Ref.: IPBES/SEC/EXT/2025/07 6 March 2025

SUBJECT: **Input to the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

Excellency,

It is my great honour to submit the following completed assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) as an input to the 2025 Synthesis Report of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF):

- The Summary for Policymakers of the Assessment Report of the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food, and Health (Nexus Assessment) available at: https://zenodo.org/records/13850290
- The Summary for Policymakers of the Assessment Report of the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (Transformative Change Assessment) available at: https://zenodo.org/records/14513975

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are explicitly considered throughout the Nexus Assessment. Chapter 1 of the Nexus Assessment provides an overview of the assessment and highlights the importance of understanding the interlinkages between the nexus elements of biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change to inform policies and actions in support of achieving just and sustainable futures. Chapter 1 also describes the relevance of nexus approaches for global policy frameworks, citing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an example of operationalized nexus thinking with its integrated, indivisible and interlinked Goals and notes that the nexus elements relate directly to six of the Goals (2, 3, 6, 13, 14 and 15) (Chapter 1, section 1.3.2). Chapter 2 (section 2.6.2) discusses past and recent trends in nexus element interactions, including an assessment of how nexus element interactions impact the SDGs. Nexus element interactions may support synergies among and minimize trade-offs between Goals; in some cases, nexus interactions may drive worsening trends in progress towards achieving the SDGs (e.g., for Goals 14 and 15). However, response options that leverage synergies between SDGs can further minimize trade-offs between Goals and support progress for those Goals that have seen little progress to date (see Chapter 5 text below).

Chapter 3, which focuses on future interactions across the nexus and includes an assessment of scenario studies, notes that scenarios focused on synergies among biodiversity, water, food, human health and climate change have more beneficial outcomes for the SDGs compared to policy approaches and actions that prioritize a single nexus element (i.e., siloed approaches and actions) (Figure SPM.6 in the Nexus Assessment Summary for Policymakers; Chapter 3, section 3.7.2). Chapter 4 of the Nexus Assessment identifies policy and sociopolitical options and decision-support tools for achieving positive outcomes for the nexus elements and accelerating the transitions towards just and sustainable futures, including the realization of the SDGs. In its assessment of options and tools, the chapter considers governance approaches, policy instruments, enablers, barriers, actors, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and cross-cutting issues related to the SDGs, including equity and justice, poverty, employment, economic growth and political stability, that are important when considering nexus governance and policy options. Integrated governance and policy coordination are hallmarks of effective nexus governance while policy design and implementation and institutional capacity are the most common enablers and barriers of positive outcomes for the nexus. Decision-support tools related to social learning, innovation, and adaptive governance support the greatest number of SDGs; decision-support tools related to a) public discussion, involvement, and participatory processes and b) training and capacity building also support many SDGs (Chapter 4, sections 4.3 and 4.6).

Chapter 5 of the Nexus Assessment presents over 70 response options available to actors in multiple sectors to sustainably manage biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change. In addition to an assessment of the extent to which response options benefit the nexus elements, response option support for the SDGs was assessed. Enclosed is the list of response options and the SDGs each response option supports; see also Box SPM.2 in the Nexus Assessment Summary for Policymakers and the Chapter 5 subchapters sections 5.1.6, 5.2.6, 5.3.6, 5.4.6, 5.5.6 and 5.6.7.

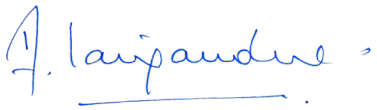
Chapter 6 assesses sustainable approaches to public and private finance for biodiversity. The chapter highlights the high potential for more synergistic, more efficient biodiversity-focused multilateral financing that also supports climate change objectives and achieving the SDGs. However, such financial support will be ineffective if not met with a reduction in financial or other incentives that impede achievement of global goals (Chapter 6, sections 6.2.4, 6.2.5 and 6.2.6). Chapter 7, a summary chapter, reiterates the interlinked nature of the SDGs but notes that SDG implementation, indicators and monitoring suffer from siloed designs that do not account for interlinkages among Goals. However, increased collaboration between decision-making entities, acknowledging and considering diverse values among different stakeholders and monitoring frameworks that have clear nexus perspectives can improve the effectiveness of monitoring the SDGs and of monitoring nexus interactions more broadly (Chapter 7 section 7.3.8).

The Transformative Change Assessment highlights as one of its key messages that delaying action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and nature's decline globally by ten years is estimated to be twice as expensive as taking immediate action. Taking action now delivers a range of co-benefits for both the economy and good quality of life. It contributes to poverty reduction and progress towards agreed goals and targets, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (Chapter 1, section 1.2). The report highlights five broad strategies to drive transformative change across contexts. Conservation that involves sustainable stewardship, notably by Indigenous Peoples and local communities contributes to transformative change when it is inclusive, well-resourced, focused on places of high value to nature and people, and when the

rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized (Strategy 1). Transformative changes are crucial in the sectors that heavily contribute to biodiversity loss, including agriculture and livestock, fisheries, forestry, infrastructure, mining and fossil fuels (Strategy 2). Transforming dominant economic and financial paradigms so that they prioritize nature and social equity is critical (Strategy 3). Inclusive, accountable and adaptive governance systems play a pivotal role in driving transformative change by involving diverse stakeholders in decision-making and addressing governance challenges (Strategy 4). Shifting dominant societal views and values to recognize and prioritize human-nature interconnectedness is a powerful strategy for transformative change. These shifts can be facilitated through, among others, cultural narratives and by changing dominant social norms (Strategy 5).

We agree that the full text of our contribution can be made available on the website of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development.

Yours sincerely,



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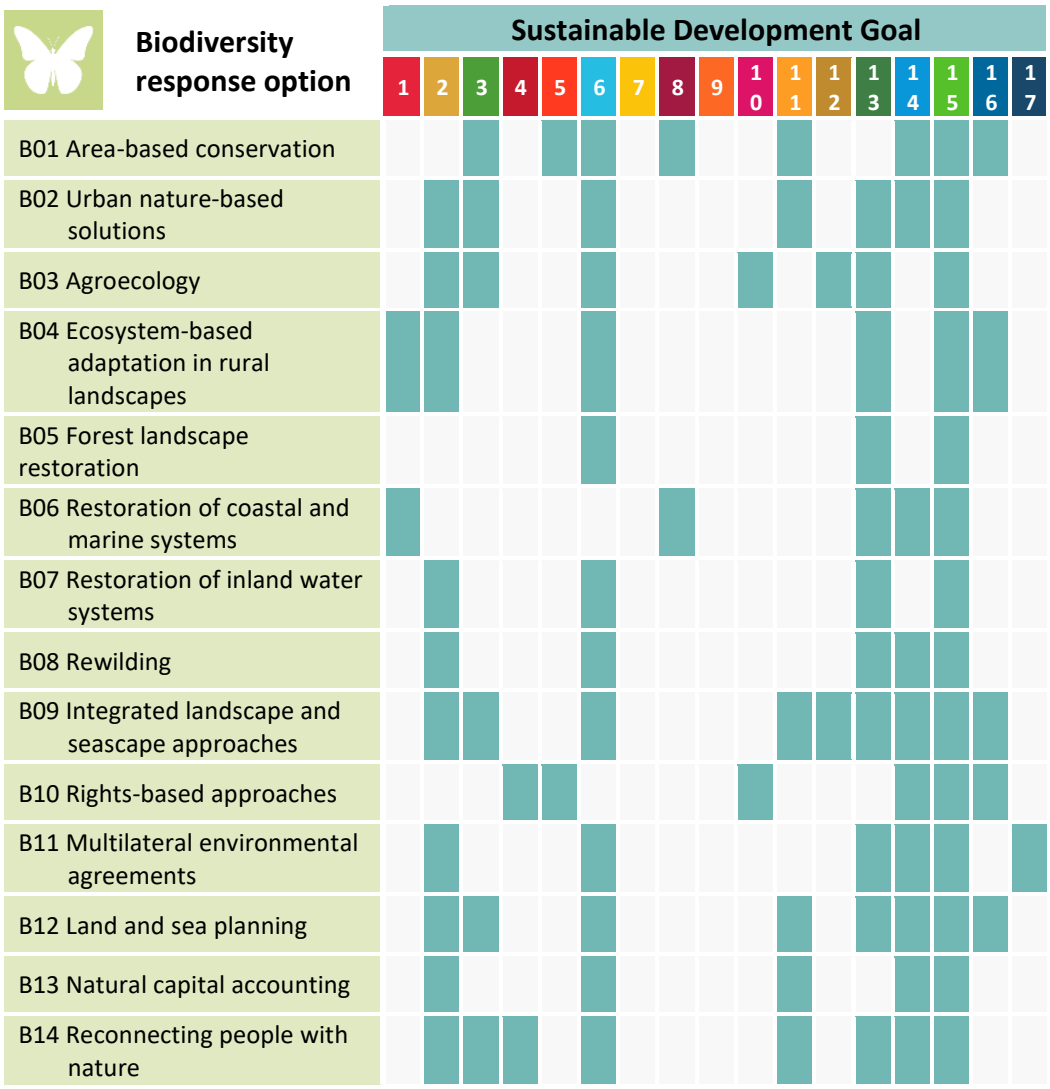
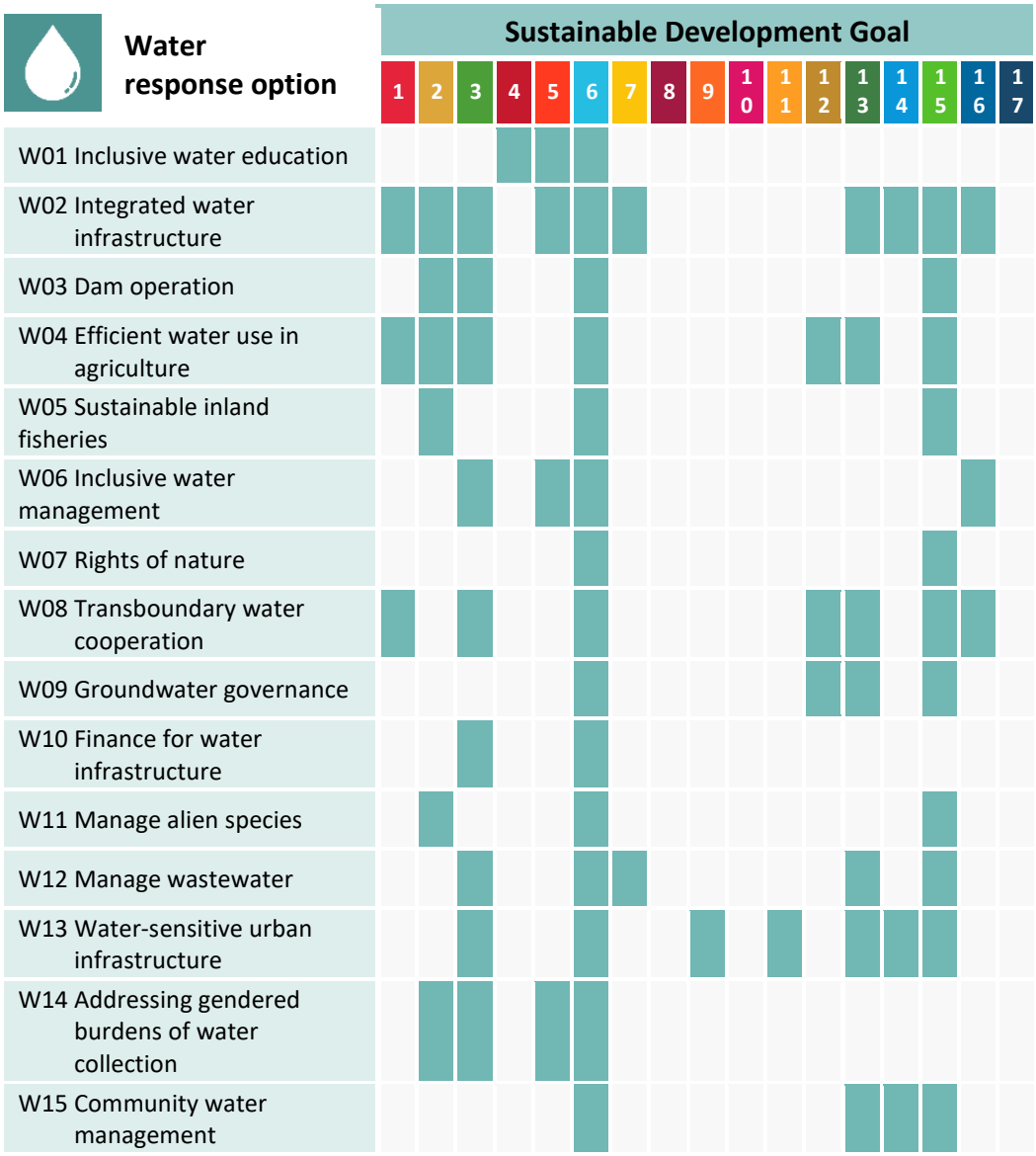
IPBES Nexus Assessment response option support for the Sustainable Development Goals




Water response option
Sustainable Development Goal
1
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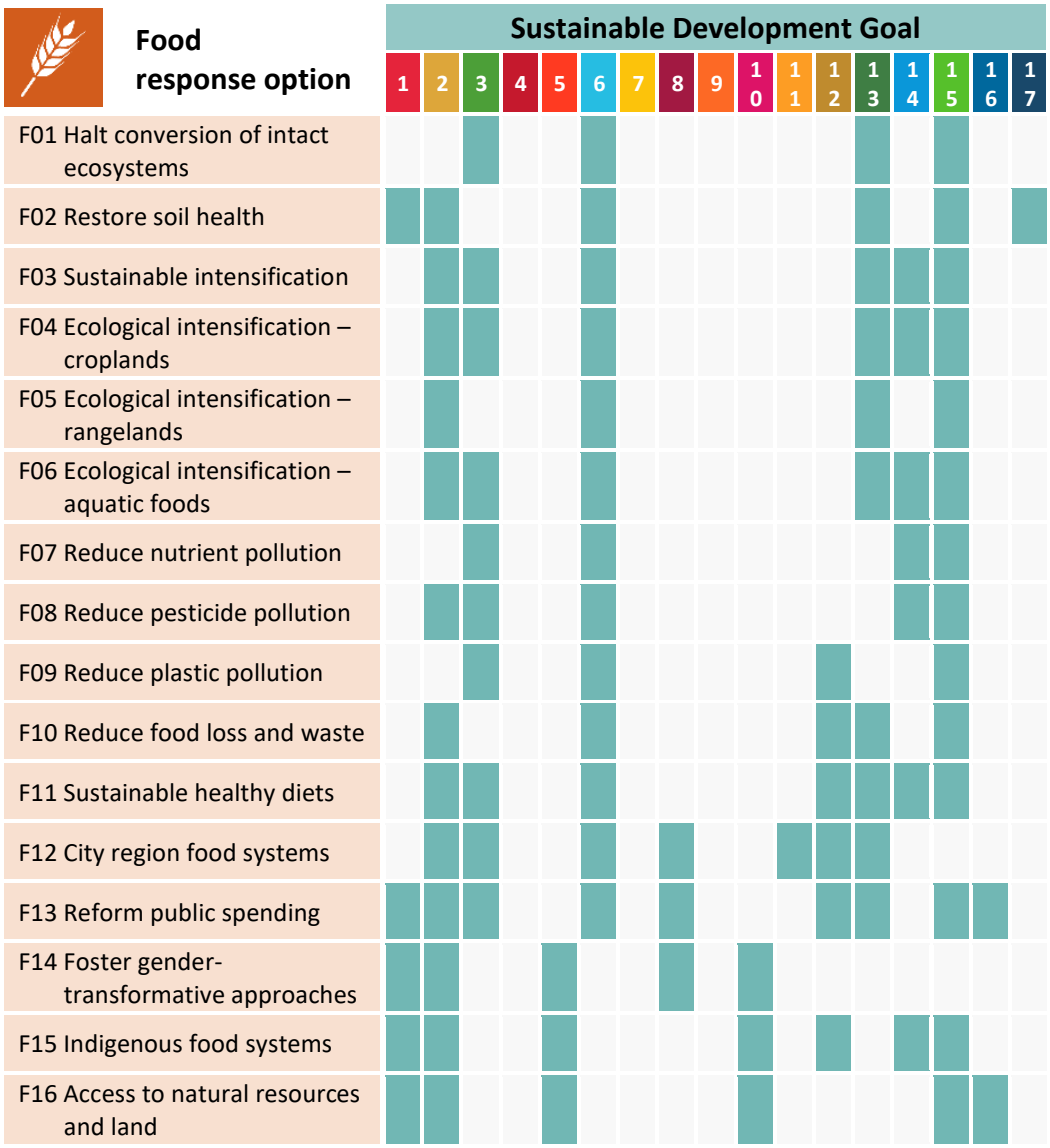
W01 Inclusive water education
W02 Integrated water infrastructure
W03 Dam operation
W04 Efficient water use in agriculture
W05 Sustainable inland fisheries
W06 Inclusive water management
W07 Rights of nature
W08 Transboundary water cooperation
W09 Groundwater governance
W10 Finance for water infrastructure
W11 Manage alien species
W12 Manage wastewater
W13 Water-sensitive urban infrastructure
W14 Addressing gendered burdens of water collection
W15 Community water management


Food response option
Sustainable Development Goal
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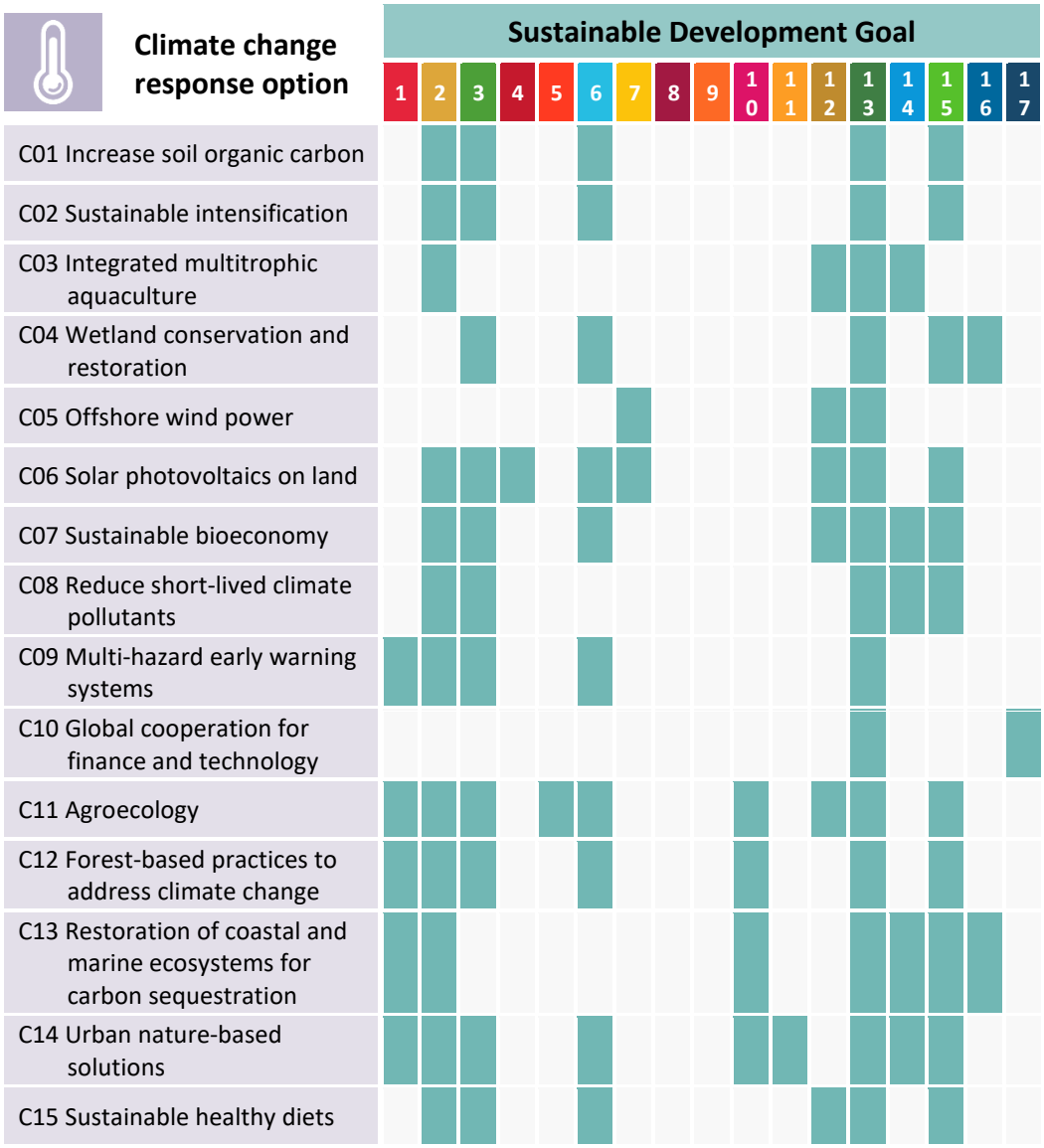
F01 Halt conversion of intact ecosystems
F02 Restore soil health
F03 Sustainable intensification
F04 Ecological intensification – croplands
F05 Ecological intensification – rangelands
F06 Ecological intensification – aquatic foods
F07 Reduce nutrient pollution
F08 Reduce pesticide pollution
F09 Reduce plastic pollution
F10 Reduce food loss and waste
F11 Sustainable healthy diets
F12 City region food systems
F13 Reform public spending
F14 Foster gender-transformative approaches
F15 Indigenous food systems
F16 Access to natural resources and land

Health response option	Sustainable Development Goal																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
H01 Universal health coverage			■		■												
H02 Intercultural health services		■	■			■				■						■	
H03 Net-zero sustainable healthcare			■						■			■	■				
H04 Sustainable use of medicinal plants			■									■			■		
H05 Nature on prescription			■												■		
H06 Reduce meat overconsumption		■	■			■						■	■		■		
H07 Pollution prevention		■	■			■	■					■	■				
H08 Mangrove conservation and restoration for health	■	■	■										■	■			
H09 Urban green infrastructure	■	■	■			■			■		■		■		■		
H10 Forest conservation for health		■	■			■		■		■			■		■		
H11 Biodiversity management for zoonoses			■												■		
H12 Integrated watershed-health interventions	■	■	■			■				■			■	■	■		
H13 Health impact assessments			■													■	
H14 The One Health approach			■			■									■		■
H15 Integrated health education			■	■													



IPBES Nexus Assessment response options supporting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For each nexus element (biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change), the figure shows whether an individual response option contributes to the achievement of each of the Sustainable Development Goals. The figure includes all response options assessed in chapter 5 of the Nexus Assessment; the response options independently assessed in two subchapters (agroecology, sustainable healthy diets, sustainable intensification and urban nature-based solutions) are presented separately in this figure for each of the subchapters in which these options were assessed. Response options are grouped by nexus element and listed in order by alphanumeric code. Shaded cells indicate support for a Goal. Adapted from the Nexus Assessment Summary for Policymakers Figure SPM.A3.