

Open Webinar

Connecting biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change in ecosystem assessments: from the IPBES Nexus Assessment to national ecosystem assessments

21 March 2025

14:00 – 15:00 GMT

Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HEhd9tejR3iqfvXYTlkArw

Organized by the National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative at UNEP-WCMC and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)

Concept Note and Agenda

As of 14 March 2025

Background

Biodiversity, water, food, health, and climate change are deeply interconnected. Addressing these challenges in isolation risks ineffective or even counterproductive outcomes.

Countries seeking to tackle environmental challenges in an integrated manner applying whole-of-society approach can benefit from the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)). IPBES products help shape policies and actions at national level by providing robust evidence and a methodological framework for national ecosystem assessments.

In 2024, at the IPBES eleventh plenary session, a *Thematic Assessment on the Interlinkages Among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health*, also called the [Nexus Assessment](#), was approved. This assessment underscores the critical connections between biodiversity loss, water availability and quality, food insecurity, health risks and climate change.

It provided a critical evaluation of these interlinkages and confirmed the need for integrated and adaptive approaches that replace siloed decision-making, ensuring that biodiversity conservation is embedded across sectors and systems. The assessment identifies more than 70 response options to help policymakers and practitioners design solutions that generate co-benefits across multiple sectors and five 'nexus elements': biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change.

At the national level, ecosystem assessments conducted with the support of the [National Ecosystem Assessment Initiative](#) at UNEP-WCMC have examined the complex nature of biodiversity loss and its interlinkages and interdependencies with other components. These assessments provide policymakers with clear guidance on addressing biodiversity loss by formulating and improving policies that move away from a narrow perspective, consider the interconnection and interlinkages with other sectors and factors for problem-solving.

Objectives

The webinar aims to:

- Present the key findings of the IPBES Nexus Assessment regarding the interconnections between biodiversity, water, food, and health in the context of climate change, and how these insights can translate into actionable strategies at the national level.
- Explore how the Nexus Assessment findings support national ecosystem assessments by applying integrated response options presented in the Nexus Assessment.
- Discuss how national ecosystem assessments address biodiversity linkages and interdependencies with nexus elements.
- Reflect on key takeaways from the [BES-Net Dialogue](#) on how countries can use their enhanced understanding of the Nexus Assessment to inform national ecosystem assessments and broader national processes.

Target Audience

This webinar is organised as part of the Sub-Global Assessment Network ([SGAN](#)) and is relevant to practitioners and experts in the fields of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as policymakers, researchers, civil society representatives, and media professionals interested in these topics.

Date and Time

Friday, 21 March 2025 from 14:00 – 15:00 GMT.

Event format and registration

This virtual webinar will be held on Zoom in English with live French and Spanish interpretation. Access to the online event will be provided to all pre-registered participants. Please register for the event here:

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Proposed Agenda

60mins

Time	Session	Moderator/Speaker
8'	Welcome and Introduction to the Webinar Webinar Housekeeping	Pratik Tandon Communications Officer, UNEP-WCMC Mel Hanley Events Coordinator, UNEP-WCMC
8'	Overview: IPBES and national ecosystem assessments	Clair Brown Principal Technical Specialist, UNEP-WCMC
10'	Overview of response options from the Nexus Assessment	Tiff van Huysen, Head of the Technical Support Unit for the nexus assessment, IPBES
5'	Dialogue methodology in support of the IPBES uptake and its role in informing national actions	Alexandra Postrigan, Partnership Development and Facilitation Specialist, UNDP
15'	Nexus response through national ecosystem assessments: (1) Malawi	Dr. Lilian Chimphepo, Co-chair of the Malawi National Ecosystem Assessment and Principal

		Environmental Officer, Environmental Affairs Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Government of Malawi
10'	Question & Answer Session	Pratik Tandon Communications Officer, UNEP-WCMC
4'	Closing	Juanita Chaves, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP-WCMC

Contact

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