



# EKLIPSE

Knowledge & Learning Mechanism  
on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

## Supporting the EU negotiators on the IPBES Global Assessment's Summary for Policymakers

A report of the EKLIPSE project



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## 1 Introduction

This report provides the summary of findings by the EKLIPSE 'Expert Working Group analysing the links between the IPBES Global Assessment (GA) and its Summary for Policymakers (SPM).

The Expert Working Group (EWG) was established based on a request by the European Commission, DG Environment, and tasked to provide materials for the negotiations of the IPBES GA SPM at IPBES-7 Plenary, Paris, 29 April – 4 May 2019. The group was active in the period 4 March – 24 April 2019.

The specific aims of the EWG were to (1) assess whether the SPM key messages are justified by the content of the full IPBES GA report, (2) assess which key messages and visuals in the SPM are the most critical to defend and keep in the SPM, (3) assess the needs for clarification of the SPM based on the full report chapters, (3) identify which key messages are missing in the SPM (with proper anchors to the report chapters), (4) assess which key visuals from the report chapters should be lifted to the SPM, and (5) enrich the SPM with elements from the report chapters, as needed.

This report is supplemented by additional materials providing detailed comments of the EWG to the SPM and its links to the full IPBES GA report, specifically:

- A review spreadsheet with compiling all detailed EWG comments to the SPM,
- A text version of the SPM with all EWG comments transferred from the review spreadsheet and suggested in a track-change mode,
- A text version of the SPM compiling EWG comments related to the topic of Nature-based Solutions/Ecosystem-based Approaches, as a reaction to the changes proposed by the European Commission.

## 2 General comments

### 2.1 The terminology of nature's contributions to people (NCP) and ecosystem services (ES)

The discussion regarding this topic in some parts of the scientific and policy-making communities is still very vivid. Different terms serve different contexts and the global context of the IPBES Global Assessment makes this discussion even more complex. Opinions seem to slightly differ even within the EWG. Therefore, Figure 1 provides a range of potential solutions for the EU delegation to consider. Our general recommendation is to aim for a consensual, inclusive and systematic solution throughout the SPM.

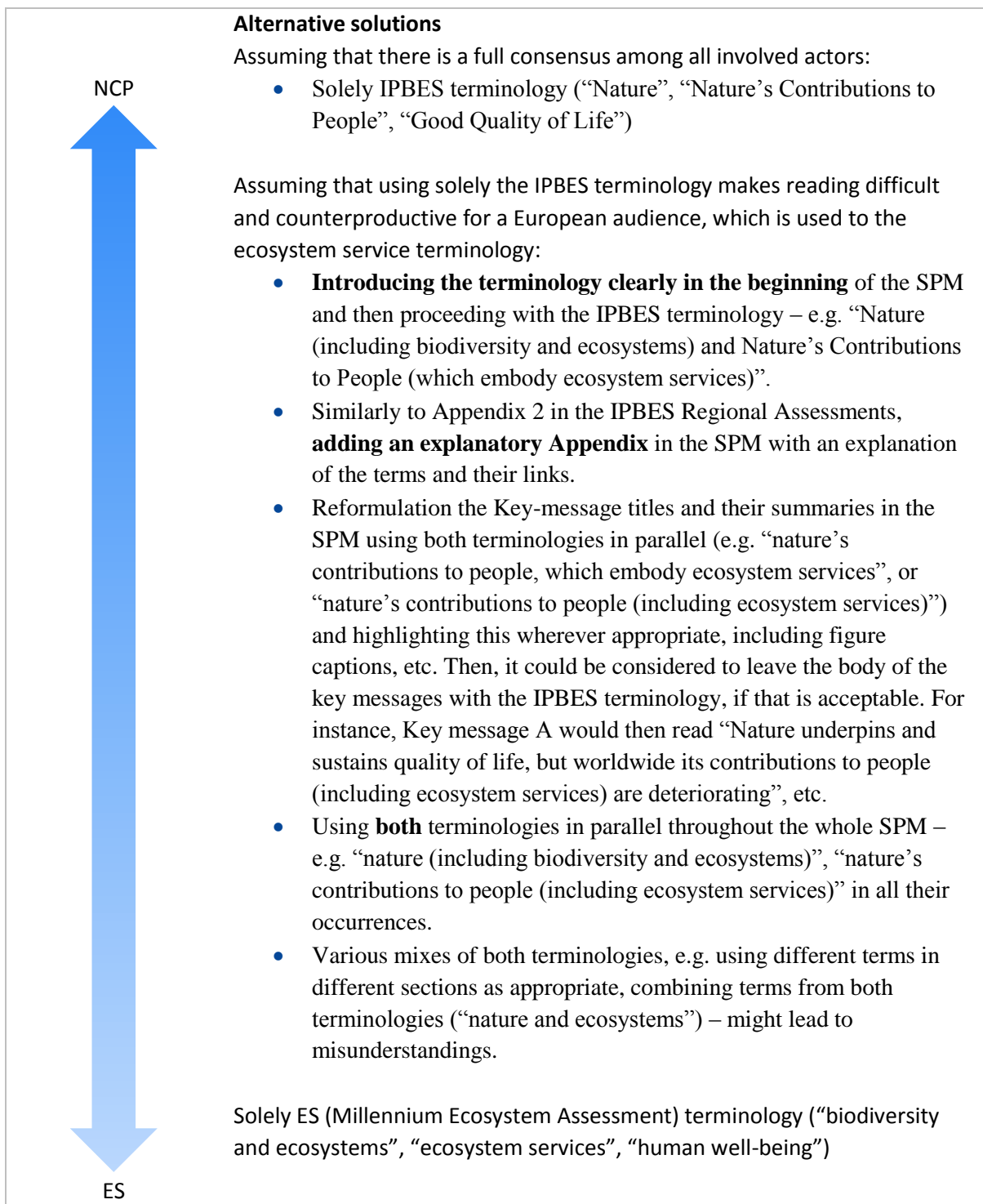
- In the European scientific context, a prevailing opinion is that the introduction of the new term has caused confusion, particularly considering that the term “ecosystem services” has been well established in European policy making, and that the term “nature’s contributions to people” has yet to prove its assets. In European context, the term “ecosystem services” has been used, mainstreamed and recognised in many policy areas on regional and international levels. Based on the comments to the IPBES GA SPM prepared by the European Commission for negotiations at IPBES-7 (version 12 April 2019), it seems European policy-makers find a potential switch in terms confusing, and do want to keep the continuity of “ecosystem services”.
- On the other hand, it seems that the term “nature’s contributions to people” resonates well in other regions, e.g. Latin America. Regional Assessments from the Asia Pacific, Americas and Africa embraced this terminology in their Regional Assessments. Therefore, the Global Assessment will need to encompass both ways of thinking.
- Please find detailed comments related to the NCP/ES terminology in the attached spreadsheet (comments 1, 21, 101, 130, 136, 176, 184).

In general, we would like to warn against introducing phrasing which combines multiple elements of IPBES conceptual framework and uses multiple terminologies at the same time, e.g. “nature and ecosystem services”. In IPBES terminology, this statement would read “nature and nature’s contributions to people”, while in EU terminology, “biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services” (Table 1 clarifies the parallels between the IPBES and EU terminologies). Therefore, the phrasing “nature and ecosystem services” could introduce un-clarity in terms of whether the negotiated element is the actual use of multiple elements of IPBES conceptual framework (both Nature and NCP) or different terminologies.

**Table 1: Parallels between the IPBES and the EU terminologies**

<b>IPBES terminology</b>	<b>EU terminology</b>
Nature	Biodiversity, Ecosystems
Nature’s Contributions to People	Ecosystem Services
Good Quality of life	Human Well-being
IPBES terminology	EU terminology





**Figure 1. Potential alternative solutions to the NCP/ES terminology in the SPM**



## 2.2 Nature-based solutions/ecosystem-based approaches

- While nature-based solutions/ecosystem-based approaches (NbS/EbA) are not addressed in Chapter 5 of the full report, they are elaborated in Chapter 6. Therefore, supplementing NbS/EbA to Key messages of the SPM related to Chapter 5 (e.g. D2, D4, Figure 11) might be difficult to justify, since they did not emerge from the systematic reviews and syntheses conducted within the chapter. On the other hand, other Key messages and Background messages might be very suitable for the addition of NbS/EbA based on Chapter 6, e.g. D6, D8, 35, 37 (please see detailed comments in the attached document “ipbes-7-3\_nature-based solutions”).

## 2.3 Scenario archetypes

- If more findings regarding scenario archetypes are required in the SPM, they might be relevant to add to Key message C4 and Background messages 21, 26 and 27.
- There is quite a substantial amount of material related to scenario archetypes particularly in Chapter 4, sections:
  - 4.3.1 “Nature's contributions to people across scenario archetypes”,
  - 4.3.2 “Changes in nature’s contributions to people”,
  - 4.4.1.1 “Key Dimensions of Good Quality of Life and their links to Nature and Nature's Contributions to People”,
  - 4.4.2.1 “Mediating factors of future GQL and NCP”,
  - 4.4.2.2 “Future scenarios of GQL and NCP”,
  - 4.6.1 “How good will we be at reaching international biodiversity and sustainability targets beyond 2020?”
- Another source of a short summary of scenario archetypes for the SPM could be the following tables:
  - Table 4.1.1 “Different guiding principles, values, approaches to Good Quality of Life (GQL), distribution of power and decision-making approach across scenario archetypes”,
  - Table 4.1.4 “Selected indirect drivers in archetype scenarios”.
- In addition, a useful figure related to scenario archetypes which might be considered to shift to the SPM is Figure 4.4.1 “Dimensions of GQL under archetype scenarios based on the narratives of these scenarios”.

## 2.4 Transformation

- The SPM deals with the need for transformation (see the attached spreadsheet for details). However, it provides simplified and not sufficiently substantiated claims regarding the need for transformation, e.g. that sustainability goals “can” be achieved through “transformative changes”. Statements as radical and value-laden as this one need to be either phrased with caution, or substantiated by more details from the full report.
- Aggregation of goals at a very high level obscures the identification of winners and losers in the society (see comment 12 in the spreadsheet for details).
- The multi-level, cross-scale, context-sensitive aspects of transformational change need to be emphasised to reflect the full report more accurately (D1, D3, D4).



## 2.5 Indigenous knowledge

- IPBES makes a distinction between Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Knowledge, and Local Communities and Local Knowledge.
- These distinctions provide adequate possibilities for regions and/or groupings of countries who feel that Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Knowledge is not of high relevance for them, to bring other knowledge sources through information available by Local Communities and their Local Knowledge. It is important to include in the SPM the connections of such peoples and communities and their knowledge and connections to biodiversity. Local communities and local knowledge is reflected through those who have a deep connection to lands, water and biodiversity in many and varied approaches. This may include those who have an interest in nature and regular interactions with nature and so intrinsic knowledge of the natural environment and has accurate and reliable knowledge of local biodiversity. This knowledge is an additional knowledge source to knowledge generated by the scientific community and is dependent on associations with the local environment. This may also include local communities who invest significant time in restoring biodiversity to their locally degraded environments<sup>1.x</sup>
- The SPM highlights multiple aspects of indigenous knowledge. Since the European context is generally not rich in indigenous knowledge, but includes multiple aspects of local knowledge relevant for sustaining biodiversity and ecosystems beyond scientific knowledge (e.g. farmers' knowledge), the negotiators might consider highlighting those aspects in the SPM. e

## 2.6 Values

- The SPM refers to the term “social values” without these being defined. Specifically, the SPM refers to indirect drivers of change underpinned by social values, but nowhere in the SPM does it mention what these social values are; further notes mention indigenous and local values, but not what the current mainstream (detrimental) values are, or why diversity of values is necessary. This needs to be tied to Ch. 2.1. p103, section 3, Indirect Drivers: Values.

## 2.7 Knowledge gaps

- Similarly to the IPBES ECA assessment, it could be considered to add a box to the SPM on key knowledge gaps.

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<sup>1</sup> After the IPBES-7 Plenary, this understanding of local communities and knowledge has been embedded in *IPBES/7/INF/8: Information on work related to indigenous and local knowledge systems*, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Bonn, Germany.

## 3 Summary of specific comments

### 3.1 Key messages

Majority of Key messages were considered as particularly important and well supported by the chapters. Some Key messages were ranked as less important by some experts, nevertheless, there was never a full consensus among all experts - therefore, we conclude that all Key messages are of importance for the SPM. No Key message was recommended to be omitted.

Specific Key messages and statements emphasised as particularly important to keep in the SPM are highlighted in the attached spreadsheet.

In addition to this generally positive feedback, Table 1 summarizes the concerns regarding specific Key messages. Detailed comments are available in the attached spreadsheet and tracked in the text version of the SPM.

**Table 2: Summary of concerns regarding specific SPM Key messages.**

Key message	Summary of concerns
A	The section generally reflects the chapters well. Several rephrasing suggestions
A1	Several rephrasing suggestions
A2	Accuracy concern related to "good quality of life" in the SPM and the full report (GA) Several rephrasing suggestions
A3	Accuracy concern related to specific figures Several rephrasing suggestions
A4	Accuracy concern related to specific details
A5	None
A6	None
A7	Several rephrasing suggestions.
B	General concern related to values Several rephrasing suggestions
B1	Several accuracy concerns
B2	None
B3	General concern related to ILK Phrasing potentially undermining the urgency of the statements
B4	Key message accurately reflects the chapter but the phrasing needs to be reconsidered
B5	Several rephrasing suggestions.
B6	Minor
C	General concern related to transformations Several rephrasing suggestions
C1	Several rephrasing suggestions
C2	Several rephrasing suggestions
C3	Specific emphasis on keeping the Key message (related to ILK)



- C4 Several accuracy concerns  
Potentially add more findings regarding scenario archetypes?
- C5 Emphasis on the importance of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius
- D Emphasis on the importance of the Key messages in this section  
General concern related to the phrasing regarding transformation  
Suggestion for potential additional input from Chapter 5, in case the EU is interested in particularly strong future visions  
Multiple NCP/ES related comments
- D1 Accuracy concern related to the consideration of multiple scales  
Several rephrasing suggestions
- D2 General concern regarding whether there is enough evidence in the full report for content that has been newly added through comments (e.g. ecosystem-based approaches/nature-based solutions)  
Several rephrasing suggestions
- D3 Positive feedback on the use of the leverage points/levers concepts  
Accuracy concern related to the importance of combining multiple leverage points/levers  
The multi-level, cross scale, local-context sensitive aspects of transformational change need to be emphasised to reflect the full report more accurately
- D4 Multiple accuracy concerns  
The multi-level, cross scale, local-context sensitive aspects of transformational change need to be emphasised to reflect the full report more accurately
- D5 Accuracy concerns related to ILK
- D6 General concerns: NCP/ES terminology  
Several rephrasing suggestions  
A Key message suitable for adding Nature-based Solutions/Ecosystem-based Adaptation based on Chapter 6
- D7 Phrasing potentially undermining the urgency of the statements
- D8 General concerns: NCP/ES terminology  
A Key message suitable for adding Nature-based Solutions/Ecosystem-based Adaptation based on Chapter 6
- D9 None
- D10 None

### 3.2 Background messages

The Background messages were found relevant and generally well supported by the full report chapters.

Table 2 summarizes the concerns for specific Key messages. In addition, specifically for Chapter 4 and 6, concerns were raised that some content of the chapters might not be reflected in the SPM (see comments 180-209 in the attached spreadsheet). For detailed comments, please refer to the attached spreadsheet and tracked in the text version of the SPM.

**Table 3: Summary of concerns for specific SPM Background messages.**

Background message	Summary of concerns
<b>A</b>	
1	Several concerns regarding the definitions in this section and potential need for a brief introduction Several rephrasing suggestions
2	Minor
3	Minor
4	None
5	None
6	None
7	None
8	Phrasing potentially undermining the urgency of the statements
9	Phrasing potentially undermining the urgency of the statements
<b>B</b>	
10	None
11	None
12	None
13	Minor
14	None
15	None
16	None
17	Minor
18	None
19	None
20	None
<b>C</b>	
21	Potentially add more findings regarding scenario archetypes?
22	None
23	None
24	None
25	Phrasing potentially undermining the urgency of the statements (warming under 2°C) Trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and food/water security not mentioned
26	Phrasing potentially alluding to inverse relationship between biodiversity and material NCP Potentially refer specifically to fact that increases in material NCP are related to scenarios with assumptions on population growth and increase in per capita consumption Potentially add more findings regarding scenario archetypes?
27	Missing reference of impacts on NCP Potentially add more findings regarding scenario archetypes?



	28	Phrasing/editing (bold) potentially undermining the urgency of the statements (climate change) for terrestrial as well as marine and coastal systems
D		NCP/ES terminology concerns Feedback to EU comments
	29	None
	30	None
	31	None
	32	Minor
	33	Several rephrasing suggestions
	34	None
	35	A Background message suitable for adding Nature-based Solutions/Ecosystem-based Adaptation based on Chapter 6
	36	None
	37	Missing definition for "land reclamation" A Background message suitable for adding Nature-based Solutions/Ecosystem-based Adaptation based on Chapter 6
	38	None
	39	None
	40	None

### 3.3 Figures

- The SPM figures were generally found as important and accurately reflecting the content of the chapters.
- Figures to potentially edit: Please see the details in the attached spreadsheet.
- Figures from the full report to potentially add to the SPM:
  - Figure 2.23: Relative impact of direct anthropogenic drivers (colour bars). This figure should be included to show drivers globally and by region of anthropogenic activity.
  - Figure 4.4.1: Dimensions of Good Quality of Life under archetype scenarios based on the narratives of these scenarios

### 3.4 Table SPM 1

- Although a concern was expressed whether the table includes particularly new and innovative thinking, the general conclusion was that (a) the first part of the table could be improved (suggestions in the attached spreadsheet) and (b) the second part of the table, in general, provides quite a good overview of the key topics highlighted in Ch 6.
- As an overall formatting comment, it might be more helpful for readers if the points within the sections were clearly triaged into different types of actions. At the moment most are quite a mix of different actions that would need to be taken by a range of different actors. Even splitting this in to 'policy' and 'other' would be helpful.

- Should there be an overall heading at the top of the table? "Managing sustainable and multifunctional landscapes and seascapes and some of the actions they may entail" marks out the second subsection, but the first could benefit from a specific heading
- The first column throughout is framed as 'aspirations' and 'actions', which is not used in Ch 6 in this context. The use / significance of 'pathways' is also a bit inconsistent between Ch 6 and SPM. Throughout Ch 6 more policy-familiar language around 'options', 'instruments', 'integrated approaches' etc. is used.
- It could be insightful to include some of the language of 'bottom up' 'participatory knowledge production' for informed governance here as in Ch 6 Pg 1451. All of these examples seem quite 'top down'.
- Need to be careful to make a clear distinction between adaptive management and adaptive governance (this is done well in Ch 6 Pg 1452), which are different and quite specific things (Source text: "Ensure adaptive management of ecosystems and landscapes")
- The second part of the table, in general, provides quite a good overview of the key topics highlighted in Ch 6.

## 4 Detailed list of specific comments

Through in-depth comparison of the SPM Key messages, SPM Background messages and the report chapters, the EWG has compiled multiple comments, detailed in the attached spreadsheet and transferred to the text version of the SPM in a track-change mode. Specifically, we have identified the **following types of points/issues**:

- **Accuracy warning:** The content of the chapters is not well reflected, or the SPM diverges from the chapters.
- **Rephrasing suggestions (urgency):** We highlight statements that might read as less urgent in the SPM than in the original text in the full report.
- **General concerns:** We highlight statements which we find challenging in the IPBES context, European decision-making context or for ethical reasons and recommend further attention to these.
- **Rephrasing suggestions:** We suggest that statements are rephrased for various reasons, e.g. to increase their clarity, avoid potential misunderstandings, etc.
- **NCP & ES terminology:** Comments related to the issues of NCP and ES terminology.
- **SPM accurately reflect the chapters:** Comments confirming that the content of the chapters is accurately reflected in the SPM.
- **Emphasis on keeping the content:** We identify these points as crucial and recommend to keep them in the SPM during the negotiations.



## **Appendix I: Working protocol - EKLIPSE EWG on IPBES GA SPM (published February 2019)**

### **1. Aim of the EWG:**

To ensure that the IPBES Global Assessment (GA) Summary for Policymakers (SPM) reflects well the findings of the Technical (Full report) Chapters of the IPBES Global Assessment. In particular, to:

1. Assess the needs for clarification of SPM based on the Technical (Full report) Chapters,
2. Assess which key messages and visuals in the SPM are the most critical to defend and keep in the SPM (even if they are challenged by policy-makers),
3. Identify which key messages are missing in the SPM (with proper anchors to the Technical (Full report) Chapters
4. Assess which key visuals from the Technical (Full report) Chapters should be lifted to the SPM (and based on which criteria),
5. Enrich the SPM with elements from the Technical (Full report) Chapters, as needed,
6. Prepare summary report and recommendations for EU negotiators.

Our key task is to assess how the content of the SPM relates to the Technical (Full report) Chapters of IPBES GA. It is the Summary for Policymakers which countries will be discussing in the Plenary meeting, so we are being asked to assist those responding in the Plenary with as much feedback as we can on the content in the SPM and how this is reflected and supported or not in the chapters.

### **2. Experts involved**

- Jesus Carrasco
- Judith Fisher
- Mario Giampietro
- Zuzana Harmáčková
- Peter Roebeling
- Carla-Leanne Washbourne
- Sheri Young

### **3. EKLIPSE members involved**

- Estelle Balian
- Hilde Eggermont
- Karla Locher Krause
- Maria Ojanen
- Marie Vandewalle
- Allan Watt
- Juliette Young



## 4. Requesters

- Anne Teller
- Karin Zaunberger

## 5. Deliverables

### A draft report for the EU informal expert meeting on March 26 in Brussels

- a. During the informal expert meeting, the representatives of IPBES Member States and European Commission will not have time to go through all the details, so it would probably be useful to present the key comments in a summarized way.

### Summary report for the requesters

- b. Deadline to be checked with EC, but likely first week of April would be ideal (i.e. before the last meeting of the Working Party on International Environmental Issues scheduled for 17 April)

### Table with comments as an appendix to the summary report

- c. The table output of this Expert Working Group will be useful both for the negotiators and because this table (or an edited version) could be shared with the experts of the assessment in advance of IPBES-7. (Governments are invited to submit their comments in this format to the IPBES Secretariat by no later than 12 April 2019. The comments will be shared with the experts of the assessment in preparation for the seventh session of the Plenary.)

## 6. Process

- All experts review the SPM and the Introduction to the technical assessment (Chapter 1)
- Each expert is primarily responsible for one technical chapter of the IPBES Global Assessment (lead-read expert; area of expertise) and covers it in depth, thereby closely collaborating with the co-read expert
- Each expert has a supporting role in another chapter of the technical assessment (co-read expert; area of interest) and covers it globally, thereby closely collaborating with the lead-read expert
- Selected experts have an **overarching role** to cross-check the overall key messages of the SPM and technical assessment
- All experts contribute to the compilation and harmonization of EWG recommendations

## 7. Approach

- Detailed analysis of chapters, using the official IPBES review table to note down detailed comments on the links between full report chapters and SPM (specific comments)
- Format: Excel spreadsheet
- Overall analysis of SPM and the IPBES GA, using the official IPBES review table to note down general comments on the links between full report chapters and SPM (general comments)



- Format: Excel spreadsheet
- Compilation and harmonization of detailed chapter analysis and overall analysis of technical assessment, using the review tables from the previous steps.
- Format: Transfer of detailed comments from the Excel spreadsheets to a text version of the SPM in track-change mode.
- Preparation of summary report and recommendations for EU negotiators.

## 8. Information on related meetings

The representatives of IPBES Member States and European Commission will have 3 key preparatory meetings in Brussels before IPBES-7.

1. An informal EU expert meeting on 26 March, which is the key meeting to work towards
2. The official negotiations at Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI) meetings
  - a. 25 March
  - b. 17 April

The Commission may wish to submit its review to the IPBES Secretariat by 12 April, so that the IPBES experts can prepare for the major comments in advance of IPBES-7.

The final deliverable will be provided on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

## 9. Timeline and Milestones

Week #	11 (11-17 March)	12 (18-24 March)	13 (25-31 March)	14 (1-7 April)
<b>Event</b>		Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI) - official negotiations, 25 March An informal EU expert meeting, Brussels, 26 March		Requesters need a draft report by the 5 April to be able to process it
<b>Milestone</b>	Working protocol finalised  SPM read by all experts	Main allocated chapter scanned  <b>First report draft before 24 March</b>	Main allocated chapter processed  Secondary chapter scanned	<b>Milestone</b>
Week #	15 (8-14 April)	16 (15-21 April)	17 (22-28 April)	18 (29 April - 5 May)

<b>Event</b>	Submission of the official <b>comments</b> to the requesters by 12 April;  The Commission will submit its review comments to the IPBES Secretariat by 12 April, so that the experts can prepare for the major comments in advance of IPBES-7.	WPIEI - official negotiations, 17 April	Submission of the official <b>report</b> to the requesters by 24 April	<b>IPBES Plenary, 29 April - 4 May, Paris</b>
<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Call of the EWG with the requesters on 9 April</b> to clarify the output we would have sent on the 5th and point to some specific questions that might be raised	<b>Summary report for the requesters finalised</b>	<b>Materials for the IPBES-7 Plenary: Summary report, compiled comments in text, spreadsheet with detailed comments</b>	

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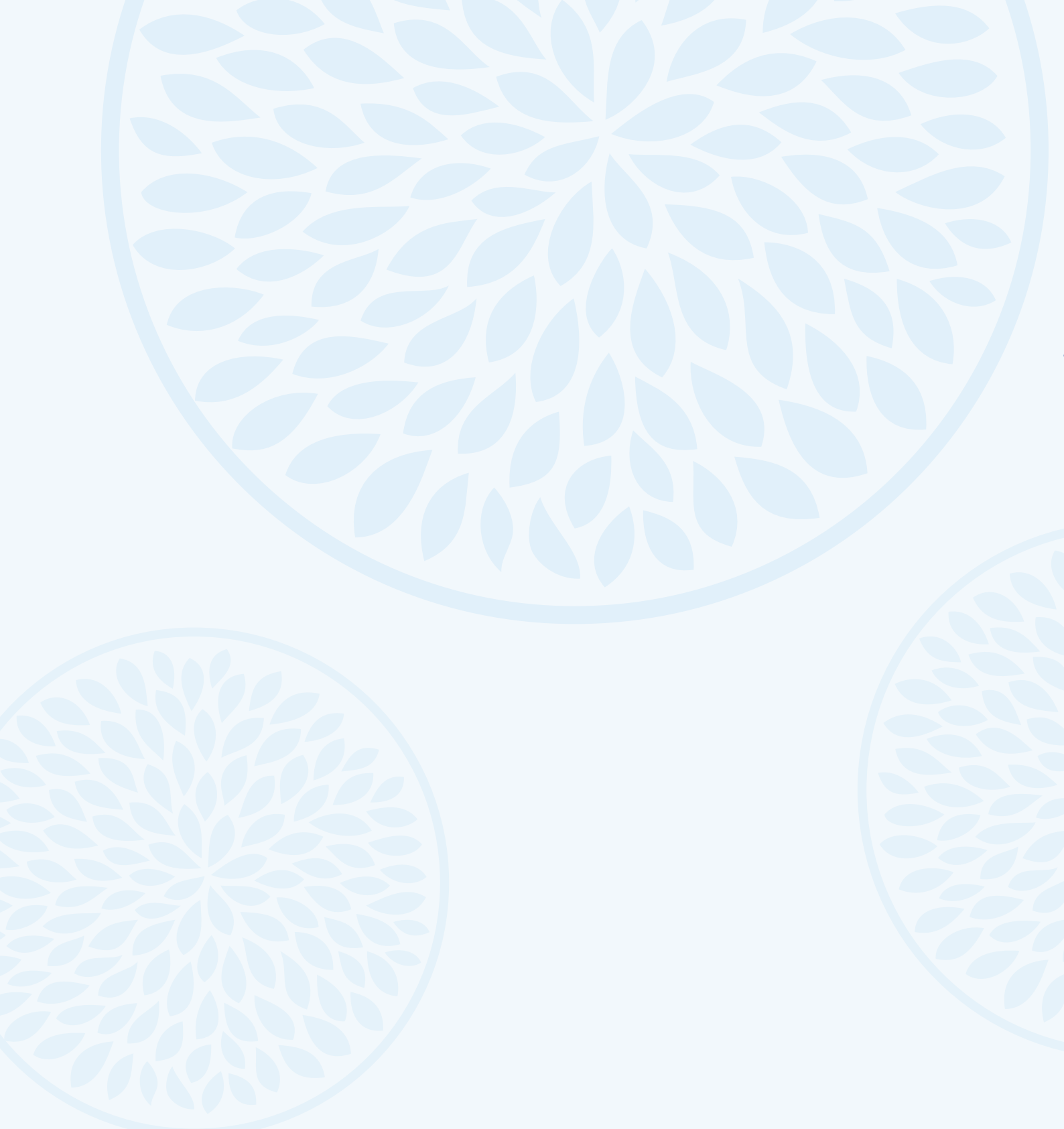
## 10. EWG Calls

- March 7th - 12:30 - 2:00 pm CET
- March 11th - 3.30 - 5:00 pm CET
- March 15th - 3:30 - 5:00 pm CET
- March 20th - 3.30 - 5:00 pm CET
- March 21st - 11:00 - 12:30 pm CET
- March 22nd - 3:30 - 5:00 pm CET
- March 26th - 2:00- 3:30 pm CET
- March 29th - 3:30- 5:00 pm CET
- April 3rd - 8:00- 9:30 am CET
- April 5th - 2:00- 3:30 pm CET
- April 9th - 2:00- 3:30 pm CEST
- April 11th - 9:30- 11:00 am CEST



- April 15th - 2:00- 3:30 pm CEST
- April 19th - 2:00- 3:30 pm CEST
- April 24th, 2:00-3:30pm CEST





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