

Prof. Jane Mariara appointed to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Prof. Jane Mariara, director, School of Economics was appointed as an expert for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in September 2014. Prof. Mariara was selected by the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel to be a Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 4 of IPBES deliverable 3(c) – Policy support tools and methodologies for scenario analysis and modelling of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on a fast track assessment and a guide. The objective of the proposed fast track assessment of scenarios and modelling of biodiversity and nature’s benefits to people, including ecosystem services, is to establish the foundations for the use of scenarios and models in activities under IPBES in order to provide insights into the impacts of plausible future socioeconomic development pathways and policy options on biodiversity and nature’s benefits to people, including ecosystem services, and to help evaluate actions that can be taken to protect them in terrestrial, inland water and marine ecosystems. These foundations will be used to provide guidance on evaluating alternative policy options using scenarios and models, including multiple drivers in assessments of future impacts, identifying criteria by which the quality of scenarios and models can be evaluated, ensuring comparability of regional and global policies, including input from stakeholders at various levels, implementing capacity-building mechanisms to promote the development, use and interpretation of scenarios and models by a wide range of policymakers and stakeholders, and communicating outcomes of scenario and model analyses to policymakers and other stakeholders.

In this regard, Prof. Mariara attended the first meeting of the experts held from 27 to 31 October 2014 at the Zuiderduin Hotel in Egmond aan Zee (near Amsterdam), the Netherlands. The meeting was arranged by the Technical Support Unit at PBL (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency), The Netherlands. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss progress in preparing the first draft of the assessment report, including a guide for the use of scenarios and models in assessments. The meeting provided the opportunity for extensive face-to-face interaction between authors, both within and between chapters. For more information, visit: <http://www.ipbes.net/about-ipbes.html>.