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Item 22 of the provisional agenda*

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: PROGRESS REPORT

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 indicates: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment (decision X/2, annex).
2. At its eighteenth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice considered the issue of invasive alien species on the basis of the following documents prepared by the Executive Secretary, in response to paragraph 3 of decision X/38 on pets, aquarium and terrarium species and live bait and live food, as well as paragraphs 25 and 26 of decision XI/28:
 - (a) Review of Work on Invasive Alien Species and Considerations for Future Work;¹
 - (b) Pathways of Introduction of Invasive Species, their Prioritization and Management;²
 - (c) Management of Risks Associated with Introduction of Alien Species as Pets, Aquarium and Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food, and Related Issues.³
3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its eighteenth meeting, prepared two recommendations containing draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.⁴ These are reproduced in the compilation of draft decisions.⁵
4. To help achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop, subject to the availability of financial resources, a practical, non-prescriptive toolkit for Parties on applying existing international standards, guidelines and recommendations, and to disseminate it, inter alia, through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, no later than the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (decision XI/28, paragraph 14).

* UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Rev.1.

¹ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/9.

² UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/9/Add.1.

³ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/8.

⁴ Recommendations XVIII/5 and XVIII/6 of the Subsidiary Body.

⁵ UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2.

5. Also in decision XI/28, the Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to explore methodologies for fostering awareness, promoting education and generating information on invasive alien species for a broad audience, including indigenous and local communities, the public and other stakeholders (paragraph 18); and to facilitate the implementation of the plan of work of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (paragraph 22).

6. Further, in paragraph 15 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization to consider the application made by the Convention on Biological Diversity for observer status in the Committee and requested the Executive Secretary to actively pursue the application with a view to enhancing the exchange of information on deliberations and recent developments in bodies relevant to invasive alien species, in light of the increasing importance of the ecosystem level when establishing adequate standards.

7. Accordingly, this note was prepared by the Executive Secretary to report to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress in response to the requests above. It also provides additional information on challenges encountered by Parties in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, gathered through a series of capacity-building workshops organized by the Secretariat in line with decision XI/28. Section I summarizes progress in the development of the non-prescriptive toolkit for Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. Section II describes recent activities of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership. Section III provides information on communication with the World Trade Organization. Section IV reports on progress on capacity-building workshops and contains information on challenges faced by Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

I. DEVELOPMENT OF A TOOLKIT FOR PARTIES TO ACHIEVE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 9

Mandate

8. The Conference of the Parties, at its ninth meeting, requested the Executive Secretary to develop, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, practical tools to facilitate the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties on invasive alien species and the development and implementation of national invasive alien species strategies, taking into account the Guiding Principles and, where appropriate, making use of, and referencing, the relevant guidance and tools developed through other relevant organizations (paragraphs 15 to 17 of decision IX/4 B). These tools should build upon case-studies, lessons learned and best practices submitted by the Parties, and should include the following topics:

(a) Risk assessment procedures, to evaluate inter alia the socio-economic, health and environmental impacts of invasive alien species, including practical implementation of the precautionary approach, in accordance with principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;⁶

(b) Monitoring and surveillance programmes;

(c) Methods for assessing the socio-economic, health and environmental impacts of invasive species and for assessing the costs of invasive species and the benefits of controlling them;

(d) Management of the pathways of transfer, introduction and spread of invasive alien species, particularly those identified as gaps in decision VIII/27, taking into account the ecosystem approach; and

⁶ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

(e) Restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems degraded by the presence of invasive alien species, including the socio-economic aspects.

9. Further, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to include the following elements in the non-prescriptive toolkit (paragraphs 14 (a) to (i) of decision XI/28):

(a) Practical, non-prescriptive advice on how the components of the international regulatory framework can be used by Parties in addressing threats from invasive alien species;

(b) Information on the application of Articles 9.2 and 10 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization related to invasive alien species;

(c) Tools and information on relevant risk analysis;

(d) Information on how Parties have developed, integrated and strengthened national strategies on invasive alien species within their national policies;

(e) Lessons learned from countries' experience in risk assessment and the management of alien species by all stakeholders, including border-control officials, traders and consumers, to regulate whether or not a particular species may be imported, kept, bred, or traded; and information on the relative strengths and limitations of listing systems;

(f) Examples of voluntary measures to deal with specific circumstances;

(g) Information on capacity development for the identification of potentially invasive alien species and assessment of relevant pathways;

(h) Information on how national authorities and industry can develop close collaboration to ensure compliance with national regulations on the import of alien species; and

(i) Information on how regional cooperation could harmonize policy on the introduction of alien species as pets, as aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food.

Progress in the compilation of relevant tools and development of the toolkit

10. A number of tools are already available that will contribute to the toolkit described above. Many can be accessed through the CBD website under the titles of "Databases",⁷ and "Guidance and tools".⁸

11. Within the framework of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASIP Partnership; see also section II of this note), a set of "GIASIP Capacity Building Materials" have been compiled.⁹ These have previously been disseminated at the Invasive Alien Species and Taxonomy Expert Kiosk during the seventeenth meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. They include:

(a) Training materials on invasive alien species developed by the former Global Invasive Species Programme;

(b) Fact sheets on known invasive species;

(c) Invasive species identification guides and taxonomic tools;

(d) Risk analysis tools developed by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization; and

⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/database.shtml>.

⁸ <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/tools.shtml>.

⁹ <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/doc/GIASIP-capacity-building-materials.zip>.

(e) Standard Trade Development Facility publication, “International trade and invasive alien species”.

12. In addition, a number of countries and organizations have developed:

- (a) National invasive species strategies and action plans;
- (b) Regional strategies and action plans on invasive alien species; and
- (c) Lists of invasive alien species at the national level based on impact risk assessments on biodiversity; or
- (d) Lists of live species that are allowed to be imported based on risk analysis.

13. Scientific and technical tools to support attainment of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 are assessed in the report on identification of scientific and technical needs for the attainment of the targets under strategic Goal B of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 prepared for the seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.¹⁰ Some gaps were identified in the report, and also by Parties at the seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body.¹¹

14. With respect to the management of potential pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, further information on tools and guidance is available in the document on pathways of introduction prepared for the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body.¹²

15. A guide for the use of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (SPS Agreement) was developed in cooperation with the WTO Secretariat.¹³ While this guide was originally developed for the case of addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, it is equally applicable for addressing other potential invasive species.

Development of the toolkit

16. As noted at the seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body: “there is an abundance of policy support tools and methodologies available to Parties that enable action to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets... The focus should be on facilitating the use of existing tools by making them easily available, explaining their conditions of use, and by adapting them to specific national circumstances, ...”¹⁴ The toolkit is being developed with this in mind.

17. The toolkit under development will cover the elements described in paragraphs 8 and 9 above and, drawing upon existing material mentioned, will provide relevant explanatory information. The toolkit will comprise a number of modules, including (i) introduction; (ii) guidance related to invasive alien species, pests and diseases; and (iii) national implementation (experience from Parties).

18. Each module will be available in various formats that can be used by interested Parties or individuals, including partners to the Convention, for the purpose of capacity development to address invasive alien species. Formats include standalone guides; PowerPoint presentations; and online web resource with links to further information and resources. The online web-based interface will facilitate the organization of webinars (seminars conducted over the Internet).

19. As indicated in the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, Parties are progressing in their efforts to address invasive alien species. More information on the elements indicated in paragraph 9

¹⁰ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.2.

¹¹ SBSTTA recommendation XVII/1, annex II (in UNEP/CBD/COP/12/2).

¹² Pathways of Introduction of Invasive Species, their Prioritization and Management (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/9/Add.1).

¹³ Use of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (SPS Agreement) (annex to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/8).

¹⁴ SBSTTA recommendation XVII/1, annex I (in UNEP/CBD/COP/12/2).

above is becoming available as additional Parties submit their fifth national reports. The toolkit will be updated accordingly.

20. A pilot version of the toolkit will be presented in the margins of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It will be available at the invasive alien species kiosk, as well as online, for review and comments by Parties, relevant organizations and experts.

II. RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP

21. In line with decision XI/28, the organizations that constitute the core group of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI Partnership), namely CABI, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Invasive Species Specialist Group, the Natural History Museum, UK, and the Secretariat of the Convention met in Copenhagen, Denmark from 13 to 14 December 2013, with generous support from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, to develop an implementation plan for a searchable interface on the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species which will be linked to the databases of the partners and other primary data providers.

22. The searchable interface will be available from the Information Gateway for the GIASI Partnership. The new Information Gateway will be presented to Parties at a side event of the Partnership and at the invasive alien species kiosk during the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The implementation of the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species and its connection to the databases of partners and other primary data providers has been conducted with generous financial support from the European Union and in-kind contributions from partners and relevant experts participating as country editors.

23. The Steering Committee for the GIASI Partnership met three times in Montreal, Canada, on 15 October 2013, 10 March 2014 and 22 June 2014, in line with decision XI/28. The Steering Committee updated its terms of reference¹⁵ to clarify its membership and roles. It also provided guidance to the partners to further encourage collaboration to make relevant information more accessible through the Information Gateway and to facilitate collaboration of experts to populate the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species as a central registry of the interoperable system of the Partnership.

24. The Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species web pages were presented in the margins of the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species is maintained by the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group. It also provides access to annotated country inventories of introduced and invasive species. Two key annotations include (i) verification of the species presence in the country; and (ii) confirmation of its biological status (invasiveness). A network of country editors has assisted in keeping these inventories updated. Draft annotated inventories for 65 countries were uploaded to the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species online resource and its data validation process was initiated for the listed countries by the end of June 2014.

25. In addition to the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species, a framework of pathways of introduction of invasive alien species¹⁶ was developed by the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group in consultation with global experts on pathways of spread. The classification is based on six main categories (discussed in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/9/Add.1): Release in Nature; Escape from confinement; Transport - as a contaminant; Transport - as a stowaway; Corridor - Interconnected waterways/basins/sea; and Others.

¹⁵ <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/doc/giasip/sc-term-reference-en.pdf>.

¹⁶ <http://www.pathway-toolbox.auckland.ac.nz/>.

26. The data sets¹⁷ associated with the each of the above pathways of introduction of invasive alien species include:

- (a) A list of species that are known to be introduced through this pathway;
- (b) A list of legal instruments/regulations/codes of conduct that have been enacted or established globally, regionally, nationally, and locally for the management of this pathway and;
- (c) A bibliography relevant to this pathway.

27. Mapping of pathway terminology with other significant information providers has been implemented through cooperation with the Centre for Hydrology and Ecology (CEH) and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

28. In the margins of the eighteenth meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, a representative of the Government of Mexico signed the Memorandum of Cooperation for the GIASI Partnership envisioning that invasive alien species information developed by the *Comisión Nacional Para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad* (CONABIO) would be shared through the Partnership and would support Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

29. The work plan of the GIASI Partnership working groups during the intersessional period after the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be presented to the Conference of the Parties as an information document.

III. COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

30. Regarding the application for observer status of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, the SPS Committee has not been able to reach a consensus on the matter. The Committee will return to the application at future meetings.

31. The Secretariat and the WTO Secretariat, among other bodies, continue to collaborate closely on issues related to invasive alien species, including through the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species. The review of work on invasive alien species and considerations for future work provided to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its eighteenth meeting contained a detailed update on international cooperation.¹⁸

IV. PROGRESS ON CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS

32. In line with decision XI/28, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with partners, organized a series of regional capacity-building workshops to support Parties in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. Information on the workshops held between 2011 and 2013 was provided to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its eighteenth meeting.¹⁹ In the context of the International Year of Small Island Developing States, an additional workshop was held for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Montreal, Canada, on 14-15 June 2014,²⁰ with generous financial support from the Government of Japan (Japan Biodiversity Fund) and in collaboration with relevant organizations, including the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention and the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Invasive Species Specialist Group.

33. The United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, Conservation International and Island Conservation provided in-kind support for the workshop, and the Global Island Partnership, the

¹⁷ <http://www.pathway-toolbox.auckland.ac.nz/pages/search/>.

¹⁸ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/9](#), section II, subsection 4.

¹⁹ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/9](#), section II, subsection 7.

²⁰ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=IASWS-2014-01>.

National Invasive Species Council of the United States of America, as well as the Government of Germany (LifeWeb Initiative) provided technical support.

34. Although alien species that can establish themselves and become invasive are different in different biogeographic regions, the workshops identified common challenges faced by Parties, which need to be addressed in order to facilitate achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 globally. The common challenges expressed by the workshop participants include:

(a) Limited awareness of the impact of invasive alien species among the relevant ministries/authorities of Government and the general public, which has hindered effective coordination of actions within the Government and engagement of civil society and relevant industry;

(b) Severe capacity needs with regard to identification of alien species and conducting appropriate risk analysis, which has delayed the establishment of border control measures that specifically address invasive alien species;

(c) National or regional invasive species strategies and action plans have not been developed, or have not been sufficiently reflected in updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, hindering effective coordination among relevant authorities to manage invasive alien species at the national level;

(d) As a consequence, progress in the prioritization of species and pathways (Aichi Biodiversity Target 9) has been slow.

35. To overcome these challenges, participants at the workshop for small island developing States called for strengthened coordination among the Parties and partners to help small island developing States to manage invasive alien species with scientific principles. The workshop also expressed that coordination of available expertise within a country or region and with distant countries is needed to maximize the use of funds and opportunities for capacity-building and to avoid duplication of efforts in development of tools and project proposals.

36. Accordingly, the Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant organizations, has continued to exchange information on the current capacity and capacity-building needs of small island developing States as well as potential financing opportunities to sustain existing projects, considering that, while twenty island States benefited from the GEF-4 funding cycle,²¹ continuity and improvement of initiated activities is lacking. Information exchange by the Secretariat included discussions in the margins of the pre-COP meeting in Nadi, Fiji, from 11 to 15 August 2014 among the Pacific island states. The third International Conference for Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa, in September 2014 may provide further opportunities for discussion. Options for strengthening coordination will be presented in an information document that will be made available at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

²¹ <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/ATTHWCNT.pdf>.