

# Creating an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

**Dr Andrew Stott**

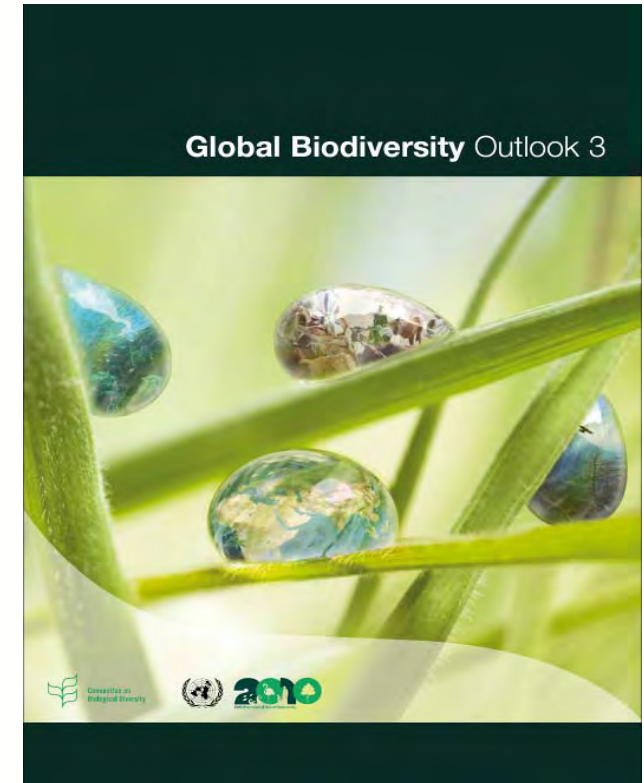
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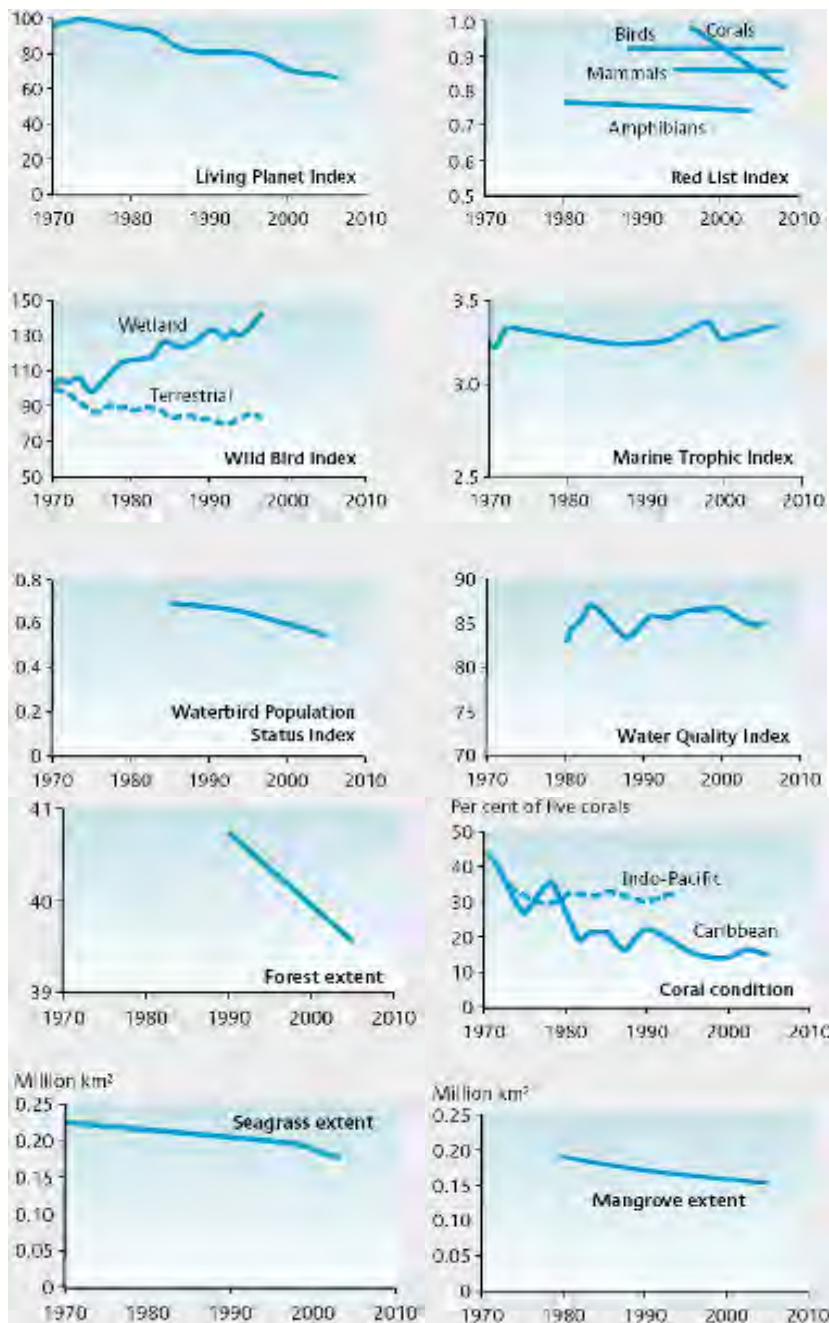
# Biodiversity in 2010

## The 2010 Biodiversity Target has not been met

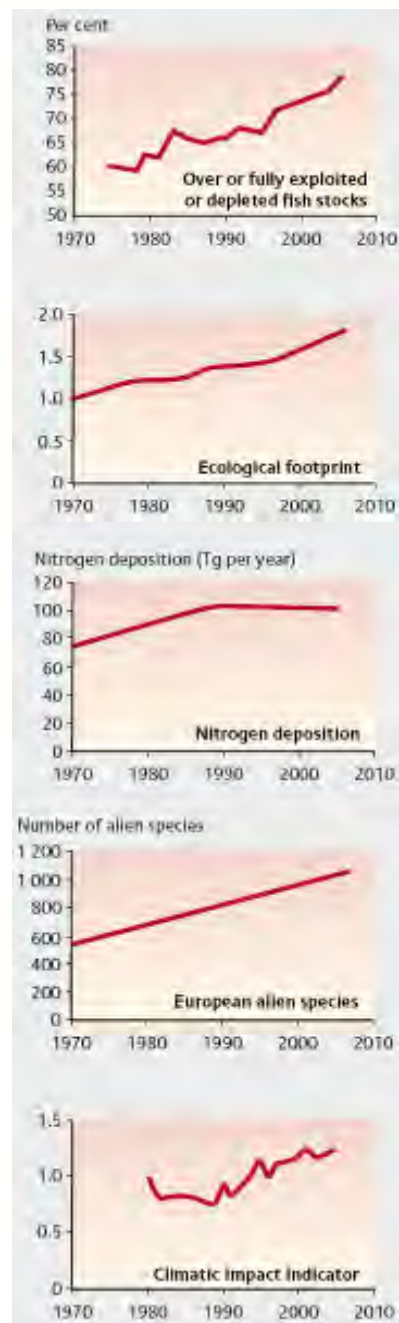
- No sub-target completely achieved
- Most indicators negative
- No government claims success
- Direct pressures constant or increasing



# State



# Pressure



# Response

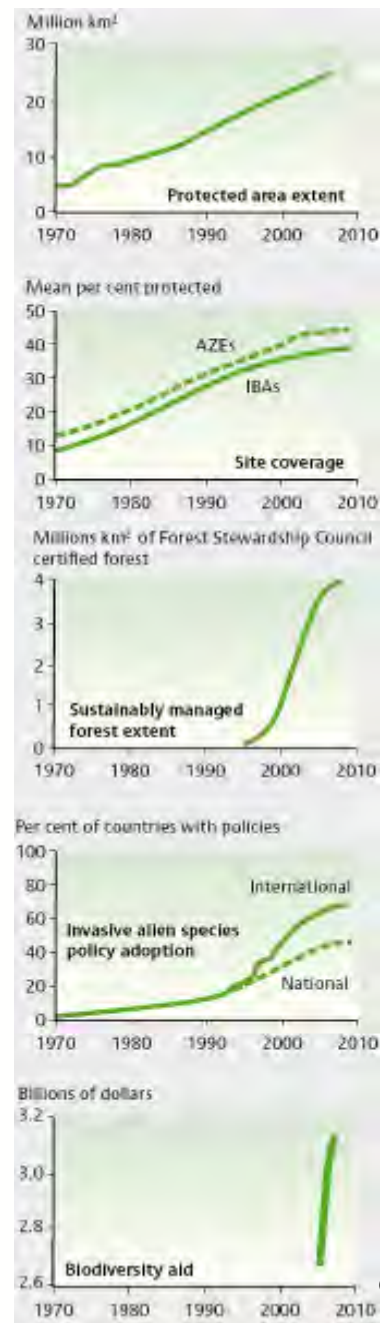
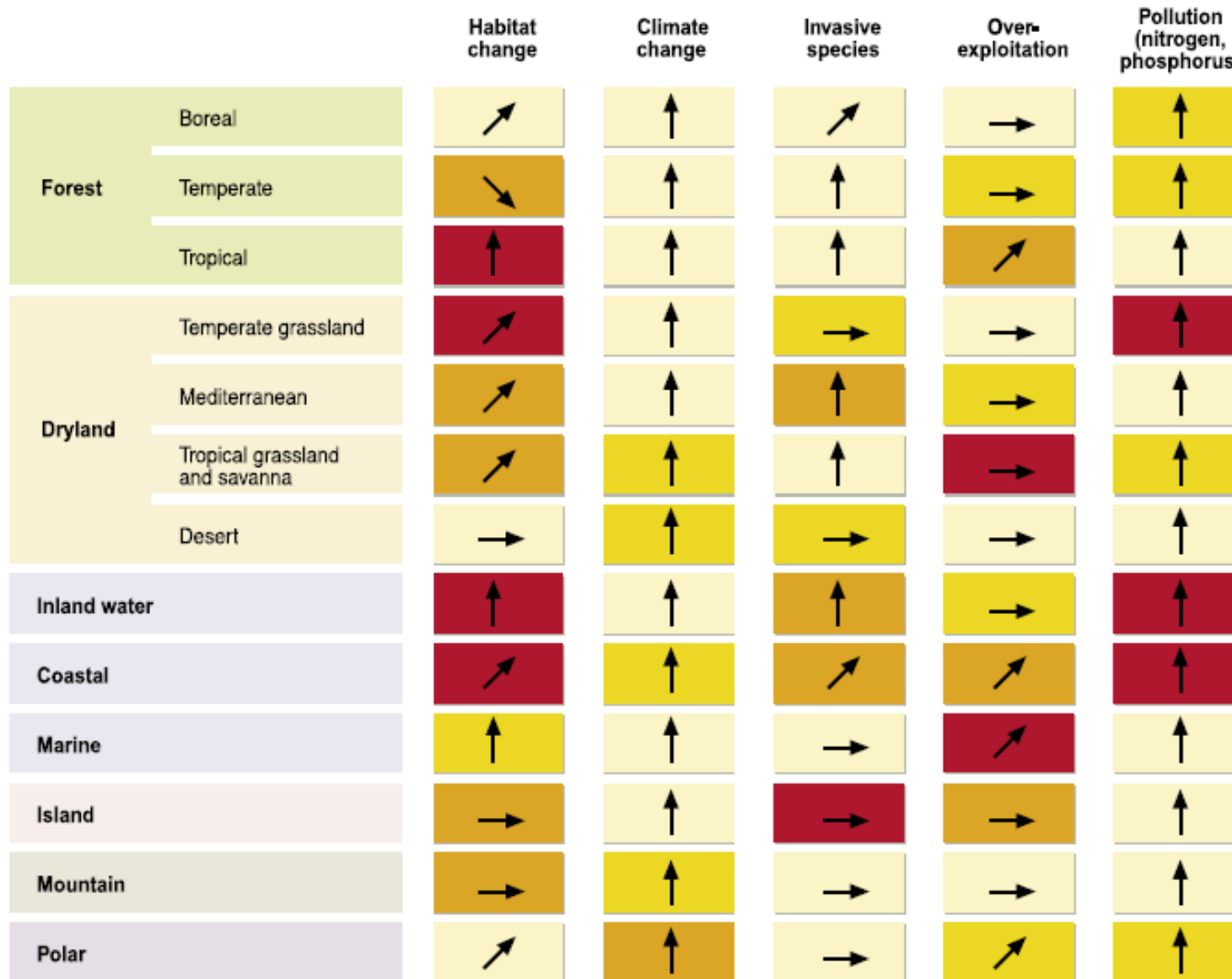
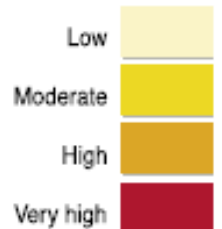


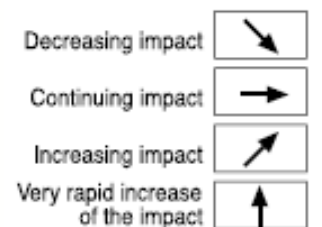
FIGURE 4.1 | Main direct drivers of change in biodiversity and ecosystems



Driver's impact on biodiversity over the last century



Driver's current trends

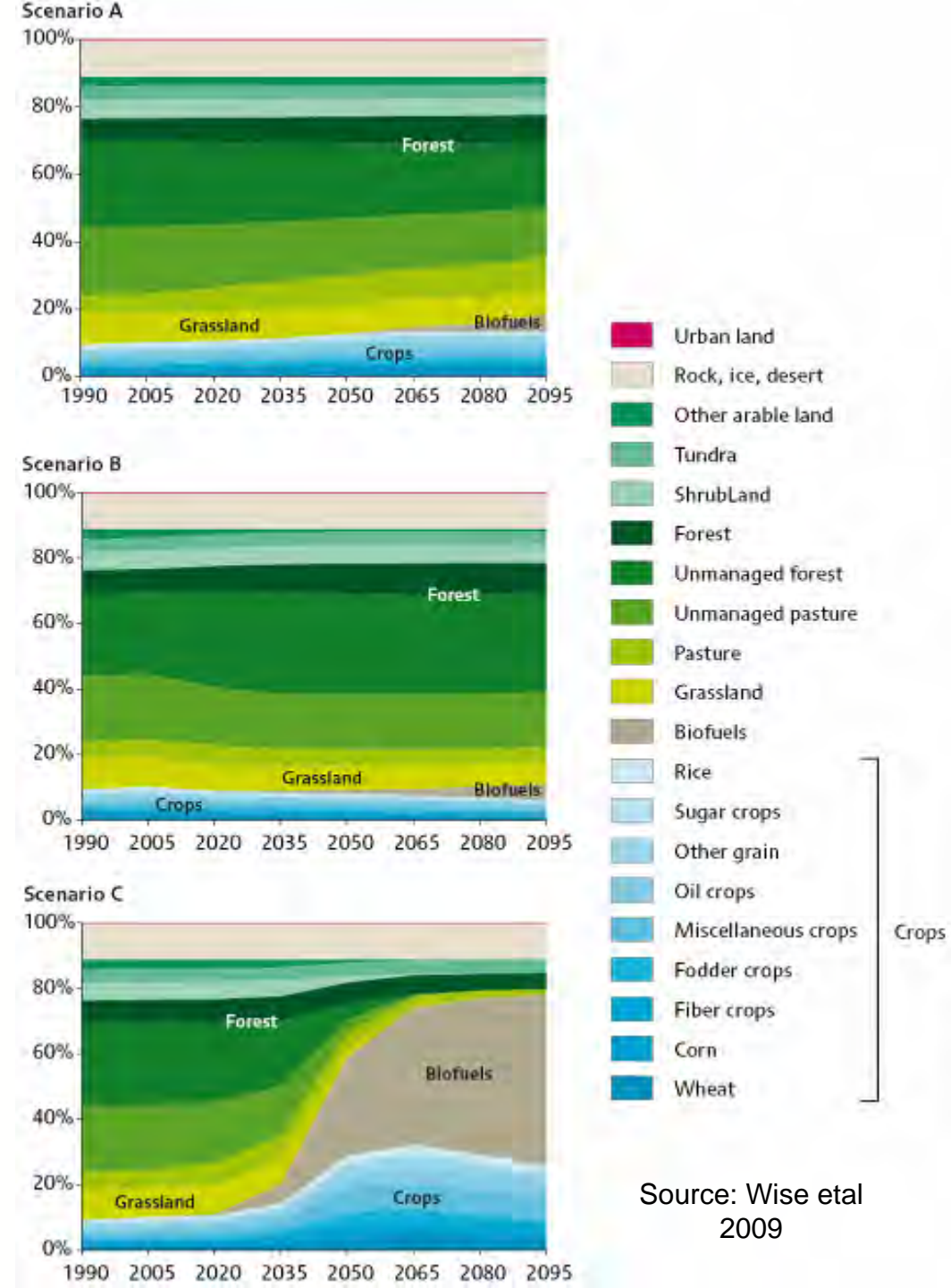


# Global scenarios for land use

Business as usual

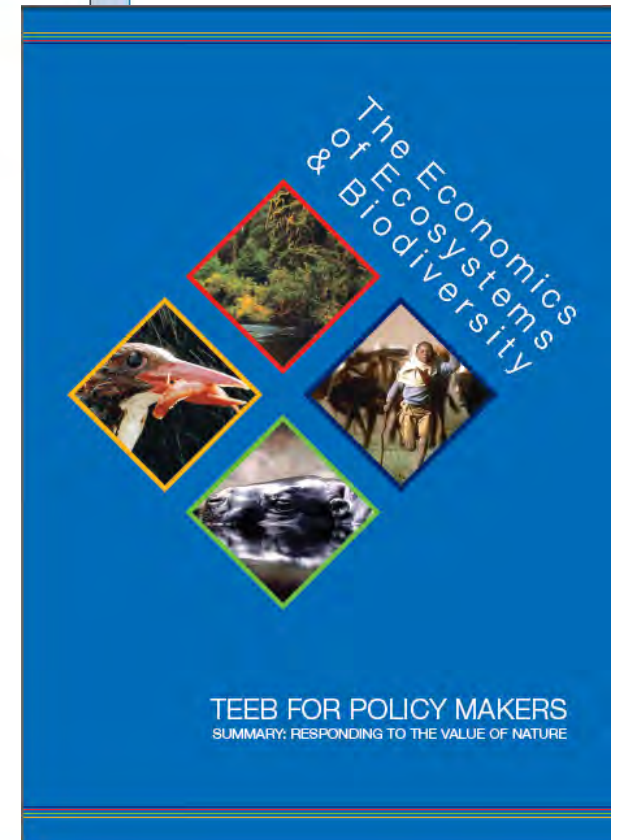
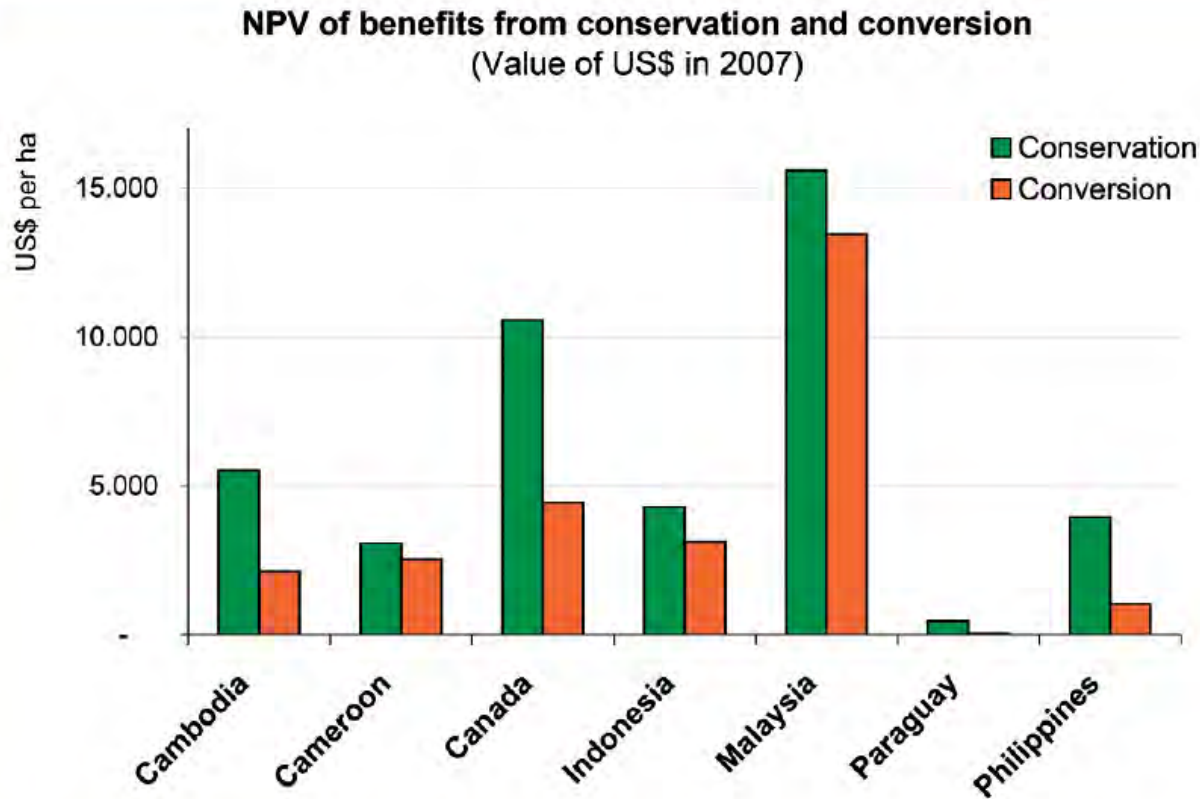
Carbon tax including land use

Carbon tax on fossil fuels and industry only



Source: Wise et al 2009

**Figure 2: Total benefits of conservation compared to benefits from conversion for seven case studies in different countries**



Sources: Bann (1997), Yaron (2001), van Vuuren and Roy (1993), van Beukering et al. (2003), Kumari (1994), Naidoo and Ricketts (2006), and White et al. (2000), as reviewed by Balmford et al. (2002), Papageorgiou (2008) and Trivedi et al. (2008). 'Conservation' includes sustainable production of market goods and services including timber, fish, non-timber forest products, and tourism. 'Conversion' refers to replacement of the natural ecosystem with a system dedicated to agriculture, aquaculture, or timber production.

# Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

**Framework** for all Conventions and stakeholders.

**Vision:** *Living in harmony with nature.* By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

**Mission** Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication

**20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets under 5 Strategic Goals**



# Strategic Goals

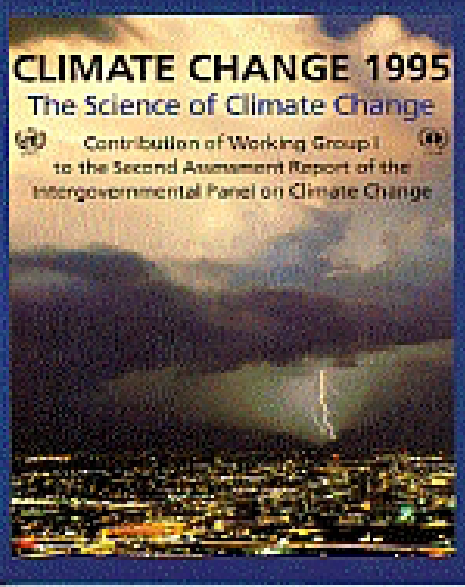
- A** Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by **mainstreaming** biodiversity across government and society
- B** Reduce the direct **pressures** on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- C** To improve the **status** of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- D** Enhance the **benefits** to all from biodiversity and ecosystems
- E** Enhance **implementation** through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building



# Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports

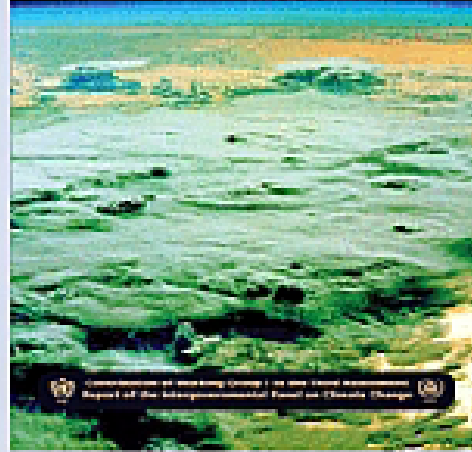
## CLIMATE CHANGE 1995 The Science of Climate Change

Contribution of Working Group I  
to the Second Assessment Report of the  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



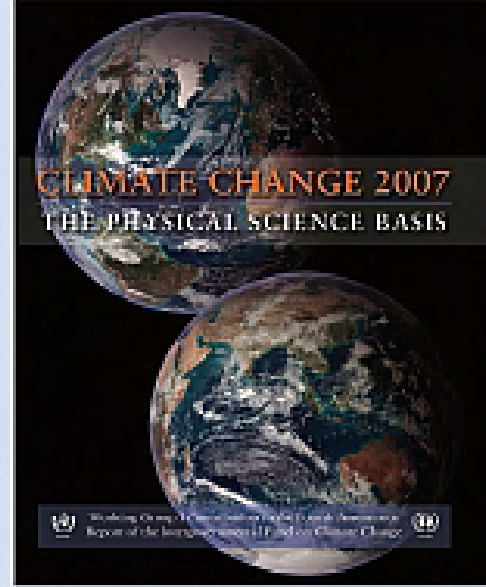
“The balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate”

## CLIMATE CHANGE 2001 The Scientific Basis



“There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities”

## CLIMATE CHANGE 2007 THE PHYSICAL SCIENCE BASIS



“Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is *very likely* due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations”

# Paris Conference: Biodiversity – science and governance, 2005

‘... together with immediate action, we must deepen our knowledge on biodiversity and establish premises recognised by all scientists, so that the international community can shoulder its responsibility.



Since 1988, the IPCC has brought about a scientific consensus on the reality and significance of global warming.

We need a similar type of mechanism for biodiversity. I hereby call on all scientists to join forces in order to set up a world-wide network of experts...

# First steps



- International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity consultations
- 6 regional consultation meetings 2006-2007
- Multi-stakeholder participation, science-led, including some governments

# IMoSEB – Needs to improve interface between science and policy

- **Need for independent scientific expertise**
  - Scientific information to support Conventions
  - Emerging global threats and horizon scanning
  - Knowledge for local/national decision-making
- **Need for more capacity**
  - Mobilisation of scientific expertise for local and national capacity building
  - Improved sub-global ecosystem assessments
- **Need for improved communication**
  - Enhanced understanding and application of science
  - Improved access to peer reviewed scientific results
  - Evidence gaps which require further scientific work

# Millennium Ecosystem Assessment - Evaluation

Evaluations completed in 2007 concluded:

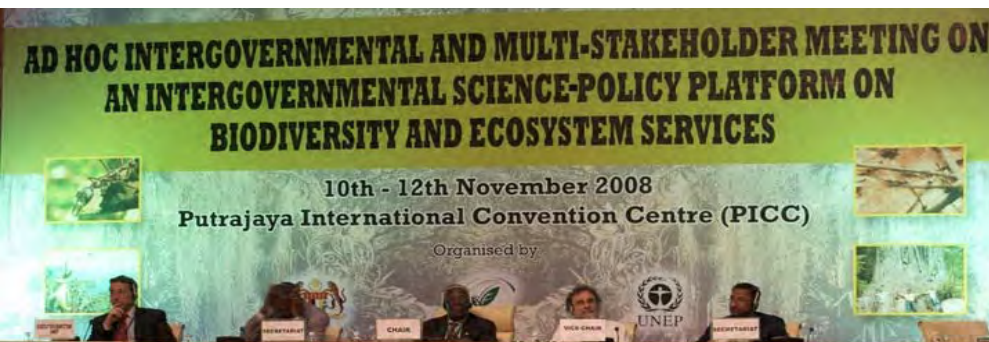
- Lack of significant direct impact on policy
- Lack tools/models to be used by policy-makers
- Further research to fill knowledge gaps
- Sub-global assessments not fully developed
- Lack of awareness amongst key stakeholders



# Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

**Three intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings convened by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP):**

- Putrajaya (2008) – unsure, strengthen existing mechanisms, need for gap analysis
- Nairobi (2009) – new mechanism could add value, discussed possible functions
- Busan (2010) – concluded that an intergovernmental platform should be established



# Busan outcome



- **Who can join IPBES?**

- All member states of the UN can participate in the Plenary
- Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and other stakeholders can be observers

- **Who does IPBES work for?**

- IPBES should respond to requests from Govts, MEAs, IGOs and NGOs according to priorities agreed by Plenary

- **Who pays?**

- Voluntary contributions from Govts, UN bodies, private sector and foundations. At Nagoya the UK (Defra and DfID) announced funding of £2m over 4 years.

# Busan outcome – IPBES functions

## 1. Generating new knowledge

- Identify information needed for policy
- Catalyse research and survey



## 2. Regular and timely assessments

- Global, regional and sub-regional scales
- Thematic and ‘new topics identified by science’

# Busan outcome – IPBES functions

## 3. Support for policy formulation

- Promoting access to policy relevant tools and methods

## 4. Capacity building

- Identify needs
- Support highest priority needs
- Catalyse funding



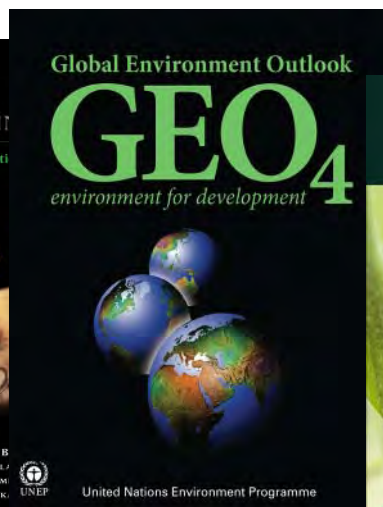
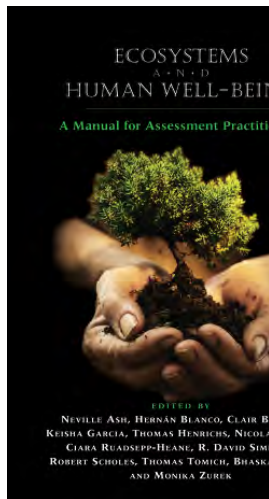
# IPBES Principles

- Scientifically independent. Credible, relevant and legitimate.
- Policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive.
- Recognise regional contexts and needs
- Full and effective participation of developing countries
- Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach
- Respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge
- Address terrestrial, marine and inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interactions.

# Relationship with other processes

The Busan outcome noted that IPBES should:

“Collaborate with **existing initiatives** on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations bodies and networks of scientists and knowledge holders, **to fill gaps and build upon their work, while avoiding duplication.**”



# UN General Assembly – 65<sup>th</sup> Session

New York, Oct - Dec 2010

**Noted the Busan Outcome and requested  
UNEP to organise a plenary meeting to  
fully operationalise the platform by  
determining its modalities and  
institutional arrangements.**



# UNEP Governing Council

Nairobi, February 2011



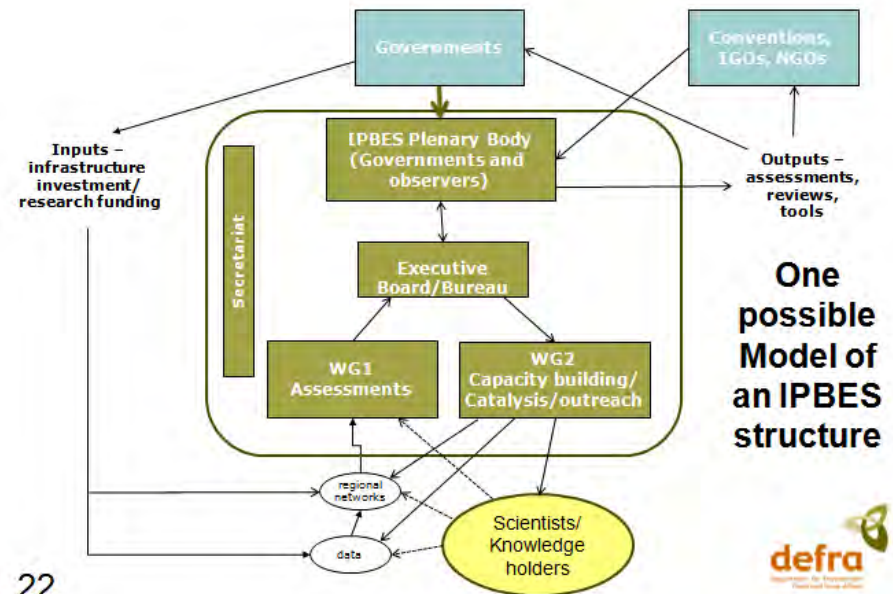
**Endorsed the Busan Outcome and requested UNEP Executive Director to organise a plenary meeting, in cooperation with UNESCO, FAO and UNDP to fully operationalise the platform.**

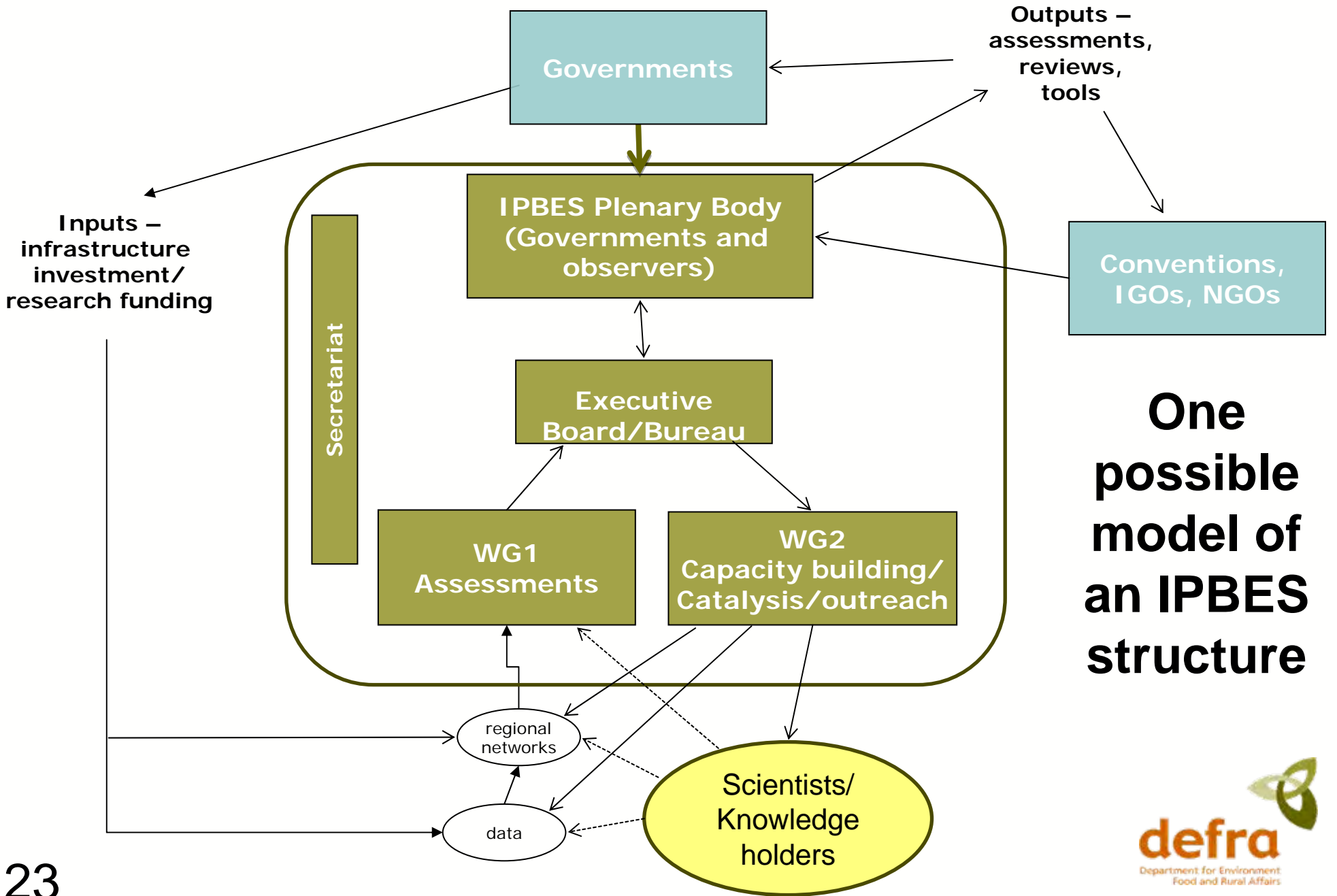


**Two sessions of plenary are planned – October 2011 in Nairobi and March/April 2012**

# What's required to fully operationalise IPBES?

- Governance structure
- Hosting arrangements
- Principles and procedures
- Election of officers
- **Work programme**
- Budget
- Legal basis





# Plenary

## The decision making body

- Members – all UN member states and regional integration organisations
- Observers - Intergovernmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders

## Possible functions:

- Receiving and prioritising requests
- The adoption, development, implementation, oversight and review of the work programme in relation to the 4 functions
- Reviewing, adopting or approving major reports or executive summaries

# Bureau or scientific advisory panel?

## Possible scientific functions:

- Advise the Plenary on scientific and technical aspects of the work programme
- Provide editorial support in finalising technical papers
- Oversee peer review processes
- Approve specific scientific procedures related to the conduct of assessments

# Working groups?

## Assessments:

- **Comprehensive**
  - Regional
  - Global
- **Thematic**

## Networking and capacity

### building:

- Knowledge gaps
- Policy relevant tools
- Capacity building

# UK Stakeholder Workshop 5<sup>th</sup> July

## Aims:

- Building a UK constituency
- Seeking input to negotiations on IPBES

## Some conclusions:

- Stakeholders want to know more about what IPBES will do
- Many organisations have an interest but need to reach out beyond natural sciences
- What incentives will there be for scientists to be involved?

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# What will IPBES do for me?



- Authoritative source of scientific evidence on global biodiversity and ecosystem services: status and trends, threats, implications for human well-being, possible solutions.
- Convincing arguments, including handling of uncertainty, making the economic case, using traditional knowledge.
- Identification of research needs, mobilisation and co-ordination of investment in science and capacity building, better data and understanding;
- Tools to support evidence-based decision-making.

# Summary

- **New global biodiversity strategy agreed in Nagoya – greater focus on drivers and pressures (mainstreaming B & ES in decision-making).**
- **Better, more accessible knowledge is critical - but needs to achieve greater impact.**
- **New mechanism can help:**
  - Stronger, high level messages
  - Concerted international, multidisciplinary scientific effort
  - Build-on and improve synergy of existing bodies
  - Route for science into policy
  - Tools to support decision-making
  - Improved capacity
- **How to make this work effectively?**

# Thanks for listening

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# CBD COP10 - Nagoya

- Welcomed outcome of Busan meeting and its conclusion that IPBES should be established
- Encouraged UN General Assembly 65<sup>th</sup> Session to consider establishment
- Emphasised need for IPBES to be responsive to CBD
- Requested CBD Secretariat to consider how CBD could make full and effective use of IPBES



# Expert Thematic Workshops

Informal expert workshops:

- **Capacity Building** – Workshop co-organised by Norway/Brazil in Trondhiem, 25-27<sup>th</sup> May
- **Knowledge generation** – initial discussion on 10<sup>th</sup> June organised by Diversitas, possible workshop later in 2011. Support from ICSU and UNESCO
- **Approaches to Assessment** – Workshop co-organized in Japan in July with support from UNU.