Workshop on a Network of Knowledge on Biodiversity
"A contribution from Europe"
Brussels May 6, 2009, Ecuries Royales, Palace of the Academies, Rue Ducal 1

Agenda

Main objectives

1. to examine, test and improve ways to identify, formulate and exchange policy-relevant scientific knowledge on biodiversity,
2. to contribute to comparable initiatives and thinking across the world,
3. to encourage knowledge providers to think about how they might work together to demonstrate the feasibility of the concept

Process

This workshop will use an interactive and participatory method adapted from America*Speaks*/Global Voices' "21st Century Town Meetings®".

The organizers want the workshop to focus, as far as possible, on concrete examples, and not to lose itself in theory. To achieve this, the organisers will suggest several possible test cases of the kinds of questions about biodiversity and ecosystems services that have come up in the past or might arise in the future. These include 1) policy-driven questions, 2) early warnings from science, 3) systematic assessments. Participants will use these questions to explore how science is - or might be - gathered and presented to policy and practitioners, and to suggest ideas for an effective European mechanism that builds on existing networks to deliver knowledge to a science policy interface.

Outcome

- Immediately after the meeting participants will receive a summary of the workshop results in bullet points
- The concept note will be revised in accordance with the insights gained at the workshop and made available to all participants and more broadly
- A summary of the salient points will be made available to the Council Working Party on International Environmental Issues (biodiversity conformation).
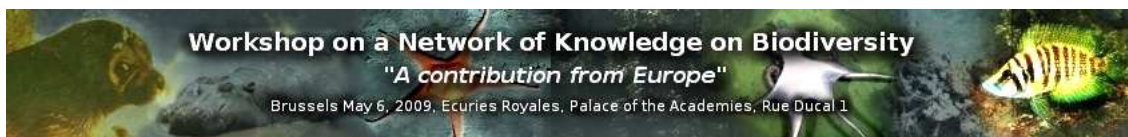
Schedule

09:30 - 10:30   Introduction to the workshop
- Introduction (Manuela Soares) 5'
- Welcome, objectives of the workshop (Jurgen Tack) 10'
- IPBES process and gap analysis consultation (Anne Larigauderie, DIVERSITAS, Makiko Yashiro, UNEP) 10'
- The EU deliberations on IPBES process (Hugo Schally) 10'
- EU Mechanism, links with TEEB (Anne Teller) 10'
- Presentation of the participatory process to be used for the workshop (Martin Sharman) 10'

10:30 – 11:00   Step 1: Identifying policy-relevant model questions
- Objective: identify challenging model questions as test cases for the workshop
- The organizers propose six model questions from three categories: policy driven questions , bottom-up/early warnings, systematic assessments
- Groups discuss and propose additional model questions if they so wish
- All participants vote to select the top three model questions from each category

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- The selected nine model questions will be randomly assigned to tables and used for the next steps

11:00 - 11:30   Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:30   Step 2: Assessing how science reaches European science policy interfaces
- Objective: using one of the model questions, identify the characteristics of the current system that impede the flow of information to policy makers
- Groups analyze the current mechanism within the context of their question
- The "theme team" compiles, orders, and synthesizes identified barriers from all tables
- All participants vote to decide which of the characteristics should be examined in detail in the next step.

12:30 - 13:30   Lunch break

13:30 - 14:45   Step 3: Identify the key principles, characteristics and functions of a more effective knowledge-delivery system
- Objective: use the model question to identify the characteristics and the functions that that would allow knowledge to flow more effectively
- Groups discuss and propose key principles, characteristics and functions of a purpose-built mechanism
- All participants vote to select the functions that would constitute the "core business" of the Network of Knowledge.

14:45 - 16:00   Step 4: Identify the operational structure/governance model
- Objective: Select a model governance structure that will provide an effective, efficient and low cost means of providing the functions identified earlier.
- The workshop will poll the participants to identify which of the various models that are proposed would be most effective and efficient way of providing the required functions, at a reasonable cost.

16:00 - 16:30   Coffee break

16:30 - 17:15   Step 5: Identify how organizations would contribute
- Objective: identify how participant's organizations and networks would contribute to, and operate in, a Network of Knowledge
- Participants reflect on how their organization might contribute to a mechanism designed to provide knowledge to the science-policy interface.

17:15 – 17:30   Wrap-up; results

Networks and organizations are invited to bring a poster for display. Any Pdf versions of posters will be made available on the workshop website.