The Birth of IPBES and Building Synergies Between Indigenous and Local Knowledge and Modern Science as a Basis for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands

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Natural Solutions – "Building Resilience for a Changing Pacific"

9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, 2 – 6 December 2013, Suva, Fiji

Reason for IPBES

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life

Goal of IPBES

Defined in the resolution establishing the Platform as being to:

strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development

History of IPBES

- Long Road - some 12 years in “incubation” – Paris 2005
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) the standard and predecessor, rather than the IPCC
- IPBES finally established in Panama City in April 2012 as an independent intergovernmental body open to all member countries of the United Nations.
- The countries 115 members are committed to building IPBES as the leading intergovernmental body for assessing the state of the planet's biodiversity, its ecosystems and the essential services they provide to society

1st Formal Meeting of the IPBES Plenary Bonn, Germany, 21 – 26 January 2013

Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid Malaysia Selected 1st Chair

1st Informal Meeting of Partial MEP IPBES, Bonn, Germany, Jan 26 2013

IPBES Functions

1. Identify and prioritize KEY SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION NEEDED FOR POLICYMAKERS AT APPROPRIATE SCALES AND CATALYZE EFFORTS TO GENERATE NEW KNOWLEDGE.

2. Perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their inter-linkages, which should include comprehensive global, REGIONAL AND, AS NECESSARY, SUB-REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS AND THEMATIC ISSUES.

IPBES Functions

3. Support policy formulation and implementation by IDENTIFYING POLICY-RELEVANT TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES, such as those arising from assessments, to enable decision makers to gain access to those TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES,.

4 PRIORITIZE KEY CAPACITY-BUILDING NEEDS to improve the science-policy interface AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS

Operating principles of IPBES Work Plan

- The WP will be carried out in a manner that puts the agreed operating principles of IPBES into effect, including through:
  - promoting the independence of the Platform
  - facilitating an inter-disciplinary and multidisciplinary approach
  - **ENGAGING WITH DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS INCLUDING INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE (ILK)**
  - ensuring the FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; AND BUILDING ON EXISTING INITIATIVES AND EXPERIENCES

*set out in full in section II of Appendix I to Annex I in UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/9

Ist IPBES Bureau and MEP Meeting, Bergen, Norway, June 2013

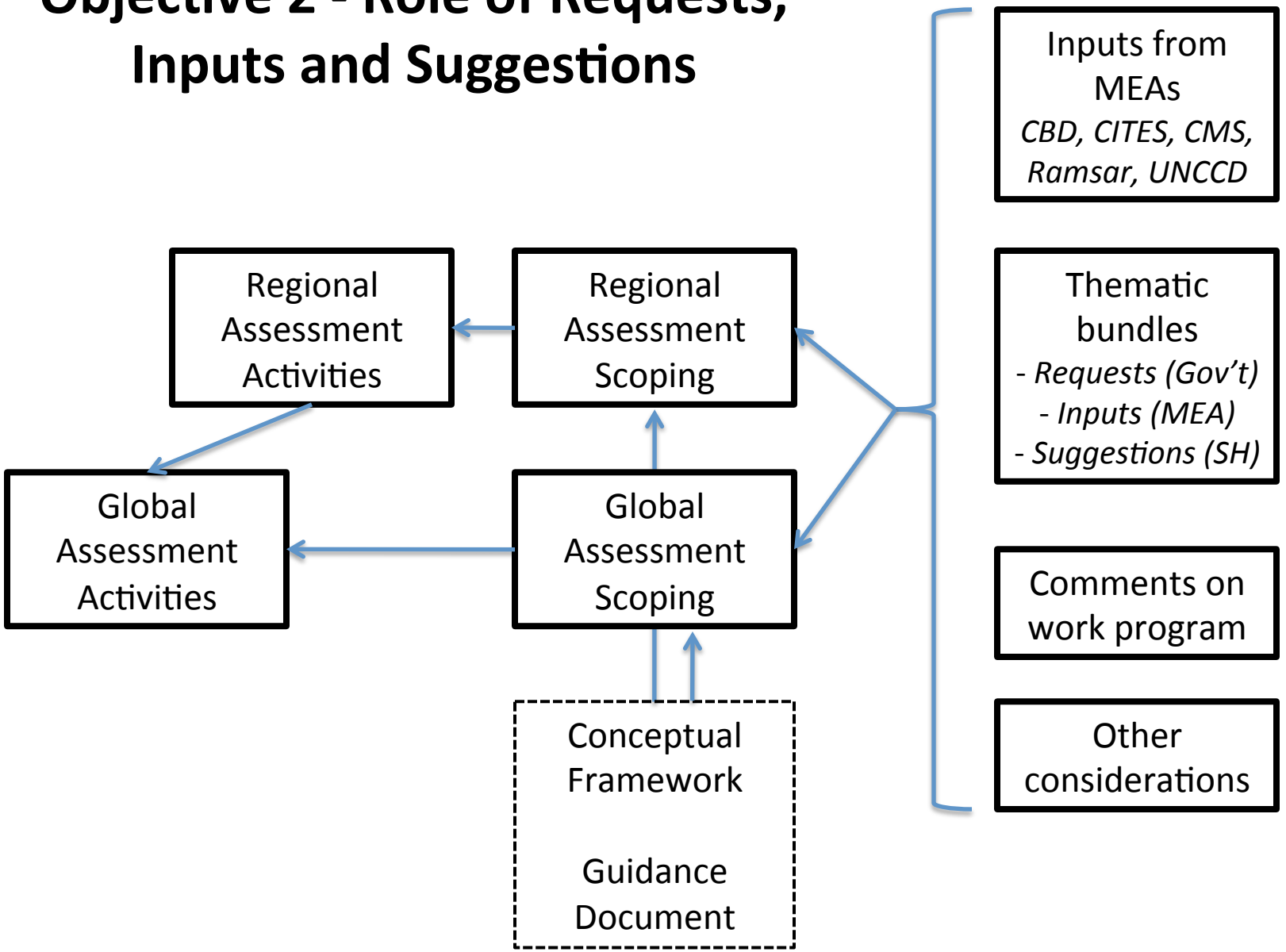
Report on Prioritization of Requests

Key messages

1) Nearly all elements of the WP are backed up by requests

2) Nearly all requests are addressed directly or in somewhat modified form in the WP

Objective 2 - Role of Requests, Inputs and Suggestions



Objective 3 - Prioritization of Thematic Assessment topics

Priorities are based on:

- **Goals of Rapid Thematic and Thematic Assessments**

Data and networks must be readily available; topic should have very high policy relevance; **topic should have ability to mobilize ILK**, capacity building and policy tools.

- **Criteria defined by the IPBES plenary**

- **Number and types of requests, inputs and suggestions**

Note: thematic issues not retained for objective 3 are of high priority for regional and global assessments

Examples of Thematic issues not retained for Objective 3, but of high priority for regional and global assessments

- **Marine systems: sustainable fisheries, food security and biodiversity** - World Ocean Assessment (WOA) has chapters on all of these issues and is due out in 2014, therefore the utility of a rapid assessment by IPBES in 2015 or 2016 is not clear

- **Climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services** – IPCC chapters on climate change impacts on terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems due out in 2014.

- **Pollution and biodiversity** – Only requested by one country. Pollution in a key driver of biodiveristy loss in freshwater and marine systems, but much less so in terrestrial systems. WOA is taking into account the marine component.

- **Socio-economic drivers of changes in biodiversity and environmental change** - Partly accounted for in activities on scenarios and on values. Should be a key component of all thematic, regional and global assessments (see conceptual framwork).

Prioritization of Thematic Assessment topics

Rapid Thematic Assessment (Delivery 2015)

- **Pollination and food security**

New Zealand, Norway, CMS (connectivity)

- **Invasive species: impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and tools for control**

Japan, Mexico, CBD (Target 9), NEFO-Germany

Prioritization of Thematic Assessment topics

Thematic Assessment (Delivery 2016)

- **Degradation and restoration of terrestrial and freshwater systems**

China, France, Italy, Norway, UNCCD, CBD (Aichi Target 15), Ramsar, NEFO-Germany

- **Agriculture, food security and biodiversity**

France, Japan, CBD (Aichi Targets 3, 4, 7 & 13), NEFO-Germany

- **The impacts of harvest and exploitation on the conservation status of wild populations**

CITES

- **Migratory species: economics, connectivity, marine systems, climate change, ILK**

CMS

Building synergies between ILK & S must be seen as an IPBES branding issue

- The importance of ILK was continually tracked during the development of the conceptual framework, the work plan, operating procedures, the code of conduct and conflict of interest policy and other areas that will govern and inform the work of IPBES, the Bureau and MEP.

- IPBES needs to be a step forward from CBD, MEA and other initiatives and not just not “recognise” , but must make ILK integral to ALL IPBES activities and outputs.

International Expert and Stakeholder Workshop on The Contribution of Indigenous & Local Knowledge Systems to IPBES: Building Synergies with Science

9-11 June 2013

ipbes
Science and Policy for People and Nature

UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

ILK/IPBES Synergy – Workshop Tokyo 9 – 11 June 2013

Objective of Workshop

- Major objective to **develop procedures, access and benefits sharing and governance issues and methodology** for engagement with local and indigenous holders and building

- S**coping how synergising ILK & S relates to capacity building in monitoring, data access and visualization, models and scenarios, communication modes, data-basing of assessments, networking, and science-policy making"**

Some Questions

- What are the **strategic partnerships needed for capacity building, assessments**, etc. which incorporate integration of ILK & S

- What are particularly important issues or cross cutting thematic areas that could be the focus in terms of synergies for ILK & S.

- What are the **gaps and needs in gaining synergies between ILK & S**

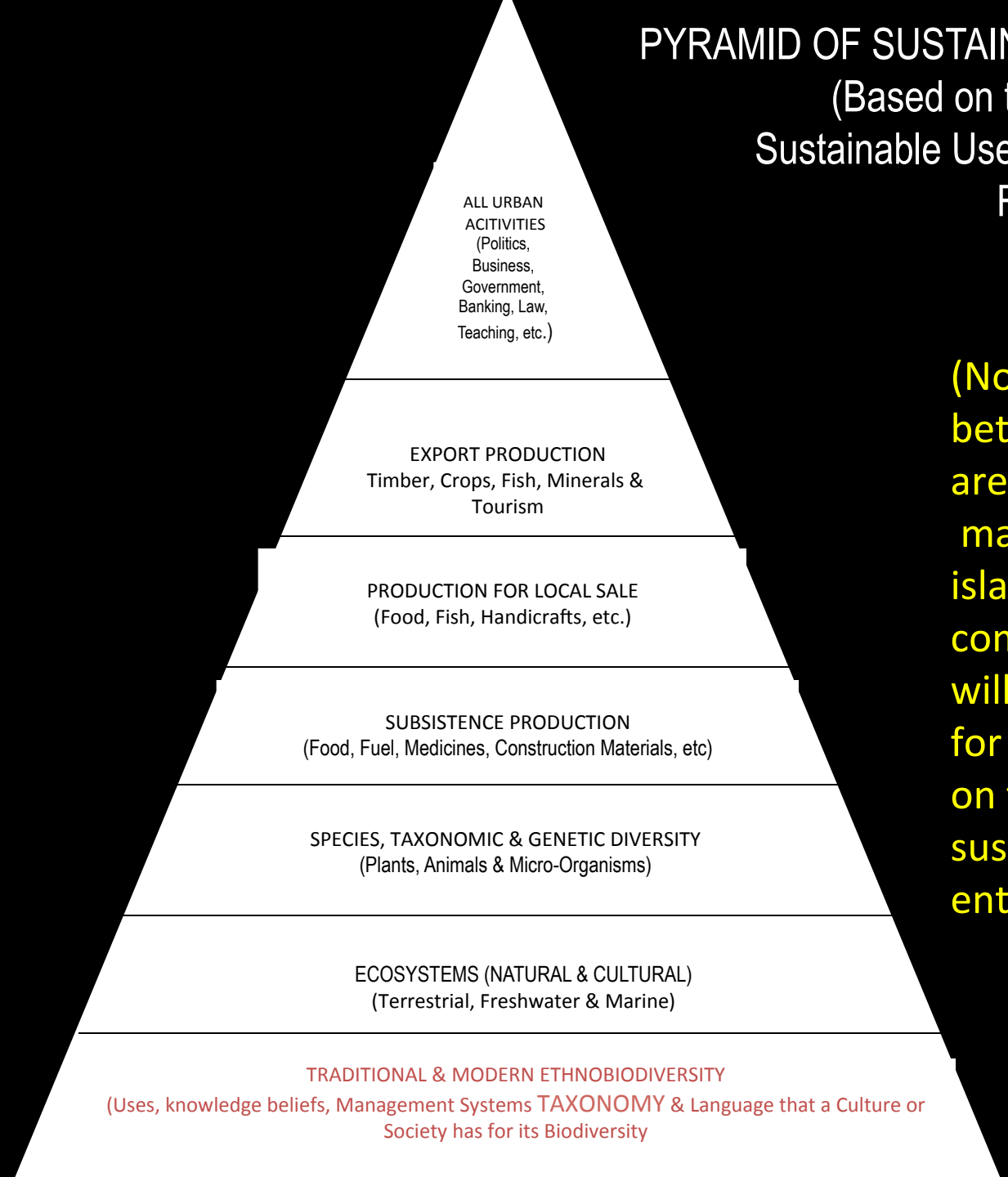
Some Questions

- How ILK & S can address the **complexity of the diversity of views, knowledge systems and ways of interpreting and conveying knowledge,** with particular emphasis on recognizing the diversity of knowledge systems that are central to the effectiveness of IPBES?

- How can we address the **critical importance of language diversity and oral traditions a**nd how this affects ILK & S synergies and ability to validate and disseminate results

- What are the particular **messages from the Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas** that can inform the IPBES operating procedures and WP, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO ISLAND BIODIVERSITY AND ILK..

PYRAMID OF SUSTAINABLE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT
(Based on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Island Biodiversity and Resources)



(Note: Although the lines between each level or the area within each segment may change for different islands, countries or communities, all activities will ultimately depend for their sustainability on the conservation and sustainable use of those entities beneath them)

econesian

Guiding Principles

A VISION FOR THE CELEBRATION AND APPLICATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE- ECONESIAN HONOUR FIJI JOURNEY - 2012

Econesian guiding principles and areas of priority action marriages between indigenous and traditional knowledge and wisdom with the best cutting edge scientific knowledge as a foundation for RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL CHANGE.

ECONESIAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES – AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SYNERGISING ILK AND SCIENCE FOR CONSERVATION

1. **FOREST STEWARDSHIP**
2. **MARINE STEWARDSHIP**
3. **WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION**
4. **SOIL CONSERVATION AND ENRICHMENT AND FIRE MANAGEMENT**
5. **ADAPTATION TO GLOBAL CHANGE AND EXTREME EVENTS**
6. **AGRICULTURAL, FOOD, HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY**
7. **ART, HANDICRAFTS, BOATBUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION**
8. **INVASIVE SPECIES AND DISEASES MANAGEMENT**
9. **WASTE MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION**
10. **CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY, SPRITUALITY, EDUCATION AND GOVERNANCE**

*Cross-cutting themes, cultural and environmental conservation, restoration and enrichment!

CONCLUSION

The CONSERVATION and ENRICHMENT of existing biodiversity can be achieved, in many areas, through improved awareness, education and capacity building based on a marriage of the best traditional and modern scienceE = SYNERGIES BETWEEN ILK AND MODERN SCIENCE!

- Without this knowledge it will be difficult for us to realise our dream of environmental, economic and social sustainability AND RESILIENCE BUIDING and love, not loss – Living in Harmony with

- We can not protect, use sustainably or rehabilitate something we do no know, something we do not understand, and something that we can not talk about intelligently with local communities and policy makers.

USP Graduation – Capacity Building for Sustainable Island Development

OUR PI GRADUATES – FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR ISLAND BIODIVERSITY


VINAKA VAKALEVU