



***“Advancing Ocean Knowledge,  
Fostering Sustainable Development:  
from the Indo-Pacific to the Globe”***

### **Science-policy nexus in the governance of marine biodiversity**

Zakri **Abdul Hamid**

Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia, Malaysia

Email: [zakri@pmo.gov.my](mailto:zakri@pmo.gov.my)

Increasingly, the intersection of science and policy is seen as a pivotal nexus in humanity's efforts to overcome the profound challenges we face today.

The continued loss of biodiversity and decline in ecosystem services resulted in Malaysia along with many other countries signing the Convention of Biological Diversity at the Rio Summit of 1992. In 2005, the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), one of the world's largest-ever scientific collaborations conducted a comprehensive synthesis and analysis of the state of the Earth's ecosystems. The MA elevated the issues to policymakers and decision-makers, making it a successful platform to deliver clear, valuable, policy-relevant consensus on the state, trends and outlooks on biodiversity.

The findings of the MA consequently led to the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2012, to bridge the gap between scientists and policy makers, providing up to date, accurate, impartial data and scientific information to enable the formulation of better policy response in managing biodiversity.

Established in 2012, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is akin to the UN's Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in that it will carry out assessments of knowledge in response to requests from governments and other stakeholders. The objective of IPBES is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

Malaysia is fully committed in the protection of our natural resources and is evident in our National Policy on Biological Diversity established in 1998, and updated earlier this year. The policy sets clear timelines for action plan implementation, monitoring mechanisms and clear delegation of duties among agencies making Malaysia well positioned to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In addition to this, Malaysia has also raised marine conservation efforts, by creating of more than 40 marine parks and increased marine protected areas, enabling sustainable fisheries and alleviating poverty of coastal villagers in the surrounding area. Malaysia is active in regional conservation efforts such as the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Eco-region and the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).