



PRESS RELEASE

International Plant Protection Convention Joins Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions

Montreal, 12 September 2014 – The Secretary to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has become the seventh member of the [Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions](#) (BLG), which includes the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the World Heritage Convention (WHC).

The invitation to join the BLG was extended to the IPPC at the ninth ordinary meeting of the BLG, held on 16 August 2014 in Kartause Ittingen, Switzerland, during which information was presented by the IPPC Secretariat about the contribution of the convention to biodiversity.

“The work of the IPPC is complementary to implementation of each of the biodiversity-related conventions” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary for the Convention on Biological Diversity. “We are glad to have the IPPC as a member of the liaison group, as we all work towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.”

The IPPC, the Secretariat of which is hosted by the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#), sets International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), many of which are applicable to actions taken by Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions to prevent the introduction and spread of pests of plants through various pathways such as international trade. The ISPMs can be applied to address the issues related to invasive alien species in terrestrial and aquatic environments, or living modified organisms (LMOs) that may present a phytosanitary risk. The IPPC also has its own strategy and a forum for national capacity development to implement the ISPMs and other obligations under the IPPC.



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Implementation of the ISPMs can support Parties to the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions to achieve, in particular, the Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 that “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”.

Furthermore, implementation of the ISPMs is important for Parties to facilitate their access to international markets, which supports economic development. Since 2005, the CBD and IPPC Secretariats have collaborated under the framework of a Memorandum of Cooperation in the areas of common concern and will further elaborate ways and means to cover the emerging needs with biodiversity concerns.

As a member of the BLG, the IPPC Secretariat can further facilitate engaging the agricultural sector and trade-related sectors to the objectives of the CBD at the international and national levels, and contribute to mainstreaming biodiversity worldwide and achieving the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Notes to Editors

Biodiversity-related Conventions

The [Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions](#) (BLG) comprises the Convention on Biological Diversity, the [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals](#), the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#), the [International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#), the [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#), the [World Heritage Convention](#) and the International Plant Protection Convention. Each of the biodiversity-related conventions works to implement actions at the national, regional and international levels in order to reach shared goals of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. To meet their objectives, the conventions have developed a number of complementary approaches (based on geographic sites, species, genetic resources and/or ecosystem) and operational tools (e.g., programmes of work, trade permits and certificates, multilateral system for access and benefit-sharing, regional agreements, site listings, funds).
BLG: www.cbd.int/blg/

The International Plant Protection Convention

The IPPC is an [international agreement](#) on plant health to which [181 signatories](#) currently adhere. It aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the entry, establishment or spread of pests. The IPPC has four strategic objectives: to protect food security; to protect the environment; to facilitate safe trade; and to facilitate capacity development. The IPPC sets the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) to minimize the risks posed by plant pests, and is recognised as the international standard setting organization in plant health area by the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and

Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) under the World Trade Organization (WTO). Therefore, the ISPMs provide guidance on management of phytosanitary risks associated with international trade to plant life or health in the view of facilitating trade and development among the members of the WTO. The [Secretariat](#) of the IPPC is hosted by [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#). IPPC: www.ippc.int/

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 194 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes for implementation, the transfer of technologies, sharing information on good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a supplementary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to ensure the safe use of LMOs obtained through modern biotechnology and to protect biological diversity from their potential adverse effects. To date, 166 countries plus the European Union are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal, Canada. For more information visit: www.cbd.int.

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