

# Dialogue across Indigenous, local and scientific knowledge systems reflecting on the IPBES Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production

21th to 25th January 2019 • Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand

Linking Indigenous, local & scientific knowledge through the IPBES Pollination Assessment contributes to Indigenous peoples' livelihoods and benefits pollinators and pollination. The Hin Lad Nai Dialogue followed IPBES' approach to recognising and working with Indigenous and local knowledge, by developing participatory methods in a post-assessment and policy uptake context.



Walking with the bees in the forest surrounding the Hin Lad Nai community. Photo: J. Bumroongchai

The Dialogue took place in the Karen community of Hin Lad Nai, Chiang Rai, Thailand. It was co-convened by the Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT) and Pgakenyaw Association for Sustainable Development (PASD) together with SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the UNESCO Natural Science Sector. Many of the Dialogue participants had been engaged in the IPBES thematic Assessment of pollinators, pollination and food production, and included Indigenous pollinator experts from different parts of the world, including Antigua and Barbuda, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Myanmar, New Zealand, Panama and the Philippines. Together with local Indigenous pollinator experts, and global, national and local scientists and policy actors they reflected on the key messages of the IPBES Pollination Assessment and suggested pathways for better policy and practices in pollinator and biodiversity management. The science team included Lead Authors of the Assessment.



In the Dialogue, posters with printed messages in English and Thai were used. The different posters presented IPBES and the key messages from the Pollinator Assessment which the group discussed, and served as boundary objects for the conversations across knowledge systems. Photo: D. Crimella.

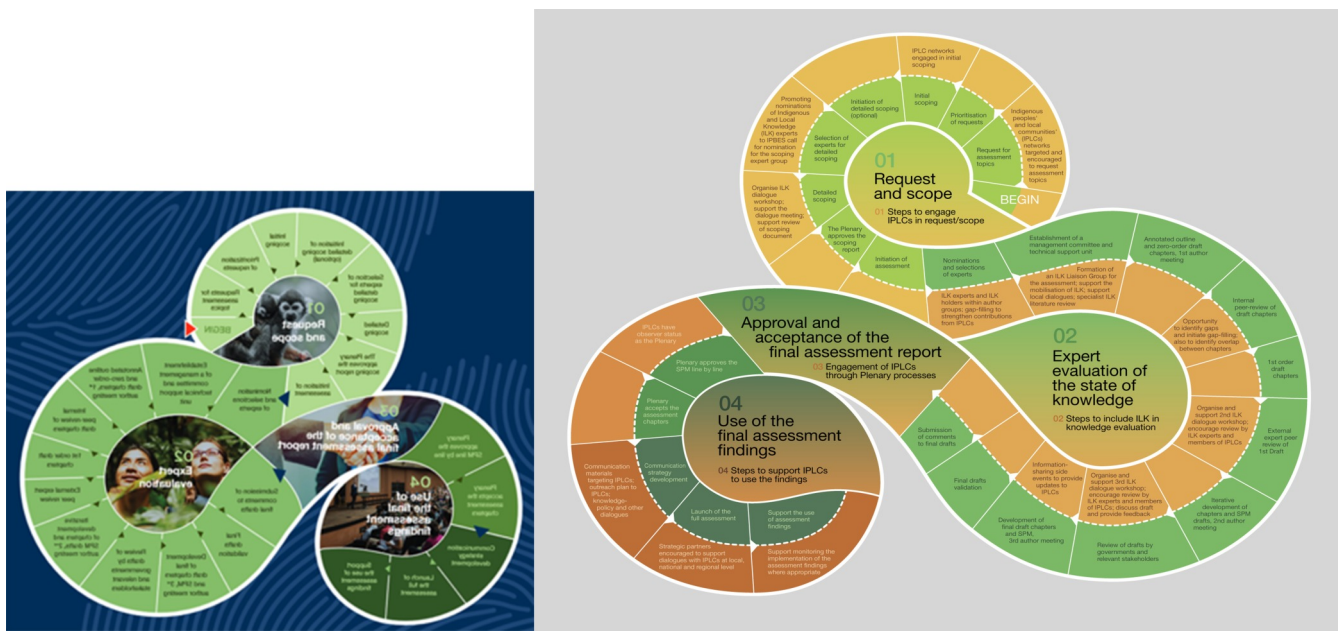
The Dialogue applied a walking workshop approach where participants, local and visiting, shared knowledge and insights while walking through the landscapes. Discussions were situated in and around the forest and fields that constitute the landscape. Unlike more formal workshop settings, being outside, visiting fields and other sites enables the participants to get real impressions, exchange practical knowledge and respond to ideas. The host community are the experts, guiding and deciding where to walk.

A Multiple Evidence Base approach, as outlined to the right, enabled a safe space for sharing based on equity, reciprocity, and usefulness for all involved through the Dialogue.

The IPBES Assessment on Pollination, Pollinators and Food Production was the first IPBES thematic assessment, and was viewed as a pilot of the procedures for working with Indigenous and local knowledge in assessments. It made important steps in advancing collaboration across knowledge systems, and contributed to IPBES' role in progressing the frontiers of sustainability science. The Hin Lad Nai Dialogue followed IPBES' approach to recognising and working with Indigenous and local knowledge, by developing participatory methods in a post-assessment and policy uptake context.



Chaiprasert Phokha, Hin Lad Nai leader, tells about the Hin Lad Nai forests, gardens and farming areas, where people, culture and biodiversity thrive. In 2013, Hin Lad Nai was declared a "Special Cultural Zone", which is a mechanism for supporting the Karen people in recognition of their cultural rights and their ancestral territories based on the framework of a Cabinet Resolution from the Thai Ministry of Culture. Photo: J. Bumroongchai

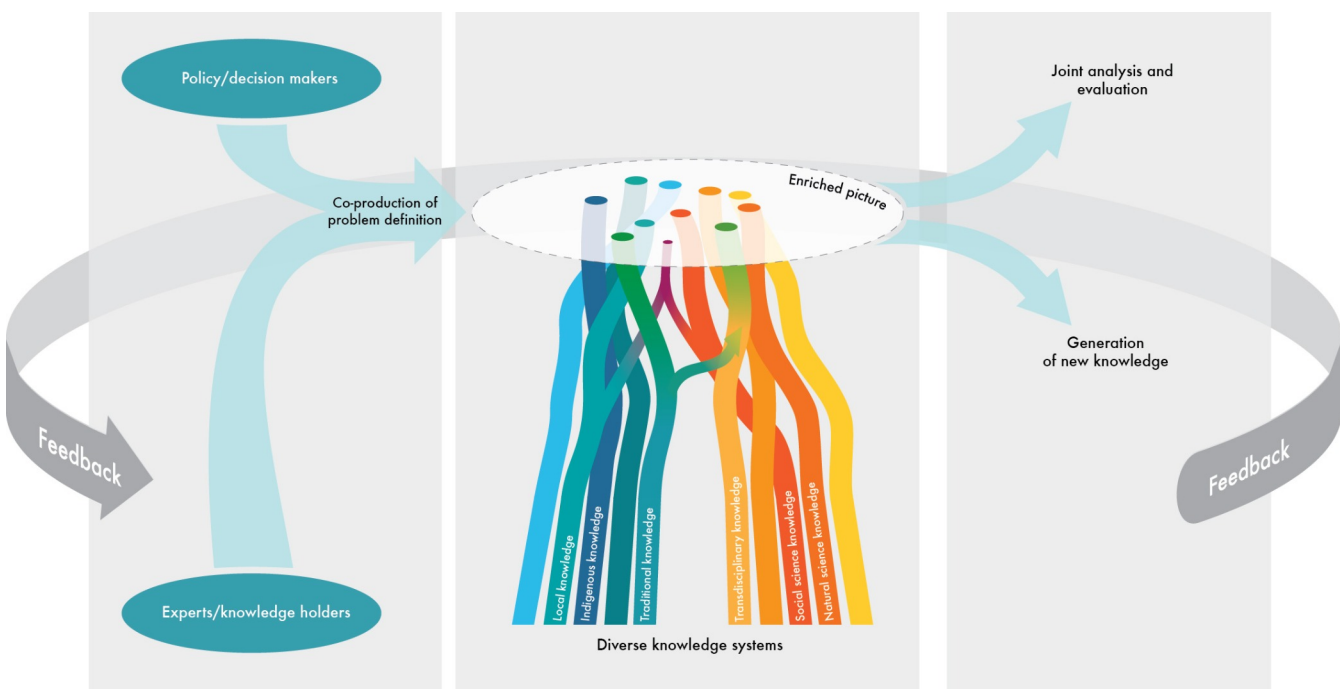


Left: General outline of an IPBES Assessment process. Source: IPBES (2018): IPBES Assessment Guide Summary. Secretariat of the IPBES, Bonn, Germany. Right: Steps to recognise and include ILK in an IPBES assessment. Dialogues across knowledge systems, such as occurred in Hin Lad Nai, are important throughout the IPBES assessment cycle. Careful design to facilitate respectful and constructive interactions and conditions for equity, reciprocity and usefulness for all involved, as embedded in a Multiple Evidence Base (MEB) approach, is needed. The Hin Lad Nai dialogue was targeted to Phase 4 (Use of final assessment findings), where IPBES encourages support from strategic partners. Source: Steps from Annex II to decision IPBES-5/1, diagram adapted by C. Adem, R. Hill and J. Smith.

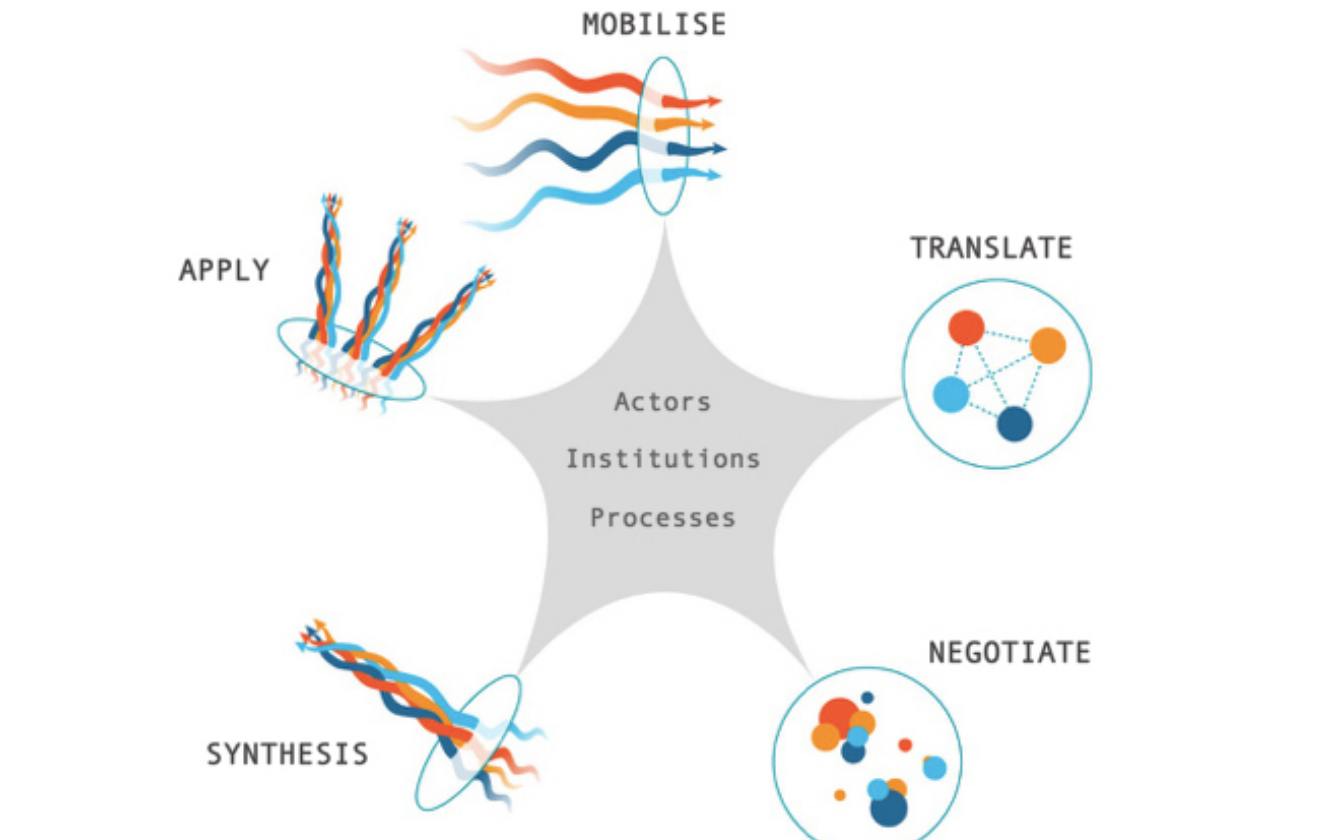
The Hin Lad Nai dialogue is part of an on-going process for learning and developing tools and approaches for collaboration across knowledge systems, facilitated by SwedBio and the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University.

One outcome is the Multiple Evidence Base (MEB) approach to guide and facilitate collaborations based on equity, reciprocity and usefulness for all involved.

The illustrations below demonstrate key features of a MEB approach, including complementarity between and validation within rather than across knowledge systems.



Three phases of a MEB approach: I: joint problem definition, II: mobilization and validation of knowledge within each knowledge systems, contributing complementary insights to an enriched picture (e.g. pollinators and pollination), and III: joint analysis and evaluation of convergence, divergence and potential contradictions of knowledge, as a basis for action and further generation of knowledge. Source: Tengö, Brondizio, Elmqvist, Malmer and Spierenburg 2014. Ambio.



The five key tasks in a MEB approach are 1) Mobilise knowledge to be shared in a culturally appropriate way and empowering different knowledge holders to meet on equal level. 2) Translate knowledge - a mutual process where different actors get the opportunity to understand each other's knowledge and a background to their respective knowledge systems. 3) Negotiate knowledge: jointly analysing different knowledge contributions, recognising overlap and agreements but also disagreements and contradiction. 4) Synthesise knowledge: bringing knowledge together while still respecting integrity and potential disagreement, and not forcing consensus. 5) Apply knowledge - ensuring the usefulness for all involved, in different scales and contexts. Source: Tengö, Hill, Malmer, Raymond, Spierenburg, Danielsen, Elmqvist, Folke. 2017. COSUST.



The stingless bee (Meliponini sp.) is the smallest of the three bee species living in the forest around Hin Lad Nai. There are many stories, poems and songs that connect the people in Hin Lad Nai, the bees, and the forest and that serves as a repository of knowledge and good practices. Photo: N. Crawhall

