biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Beyond nature conservation

Fostering transformative change, engaging with IPBES and relevant international conventions

21st April 2026

Co-funded by the European Union

Agenda

09:15 - 09:25 Welcome and Intoduction

09:25 - 10:10 Introduction to IPBES and relevant international conventions, engaging in their processes as researchers

- IPBES, how to participate in IPBES processes and presentation of the Transformative Change Assessment
- CBD and relevant international conventions: how and when to participate in their processes and presentation of key strategic documents

10:10 - 10:30 Testimonial of BiodivERsA/Biodiversa+ funded researchers engaged in international processes

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 - 11:20 Exploring the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and engagement alongside CBD

- Discussion around the relevance of projects funded under the BiodivTransform call for the 23 KMGBF targets
- Discussion around the “tools” to disseminate future relevant project’s outcomes to the CBD

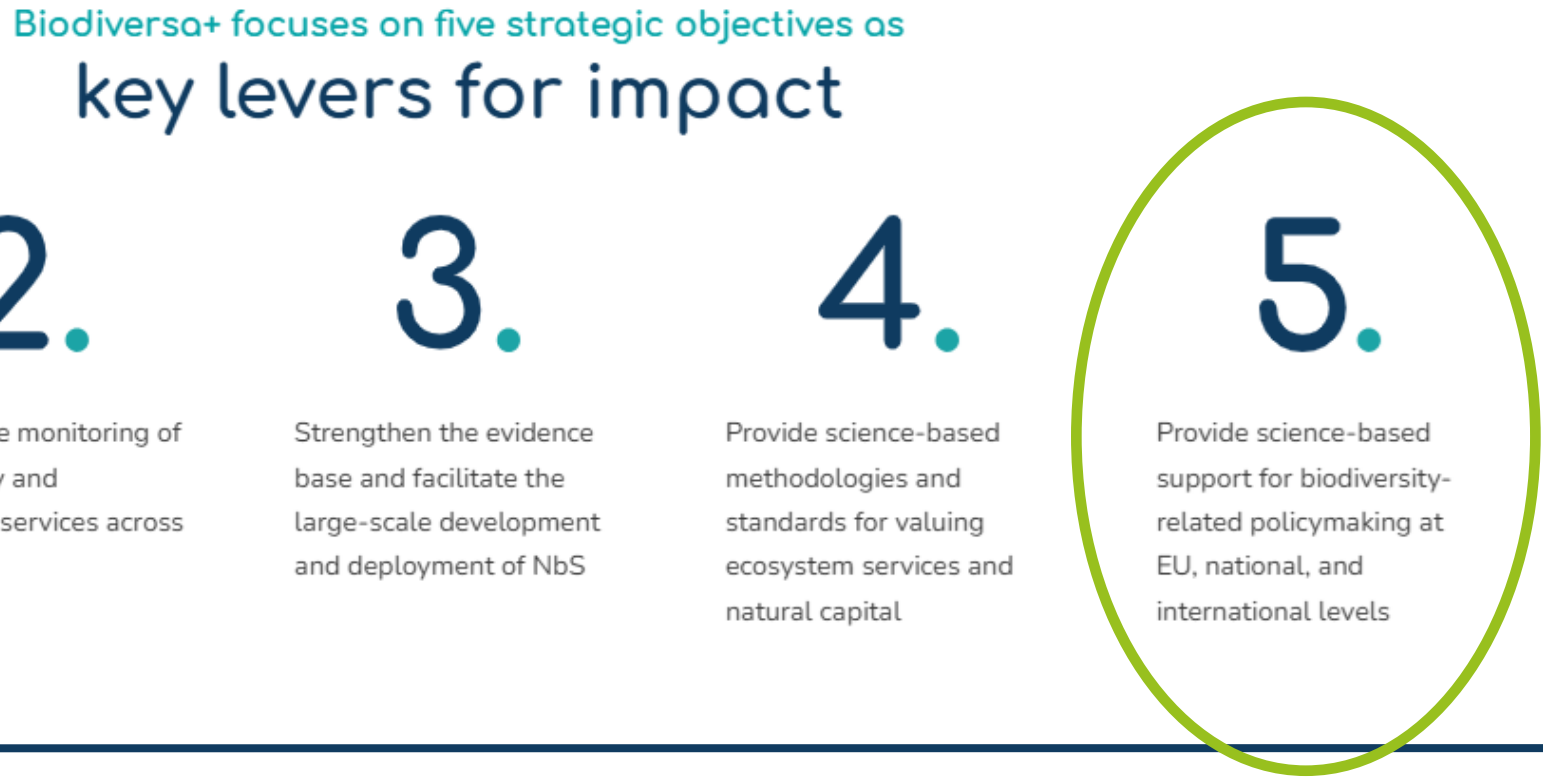
11:20 - 11:50 Exploring critical knowledge gaps from the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment

- Knowledge gaps identified in the Transformative Change Assessment and how can they be addressed in the projects funded under the BiodivTransform call

11:50 - 12:00 Wrap up, concluding words and next steps

Introduction

Biodiversa+ is committed to the **Global 2050 Vision** **of "Living in harmony with nature"** adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the **corresponding EU's vision** that by 2050, biodiversity and its benefits to people will be protected, valued and restored.



Introduction

Biodiversa+ supports decision-making and international policies and initiatives such as

- the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030,
- the **new targets defined under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity**,
- the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals,
- the Paris Climate Agreement,
- and the **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**.

This translates in a **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** articulated around three non-mutually exclusive 'Topical Themes' suitable for the design and implementation of programmes, joint calls, mobility schemes, networking, capacity building and other joint activities:

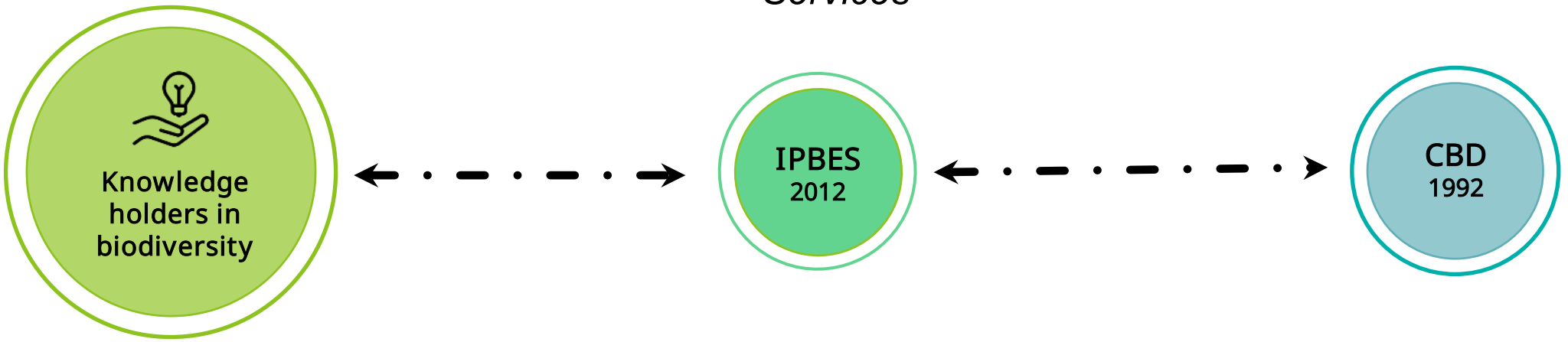
- Better knowledge on Biodiversity protection and restoration
- **Actionable knowledge for transformative change** - the BiodivTranform call was built under this theme
- Better knowledge to support EU's global action

Science

Policy

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Convention on Biological Diversity



IPBES was established in response to calls from the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions for a stronger science-policy interface. IPBES assessments directly inform CBD processes, including the development, monitoring and review of global biodiversity targets.

Objectives of the workshop

- Get familiar with IPBES, CBD and other international initiatives related to transformative change
- Dig into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets
- Explore how IPBES knowledge gaps from the transformive change assessment can inform BiodivTransform projects
- Build capacity to be able to participate in these international processes

IPBES

How to participate

Transformative Change Assessment

Camille Guibal (FRB)

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- Established in 2012 by 94 governments and hosted by UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)
- 152 governments as members and + 600 organisations as observers (CITES, TRAFFIC, IPCC, Universities, Environmental associations, Environmental centers, etc.)

Main goal: To strengthen knowledge foundations **for better policy through science**, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development

Assess the state of knowledge on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people in support of sustainable development

Build capacities of individuals and institutions

Promote the generation of knowledge and management of data on biodiversity as a foundation for the work of IPBES

Identify and promote the development and use of policy instruments, policy support tools and methodologies

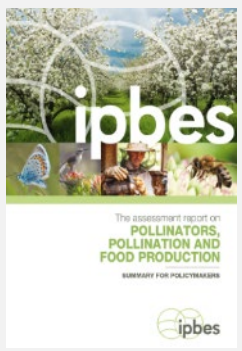
Strengthen the involvement of members and stakeholders, and increase the visibility of IPBES and the use of IPBES products

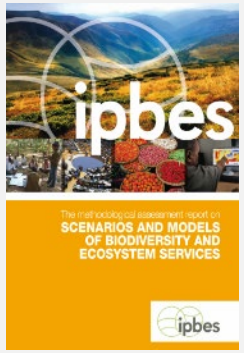
Biodiversa+ and IPBES

01	Assessing knowledge	Biodiversa+ participates in **IPBES reviews** to suggest results from Biodiversa+ funded projects
02	Building capacity	Biodiversa+ organises **events to support the engagement of European experts in IPBES processes**.
03	Strengthening the knowledge foundations	Biodiversa+ supports **knowledge generation** to address knowledge gaps identified by IPBES. It was also selected to host the IPBES TSU for “Knowledge Generation Catalysis” in 2019 and in 2024.
04	Supporting policy	Biodiversa+ is engaged in **key collaborations** with other EU-projects.

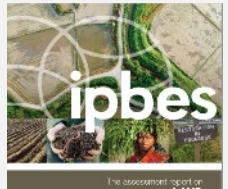
14 completed IPBES assessments

2016

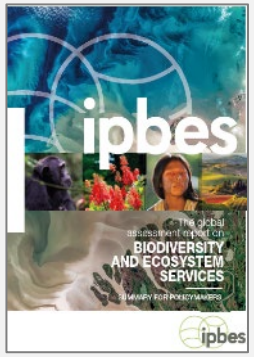




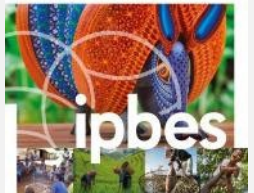
2018



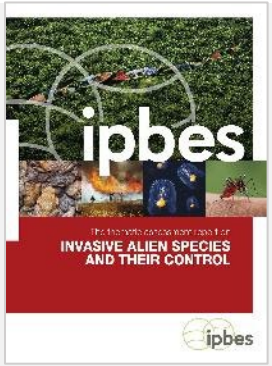
2019



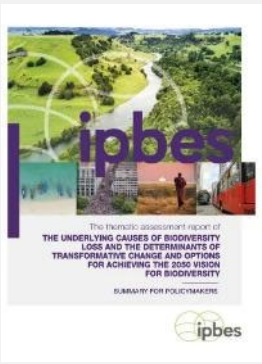
2022

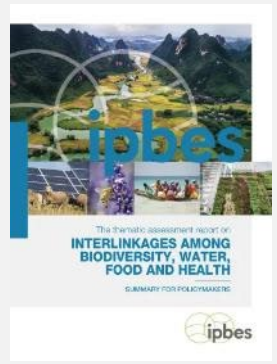


2023

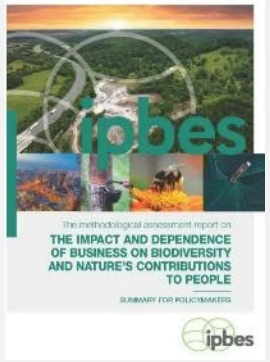


2024

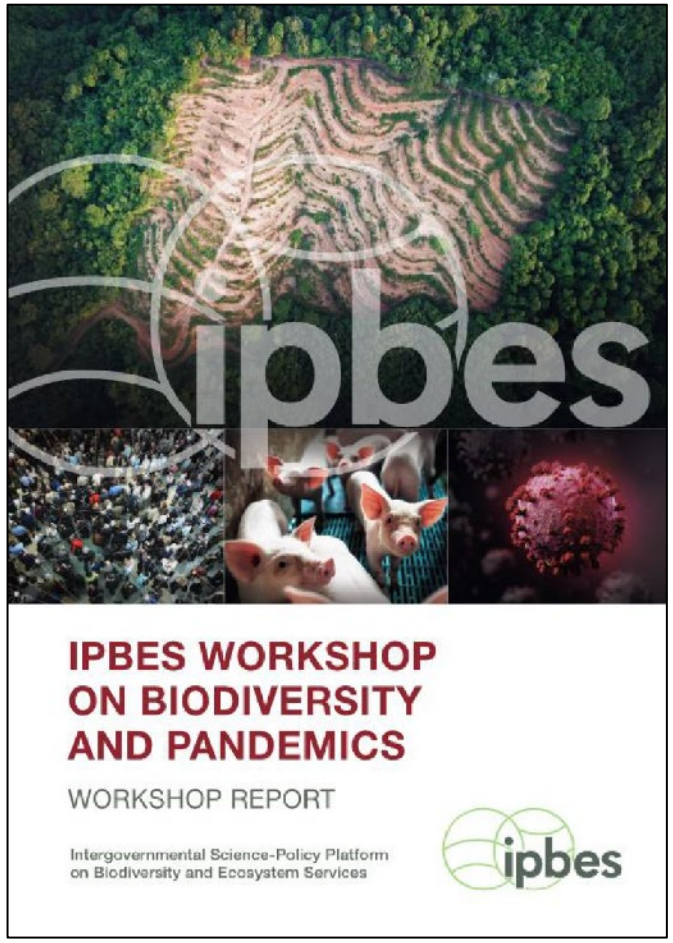


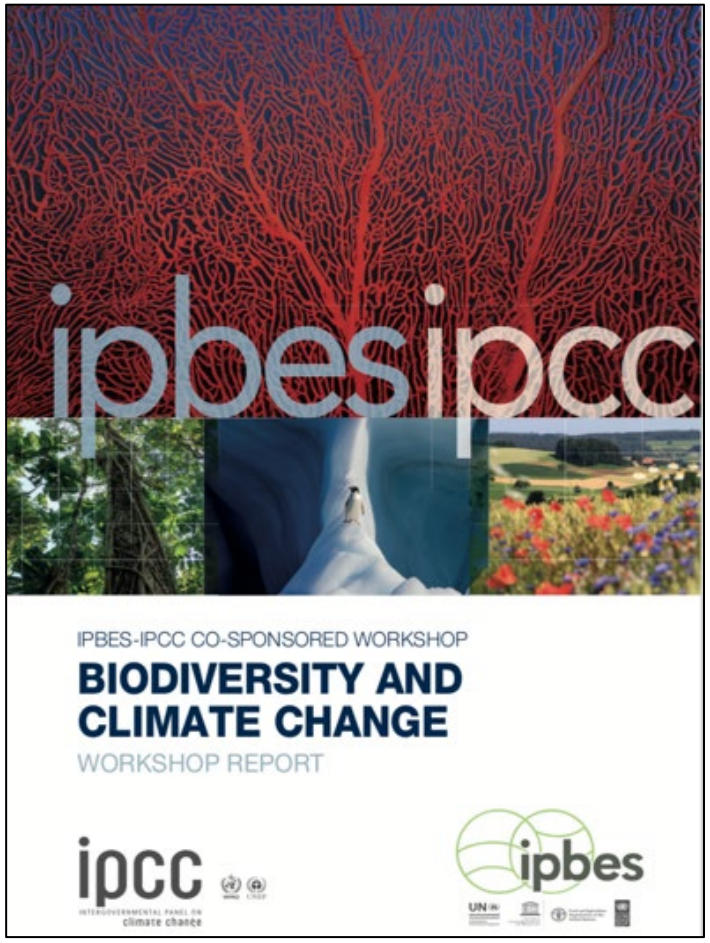


2026



And two workshop reports





What is an IPBES assessment report?

5/6 chapters and a glossary

Summary for policymakers (SPM)

Around 50 to 150 experts with different expertise from all countries

Between 3 and 4 years

External reviews open to all

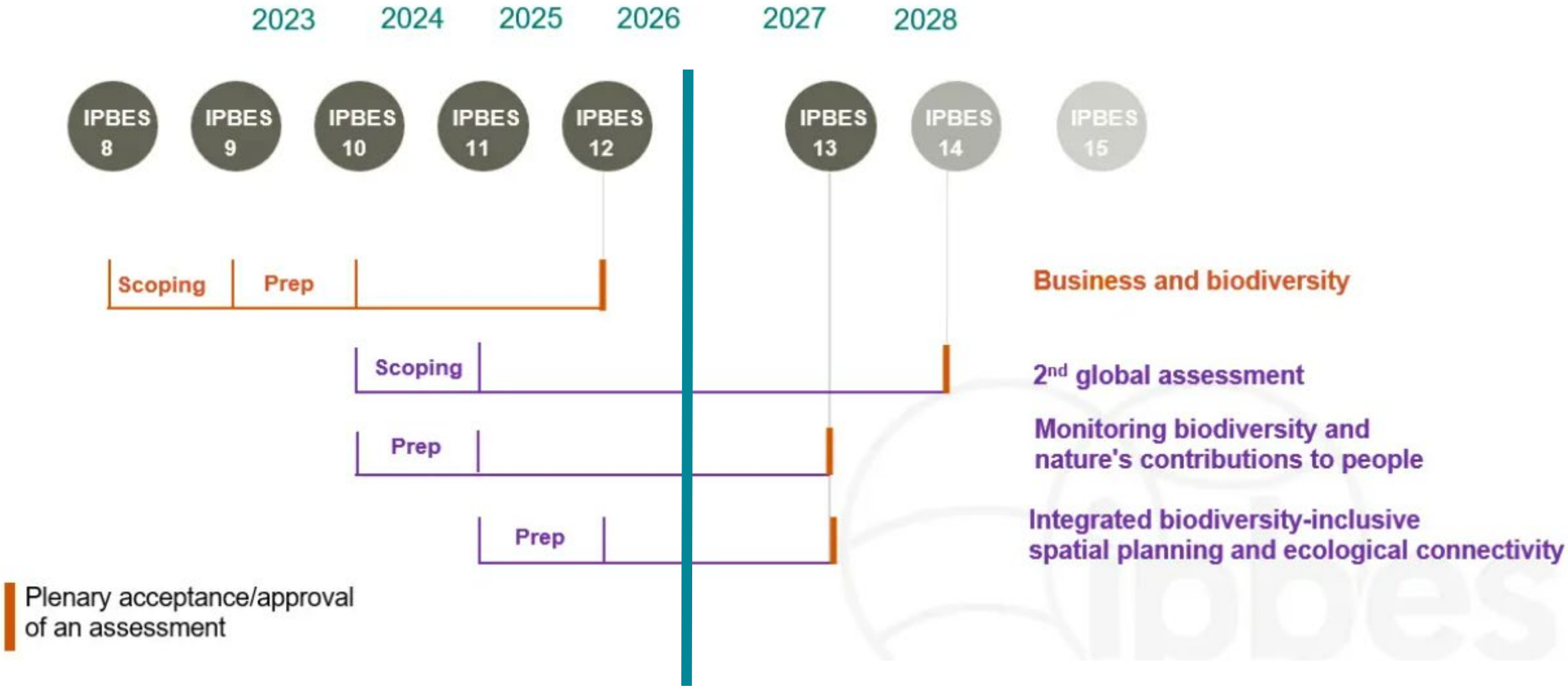
Approval by IPBES member States

IPBES does not produce new knowledge; it **synthesizes existing knowledge** and provides options for policymakers.

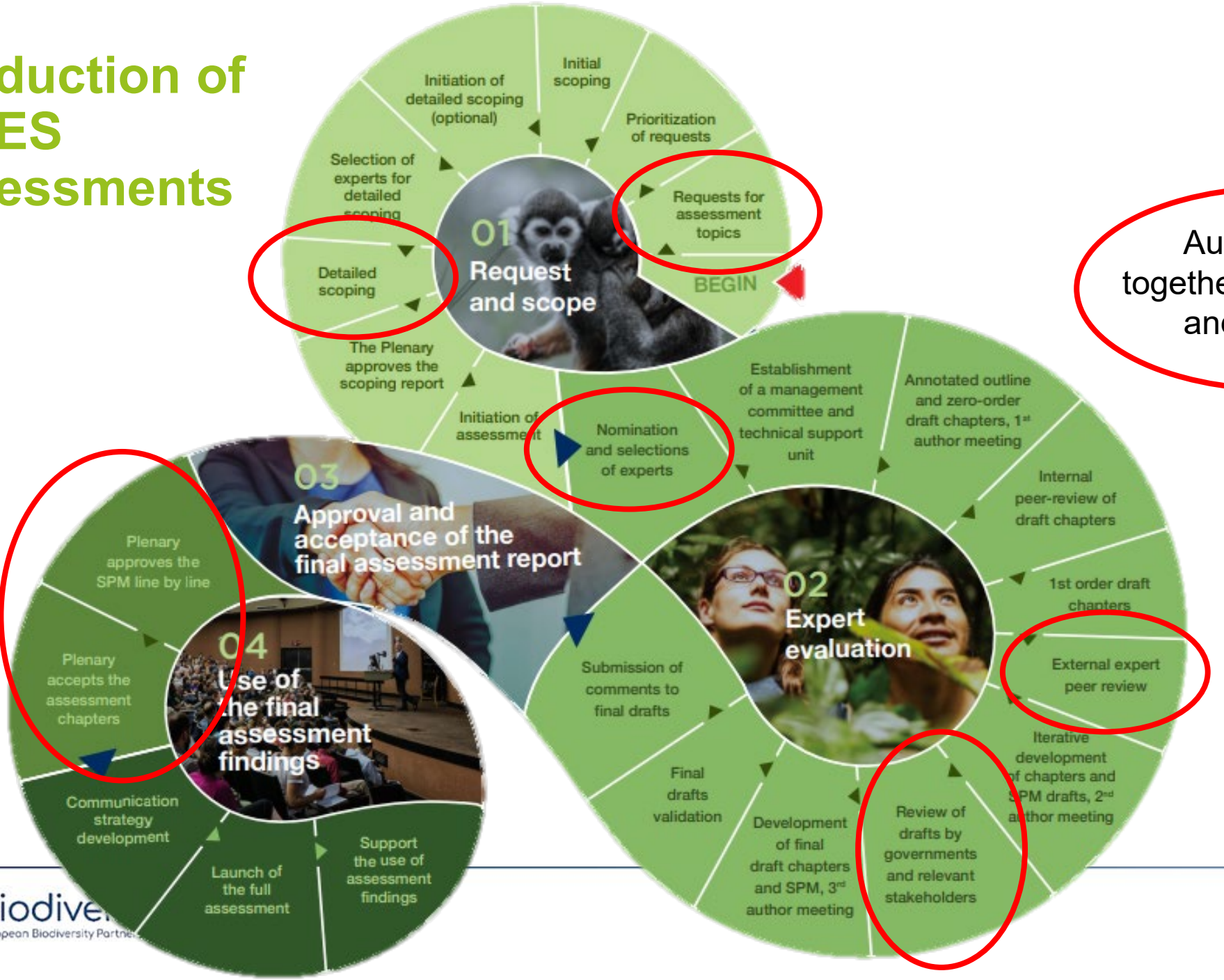
The **chapters** are written by the authors of the assessment and contain a summary of existing, well-established and widely shared knowledge, but also more uncertain knowledge, and knowledge gaps.

The **SPM** is a document, negotiated by countries during IPBES plenary sessions, which summarizes the key messages from the chapters of the assessment. The elements of the summary for policymakers are therefore taken from the elements present in the chapters.

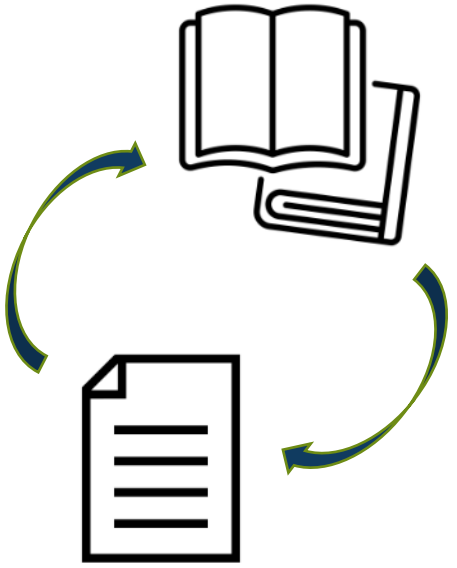
Indicative assessment timeline up to 2030



Production of IPBES assessments



Authors write together the chapters and the SPM



Next opportunity: to become a reviewer

Expert reviewers participate in the review process by evaluating **chapters and/or SPM** drafts for **scientific accuracy, balance, and completeness**.

You may review individual sections, full chapters, or entire drafts during formal review periods.

Anyone with relevant expertise can register.

All reviewers are acknowledged publicly with their names, affiliations and country in an annex to the published reports. All comments and their responses are made available after publication.

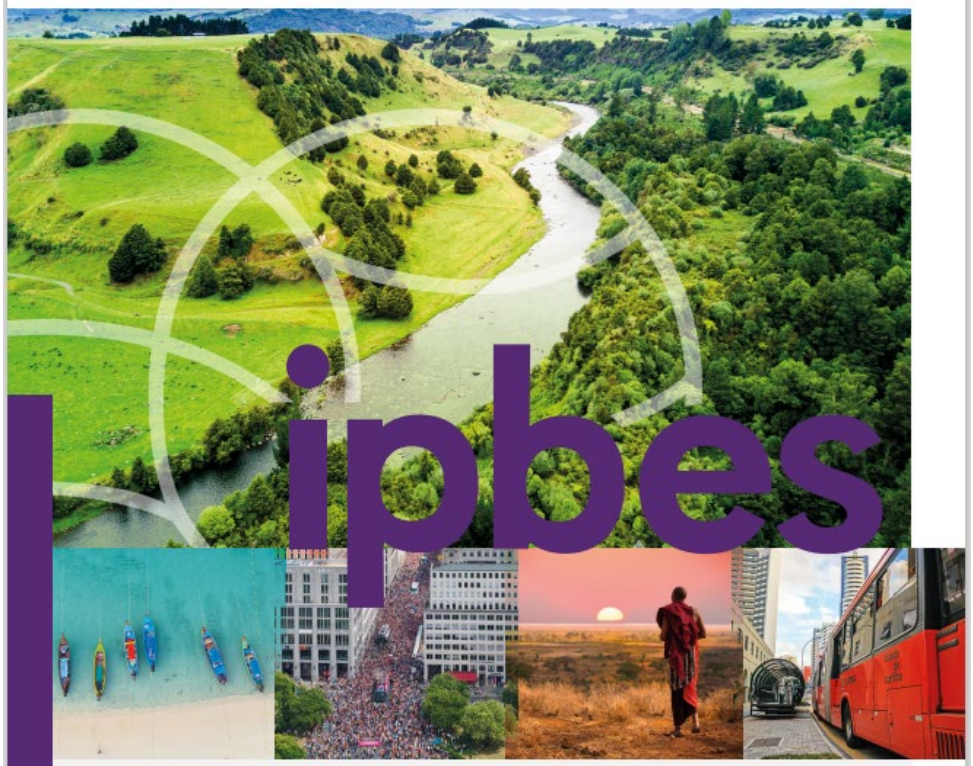
Why should you review an IPBES assessment?

Ensuring scientific rigour and balance - The task is to critique and improve the draft's accuracy, comprehensiveness, and objectivity. This helps guarantee that the final assessment is scientifically robust, unbiased, and credible.

Increasing transparency and trust - Opening drafts to expert and governmental reviews enhances transparency.

Capturing diverse perspectives and knowledge - Broad participation in the review process, including scientists, practitioners, policymakers, and representatives of Indigenous peoples and local communities, helps ensure that a diversity of perspectives and relevant literature is considered.

Identifying and closing knowledge gaps - Reviewers can highlight areas where important evidence or viewpoints may be missing, as well as point out inconsistencies or uncertainties that require clarification. They can also indicate imbalances and bias in the presentation of knowledge that the authors might not be aware of.

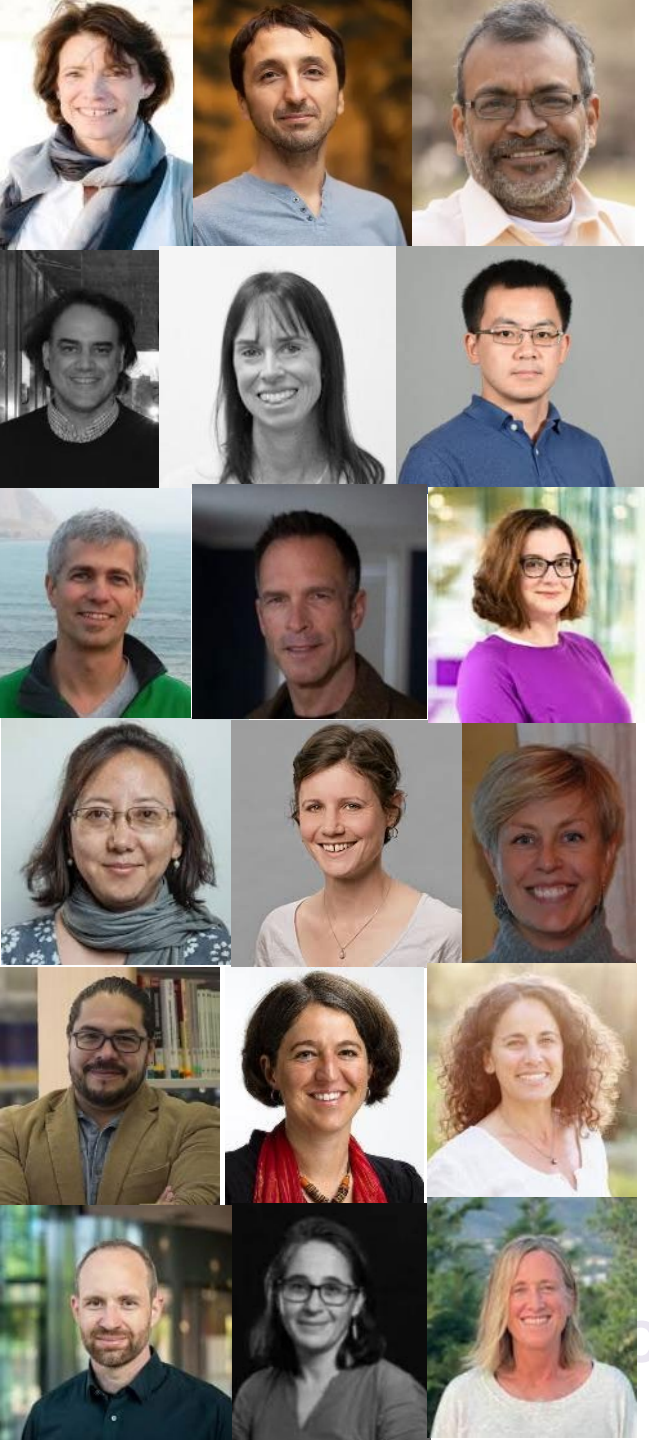


The thematic assessment report on

THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND THE DETERMINANTS OF TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE AND OPTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY

SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS

ipbes



The expert group

Expert group

- 3 co-chairs
- 15 coordinating lead authors
- 61 lead authors
- 10 review editors
- 12 fellows
- >200 Contributing authors

Technical support unit

University of Montpellier, France

- Laurence Périanin
- Camille Guibal
- Anouk Renaud

MEP & Bureau members of the management committee

- Floyd Homer (Bureau)
- David Obura (Bureau)
- Özden Görücü (MEP)
- Markus Fischer (MEP)
- Madhav Karki (MEP)

The experts and the process

- Experts from **42 countries** across all regions of the world
- **Gender balance (53%** women / **46%** men)
- High proportion of **social and interdisciplinary scientists**
- Draws on **7,000 references**
- **3 years** in development, over **10,000 comments** addressed
- ≈ **880** visions assessed
- ≈ **400** case studies collected and assessed

Collaboration between experts with **different areas of expertise,** coming from diverse **contexts**, and with a **strong commitment** to the assessment.

Transformative change
for a just and sustainable world

is urgent and necessary
to address the global interconnected crises related to biodiversity loss, nature's decline and the projected collapse of key ecosystem functions.

Financial flows to biodiversity conservation amount to around **0.25% of the global GDP** that is moderately and highly dependent on nature ($58 trillion).

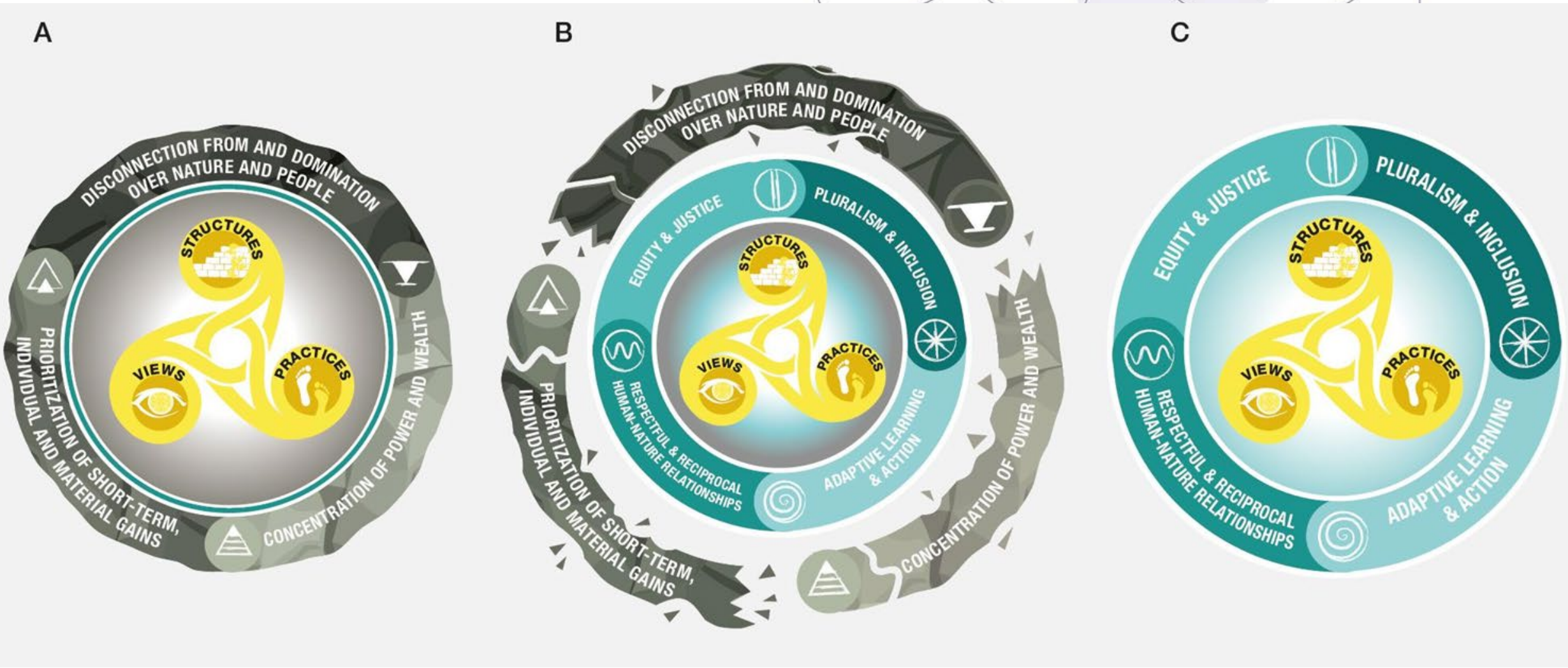
#TransformativeChange

Deliberate transformative change for a just and sustainable world shifts **views, structures and practices** in ways that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline.

#TransformativeChange

Visions, which include narratives and stories, are desirable future states of people and nature, including Mother Earth, shaped by values and worldviews and often include defined goals and intentional efforts to attain such future states.

Shared positive visions and their development can inspire transformative change, especially when they recognize socio-ecological interdependencies, the agency of non-human life forms and an ethics of care.


A
DISCONNECTION FROM AND DOMINATION OVER NATURE AND PEOPLE
STRUCTURES
VIEWS
PRACTICES
PRIORITIZATION OF SHORT-TERM, INDIVIDUAL AND MATERIAL GAINS
CONCENTRATION OF POWER AND WEALTH
B
DISCONNECTION FROM AND DOMINATION OVER NATURE AND PEOPLE
EQUITY & JUSTICE
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PRACTICES
RESPECTFUL & RECIPROCAL HUMAN-NATURE RELATIONSHIPS
ADAPTIVE LEARNING & ACTION
PRIORITIZATION OF SHORT-TERM, INDIVIDUAL AND MATERIAL GAINS
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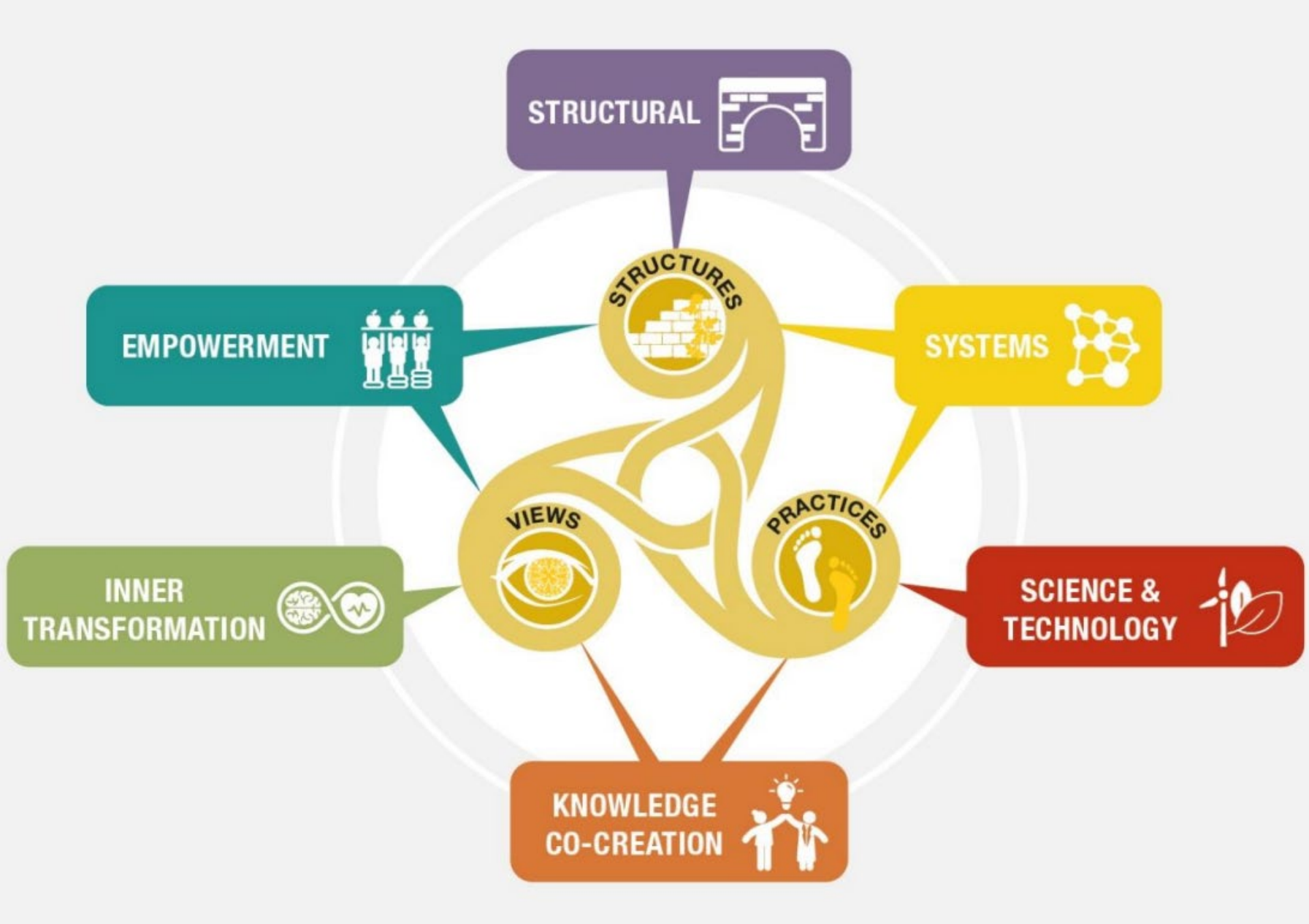
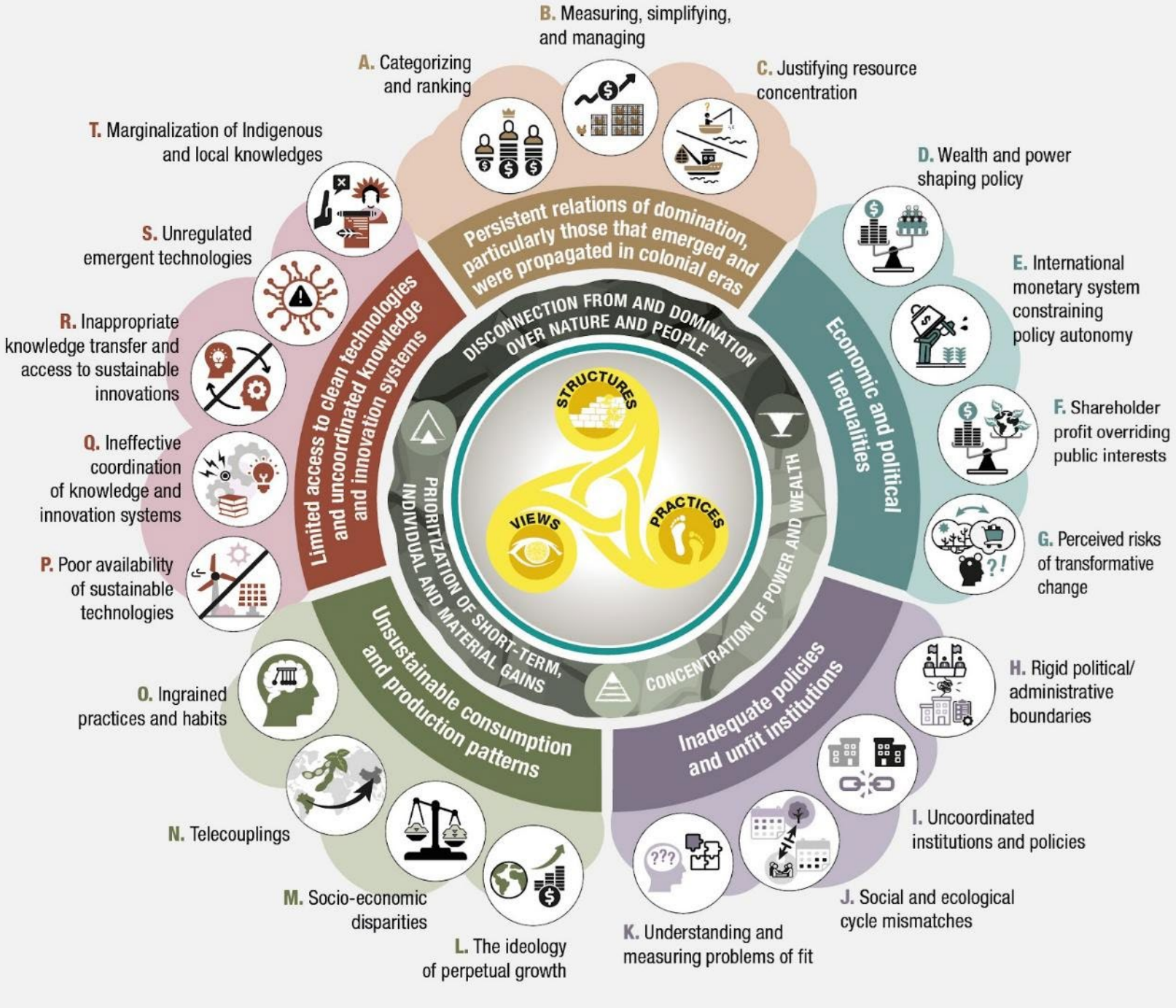
C
EQUITY & JUSTICE
PLURALISM & INCLUSION
STRUCTURES
VIEWS
PRACTICES
RESPECTFUL & RECIPROCAL HUMAN-NATURE RELATIONSHIPS
ADAPTIVE LEARNING & ACTION

Six Broad Approaches to Knowledge on Transformative Change




B. Measuring, simplifying, and managing
A. Categorizing and ranking
C. Justifying resource concentration
T. Marginalization of Indigenous and local knowledges
D. Wealth and power shaping policy
S. Unregulated emergent technologies
E. International monetary system constraining policy autonomy
R. Inappropriate knowledge transfer and access to sustainable innovations
F. Shareholder profit overriding public interests
Q. Ineffective coordination of knowledge and innovation systems
G. Perceived risks of transformative change
P. Poor availability of sustainable technologies
H. Rigid political/ administrative boundaries
O. Ingrained practices and habits
I. Uncoordinated institutions and policies
N. Telecouplings
J. Social and ecological cycle mismatches
M. Socio-economic disparities
K. Understanding and measuring problems of fit
L. The ideology of perpetual growth
Persistent relations of domination, particularly those that emerged and were propagated in colonial eras
Limited access to clean technologies and uncoordinated knowledge and innovation systems
Economic and political inequalities
Unsustainable consumption and production patterns
Inadequate policies and unfit institutions
DISCONNECTION FROM AND DOMINATION OVER NATURE AND PEOPLE
PRIORITIZATION OF SHORT-TERM, INDIVIDUAL AND MATERIAL GAINS
CONCENTRATION OF POWER AND WEALTH
STRUCTURES
VIEWS
PRACTICES

FIVE OVERARCHING CHALLENGES TO TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE:

- Persistent relations of domination, especially those that were propagated in colonial times;
- Economic and political inequalities;
- Inadequate policies and unfit institutions;
- Unsustainable consumption and production patterns; and
- Limited access to clean technologies and uncoordinated knowledge and innovation systems.

FIVE KEY STRATEGIES HAVE COMPLEMENTARY AND SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS

1	Conserving and regenerating places of value to nature and people
2	Driving systemic change in the sectors most responsible for biodiversity loss and nature's decline
3	Transforming economic systems for nature and equity
4	Transforming governance systems to be integrated, inclusive, accountable and adaptive
5	Shifting societal views and values to recognize and prioritize fundamental interconnections between humans and nature

Any questions?

CBD

and other relevant international conventions

Charlotte Le Delliou (MTE)

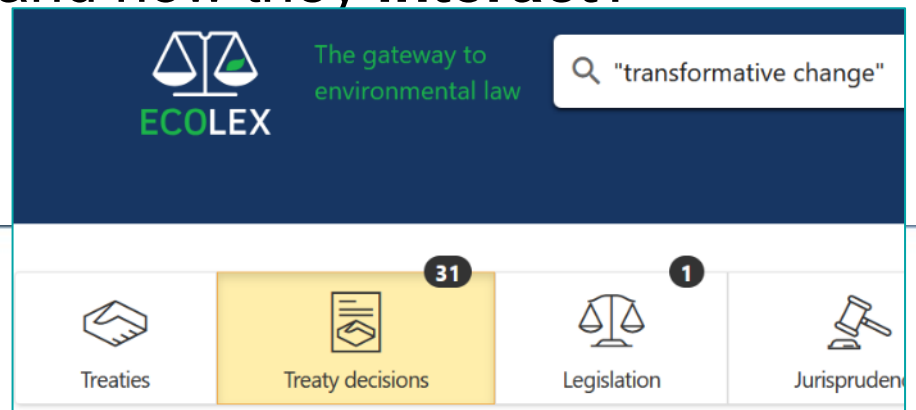
INTERNATIONAL POLICY PROCESSES AS POTENTIAL **TRANSFORMATIVE TOOLS**

MEAs and transformative change

- Transformative change as a "**requirement**" for Multilateral Environmental Agreements, mentioned in an explicit or implicit way

MEAs: form (e.g., conventions), topic (environment) and scope (>2 countries)

- For MEAs addressing biodiversity, climate change and desertification
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (**KMGBF**): discussed when developing the Framework, then intended explicitly
- What to transform? **Relationship** to nature, **policy** action, **education**… and even **M(E)As in themselves** and how they **interact**?



MEAs and transformative change

- **IPBES findings** on transformative change and MEAs

- Five **key strategies** to achieve transformative change
- **Strategy 4** “Transforming **governance** systems to make them integrated, inclusive, accountable and adaptive”
- incl. **Action 4.3** “Securing **collaboration and accountability** through multilateral governance addresses global interdependencies”

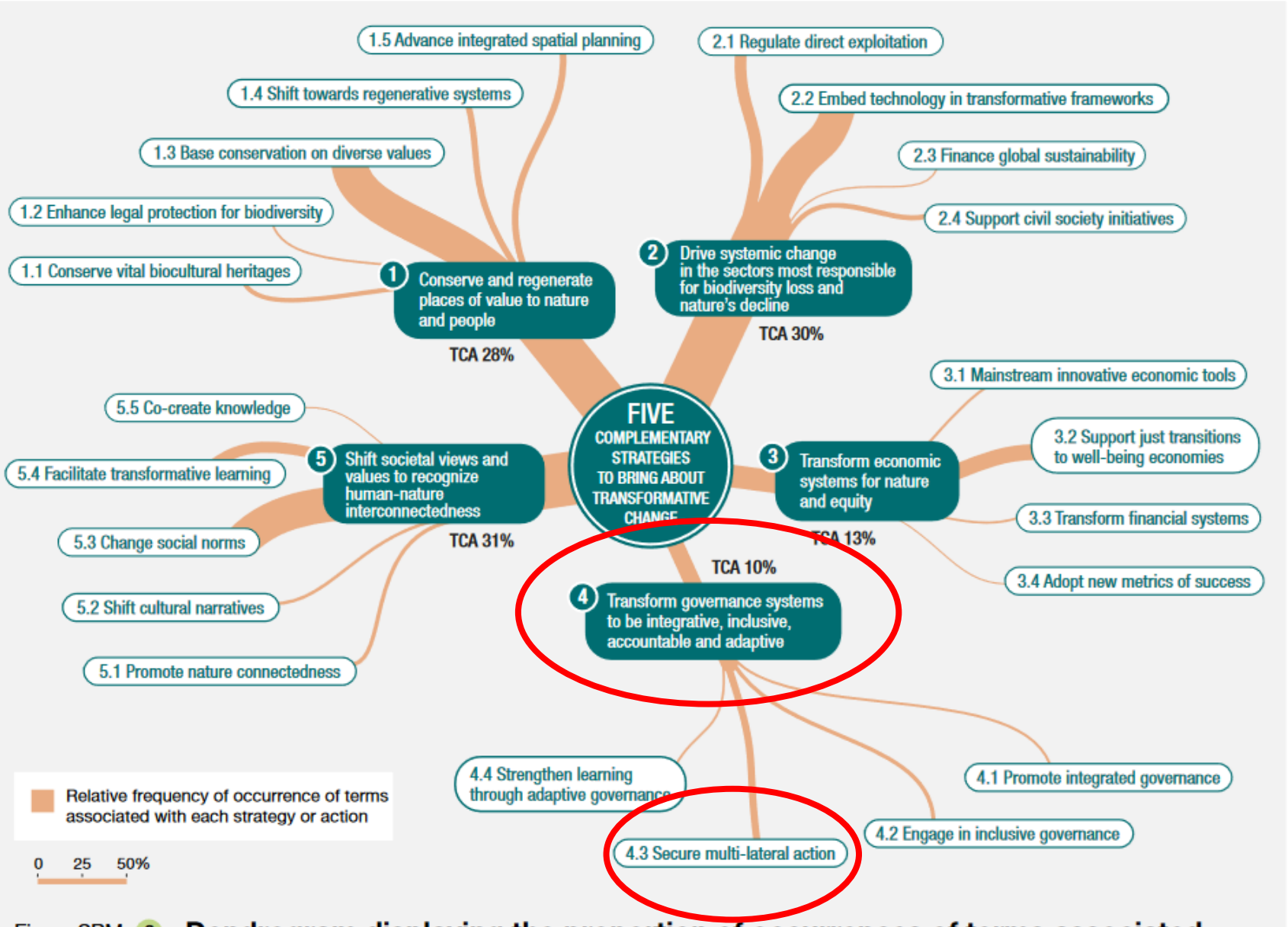


Figure SPM 6 **Dendrogram displaying the proportion of occurrences of terms associated with strategies or actions.**

The line thickness in the dendrogram depicts the relative frequency of occurrence of 566 terms associated with the 22 actions and five strategies in the titles and abstracts of documents (n = 420,523).

IPBES (2024)

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European Biodiversity Partner

MEAs and transformative change

- **How** to implement this transformative action?

3.1 and 3.2) *(established but incomplete)* {5.5.2}. Revising procedures of multilateral collaboration and designing coherent and consistent policies between countries linked by trade and other interdependencies can be a powerful

incomplete) {3.5.5, 5.6.2}. Global interdependencies among causes and effects of biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, poverty and other sustainability issues require effective and integrated multilateral and bilateral agreements that coordinate balanced solutions **(Action 4.3)** *(established*

IPBES (2024)

3.5.3 Improve Implementation

3.5.4 Increase Anticipatory Adaptive Capacities

3.5.2 Strengthen Inclusive Governance through the Inclusion of Nonstate Actors

3.5.1 Strengthen the Integration of International Treaties through Integrative Governance

Miller Smallwood et al. (2022)

- **Transform** existing MEAs and their **implementation** (e.g., work with IPLCs, make decision-makers more accountable)
- Foster synergies/coherence between MEAs in a **nexus** approach
- Get involved in "**non-conservationist**" agreements (i.e., agriculture, trade, development, culture)

MEAs and transformative change

- …and **Strategy 5** “Shifting societal views and values to recognize and prioritize fundamental **interconnections** between humans and nature”

Workshop’s focus on MEAs, incl. “cultural” ones

MEAs and transformative change

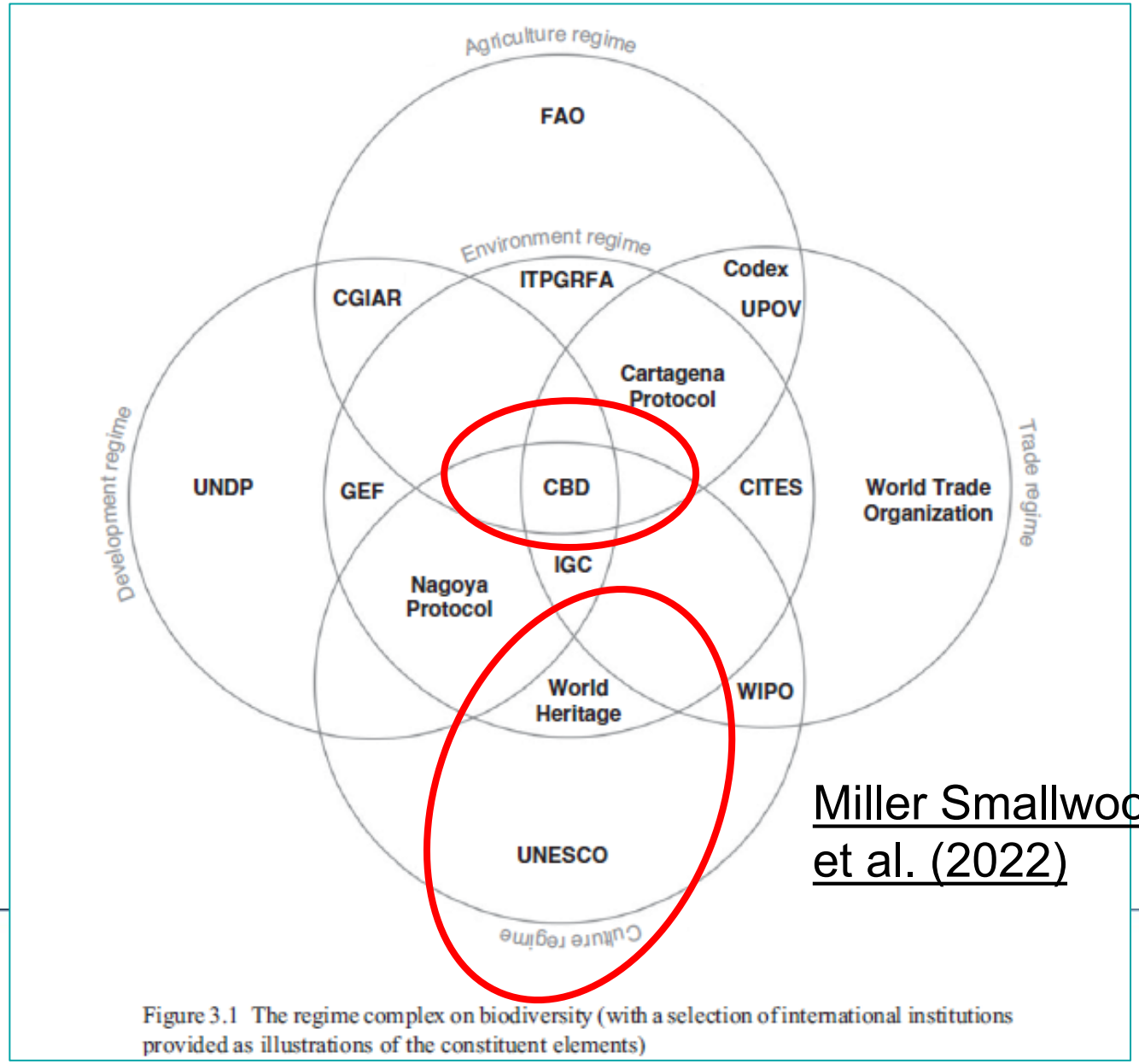


Figure 3.1 The regime complex on biodiversity (with a selection of international institutions provided as illustrations of the constituent elements)

Miller Smallwood et al. (2022)

FOCUS ON THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

Convention on Biological Diversity

- Established in 1992 (20 years prior IPBES), alongside the climate and desertification conventions, the "**general**" international convention on biodiversity
- 196 **Parties** (=mainly States) to the CBD (i.e., almost universally ratified convention) and many observers, incl. academia

Convention on Biological Diversity

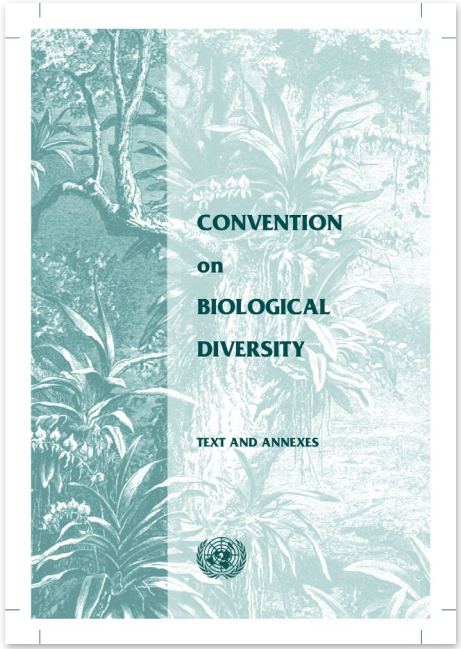
- Three objectives (article 1):

Conservation of biological diversity

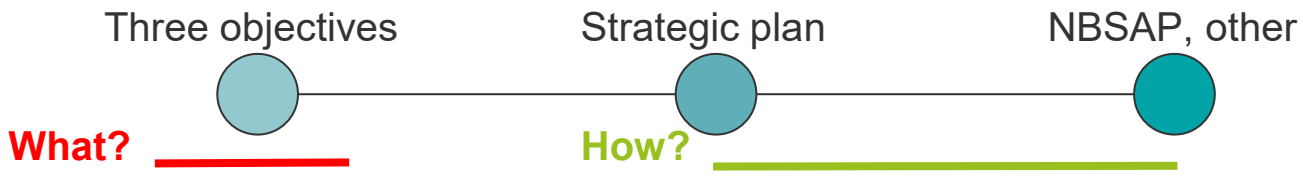
Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity

Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources

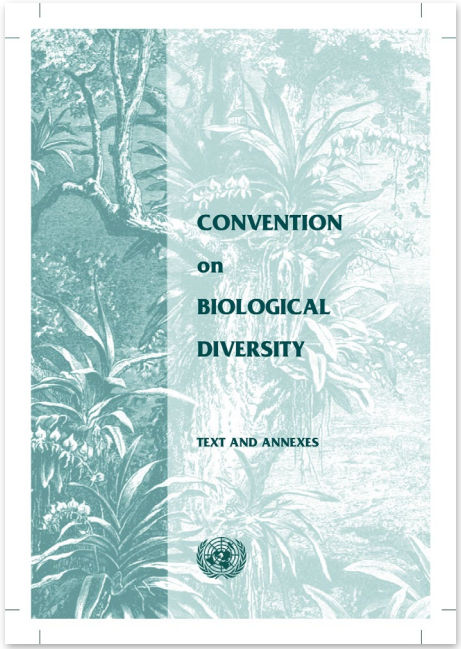
Convention on Biological Diversity



- In concrete terms: a Convention's **text** (i.e., preamble, articles)
- One of the main implementation pathways: the National Biodiversity Action Plan and Strategie (**NBSAP**, article 6)
- What to implement? A "**framework** convention": three overarching objectives to be operationalised through 10-year strategic plans



Convention on Biological Diversity



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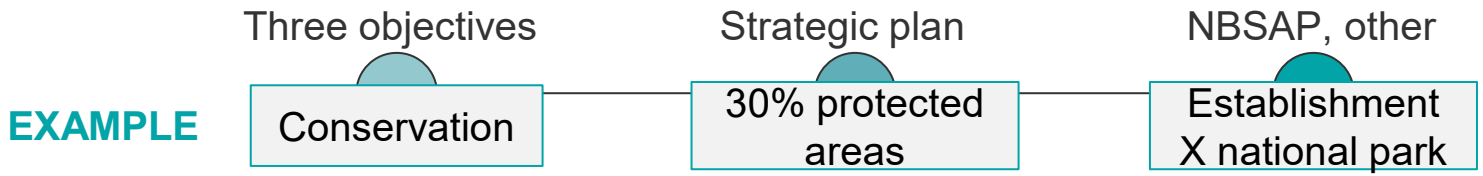


Convention on Biological Diversity

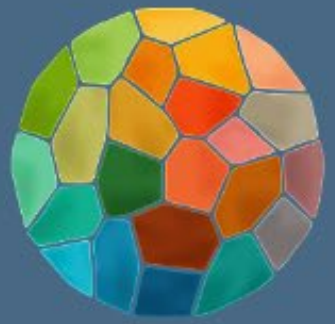
Kunming–Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

- The 2022-2030 Strategic Plan: the Kunming-Montreal **Global Biodiversity Framework** (KMGBF)
- Adopted at **COP15** in 2022, a landmark agreement despite persistent limitations (still not legally binding)
- A **UN-wide** policy to be implemented by all (~~KMGBF to the CBD~~)
- A **stepwise** approach: a vision to be achieved by 2050, 3 goals by 2050 and 23 targets by 2030

Decision 15/4 (2022)

KMGBF Theory of Change

GLOBAL TARGETS
Action-oriented



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

23 targets
Implemented by **CBD Parties** (i.e. states) and **relevant actors**

From 2022 to 2030

GLOBAL GOALS
Outcome-oriented

Goal A
Ecosytems, Species, Genetic Diversity

Goal B
Sustainable Use, Ecosystem Services

Goal C
Access and Benefit-sharing

Goal D
Means of Implementation

By 2050

GLOBAL 2050 VISION

Living in Harmony with Nature

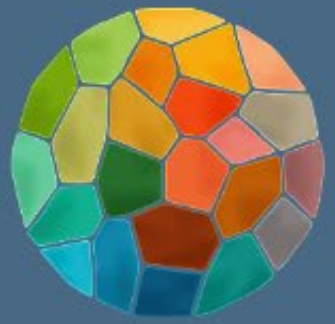
By 2050

biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership


1
Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss
2
Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems
3
Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas
4
Halt Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflict
5
Ensure Sustainable Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species
6
Reduce the Introduction and Impact of Invasive Alien Species
7
Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity
8
Minimize Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience
9
Manage Wild Species Sustainably
10
Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
11
Restore and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People
12
Plan Urban Areas for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity
13
Share Benefits from Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge
14
Integrate Biodiversity in all Decision-Making
15
Reduce Businesses' Negative Impacts on Biodiversity
16
Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices
17
Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology
18
Reduce Harmful Incentives and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity
19
Increase all Financial Resources for Biodiversity
20
Strengthen Capacity-Building and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity
21
Ensure That Data and Knowledge are Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action
22
Ensure Inclusive Participation in Biodiversity Decisions, Respecting Rights, Cultures, and Justice
23
Ensure Gender Equality with Equal Rights, Participation, and Leadership for Women and Girls

KMGBF Theory of Change

GLOBAL TARGETS
Action-oriented



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

23 targets
Implemented by **CBD Parties** (i.e. states) and **relevant actors**

GLOBAL GOALS
Outcome-oriented

Goal C
Access and Benefit-sharing

Goal D
Means of Implementation

No "transformative change" target or goal
Transformation is everywhere in the KMGBF
and benefits from engagement of academia

GLOBAL 2050 VISION

Living in Harmony with Nature

From 2022 to 2030

By 2050

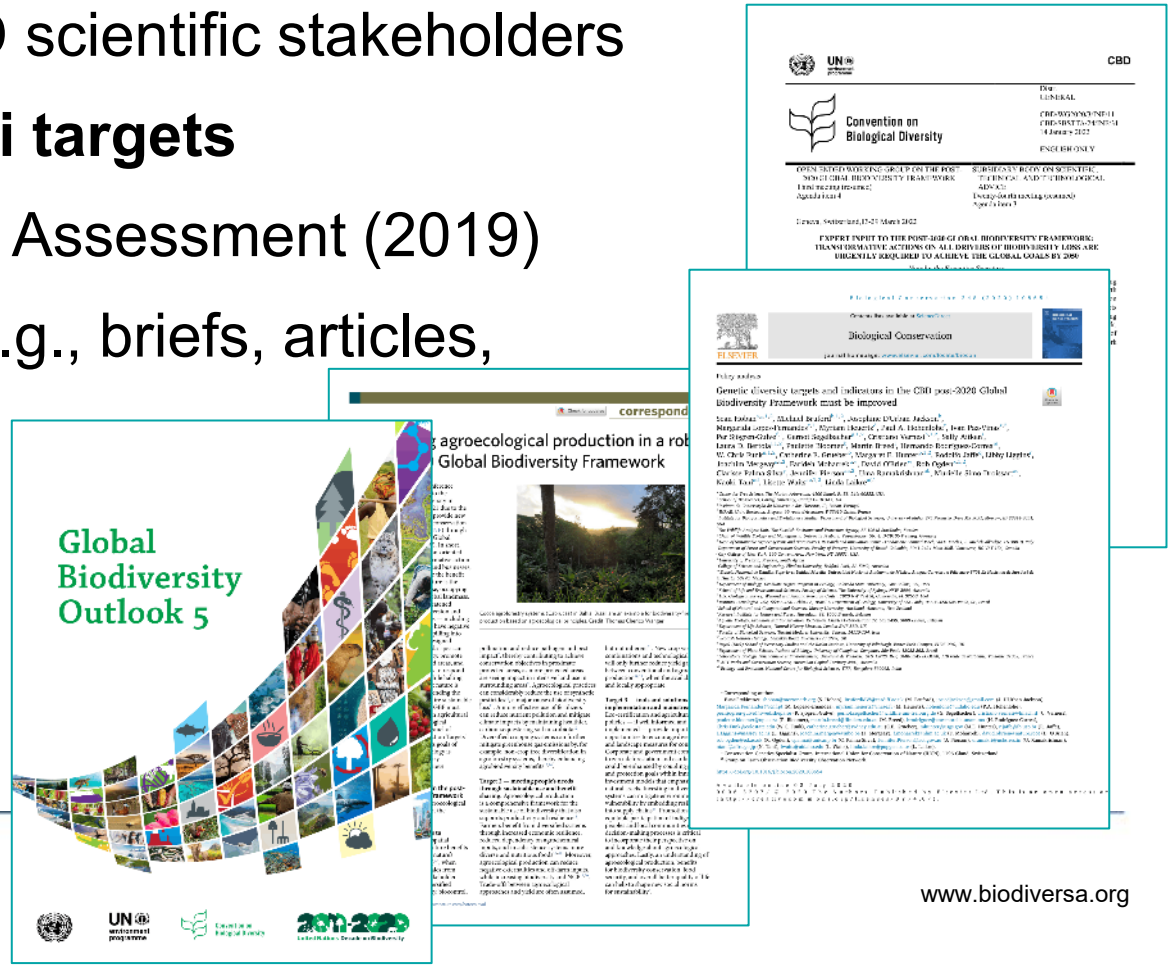
By 2050

Convention on Biological Diversity

Convention on Biological Diversity

Kunming–Montreal GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

- A Framework **shaped** by policy AND scientific stakeholders
- Drawing lessons from previous **Aichi targets**
- Building upon the IPBES **1st Global** Assessment (2019)
- As well as other **scientific inputs** (e.g., briefs, articles, expert group)



Convention on Biological Diversity

Kunming–Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

- A key innovation: a **monitoring** framework to track progress towards achieving goals and targets
- i.e., a set of indicators to be **reported** by Parties (2026, 2028) and compiled in a global report (COP17, 2026)
- "**Headline**" indicators and **binary** indicators (yes/no) considered mandatory, other indicators optional

Decision 16/31 (2022)

Convention on Biological Diversity

Kunming–Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Check your country's reporting?
Online Reporting Tool

- A key innovation: a **monitoring** framework to track progress towards achieving goals and targets
- i.e., a set of indicators to be **reported** by Parties (2026, 2028) and compiled in a global report (COP17, 2026)
- "**Headline**" indicators and **binary** indicators (yes/no) considered mandatory, other indicators optional

Decision 16/31 (2022)

Convention on Biological Diversity

Kunming–Montreal GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

biodiversa+ European Biodiversity Partnership

- **Analysis** of the 35 BiodivTransform funded projects:
- 51% considered "**Advanced**" in engaging alongside the CBD, 34% "**Beginner**" and 15% "**Expert**" (i.e., context, deliverables, experts)
- Addressing **all KMGBF Goals**, but mainly Goal A "Conservation"

See Workshop

FOCUS ON
RELEVANT CULTURAL CONVENTIONS

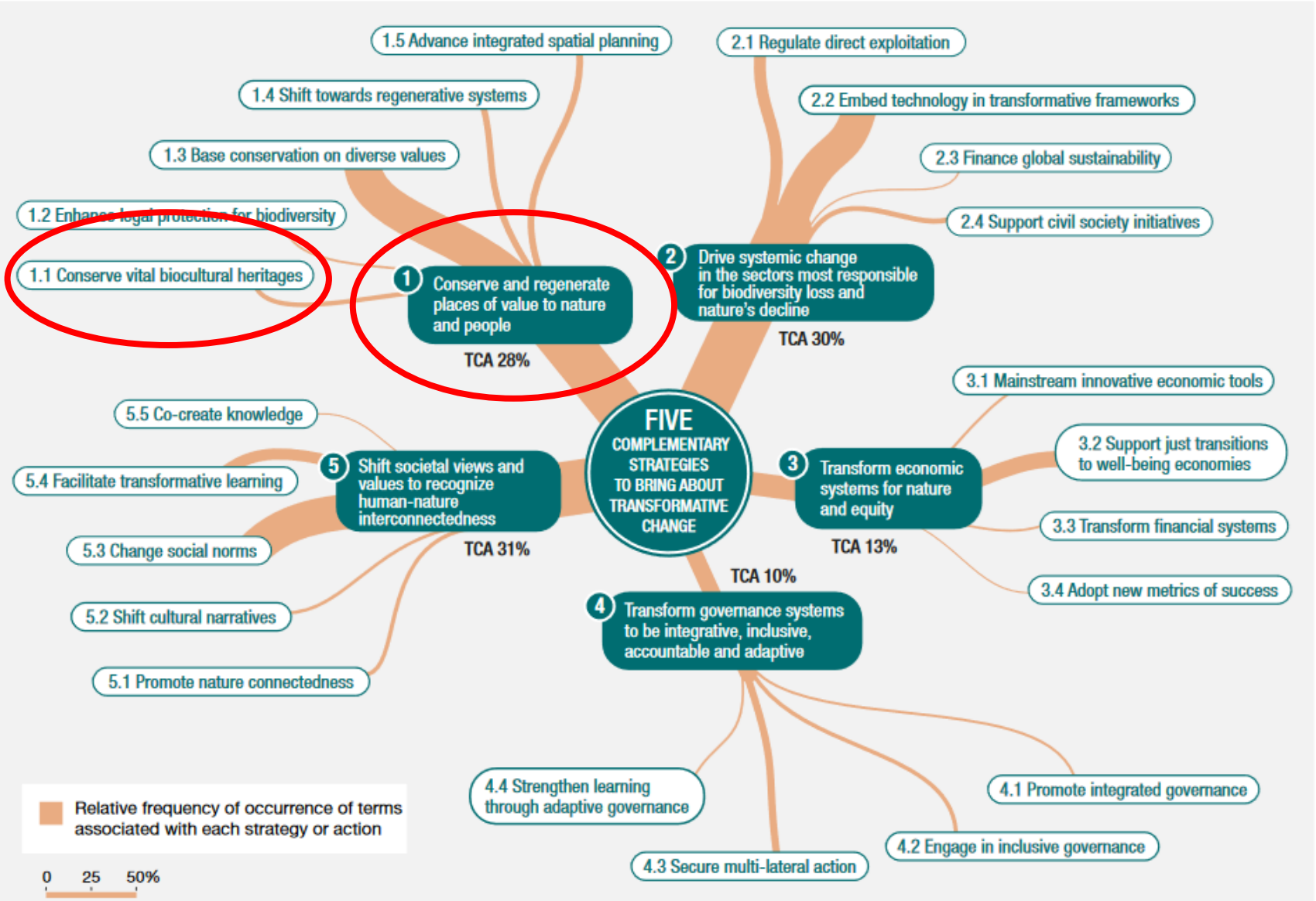


Figure SPM 6 **Dendrogram displaying the proportion of occurrences of terms associated with strategies or actions.**

The line thickness in the dendrogram depicts the relative frequency of occurrence of 566 terms associated with the 22 actions and five strategies in the titles and abstracts of documents (n = 420,523).

IPBES (2024)

biodivers
European Biodiversity Partner

Other relevant international conventions

- Focus on the **"culture" regime**, a transformative pathway
- i.e., **UNESCO** and World Heritage Convention (**WHC**)
- From cultural heritage to **natural/cultural heritage** and "**biocultural diversity**"

Table 3.2 *Strengths, weaknesses and transformative potential of global biodiversity governance*

Strengths	Weaknesses	Lessons learned and transformative potential
International institutions and architecture		
The global biodiversity regime and its different elements amplify the theme of biodiversity. There are commitments across biodiversity conventions and SDGs to global biodiversity targets.	There is little engagement with the trade or climate regime; integration with the agricultural, development and cultural regimes must be strengthened.	Biodiversity governance needs active support from a range of other international agreements, including those related to trade, climate, agriculture, development and culture.

{5.2}. **Strategy 1** represents a transformative biocultural conservation approach with actions to conserve and sustain the places where people and nature are still flourishing with relational world views, governance structures and practices **(Action 1.1)** {5.3.1}, while envisioning new legal protections

environmental action. UNESCO-designated sites, including biosphere reserves, world heritage sites and Global Geoparks are also spaces for exploring and testing innovative governance and ways to transform the relationship between people and nature.

Miller Smallwood et al. (2022)

IPBES (2024)

United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

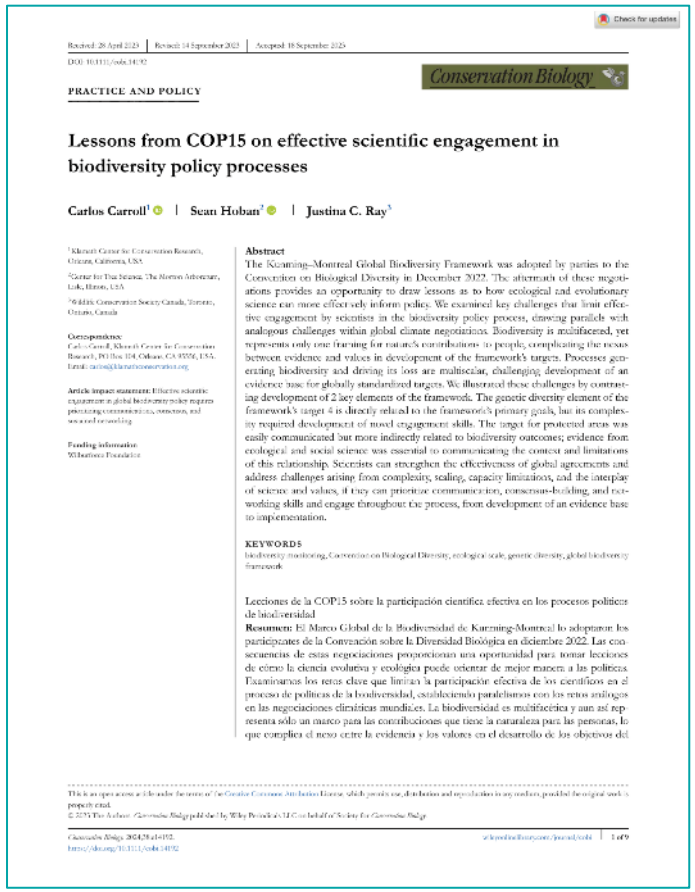
- UNESCO designating **biocultural sites** following a candidacy, managed on their own but part of a network
- i.e., **Biosphere Reserves** (also known as Man and Biosphere MAB programme)
- Manifold **purposes**, living labs for **transformation**?
  - **Conservation** (biodiversity & culture), e.g., zoning, prevention of human-wildlife conflict
  - **Sustainable development** (social/cultural, economic)
  - **Tools**: governance (incl. academia), research (incl. Interdisciplinary, ILK), monitoring, education

United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- **Analysis** of the 35 BiodivTransform funded projects:
- **32%** engaging alongside “cultural” conventions, incl. by conducting case studies in Biosphere Reserves

HOW TO ENGAGE ALONGSIDE THESE INTERNATIONAL POLICY PROCESSES **AS RESEARCHERS?**

Why to engage alongside international policy processes?



Conservation Biology

PRACTICE AND POLICY

Lessons from COP15 on effective scientific engagement in biodiversity policy processes

Carlos Carroll | Sean Hoban | Justina C. Ray

Abstract

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted by parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022. The aftermath of these negotiations provides an opportunity to draw lessons as to how ecological and evolutionary science can more effectively inform policy. We examined key challenges that limit effective engagement by scientists in the biodiversity policy process, drawing parallels with analogous challenges within global climate negotiations. Biodiversity is multifaceted, yet represents only one framing for nature's contributions to people, complicating the nexus between evidence and values in development of the framework's targets. Processes generating biodiversity and driving its loss are multiscalar, challenging development of an evidence base for globally standardized targets. We illustrated these challenges by contrasting development of 2 key elements of the framework. The genetic diversity element of the framework's target 4 is directly related to the framework's primary goals, but its complexity required development of novel engagement skills. The target for protected areas was easily communicated but more indirectly related to biodiversity outcomes; evidence from ecological and social science was essential to communicating the context and limitations of this relationship. Scientists can strengthen the effectiveness of global agreements and address challenges arising from complexity, scaling, capacity limitations, and the interplay of science and values, if they can prioritize communication, consensus-building, and rule-wording skills and engage throughout the process, from development of an evidence base to implementation.

KEYWORDS

Lecciones de la COP15 sobre la participación científica efectiva en los procesos políticos de biodiversidad

Resumen: El Marco Global de la Biodiversidad de Kunming-Montreal lo adoptaron los participantes de la Convención sobre la Diversidad Biológica en diciembre 2022. Las consecuencias de estas negociaciones proporcionan una oportunidad para extraer lecciones de cómo la ciencia evolutiva y ecológica puede orientar de mejor manera a las políticas. Examinamos los retos clave que limitan la participación efectiva de los científicos en el proceso de políticas de la biodiversidad, estableciendo paralelismos con los retos análogos en las negociaciones climáticas mundiales. La biodiversidad es multifacética y aun así representa sólo un marco para las contribuciones que tiene la naturaleza para las personas, lo que complica el nexo entre la evidencia y los valores en el desarrollo de los objetivos del

- Knowledge expected to **inform** CBD and its processes (i.e., negotiations, implementation, monitoring)
- Examples of **successful engagement** of experts (e.g., post-2020 GBF)
- /!\ Engagement as a **challenge** for experts (#not as straightforward as IPBES), and thus **not sufficiently involved** in CBD

Christina Hvilsom's testimonial

How to engage alongside international policy processes?

HOW getting involved? – For “beginners”

Beginner – Level 1

- No prerequisite: **low** resources required
- Objective: get to **know** CBD

Tool	Resources
Discover CBD main **activities**, **strategic documents** and **timeframe**	• Text of the CBD (1992-now) • GBF – COP/DEC/15/4 (2022-2030) • All decisions (Boolean operators, ex., or Ecolex, ex.)
Understand CBD **bodies**, know the main **stakeholders** and their roles, get to know the CBD **wider network** (e.g., knowledge suppliers)	• SBSTTA, SBI, 8(j), COP, Bureau, Secretariat, regional groups, observers etc.
Understand the typology of CBD **documents** and learn how to **read** them	• CO-OP4CBD specific training (slide 25)
Get to know CBD **work areas** and **programme of work**	**/!** Challenging, as not as foreseeable as IPBES, for ex. • Read recent decisions (COP15-16) and identify milestones • Multi-year programme (update COP17 in 2026)

How to engage alongside international policy processes?

HOW getting involved? – For “beginners”

Beginner – Level 1

Tool	Resources
Check CBD **notifications**	• CBD notifications’ website (select subjects according to your field of expertise, e.g., climate change) • Create an RSS feed to receive them in mailbox • Get involved in initiatives showcasing opportunities
Discover the CBD national Clearing-House Mechanism (**CHM**) and new Scientific […] Support Centres (**TSCCs**)	• List of CHM NFPs’ website, with contact information • National CHM websites • Regional TSCCs websites
Make oneself known to the CBD **National Focal Points** (NFPs) of your country	• List of NFPs’ website (depending on your field of expertise, e.g., SBSTTA NFPs), with contact information **/!** turn-over

How to engage alongside international policy processes?

HOW getting involved? – For "advanced"

Advanced – Level 2

- Prerequisite: **understanding** of CBD and actors; **moderate** resources required
- Objective: do **"CBD-sensitive" research**, take part in **existing processes**, support **implementation**

Tool	Resources
Generate **knowledge** and/or **data** relevant to CBD	• Produce data supporting indicators – GBF Monitoring Framework – COP/DEC/15/5 and 16/31 • Fill in knowledge gaps identified in CBD "Technical Series" and CBD decisions – CBD research needs (COP1-COP14)
incl. provide **inputs** to CBD National Focal Points (NFPs) and, more broadly, national actors, incl. remotely during negotiations	• Liaise with NFPs
Liaise with **researchers, initiatives** involved in CBD	• Many researchers involved in CBD, funded by B+ and beyond • Initiatives (e.g., CO-OP4CBD, IUCN, InforMEA)
Respond to CBD stakeholders' **consultations**	• Check CBD notifications
Attend CBD **meetings**, e.g., observe, network, do outreach to negotiators etc.	• As part of a national delegation, liaise with NFPs • As an observer (e.g., as member of the CBD Consortium of Scientific Partners)

How to engage alongside international policy processes?

HOW getting involved? – For “advanced”

Advanced – Level 2

Tool	Resources
Attend **meetings** addressing CBD issues (#official)	• At national, regional and global levels
Get involved in the revision or update of a National Biodiv. Strategy and Action Plan (**NBSAP**), and of a Local one (**LBSAP**) or any local process (when existing)	• Ongoing process led at national level, since COP15 • 1/4 of Parties with a new NBSAP (opportunities!) • Usually led by national ministries for environment (MoE), liaise with NFPs
Get involved in a national **scientific committee** to the CBD (when existing)	• e.g., Belgian steering committee “Biodiversity Convention”, liaise with NFPs to know if existing
Become a member of a scientific **advisory body** to ministries or agencies, or any body having impact on biodiv. (“whole-of-governement/society approach”)	• JRC mappings of national ecosystems of science for policy (e.g., France, Portugal, Spain, Greece)

How to engage alongside international policy processes?

HOW getting involved? – For "experts"

Expert – Level 3

- Prerequisite: **experience** with CBD and actors; **relatively high** resources
- Objective: **collaborate** with CBD and influence its **agenda**

Tool	Resources
Publish scientific **articles** targeting CBD	• Many articles targeting CBD and GBF
Provide relevant **inputs** to the CBD Secretariat, and other CBD actors, e.g., for CBD "Technical Series" (knowledge syntheses), voluntarily	• Get to know the SCBD structure (e.g., Science, Society and Sustainable Futures division) and its thematic officers • Liaise with the SCBD
Develop **documents** to inform CBD negotiations and implementation	• Policy brief, technical guidance (#official), CBD information document (official) etc.( )
Become a member of a CBD thematic **working group** (i.e., AHTEG, IAG)	• Be nominated by a CBD Party (or relevant organisations), liaise with NFPs

How to engage alongside international policy processes?

HOW getting involved? – For "experts"

Expert – Level 3

Tool	Resources
Organise **side events** at CBD meetings (e.g., COP, SBSTTA)	• Short meetings (≈ 1 hour) linked to the agenda • ≈ two months prior, multiple hosts
Create scientific **networks** on CBD (contentious) issues	• e.g., DSI Scientific Network, G-BiKE network, (non-CBD) Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty
Engage with **organisations closely linked** to CBD, acting as brokers	• IPBES, IUCN, GEO BON, GBIF, CO-OP4CBD etc., e.g., (2022, bioDISCOVERY Future Earth & GEO BON)
Develop **research projects** having SCBD or organisations closely linked to CBD as a partner	• e.g., Biodiversa+ ENVISION project (IUCN, completed), SPEAR project (CMS, ongoing)
Once familiar with CBD, build **capacities** in own communities	• e.g., fellow researchers (incl. PhD, postdocs), administrative staff in charge of international issues

Get support to engage alongside CBD

coop4CBD

Join CO-OPCBD's expert database

- EU-funded project "COOPeration for Convention on Biological Diversity" (**CO-OP4CBD**)
- Aims to enhance scientific support to the CBD, incl. by **training and flagging opportunities** for researchers
- **One-stop-shop** for further engagement with the CBD by 2031+
- Develops a **MOOC** on the engagement of experts in CBD, to be launched in Sept. 2026

Any questions on CO-OP4CBD? Reach out to Camille

Get support to engage alongside CBD

Learn more about its launch by Oct. 2026

- A future resource: the **CBD experts' guide** jointly developed by CO-OP4CBD and Biodiversa+
- A **long term**, **global** resource providing a comprehensive overview of **concrete ways** to engage as a researcher
- In concrete terms? A general introduction, **30+ tools**
- A **stepwise** approach, ranging from **Beginners** to **Advanced** and **Experts**

Any questions?

Testimonials

Christina Hvilsom
Laura Pereira

Testimonials

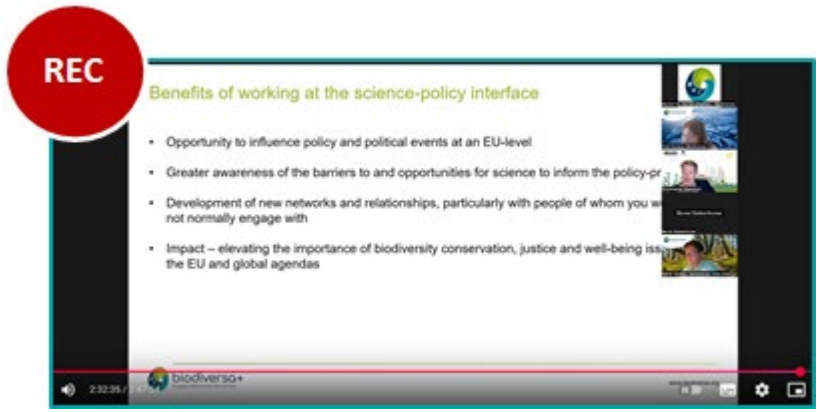
Christina Hvilsom [recording]
BiodivMon GINAMO project
Engaged alongside CBD

Laura Pereira
BiodivTransform SURPRISES project
IPBES Task Force for Scenarios & Models
Lead Author for IPBES Africa and Transformative Change Assessments
Review Editor for IPBES Values Assessment et GA2

Further testimonials – CBD

Christopher Raymond
BiodivScen ENVISION project

Bernd Lenzner
BiodivMon BioMonI project



Biodiversa+ YT channel (2:24:00)

Break

Start at 10:45

Grouping

TABLE 1

InvaSyn
MARE WIND
TIDELINES
UrbanOcean
WORMSOUT PLUS

TABLE 2

ActSustainably
BIOGAIN
BRET
ICE BRIDGE
JustBioSolar

TABLE 3

ACT
BiodiverCities
CoexHuB
MultiDiv
SKETCH
Wildharvest

TABLE 4

BIOREFOREST
FLOODTRAIN
OpTIBES
PathChange
REDESIGN

TABLE 5

BIODENSITY
Ecological
Pilgrimage
TRANS4BIO
Urbloom
RECON

TABLE 6

ATTITUDE
MPA4Fish
ProEcoRice
SEAWATCH

TABLE 7

LEVER
PaCE
PEACE
POWERSHIFT
SURPRISES

Exploring the relevance of BiodivTransform for and engagement alongside CBD and relevant international conventions

Presentation

How can your project be relevant to the CBD and how to engage in your capacity in such international policy processes?

Survey: level of awareness of and engagement with CBD and relevant international conventions

Mapping exercise: matchmaking between projects and the 23 KMGBF targets and indicators

Knowledge transfer simulation: identify deliverable(s) of your project that might be relevant to engage alongside the CBD (e.g., policy brief, event), how and when to make it work and pitch your preliminary plan to your table (1 project/table)

Presentation

Mapping exercise

ACT to MultiDiv

OpTIBES to WORMSOUT PLUS

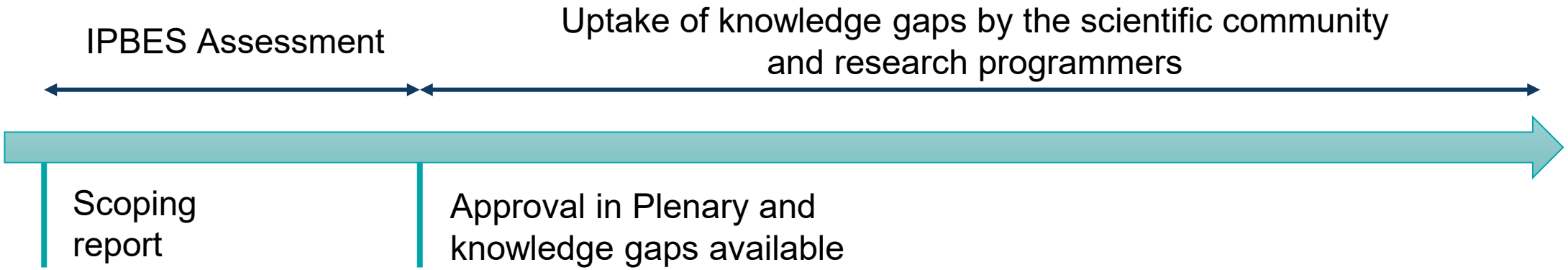
Exploring critical knowledge gaps from the Transformative Change Assessment

Presentation

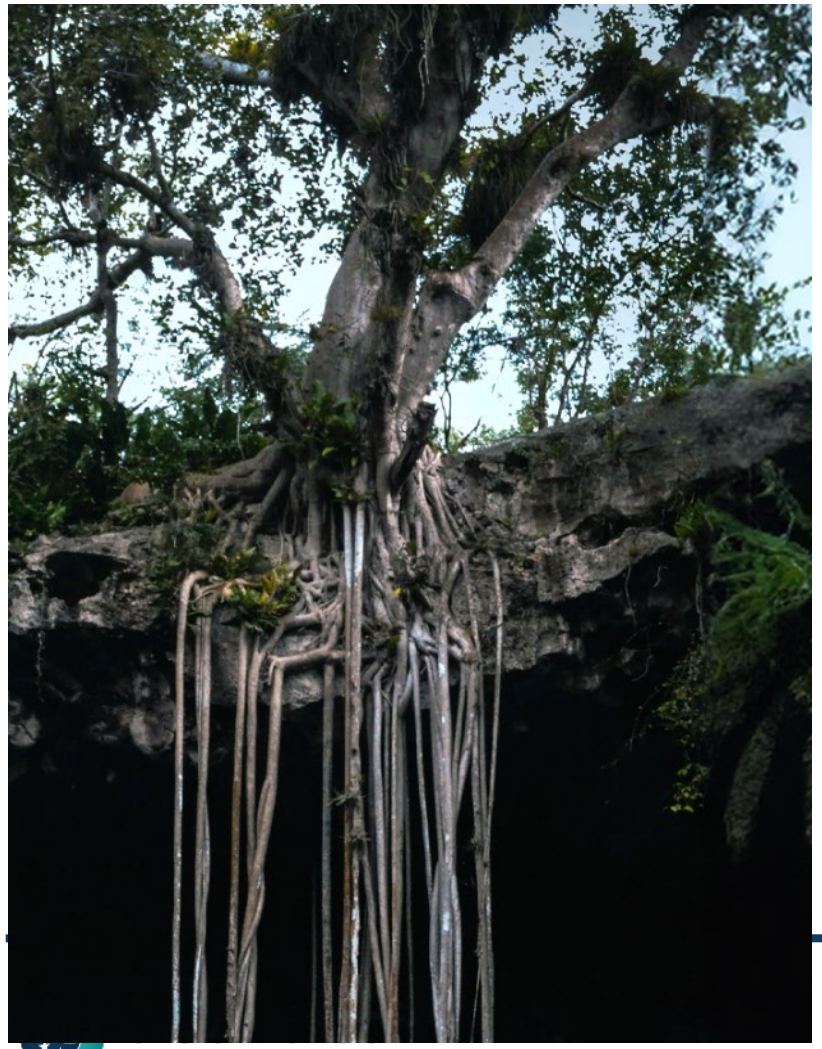
Presentation of the knowledge gaps from the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment

Discussion around a shortlist of knowledge gaps and a list of question on how can they be addressed in the projects

Uptake knowledge gaps once the assessment is approved



Call BiodivTransform



In September 2024, Biodiversa+ launched the **BiodivTransform call**. The call used **IPBES GA definition of transformative change** to set the scene and the scope.

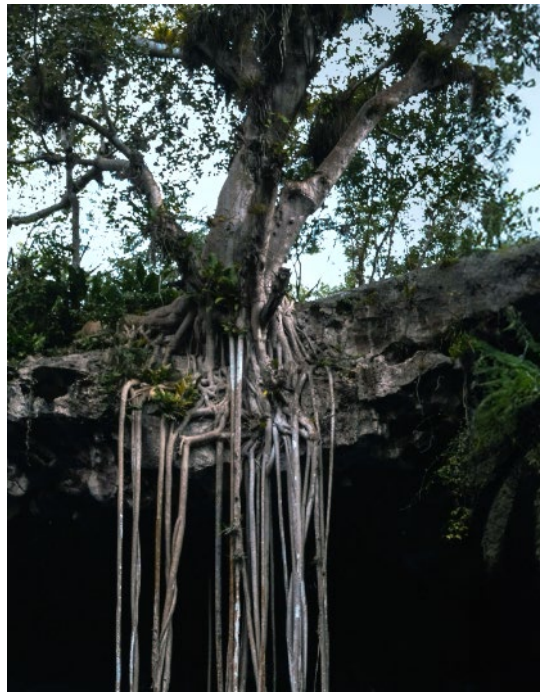
3-years research projects to:

- Help understand **cross-linkages** between the worldwide crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution;
- Identify, analyse, and comprehend **transformation processes** that may safeguard biodiversity by mitigating threats and halting—or even reversing—its decline.

*"Significant **knowledge gaps remain concerning biodiversity and its interdependence with society**, and even when there is good evidence of what could be done to halt biodiversity loss, this is often not incorporated into policy and management (IPBES 2019)."*

*"The **upcoming Assessment** on transformative change by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will also provide authoritative and target-oriented guidance and principles (December 2024; see https://www.ipbes.net/transformative-change)."*

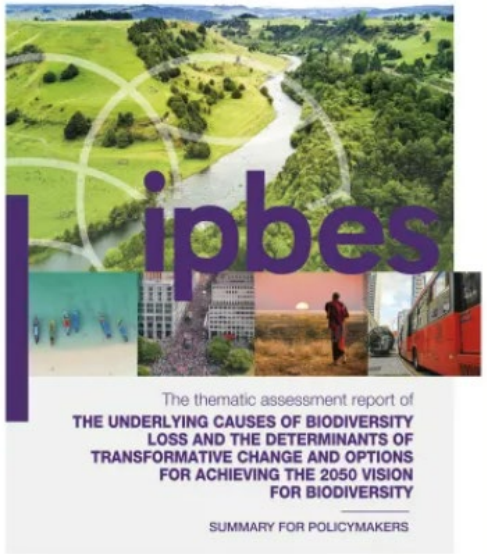
Uptake knowledge gaps in the BiodivTransform projects



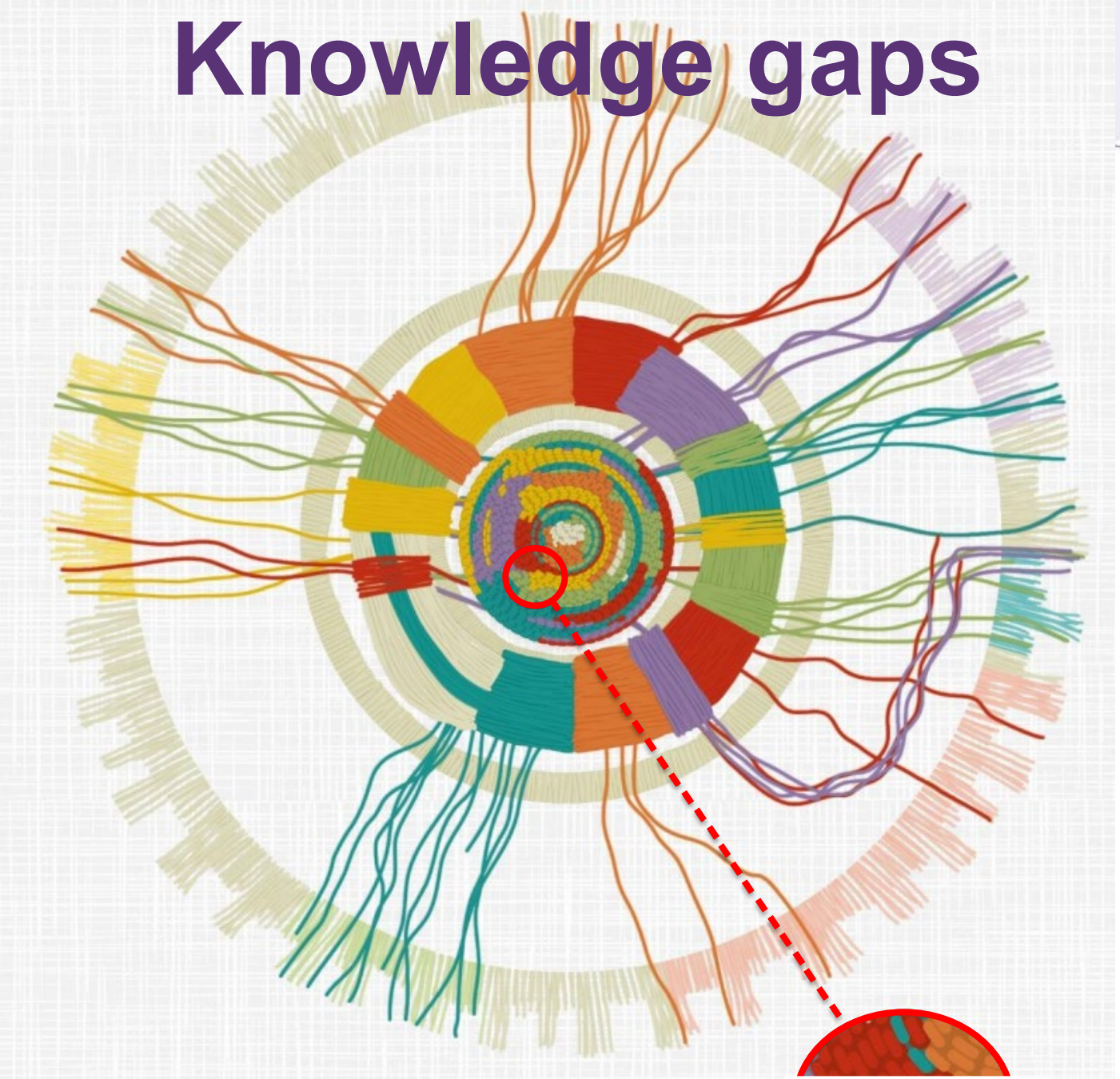
It takes time between:

- thinking about doing the call / finding the funding
- launching the call
- starting the projects
- producing new research results

The BiodivTransform call was planned BEFORE the assessment was approved, having in mind that its results would benefit the BiodivTransform projects.



Knowledge gaps



Knowledge gaps on transformative change

Monitoring and valuing transformative change

- Metrics and indicators
- Monitoring across scales
- Integration of different approaches

Overcoming challenges to transformative change

- Benefits and trade-offs
- Vision development and participatory processes
- Technological innovations

Structural and relational barriers to transformative change

- Governance and institutional structures
- Relations of domination as barriers to transformative change
- Science-policy relations

Building capacities for transformative change

- Case study research
- Imagination gap
- Cultural insights and social dimensions
- Philosophical and theoretical foundations
- Inner transformations and empowerment

I. Monitoring and valuing transformative change

Title	Description	Traceability
Metrics and indicators	While the development of new metrics and indicators for assessing transformative change is underway, much remains to be done in terms of **evaluating the impacts on both nature and people**, including the effects of subsidies, social movements, and other interventions. There is also a need for more reliable **early indicators that predict successful transformative changes**. An additional challenge is to include indicators based on different knowledge systems, worldviews and values.	{1.3.2, 2.3.5, 2.6, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 5.5.4}. {1.5, 4.2.5}.
Monitoring across scales	There is a significant gap in monitoring and **evaluating transformative actions at multiple scales and contexts**, especially in terms of their **long-term effectiveness**.	{1.5, 2.6, 3.5.6, 4.2.3, 5.6.2, 5.6.3, 5.6.4}
Integration of different approaches	It is unclear how to integrate evidence of the social and ecological dimensions of transformative change processes, as well as qualitative and quantitative approaches. There is a **gap in coordinating knowledge for effective sustainability transitions**. Additionally, **tools to assess surprises and uncertainties** in these processes are underdeveloped, particularly regarding their differential impacts on both nature and people.	{1.5, 2.3.5, 2.6, 3.3, figure 3.4, table 3.2}. {2.2.3, 3.5.1, 4.4, 5.7.5}. {4.4, 5.4.2}.

II. Overcoming challenges to transformative change

Title	Description	Traceability
Benefits and trade-offs	There is little documentation and assessment of the **benefits and trade-offs** (including both the intended and unintended impacts) **of different transformative actions** particularly with attention to the principles of equity and justice, pluralism and inclusion and respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships over time.	{1.5, 2.3.5, 3.5.4, 5.7.1}.
Vision development and participatory processes	Although visions for a sustainable world are critical for inspiring transformative change, there is a **gap in understanding how these visions are developed across diverse cultures and contexts**. Participatory processes, particularly involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities, are not sufficiently integrated into the development and evaluation of these visions.	{2.2.3, 2.3.5}. {2.2.3, 2.3.5, 3.5.4, 5.7.5}.
Technological innovations	Assessment of the transformative potential of **technological innovations for advancing just and sustainable futures**, including critical assessment of negative impacts and unintended consequences and **distributional effects over time**.	{2.3.3, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 4.4, 5.4.2}.

III. Structural and relational barriers to transformative change

Title	Description	Traceability
Governance and institutional structures	Attention to the **institutional factors and power relations** influencing and shaping governance strategies, including the role of **lobbying, misinformation and corruption** in challenging or blocking transformative change processes, global **interdependencies and dependencies in underlying actor networks**.	{4.2.3, 4.4, 5.2, 5.6.1}.
Relations of domination as barriers to transformative change	While there is extensive literature that examines how relations of domination are underlying causes of biodiversity loss, the literature that examines how the elements of these relations are manifest as barriers to transformative change is limited. The number of empirical studies of **relations of domination as barriers** to transformative change is very small, and they address this question implicitly, rather than the central research question.	{4.1, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.7.1, 5.7.5}.
Science-policy relations	Science-policy relations, and the **incorporation of different knowledge systems** in transdisciplinary learning processes as well as the underlying power structures need to be better understood.	{5.6.4}.

IV. Building capacities for transformative change (1/2)

Title	Description	Traceability
Case study research	There is a significant knowledge **gap on integrating case studies of transformative change** from across different time periods **to draw general conclusions.** These case studies are essential to understanding how transformative processes unfold in practice and can provide valuable insights into the factors that lead to success or failure. More robust documentation and analysis of real-world cases (including both historical and current cases) are **needed to build a solid empirical foundation for scaling up transformative actions.**	{3.4, figure 3.5, 5.2, 5.4.4}.
Imagination gap	Addressing the **imagination gap in envisioning positive futures** where humans are seen as an integrated part of nature and living in harmony with nature.	{box 2.1, figure 2.2.}.

IV. Building capacities for transformative change (2/2)

Title	Description	Traceability
Cultural insights and social dimensions	**The cultural dimensions of transformative change remain underexplored, especially regarding how different cultures and societies envision positive futures** where humans and nature are integrated harmoniously and how shifts in cultural values can be supported to advance transformative change for a just and sustainable world. The specific **needs and issues of concern for diverse social actor groups** are also under-represented in work on transformative change. More research is needed on how different social actors and cultural perspectives can inform broader sustainability transformations.	{5.3.1, 5.3.3, 5.3.4, 5.7.1, 5.7.2, 5.7.3, 5.7.4, 5.7.5}. {1.5, 5.2, 5.3.1, 5.7.1}. {1.5, 3.2.1, 3.5.5, 5.2, 5.7}.
Philosophical and theoretical foundations	**Assessment of the underlying philosophical, theoretical assumptions and epistemologies of transformative change**, including how these link to adult learning and development.	{5.7.4}.
Inner transformations and empowerment	Assessment of the **role of transformative capacities, including inner transformations and empowerment**, in transformative change processes, and how to cultivate those capacities.	{2.3.4, fig 2.5, 3.2.1, 5.2, 5.7}.

How can your project answer knowledge gaps identified in the Transformative Change Assessment?

20 min discussion – write in the document which knowledge gaps you think your project can fill.

Your project can directly contribute to IPBES – this will be reported on IPBES Track Database

Grouping

TABLE 1

InvaSyn
MARE WIND
TIDELINES
UrbanOcean
WORMSOUT PLUS

TABLE 2

ActSustainably
BIOGAIN
BRET
ICE BRIDGE
JustBioSolar

TABLE 3

ACT
BiodiverCities
CoexHuB
MultiDiv
SKETCH
Wildharvest

TABLE 4

BIOREFOREST
FLOODTRAIN
OpTIBES
PathChange
REDESIGN

TABLE 5

BIODENSITY
Ecological
Pilgrimage
TRANS4BIO
Urbloom
RECON

TABLE 6

ATTITUDE
MPA4Fish
ProEcoRice
SEAWATCH

TABLE 7

LEVER
PaCE
PEACE
POWERSHIFT
SURPRISES

Conclusion
&
Next steps

Contact us for further discussion and support

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