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12 November 2010

NOTIFICATION

Nomination for the ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) meeting on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of invasive alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food, 2 to 4 February 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) established an ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) to suggest ways and means, including, *inter alia*, providing scientific and technical information, advice and guidance, on the possible development of standards by appropriate bodies that can be used at an international level to avoid spread of invasive alien species that current international standards do not cover, to address the identified gaps and to prevent the impacts and minimize the risks associated with the introduction of invasive alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food.

In decision X/38¹, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to convene meetings of the AHTEG and to submit its report for consideration at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Accordingly, the Executive Secretary, with the generous financial assistance of the Government of Spain, is organizing a meeting of the AHTEG to be held from 2 to 4 February 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

I am pleased to invite you to nominate one expert on invasive alien species to participate in the meeting of AHTEG. Financial support will be provided to enable the participation of selected experts from eligible Parties to the Convention. Parties and relevant organizations are

¹ The advance unedited version of decision X/38 is accessible at <http://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-10/doc/advance-final-unedited-texts/advance-unedited-version-ias-en.doc>.

To: CBD National focal points, SBSTTA focal points and relevant organizations

invited to consider the terms of reference for the AHTEG, contained in Annex 1 to this notification, when submitting the nominations.

To submit a nomination, please provide the name and full contact details as well as a *curriculum vitae* that clearly indicates the areas of expertise of your nominee via signed official letter from the CBD primary focal point addressed to Executive Secretary of the CBD, scanned and attached to an e-mail addressed to secretariat@cbd.int, with copy to junko.shimura@cbd.int. Nominations should arrive **no later than 15 December 2010**. The selection of experts will be based on expertise and experiences, taking into account balanced regional and sectoral participation, as well as gender balance.

A draft provisional agenda is contained in Annex 2 to this notification for your reference. Meeting documents will be forwarded to the selected experts and posted on the CBD website in due course. The meeting will be conducted in English.

I thank you for your cooperation and your continued support for the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaf
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Terms of reference for the ad hoc technical expert group on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and live bait and live food
- Draft provisional agenda

Annex 1

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON
ADDRESSING THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF ALIEN SPECIES
AS PETS, AQUARIUM AND TERRARIUM SPECIES, AND AS LIVE BAIT AND LIVE FOOD**

1. In paragraph 2 of its decision X/38, the Conference of the Parties established an ad hoc technical expert group to suggest ways and means, including, *inter alia*, providing scientific and technical information, advice and guidance, on the possible development of standards by appropriate bodies that can be used at an international level to avoid spread of invasive alien species that current international standards do not cover, to address the identified gaps and to prevent the impacts and minimize the risks associated with the introduction of invasive alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food with the present terms of reference; and *expressed* its appreciation to the Government of Spain for providing the financial assistance for the organization of the AHTEG;

2. More specifically, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will identify and consider relevant, specific, and concrete tools, voluntary codes of practice, methodologies, guidance, best-practice examples and instruments, including possible regulatory mechanisms, for addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, including for:

- (a) Controlling, monitoring, and prohibiting, where appropriate, export, import and transit, at local, national, and regional levels, taking into account national legislations, where applicable;
- (b) Controlling internet trade, associated transport, and other relevant pathways;
- (c) Developing and utilizing risk assessments and risk management;
- (d) Developing and utilizing early-detection and rapid response systems;
- (e) Regulating the export, import and transit of potentially invasive alien species traded as pets likely to be released;
- (f) Public awareness-raising and information dissemination;
- (g) Transboundary and where appropriate, regional cooperation and approaches.

3. In addition, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will consider ways to increase the interoperability of existing information resources including databases and networks, of use in conducting risk and/or impact assessments and in developing early-detection and rapid response systems .

4. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will make its suggestions drawing on:

- (a) Information provided by, *inter alia*, Parties, other Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, relevant national, regional, and international organizations, and secretariats of relevant international conventions;
- (b) Information gathered at the expert workshop on best practices for pre-import screening of live animals in international trade (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/32/Add.1), held in Indiana, United States of America, from 9 to 11 April 2008;
- (c) The TEMATEA issue-based module on invasive alien species;
- (d) International, national and regional databases on invasive alien species;
- (e) Sections II and III of the note by the Executive Secretary on further work on gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework on invasive alien species, particularly species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food, and best practices for addressing the risks associated with their introduction (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/16/Rev.1);

(f) Other relevant scientifically-sound information, particularly information from scientific experts, universities, and relevant institutions.

5. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will be established in accordance with the procedures outlined in the consolidated *modus operandi* of SBSTTA (decision VIII/10, annex III) taking into account the need to draw upon the experience of relevant international organizations, including the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO-SPS), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), organizations managing databases on invasive alien species, industry organizations and Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP).

6. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will meet as required to complete its task, subject to the availability of financial resources, and also work through correspondence and teleconferences.

7. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will report to a meeting of SBSTTA prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Annex 2

**THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP (AHTEG) MEETING ON THE WAYS AND
MEANS TO PREVENT THE IMPACTS AND MINIMIZE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH
THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AS PETS, AQUARIUM AND
TERRARIUM SPECIES, AS LIVE BAIT AND LIVE FOOD
FROM 2 TO 4 FEBRUARY 2011, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the chairperson(s), adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review and synthesis of identification of relevant, specific, and concrete tools, voluntary codes of practice, methodologies, guidance, best-practice examples and instruments, including possible regulatory mechanisms, for addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food.
4. Review and synthesis of ways to increase the interoperability of existing information resources including databases and networks, of use in conducting risk and/or impact assessments and in developing early-detection and rapid response systems.
5. Development of scientific and technical information, advice and guidance, on the possible development of standards by appropriate bodies that can be used at an international level to avoid spread of invasive alien species that current international standards do not cover.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.