# Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

**Second Order Drafts and Draft Summary for Policy Makers for IPBES assessment on Land Degradation; and Regional Assessments on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

## Review Process

IPBES assessments are drafted by globally selected experts from multiple disciplines. First drafts of the Land Degradation Assessment and the Regional Assessments were made available for expert review last year; governments and experts are now being invited to comment on the second iteration – including for the first time the Summaries for Policy Makers.

Comments will be taken into account as the authors prepare the final draft on which governments will negotiate at Plenary in March 2018, to adopt the Summary for Policy Makers, and accept the underlying scientific assessment.

## The Scope of the Assessments

Below are the aims of the Land Degradation and Regional Assessments, followed by a Chapter outline of each. For the Chapter outline of the Regional Assessments, this includes specific elements relevant to the Europe and Central Asia assessment. These have been provided to help you to plan your contribution to the review process.

Please contact the UK IPBES stakeholder hub at IPBES@jncc.gov.uk for more information.

## Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment

**Aim:** To cover the global status of and trends in land degradation, by region and land cover type; the effect of degradation on biodiversity values, ecosystem services and human well-being; and the state of knowledge, by region and land cover type, of ecosystem restoration extent and options. The assessment would enhance the knowledge base for policies for addressing land degradation, desertification and the restoration of degraded land.

**Chapter Outline:**

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| **Chapter** | **Outline** |
| Summary for Policy Makers | * A policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive summary of the assessment
* *Note, Approval of a summary for policymakers signifies that it is consistent with the factual material contained in the full scientific, technical and socioeconomic assessment accepted by the Plenary – some cross reference between the SPM and underlying assessment will be needed.*
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| Chapter 1. **Benefits to people** from avoidance of land degradation and restoration of degraded land.  | * Benefits to human well-being and quality of life via halting, reduction and mitigation of degradation processes & restoration.
* Examples of success stories of how land conservation and restoration measures have helped to deliver improvements in livelihoods, reduce poverty and strengthen long-term sustainability.
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| Chapter 2. **Concepts and perceptions** of land degradation and restoration.  | * Assessing and comparing differing concepts and perceptions of land degradation and restoration.
* Review concepts and approaches, the status of ecosystems, as well as concepts and approaches used to describe different responses, including rehabilitation and restoration.
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| Chapter 3. Direct and indirect **drivers** of land degradation and restoration.  | * How land degradation and restoration are the result of multiple drivers and their interactions.
* Extent and severity of different drivers and how they vary within and between different biomes, regions and land-use systems around the world.
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| Chapter 4. **Status and trends** of land degradation and restoration and associated changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functions.  | * Status and trends of land degradation and restoration in terms of changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.
* Assess levels of land degradation and restoration with regard to the type, extent and severity of changes
* Particular attention will be given to understanding system resilience.
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| Chapter 5. Land degradation and restoration associated with **changes in ecosystem services** and functions and human well-being and good quality of life.  | * Impact of land degradation and restoration on changes to the delivery of nature’s benefits to people and the resultant impact on quality of life.
* Diverse costs of land degradation and benefits of restoration for people.
* Type, extent and severity of changes in different social-ecological systems in different land cover and land management systems, including their implications for social and ecological stability and resilience and cultural integrity.
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| Chapter 6. **Responses** to avoid land degradation and restore degraded land.. | * A framework for assessing the effectiveness of existing interventions to prevent, halt, reduce and mitigate the processes of land degradation and to rehabilitate and restore degraded land
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| Chapter 7. **Scenarios** of land degradation and restoration.  | * Explore the implications of a range of plausible development scenarios, including the adoption of different response options across multiple scales, and their implications for land degradation and restoration globally, including impacts on human well-being and quality of life and possible trade-offs between social, economic and environmental objectives.
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| Chapter 8. **Decision support** to address land degradation and support restoration of degraded land.  | * Consolidate and rationalize information necessary to support evidence-based decision-making for addressing land degradation problems and restoring degraded land.
* Assess actions necessary to develop institutional competencies in the detection and analysis of land degradation problems and the design, implementation, management and monitoring of response strategies, including data, methods, decision support tools and stakeholder engagement.
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## Regional Assessments

**Aim:** The overall aim of the regional assessments will be to assess the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services on human well-being and the effectiveness of responses, including the CBD Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The assessments will also identify the need for capacity, knowledge and policy support tools. The assessments will address terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services.

There are four RAs:

* Africa;
* Americas;
* Asia-Pacific; and
* Europe and Central Asia

All RAs will follow the same [generic scope and chapter outline](http://www.ipbes.net/sites/default/files/downloads/pdf/IPBES_3_18_Annex%20III_Deliverable_2b_Generic_Report.pdf), but each is underpinned by a more regionally defined scope – accessible via the links [here](http://www.ipbes.net/work-programme/regional-and-subregional-assessments). The table below summarises the generic scope of the RAs, and reflects the additional coverage of the Europe and Central Asia Assessment.

**Scope/Chapter Outline of the Regional Assessments**

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|  **Chapter** | **Outline** |
| Summary for Policy Makers | * A policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive summary of the assessment
* *Note, Approval of a summary for policymakers signifies that it is consistent with the factual material contained in the full scientific, technical and socioeconomic assessment accepted by the Plenary – some cross reference between the SPM and underlying assessment will be needed.*
 |
| Chapter 1. Setting the scene | * Present the policy-relevant questions and explain how each assessment reflects the IPBES conceptual framework
* Demonstrate how the assessment addresses policy questions, including those related to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
* Outline the methodologies and approaches used in the assessment and outline how the assessment will identify and address uncertainties and gaps in data and knowledge.
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| Chapter 2. Nature’s benefits to people and quality of life | * Assess the values of nature’s benefits to people, including the interrelationship between biodiversity, ecosystem functions and society; the geographical difference between the production and use of ecosystem services and the status, trends and future dynamics of ecosystem goods and services and nature’s gifts to people.
* Assess the different impacts of changes in nature’s benefits to people with regard to food security, energy security, livelihood security and health security and identify aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services that are critical to social relationships, spirituality and cultural identity.
* ECA specific: analysis will also address the impact of ecosystem services on society and how innovation and nature-based solutions are influencing the job market in the region. The chapter will also examine the multiple values of biodiversity
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| Chapter 3. Status, trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems underpinningnature’s benefits to people | * Assess what is known about the past and current trends and future dynamics of biodiversity and ecosystems and their positive and negative effects on the key ecosystem goods and services identified in chapter 2.
* It will consider both structural and functional ecosystem diversity and genetic diversity and the area and extent of ecosystems and include fragile habitats and hotspots and species of special concern and importance.
* Available forecasts on current trends will also be outlined.
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| Chapter 4. Direct and indirect drivers of change in the context of different perspectives onquality of life | * Assess the status and trends and future dynamics of indirect drivers, focusing in particular on those affecting “Nature” and “Nature’s benefits to people” as the foundation for “Good quality of life”.
* It will assess the status and trends in direct drivers, as well as the impact of these drivers on “Nature”, based on future predictions, and analyse the interrelations between and among direct drivers and indirect drivers.
* ECA specific: emphasis will be placed on the regional and subregional aspects of land degradation and restoration as well as on invasive alien species and sustainable intensification of agriculture. Fire and floods will be included as drivers owing to their growing importance in the region.
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| Chapter 5. Integrated and cross-scale analysis of interactions of the natural world and human society | * Will build on the analysis in the previous chapter and make extensive use of scenarios and modelling in its analysis.
* Will focus on the key issues that society is expected to face over the next 40 years that will determine the dynamics of the interactions between society and nature. It will include integrated and cross-scale analysis of these dynamics, including feedback, synergies, time lags, tipping points, resilience, crossregional interrelations and trade-offs.
* ECA specific: will in particular consider issues that include increasing demand for biological raw materials in a bio-economy context (bioenergy, fibres and organic matter), climate change, food provisioning from land and water, and water availability. It will assess how the value of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services influences indirect drivers and how the integration of such values into national and local development planning and accounting may help address Aichi Biodiversity Target 2.
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| Chapter 6. Options for governance, institutional arrangements and private and public decision-making across scales and sectors | * Will examine different policy ideas and possible options for decision makers at the regional and subregional levels.
* Analyse future challenges for sustainable use and conservation in key sectors in each region and assess options for integrating biodiversity, ecosystem function and ecosystem services into poverty reduction strategies and national accounting.
* ECA specific: Will in particular consider future challenges for sustainable use and conservation in key sectors such as nature protection, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water management, spatial planning, energy (including bioenergy), tourism, infrastructure and incentives (including subsidies harmful to biodiversity as well as positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity).
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