



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/051

Geneva, 31 August 2015

CONCERNING:

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM  
ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)

E-conference for scoping the IPBES thematic assessments on  
invasive alien species and sustainable use

1. This Notification is issued at the request of the chair of the Standing Committee working group on IPBES, to draw Parties' attention to the above e-conference.
2. On 14 August 2015, the Chair of IPBES sent a letter to IPBES member States and observers inviting interested experts, practitioners, decision makers and knowledge holders to register for participation in an e-conference organized by IPBES to review and further develop the initial scoping for the thematic assessment on invasive alien species and their control, and the thematic assessment on sustainable use and the conservation of biodiversity, and strengthening of capacities and tools. A copy of the invitation, with a hyperlink to the relevant registration form, is attached to this Notification.
3. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an observer to IPBES. The IPBES thematic assessment on sustainable use and the conservation of biodiversity and strengthening of capacities and tools responds to a request submitted to IPBES by CITES.
4. As indicated in the annexed letter from the IPBES Chair, the e-conference will take place in three sessions during the period from 7 to 25 September 2015.
5. The results of the e-conference will be considered at the 6th meeting of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (Bonn, 9-11 October 2015) and the 4th meeting of the IPBES Plenary (Kuala Lumpur, 20-28 February 2016). Representatives of CITES bodies are expected to participate as observers in both of these meetings. More information about IPBES can be found at [www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net).
6. Interested representatives from national CITES authorities are encouraged to register and participate in the e-conference in order to ensure that the CITES perspective is fully considered by IPBES.

## Annex

14 August 2015

Dear IPBES Member States and Observers,

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) invites governments and prospective experts with relevant knowledge and/or experience to review and further develop the initial scoping for (a) the thematic of assessment invasive alien species and their control (Deliverable 3bii) and (b) the thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and strengthening capacities and tools (Deliverable 3biii).

In accordance with Decision IPBES-3/1, part IV, which approved the initiation of scoping, primarily using virtual approaches, for a thematic of assessment of invasive alien species and their control and a thematic assessment of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session, the Platform is facilitating an e-conference for the scoping of the two thematic assessments.

The objective of this online conference is to run an inclusive process allowing for a broad input into the development of the scoping documents engaging as many experts as possible. This step represents an innovation compared to the scoping processes performed in 2014, which consisted of a face-to-face scoping workshop with a limited number of experts. The e-conference will be conducted over three weeks. It will essentially be implemented as an internet forum/discussion board that will allow experts to post their contributions in structured discussion boards, reply to already posted contributions, or simply read the contributions, discussing various elements relevant to the scoping reports. At the end of each week a synthesis report will be prepared based on comments and discussions held during the week. The next week's discussions will build on the discussions of the previous week and by the end of the third week the intention is to have a draft that would already resemble as much as possible the structure of the final scoping reports. These draft scoping reports will be the base for the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel and Bureau to finalize the documents for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session 22-28 February 2016. The e-conference will address, among other things, the following aspects: relevant policy questions, scope, rationale and utility of the assessments; an issue analysis of what substantive items would need to be covered; indicators, metrics and data sets; relevant aspects of indigenous and local knowledge systems; relevant stakeholders and initiatives and strategic partnerships; and capacity building needs.

The e-conference, organized by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), will take place in 3 sessions during 7th - 25th of September 2015. Co-Chairs from the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel will facilitate discussions in each session and experts will be invited to discuss and comment.

Experts, practitioners, decision makers and knowledge holders interested to participate in the e-conference are requested to fill the online registration form available [here](#). Once the registered account has been approved the Secretariat will send a confirmation e-mail and further information on the e-conference and scoping process.

I look forward to your valuable assistance in disseminating this important call to the relevant networks, and to your continued support for the implementation of our ambitious work program in 2015.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Zakri Abdul Hamid  
Chair, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services