



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/6/18/Add.1/Rev.1  
26 March 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY

Sixth meeting

The Hague, 7-19 April 2002

Item 22 of the provisional agenda\*

**REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF ARTICLE 8(h) ON ALIEN SPECIES THAT THREATEN ECOSYSTEMS,  
HABITATS OR SPECIES**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

*Addendum*

**USE OF TERMS: REVISED TEXT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered the question of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, also referred to as “invasive alien species”. In paragraphs 14 and 15 of decision V/8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with relevant organizations and binding and non-binding instruments to assist the Parties to the Convention *inter alia* in developing standardized terminology on alien species and present a progress report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its sixth meeting. In annex I to the same decision, which contains the interim guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species, it was noted that terms used in the guiding principles had not yet been defined, pending a decision of the Conference of the Parties.

2. At its sixth meeting, SBSTTA, in considering options for the full implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention, re-examined the guiding principles. In the introduction to the revised guiding principles contained in the annex to its recommendation VI/4, the Subsidiary Body, noting again that terms used in the guiding principles had not yet been defined, pending a decision of the Conference of the Parties,

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

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proposed the definitions from the review of the efficiency and efficacy of existing legal instruments applicable to invasive alien species prepared by the Executive Secretary for the sixth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/5) for the terms “alien” or “alien species”, “invasive alien species”, “introduction”, “intentional introduction”, “unintentional introduction” and “establishment”, to avoid confusion. In addition, SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties request the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to further compile and prepare anthologies of existing terminology used in international instruments relevant to invasive alien species, and to develop, and update as necessary, a non-legally binding list of terms most commonly used.

3. Taking into account the glossaries of GISP contained in the above-mentioned review of the efficiency and efficacy of existing legal instruments applicable to invasive alien species, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and IUCN, Article 3 (Use of terms) of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other relevant documents, as well as comments from the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), the IPPC secretariat and the IPPC Glossary Working Group, the Invasive Species Specialist Group of IUCN, the International Center for Technology Assessment, and the American Lands Alliance, the Executive Secretary is proposing the list of terms in section II below to assist the Conference of the Parties in its discussion on invasive alien species. In addition, a number of endnotes are included to provide some information on equivalent terms from other conventions and processes.

4. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt the list and description of terms in section II below.

## II. USE OF TERMS

*Alien species* 1/ means a species, subspecies, or lower taxon occurring outside of its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential 2/ (i.e. outside the range it occupies naturally or could not occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans), and ; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce. 3/

*Detection* means determination that a species is present in a geographic area 4/, a consignment 5/ or another vector.

*Eradication* 6/ means eliminating the invasive alien species completely 7/ from a geographic area.

*Establishment* 8/ is the process of a species in a new habitat successfully reproducing at a level sufficient to ensure continued survival without infusion of new genetic material from outside the system. 9/

*Intentional introduction* refers to the purposeful movement by humans of a species outside its natural range and dispersal potential (such introductions may be authorized or unauthorized). 10/

*Introduction* 11/ means the movement, 12/ by human agency, 13/ of a species, subspecies, or a lower taxon (including any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules that might survive and subsequently reproduce) outside of its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential. This movement can be either within or between countries. 14/

*Invasive alien species* 15/ refers to an alien species whose introduction and spread threaten ecosystems, habitats or species 16/ with socio-cultural, economic and/or environmental harm, and/or harm to human health.

*Pathways of invasive alien species* refers to any means that allows the entry, spread or establishment of an invasive alien species

*Risk analysis* 17/ refers to the scientific evaluation of the likelihood and consequences (the risk) of the introduction and establishment of an invasive alien species, and the measures that can be implemented to reduce or manage those risks.

*Unintentional introduction* means introduction of a species outside its natural range and its dispersal potential unwittingly by humans or human delivery systems. 18/

#### Notes

1/ Other terms used for alien or alien species include: non-native, exotic, foreign, new and pest. The Glossary Working Group of the IPPC makes the following clarification regarding the meaning and relationship of the terms: the IPPC does not use the term *alien*. The use of the term *new* in IPPC documents is perhaps closest to the concept of alien as expressed in the definition in Section II. The terms *exotic* and *non-native* are also sometimes used by the IPPC and may be considered to be equivalent. In the IPPC “Glossary of phytosanitary terms and definitions”, *exotic* means not native to a particular country, ecosystem or eco-area (applied to organisms intentionally or accidentally introduced as a result of human activities). The Glossary Working Group notes that *exotic* is currently limited to specific usage in the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Publications No. 3 (Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents). However, the Group believes that the IPPC may consider broadening the usage of the term. The Group suggests that *foreign* is inappropriate because it generally implies political boundaries. *Pest* has a very different set of concepts associated with it, in particular the aspect of being harmful. It would not be appropriate to equate *alien species* with *pests* where an alien species is considered beneficial.

2/ IUCN (2002, <http://www.iucn.org>) notes that dispersal potential is included to allow for the natural expansion of a species’ range.

3/ This definition was proposed in SBSTTA recommendation VI/4. The Glossary Working Group of the IPCC notes that there may be an important conceptual point associated with *alien* because, according to the proposed definition, it is only possible for an organism to be considered an alien after being introduced (i.e., after both entry and establishment), and that this is in contrast to the IPPC concept of a *pest*, which relates to the potential for the organism to be harmful to an area (= ecosystem or habitat) whether or not it is introduced. This has practical implications for regulatory purposes since an undesirable organism could not be considered *alien* without first being established outside its natural distribution. The Group therefore suggests that the concept may also need to relate to the potential for introduction. Otherwise, it seems that the concept of *prevention* (= exclusion for IPPC) does not legitimately apply to alien species.

4/ In the IPPC “Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms and Definitions” *area* means an officially defined country, part of a country or all or parts of several countries [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; CEPF, 1999; based on the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures]

5/ The Glossary Working Group of the IPCC suggests the addition of consignment in the description of “detection” to recognize that trade is a pathway for the movement of alien species and the detection of undesirable alien species in consignments is a key factor in preventing their introduction. In the IPPC “Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms and Definitions”, consignment means a quantity of plants, plant products and/or other articles being moved from one country to another and covered, when required,

by a single phytosanitary certificate (a consignment may be composed of one or more commodities or lots)[FAO, 1990; revised ICPM, 2001]. Consignment in transit is a consignment that passes through a country without being imported, and without being exposed in that country to contamination or infestation by pests. The consignment may not be split up, combined with other consignments or have its packaging changed [FAO, 1990; revised CEPM, 1996; CEPM 1999; formerly country of transit]. The Group also notes that the Convention on Biological Diversity may prefer to use *ecosystem or habitat* in place of *area*, to be consistent with the common usage of *ecosystem, habitat, or species* in Convention documents. However, the Group believes that *area* is the most appropriate term for the concept where it refers to a specific geographic zone, and that *ecosystem, habitat, or species* is more appropriate when referring to defined biological relationships. In the IPPC "Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms and Definitions" *area* means an officially defined country, part of a country or all or parts of several countries [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; CEPM, 1999; based on the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures]

6/ In the IPPC "Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms and Definitions", *eradication* means application of phytosanitary measures to eliminate a pest from an area [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; formerly Eradicate]. Suppression refers to the application of phytosanitary measures in an infested area to reduce pest populations [FAO, 1995; revised CEPM, 1999].

7/ In the definitions used by the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) contained in the review of the efficiency and efficacy of existing legal instruments applicable to invasive alien species (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/5).

8/ In the IPPC "Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms and Definitions", *establishment* means perpetuation, for the foreseeable future, of a pest within an area after entry [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; IPPC, 1997]. Entry (of a pest) means movement of a pest into an area where it is not yet present, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled [FAO, 1995].

9/ This definition adopted by the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/5) was proposed in the annex to SBSTTA recommendation VI/4.

10/ This definition was proposed in the annex to SBSTTA recommendation VI/4.

11/ In the IPPC "Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms and Definitions", *introduction* means the entry of a pest resulting in its establishment [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; IPPC, 1997]. The IPPC Glossary Working Group proposed that introduction means movement of a species, subspecies, or a lower taxon into an area where it is not yet present, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled, resulting in its perpetuation for the foreseeable future within the area. See note 4 above, for the definition of *area*.

12/ This is regardless of whether release or establishment is intentional. IUCN notes that this is different from some other context where the term "introduction" does not cover the movement of species unless release and/or establishment follows. However, because the impacts on biodiversity are so devastating and complex if an alien species develops into an invasive one, procedures for authorizing intentional introductions and for preventing and/or intercepting unauthorized and unintentional introductions must be triggered by potential "movement" of an alien species, rather than by potential "establishment".

13/ IUCN specifies that introduction is associated with human agency. There is no natural introduction. If a species uses natural dispersal out of its native range, and its survival does not depend on

human activities, this is a natural expansion of range, not an introduction. If, however, a natural process is used resulting in a second movement after initial introduction, this second movement is still the result of the initial human agency, and it is also an introduction.

14/ The concept of alien species relates to ecological boundaries rather than political ones.

15/ Quarantine pests are a subset of invasive alien species. In the IPPC ‘Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms and Definitions’, pest means any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; IPPC, 1997]. A quarantine pest is a pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; IPPC 1997]. Economic importance is to be understood to include environmental effects. Weeds (synonyms: plant pests, harmful species; problem plants) means plants (not necessarily alien) that grow in sites where they are not wanted and have detectable negative economic or environmental effects; alien weeds are invasive alien species (GISP definition in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/5).

16/ This definition was proposed in the annex to SBSTTA recommendation VI/4. SBSTTA noted in its recommendation VI/4 that for the purposes of the guiding principles, the term “invasive alien species” shall be deemed the same as “alien invasive species” in decision V/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

17/ In the IPPC “Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms and Definitions”, *pest risk analysis* means the process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it [FAO, 1995; revised IPPC, 1997]; *pest risk assessment* (for quarantine pests) means evaluation of the probability of the introduction and spread of a pest and of the associated potential economic consequences [FAO, 1995; revised ISPM Pub. No. 11, 2001]; *pest risk management* (for quarantine pests) means evaluation and selection of options to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of a pest [FAO, 1995; revised ISPM Pub. No. 11, 2001]. The Glossary Working Group of the IPPC notes that risk assessment is a component of risk analysis and should not be used interchangeably with risk analysis.

18/ This definition used by GISP is derived from the definition of “introduction”. It does not include the last part of the definition from IUCN (2000), which was proposed in SBSTTA recommendation VI/4 and refers to the species becoming established.

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