



Review of IPBES:

Key findings and recommendations
Plenary Presentation – April 29 2019

IPBES-7, 2019

CONTEXT

The World Economic Forum Global Risks Report for 2019 features, *inter alia*, **biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse**. Attention of business and political leaders is now focusing on these issues, and the links and feedbacks between them.

This means there is a vital need for clear, unambiguous advice on the status of, and drivers that change the status of biodiversity and ecosystem services *and importantly options and solutions to address these challenges in an integrated way to achieve sustainable development.*

IPBES External Review Panel



Terms of Reference for the Review (IPBES-5/2)



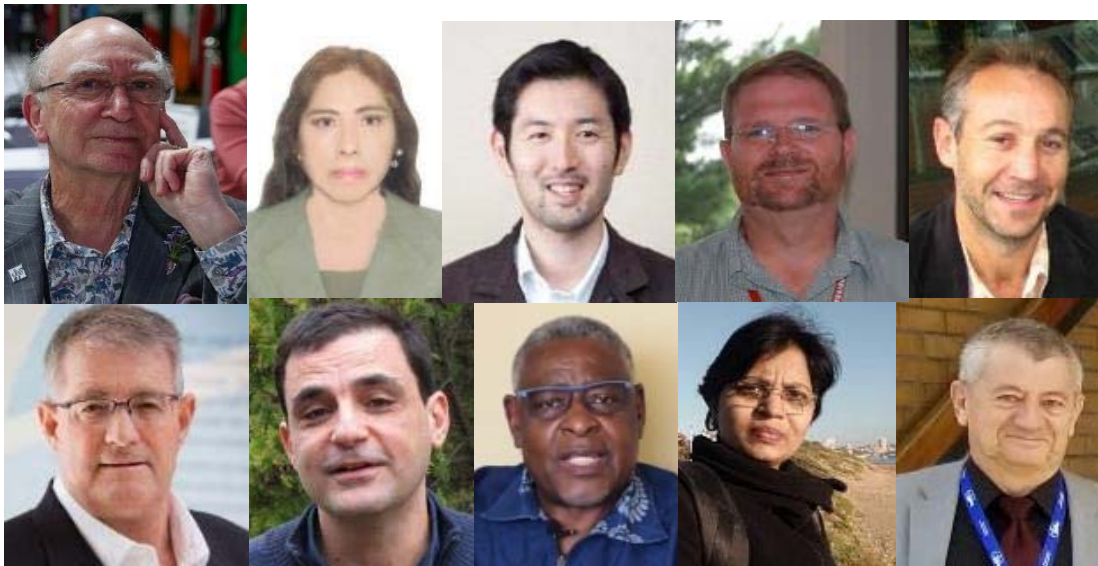
Evaluate the effectiveness of IPBES as a science-policy interface at the close of its first 5-year Work Programme :

- Implementation of the functions of IPBES
- Policies, Operating principles and procedures
- Governance structure and arrangements
- Communication, stakeholder engagement and partnerships
- Funding arrangements

Output: Report on the performance of IPBES and proposals to improve its effectiveness

Review panel – most of us are here and happy to discuss any issues with members.

Panel
members



Peter Bridgewater (co-chair)
Maria Rosales Benites (co-chair)
Ryo Kohsaka
Doug Beard
Nicholas King
Albert van Jaarsveld
Selim Louafi
Joseph Mulongoy
Kalpana Chaudhari
Karen Jenderedijan

Coordinating
body

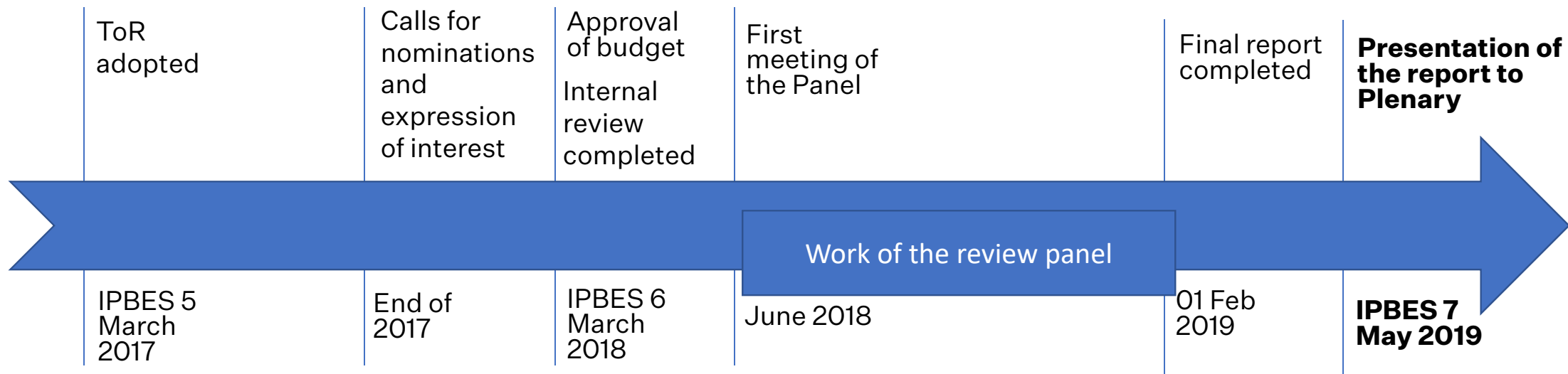


**International
Science Council**



The institutional context for the review

- Commissioned by the Plenary of IPBES
- Comprising an internal and external element
- Reviewing achievements to inform the next work programme



The review framing



To what extent IPBES has been...

conceptualized,

positioned,

structured,

and implemented,

...to achieve long-term impacts on biodiversity, human well being and sustainable development.

Data gathering



Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, Cambodia
People and (the rest of) nature

Several data gathering processes were undertaken:

1. Online survey open to all IPBES stakeholders
2. Bibliometric study by independent consultant
3. Media impact study by independent consultant
4. Focus groups: MEP, Bureau, Secretariat and TSUs, SPI experts
5. Interviews

IPBES achievements

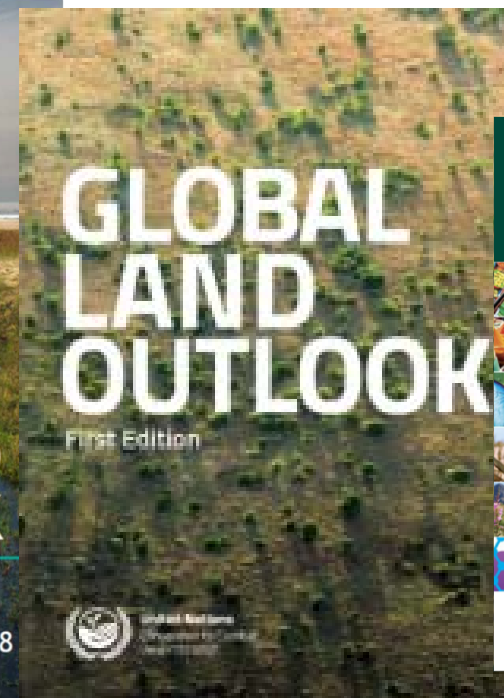
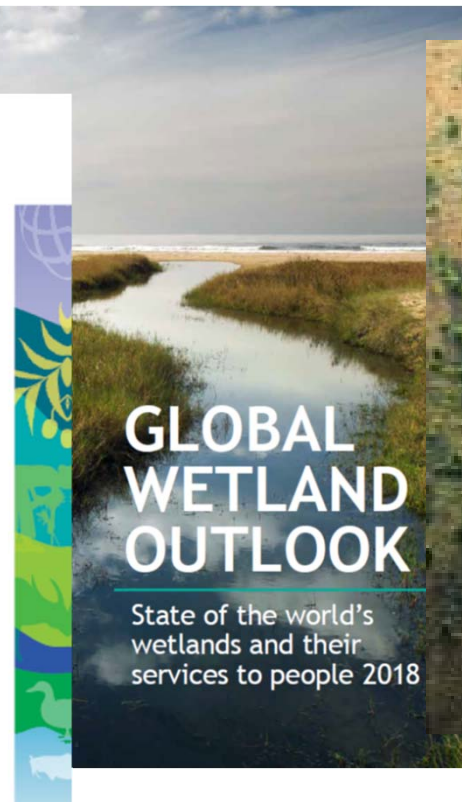
- IPBES has established its scientific credibility and made significant contributions to advancing knowledge on BES;
- IPBES' major strengths: large membership, intergovernmental status, inclusive of multiple sources of knowledge and of stakeholders, experimenting with using different worldviews;
- IPBES has established fully operational governance structures and rules of procedures to deliver on its work programme;
- It has delivered successfully on an over-committed work programme despite budgetary constraints.

BUT

It's a crowded field....

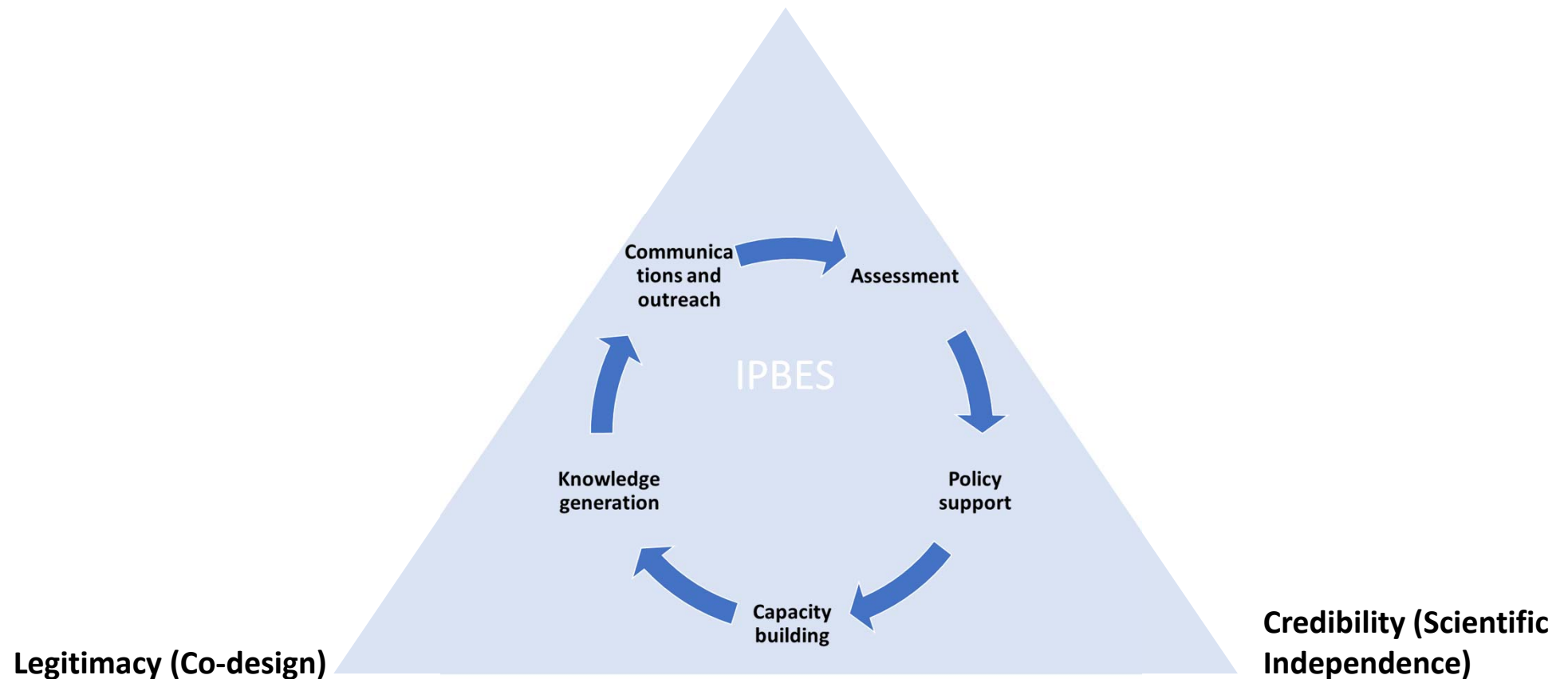


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Managing the interface to achieve impact through knowledge

Options for developing Policy



Key message 1

IPBES needs to define a **vision and **mission** clarifying its role as a science-policy interface, and an **adaptive strategy** where the four functions* are seen and managed as an integrated set.**

The transformative impact of IPBES relies on all four functions of IPBES being significantly strengthened.

**assessments; knowledge generation; policy tools; capacity building*

Key message 2

IPBES needs to strengthen the policy aspects of its work if it is to fulfill its mandate as a science/knowledge-policy interface.

- IPBES needs to widen the policy and practitioner expertise included, in all phases of an assessment (including co-production of scoping and knowledge brokering amongst all actors)
- IPBES need to include in assessments a range of policy options more prominently. This is not about being prescriptive but about producing useable knowledge and tools through options (choices) for decision-makers and decision takers.

Key message 3

IPBES needs to maintain the scientific independence while allowing for the co-design and co-production of assessments.

- The scientific independence of the assessment process is critical for the legitimacy and credibility of IPBES;
- A stronger engagement with all actors, especially in the early phase of pre-scoping, would strengthen the relevance of the products;
- In practice, the MEP and Bureau have overlapping roles, something to reflect on.

Key message 4

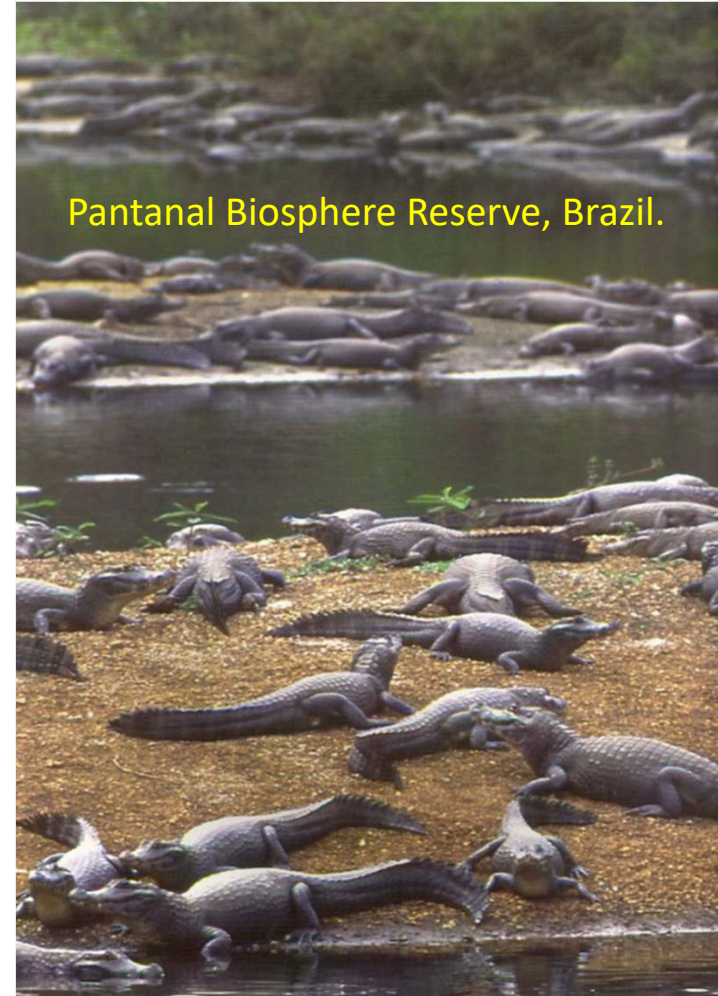
IPBES needs to develop a more strategic and collaborative approach to stakeholders.

- A differentiated approach to stakeholders (beyond the single observer category) to allow for different levels of engagement would better deliver the early promise of wider stakeholder engagement of all IPBES' work.

Key message 5

IPBES *must* secure its financial sustainability in the long term, if it is to have long-term effectiveness.....

Or.... Beware the crocodilians!



Finally - the decision

In addition to the guidance in the Chair's informal note on the review of IPBES the Panel *suggests* the Plenary reflect on the possibility of substituting the following instead of operative 4 in the Chairs note:

Establishes a geographically and gender balanced time-bound (2-year?) small taskforce of the Plenary, reporting to the Chair, to examine in full detail the report by the review panel, the responses provided by the MEP and Bureau, and the Executive Secretary, and to make recommendations on the most effective way the review recommendations could help shape implementation of the next work programme, informing the Plenary at its eighth session on the progress made, with a final report at the ninth session.