



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Achieving the
2010
Biodiversity
Target

SCBD/STTM/RH/VA/56765

5 December 2006

NOTIFICATION

Subject: National level collaboration between agencies responsible for biodiversity and plant protection

Dear Madam/Sir,

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an agreement with 159 Parties which aims to prevent the introduction and spread of any species (plant, animal or other) that directly or indirectly affect plants. The Conference of the Parties, in decisions VI/23 and VI/20 respectfully, acknowledged the contribution of the IPPC to the implementation of Article 8(h) and welcomed collaboration with the IPPC on matters related to biosafety of living modified organisms. The governing bodies of the two Conventions have referred to these common interests and the need for collaboration.

In decision VII/13 on invasive alien species, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary to develop a joint work plan with the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Accordingly, the two secretariats have strengthened collaboration and, as part of the joint work plan, have agreed to write to National Focal Points under the CBD and their counterparts under the IPPC (National Plant Protection Organizations - NPPOs), in order to raise awareness about some of the common issues and to promote cooperation at national level among relevant agencies.

In this regard, you may be interested to know that the governing body of the IPPC took a detailed decision in 2005 regarding collaboration with the CBD. That decision recommended that contracting Parties and NPPOs:

- (a) Enhance plant protection laws and policies, where needed, to include the protection of wild flora and biodiversity from pests of plants (including plants that are invasive alien species);
- (b) Promote the IPPC and participate in broader national strategies to address threats to biodiversity posed by invasive alien species, so that maximum advantage can be taken of existing structures and capacities under the IPPC;

To: CBD and SBSTTA National Focal Points
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety National Focal Points



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- (c) Reinforce efforts to apply and utilize relevant IPPC standards and related phytosanitary measures to address threats to biodiversity posed by invasive alien species that are pests of plants (including plants that are invasive alien species);
- (d) Give particular attention, when carrying out pest risk analysis, to the possibility that introduced plants could act as invasive alien species, taking into consideration available information on the types of plants for which this has already occurred;
- (e) Enhance linkages between environmental, plant protection and agricultural authorities and related ministries, in order to articulate and achieve common goals in work involving the protection of plants and biodiversity from invasive alien species;
- (f) Improve communication between CBD national focal points and IPPC contact points;
- (g) Collect, where appropriate, information on the alien invasions of pests of plants (including plants that are invasive alien species), and forward this to the CBD national focal points, to assist in monitoring progress towards the 2010 biodiversity targets outlined in the COP-7 Decision VII/30;
- (h) Establish or adapt existing pest alert systems to include all pests of plants (including plants that are invasive alien species) that threaten the environment and biological diversity, including those affecting uncultivated/unmanaged plants, wild flora, habitats and ecosystems, and ensure that relevant agencies and officials have access to lists of plants, plant products, other regulated articles and trade pathways that may carry such pests;
- (i) Report to the IPPC Secretariat on actions and progress on the above recommendations.

More details and additional elements of this decision can be found in the original report of the 7th meeting of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, available at www.ippc.int (click on 'IPPC Publications' and select 'Reports – CPM/ICPM').

In addition, as a recognized standard-setting organization under the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), the IPPC has adopted a number of standards that are directly relevant to addressing invasive alien species and living modified organisms. These are known as International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Among these are the following, all of which are available for download at www.ippc.int (click on 'IPPC Publications' and select 'Standards (ISPMs)'):

1. ISPM No.2 – Guidelines for pest risk analysis (1995, but currently under revision)
2. ISPM No.3 – Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms (2005)
3. ISPM No. 5 – Glossary of phytosanitary terms (2006)
4. ISPM No.11 – Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms (2004)
5. ISPM No.21 - Pest risk analysis for regulated non-quarantine pests (2004)

I encourage you to maximize interaction with the NPPO in your country, in particular in relation to the issues of invasive alien species and biosafety of living modified organisms. The contact information for NPPOs is searchable via the International Phytosanitary Portal at www.ippc.int.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary