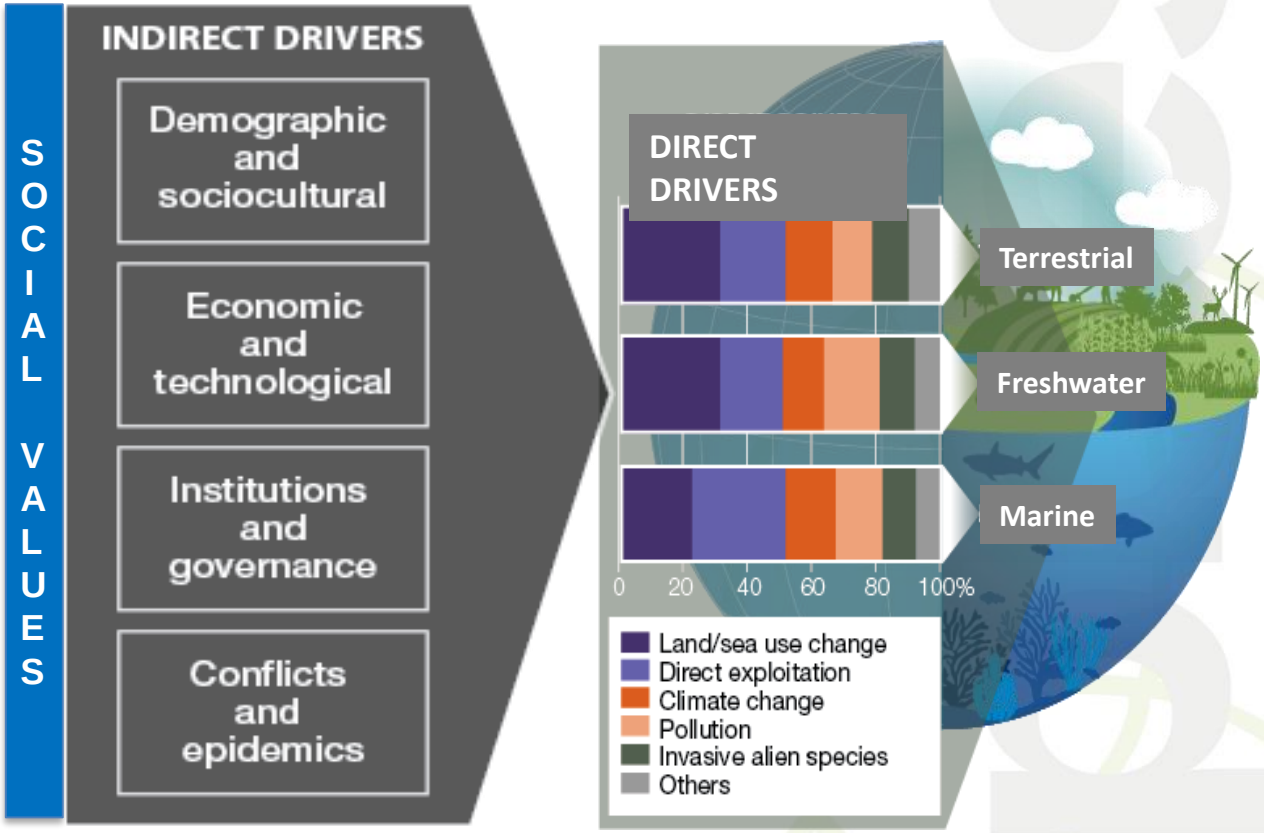
Nature's contributions to people are deteriorating worldwide



Direct and indirect causes of biodiversity loss

Direct drivers of change have accelerated during the past 50 years to levels unprecedented in human history.

Underpinning the proximate causes of deterioration in nature are the root causes, or indirect drivers of change



Climate change and biodiversity loss are two interconnected issues

- Climate change is projected to become as important or more important than the other direct drivers in the coming decades
- Meeting the Paris climate agreement targets is crucial to limit the loss of biodiversity. The current pledges are totally inadequate, as global temperatures could exceed the 1.5º C target by the early 2030s, the 2ºC target by 2050-2070, and without additional actions we are on a pathway to 3-4ºC
- Biodiversity (e.g. forests) can offer cost-effective mitigation and adaptation opportunities (Nature-based solutions)

Most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will be missed in 2020

Goal	Target (abbreviated)	Progress towards elements of each target			
		Poor	Moderate	Good	Unknown
Drivers	1 Awareness		~ ~		
	2 Planning & accounting	✗	~ ~		
	3 Incentives	✗ ✗			
	4 Production & consumption	✗ ✗			
Pressures	5 Habitat loss	✗ ✗			
	6 Fisheries	✗ ✗			?
	7 Agriculture & forestry	✗ ✗	~		
	8 Pollution	✗ ✗			
	9 Invasive alien species	✗ ✗		✓	?
	10 Coral reefs etc	✗ ✗			
Status	11 Protected & conserved areas		~ ~ ~ ~	✓ ✓	
	12 Extinctions prevented	✗ ✗			
	13 Genetic diversity		~ ~ ~ ~		?
Benefits	14 Ecosystem services	✗			?
	15 Ecosystem restoration				? ?
	16 Access & benefit sharing		~	✓	
Implementation	17 Strategies & action plans		~ ~	✓	
	18 Indigenous & local knowledge		~		? ?
	19 Biodiversity science		~		?
	20 Financial resources		~		

There has been good progress towards the components of 4 of the 20 Aichi Targets

80% of the SDGs will be missed under business as usual scenarios

Progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals is dependent on conserving biodiversity (and limiting climate change)

Selected Sustainable Development Goals	Recent status and trends in aspects of nature and nature's contributions to people that support progress towards target *			Uncertain relationship
	Poor/Declining support	Partial support	Unknown	
1 NO POVERTY — No poverty	↓ ↓			U U
2 ZERO HUNGER — Zero hunger	↓	→ → →		
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEIN — Good health and well-being			? ?	U U
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATIO — Clean water and sanitation	↓ ↓ ↓	→		
11 SUSTAINABLE C AND COMMUNIT — Sustainable cities and communities	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	→		
13 CLIMATE ACTION — Climate action	↓	→	? ? ?	
14 LIFE BELOW WATER — Life below water	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	→ → →		
15 LIFE ON LAND — Life on land	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	→ → → → →		

* There were no targets that were scored as good/positive status and trends

Solutions exist; it is not too late to act!

- Business-as-usual is not an option
- It is possible to simultaneously achieve all societal goals including those related to food, water, energy and health if sustainable pathways are followed
- Knowledge and tools are available; they simply need better deployment and implementation
- Some key requirements:
  - to integrate biodiversity in all economic sectors (agriculture, fisheries, energy, health, finances, etc.)
  - to enhance nature based solutions (climate change)
  - to ensure inclusive governance structures (including governments, private sector, civil society and IPLCs)

A key condition for success is to improve the sustainability of economic and financial systems

- Develop and promote incentive structures to protect biodiversity (e.g. removing harmful subsidies)
- Promote sustainable production and consumption
- Explore alternative methods of economic accounting (e.g. natural capital accounting)
- Improve market based instruments (e.g. voluntary certification, biodiversity offessting)
- Reduce overconsumption and wastes
- Create and improve supply-chain models that reduce the impact on nature

Thank you

ipbes

Science and Policy for People and Nature

IPBES Secretariat, UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, D-53113 Bonn, Germany
secretariat@ipbes.net

@IPBES
www.ipbes.net