



World Customs Organization  
Organisation Mondiale des Douanes



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

## REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY LIAISON GROUP ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES\*

Brussels, 22-23 November 2017

1. The eighth meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (hereinafter referred to as “Liaison Group”) was held at the Johannesburg Meeting Room of the World Customs Organization Headquarters, Rue du Marché 30, Brussels, from 22 to 23 November 2017.
2. A list of participants to this meeting can be found in Annex I to this document.

### ITEM 1

#### OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened at 10:30 a.m. on 22 November 2017. Mr. Theodorus Hesselink of the World Customs Organization (WCO) welcomed participants and opened the meeting. Ms. Junko Shimura of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) also welcomed participants, and she explained the process of preparation for the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SBSTTA, including : (a) drafting supplemental guidance to *Guidance on Devising And Implementing Measures To Address The Risks Associated With The Introduction Of Alien Species As Pets, Aquarium And Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food*<sup>1</sup>; (b) exploring with the WCO to develop tools or guidance for facilitation of the national customs offices to address the risk of biological invasions of alien species sold via e-commerce; and (c) other requests raised by Parties to the CBD at its thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP).
4. The Secretariat of the CBD invited the IMO and all participants to celebrate that the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) entered into force on 8 September 2017. Mr. Theofanis Karayannis of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) briefly presented on the history of the BWM Convention and the influence of the BWM Convention entered into force on the prevention of spread of harmful organisms with ships' ballast water and sediments, globally.
5. Mr. Brent Larson of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) congratulated the IMO, on behalf of the Secretariat of the IPPC and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). All participants also congratulated, and welcomed the BWM Convention entered into force.

### ITEM 2

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS, ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS, RAPPORTEUR, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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\* Issued without editing.

<sup>1</sup> Annex to decision XII/16 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-16-en.pdf>

6. The Liaison Group selected Mr. Theodorus Hasselink of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Mr. Piero Genovesi as co-chairs and Ms. Junko Shimura of the Secretariat of the CBD as a rapporteur at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group.

7. The Liaison Group approved the provisional agenda.

### **ITEM 3**

#### **ADOPTION OF REPORT OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY LIAISON GROUP ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

8. The Liaison Group adopted the report of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species with minor amendments.

### **ITEM 4**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION**

9. Mr. Theodorus Hesselink of the WCO presented on the history of the WCO, 1947 official name was customs cooperation council (CCC) in 1950; CCC convention entered into force 1994 adopted WCO. Currently, 182 members in six regions. The works of customs are driven by national policy and legislation to operate customs system. Mission of WCO is harmony and uniformity of custom systems. Customs roles have changed over the time from collecting revenue to safety and security, and facilitation of economy. Customs' challenges include: international agreements plus agencies at national level (police veterinary phytosanitary and others – Discussion items under Finance, Economic policy such as the WTO are main area of work. He also highlighted that secure supply chain is one of the important goals of the WCO.

10. Working bodies under the WCO include: finance, capacity building, permanent technical committee, harmonized systems, enforcement committee, the Private Sector Consultative Group is an important component of the WCO. A total of 30 companies and associations from different area who can speak at any of the WCO meeting. Secretariat role – research (Secretary General (or other high level) can determine what research can be done – performance measurement of national customs), organizing events, train members, implement council decisions, Economic and financial consequence is important for policy makers to incorporate IAS issue. People; Partnership and Political will should be established under the capacity building and enabling activities.

11. Harmonized System Code (HS code), which indicates the commodity used by senders and customs office to identify the commodity, is introduced. HS code covers animals and plants but rather live stock/for food. Taxonomic group is more or less at family level. Country can expand code. HS code can be more detailed with extended suffix. For example, EU, Canada and the Netherland. The case of the Netherland (called integrated tariff), the HS code and extension indicate license/certificate for some selected chemicals and dangerous goods.

12. The Liaison Group pointed that the HS code may not be sufficient to identify alien species that are with risk of biological invasion due to different levels of risk associated with lower taxa and noted that HS code with note section may help to indicate the potential of harm. Product identifier under the WTO contains more details – agriculture inspectors can check the WTO product identifier. See also <http://comtrade.un.org/data>. This web site provides statistics based on HS code.

13. It was noted that the globally harmonized code system is important for hazard identification and risk communication between the Customs and importer/exporter. To apply the HS code for such purpose, further analysis on note section and practices of States are needed.

14. The Liaison Group recognized that synergy among members of the Liaison Group and the WCO may exist in the area: training; agriculture; environment, and suggested the WCO to consider layered risk management in the entire value chain, including border agencies to address the risk of biological invasions.

## ITEM 5

### PROGRESS ON MATTERS RELATED TO MARITIME TRANSPORTS

15. The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) was introduced by the IMO.

16. Among Parties to the BWM Convention, of which port authority does the inspection and its record should be kept by the port authority, and the inspection by the national plant protection organization may not be obligatory. The existing capacity of member states to inspect, comply the condition is key of successful implementation.

17. Three categories of States (Parties to the BWM Convention): (a) Flag States implement ballast water treatment systems on ships to be met the BWM Convention's guidelines. (b) Port States implement the mechanism to ensure that visiting ships are in compliance with the BWM Convention; and (c) Coastal States can set national requirements on ballast waters (even stricter requirement).

18. The CBD questioned on the effectiveness of the BWM Convention on risk reduction of canals and water channels. The IMO responded that both Panama and Egypt are contracting Parties and can apply Port states' requirements. In case of Panama Canal and conditions of marines (salinity) are different between the Pacific and the Atlantic. Therefore, risk is minimal. However, Suez Canal is different – Mediterranean Sea can be under spread pressure of non-native organisms if ships do not meet the condition.

19. The IPPC questioned if NPPO can inspect harmful species on plants. The IMO responded that inspection of port/coast States obliged to inspect discharged ballast water, and record book is kept by port authority, not by NPPO.

20. The IMO further presented on the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnership Project, which starts 2018. Industry fund is included in the Project and World Ocean Council (non-shipping sector), off-shore energy sector, aqua culture sector are involved. The fund is composed of 7million US dollars from the GEF and 33 million from co-financing from industry

21. The Liaison Group welcomed the new opportunity for Parties to the IMO to implement the guidelines for biofouling. The Industry initiative on the Partnership is particularly welcomed. The Liaison Group also expressed that covering oil rigs fouling management is also significant contribution of this partnership.

22. The IPPC updated the Liaison Group on the complementary action plans on sea containers adopted by the 12<sup>th</sup> session of Commission for Phytosanitary Measures held in May 2017, and all participants were invited to share the information, if any measures were discussed on the matters related to invasive alien species moving with sea containers.

23. The IPPC Task Force met in Shanghai China – issue is that empty containers do not go to depot where cleaning of containers may take place, as a matter of fact they tend to go to China (due to the frequency of traffic of sea container ships?), repositioned and reused to go to packing point without going to depot.

24. The IPPC informed to the CBD that they would submit the report of Sea Container Task Force to make it available for SBSTTA22 as information.

## ITEM 6

### **ACHIEVING AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 9 AND RELATED TOOLS DEVELOPMENT**

25. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and IUCN-Invasive Species Specialist Group presented on Global Registry of Introduced and the progress on development of Invasive Species (GRIIS); Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT and SEICAT)
26. The IPPC suggested to consider incorporation of CABI's Plantwise data into EICAT, as the information on pests in Plantwise is now examined by NPPO.
27. CBD and IPPC expressed welcome on the progress and the IPPC added that implementation and capacity development committee under IPPC will welcome this kind of work to be in the capacity development process.
28. A representative of the IUCN-ISSG informed to the CBD that Pathway categories guidance document development under the IUCN would be submitted as INF at SBSTTA22
29. A representative of the IPPC Secretariat conveyed a message from the FAO Fisheries department, as follows. FAO Fisheries Department welcomes the GRIIS and would like to see some more detail on the "impact" aspects of introduced or invasive species. The details regarding introductions may also be positive benefits in terms of economy with little or no demonstrable invasiveness. In the case of invasive species, details of known impacts on ecosystem or other species would be very helpful and would support import risk assessments and decision making on introductions. The incorporation of information from the FAO DIAS database, although it has not been updated for many years, could still provide some historic information on introductions and add some of the missing information on impacts/benefits.
30. IUCN further informed to the Liaison Group that EICAT is a global data on impact. The recorded impact data can be different at national or local level. This has to be recognized by all countries. This is not a risk assessment result or determining national policy on IAS, but globally impacting species can be found for the prioritization purposes.
31. The SEICAT is also introduced to the Liaison Group as an additional impact data on socio economic aspects posed by invasive alien species. Both EICAT and SEICAT would be made accessible through Global Invasive Species Database (GISD).
32. The Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) updated the activities relevant to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on impact of IAS in African countries; experiences of biological control and other information on CABI's expertise to support CBD Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.
33. The CABI stressed that developing countries remain susceptible to invasive alien species and pests, highlighted tools developed under CABI, e.g. Plantwise, Crop Pest Compendium, Invasive Species Compendium and development of Horizon Scanning tool to support Parties to the CBD.

## ITEM 7

### **GUIDANCE ON ADDRESSING INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES REQUESTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVEION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

*A draft supplementary guidance on unintentional introduction associated  
with trade in live species (decision XIII/13)*

34. The Secretariat of the CBD briefly explained on the “Guidance on Devising and Implementing Measures to Address the Risks Associated with the Introduction of Alien Species as Pets, Aquarium and Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food” annexed to decision XII/16 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, and presented a draft supplemental guidance to the guidance above. The CBD also explained the process between now and the COP14, expert workshop, SBSTTA22 and COP14. The opportunity of the Liaison Group members to comment on the draft may be: prior to the expert workshop to be held on 6-9 December 2017; prior to posting pre-session document for SBSTTA (by the end of March 2018), then it would not be appropriate to further comment, once recommendation of SBSTTA22 is incorporated to the COP14 pre-session document(s).

35. The Liaison Group briefly reviewed the draft guidance, and overall consensus was that the guidance can be further considered by the SBSTTA with inputs from experts. IPPC pointed that the guidance should be on contaminants related to the trade of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species and as live bait and live food. The IPPC requested changes on the word “cleanliness”. The IPPC expressed that it may send some appropriate text by 1 December 2017. The Liaison Group requested IPPC and CBD to consult with relevant departments at FAO and OIE, as well as other colleagues.

36. The Liaison Group agreed to provide comments before 1 December 2017, prior to sharing the document with Expert Workshop participants.

37. With regard to the options for supplementing risk assessment and risk management standards for the use of biological control agents against invasive alien species (decision XIII/13), the Liaison Group suggested that the Expert Workshop would guide the options.

38. The Secretariat of the CBD informed the Liaison Group that OIE’s import risk analyses would be mentioned to the Expert Workshop although the direct purpose of the OIE risk analysis standards are to assess disease risk of import animals and animal products, taking into consideration that animal pathogens are used for invasive alien animal controls in some CBD Party.

39. Technical guidance for conducting cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis for the management of invasive alien species in collaboration with partner organizations and interested or concerned Parties (decision XIII/13). The IUCN and IUCN-ISSG suggested to develop a matrix of various aspects of cost-benefit/cost effectiveness analysis. IUCN offered to provide case studies on such analysis to develop a matrix as INF for COP14. With regard to preparation of SBSTTA22, IUCN and IUCN-ISSG may suggest timing of their work later.

40. Guidance on invasive alien species management that takes into consideration the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and land-use change on the management of biological invasions (decision XIII/13) was also discussed to identify actors to address the subject matters. IUCN and IUCN-ISSG agreed to submit some more information to add to the document prepared by the Secretariat of the CBD. Further discussion is suggested to be undertaken at the Expert Workshop.

## **ITEM 8**

### **PROGRESS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH AILEN SPECIES SOLD VIA E-COMMERCE**

41. The Secretariat of the CBD presented on the document on e-commerce and mentioned on the risk of biological invasions of alien species sold via e-commerce recognized by COP13.

42. The Secretariat of the IPPC presented the document prepared by the IPPC on the result of 12th session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-12) and a task group under the IPPC.

43. Mr. Pashuapni Pandey, Technical Officer for Compliance and Facilitation Directorate of the WCO briefly explained on the activities of E-Commerce Working Group under the WCO established in 2016:

(a) Safety and security group of four sub-groups of WG is interested in invasive alien species as well as Measurement and analysis sub-groups;

(b) Law enforcement and compliance have been considered;

(c) E-commerce supply chain covered -regulatory agencies-incl. SPS agreement. On-going issues/evidences and ground level data is helpful to address the risks associated with e-commerce;

(d) Policy commission meets (of WTO or WCO?) once a year this year (draft policy resolution) in Dec WTO MC11(draft communique), and WCO thinks that policy and technical frameworks for enhanced and effective border controls on e-commerce consignment is important;

(e) Policy should be risk based approach, and key players endeavors of e-commerce, postal service and express delivery service industry; MOU with venders, a few custom admin and postal operators etc. exists, China cross-border platform (voluntary) linked with China customs risk management platform. [CBD should consider broader MOU with WCO and include risk management related activities to draft MOU]

(f) Security and Safety group of WCO says technical nature surrounding e-commerce is not understood by country, more exchange of information on IT technologies to track and halt transaction may act effectively but potentially now;

(g) The WCO wishes to collaborate with the CBD to develop guide and Theo will coordinate contacts for the CBD. Timeframe: Permanent Technical Committee will meet June-July and Draft tool in 2018 – compendium/handbooks (living document). CBD guidance and case studies may be considered to be incorporated/annexed in the compendium/handbook which are non-binding, once members agree on IAS.

(h) Members of the Liaison Group is encouraged to submit relevant guidance.

44. CBD highlighted the guidance on pets etc. and risk reduction measures such as confined condition and alert labeling as hazard to biodiversity. The WCO responded that the risk may not be aware for the Customs officers, and labeling can facilitate to sort out the response to goods/commodity with risk, and asked CBD for sharing the guidance on pets.

## **ITEM 9**

### **COLLABORATIVE WORK IN 2017-2018**

45. The Joint Work Plan for Cooperation between the Secretariats of the International Plant Protection Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity 2017-2018 was informed to the Liaison Group.

## **ITEM 10**

### **OTHER MATTERS**

46. The Liaison Group unanimously recommended that development and implementation of national legislation on import of alien species should be further facilitated through each international organization's process in order to ensure that border agencies can halt entries of alien species with risk of biological invasions. Parties to the CBD should communicate relevant ministries and agencies on priority species and pathways.

47. The Liaison Group also highlighted that strict import regulation is possible if the countries collect scientific evidences (for example, Australia and New Zealand). If the risk assessment is not sufficiently done for all importing alien species, white list approach is one of the preferable options of national policy.

48. The Liaison Group agreed to have a meeting at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) headquarters in Montreal, Canada, 9-10 July 2017.

49. The Liaison Group thanked the WCO for hosting and organizing the meeting in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD.

## **ITEM 11**

### **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

50. The meeting closed at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, 23 November 2017.

*Annex I*

**THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY LIAISON GROUP ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

Physical participation

Organization	Name	e-mail
World Customs Organization	Theodorus Hesselink	theo.hesselink@wcoomd.org
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IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)	Piero Genovesi	piero.genovesi@isprambiente.it
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Secretariat of the CBD	Junko Shimura	junko.shimura@cbd.int

Internet participation (cancelled due to technical issue) this table will be deleted

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WTO	Garima Prakash	garima.prakash@wto.org
IMO (BioFouling team)	John Alonso (22 Nov)	jalonso@imo.org
IUCN- ISSG	Shyama Pagad (23 Nov)	s.pagad@auckland.ac.nz
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	Tim Hirsch (23 Nov)	thirsch@gbif.org

Apologies

World Trade Organization

FAO

ICAO



## *Annex II*

Documents worked at the eighth meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

1. Draft report on the seventh meeting of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species (LG & CBD);
  2. Outline of main provisions of the BWM Convention (IMO);
  3. A presentation on GloFouling Partnership (IMO);
  4. Draft note on progress on development of tools or guidance that may assist national customs authorities in facilitating the necessary control of live alien species via e-commerce (CBD);
  5. Draft supplementary guidance on devising and implementing measures to address the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food (CBD);
  6. Presentation on options for supplementing risk assessment and risk management standards for the use of biological control agents against invasive alien species (CBD);
  7. Presentation on technical guidance for conducting cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis for the management of invasive alien species (CBD);
  8. Presentation on the information on draft guidance on invasive alien species management that takes into consideration the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and land-use change on the management of biological invasions (CBD);
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