

Why and How to Support Experts to Participate in IPBES/IPCC Processes

For employer institutions (e.g., research organisations, universities, NGOs, etc.) of experts participating or wanting to participate in IPBES/IPCC.

The [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#) and the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) provide policymakers with scientific assessments on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate change. While distinct, their work is complementary, informing global and national decision-making. Having one of your experts getting involved in IPBES and/or IPCC assessments and their work programmes offers many opportunities.

Opportunities for your experts

- **Contributions to scientific syntheses** – Mobilise and promote their own research and expertise for co-creation of knowledge.
- **Contributions to future research orientation** – Identify knowledge gaps that will set out future research priorities.
- **Contributions to governance and influence** – Knowledge contributions shape international climate and biodiversity governance.
- **Professional growth and networking** – Collaboration with leading experts enhances career prospects.
- **Capacity Building** – Training and networking opportunities expand expertise.
- **Visibility & Recognition** – Experts are credited in the assessment reports and high impact publications.

All experts with relevant expertise can participate in IPBES and/or IPCC processes. **Early-career researchers** can also benefit from a dedicated [Fellowship Programme](#) with IPBES and a [Scholarship Programme](#) with IPCC.

Learn more about IPBES and IPCC processes and how to get involved

ONLINE COURSE

RESPIN self-paced course

[IPBES & IPCC: Bridging Science, Policy & Practice](#)

FACTSHEET

RESPIN Factsheet

[IPBES and IPCC explained: Why and How to Engage as an Expert](#)

Opportunities for your institution

Competitive advantage

Engagement of experts in IPBES and IPCC can be a “unique selling point”; you will get access to international research networks and consortia, funding opportunities, and high-impact publications. For example, institutions have reported that expert participation led to new research positions, project funding, and collaborative publications in leading journals.

Reputation and prestige

Enhances institutional prestige and international standing in climate and biodiversity science.

National credibility and influence

Having experts who contribute to IPBES and/or IPCC strengthens your institution's reputation as a trusted source of scientific expertise at the national level. Institutions with recognised IPBES/IPCC experts benefit from the influence of IPBES and IPCC products and are often better positioned to contribute to national policy processes, advise ministries and public authorities, participate in expert committees, and engage with National Focal Points. This increased credibility can create further opportunities for collaboration, funding, policy engagement, and leadership within the country's science-policy landscape.

Guiding future research agendas

Experts will be exposed to the latest research and methods, and identify knowledge gaps and emerging topics, which in turn are often picked up by funding organisations.

Strategic positioning at the global level

Many institutional strategies now require contributions to global science-policy platforms and providing a service to society. Hosting experts at the frontier of science-policy processes provides opportunities to anticipate trends and shape international discourse, and to ensure relevance in global science-policy debates.

Impact on policy

Assessments, developed by experts, can inform for example international negotiations and the development of policy frameworks.

Increased visibility

Experts are often invited to present the reports or activities they have been involved in at high-level events, serve on advisory boards, and engage with the media.

Access to networks

Experts have many networking opportunities and can increase the host institution's access to international research networks and consortia, funding opportunities, and high-impact publications.

Boost capacity & skills

Develop cutting-edge expertise in complex global assessments, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and enriching teaching.



How to help your experts participate in IPBES and IPCC?

Both platforms rely on voluntary expert contributions for their assessments and other parts of their work programme. There are many roles an expert can have in IPBES and/or IPCC processes: if they apply to be an author, they will need to dedicate a considerable amount of time to the report **(15 to 40% for 2 to 4 years)** and will be expected to attend yearly meetings abroad. Note that there is a rather low/medium engagement throughout an assessment but there will be intense periods of work around pre-defined deadlines. Participating as a contributing author, review editor or expert reviewer can also require a significant amount of time but will be for a limited period of time only.

Participants from developed countries

Expected to cover their own expenses, but financial and non-financial support can be provided by their employer institution (cost of travel, dedicated working time).

Participants from developing countries and economies in transition¹

Where governments may not be in a position to provide support, IPBES or IPCC can reimburse the cost of travel to author meetings for Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (LAs) and Review Editors. Their employer institution is still very encouraged to offer non-financial support (i.e., a workload compatible with the work in an assessment).

If your institution hosts an expert – whether as an employee or through another arrangement (e.g., as a guest researcher) – there are several implications to consider for the host:

- 1 Allocate time and maintain salary support** – Ensure experts have dedicated time for IPBES/IPCC work while continuing to receive institutional support. If your expert is selected as an author, they will work between 15 and 40% of their time on the activity and there is no payment from IPBES and IPCC for experts' work. It is therefore essential that hosting institutions exempt experts from parts of their duties, while continuing to cover their salary.
- 2 Plan and budget for meeting participation** – Support experts' attendance at international meetings, including travel and accommodation expenses.

Budgeting for author meetings

Experts are expected to attend international in-person and virtual author meetings. Travel, accommodation, and meal expenses (approximately €1,500–2,000 for a five-day meeting, with two to three meetings per report cycle and an additional 2-day SPM meeting for CLAs) should be covered by the expert's host institution or other funding sources. If institutional support is not possible, national governments may sometimes provide travel funding.



At our institute, we see engagement in IPBES as a two-way investment. Our experts bring knowledge and experience from local, European and international research collaborations into IPBES processes, helping to connect knowledge across scales and disciplines. In return, they bring back new insights, networks and perspectives that strengthen our own science and its relevance for policy. Supporting their participation therefore strengthens both IPBES and our own capacity to provide robust scientific support for biodiversity policy.

Hilde Eggermont

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¹ IPBES and IPCC do not maintain a static list but align with the official United Nations regional groups and economic groupings (see Country Classification in the [World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026](#)).

You can also...

- 1 Share opportunities and information** – Send IPBES and IPCC updates to your experts and encourage participation in calls and workshops: re-share the notifications from IPBES and IPCC, and invite them to apply to the calls for participating in workshops, as authors and reviewers, etc.
- 2 Promote capacity-building participation** – Encourage your experts to join training and development activities (see RESPIN Online self-paced course [IPBES & IPCC: Bridging Science, Policy & Practice](#)).
- 3 Become an observer organisation at IPBES and/or IPCC** – Representatives of observer organisations may attend plenary sessions of both platforms. Along with governments, you can nominate experts for scoping meetings, workshops and as authors and review editors. You would also be invited to encourage experts to review draft IPBES and IPCC reports.

Become an observer for IPBES



Become an observer for IPCC



Support from institutions is essential to ensure independent and effective participation in the work of IPBES and the IPCC. Experts work on a voluntary basis for these platforms, and it is crucial that their involvement in science-policy interfaces is recognised, alongside scientific publications, in career development and promotions. It is also important that organisations support their experts with dedicated time and funding to contribute more easily to the work and attend meetings. All of this can bring a number of strategic benefits to the institution.

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