

Tentative Agenda for the IPBES workshop “New visions for nature and nature’s contributions to people for the 21st century”

4-8 September 2017, Auckland, New Zealand

The overall aims of the workshop are to elicit responses to the following questions:

1. What visions (may be multiple) exist on nature (biodiversity) and nature’s contributions to people (ecosystem services)?
2. What future ‘positive’ scenarios can be built based on these multiple visions? and
3. What is required to inform decision makers in order for them to address potential changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES)?

Background information

Scenarios are powerful tools to envision how nature might respond to different pathways of future human development and policy choices. Most scenarios developed for global environmental assessments have explored impacts of society on nature, such as biodiversity loss, but have not included nature as a component of socioeconomic development. They ignore policy objectives related to nature protection and neglect nature’s role in underpinning development and human well-being. This approach is becoming untenable because targets for human development are increasingly connected with targets for nature, such as in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This workshop will start the development of a next generation of scenarios exploring alternative visions to reach these intertwined targets, including potential synergies and trade-offs between nature conservation and other development goals, as well as addressing feedbacks between nature, nature’s contributions to people, and human well-being. We will use participatory approaches, including stakeholders from relevant sectors and from the local to the global scale. We hope to identify a large array of visions which can be clustered into a few major vision archetypes, that can be further developed after the workshop by dedicated working groups, through modelling and other forms of knowledge. Ultimately, this new generation of scenarios will support future assessments by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Background material:

The Summary for Policymakers of the IPBES Scenarios and Modelling Assessment and the paper “Multiscale scenarios for nature futures” in Nature, Ecology and Evolution.

Workshop preparation:

Each participant should bring a photo that describes her/his personal relationship with Nature. The idea is to collect from all participants what they value as nature in a snap-shot form. This picture can be for instance of a landscape that a participant likes, or about an ecological process or ecosystem service that the participant thinks is important. It is also important for participants to think about some existing initiatives that they believe are positive and would contribute to a better future for nature. We will draw on these during Day 2 of the workshop.

Day 1: Introduction and developing a joint understanding

The first day begins with an opening ceremony, a general introduction of the participants and an introduction to the workshop, its objectives, and the overall proceedings. Already in this early phase of the workshop, we will integrate your expectations, experiences, and expertise. An interactive format called World Café will help us to establish a joint understanding of the most important gaps when realizing visions for nature and nature’s contributions to people for the 21st century. We will close Day 1 with work in small groups on different themes across sectors and spatial scales.

- 08.00 – 09.00: Registration
- 09.00 – 11.15: Opening and Introductions exercise
- 11.15 – 11.45: *Refreshment break*
- 11.45 – 13.00: Expectations of the workshop and discussion of scenarios in small groups
- 13.00 – 14.00: *Lunch*
- 14.00 – 15.30: World Café brainstorm on what gaps in understanding biodiversity and ecosystem services scenarios that we want to address in this visioning workshop.
- 15.30 – 15.45: *Refreshment break*
- 15.45 – 17.00: Self-organisation into thematic groups for Day 2 and 4 visioning process

Day 2: From seeds to scenario skeletons

During Day 2 the small groups continue to work together by sharing experiences on seeds (i.e., existing initiatives) of good change and positive trends in each theme. These seeds and trends are then developed into an outline of 3-5 visions of the future, by imagining how the seeds could look like when they mature and are mainstreamed into everyday live. Afterwards the consequences of the outlined vision will be discussed. Towards the end of the day, the groups will present the outlines of their visions in plenary.

- 09.00 – 13.00: Thematic groups to identify “seeds” and regime trends from which to build visions.
- 13.00 – 14.00: *Lunch*
- 14.00 – 16.45: Thematic groups build skeleton of 3-5 visions
- 16.45 – 17.30: Report to plenary

Day 3: Field trip

Informal discussions during the field trip on the visions developed by the different thematic groups.

Day 4: Deep dive into scenarios

During Day 4, the visions outlined on Day 2 are further developed to create bold, vivid, hopeful narratives, collectively describing and “fleshing out” the vision outlines. In the afternoon of Day 4, the groups will start to think about what these visions mean for: (1) biodiversity; (2) ecosystem services; (3) how people’s decisions and behavior may be shaped by nature’s benefits in each vision; (4) what are the possible pathways to achieve these visions

- 9.00 – 13.00: Thematic groups further detailing visions.
- 13.00 – 14.00: *Lunch*
- 14.00 – 17.30: Thematic groups outlining pathways to the visions

Day 5: Share visions, learnings and reflections

During our final day each group will creatively share their visions in plenary. Afterwards, the visions will be discussed in new groups to compare the different visions and identify joint features, assumptions and implications of across visions. On the afternoon of our last day, we will spend with reflections

concentrating on findings, learnings and insights, as well as discussing possible pathways to achieve the different visions. We will end our workshop with a closing ceremony.

9.00 – 10.30: Each group presents their visions

10.30 – 11.00: Refreshment break

11.00 – 13.00: Discuss in new breakout groups 8-10 important cross-cutting questions

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00 – 16.45: Reflections, way forward and closing