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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON GAPS AND INCONSISTENCIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

First meeting
Auckland, New Zealand, 16-20 May 2005

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Opening and registration

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Gaps and Inconsistencies in the International Regulatory Framework on Invasive Alien Species will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 16 to 20 May 2005.

Registration will take place at the meeting venue from 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, 15 May followed by evening meal and introductory remarks from the Department of Conservation. The Official meeting will start at 8.00 a.m. on Monday, 16 May 2005

2. Meeting venue

The meeting will be held at:

Otimai (Corner of Kauri Loop Rd and West Coast Road)
Oratia, Waitakere City

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English only.

4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their copies of the documents prepared for the meeting, as they will be available in Auckland only in very limited quantities.

5. Visas

Attached, as **annex I**, is a list of countries whose citizens **do not require** visas to enter New Zealand.

Participants are advised to check with the nearest New Zealand diplomatic or consular mission regarding visa requirements. The organizers in New Zealand can provide upon request an official letter in order to facilitate the visa application process.

For any difficulty or query on visa issues, participants should directly contact the designated contact person.

Sally Griffin, Technical Adviser, Policy & Business Directorate, International, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
Telephone: Ph: + 64 (0) 4 474 4140;
Email: sally.griffin@maf.govt.nz

For more information about New Zealand, please visit the website of the Government of New Zealand: <http://www.govt.nz>

6. Services to participants

Participants will be able to access their e-mails, free of charge, at work-stations situated near the meeting venue. All meals will be arranged at the meeting venue. Please notify New Zealand contact sally.griffin@maf.govt.nz if you have any specific food requirements.

7. Access to Auckland

Auckland is serviced by Auckland International Airport (25 km from downtown). Taxi cost from airport to downtown is NZ \$ 50 (approx. US \$36).

8. Hotel accommodation and travel

The Government of New Zealand will arrange accommodation, meals, international air travel and domestic travel for all participants. It will also pay in cash on the first day of the meeting US\$ 30 dollars per day to the eligible persons. All participants will be met on arrival at Auckland Airport.

A hotel close to the airport will be block booked for those participants arriving before and not leaving immediately after the meeting (more details will be provided closer to the meeting date). There will also be the opportunity on Saturday, 21 May for a day excursion (some possible options – will depend on interest and numbers):

- Bush and nature hike;
- Sightseeing in Auckland City (including museums & Art Galleries)
- Harbour Cruise;
- Field trip to Tauharanui Pest Management area & Tiritiri Matangi Island.

For assistance or any query about travel and hotel accommodation, participants are requested to contact directly:

New Zealand coordinator at: sally.griffin@maf.govt.nz

9. Official language

The official language in New Zealand is English.

10. Time zone

New Zealand local time is GMT + 12 hours.

11. Weather

Auckland enjoys a warm coastal climate without extremes of temperature. Temperatures in May are likely to range between 10 and 15 degrees Celsius, and rain is probable. New Zealand has high UV levels, and sun protection is recommended.

12. Voltage

230 volts. Three-square pin plugs are used.

13. Currency

The currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand dollar. The current exchange rate against the US dollar stands at approximately (as at 22 Dec 2004) NZ \$ 1 for 0.716 US \$. (US \$ 1 = NZ \$ 1.395).

14. Credit cards

Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

15. Banking / Currency exchange

There are no banking facilities at the meeting venue so it is recommended that the participants exchange their currency at the airport on arrival. The closest bank to the meeting venue is in Titarangi, which is approximately 20 minutes drive from the meeting venue (They operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Monday to Friday). Due to the semi-remoteness of the meeting venue there are limited opportunities for shopping, etc., at the venue and surrounding area (it is in a rural area). However, in the programme there are sightseeing and shopping opportunities in and around Auckland where banking and currency facilities are readily available.

Attached:	Annex I:	Visa and vaccination requirements.
	Annex II:	Proposed Programme
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Visa and vaccination requirements
(In accordance with the information provided by the host country)

If you are a citizen of one of the following countries, which have visa waiver agreements with New Zealand, you **do not need** to apply for a visitor's visa. There are no vaccinations required to enter New Zealand.

Andorra	Iceland	Qatar
Argentina	Ireland	San Marino
Austria	Israel****	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	Italy	Singapore
Belgium	Japan	Slovenia
Brazil	Korea (South)	South Africa
Brunei	Kuwait	Spain
Canada	Liechtenstein	Sweden
Chile	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Malaysia	USA**
Denmark	Malta	United Arab Emirates
Finland	Mexico	Uruguay
France	Netherlands	Vatican City
Germany	Norway	
Greece	Oman	
Hong Kong***	Portugal*	
Hungary		

* Portuguese passport holders must have the right to live in Portugal

** Including nationals of USA

*** Residents of Hong Kong travelling on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or British National Passports

**** Other than persons travelling to New Zealand in an official Israeli government capacity

People travelling to New Zealand on United Nations (UN) laissez-passers for a period of up to 3 months are exempt from the requirements to obtain a visitor's visa.

Proposed Programme for the Meeting**Arrival at Otimai from 6 p.m. on Sunday, 15 May 2005**

6.30 p.m.	Registration & Meal	<i>Sally Griffin</i> (Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry)
7.30 p.m.	Welcome	<i>Christine Reed</i> (Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry)
7.45 p.m.	Introductory Talk	<i>Department of Conservation</i>

DAY ONE (Monday, 16 May)

8 a.m.	Organizational Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda • Election of officers • Organization of work 	
10.30 a.m.	Morning tea	
11.00 a.m.	Review the gaps and inconsistencies in international regulatory framework	
12.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m.	Review the gaps and inconsistencies in international regulatory framework	
3 p.m.	Afternoon tea	
3.30 p.m.	Review the gaps and inconsistencies in international regulatory framework	
5 p.m.	Conclusion of day one	
7.30 p.m.	Presentation	ISSG

DAY TWO (Tuesday, 17 May)

8 a.m.	Review the gaps and inconsistencies in international regulatory framework	
10.30 a.m.	Morning tea	
11 a.m.	Review the gaps and inconsistencies in international regulatory framework	
12.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m.	Field Trip – Auckland Wharf & Airport	
6.30 p.m.	Dinner in Auckland	
9.30 p.m.	Returning to Otimai by Mini van	

DAY THREE (Wednesday, 18 May)

8 a.m.	Identify any other gaps and inconsistencies	
10.30 a.m.	Morning tea	
11 a.m.	Identify any other gaps and inconsistencies	
12.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m.	Identify any other gaps and inconsistencies	
3 p.m.	Afternoon tea	
3.30 p.m.	Develop practical options on how to address gaps and inconsistencies	
5 p.m.	Conclusion of day three	

DAY FOUR (Thursday, 19 May)

8 a.m.	Develop practical options on how to address gaps and inconsistencies	
10.30 a.m.	Morning tea	
11 a.m.	Develop practical options on how to address gaps and inconsistencies	
12.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m.	Leisure Time (Mini van available to take participants to Auckland for Sightseeing and Shopping)	
7 p.m.	Returning to Otimai by Mini van	

DAY FIVE (Friday, 20 May)

8 a.m.	Develop practical options on how to address gaps and inconsistencies	
10.30 a.m.	Morning tea	
11 a.m.	In the event that the potential need for standards etc is identified – develop appropriate options eg: standard making body	
12.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m.	In the event that the potential need for standards etc is identified – develop appropriate options e.g.: standard making body	
2.30 p.m.	Adoption of report and closure of meeting	
3.15 p.m.	Conclusion of meeting	
4 p.m.	Leave Otimai (Arrive at Waiwera Hotel on evening of Friday, 20 May)	

DAY SIX - Optional (Saturday, 21 May)

9 a.m.	Day excursion options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Trip to Tauharanui Pest Management area & Tiritiri Matangi Island;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waitakere Ranges – hiking;• Auckland sightseeing;• Harbour Cruise.
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