

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report

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In news— Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has released its report recently.

What does the report say?

Following are the key findings of the report-

- With about **50,000 wild species used through different practices, including more than 10,000 wild species harvested directly for human food, rural people in developing countries are most at risk from unsustainable use**, with lack of complementary alternatives often forcing them to further exploit wild species already at risk.
- The assessment was co-chaired with Marla R Emery (United States/Norway) and John Donaldson (South Africa).
- It has said that about **70 per cent of the world's poor population was directly dependent on wild species**.
- One out of five source their food from wild plants, algae and fungi, while **2.4 billion depend on firewood for cooking** and around 90 per cent of the 120 million population pursuing fisheries rely on small-scale fishing.
- The use of wild species defines identities and livelihoods and also holds cultural significance.
- **The assessment shortlisted five categories of practices used for wild species – fishing, gathering, logging,**

terrestrial animal harvesting which includes hunting and non-extractive practices such as observing.

- **The report examined specific uses for each category regarding food, materials**, medical benefits, energy, recreational and ceremonial purposes and decorations over the past two decades.
- It indicated the increasing use of wild species but added that its sustained use has been varied.
- **Recent global estimates confirm that about 34 percent of marine wild fish stocks are overfished** and 66 per cent are fished within biologically sustainable levels. But within this global picture, there are significant local and contextual variations.
- **Countries with robust fisheries management had seen stocks increasing in abundance. The Atlantic bluefin tuna population, for instance, has been rebuilt** and is now fished within sustainable levels.
- **In countries and regions with low intensity fisheries management measures, the status of stocks was often poorly known.** But it was generally believed to be below the abundance that would maximise sustainable food production.
- Many small-scale fisheries are unsustainable or only partially sustainable, especially in Africa for both inland and marine fisheries and in Asia, Latin America and Europe for coastal fisheries.
- **The report also presented concerns of effective regulations without which the unsustainable use and trade** would increase, leading to population collapse.
- It also cited **illegal use and illegal trade in wild species** which is estimated to be about \$199 billion (Rs 150,000,000 lakh).
- The report further found that **characteristics like integration of diverse value systems, equitable distribution of costs and benefits**, changes in cultural norms and social values and effective institutions and governance systems would facilitate the sustainable use

of wild species in future.

- It stressed that the sustainable use of wild species needed “constant negotiation and adaptive management” along with a common understanding of “sustainable use”.
- The report was released after **delegates from 140 countries came together to discuss** and reach an outcome on the sustainable use of wildlife.
- The report is the **first of its kind and has been conceived after a period of four years.**

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)-

- IPBES is an intergovernmental organization established to improve the interface between science and policy on issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- It was **established in Panama City, in April 2012 by 94 Governments.**
- It is **not a United Nations body.** It is intended to serve a similar role to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
- Plenary is the governing body of IPBES – made up of the representatives of IPBES member States – usually meets once per year.
- **IPBES is funded through generous voluntary contributions** from its member States to the IPBES Trust Fund.