



COMMUNIQUÉ

CBD Secretariat and IUCN sign supplementary agreement for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 regarding invasive species

Montreal, 8 November 2011 –At the margins of the fifteenth meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group, of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) signed a supplementary agreement on 7 November 2011 for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in relation to invasive alien species.

Invasive alien species are recognized as a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Increasing trade and travel means that this threat will likely increase unless additional action is taken. The data on biological invasions, and the capacity to manage and improve border control and quarantine for the alien species, are not yet sufficient in many countries to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 – “By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.”

To support the efforts of Parties, the Convention Secretariat and IUCN have recognized the need for scientific data and technical cooperation to strengthen on-the-ground capacity enabling early detection and rapid response to biological invasions. The IUCN Species Survival Committee Invasive Species Specialists Group and the IUCN Invasive Species Initiative have agreed to work together with the Convention Secretariat to promote implementation to achieve the Target 9 and support relevant initiatives concerning invasive alien species.

Jane Smart, Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group, IUCN, said: “Invasive alien species are a sinister and significant threat to the biodiversity and ecosystem services of this planet, causing serious harm to human health and development, yet by working together with the SCBD and Governments worldwide there is much that can be done to bring their insidious spread under control.”

Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “Invasive alien species is a global issue; however, existing capacity at the local level is not adequate enough to stop it. Both IUCN and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity are strongly committed to assisting Parties in gaining the tools and training to halt biological invasions.”
