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AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON
GAPS AND INCONSISTENCIES IN THE
INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK IN RELATION TO
INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
Auckland, New Zealand, 16-20 May 2005

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Annotations to the provisional agenda

INTRODUCTION

1. At its sixth meeting in 2002, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in paragraph 9 of decision VI/23, requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and other international organizations to identify and explore, in light of the inter-sessional work referred to in recommendation VI/4 A of the Subsidiary Body, further specific gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework (including binding and non-binding instruments as well as instruments at the regional level and standards) from a technical perspective of the threats of invasive alien species to biological diversity, including consideration of various pathways for the transmission of invasive alien species, and to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, taking into account further relevant information arising from the implementation of the present decision. The Subsidiary Body considered the matter at its ninth meeting, in November 2003, on the basis of a note by the Executive Secretary that identified specific gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework in relation to invasive alien species (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/15). SBSTTA adopted recommendation IX/15 for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur in February 2004.

2. At that seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties noted in paragraph 7 of decision VII/13 that specific gaps in the international regulatory frameworks at global, regional and national levels persist, notably in relation to species that are invasive, but do not qualify as plant pests under the regulations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and other international agreements or animal diseases under the regulations of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and other international agreements with regard to the following potential pathways:

(a) The use of non-native organisms in aquaculture and the restocking of marine and inland water systems for commercial and recreational fisheries taking into account contributions of national codes, and voluntary international efforts such as Codes of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms developed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

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(b) Unintentional or opportunistic introductions (e.g., hitchhiker organisms), including through hull-fouling, packaging material, import consignments, vehicular transport and other means;

(c) Unintentional introductions of invasive alien species through international assistance and humanitarian programmes, tourism, military, scientific research, cultural and other activities;

(d) Intentional introductions of alien species for non-food purposes, including certain aspects of horticulture and trade in pets and aquarium species;

(e) Intentional introduction of alien species, as biocontrol agents for control or eradication of invasive alien species, pests or weeds;

(f) Transnational and national *ex situ* breeding projects with alien species as sources for intentional or unintentional introduction;

(g) Intentional introduction of invasive alien species through international assistance programmes, including conservation and development projects and other activities;

(h) Intentional introduction of potentially invasive alien species through international incentives schemes;

(i) Introduction of alien species through aquaculture escapes, bait and pet releases, water transfer schemes.

3. In paragraph 9 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body to establish an ad hoc technical expert group to address gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks at global, and regional levels, in particular the specific gaps identified in paragraph 2 above, and, on the basis of the work of the expert group, to make recommendations to the Subsidiary Body prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the full and effective implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention, and further be considered by the Conference of the Parties. At its tenth meeting, the Subsidiary Body established the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Gaps and Inconsistencies in the International Regulatory Framework in Relation to Invasive Alien Species (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/2, para.177).

4. Pursuant to the establishment of the ad hoc technical expert group, the Executive Secretary is convening, with the generous support of the Government of New Zealand, a meeting of the ad hoc technical expert group on gaps and inconsistencies on the international regulatory framework in relation to invasive alien species, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 16 to 20 May 2005. The mandate of the Group, as described in paragraph 9 of decision VII/13, is to:

(a) Further clarify the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework that are significantly hindering countries' efforts to manage threats arising from the introduction, establishment and spread from invasive alien species, focusing this analysis on the known major pathways for the spread of invasive alien species, and taking into account past efforts of relevant organizations and initiatives that have considered the issue;

(b) Develop practical options on how to address these gaps and inconsistencies, where possible within the context of existing international frameworks including identifying, if appropriate, those gaps which should be addressed at the national level, in order to achieve the full and effective implementation of Article 8(h), taking into account the costs/benefits of options for addressing the gaps and inconsistencies and the need for appropriate capacity-building at the national and regional level, to support this work;

(c) Also, in the event that it identifies the potential need for standards or other measures, identify the appropriate standard-making authority, if any, or other appropriate options, so that the Conference of the Parties can consider referring the issue to the appropriate standard-making authority and/or any other course of action that it considers appropriate.

5. A provisional list of documents for the meeting is provided in annex I below.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting will be opened by a Representative of the Executive Secretary at 9 a.m. on Monday 16 May 2005. A representative of the Government of New Zealand will welcome the participants. The representative of the Secretariat will then explain the purpose of the meeting, its mandate, and the expected outputs.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. *Adoption of the agenda*

7. The Group will be invited to adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-IAS/1/1), prepared by the Executive Secretary in line with decision VII/13 of the Conference of Parties.

2.2. *Election of officers*

8. After introducing themselves, the Group will be invited to elect the chair of the meeting on the basis of proposals from the floor. The Group may also wish to elect a Rapporteur.

2.3. *Organization of work*

9. The language of the meeting will be English.

10. The Group may wish to conduct all its deliberations in plenary, or break into smaller groups for consideration of specific issues.

ITEM 3. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

3.1. *Further clarification of the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework, in particular the specific gaps identified in paragraph 7 of decision VII/13*

11. Under this agenda item, experts will further clarify the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework, in particular for each of the pathways listed in paragraph 7 of decision VII/13.

12. In order to assist the Group in its deliberations, the Executive Secretary has prepared a document, which highlights the scope of application of some existing agreements and bodies for each of the pathways (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-IAS/1/2)

3.2. *Development of practical options on how to address the gaps and inconsistencies considered under agenda 3.1 above, where possible within the context of existing international frameworks including identifying, if appropriate, those gaps which should be addressed at the national level*

13. Based on the outcome of discussions regarding clarification of gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework, under agenda item 3.1, the Group will be expected to develop practical options to address those gaps and inconsistencies. In this regard, the Group may wish to consider, for each specific gap or inconsistency that has been identified, whether there are existing agreements or bodies whose scope could potentially cover the issue, or whether the issue falls outside the scope of existing agreements and bodies.

3.3. *Identification of the appropriate standard-making authority, if any, or other appropriate options in the event that the potential need for standards or other measures is identified*

16. Under this agenda item, in the event that a need for standards or other measures is identified under the previous agenda item 3.2, the Group may wish to identify the appropriate standard-making authority, if any, or other appropriate options, so that the Conference of the Parties can consider referring

the issue to the appropriate standard-making authority and/or any other course of action that it considers appropriate.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

17. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise other matters related to the subject matter of the meeting for discussion.

ITEM 5. ADOPTION OF REPORT

18. The Group will consider and adopt its report on the basis of the draft report of the meeting to be prepared by the rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat and the Chair.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

19. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 20 May 2005.

Annex I

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP
ON GAPS AND INCONSISTENCIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK IN RELATION TO INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-IAS/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-IAS/1/1/ Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-IAS/1/2	Invasive alien species: further clarification of the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework

OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/15	Invasive alien species: identification of specific gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/32	Invasive alien species: identification of specific gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/7	Comprehensive review on the efficiency and efficacy of existing measures for their prevention, early detection, eradication and control
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/8	Options for future work
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/5	Review of the efficiency and efficacy of existing legal instruments applicable to invasive alien species
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/6	Report on existing international procedures, criteria and capacity for assessing risk from invasive alien species
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/7	Report of the liaison group meeting on invasive alien species, Kirstenbosch, Cape Town, 17-22 September 2001
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/8	A Guide to Designing Legal and Institutional Frameworks on Alien Invasive Species
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/9	Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species
