

# Communities of Practice

## engaging with IPBES

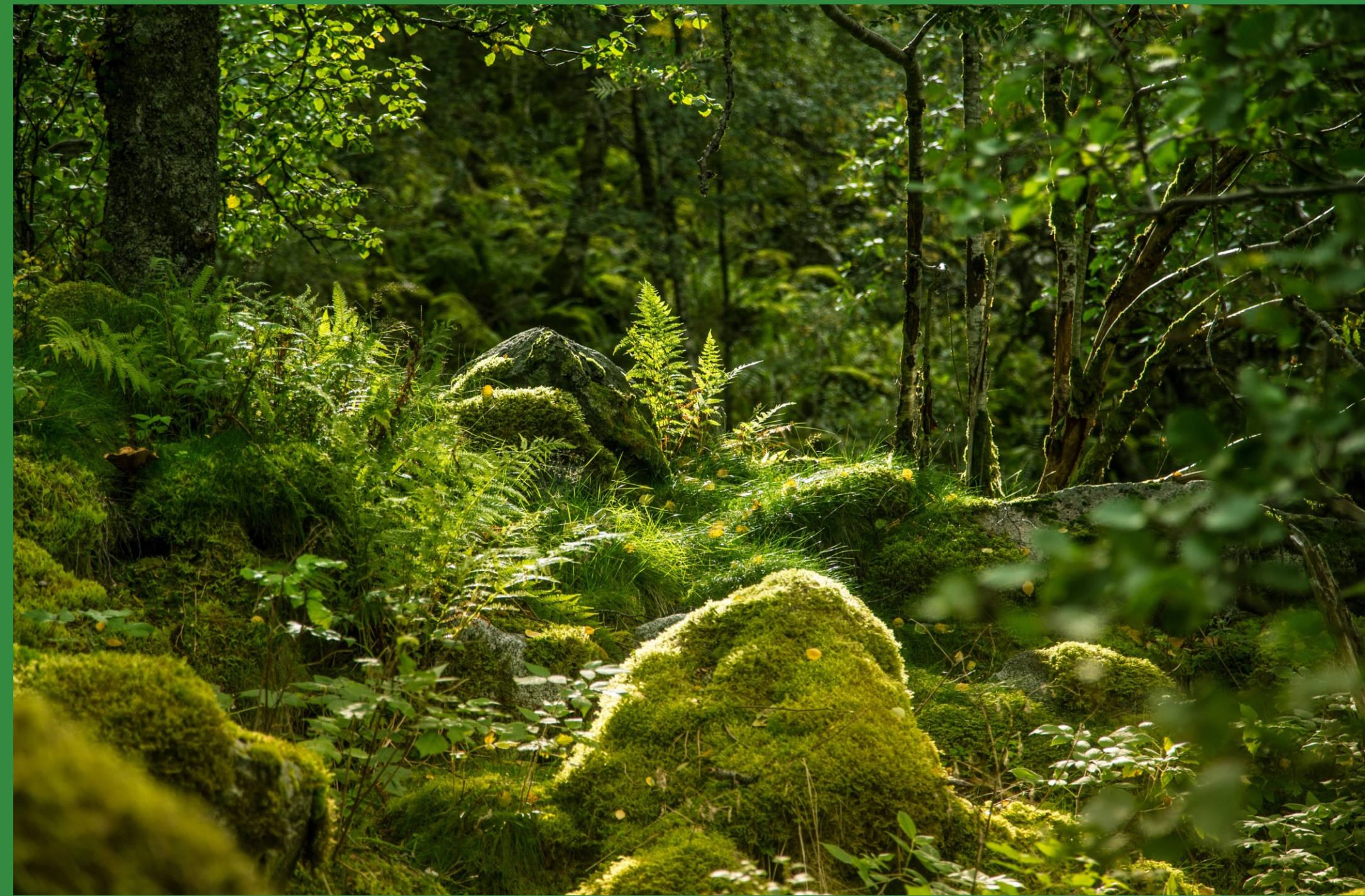
### What are Communities of Practice?

In the context of IPBES, Communities of Practice are self-organized groups of experts, knowledge-holders and/or policymakers: they facilitate access to expertise and information on a specific topic or focus area.

These communities contribute to the IPBES work programme and also increase the reach and impact of IPBES outputs.

### Communities of Practice might

- Identify & nominate IPBES experts.
- Raise awareness and build capacity on topics relevant to IPBES.
- Organize uptake events for IPBES publications.
- Address knowledge gaps identified by IPBES.
- Provide information and data for IPBES assessments.
- Coordinate activities related to the wider biodiversity agenda, like ecosystem assessments.



Get more information, including on opportunities for future communities, at: <http://www.ipbes.net/communities-practice>

„Communities of Practice are especially well-placed to strengthen the work of IPBES, and the science-policy interface, on specific topics.“

Dr. Anne Larigauderie  
IPBES Executive Secretary

Poster series designed by Franziska Fischer, based on information provided by IPBES and the Communities of Practice. To contact IPBES about Communities of Practice, email the Technical Support Unit for Capacity-building at: [tsu.capacitybuilding@ipbes.miljodir.no](mailto:tsu.capacitybuilding@ipbes.miljodir.no)

**Image:** Folgefonna National Park, Norway. Communities of Practice come under the objective 'Building Capacity' in the IPBES 2030 Work Programme. Its Technical Support Unit is hosted by the Norwegian Environment Agency. (dachux21/Adobe Stock)

# The Social Sciences and Humanities Network

## diversifying expertise at IPBES

The SSH Network enhances the contributions of the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in IPBES.

### We aim to

- Engage a broader spectrum of SSH disciplines and approaches in IPBES.
- Attract more SSH expert nominations for IPBES.
- Help SSH scholars engage with IPBES in other ways.
- Improve how SSH knowledge and perspectives are integrated in IPBES: in structures, processes and outputs.
- Provide a place to meet for SSH scholars interested in, engaged in or studying IPBES.

### Our activities include

- A webinar series.
- Workshops.
- Jointly authored papers.
- Communication & more.

The SSH Network is led by Håkon B. Stokland (hakon.stokland@nina.no). Further team members include Håkon Aspøy, Paulina Karimova and Thomas Edward Sutcliffe. The Network receives support from the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA).



Find out more, join the network, and get the latest information on webinars at: <https://onet.ipbes.net/ssh>

### Our story

The SSH Network was founded in 2020, as the first Community of Practice: to strive for balance between disciplines in IPBES.

We are now a well-established member organization and sub-group of ONet, a recognized IPBES stakeholder network.

**Image:** Luxurious vicuña wool comes from wild *Vicugna vicugna*. It is sustainably harvested mainly by extremely low-income Indigenous communities. The IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment highlights the need for new ways of trade that add local value. (Ludovic/Adobe Stock)

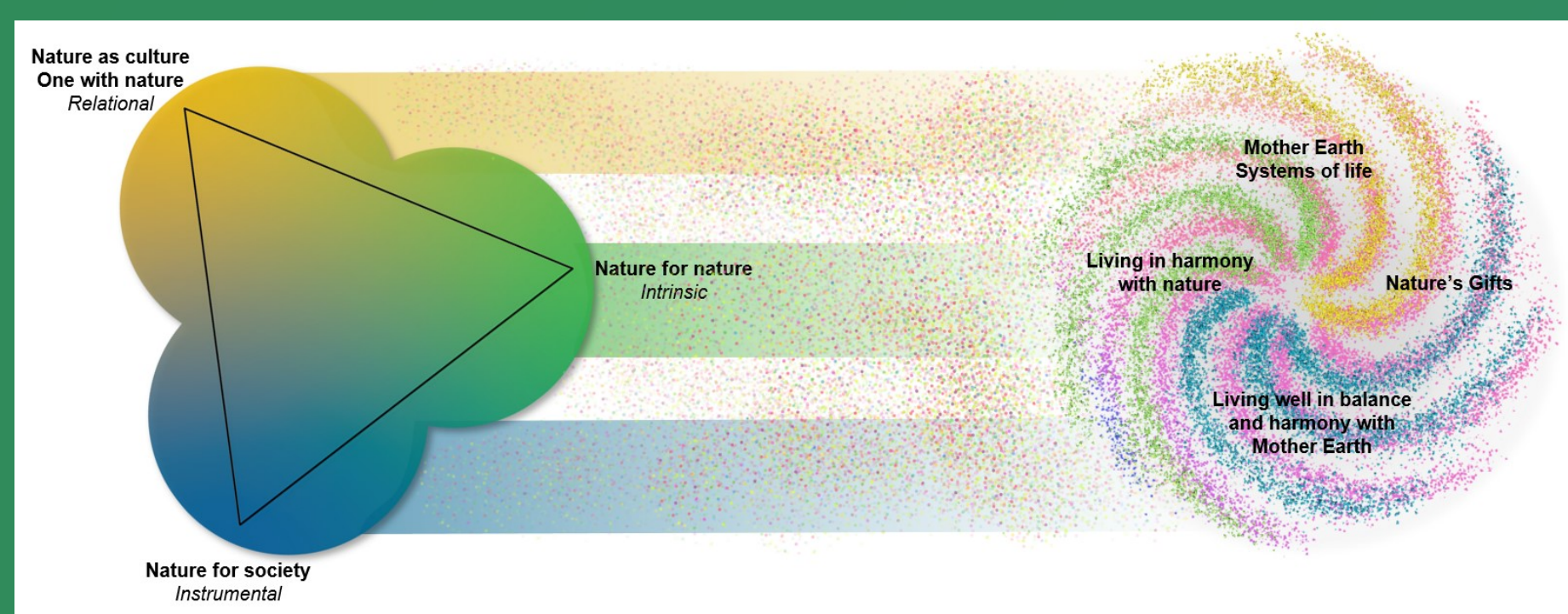
# The Nature Futures Framework Community of Practice

## building on IPBES methodology

### What is the Nature Futures Framework?

The Nature Futures Framework (NFF) is a flexible tool that supports the development of scenarios and models of desirable futures for people, nature and Mother Earth.

An IPBES Expert Group developed the NFF from 2016 to 2019, to address limitations of existing scenario approaches. It is a heuristic tool to develop nature-centric scenarios that address the diversity of human–nature relationships.



**Figure:** The Nature Futures Framework, a flexible tool that supports the development of desirable futures.

### The NFF Community

Formalized in 2024, this Community of Practice supports the development and practical application of the framework: for real–world planning and decision–making.

To contact the Nature Futures Framework Community of Practice, email [nffcop@gmail.com](mailto:nffcop@gmail.com). Further contact persons at the IPBES Task Force on Scenarios and Models include: Laura Pereira ([laura.pereira@wits.ac.za](mailto:laura.pereira@wits.ac.za)) and Sakshi Rana ([sakshi@wii.gov.in](mailto:sakshi@wii.gov.in)).



Visit the new website with example applications and more background at: <https://www.naturefuturesframework.org/>

### Join us

We have over 100 members in our new database. We are community–led and open to all: to share our work, discuss and collaborate.



Join the Nature Futures Framework Community of Practice online at: <https://forms.gle/6crPokFyYArhbuZw6>

**Image:** Tūi (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*). Diprose *et al.* (2022) used the NFF to make visible the diverse values around nature expressed and fostered through the New Zealand Garden Bird Survey. See the website for more example applications. (Claude/Adobe Stock)

# A Community of Practice for Crop (Bio)Diversity

## filling a knowledge gap at IPBES

### Why crop (bio)diversity matters

In 2019, the IPBES Global Assessment described the ongoing erosion of crop diversity. It also identified a knowledge gap in “data on the genetic diversity and conservation status of breeds of farmed and domestic plants and animals.”

### The action we take

- We strive to provide IPBES with latest insights on crop diversity.
- We are compiling relevant IPBES findings to support their uptake.
- We will undertake associated work, drawing on IPBES methodology.

### A new community

In 2024, members of the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) and the University of Cambridge joined their expertise: in the conservation of crop diversity, material culture and heritage, and food systems. We are now building the first Community of Practice dedicated to a knowledge gap identified by IPBES. Are you interested? Let's talk!

This initiative is co-led by Matthew Davies (md564@cam.ac.uk), Luigi Guarino and Franziska Fischer. It has received funding through the University of Cambridge's allocation from Research England's Policy Support Fund award.



Join our mailing list and be among the first to receive updates at:  
<https://forms.gle/zMFk3GB98LCR3Lb49>

„Globally, local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals are disappearing. This loss of diversity, including genetic diversity, poses a serious risk to global food security [...] “

IPBES Global Assessment  
Summary for Policymakers

**Image:** Proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum*). The IPBES Global Assessment notes the role of millets in Asian and African agriculture. Despite their dietary benefits, traditional cereals are displaced by high-yielding crops like rice, wheat and maize. (Bits and Splits/Adobe Stock)