



#### Thematic Area:

Policy and governance

**Start date:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011

**Status:** Active

#### Key contacts



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## Project description

IPBES – the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - is the result of half a decade of intergovernmental discussion and negotiation. It aims to solve a major and seemingly intractable problem – how to translate biodiversity and ecosystem information into effective policy responses to reduce biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

It is expected IPBES will draw on the best available information to produce, or facilitate the production of, independent, policy-relevant scientific assessments. It is a platform mandated by governments to answer questions that decision-makers want answered. Substantially modeled on the IPCC, IPBES will provide the best hope yet for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into decision-making.

The University departments and organisations within CCI collectively have a huge amount to offer to the IPBES process, including significant science and research capacity and capacity-building experience. This project led to the foundation of the CCI IPBES Liaison Group. This group meets periodically to allow CCI partners to brief each other on the latest developments in the IPBES process and to discuss how CCI can most effectively engage with and contribute to it.

## Aims

The project aims to catalyse collective CCI engagement with IPBES as it emerges and develops, by bringing together CCI organisations to plan how they can best support and influence the work programme and help make sure that the Platform works effectively. Although international in scope, the project will also facilitate engagement with, and support to, the UK Government on IPBES issues.

## Key activities

The successful application to the CCI Collaborative Fund led to the formation of a CCI IPBES Liaison Group who have so far met six times between May 2011 and November 2012.

The project supported CCI participation in the IPBES preparatory meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2011.

Following the IPBES preparatory meeting in Panama in April 2012, a series of discussions of four elements related to the IPBES work plan, where CCI has special relevance or expertise, began with a workshop: 'Exploring future scenarios and opportunities for collaboration' on 19th June 2012.

In August 2012 CCI hosted a UK stakeholder meeting (on behalf of DEFRA/JNCC) to input to the UK's position on capacity-building.





### Outputs

#### Title



A set of postcards outlining how the work being carried out within CCI could contribute to the IPBES process was distributed at the first session of the IPBES plenary meeting held between 3rd to the 7th October 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Concepts/discussion documents are in preparation on the four elements identified as particular focuses for CCI engagement: capacity development, incentives and barriers to participation in assessments, citizen science and future scenarios.

### Conservation Impact

This project has catalyzed an increased awareness of IPBES across CCI organisations, including those that had not previously had the resource to follow developments or explore opportunities. In addition, this is one of the first times that CCI has come together to review the collective contribution it can make to a global initiative and this will provide valuable lessons and experience for future collaborative work.

### CCI partners involved:

- BirdLife
- BTO
- CCF
- FFI
- Department of
- RSPB
- TBA
- UNEP-WCMC
- Departments in the University of Cambridge, including Plant Sciences, Geography, Zoology and Land Economy and the Cambridge Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP)

**Photo credits:** Kalyan Varma  
**Front page:** The seed of *Pterocarpus dalbergioides*, commonly, the Andaman Redwood  
**This page:** Bonnet macaques

