

POLICY BRIEF NO. 4

December 2023

Mitigating Drivers of Biodiversity Loss: leveraging on the IPBES IAS report

Overview

The tenth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-10), held in Bonn in August 2023, marked a critical juncture, notably through the adoption of the Thematic Assessment of **Invasive Alien Species** (IAS). The report highlights that invasive alien species are one among the five direct drivers of biodiversity loss, globally. CABES engaged African stakeholders through interviews to address unique challenges and opportunities for its uptake into national policies and planning processes for effective control and management of biological invasions.

This policy brief highlights insights from IPBES-10, focusing on perspectives of African stakeholders. To advance Africa's contributions to global biodiversity governance, the following actions were recommended:

Investments in capacity building

Stakeholders expressed capacity constraints to actively participate in negotiation processes. They stated that the assessment texts are voluminous, and they lack financial means to mobilise subject matter experts at the national level to support the review process ahead of the plenary meeting.

We often feel unprepared to fully engage in technical discussions during negotiations due to limited training opportunities and limited resources.
(A delegate)

Key recommendations

- Invest in capacity building for biodiversity governance.
- Improve accessibility of biodiversity assessments to policymakers.
- Strengthen regional collaboration to manage shared ecosystems.
- Mobilise resources for conservation and sustainable development.
- Integrate Indigenous and local knowledge into policy frameworks.

Therefore, to strengthen their engagement in international platforms such as IPBES, there is need to prioritise funding for capacity-building programs, which should focus on equipping stakeholders with the skills to actively participate in text negotiations and following assessment adoption, translate scientific findings into actionable policies.

Improve accessibility to IPBES reports at the national level

IPBES assessment findings should be translated into user-friendly, simplified, multilingual summaries and used as outreach tools targeting wide range of stakeholders, including local communities and non-technical audiences.

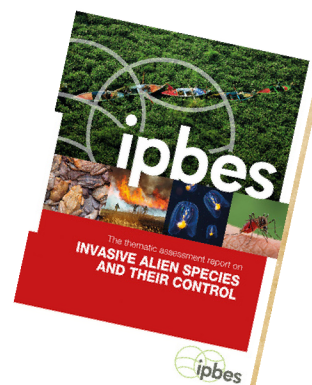
*The scientific language of IPBES reports is a barrier for policymakers who need clear and actionable recommendations.
(A delegate)*

Enhance regional collaboration

Many stakeholders expressed interest in fostering stronger regional networks to address shared challenges such as invasive alien species and sustainable transboundary ecosystems management. Highlighting the need to establish and strengthen platforms for cross-border collaboration to address shared biodiversity challenges.

Mobilise financial resources

Stakeholders stated the need to work with national and international donors, development agencies, and private sector to secure sustainable funding for biodiversity initiatives, including mitigating biological



invasions. Allocating national budgets for complementary biodiversity research is essential for lasting impact. One point worth keeping in mind is that a species viewed as invasive in one country may be native and even support local livelihoods in another.

Integrate Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK)

Governments should establish formal mechanisms to document and incorporate (ILK) into biodiversity planning and decision-making processes.

CONCLUSION

Africa is poised to strengthen its contributions to shaping biodiversity policies that reflect its unique ecological and socio-economic contexts. By addressing persistent barriers, Africa can enhance its role as a global leader in biodiversity conservation.

REFERENCES

IPBES (2023). Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Roy, H. E., Pauchard, A., Stoett, P., Renard Truong, T., Bacher, S., Galil, B. S., Hulme, P. E., Ikeda, T., Sankaran, K. V., McGeoch, M. A., Meyerson, L. A., Nuñez, M. A., Ordonez, A., Rahlao, S. J., Schwindt, E., Seebens, H., Sheppard, A. W., and Vandvik, V. (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

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Plain text version in French available here: <https://www.ipbes.net/ias>

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