



To: The UNEP Governing Council, February 2011

Date: February 8, 2011

*Via Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP
And Clayton Adams, UNEP Secretariat*

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) welcomes the UN decision to establish an Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). At the IPBES meeting held in the Republic of Korea last year, we released a statement (attached) explaining our position on IPBES. We were gratified that so many of these issues were addressed at the meeting, and would now like to reconfirm our commitment to make a unique contribution to IPBES.

SCB is a scientific organization aiming to *advance the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity* (our mission statement). Our global membership includes more than 10,000 scientists grouped into strong independent regional sections. The membership and organizational structure provides us with a direct link to the global community of conservation scientists. Besides traditional scientists, our members also include lawyers, resource managers, economists, and many other professionals working with conservation. We believe that our expertise and commitment can make a unique contribution to IPBES, including assessing the effectiveness of conservation policies, providing balanced peer review, and commenting constructively and objectively on draft IPBES products.

We specifically wish the UNEP governing council to consider;

- Addressing how to involve the scientific community in IPBES to ensure a sense of common "ownership" on the policies that IPBES will be developing. This involvement should include a strong representation from the scientific community at the first IPBES plenary
- Taking into account the need to provide financial support to scientists from developing countries.
- The need to respect the scientific traditions of open and transparent peer review processes in the work of IPBES. In this respect SCB offers its services in ensuring that the conservation biology content of IPBES products is as accurate as possible.

SCB's unique contributions build on our activities in conservation biology, which include a large annual conservation congress, many regional meetings and publication of several scientific journals, all aiming to support more effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. We specifically would like to point to our "Organizational Values" and "Code of Ethics"¹ that clearly state how the society sees its role in a larger conservation context, emphasizing the importance of transparency and inclusiveness in effective policy and action.

Luigi Boitani, SCB President

¹ <http://www.conbio.org/AboutUs/>