



REINFORCING SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACES FOR INTEGRATED
BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE AND POLICIES

Options for Capacity Building Activities for Knowledge Holders and National Focal Points

Information brief

Corresponding author : Marie-Claire Danner

Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB)

Target Audience



Funded by
the European Union

Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA).
Neither the EU nor the REA can be held responsible for them.

National platforms and organisations developing and delivering capacity-building activities.

Introduction

This information brief highlights the main barriers to effective participation in the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) processes. It presents options to support national platforms and organisations in designing capacity-building activities that strengthen engagement with IPBES and IPCC. The brief synthesises insights from two RESPIN project reports on the capacity-building needs of **IPBES** and **IPCC National Focal Points (NFPs)**, and on the engagement of **knowledge holders** (experts, Indigenous Peoples, local communities).

The challenge: barriers to effective engagement

National Focal Points (NFPs)

NFPs for IPBES and IPCC are crucial for national coordination, expert contributions, and uptake of assessment findings. However, they face significant hurdles to effective engagement, including:

- Limited awareness of platform roles and processes within national institutions,
- Resource and time constraints for expert attendance,
- Language and inclusivity challenges (especially for non-English speakers and Indigenous/local knowledge holders), and
- Politicisation of assessment processes, limiting broader expert engagement.

Knowledge Holders

The top barriers to effective participation of knowledge holders include:

- Lack of time and missing funding to participate,
- Power imbalances and missing recognition,
- Language barrier, and some are simply unaware of capacity-building opportunities,
- Women and younger experts often feel these constraints more acutely.

Key recommendations for capacity-building activities

1. Tailored learning formats and content

Audience	Options for format	Options for content
IPBES experts	Factsheets for early-career researchers; webinars on how to engage; national/regional workshops (facilitated for non-English speakers)	<p>Address main challenges to engagement: institutional support, gender imbalance and imposter syndrome.</p> <p>Motivations: policymaking, building networks and academic outreach.</p> <p>Training needs: science communication.</p>

IPCC experts	Webinars on reports' findings; national/regional meetings on how to engage	<p>Address main challenges to engagement: institutional support, gender imbalance and unclear process.</p> <p>Motivations: policymaking and building networks.</p> <p>Training needs: inclusivity and uptake.</p>
NFPs	National/regional meetings and workshops; online courses; factsheets	<p>Practical guidance on the day-to-day expectations (roles) of an NFP.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement and communication: how to engage national experts in IPBES/IPCC processes, how to communicate findings of IPBES/IPCC products.</p> <p>Engage with institutions.</p>

2. Enhanced inclusivity and outreach

Proactive measures are needed to bring in underrepresented voices.

- Language and access: Translate key materials into national languages where possible. Offer capacity building in additional languages.
- Diverse stakeholders: Target private sector, finance practitioners, and non-academic stakeholders.
- Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK): Design specific ILK dialogues and ensure capacity-building efforts emphasise the importance of diverse knowledge systems.
- Youth and early career mobilisation: Develop targeted outreach to universities and doctoral schools to encourage expert contributions and target young experts.

3. Strengthening national coordination and support

NFPs require better institutional frameworks and tools to perform their roles effectively.

- Institutional support: Encourage institutions and research organisations to provide guidance and support expert participation, demonstrating the benefits of involvement.
- Governance: Leverage national platforms for nomination, coordination, and outreach. Some countries may benefit from appointing dual (political and scientific/technical) NFPs or a single NFP for both platforms to improve coherence.
- Communication: Clearly communicate the policy relevance of the assessments to raise their profile among ministries. Use multiple channels (social media, mailing lists) to disseminate updates in a timely manner.

4. Fostering collaboration and joint action

The divide between climate and biodiversity communities must be bridged to address intertwined global challenges.



- Joint initiatives: Promote collaboration between IPBES and IPCC NFPs through shared communication platforms, joint events, and government-wide briefings.
- Shared goals: Develop educational materials and promote joint initiatives focused on common goals like One Health, ocean sustainability, and pollution control.
- Knowledge uptake: Work with stakeholders to integrate assessment findings into national and regional strategies, fostering adaptation dialogues and coordinating agendas (e.g., aligning National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)).

Download the reports on [Knowledge holders' engagement in IPBES and IPCC](#); [Capacity building needs of IPBES and IPCC NFPs](#)

About the RESPIN project

RESPIN is an EU-funded project that aims to support the integrated provision and use of IPBES and IPCC processes and outputs by identifying knowledge gaps, and developing strategies to address them, improving engagement of knowledge holders and facilitating the uptake of IPBES and IPCC outputs.

