

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PEER REVIEW OF ANNEXES I TO VI OF DECISION 15/27

Background

On February 2023, through notification [017-2023](#), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity invited Parties and Organisations to submit comments for the peer review of annexes I to VI of decision 15/27. In response to this, 26 comments were received, of which, 18 were from Parties and 8 from organisations. The 26 submissions received can be accessed through the following [link](#).

The peer-review process was aimed at contributing to identify gaps of information or factual errors in the content of the annexes, as well as to provide an opportunity to consider the relevance of the annexes in the context of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and, in particular, towards the achievement of Target 6.

This document summarizes preliminary observations from the peer review that could serve as elements of discussion for the Online Forum.

Preliminary observations from the peer review

- *Alignment with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)*

It was noted that, by the time the annexes were drafted, the KMGBF was not in place. Now that it has been adopted, the need to align the text of the annexes with the KMGBF, and in particular Target 6, was noted. Some of the suggestions made in this respect were: to consider an introductory paragraph about the KMGBF, replace language about Aichi target 9 by KMGBF Target 6, to reflect target 6 elements in the text, and to highlight associations with other Targets.

- *Crossovers and linkages between annexes*

Even though the annexes are aimed at providing advice or guidance on specific topics, the cross-cutting nature of the topic of invasive alien species implies that there will be linkages within some of the annexes. Likewise, there are instances where a specific issue is raised on more than one of the annexes. The peer review indicated that these linkages and crossovers could be better reflected in a revised version.

- *Use of terms*

The importance of a consistent use of terms throughout the annexes was pointed out. This applies to terminology used to refer to documents, decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and to

technical terms. Some examples provided were the use of terms such as species, alien species, invasive species, and invasive alien species, which sometimes seem to be used interchangeably in the annexes; or the consideration of the use of the term “management” in addition to “control and eradication”. It was recommended to ensure the correct and consistent use of terms in general, particularly noting the difference between alien species and invasive alien species or potential invasive alien species.

- *Concrete examples*

The need to provide more specific examples of tools and resources that are in line with what the annexes are covering was noted. This was particularly noted for Annex I on methods for cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis which best apply to the management of invasive alien species.

- *Scope of prioritization*

The issue and importance of prioritization for the work on invasive alien species is noted on some of the annexes, as well as in target 6 of the KMGBF. It was noted that the annexes would benefit from recognizing that prioritization is needed at various levels, for instance, species, areas/sites and pathways, and that methods and data needs for each of these are often quite different.

- *Emphasis on prevention*

It was noted that the document appears to focus more on response strategies, despite the importance of prevention actions and strategies. In this sense, it was suggested that the document could benefit from a broader consideration of the role of prevention strategies and actions, including different elements such as prioritization, identification, etc.

- *Databases*

For databases operation, in particular those providing information useful for the area of invasive alien species, it was noted that the establishment of international data standards could be instrumental for the interoperability of various systems and for collecting and sharing data in a way that can be used more broadly.

- *Reference to the One Health approach*

Considering the role that invasive alien species could play on health and biodiversity linkages, for instance as potential vectors of diseases, the need to state the importance to consider the One Health approach when dealing with invasive alien species was noted.

- *Coordination mechanisms for commerce and trade*

Coordination mechanisms among authorities responsible for international commerce is key. In this regard, it was suggested that countries should establish coordination mechanisms to exchange information about potential risks that would have a broader focus than traditional areas of concern such as soils, growing media, aquatic plants or live animals; and that these mechanisms should consider commerce in other areas such as forestry products and ornamental plant trade. It was also noted that these mechanisms should include not only efficient detection alerts at points of entry/exit of merchandises or commodities of concern, but protocols or procedures on how to proceed if something is detected. The need to also establish mechanisms to tackle illicit trade (as a pathway for invasive alien species dissemination) was also mentioned.

- *The role of new technologies*

It is recognised that new technological developments can play a key role in supporting the work to address invasive alien species. It was noted as important to consider the role of new technologies on various processes related to the prevention, management, control, and eradication of invasive alien species. Some examples provided were technologies for detection and identification.

- *The importance of capacity building*

Considering the enormous challenge associated with global action on invasive alien species, and including achievement of Target 6 of the KMGBF, the peer review indicated that it will be necessary to implement joint capacity building actions among countries and with private and non-governmental organizations, in order to share best practices and expertise.

- *Format and length of the annexes*

It was noted that the compilation of the annexes into a single guidance document (e.g compendium) could be useful. Likewise, the differences in length of the various annexes was also pointed out as a potential area for improvement.