

IPBES Regional Consultation Work Programme - Assessments



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Are we capable of supporting national assessments on biodiversity and ecosystems services?

- Limited expertise
 - Forest Management
 - Wildlife Biology and Management
 - Conservation Biology
 - Forest Engineering
 - Fisheries Biology



Are we capable of supporting national assessments on biodiversity and ecosystems services?

- Institutional capabilities is lacking
 - No research institutions, Universities, etc
- Capacity to do expert peer review of research work for publication is almost non-existent
- We depend on external agencies to conduct assessments – there is an urgent need to build capacity in this area
- Challenge of replacement for retired staff or to fill vacant positions

Are we capable of supporting national assessments on biodiversity and ecosystems services?

- Limited skill set in NGOs and civil society
- Technology to do DNA analyses not available and very limited financial resources available
 - Heavy reliance on overseas expertise
- Reluctance to invest in areas that do not provide immediate employment (authorities may not necessarily invest in natural resources) spurred by difficult economic times
- Brain drain to developed areas

Developing assessments in a way they can be scaled up at regional and global levels

- Working with regional or international agencies or organizations that monitor biodiversity
 - SCSCB (monitoring waterbirds and wetlands)
- Use GIS as a platform to work out indices and scale up to regional and international countries
- Through regional fora that encourage exchange of ideas and experiences:
 - SCSCB conference
 - Caribbean Foresters' Conference

What methodologies and metrics can be used

- Use standardized, rigorous methods generally accepted by professional institutions {from Universities and other reputable institutions}
- Use lay science approaches – civil society scientist
- Using social media. For example taking photographs and sending out to general public for feedback

Priorities for thematic assessments

- Micro fauna and flora need assessing
- Entomology
- Need for carbon assessments
- Need to assess harvesting of specific species (animals and plants) from the wild

THANK YOU

