



# Workshop on a Network of Knowledge on Biodiversity: a contribution from Europe

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## WORKSHOP REPORT



# Table of contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Executive Summary .....   | 3  |
| 1 Introduction .....  | 4  |
| 1.1 Background and Context .....  | 4  |
| 1.2 Workshop objectives and outcomes.....   | 4  |
| 2 Presentation of the workshop process: the Townhall Meeting method .....   | 5  |
| 3 Discussion results .....  | 6  |
| 3.1 Barriers in the current science-policy interface, and functions and governance principles of a more effective mechanism ..... | 6  |
| 3.1.1 Summary of barriers, key functions, and principles.....   | 6  |
| 3.1.2 Analysis of generated ideas.....  | 10 |
| 3.2 Suggestions for a governance model .....  | 12 |
| 4 Key lessons and next steps.....   | 13 |
| 4.1 Lessons with respect to the design of a Network of Knowledge .....  | 13 |
| 4.2 Revising the concept note .....   | 13 |
| 4.3 Lessons with respect to the workshop process .....  | 15 |
| 5 Annexes .....   | 16 |
| 5.1 Detailed information on the five steps .....  | 16 |
| 5.2 Discussion questions (“knowledge challenges”) from Step 1 .....   | 17 |
| 5.3 Sketches of governance structures .....   | 17 |
| 5.3.1 Sketches of benchmark governance structures .....   | 17 |
| 5.3.2 Sketches of governance structures suggested by participants.....  | 19 |
| 5.4 Results from feedback form.....   | 26 |
| 5.5 Information on Global Voices.....   | 27 |
| 5.6 List of participants.....   | 29 |

## Executive Summary

The workshop attracted 83 participants from 23 countries, including Mexico and New Zealand and 21 European Union countries. Representatives of UNESCO, DIVERSITAS, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat participated, as did the EEA and its European Topic Centre Biodiversity, and 7 members of staff of the Services of the European Commission. In preparing the workshop, the organisers tried to ensure that no two participants at any of the 9 round tables had similar professional profiles.

The workshop identified current impediments to the transfer of knowledge between science and policy, and considered what functions and governance principles would characterise a more effective mechanism. It then spent some time discussing the elements of possible governance models.

The workshop characterized the main barriers to an effective transmission of knowledge largely in terms of the lack of knowledge at appropriate scales, of coordination and integration, of funding and recognition for policy relevant research, of common language between science and policy-makers, of public support and awareness, and of appropriate mandates and opportunities for the involvement of scientists.

The key characteristics of an effective mechanism, according to the workshop, would include open access to data, including non-scientific and interdisciplinary knowledge, improved collaboration between researchers, organizations, and disciplines, and appropriate incentives for scientists to undertake policy-relevant research and dissemination. It would be important for the mechanism to select its scientific experts on the basis of competence rather than any other consideration, and to encourage scientists to participate in decisions on policy. The mechanism would also provide for better communication between scientists and policy-makers, increased efforts to improve public awareness of biodiversity, and a transparent, independent, and credible decision making process.

Many of these key characteristics lie outside the capacity of the scientific community to provide on its own. The exceptions are issues of access to data, increased coordination and greater integration between disciplines.

The workshop found that the main principles of governance include a simple governance structure relying as far as possible on existing networks and organizations and operating with independent and objective processes. Governments should be involved, participating in a framework that preserves scientific results from political spin. Other stakeholders, including relevant Civil Society Organisations, should also be integrated.

The report contains simple sketches of some proposed governance structures.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background and Context

For the past 4 years, scientists and policy makers around the globe have been discussing the creation of an intergovernmental science-policy interface on biodiversity, first in the Consultative Process Towards an International Mechanism Of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMOSEB) and more recently in an ad hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The IMOSEB European consultation workshop (Geneva, April 2007) concluded in particular that "The preferred option [for a new mechanism on scientific expertise] is some form of network of networks." The Chair's report of the meeting on an IPBES (Putrajaya, November 2008) states that "there was general agreement among the participants that there was a real need to strengthen the science-policy interface". It further states that such a platform should provide more effective means to support multiple-scale assessments, compile, assess and synthesize existing scientific knowledge to provide early warning and policy-relevant information on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to contribute to building capacity.

## 1.2 Workshop objectives and outcomes

The workshop on a Network of Knowledge on Biodiversity was convened by the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) and by Biostrat<sup>1,2</sup> and aimed to bring together for the first time a broad range of relevant European institutions and networks and to assess whether and how a European Network of Knowledge on Biodiversity could work. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. to examine 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

The workshop was designed to contribute to on-going processes, including the IPBES and the EU mechanism, not to compete with them. Participation in the workshop has no bearing on any subsequent contributions to any future mechanism.

The outcomes of the workshop are intended to enter into the international discussions, mainly via presentation to the European Commission DG Environment and other DGs, the FP7

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<sup>1</sup> BioStrat is a Specific Support Action (SSA) funded by the EU Sixth Framework Programme. The project involves 34 partners from 32 countries and aims to further develop the EU Biodiversity Research Strategy making wise use of the existing structures.

<sup>2</sup> And co-organised by the European Environmental Agency (EEA), the European Commission, the Flemish Community (Research Institute for Nature and Forest), the Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform- Belgian Science Policy Office.

Programme Committee of the European Commission, and to the European Council Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WIPIE).

The insights gained from the discussions have helped to revise the draft concept note on a “Network of Knowledge on Biodiversity” produced by the EPBRS as a working document for the workshop. The revised version of this concept note is complementary to this report.

## **2 Presentation of the workshop process: the Townhall Meeting method**

The workshop attracted 83 participants from 23 countries, including Mexico and New Zealand and 21 European Union countries. Representatives of UNESCO, DIVERSITAS, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat participated, as did the EEA and its European Topic Centre Biodiversity, and 7 members of staff of the Services of the European Commission.

The interactive and participatory process of the workshop was adapted from AmericaSpeaks/Global Voices’ “21st Century Town Meetings<sup>®</sup>”<sup>3</sup>.

In the Townhall Meeting method, small groups of 8 – 10 people discuss issues independently of the other groups, but each group is kept informed of the ideas generated in the other discussions. As part of the method, background documents distributed before the workshop help to initiate discussion and ensure that all the participants come to the meeting with at least some understanding of the topic. In preparing the workshop, the organisers tried to ensure that no two participants at any of the 9 round tables had similar professional profiles.

For this workshop, the main background document was a concept note on the Network of Knowledge, developed by the EPBRS. This document contained a proposal for a governance structure, in both diagrams and words (see Annex 5.3.1).

In the Townhall Meeting method, a facilitator gathers the ideas generated in the round-table discussion and sends them to a “theme team.” The theme team compiles the ideas from all tables into common themes or options, sends them back to participants to stimulate further discussion, and prepares a final list of ideas. Participants then have the opportunity to vote on the relevance of the various ideas. The results of this voting procedure was not used to dismiss any options, but used to help to focus discussions for the subsequent steps. All ideas generated during the workshop are presented in this report and served to improve the concept note.

This workshop did not use the information technology devices typically employed by Global Voices. Instead, the voting and the presentation of feedback on ideas and on the voting results were paper-based.

The workshop day was structured through five steps. As the organizers wanted the workshop to focus, as far as possible, on concrete examples, they suggested several possible test cases of

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<sup>3</sup> For more information see [www.americaspeaks.org](http://www.americaspeaks.org) and also Annexe IV to this report.

questions about biodiversity and ecosystems services. These included policy-driven questions, early warnings from science, and systematic assessments. In a first step, participants could invent additional realistic and challenging questions and vote to choose the most interesting and relevant ones. In step 2, participants were asked to use these questions to explore how science might be gathered under the current mechanism and to identify present barriers to an effective science-policy interface. In step 3, groups analyzed and identified the general functions of a more effective mechanism. Step 4 discussed how such functions could be made operational within specific governance structures. The governance model from the concept note was distributed as guidance for a possible structure. Step 5 concluded by suggesting how currently existing organizations and networks could contribute.

### 3 Discussion results

Results from the group discussions during the workshop day are presented in two parts: 1) Barriers in the current science-policy interface, and functions and governance principles of a more effective mechanism, and 2) suggestions for a governance model.

#### 3.1 Barriers in the current science-policy interface, and functions and governance principles of a more effective mechanism

This part of the discussion results covers the identification of barriers of the current science-policy interface (Step 2 of the workshop process), the key functions that would characterize a more effective mechanism (Step 3), and the proposed key governance principles for such a mechanism (partially Step 4).

##### 3.1.1 Summary of barriers, key functions, and principles

For this report, all ideas generated at the tables were re-examined and organized in three main categories: **science side**, **interaction between science and policy**, and **policy side**. These were further divided into the following sub-categories in order to organize the ideas.

Relating to the Science side:

- Data shortage and quality
- Access to data and scale issues
- Community organization

Relating to the Interaction between science and policy:

- Funding and incentives
- Communication
- Function and mandate of scientists
- Targets, Indicators and measures

Relating to the policy side:

- Public understanding and support
- Integration of expertise
- Timing
- Policy needs / questions

Table 1 shows the results of this classification of ideas. It includes all ideas that were generated at the tables. The various working groups expressed similar or identical ideas using a variety of terms; Table 1 reports largely the original terminology. Importantly, the classification links barriers, functions, and principles that relate to the same issue. Ideally, within any row, an identified barrier is followed by one or more suggested functions and governance principles with which an effective mechanism could effectively overcome the barrier. For example, the “lack of coordination of people and organizations working on similar issues” was followed by the recommendation to “facilitate collaboration between different researchers and organizations” through “an EU-wide catalogue and virtual library including publications and reports relevant to biodiversity” (rows 7). Not all barriers were successfully addressed, however. For example, participants identified as an important barrier the “lack of baseline information and data” and suggested to “provide and encourage open access databases from all relevant sources (including non-scientific)”; yet they did not suggest any governance principles related to this issue (row 1). The ideas that were allocated the most votes are in bold.

**Table 1. Barriers, key functions, and governance principles**

|   |                            |   | <u>Identified barriers</u>   | <u>Identified key functions</u>  | <u>Identified governance principles</u>   |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | <b><u>Science side</u></b> | <b><u>Data shortage &amp; quality</u></b>       | Lack of baseline information and data  | <b>Provide and encourage open access databases from all relevant sources (including non-scientific)</b>      |   |
| 2 | -                          | -   | Lack of integration of non-professional knowledge with appropriate quality standards                   | Ensure quality of information is credible through peer-review quality controlled systems                     |   |
| 3 | -                          | -   | Science in specific disciplines and geographical areas relatively underdeveloped                       | <b>Promote knowledge input and delivery from all the geographical areas (including developing countries)</b> | Use existing focal point for national data bases on biodiversity (e.g. National Network of Excellence in Slovakia, national platform of GBIF, LIFEWATCH - GEO-BON)  |
| 4 | -                          | <b><u>Access to data &amp; scale issues</u></b> | Some information often not accessible at local scale   |  | Regional, European and Global monitoring should be integrated   |
| 5 | -                          | -   | Some information only available at local scale   | Oblige scientists to provide open access to their data   |   |
| 6 | -                          | -   |  | <b>Ensure data is compatible, accessible and analyzable</b>  |   |
| 7 | -                          | <b><u>Community organisation</u></b>            | <b>Lack of coordination between people and organisations working on similar issues</b>                 | <b>Facilitate collaboration between different researchers and organisations</b>                              | Build an EU-wide catalogue and virtual library including publications and reports relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use to serve as a basis for further research on policy relevant questions |
| 8 | -                          | -   | <b>Lack of integration and knowledge exchange between different scientific disciplines and sectors</b> | Promote efficient research infrastructures   |   |

|    |  |   |  |  |   |   |
|----|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| 9  | -  | -   |  | Include information from social scientists, economists, lawyers as well as natural scientists  |   |   |
| 10 | -  | -   | <b>Lack of interdisciplinary knowledge of individual scientists and scientific working groups</b>                          | Promote interdisciplinary education  |   |   |
|    |  |   |  |  |   |   |
| 11 | <b><u>Interaction between science and policy</u></b> | <b><u>Funding &amp; incentives</u></b>                                      | Conflict of interest for scientists due to specific funding sources  | Ensure independent information is non-biased by funding or political special interests   |   |   |
| 12 |  |   | Competition for funding can impede collaboration   |  |   |   |
| 13 |  |   | <b>Lack of funding for policy relevant research</b>  | <b>Long-term funding</b>   |   |   |
| 14 |  |   | <b>Lack of official recognition and incentives for scientists to work on policy relevant questions</b>                     | <b>Professional acknowledgement and rewards for scientists who are involved in science-policy interfaces</b>   |   |   |
| 15 |  |   |  | Create possibility of publications on policy relevant questions and incorporate into evaluation and funding  |   |   |
| 16 |  |   | <b>Mismatch between the research priorities of funding bodies (including all policy institutions) and the policy needs</b> |  |   |   |
| 17 |  |   | <b><u>Communication</u></b>  | <b>Inappropriate style of communication (e.g. too complicated or abstract) from scientists towards policy makers, other relevant stakeholders and the public</b> |   | <b>Involve communication professionals to improve interactions with policy and stakeholders</b> |
| 18 |  |   |  | Pressure on scientists to address too many different stakeholders with different interests   | <b>Make outputs adapted to audiences</b>                            |   |
| 19 |  |   |  | <b>Existing knowledge and data is not enough communicated nor made accessible to policy</b>  |   |   |
| 20 |  |   |  | <b>Lack of common language between policy makers and scientists</b>  | Improve communication between policy-makers and knowledge providers |   |
| 21 |  | Develop tools and methods to better understand and address policy questions |  |  |   |   |
| 22 | -  | -   | Policy questions are not formulated and explained clearly enough to scientists   | Help scientists understand the policy questions  |   |   |
| 23 | -  | -   |  | A science-policy interface should interpret policy questions for the scientists  |   |   |
| 24 | -  | -   |  | A science-policy interface should translate scientific results for policy makers   |   |   |



|    |                           |  |   |   |   |
|----|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 25 | -                         | -  | Difficulty to communicate the meaning of different levels of uncertainty  |   |   |
| 26 | -                         | -  | Scientists are too cautious and communicate more the uncertainty levels than the importance of the results themselves |   |   |
| 27 | -                         | <b><u>Function and mandate of scientists</u></b> | Limited and poorly advertised points of entry for scientists to engage in the policy process                          | Help scientists understand how they can contribute to policy-making processes                                   |   |
| 28 | -                         | -  |   | Opportunities, requests, mandates from policy-makers to scientists to contribute knowledge                      |   |
| 29 | -                         | -  | Scientists are demotivated to participate in political processes because of the lack of actions upon their advice     |   | Develop a mechanism such as an endorsement in EU council conclusions accepting the scientific advice of expert groups |
| 30 | -                         | <b><u>Targets, indicators and measures</u></b>   | Lack of commonly agreed targets, indicators and measures  |   |   |
|    |                           |  |   |   |   |
| 31 | <b><u>Policy side</u></b> | <b><u>Understanding &amp; support</u></b>        | <b>There is not enough public support for and awareness of Biodiversity</b>   | <b>Develop a marketing activity to promote biodiversity (e.g. charismatic champions, use of emotive images)</b> |   |
| 32 | -                         | -  | Biodiversity issues often enter too late the environmental debate   |   |   |
| 33 | -                         | <b><u>Integration of expertise</u></b>           | Lack of transparency in decision-making processes   | <b>Transparency, independency and credibility of the decision-making process</b>                                | Involvement of individuals should be bottom up to give authority legitimacy   |
| 34 | -                         | -  |   |   | <b>Keep the governance simple, limit number of separate bodies</b>  |
| 35 | -                         | -  |   |   | Independent funded secretariat  |
| 36 | -                         | -  |   |   | <b>Governance should ensure scientific independence e.g. self-standing institution not politically biased</b>         |
| 37 | -                         | -  |   |   | <b>To get buy-in from the policy-makers, there should be a political validation process</b>                           |
| 38 | -                         | -  |   |   | <b>No governmental VALIDATION but have the governments involved in the process</b>                                    |
| 39 | -                         | -  |   |   | <b>Science-policy interface should influence policy decision in all relevant sectors</b>                              |

|    |   |                                 |  |   |   |
|----|---|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 40 | - | -                               | <b>Reliance on always the same experts leading to a narrow and biased expertise base</b> | <b>Peer-reviewed, unbiased, outputs by independent experts</b>  | Screening process for selection of experts  |
| 41 | - | -                               |  | Identify competent experts for each issue separately  | National reference points to localize experts according to questions/ National nodes for national coordination/ Decentralized hubs of knowledge |
| 42 | - | -                               |  |   | EU-wide catalogue on scientific research projects and researchers as a basis for identifying interest and expertise                             |
| 43 | - | -                               |  | Establish ad hoc expert groups on specific questions  | Specific panel address specific questions drawing on additional knowledge of existing networks + institutions.                                  |
| 44 | - | -                               |  |   | Focus on questions and themes through expert panels rather than institutions  |
| 45 | - | -                               |  | <b>Develop effective processes and tools to locate relevant information or expertise</b>  | <b>Develop new entity building on existing expert networks</b>  |
| 46 | - | -                               |  | Integration of all stakeholders in the decision-making processes (including NGOs)   |   |
| 47 | - | <b>Timing</b>                   | Short timescales for scientists to respond to policy questions                           | Timely science-policy communication and advice  |   |
| 48 | - | -                               | Delay in policy response to available scientific information                             |   |   |
| 49 | - | -                               | No structures in place for anticipatory, proactive involvement of scientists             | Be proactive to address policy questions  |   |
| 50 | - | <b>Policy needs / questions</b> | Not enough proactive participation of scientists   | Use modern and effective proactive participation techniques to engage researchers and stakeholders  |   |
| 51 | - | -                               | -  | <b>Formulate criteria for selecting and prioritising questions</b><br><br><b>Formulate alternative options and scenarios to policy-makers</b> |   |

### 3.1.2 Analysis of generated ideas

The workshop characterized the **main barriers** to an effective transmission of knowledge to policy largely in terms of *lack*. Important ones were a lack of necessary knowledge at the appropriate scales, of coordination and integration, of funding and recognition for policy relevant research, of common language between science and policy-makers, of public support and awareness, and of mandates and pro-active involvement of scientists.

The workshop identified a number of **key functions**, which an effective mechanism should fulfill. Importantly, the mechanism should

- foster the provision of open-access databases from all relevant sources, including non-scientific and interdisciplinary (e.g., social science) knowledge,
- facilitate collaboration between researchers, organizations, and disciplines,
- help create incentives for scientists to engage in policy-relevant research,
- improve communication between scientists and policy-makers (in both directions),
- promote public support and awareness for biodiversity,
- foster transparency, independence, and credibility of decision making processes,
- ensure unbiased selection of competent scientific experts for policy support, and
- promote pro-active participation of scientists in policy decision making.

It is worth noting that many of the key functions identified lie outside the capacity of the scientific community to remedy by itself. The only exceptions are issues of access to data, increased coordination and greater integration between disciplines. The difficult issues – including for example incentives for scientists to contribute to the provision of knowledge to policy, or the reluctance of high-impact scientific journals to publish trans-disciplinary papers – remain in the hands of others, although they are among the most critical for any science-policy interface.

The workshop identified several important **general governance principles**, such as the need for

- a simple structure,
- independent and objective (expert selection) processes,
- government involvement, but without any biasing influences,
- reliance on existing networks and organizations,
- integration of all stakeholder groups (e.g., NGOs).

Clearly, the suggested governance principles developed in the workshop discussions do not cover solutions for an appropriate provision of all crucial functions. Perhaps the most remarkable gap in the table is the absence of any entries in the "Identified governance principles" relating to funding and incentives, function and mandate of scientists or of targets, indicators and measures.

This might indicate that this domain lies outside the comfort zone and expertise of most of the participants, but more likely, it is not obvious how the barriers that the workshop identified in delivering knowledge to a science-policy interface might be overcome, especially when the range of disciplines and sources of knowledge is so wide. It may also be that the discussions of this part of the day could not be easily summarized in the short "ideas" format – or that consensus around each table remained elusive.

## 3.2 Suggestions for a governance model

The second part of the results refers to the specifics of a governance model for a new mechanism. The governance model presented in the concept note on a Network of Knowledge (see Annex 5.3.1-A) was handed out as a starting point for discussion. While it was generally regarded as too complex, the concept note scheme served as a useful reference point. Structures of prominent related mechanisms (IPCC, MA, and GEO - see Annex 5.3.1 B to D) were not distributed, but many participants mentioned them as further references.

Ideas relating to governance structures were gathered during the workshop group discussions; some of the tables spontaneously created figures and diagrams to illustrate their ideas and suggestions. Moreover, email exchanges afterwards served to clarify key aspects of the ideas. There was not enough time during the meeting to reach consensus on a governance model, the bodies comprising that model, or how the functions of the network would be apportioned between the bodies. Moreover, it was not always easy to compare the proposed models, since the terms used to designate the various bodies were variable and the functions were often not explicitly allocated to bodies.

Three working group tables developed and drew sketches of governance structures (see sketches 1-3 in Annex 5.3.2), some of which were complemented and commented on within subsequent email exchanges. Five working group tables provided written comments but did not draw a sketch. For those, the organizers attempted to draw sketches that summarize, in visual form, the architecture that seems to be suggested by the comments of the respective tables (see sketches 4-8 in Annex 5.3.2.).

In summary, relatively uncontroversial aspects included:

- There is a need to rely on **national coordination nodes** that could be linked to EU coordinating body and integrated to the global NOK (e.g. Decentralized hubs of knowledge providers).
- These **national hubs should be quality controlled** (i.e. representatives from both policy and science).
- There is a need for **thematic ad hoc panels** or task groups.
- A **secretariat** is needed.

Certain aspects seem crucial but remain to be discussed further including:

- Should there be an **advisory group** to oversee the work of the whole mechanism, or rather not? (here, opinions between groups were contradictory)
- Is it advantageous **to keep the administrative and secretarial tasks in a body separate from the scientific coordination** of the work? (In the case of the IPCC, the two bodies are separate.)
- Where and how would **independent scientists and research institutes for ad hoc panels** or task groups be involved in the process. Some participants expressed concerns that if institutions, rather than individual experts, were the official knowledge providers, institutional representatives without the appropriate scientific expertise could be sent to the working groups.

## **4 Key lessons and next steps**

Workshop participants represented a large number of knowledge holders and other stakeholders of the (mainly European) biodiversity community who shared their ideas in an interactive and participatory manner. Many ideas were generated. The organizers believe that while all ideas provide useful information, it is also possible to identify some key lessons which serve in particular for guiding the continuing process towards effective science-policy interfaces for biodiversity.

### **4.1 Lessons with respect to the design of a Network of Knowledge**

From the section above we can draw the following conclusions. First, the workshop strongly confirmed the need for a more effective science-policy interface for biodiversity. Participants identified the important functions that such a mechanism should fulfill. It seemed uncontroversial that existing networks and organizations should play key roles within any novel framework; hence the term “Network of Knowledge” seems appropriate. The workshop identified important governance principles of a Network of knowledge, and made several useful suggestions with respect to the concrete structure of a governance model.

Yet, there clearly remains the need to prioritize between principles and to clarify the core business of the Network of Knowledge. Importantly, work remains to be done to achieve consensus and clear understanding of a governance structure. It is indispensable to further clarify and define the role and involvement of all relevant existing bodies, including national hubs or platforms.

A key concern is whether the participants to ad hoc expert groups should be institutions that appoint nominees or individual experts nominated by the network coordination body itself. Validation of summary reports is clearly of importance to government participants (for whom it is indeed vital) while it raises objections among scientific participants. Last, the role of a scientific coordination (“bureau” in IPCC) – and whether it should be separate from or combined with an administrative secretariat - remains to be agreed.

### **4.2 Revising the concept note**

The workshop confirmed the main motivation for the concept note, which is to suggest ways to improve and strengthen the interface between science and policy for biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to make it more effective in its role of transmitting knowledge and needs between the two communities.

The key functions and principles identified by the workshop are broadly similar to those of the concept note, although the workshop provided additional useful insight in many areas. These will be included in the revised concept note.

The workshop allows a critical revision of the proposed governance structure. The governance bodies and architecture proposed by the workshop differ in several ways from those in the concept note. It seems, however, that many differences are mainly related to nomenclature

and vocabulary, and to the responsibilities of the various bodies that might make up the mechanism. Any other important differences will be brought out in the revised concept note.

From the results of the workshop and the original concept note one can derive various possible functions of a network of knowledge. These functions are listed below. It was not possible to classify during the workshop which functions were more critical. Participants were asked by email to vote on these functions (essential, useful, not needed). Only 12 participants replied. There was no support from these respondents for three of the proposed functions (decide on client side membership, develop strategy for communication, and maintain dialogue across levels and between providers).

Various structural models were suggested during the workshop by some of the tables (See Annex 5.3.2). Using these models, and bearing in mind the key criteria that came out of the discussion, the conference organisers decided to update the EPBRS concept note and proposal for a structure. The reader will understand, therefore, that this section is not an outcome of the workshop, but one of many possible interpretations of that outcome.

#### **A governing council or Executive board:**

- decide which questions are to be answered by the network
- establish policy and strategic orientation of the network of knowledge
- determine objectives, scope and general work plan of the network
- select the director of the secretariat
- review the performance of the secretariat
- periodically review the system and assess its impact
- assess whether the mechanism represents an effective use of resources
- consider partnership with other organizations and institutions
- approve the personnel making up the bodies
- decide on client-side membership
- administrate the network of knowledge

#### **A secretariat**

- design communication plans specific to the issue
- develop strategy for communication
- develop strategy for education
- develop strategy for outreach
- develop strategy for publication
- ensure information flows between clients and knowledge holders
- ensure relevant bodies are informed of mechanism and its output
- handle the day-to-day budget of the system
- liaise with regional, national, local or thematic points of contact
- manage overall finance of the system
- organise government validation of summary reports (like IPCC)
- publish reports
- schedule and co-ordinate the work

### **A scientific coordination body**

- communicate the question to the providers
- control the flow of questions to the network of knowledge
- convene working groups or other meetings
- identify and keep track of appropriate knowledge providers
- identify specialised knowledge holders when necessary
- maintain dialogue across levels and between providers
- negotiate the wording of the summary reports
- organise peer review
- prepare initial draft summary reports when the client requests them
- prepare peer reviewed, revised report adapted for client

### **Thematic ad hoc panels or working groups:**

- refine, construct, and define the question
- co-ordinate scientific and editing tasks
- generate output (reports that respond to requests)
- discuss and set out recommendations, policy options as appropriate
- signal the need for research, assessment or capacity building

## **4.3 Lessons with respect to the workshop process**

With respect to the workshop process, participants gave very positive feedback. Answers in the feedback forms that were distributed in the end (see also Annex 5.4) as well as informal feedback emphasized that participants enjoyed the dynamic and active workshop process, which allowed everyone to speak freely within small groups and to learn from each other. There was general agreement among participants that the workshop helped them gain a better understanding of the need for an improved science-policy interface for biodiversity and of the current international processes dealing with this issue.

Not surprisingly, there remains some room for improving the working of the adapted Townhall Meeting method. In particular, faster – high-tech - provision of voting results from the previous step could enhance the focus of discussions for the subsequent step. Moreover, for complex issues it may be useful to have two workshop days and to refocus discussions with summary feedback in the morning of the second day. This would also provide participants with more direct feedback on the workshop outcomes.

### **Acknowledgements:**

The intellectual property of the workshop output and results is shared by all participants (see annex), whom we would like to thank for their efforts, for keeping an open mind through this new process, and for making the experience fruitful and enjoyable. Any shortcomings in this report are the responsibility of the authors.

## 5 Annexes

### 5.1 Detailed information on the five steps

#### ***Step 1: Identifying policy-relevant model questions***

The objective of the first step was to find challenging and policy-relevant model questions that a science policy interface might realistically be facing. The organizers suggested six of such "knowledge challenges" from three categories: questions arising in the policy world, issues emerging from scientific observation ("early warning"), and issues for systematic assessments. Groups were asked to decide around their table if these are realistic, relevant and challenging questions for a science policy interface, and to put forward one or more additional ones in each category. In the voting phase, nine test cases should be selected and allocated to the working groups. They served to provide thought experiments for a more practical and less abstract examination of the process and challenges for science policy interfaces. Questions should be used as a way to focus steps on concrete aspects and to link a step to another in an incremental way. Importantly, it was not the aim to answer the questions themselves.

#### ***Step 2: Assessing how science reaches European science policy interfaces***

This step aimed to identify the characteristics of the current system that impede the flow of information to policy makers. Based on the allocated model questions, participants examined how the current mechanism would work from the moment the question is formulated to the moment the knowledge is delivered to policy? Among other aspects, this should allow to see how the relevant knowledge holders are identified and by whom, how they are engaged in the process, what are the key values guiding the process, how information flows, what legal issues may be encountered, what incentives there may be for participating, and what is at stake.

#### ***Step 3: Identifying the key functions of a more effective mechanism***

In this step, groups were asked to identify the key principles, characteristics and functions of an knowledge-delivery system that would allow information to flow more effectively between knowledge holders and policy makers. Of course this exercise involved considering also the wider scientific and policy context in which knowledge challenges arise or might arise in the future. The voting served to prioritize which of the functions are most crucial for an effective mechanism.

#### ***Step 4: Identifying the operational structure / governance model***

The purpose of step 4 was to identify the operational structure and governance model of an effective mechanism. What is the minimum set of effective, efficient and low cost governance structures that would provide the principles, characteristics and functions identified earlier?

Consider changes in institutions and the international situation, how would the system remain up to date and in touch with turnover in stakeholders and build and maintain open



coalitions? The voting procedure again served to provide an overview of the most appropriate and promising operational forms or governance structures.

### ***Step 5: Identifying how existing organizations would contribute***

In this step, participants were asked to concretely suggest what their organization would contribute to a NOK. Due to time constraint discussion idea cards addressed the question in a broad sense not providing many concrete examples.

## **5.2 Discussion questions (“knowledge challenges”) from Step 1**

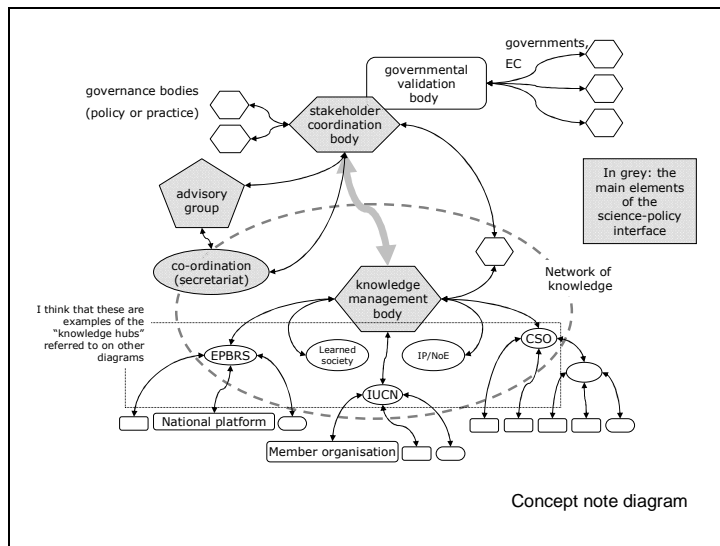
The following questions were selected and randomly allocated to the groups:

1. *Under what circumstances are services provided by ecosystems used sustainably?*
2. *How does biodiversity contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation strategies?*
3. *Can we identify ecological thresholds and points of no return?*
4. *How does the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services affect human well-being - in particular, food production?*
5. *How do marine protected areas provide benefits for human activities and well-being?*
6. *What should the targets be beyond 2010?*
7. *What are the probable effects on biodiversity of large-scale geo-engineering proposals to mitigate climate change?*
8. *To what extent can benefits be considered as the sole metric of conservation of biodiversity?*
9. *How do we develop a common language and standards to better communicate biodiversity issues to the public?*

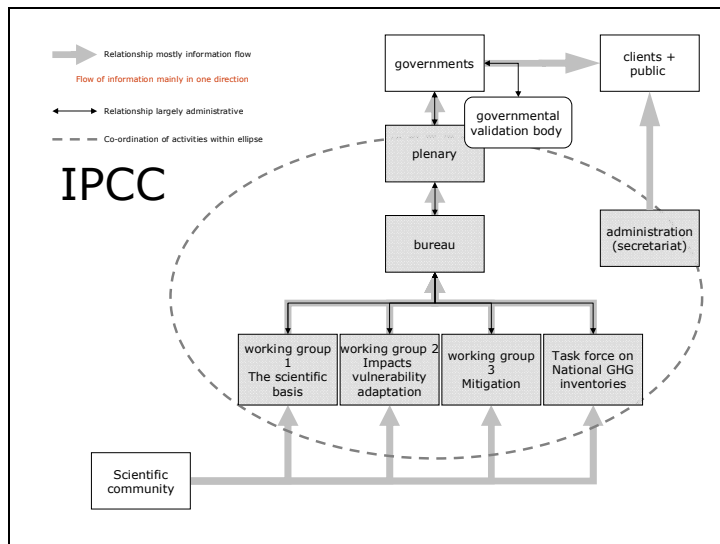
## **5.3 Sketches of governance structures**

### **5.3.1 Sketches of benchmark governance structures**

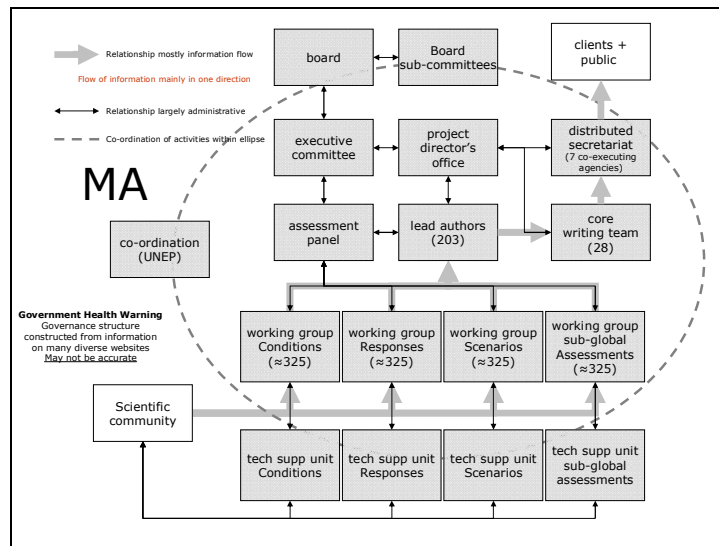
#### **A. Proposed structure in the original EPBRS concept note:**



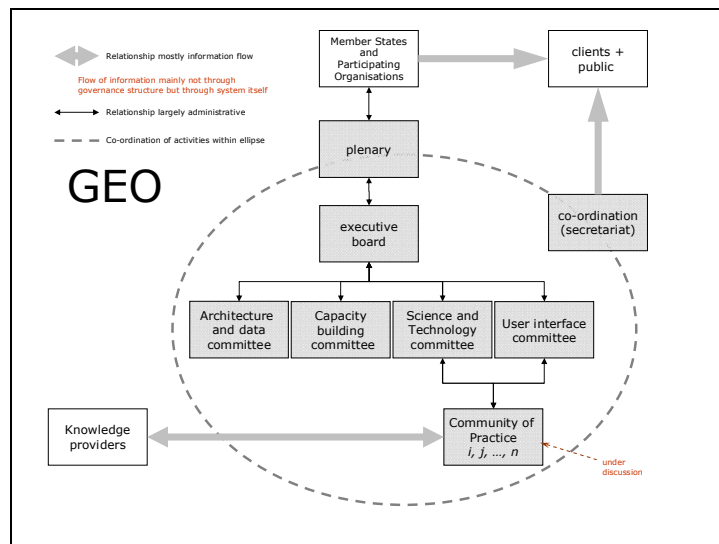
**B. IPCC structure:**



**C. MA structure:**



**D. GEO structure:**

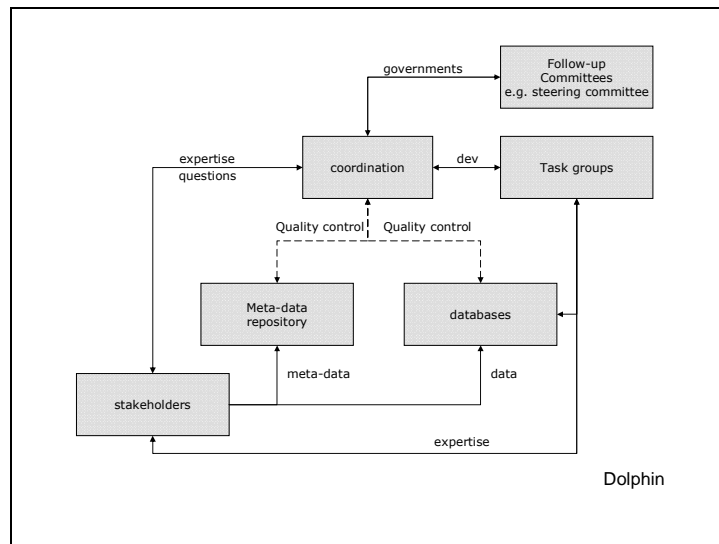


**5.3.2 Sketches of governance structures suggested by participants**

Each working group at the eight tables had a name, such as Alligator or Buffalo, so that the organisers could keep track of which table provided a given idea. The names on the sketches have no greater significance than this. Dolphin appears twice on the sketches. In the first diagram, data management is illustrated. The second Dolphin diagram is a visual interpretation by the workshop organisers of the NoK structure deduced from the comments made by that working group."

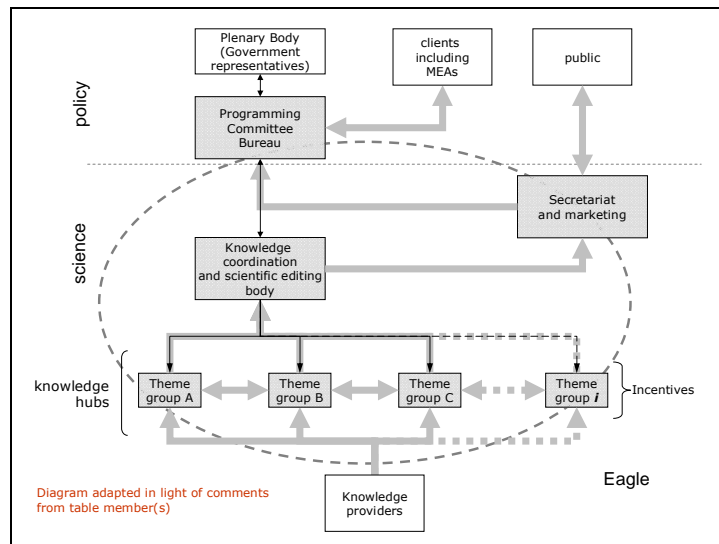
**A. Sketches developed by the tables during the workshop**

**"Dolphin" sketch & explanations**



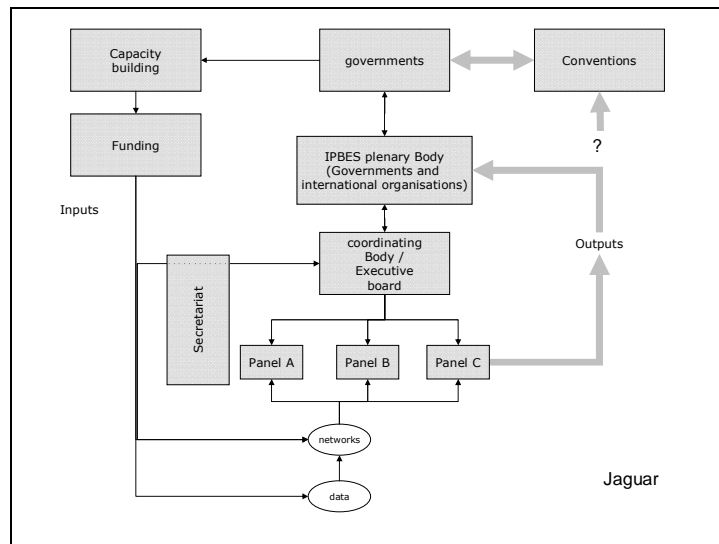
- “dev” means developments that can be technical, political, scientific, anything relevant to answer the questions going to the Network.
- “follow-up committees” should be flexible. The committees following up on the network activities should be composed of a representative panel of the community the network is working for. They help the coordination of the Network take appropriate, long term strategic decisions: inject their expertise to predict the future needs of the community.
- “steering committee” is composed of Government appointees, scientists, members of CSOs, etc , depending on the political, scientific, technical needs.
- “Coordination” can be multitask group of polyvalent people, working like a secretariat. It decides if questions are relevant to the general guidelines/strategies setup with the steering / follow-up committee. The coordination also clarifies and reformulates the questions to make sense to the knowledge holders, and decides on the scope, schedule etc of the work needed to answer the question. The coordination is responsible for selection of the questions and for quality control of the data and metadata, but can call on selected group of experts to ensure the quality is the best available (e.g. if you need to assess the quality of taxonomic information: ask taxonomists). data quality assessment can be both semantic (formatting), to ensure no nonsense information makes it through, and scientific. The coordination writes the reports and puts them into suitable format for the policy makers. It can be done in collaboration with selected experts. If the reports are important ones, specific task groups can be setup to assist in reporting, in function of the needs.
- “task groups” are ad hoc, members of the task groups are selected by the coordination and follow-up / steering committees, based on their fitness to answer the questions. Task groups can be ephemeral.
- “stakeholders” refer to a community including users and data/expertise providers? The coordination keeps track of them and know who to contact for what?

### “Eagle” sketch & explanations



- “plenary body” consists only of government representatives
- “programming committee / bureau” is not made up only of members of the plenary body. It is politically organised. It is up to the Plenary body to decide its form and to appoint or elect its members. It probably should have its own permanent staff (or use the general secretariat, but should not control that). Plenary meetings should be organised by the Programming committee, using the secretariats services.
- “incentives” is attached to the groups and scientists doing the actual work. It is meant as a tool to give them credit for their work, which could for instance be an awards system.
- “theme groups” are assembled ad hoc depending on the problems and are formed by the knowledge coordination body. Criteria should be set in cooperation with the programming committee. The knowledge coordination body should have the overview of expertise of the knowledge hubs and does the tracking, tracing and contacting.
- “knowledge coordination body” is responsible for quality assurance (e.g. peer review and is based on an journal editorial board as model. The knowledge coordination body has the final decision on theme groups and their composition, but the process of forming them probably should be through quick and flexible calls/expressions of interest. Knowledge hubs can than form and propose theme groups. The knowledge coordination committee can for instance ask them to merge or expand. Final selection should be through ‘independent’ evaluation. The responsibility for a full view lies with the knowledge coordination committee.

### “Jaguar” sketch & explanations



- ‘inputs’ and ‘outputs’ : Inputs referring primarily to resource inputs (i.e. funding) and outputs referring to the advisory products arising from that investment. Governments were seen as the main source of funding, but this could also include business/industry, private trusts and NGOs.
- “?”: Outputs/advisory products/assessments would be reviewed and endorsed by two or more possible routes: (1) by full intergovernmental plenary – for major cross-cutting assessments; (2) by existing scientific bodies of MEAs – for products specific to a particular (lead) Convention; and (3) possibly by the Executive Board if delegated by Plenary – e.g. rapid assessments.
- “Plenary body” will comprise an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting including science and other knowledge holder groups. The full intergovernmental plenary was seen as an essential step to endorse the major / global issues. In some circumstances, more specific questions could be dealt with more rapidly.
- “capacity building” and “funding” are outside of the platform and are independent of it. The mechanisms for science investment and capacity building already exist. There are already some international coordinating processes (e.g. GEOSS, GBIF). These existing mechanisms should be responsive, directly or indirectly via Governments, to advice (e.g. on research priorities, capacity gaps) provided by a platform. The new platform/body shouldn't duplicate what already exists. It will be extremely important to define clearly what is meant by capacity building. It is a very broad expression that can refer to a many different concepts and contexts. The gap analysis carried out by UNEP-WCMC can be used as a basis, but it is yet far from exhaustive. The issue of capacity building and its relationship with the new mechanism will have to be discussed further.
- “secretariat”: it supports business and meetings of the Plenary and Executive Board and establishes and manages expert panels. The secretariat administers funding for meetings and reviews, maintains a database of experts(?), publishes information about the work of the platform, publishes calls for evidence, manages peer review.
- The diagram primarily shows a flow of evidence from networks to expert panels. The platform will publish information about evidence needs (and knowledge and capacity gaps) and publish calls for submission of evidence on particular topics. The platform may also commission (or at least steer work commissioned by govs or other international bodies) on reviews or analysis on particular topics by existing institutes or networks.
- “panels” are ad hoc and time limited. The members of the panel are chosen by the Plenary, or perhaps the Executive board or the Secretariat. Discussing this in plenary might take too much time to ensure flexibility. The first selection criteria should be relevant expertise. Geographical and gender balance are also important, but need to be coupled to expertise. Government nomination on its own should be avoided. It might not be objective and some experts who could provide useful expertise might be forgotten. Panels will provide progress reports, requests for

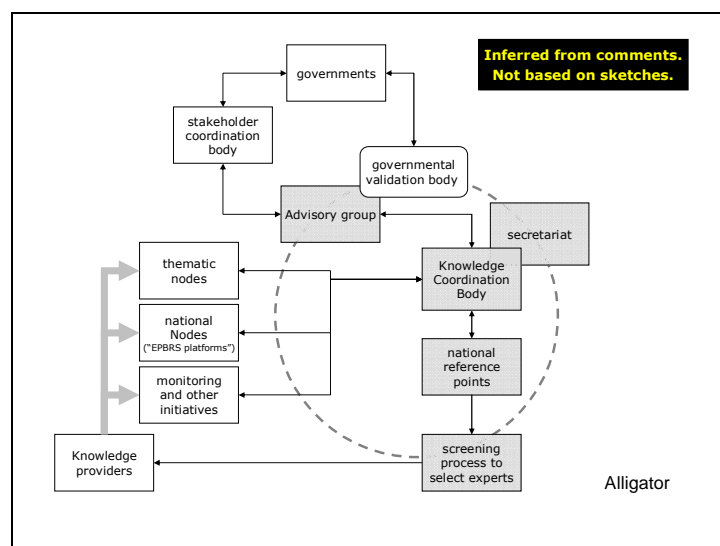
resources etc to executive board, but outputs/advisory products will be submitted via routes described at (2).

- “coordinating body / executive board” should be composed of nominated/elected representatives of the plenary and therefore would have the same composition.
- Contacts of networks for knowledge will be done by open advertisement, calls for evidence. Possibly some directly commissioned work, though the opinion of the Jaguars diverges on this issue.

## B. Sketches inferred or deduced from comments provided by the tables

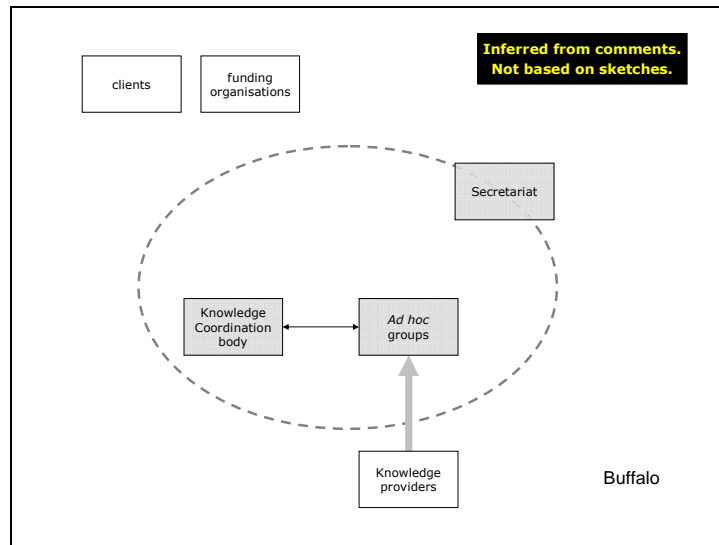
### “Alligator” comments & deduced sketch

- “Stakeholder Co-ordination Body => Advisory Group - Knowledge Coordinating Body, including secretariat”
- “Regional, European and global monitoring and other initiatives integrated”
- “Independent, funded secretariat”
- “EPBRS platforms should be quality-controlled i.e. representative of both policy and science communities”
- “Advisory group organises intergovernmental validation where necessary e.g. for large assessments.”
- “Independent, funded knowledge co-ordinating body (at EU scale for EU) with links to other parts of the NOK”
- “Involvement of individuals should be bottom-up to give authority/legitimacy”
- “National nodes for national co-ordination (but depends on the question)”
- “National reference points to localise experts varied according to question”
- “Screening process for selection of experts”



### “Buffalo” comments & deduced sketch

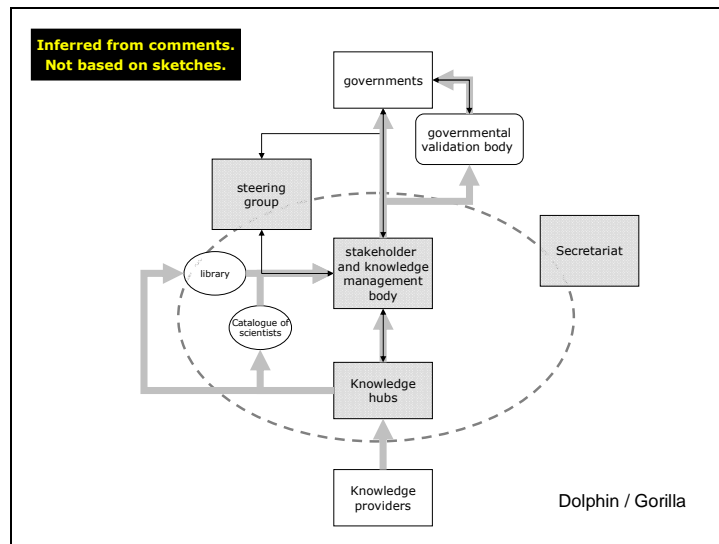
- “Secretariat + knowledge coordination body (+ ad-hoc groups)”
- “Need to clarify: (1) clients; (2) funding organisations; (3) knowledge holders + links between those groups”
- “Advisory Board not needed”



#### “Dolphin/Gorilla” comments & deduced sketch

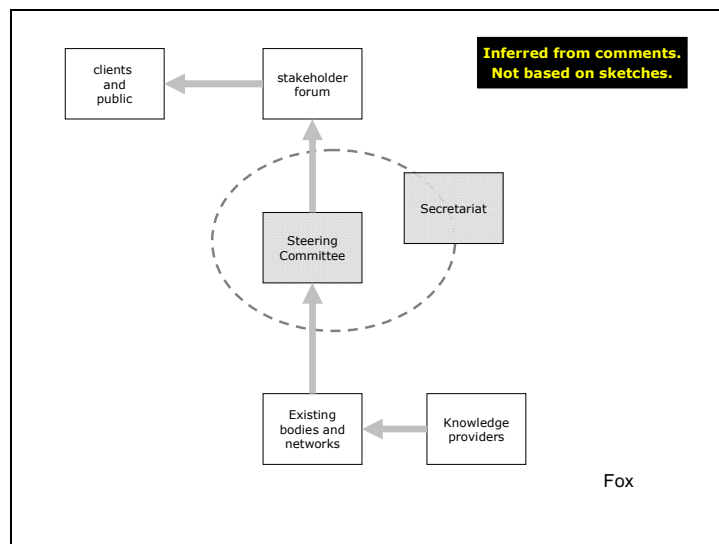
- “Stakeholder body and knowledge management body should be merged”
- “Advisory Group should be renamed Steering Group and be assigned a more clearly defined role”
- “Streamline Stakeholder Co-ordination Body and Knowledge Management Body by having one body comprising chairs and MEA scientific advisory bodies and eminent scientists also representing scientific networks (cf IMOSEB European Regional Consultation)”
- “EU-wide catalogue and virtual library and publications and reports relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use as a basis for further research as policy relevant questions”
- “EU-wide catalogue and scientific research and research scientists as a basis for identifying interest and expertise”
- Note: Knowledge hubs are inferred since the comments did not modify this part of the concept diagram. (Knowledge hubs: IUCN, IPs, learned societies etc)
- Governments and government validation body inferred since comments did not relate to this part of diagram.





### “Fox” comments & deduced sketch

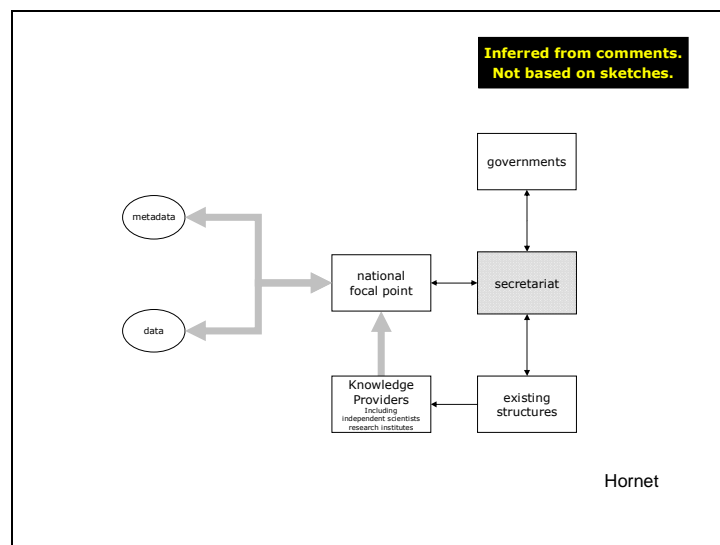
- “Steering Committee + secretariat enough. Stakeholder forum outside, as interface”
- “Science Committee with no political agenda or decision powers - just science assessment/review”
- “Build from existing bodies/mechanisms/networks ...”
- “Dissemination -> both from steering body and via national platforms”



### “Hornet” comments & deduced sketch

- “anticipated governance of the NoK too complex”
- “Question: on the diagram, not somewhere appear the independent scientists? Where are the research institutes?”

- “Organisations such as the European section of conversation biology or FRB have developed data bases on researchers in biodiversity. Idem for ERA-Net”
- “A clear mandate is required from the policy community “
- “A secretariat would be needed to run financial affairs”
- “Keep it simple: limit number of separate bodies”
- “No governmental VALIDATION but have the governments involved in the process”
- “Use existing focal point for national data bases on biodiversity ex. National Network of Excellence in Slovakia, national platform of GBIF, LIFEWATCH - GEO-BON has an ambition here !”
- “Depending on objectives and tasks of science-policy interface, it should be if we need new entity or if existing structures/networks will do the job.”



## 5.4 Results from feedback form

Questions asked in the feedback form and summary of the answers:

1. Do you feel this workshop was worth attending for you?

The meeting was worth attending: on 50 forms, 48 were positive, 2 were waiting for outputs to say if it was positive or not.

2. Why?

Participants appreciated the active participation, the opportunity to learn more about IPBES process, to network with new people, to participate in a new participative process with exchange of views.

3. What worked well?

Participants were generally very happy with the process, they had the feeling they gained an understanding of the process and the group work allowed all people to speak freely. The small

group discussions were found effective and interesting. A majority of participants found that the facilitation and meeting organization was in general well done despite a few shortcomings.

#### 4. What did not work well?

The time constraint was identified as a major problem. The ambition was too much for one day (very active and tiring process), it would have been better to split the workshop into two days. The voting input often arrived too late and did not enough influence the subsequent step). The lack of technology was a problem with respect to the voting. The discussions were sometimes on a too general level, facilitators should stick to the concrete examples to avoid too general discussions. The uncertainty about the outputs was also identified as an issue.

#### 5. What could be improved in future workshops?

Participants advised to either use two days or to have a more focused question. Participants suggested involving more various stakeholders, representatives from other fields than natural sciences and people from outside EU. The outcome should be better defined and the guidelines on the step by step process should be clearer to avoid too general discussions. Many participants called for some rotation in the roundtables and would prefer to have a more dynamic process where people move from a table to another.

#### 6. Do you have any suggestions for future steps?

Participants suggested having a second more focused workshop. Some other participative methods could also be tested.

#### 7. Other comments?

Most participants are very interested to see what output can come out of this process. Participants highlighted the need to follow up on this process and largely disseminate the outcomes of the workshop.

## **5.5 Information on Global Voices**



# GLOBAL VOICES

Strengthening Governance Through Participation

Contact us by phone, at +1 202 775 3939, or on the web, at [www.globalvoices.org](http://www.globalvoices.org).



Global Voices helps decision makers tap into the collective wisdom of citizens and stakeholders through large scale meetings, identifying shared priorities and recommendations on essential policies and plans.



**Global Voices** is a not-for-profit organization that supports governments, international organizations, and multinational institutions around the world to improve citizen and stakeholder participation in decision-making.

With our large-scale forums that integrate leading technology with facilitated dialogue, our clients are able to identify mutual priorities and examine policy options in a way that cannot be done in more traditional processes.



## Citizen Engagement & Stakeholder Participation

At Global Voices, we believe that opening strategic decisions to large-scale participation is a core value of good governance in the 21st century – and we have more than a decade of experience to prove it.

Global Voices has developed the 21st Century Town Meeting® for citizen meetings and the 21st Century Summit™ for stakeholders or member-based meetings. Through a combination of keypad polling, groupware computers, and authentic deliberation:

- The town meetings provide an effective forum for transparent, accountable, public participation.
- The summits enable a very broad range of stakeholders to develop shared priorities and joint strategies for action.

## LARGE-SCALE FORUMS

Global Voices' clients engage large numbers of general interest citizens or stakeholders – 50 to 5,000 at a single meeting – in thoughtful, outcomes-oriented discussion.

These forums begin with small group facilitated discussions. During the course of a meeting, participants submit their ideas using networked computers. These ideas are immediately synthesized into themes and recommendations, representative of the entire assembly. Each participant then votes to prioritize the recommendations using a wireless keypad. Working together, these technologies help to integrate the collective thinking of meeting participants.



## 5.6 List of participants

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Affiliation</b>  | <b>Country</b> |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| Enrique Alonso García | Consejero de Estado / LIFEWATCH   | ES             |
| Estelle Balian        | Belgian Biodiversity Platform / European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy  | BE             |
| Gordana Beltram       | Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning  | SI             |
| Hesiquio Benitez      | Comision Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) / CBD-SBSTTA Bureau Member   | MX             |
| Meriem Bouamrane      | UNESCO / UNESCO-MAB   | Int            |
| Rob Bugter            | Alterra (Landscape Centre) / - RUBICODE / EBONE (Rob Jongman)   | NL             |
| Ian Burfield          | BirdLife International / European Bird Census Council   | UK             |
| Iris Charalambidou    | Unit of Environmental Studies / - Cyprus Centre for European and International Affairs, University of Nicosia (Intercollege) / Cyprus Environmental Stakeholder Forum   | CY             |
| Sophie Condé          | European Topic Centre Biodiversity / European Environment Agency  | Int            |
| Bruno Danis           | SCAR-MarBIN / - Belgian Biodiversity Platform / OBIS / SCAR-MarBIN + Census of Marine Life (COML)   | BE             |
| Yde De Jong           | Zoological Museum Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam / - PESI - Pan-European Species-directories Infrastructure (coordinator) / Fauna Europaea (manager) / GBIF-ECAT (chair) / SMEBD (council member) / EDIT (task leader Information Infrastructure) | NL             |
| Ben Delbaere          | European Center for Nature Conservation (ECNC) / - European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity / ALTER-Net  | NL             |
| Pierre Devillers      | UNEP/CMS  | DE             |
| Anne Franklin         | Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences / CBD National Focal Point for Belgium  | BE             |
| Sonja Gantioler       | Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)  | BE             |
| Cy Griffin            | Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation of the EU (FACE)  | UK             |
| Christoph Haeuser     | Museum für Naturkunde Berlin / - (CBD) Global Taxonomy Initiative: Coordination Mechanism / Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) & GBIF  | DE             |
| Lubos Halada          | Institute of Landscape Ecology SAS  | SK             |
| Jerry Harrison        | UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)   | UK             |

|                         |   |     |
|-------------------------|---|-----|
| Carlo Heip              | Neth. Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW) + Center for Estuarine and Marine Ecology (CEME, Yerseke) + The Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ, Den Burg) / - MarBEF + Census of Marine Life / Biodiversity and climate research Center (University of Frankfurt) / Senckenberg Institute Frankfurt / REDERC (Local Protected area network in Benin) | NL  |
| Ludo Holsbeek           | Flemish Government  | BE  |
| Bengt Gunnar Jonsson    | Dept of Natural Science, Mid Sweden University / - Swedish Scientific Council on Biological Diversity- Swedish Research Support CBD / Society for Conservation Biology  | SE  |
| Sylvia Kaplan           | German Federal Environment Ministry (BMU)   | DE  |
| Nick King               | Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)   | DK  |
| Thomas Koetz            | Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona / Biostrat Partner  | ES  |
| Horst Korn              | German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation / Member of the EPBR Steering Committee   | DE  |
| Julia Krohmer           | Biodiversity and Climate research Centre (BiK-F) / Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F)   | DE  |
| Alejandro Lago Candeira | UNESCO Chair for the Environment / Senckenberg Research Institute   | Int |
| Anne Larigauderie       | DIVERSITAS  | Int |
| Xavier Le Roux          | Director of the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB)  | FR  |
| Nadia Loury             | OREE  | FR  |
| Esteban Manrique Reol   | Institute for Natural Resources. Spanish Research Council CSIC  | ES  |
| Els Martens             | Agency for Nature & Forests, Flemish Ministry Environment   | BE  |
| Sylvia Martinez         | Swiss Biodiversity Forum, Swiss Academy of Sciences   | CH  |
| Carlos Martin-Novella   | Spanish Ministry for the Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs  | ES  |
| Gordon Mc Innes         | European Environment Agency (EEA)   | EU  |
| Patricia Mergen         | Royal Museum for Central Africa / - Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) / Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) / STERNA / BHL / EDIT / Synthesis   | BE  |
| Sebastien Miazza        | Group on Earth Observations (GEO)   | CH  |
| Ellinor Michel          | Natural History Museum London / - International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) / Pan-European Species-directories Infrastructure (PESI)   | UK  |
| Rainer Muessner         | Federal Ministry on Education and Research  | DE  |
| Kalemani Mulongoy       | CBD Secretariat   | Int |

|                     |  |    |
|---------------------|--|----|
| Carsten Neßhöver    | Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ / EPBRS  | DE |
| Toni Nikolic        | Faculty of Science (Division of Biology), University of Zagreb / BioStrat partner - Croatia  | HR |
| Gabriele Obermayr   | Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management  | AT |
| Terry Parr          | UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology / - ALTER-Net (A European Long-term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network) / ILTER- International Long-term Ecological Research Network | UK |
| David Penman        | GBIF   | NZ |
| Petr Petřík         | Institute of Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic / Czech Bioplattform  | CZ |
| Jan Plesnik         | Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic  | CZ |
| Andrew Pullin       | Bangor University / - UK DEFRA Biodiversity Research Advisory Group / Collaboration for Environmental Evidence / Society for Conservation Biology  | UK |
| Angela Richter      | Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres   | DE |
| Julian Rode         | Median / Biostrat  | ES |
| Marc Roekaerts      | Eureko bvba (ETC/NPB consultant) / - Council of Europe - Secretariat of the Bern Convention / -Biological Diversity Unit- Directorate General IV   | BE |
| Jörg Roos           | European Commission  | EU |
| Louise Scally       | BEC Consultants/ Irish NPBR / Manager Irish National Platform for Biodiversity Research  | EI |
| Hugo-Maria Schally  | European Commission  | EU |
| Marianne Schlessler | Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences / RBINS / CBD NFP  | BE |
| Stefan Schroeder    | Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food- Germany / Representative of Dr. Frank Begemann (member of EPBRS)  | DE |
| Hendrik Segers      | Belgian Biodiversity Platform / Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences / SBSTTA national focal point  | BE |
| Martin Sharman      | European Commission / Directorate General for Research   | BE |
| Suzanne Sharrock    | Botanic Gardens / Conservation International   | UK |
| Pierre Sigaud       | French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning / CBD National Focal Point   | FR |
| Pascal Sliwanski    | French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs  | FR |
| Manuela Soares      | European Commission  | EU |

|                        |  |     |
|------------------------|--|-----|
| Isabel Sousa Pinto     | Centre for Marine and Environmental Research and Department of Botany, Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto / - EPBRS steering Committee / Census of Marine Life (European co-chair) / Society of Conservation Biology (European Board) / Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning (MARBEF) | PT  |
| Andrew Stott           | Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK) / - JNCC (representing Deryck Steer) / EPBRS Steering Committee   | UK  |
| Jurgen Tack            | Research Institute for Nature and Forest   | BE  |
| Anne Teller            | European Commission (DG Environment- Unit Nature & Biodiversity)   | EU  |
| Maxime Thibon          | Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité  | FR  |
| Simon Tillier          | EDIT   | FR  |
| Rob Tinch              | Environmental Futures / EPBRS  | BE  |
| Katalin Török          | Institute of Ecology and Botany / - Biostrat coordinator / Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) Board of directors +SER Europe / Hungarian Biodiversity Monitoring System   | HU  |
| Francis Turkelboom     | INBO   | BE  |
| Jozef Turok            | Bioersity International  | IT  |
| Sybille Van den Hove   | Median / - EPBRS / BioStrat / HERMES / HERMIONE / Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency / -SCALES  | ES  |
| Aline Van der Werf     | Belgian Science Policy Office / - Biostrat partner / EPBRS member / Belgian Biodiversity Platform  | BE  |
| Adriana Vella          | University of malta / BioStrat partner for Malta   | MT  |
| Espen Volden           | European Commission - GMES Bureau / - European Space Agency  | EU  |
| Marina von Weissenberg | Ministry of the Environment- Finland   | FI  |
| Allan Watt             | Centre for Ecology and Hydrology / - EPBRS / ALTER-Net   | UK  |
| Sebastian Winkler      | IUCN - Countdown2010 / Advisory board for local ?? and biodiversity  | BE  |
| Makiko Yashiro         | United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  | Int |
| Juliette Young         | CEH  | UK  |
| Karin Zaunberger       | European Commission  | EU  |



## Workshop co-organised by



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