



**Convention on
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Invasive alien species

Progress report on intersessional activities on invasive alien species

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present note has been prepared to report on the results of activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity pursuant to decision [16/18](#) of the Conference of the Parties, on invasive alien species. The document covers activities undertaken by the Secretariat in response to requests made in paragraph 10 of the decision, including to further strengthen collaboration among relevant organizations through the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, hold an open-ended online forum to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences and report on the progress on the various activities to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

2. The present note contains information on the collaboration among relevant organizations through the Liaison Group (sect. I), a synthesis of the deliberations of the Open-ended Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species (sect. II) and a draft decision for the Conference of the Parties for consideration by the Subsidiary Body (sect. III).

**II. Collaboration among relevant organizations through the
Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species**

3. The fourteenth meeting of the Liaison Group was held at the World Organisation for Animal Health, in Paris, on 29 and 30 April 2025. It was attended by 25 participants. The agenda and the report of the meeting are available on the Secretariat website.¹

4. At its fourteenth meeting, the Liaison Group addressed, among other things, the request made to the Executive Secretary in subparagraph 10 (a) of decision [16/18](#), namely, to further strengthen collaboration among relevant organizations through the Liaison Group, with a view to supporting the implementation of Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by:

* CBD/SBSTTA/27/1.

¹ See www.cbd.int/meetings/IAS-LG-14.

- (a) Continuing the assessment of the existing capacity and scientific, technical and technological needs of Parties, especially developing countries, for their implementation of Target 6;
- (b) Sharing experiences and lessons learned by the Group members that could be useful for work undertaken under the Convention in relation to invasive alien species;
- (c) Developing capacity-building activities and guidance, as needed, to address gaps identified in the aforementioned needs assessment;
- (d) Facilitating international collaboration towards the management of invasive alien species with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (e) Strengthening collaboration with the relevant sectors, such as tourism and trade, and with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to improve access to data and information on invasive alien species.

5. The Liaison Group engaged in a series of thematic discussions, including on the accessibility and availability of information to support the implementation of Target 6 of the Framework; the management of invasive alien species with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities; and opportunities for collaboration, including to address invasive alien species in the tourism and trade sectors.

6. Some of the conclusions that the Liaison Group members arrived at during their discussions are listed below:

- (a) It is important to use integrated and collaborative approaches bringing together several sectors to address the challenges posed by invasive alien species, noting that their impacts extend beyond biodiversity and, therefore, require commitment and support from various sectors;
- (b) Strengthening relationships and knowledge exchange with indigenous peoples and local communities can improve both the understanding of biological invasions and the effectiveness of management efforts;
- (c) There are successful examples of the management of biological invasions that are worth sharing to showcase viable options to address invasive alien species (e.g. successful eradications on islands);
- (d) The One Health approach provides a fitting framework for further collaboration to address invasive alien species more effectively;
- (e) There is a gap between, on the one hand, existing strategies, documents and information on invasive alien species and, on the other hand, actual implementation on the ground;
- (f) Standardized data on impacts from invasive alien species are important for prioritizing the various actions needed to implement the elements of Target 6 of the Framework;
- (g) Long-term monitoring programmes using emerging technology, such as environmental DNA analysis, are critical to gather data that can trigger action from Parties;
- (h) It is important to use existing standards (e.g. the Darwin Core or the Humboldt Extension for Ecological Inventories) and classification schemes² to increase information accessibility and facilitate data-sharing, including across sectors and among data providers and database operators;
- (i) Accessible, up-to-date data on impacts, pathways of introduction, occurrences, management measures and management effectiveness for the 3,500 known invasive alien species identified in *The Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and Their Control* of the

² See, for example, [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/9/Add.1](#), table 1, the [IUCN EICAT Categories and Criteria: Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa](#), the [Habitats Classification Scheme](#) and the [Global Ecosystem Typology](#).

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services are critical to supporting action towards achieving Target 6 of the Framework;

(j) Information to support the prevention, early detection, containment and control of invasive alien species should be open, follow the FAIR principles³ and, as much as possible, be available in various languages and formats;

(k) There is a need to address taxonomic gaps and lack of information from certain regions, as highlighted in the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control;

(l) There could be benefits to having globally harmonized services and data sets for taxonomic data and information on invasive alien species;

(m) Horizon scanning and predictive modelling are useful tools for informing preventive actions;

(n) Information on the effectiveness and cost of management actions to address invasive alien species is largely inaccessible, despite its importance for undertaking risk management to prioritize measures for prevention, rapid response and long-term control.

7. The Liaison Group also identified areas that would benefit from work and collaboration at the international level, including:

(a) Exploring strategies to enable early detection and rapid response, such as the potential use of artificial intelligence and automation to support the mobilization of data, so as to reduce the time lag between the detection of an invasive alien species and information availability;

(b) Exploring strategies and initiatives to support early detection and rapid response efforts at the global level, including through a potential global rapid response fund;

(c) Exploring the possibility of modifying the harmonized system codes⁴ for high-risk invasive alien species or groups of species in international trade, to support customs authorities with the identification of regulated invasive alien species;

(d) Exploring the use of the Catalogue of Life⁵ as the taxonomic service provider for the Framework.

8. In addition to the aforementioned information, the Secretariat is also collaborating with the Liaison Group in the development of awareness-raising materials on invasive alien species, a document outlining ways to improve access to data and information on invasive alien species⁶ and capacity-building activities.

III. Synthesis of discussions in the Open-ended Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species

9. In subparagraph 10 (b) of decision [16/18](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to host an open-ended online forum to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences on:

(a) Work carried out by Parties and stakeholders, including on tools and mechanisms used, challenges and best practices with regard to the prevention, management, control and eradication of invasive alien species, towards the implementation of Target 6 of the Framework, in particular to facilitate international and regional cooperation;

³ Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.

⁴ See www.trade.gov/harmonized-system-hs-codes.

⁵ See www.catalogueoflife.org/.

⁶ See CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/3.

(b) Approaches that could be taken to facilitate a collaborative response to biological invasions and the threats and impacts of invasive alien species, and how those individual approaches could be integrated into the One Health approach.

10. The Open-ended Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species was held in April 2025. It was attended by representatives of 47 Parties and 17 organizations, who had been nominated in response to notifications Nos. [2025-021](#) and [2025-36](#). It was co-moderated by Rachel Arie-Jougard (Canada) and Paulina Stowhas Salinas (Chile). The forum report is available as information document [CBD/SBSTTA/27/INF/2](#), and the full discussion threads can be viewed online.⁷

11. An overview of the discussions held in the Online Forum is provided below. It should be noted that the overview does not reflect every point raised individually, or consensus, but rather synthesizes the views expressed.

A. Discussions on tools and mechanisms used, challenges and best practices about the prevention, management, control and eradication of invasive alien species, towards the implementation of Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular to facilitate international and regional cooperation

12. Under the first topic, participants shared information on the consideration of invasive alien species in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as on tools and mechanisms used and policies in place to support the implementation of Target 6 of the Framework.

13. In relation to governance mechanisms, participants emphasized the critical role of invasive alien species in biodiversity loss and the importance of global, regional and local governance frameworks, including through the involvement of such entities and instruments as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Maritime Organization and the International Plant Protection Convention.

14. Concerning actions at the national level, it was noted that, although invasive alien species were often taken into consideration in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and policies, consistent implementation and regulatory enforcement continued to present significant challenges. It was also noted that governance fragmentation, enforcement limitations, inadequate coordination and low public awareness were major obstacles. The role of regional cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration in the effective management of invasive alien species was underscored, as were the importance of community engagement, especially the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the need for accessible and comprehensive information.

15. Participants highlighted best practices for managing invasive alien species, including joint action plans, interministerial coordination and cross-border surveillance. They also discussed various tools used in management, such as planning strategies, monitoring systems, control methods, and emerging technology, such as artificial intelligence, environmental DNA analysis and satellite imagery. The role of databases was also discussed, and participants noted in that regard the key role played by such databases as the Global Invasive Species Database and the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species, but they also recommended consulting multiple information sources, for accuracy.

16. Participants also noted that the lack of international standards for information-sharing and a dedicated long-term funding stream hampered the effective management of invasive alien species. While necessary, financial support from such mechanisms as the Global Environmental Facility was deemed insufficient without long-term funding commitments.

17. Last, in response to the urgent need to address invasive alien species, participants identified a set of key priorities. They noted that many priorities could be tackled at the national level or

⁷ www.cbd.int/invasive/current/forum2025.

supported through further work under the Convention on Biological Diversity, for example, by developing guidance, recommendations or technical advice in the following areas:

- (a) Strengthening research, technical and scientific cooperation, and regional coordination;
- (b) Evaluating and updating existing legal frameworks;
- (c) Enhancing understanding by and support from local authorities;
- (d) Improving access to information and strategies for managing marine invasive alien species and reinvasions;
- (e) Providing training on the guidance on cost-benefit analysis tools and the prioritization of invasive alien species based on ecological and economic risks;
- (f) Providing technical assistance for early warning systems and training in artificial intelligence-based detection and surveillance tools, including real-time distribution tracking;
- (g) Establishing regional data-sharing platforms for invasive alien species and an international database to share and manage information;
- (h) Supporting community-based control models that integrate invasive alien species management into local livelihood strategies;
- (i) Encouraging broader participation from professionals and citizen scientists;
- (j) Providing guidance on species identification, especially for invasive species that resembled native ones;
- (k) Addressing the high costs of mechanical and chemical control measures;
- (l) Managing non-target effects resulting from certain control methods, such as chemical control;
- (m) Creating and updating national invasive alien species lists and improving baseline data;
- (n) Facilitating information and technical exchanges on container pathway management;
- (o) Offering scientific, technical and technological advice focused on invasive alien species.

B. Discussions on information and experiences on approaches that can be taken to facilitate a collaborative response to biological invasions and the threats and impacts of invasive alien species, and how those individual approaches could be integrated into the One Health approach

18. Under the second topic, participants shared information on the use of integrated approaches to biological invasions, ideas for improving collaboration, examples of how integrated approaches were being used to address invasive alien species, and challenges related to addressing invasive alien species as a cross-cutting issue at the national and regional levels.

19. Participants shared various examples illustrating how integrated and collaborative approaches could improve the management of invasive alien species. The examples included aligning national policies with international frameworks to ensure consistency, clearly defining roles and responsibilities through legislation and establishing multisectoral task forces and coordination bodies to foster collaboration. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches were highlighted as essential for broad engagement, along with the formation of public-private partnerships to mobilize resources and involve the private sector. Integrated national planning was seen as a key tool for sharing responsibilities and coordinating action, while technical and scientific cooperation helped to enhance knowledge-sharing and resource use. An enabling environment was considered crucial to support those strategies, with awareness-raising campaigns identified as fundamental for stakeholder engagement. The importance of communicating to decision makers the value of integrated approaches, such as One Health, was also emphasized.

20. National invasive species strategies and action plans and national biodiversity strategies and action plans were recognized as useful mechanisms for setting shared goals across sectors, identifying relevant actors and incorporating invasive alien species management into broader policy areas, such as education, land- and sea-use planning, infrastructure, trade and public health. In addition, codes of practice and guidelines were mentioned as valuable tools for promoting the One Health approach and providing stakeholders with actionable guidance.

21. To realize the full potential of collaborative approaches, participants stressed the importance of effective legal frameworks, adequate management capacity, investment in research and monitoring, awareness-raising campaigns and the fair distribution of operational costs across sectors. However, persistent challenges to the operationalization of collaborative approaches remained, such as overlapping and fragmented mandates across government agencies, limited understanding of the roles that various sectors could play, resource and capacity deficits at the local level, and staff turnover, which undermined institutional continuity.

22. It was also noted that the development of broader strategies was challenged by the limited engagement of sectors not traditionally directly linked to invasive alien species, such as health and tourism. Participants also recognized that, while the One Health approach could be useful for the management of invasive alien species, it was not yet fully integrated into national strategies that addressed the issue. Last, they pointed out that the limited recognition of the potential role of invasive alien species in zoonotic spillover events had resulted in insufficient research and inadequate risk monitoring systems that would address threats posed by invasive alien species to human, animal and environmental health.

IV. Recommendations

23. The Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision [16/18](#) of 1 November 2024, in which it recognized the urgent need to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹ in particular its Target 6, and that increasing the availability and accessibility of information and means of implementation and addressing major knowledge gaps on biological invasions, in particular in developing countries, would result in more robust and effective policy instruments and management actions,

Recalling also that, to address the challenges posed by invasive alien species, it highlighted the relevance of coordination and collaboration across sectors in its decisions [XII/17](#) of 10 October 2014, [14/11](#) of 29 November 2018, [15/27](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/18](#), as well as urged Parties to support the implementation of the One Health approach in its decision [16/18](#),

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity² during the current intersessional period, including the hosting of the discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species and convening of the fourteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species;

2. *Encourages* Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate:

(a) To improve the collection and availability of data on impacts, pathways of introduction, occurrences and management measures with regard to invasive alien species

¹ Decision 15/4, annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

identified in their territories, to support efforts towards addressing Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(b) To consider the use of integrated and collaborative approaches that bring together relevant sectors to address the challenges posed by invasive alien species;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources:

(a) To continue to collaborate with the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species on, among other things: (i) producing guidance on how relevant government agencies can improve cross-sectoral collaboration to address the challenges posed by invasive alien species, including through the use of integrated approaches; and (ii) exploring strategies to enable early detection and rapid response to support the mobilization of data, so as to reduce the time lag between the detection of an invasive alien species and information availability;

(b) To continue to improve the invasive alien species portal³ on the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to serve as a one-stop shop for users and support the implementation of Target 6 of the Framework;

(c) To submit the outcomes of the work described above to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

³ www.cbd.int/invasive.