UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

IPBES
A STORY OF DESPAIR, HOPE, AND BRAVERY

Louise (Wieteke) Willemen

NRS research Meeting
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ITC FACULTY OF GEO-INFORMATION SCIENCE AND EARTH OBSERVATION

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

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Louise Willemen

Louis-ita Willemen

lOuis-eke Willemen

Wieteke Willemen

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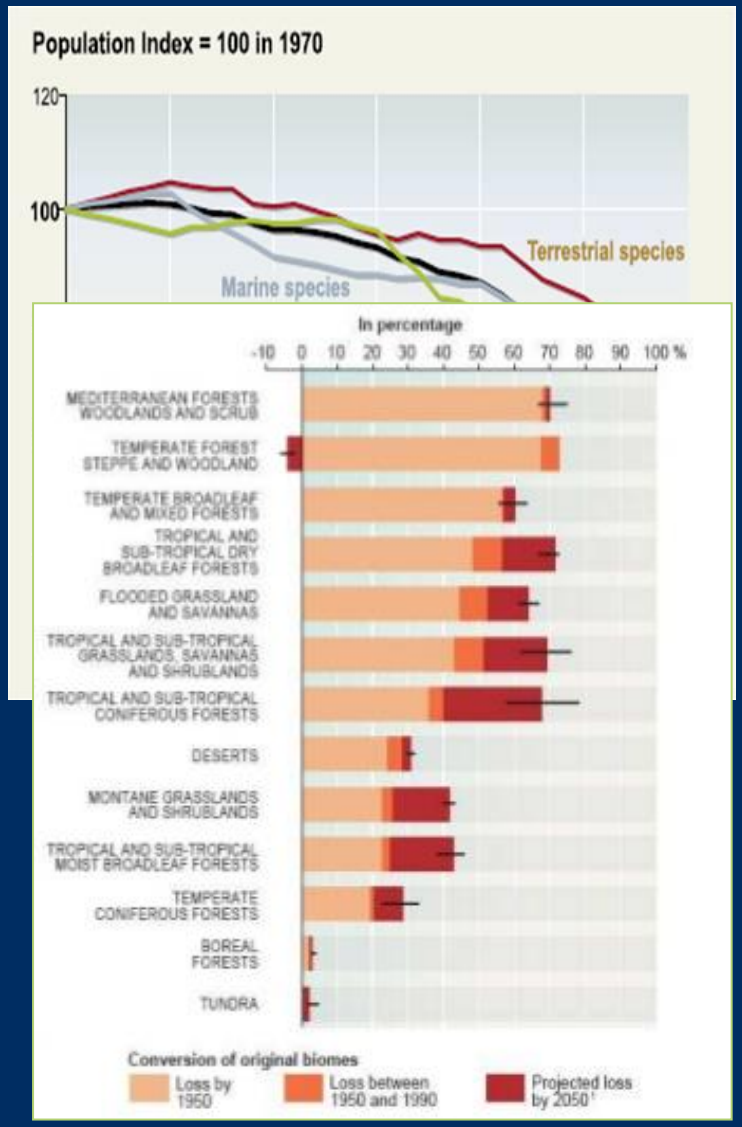
Why?



Biodiversity and ecosystem services declining at unprecedented rate:

- Rio Conventions
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- UNEP Global Environment Outlook
- CBD Global Biodiversity Outlook
- IPCC Assessment Reports

International community: calling for credible permanent intergovernmental science policy platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

ipbes
Science and Policy for People and Nature

Why?

Governments agreed in 2010 a need to establish an independent intergovernmental body:

- Responsive to **needs of governments**
- Identifying **scientific information** needs of policymakers
- Delivering global, regional & thematic **assessments**
- **Promoting** & supporting sub-global (regional) **assessments**
- Promoting use of policy-relevant **tools & methodologies**
- Identifying & addressing **capacity building** needs

And then came…IPBES

IPBES-3 (Jan 2015, Bonn)

IPBES-2 (Dec 2013, Antalya)

- **I**ntergovernmental **P**latform on **B**iodiversity and **E**cosystem **S**ervices
- Established in April 2012, Panama
- Under the auspices of 4 UN entities: UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP
- Currently 124 Member States, committed
- Funding: Members, UN, GEF
- Around 1000 scientists from all over the world contribute on a voluntary basis

What will IPBES do?

Goal of IPBES

"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"

Panama, April 2012

The science-policy niche of IPBES

International, national research projects & programmes

(FutureEarth)

Research

Assessments

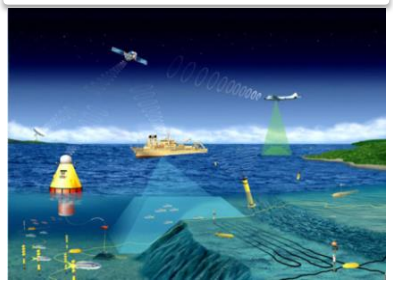
IPCC

IPBES

Observing Systems:

GEOSS

GEO BON



Observation

Policy

UNFCCC
The Climate Change Convention

CBD
The Convention on Biological Diversity

By…

Governments agreed IPBES will :

- Collaborate with existing initiatives
- Be scientifically independent
- Use clear, transparent, scientifically credible processes
- Take an interdisciplinary & multidisciplinary approach
- Ensure full, effective and balanced participation
- Integrate capacity building into all aspects of its work

The 4 functions of IPBES

IPBES was established with four agreed functions:

1. Knowledge generation	Identify **knowledge needs** of policymakers, and **catalyse efforts** to generate new knowledge
2. Assessment	Deliver **global, regional and thematic assessments**, and promote and catalyse support for sub-global assessment
3. Policy support tools	Identify **policy relevant tools/methodologies,** facilitate their use, and promote and catalyse their further development
4. Capacity building	Prioritize key **capacity building needs**, and provide and call for financial and other support for priority needs

How is IPBES organised?

Plenary: Decision-making body

Responsible for the overall work programme, working through Bureau and MEP
124 Members and observers

Bureau

Responsible for overseeing the **administrative** functions of IPBES
2 from each UN region

Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP)

Responsible for carrying out the **scientific** and **technical** functions of the work programme (5 from each UN Region)

Expert groups for assessments, policy support tools and other studies

Task forces on capacity-building, knowledge and data, and indigenous and local knowledge

Secretariat (including Technical Support Units)

4 Objectives and 18 Deliverables

Objective 1 Strengthen the capacity and knowledge foundations of the science-policy interface to implement key functions of the Platform:

a) **Priority capacity-building-needs** to implement the Platform work programme are **matched with resources** through catalysing financial and in-kind support
b) **Capacities needed to implement the Platform work programme are developed** with support provided by network on capacity-building
c) Procedures and approaches for **working with indigenous and local knowledge systems**
d) **Priority knowledge and data needs for policy-making are addressed through catalysing efforts to generate new knowledge and networking**

Objective 2 Strengthen the science-policy interface on BD and ES at and across spatial levels:

a) **Guide on production and integration of assessments** from and across all scales
b) **Regional/Subregional assessments** on biodiversity and ecosystem services
c) **Global assessment** on biodiversity and ecosystem services

Objective 3 Strengthen the science-policy interface with regard to thematic and methodological issues:

a) Thematic **assessment on pollination** and food production
b) Thematic **assessments on land degradation** and restoration; **on invasive alien species; and on sustainable use.**
c) **Policy support tools and methodologies for scenarios analysis and modelling** of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on an assessment and a guide
d) **Policy support tools and methodologies regarding value, valuation and accounting** of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on an assessment and a guide

Objective 4 Communicate and evaluate Platform activities, deliverables and findings:

a) **Catalogue of relevant assessments**
b) **Development of an information and data management plan**
c) **Catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies**
d) **Set of communication, outreach and engagement strategies, products and processes**
e) **Reviews of the effectiveness** of guidance, procedures, methods and approaches to inform future development of the Platform

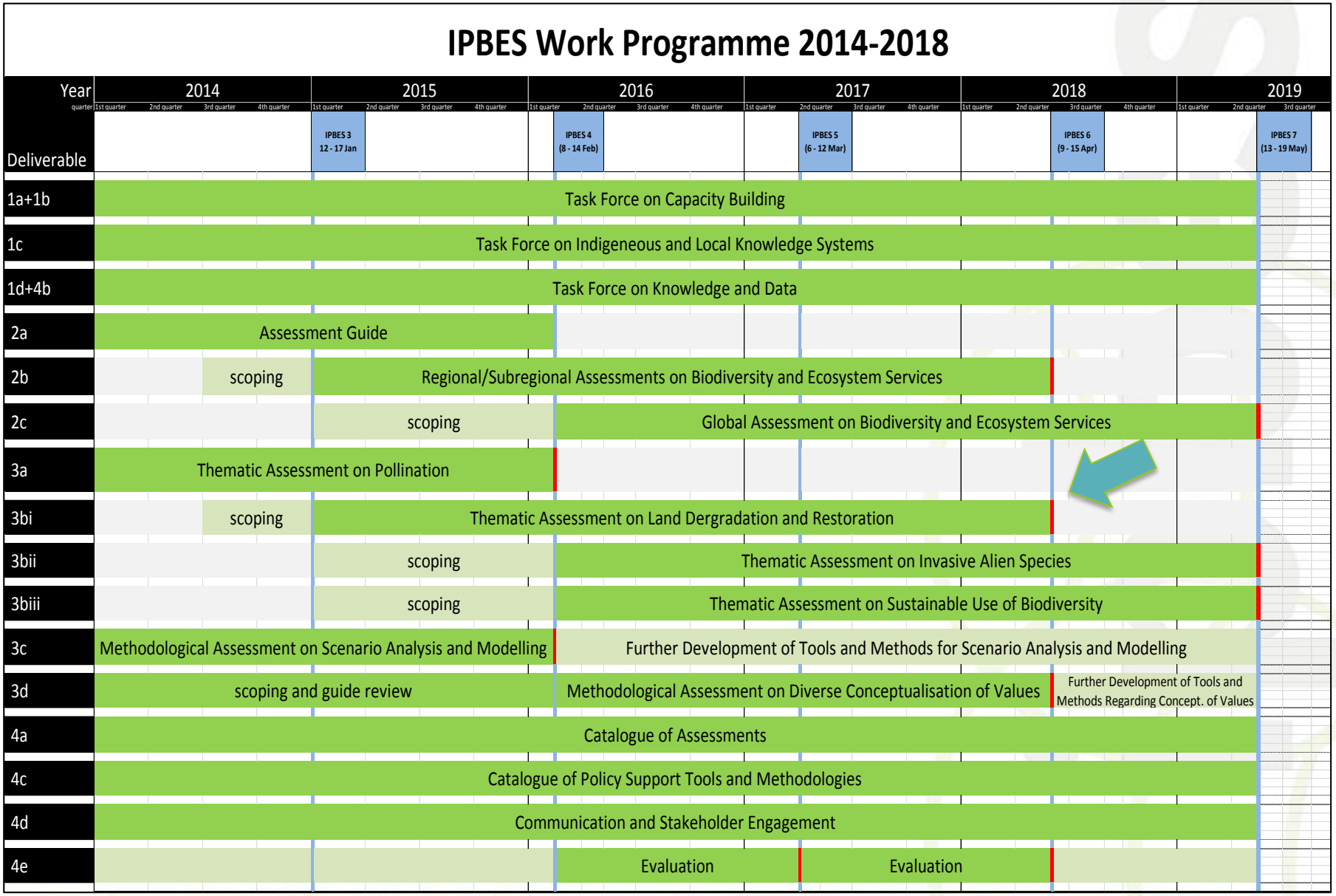
Land Degradation & Restoration

- To perform an assessment of land degradation and restoration, to be delivered at IPBES 6 (early 2018) (Decision IPBES-3/1, January 2015)

- One plenary approved document:

  Scoping for a thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration (Annex VIII; IPBES/3/18)

Time schedule 2014-2018 (2019)



Quiz question!

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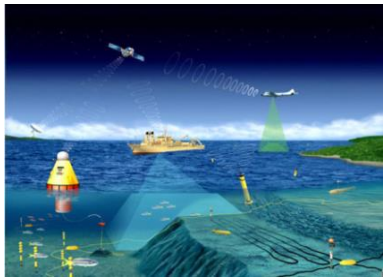


IPBES conceptual framework

PLOS | BIOLOGY

COMMUNITY PAGE

A Rosetta Stone for Nature's Benefits to People

Sandra Díaz[1]*, Sebsebe Demissew[2], Carlos Joly[3], W. Mark Lonsdale[4], Anne Larigauderie[5]

1 Instituto Multidisciplinario de Biología Vegetal (IMBIV- CONICET) and FCEFyN, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina, 2 National Herbarium, Department of Plant Biology and Biodiversity Management, College of Natural Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3 Departamento de Biologia Vegetal, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil, 4 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Canberra, Australia, 5 Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Secretariat, UN Campus, Bonn, Germany

* sdiaz@efn.uncor.edu

Díaz et al. 2015 *Plos Biology* 13(1)

Díaz et al. 2015 *COSUST* 14

ELSEVIER

Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability

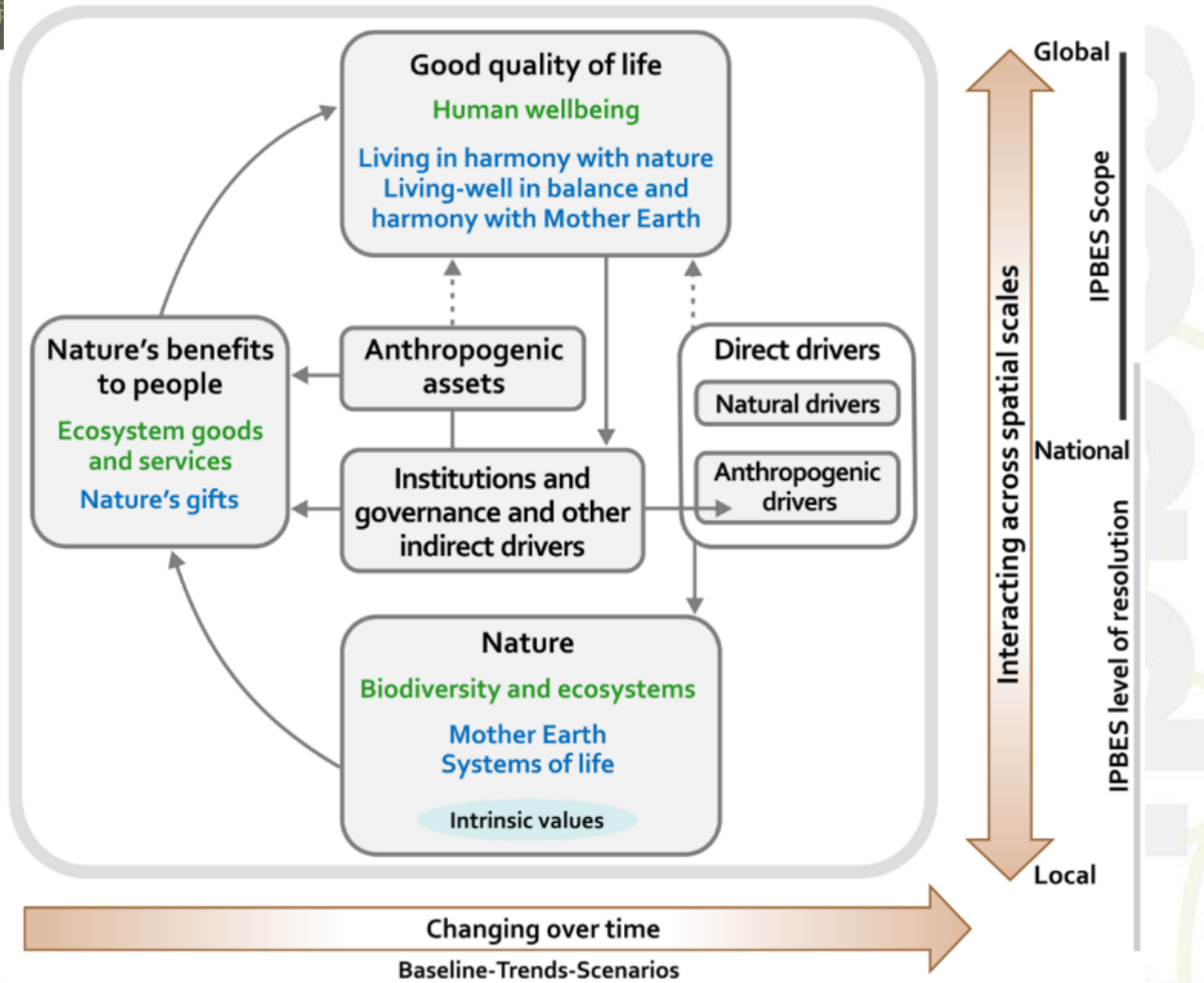
Volume 14, June 2015, Pages 1–16

Open Issue

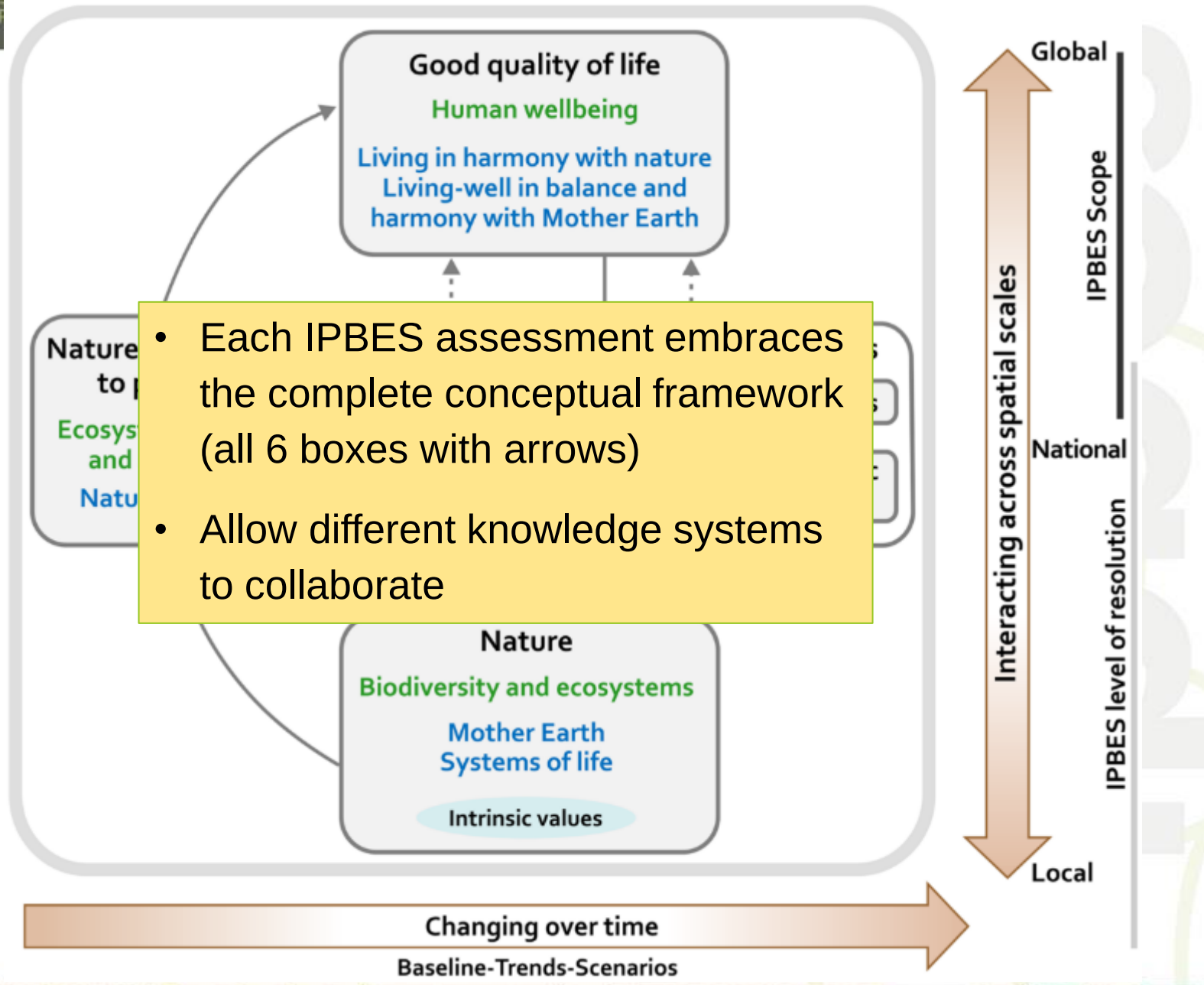
The IPBES Conceptual Framework — connecting nature and people

Sandra Díaz[1], Sebsebe Demissew[2], Julia Carabias[3], Carlos Joly[4], Mark Lonsdale[5, 87], Neville Ash[6], Anne Larigauderie[7], Jay Ram Adhikari[8], Salvatore Arico[9], András Báldi[10], Ann Bartuska[11], Ivar Andreas Baste[12], Adem Bilgin[13], Eduardo Brondizio[14], Kai MA Chan[15], Viviana Elsa Figueroa[16], Anantha Duraiappah[17], Markus Fischer[18, 19], Rosemary Hill[20], Thomas Koetz[7], Paul Leadley[21], Philip Lyver[22], Georgina M Mace[23], Berta Martin-Lopez[24], Michiko Okumura[25], Diego Pacheco[26], Unai Pascual[27, 28, 29], Edgar Selvin Pérez[30], Belinda Reyers[31],

IPBES Conceptual Framework



IPBES Conceptual Framework



- Each IPBES assessment embraces the complete conceptual framework (all 6 boxes with arrows)
- Allow different knowledge systems to collaborate

An assessment is not a literature review

	A literature review	An assessment
Primary Audience	Scientists	Decision-makers
Authors	One or a few	Large, varied and transdisciplinary group nominated by governments and stakeholders
Identifies gaps in	Research: curiosity-driven	Knowledge for implementation: problem driven
(Un)certainty statements	Not required	Essential
Judgement of relevance to a policy question	Optional	Required but clearly flagged
Review	Peer review, typically anonymous and often a small number of scientific reviewers	Peer review as well as government and other stakeholders review. Typically reviewers are not anonymous.
Summary for a broader audience	Not essential	Essential to reduce complexity
Outputs	Scientific paper	Report, Summary for Policy Makers, etc.

Who are doing the assessments?

Co-Chairs: Responsibility for overseeing the preparation of an assessment report or synthesis report (2)

Coordinating Lead Authors: Overall responsibility for coordinating chapters of an assessment report.(2 X 8)

Lead Authors: Responsibility for the production of designated sections or parts of chapters on the basis of the best scientific, technical and socioeconomic information available.(8 X 8)

Contributing Authors: To prepare technical information in the form of text, graphs or data for inclusion by the lead authors in the relevant section or part of a chapter.(?)

Review Editors: To assist the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel in identifying reviewers for the expert review process, ensure that all substantive expert and government review comments are afforded appropriate consideration

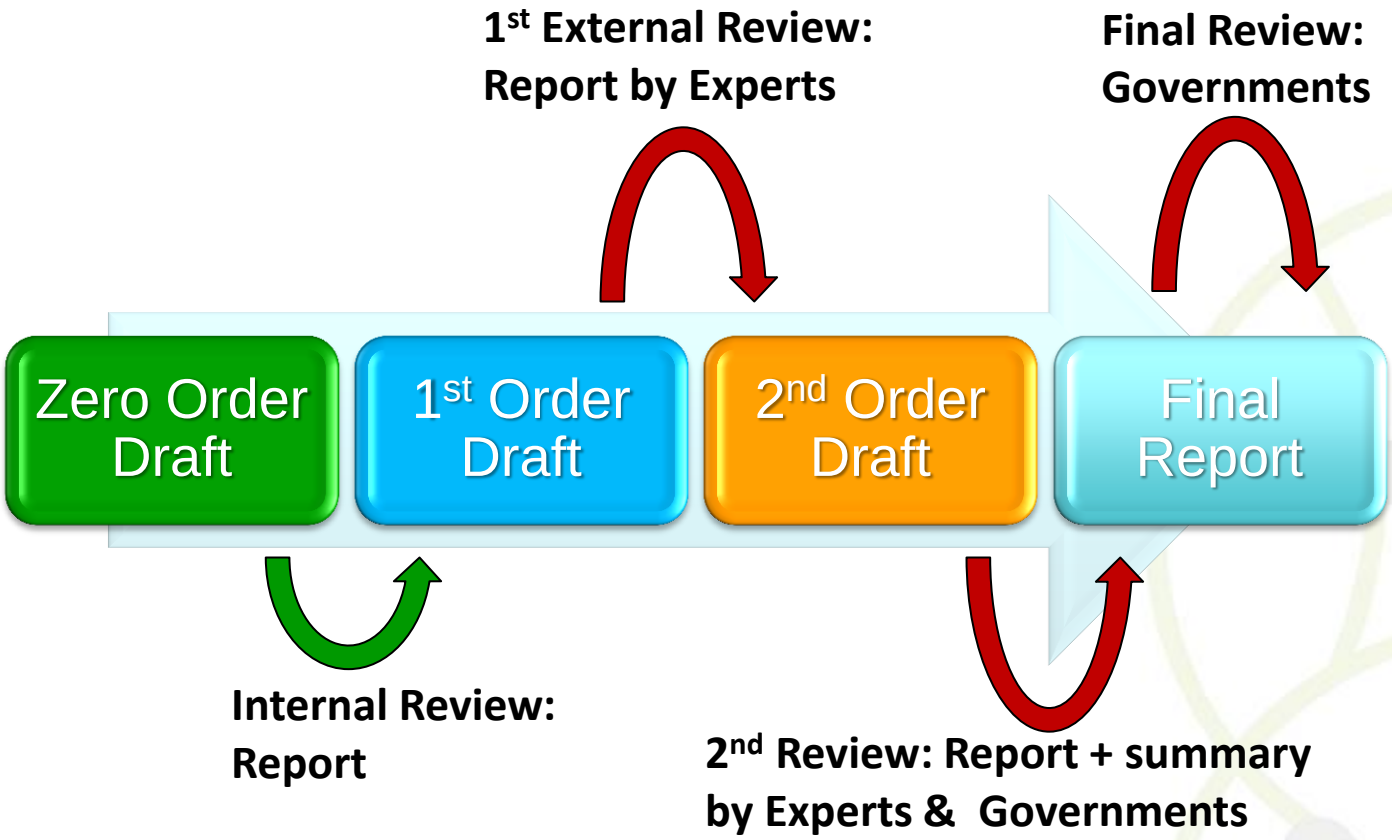
Fellows: take part as contributing authors to the chapter of the assessment they are selected for. Fellows will attend two author meetings and receive training to gain an in-depth understanding of the IPBES assessment processes.

Example D3bi

Chapter: Decision support to address land degradation and support restoration of degraded land (LDR)

1. What do decision makers need to know to develop LDR strategies
   - How to identify LD problems , How to select restoration & LD avoidance solutions (option & limitation); What information is needed when and by whom?
2. What instruments are needed to implement LDR strategies
   - What can countries do to support to the LDR process e.g. steering, creating enabling conditions**?**
3. What are the interactions between LDR strategies and other policy areas
   - What are useful indicators to measure interaction, what are other key policies that interact with LDR strategies and decisions; what are the interactions, and how to minimize trade-offs?

Assessments steps



The role of governments

Beginning

- Governments propose themes/topics to be assessed
- Plenary approves a programme of work and a budget (USD 870K)
- Governments propose experts (CVs)

Second order draft

- Governments provide comments on report (2nd order draft) and on its Summary for Policy Makers (SPM)

End

- Plenary invited to accept report and to approve the Summary for Policy Makers

And what's in it for NL

IPBES actors:

- PBL, WUR, VU, UvA, Naturalis, UT
- Min EZ (Economic Affairs)

- First meeting on IPBES & NL: collaborations, expectations, and strategies

And what's in it for ITC/NRS

Valorization, outlet for our research

Current calls:

- **Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** August 15-19, 2016 in Bonn, Germany **(Experts and Fellows);**
- **Sustainable Use of Biodiversity** will be held August 2-4, 2016, Bonn, Germany **(Scoping Experts).**
- "Nominated experts should have expertise in one or more disciplines within natural science, social science or humanities, represent or have expertise in indigenous and local knowledge systems, or be policy experts and practitioners."
- CA in LDR decision making chapter

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IPBES story

- **Despair**: ES and BD are declining!
- **Hope**: Joint action by governments and scientists
- **Bravery**: Scope is multi- disciplinairy,

  -worldviews, -spatial levels, - objectives, long breath, goodwill.

Defeat, happily ever after?
To be continued.