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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
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Agenda item 5

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

XX/7. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Welcomes* the report of the expert meeting on alien species in wildlife trade, experiences in the use of biological control agents and development of decision support tools for management of invasive alien species;[1]

2. *Notes* the progress of the entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention).

The Subsidiary Body recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its provisions related to Article 8(h) of the Convention and existing standards, guidelines and recommendations under the international regulatory framework relevant to invasive alien species,

Also recalling decisions VI/23[*] and X/2 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9,

[1] UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/31.

[*] One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of decision VI/23 and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of decision VI/23 (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

Additional ways and means to address the risks associated with trade in wildlife

Recognizing that the Guidance on Devising and Implementing Measures to Address the Risks Associated with the Introduction of Alien Species as Pets, Aquarium and Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food, is an effective tool to address the risks associated with the trade in wildlife;

Also recognizing the need to supplement the existing Guidance mentioned above to consider unintentional introductions of invasive alien species, through "hitchhikers" or contaminants, and materials associated with the trade in live alien species, such as packing material, substrate or food;

1. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, consumers and traders to make use of the Guidance annexed to decision XII/16 to address, mutatis mutandis, the risks associated with trade in wildlife;

2. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to review, as necessary, their national regulatory framework in order to develop and implement measures to ensure the safe import and prevention of spread of wildlife species and associated materials (such as packaging material and food) that can be pathways of introduction for invasive species, making use of appropriate risk analysis processes, as well as tools such as horizon scanning, which could consider drivers of trade, future trade patterns and potentially invasive alien species that may enter through trade;

3. *Encourages* actors in trade and industry to apply the voluntary measures indicated in the Guidance annexed to decision XII/16, mutatis mutandis, when trade in wildlife takes place, for example the use of labelling on consignments of live alien species to identify it as a potential hazard for biodiversity and the proper identification of species with the scientific name, taxonomic serial number or its equivalent;

4. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including research organizations, to explore, develop and apply ways and means to promote changes in the behaviour of individuals so as to reduce the risks to biodiversity associated with legal trade, and prevent instances of illegal trade, in wildlife, including through engagement with the social sciences and the use of social media in targeted awareness campaigns, and through cooperation with wildlife trade organizations;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with member organizations of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species, to prepare draft supplemental guidance to incorporate unintentional introductions as mentioned in the fourth preambular paragraph above, to the existing Guidance on Devising and Implementing Measures to Address the Risks Associated with the Introduction of Alien Species as Pets, Aquarium and Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Invites* the members of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership and other organizations that manage databases pertaining to trade in wild animals and plants, in collaboration with Parties and other Governments, to further develop mechanisms to exchange information on the identification of potential invasive alien species and their vectors in trade, and to facilitate the exchange of this information among Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations;

Reducing the risk associated with trade in invasive alien species sold via e-commerce

7. *Encourages* Parties, and *invites* other Governments, relevant international organizations, consumers and e-commerce traders, as appropriate, with a view to reducing the risk associated with trade in invasive alien species sold via e-commerce:

(a) To promote greater awareness among consumers, e-commerce traders and other stakeholders about the risks of biological invasions, and the relevant international standards and national regulations through, among other things, e-commerce market places and related social media;

(b) To review the risk of biological invasions, and associated sanitary and phytosanitary risks, posed by some forms of distance selling and, as appropriate, endeavour to develop suitable measures and guidance to minimize the risks of introduction of invasive alien species, consistent with international obligations;

(c) To consider using, or promoting the use of, the Single Window approach of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in order to facilitate reporting on the trade in regulated live species via e-commerce;

(d) To collaborate with e-commerce traders in the development of new necessary measures to reduce the risk of potentially invasive alien species arising from e-commerce, which could further support compliance with existing national trade regulations pertaining to invasive alien species;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To explore with the World Customs Organization, as well as member organizations of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species, the need for tools or guidance for Parties that may assist national customs authorities in facilitating the necessary control of live alien species via e-commerce, building on the national experience of legislation related to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and its enforcement, and to develop such tools or guidance, where appropriate;

(b) To report on progress in the development of any such tools or guidance to the Subsidiary Body on Technical, Technological and Scientific Advice at a meeting held prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Reducing the risk of invasive alien species moving with sea containers

9. *Welcomes* the revised IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units and the recommendations of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures at its tenth session that are related to prevention and minimization of the risk of invasive alien species spreading with sea containers;

10. *Invites* Parties and other Governments:

(a) To communicate and raise awareness about the risk of invasive alien species spread via sea containers, particularly with stakeholders involved in the packing or movement of sea containers;

(b) To make use of and raise awareness of the relevant parts of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units, as appropriate;

(c) To collect information, as appropriate, on the movement of invasive alien species attached to sea containers, in addition to those with the cargo transported within the sea containers, and to share such information with the view to analysing, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, the potential risk of invasive alien species spread via sea containers and take proportionate actions to mitigate this risk;

Biological control of invasive alien species

Recognizing that classical biological control can be an effective measure to manage already established invasive alien species, that the use of biological control agents could also present direct and indirect risks to non-target organisms and ecosystems, and that these risks should be addressed by applying the precautionary approach, in line with the preamble of the Convention and appropriate procedures, including comprehensive risk analysis,

11. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, when using classical biological control to manage already established invasive alien species, to apply the precautionary approach and appropriate risk analysis, including the elaboration of contingency plans, taking into account the summary of technical considerations annexed to the present decision as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* Parties and invites other Governments, where applicable, to engage subnational governments and consult and inform potentially impacted countries when planning and carrying out a classical biological control programme targeting specific invasive alien species;

13. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and as appropriate, standard-setting bodies recognized by the World Trade Organization, and other relevant organizations:

(a) To adapt, improve or further develop tools, including decision support tools, for better development and application of biological control programmes against invasive alien species, including prioritization based on impact, feasibility and likelihood of success of biological control, and the selection of the biological control agents;

(b) To compile this information and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other means;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to further collaborate with the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, other members of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species and other relevant organizations, such as the International Organization for Biological Control, to identify options for supplementing risk assessment and risk management standards for the use of biological control agents against invasive alien species, including in aquatic environments, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Technical, Technological and Scientific Advice at a meeting held prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Decision support tools

15. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, further to decisions IX/4 A, X/38, XI/28 and XII/17 and subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with partner organizations and interested or concerned Parties:

(a) To continue to compile or develop and maintain decision support tools in a coordinated manner with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, making use of the scoping report for a thematic assessment on invasive alien species to facilitate implementation and make those tools available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention;

(b) To develop technical guidance for conducting cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis for the management of invasive alien species for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Technical, Technological and Scientific Advice at a meeting held prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(c) To develop guidance on invasive alien species management that takes into consideration the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and land-use change on the management of biological invasions;

16. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to consider the balance between the environmental, social and economic costs and benefits related to invasive alien species and remedial actions, in decision making on introduction, eradication, containment, mitigation or control of invasive alien species, making use, as appropriate, of the report on methodological assessment of scenarios and models of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

17. *Also invites* Parties and other Governments to adopt a participatory process by identifying and engaging indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders from an early stage, and to develop and use participatory decision support tools to increase transparency in decision-making;

Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9

18. *Welcomes* the work done by the experts of the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to develop methodologies for prioritizing the pathways of introduction of invasive alien species as presented in the note by the Executive Secretary,[2] *invites* Parties and other Governments to apply these methods, and *invites* the International Union for Conservation of Nature to complete its work on developing these methodologies, and to present them to a future meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

19. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to submit information on:

(a) Experiences, best practices and lessons learned in their work, including information on progress in implementation;

(b) Gaps in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, especially on the application of methods for pathway analysis and prioritization of invasive alien species;

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to make the information requested in paragraph 19 above available through the clearing-house mechanism and other means and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Technical, Technological and Scientific Advice at a meeting held prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

[2] UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/5.

21. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to cooperate with the private sector in order to address invasive alien species, and *invites* the private sector to consider contributing to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 in their corporate practices;

22. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, other organizations and the scientific community, recalling decision XII/17, paragraphs 6(a)-(n), to continue developing strategies and take actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, and to continue investing resources in the development and circulation of new knowledge on alien species and pathways, particularly through relevant existing tools, such as the Global Invasive Species Database of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Invasive Alien Species Pathways tool (under development) and the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species implemented within the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership, as appropriate.

Annex

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE USE OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS TO MANAGE INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Classical biological control

1. For the purpose of this summary, classical biological control is the control of invasive alien species by biological control agents or host-specific natural enemies. Such natural enemies from the country of origin of the invasive alien species targeted for control are identified, and subjected to risk assessment against direct and indirect non-target impacts, in line with national law and international standards. If the results of the risk assessment are acceptable, the biological control agents are imported, further tested and released to control the invasive alien species. The biological control agents are expected to establish permanently from the founder population released, and to reproduce and spread, causing suppression or weakening of the target organism. Successful classical biological control assists mitigation of the negative impacts of invasive alien species and may expedite the restoration of biodiversity but rarely leads to the complete eradication of a target species. Biological control should be carried out as part of an integrated management approach in the context of clear goals for conservation and restoration.

Precautionary approach and risk assessment and management

2. Risk assessment, reflecting the precautionary approach, of candidate biological control agents against direct and indirect non-target impacts, prior to any release decision, is key for the success of classical biological control programmes.

3. Risk assessment affords a clear understanding of the risks and allows improvements to be understood and adopted. Internationally harmonized guidance, such as that provided in the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) related to the pest risk analysis process (including ISPM 2, 3, 11), provides readily available guidance for this purpose.

4. [Consistent with existing standards, guidelines or recommendations recognized by the World Trade Organization, risk assessments should consider the following elements:

(a) The potential for direct and indirect non-target impacts on the ecosystems, habitats, native species, and related human health and safety, in the area where the biological control agents are planned to be released and could establish;

(b) The potential for indirect non-target impacts on the ecosystems, ecosystem functions and services, human health and safety, and social, economic and culture values in the areas where the biological control agents are planned to be released, and in areas in which they might spread;

(c) The potential influence of climate and its current and future variability and other sources of environmental variation on the establishment, spread and impact of the biological control agent;

(d) The risks to ecosystem functions and services, social, economic and cultural issues, including the values and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities.]

5. When considering the risks as well as costs and benefits of a proposed release of a biological control agent, the risks and costs of inaction or comparative risks from other approaches, such as the use of chemicals or toxins to reduce an invasive alien species population, should also be considered and assessed.

6. The following procedures should be considered to minimize risks to biological diversity and human health and ensure maximum potential for success:

(a) Quarantine infrastructure of sufficient standard and appropriate standard operating procedures should be available to ensure that the agents can be safely imported, tested and cleaned of any diseases and parasites before any releases are made;

(b) Host selection and host specificity testing and efficacy studies of biological control agents should take place either in the country of origin or in an appropriately registered quarantine facility within the country of introduction;

(c) Qualified taxonomists, including experts in phylogenetic analysis, should be involved in the selection and testing to correctly identify all potential biocontrol agents and the species undergoing the testing;

(d) Shipments of live biological control agents conform to applicable national (origin, destination and transit countries) and international regulations, and permits for the import of live organisms include appropriate labelling. This is generally a requirement of all shipping and courier companies;

(e) International regulations, procedures and agreements, such as the Nagoya Protocol to the extent it applies, should be followed in research and development regarding biological control agents.

7. [Social factors should be addressed, including any alternative views regarding the control of the target alien species, as well as providing clear, simple information to the community regarding the costs, benefits and timelines for the use of biological control in order to build public understanding and support.]

Planning and implementation of biological control programmes

8. The following planning and implementation measures should be taken into account:

(a) Carrying out biological control programmes in the context of clear environmental conservation and restoration goals and as part of an integrated management approach, consistent with the precautionary approach and by undertaking appropriate risk analysis, and the Ecosystem Approach and its 12 principles;

(b) Availability of substantial initial investments for exploration, risk analysis and quarantine facilities, as well as sustainable long-term funding to support mass rearing and redistribution of biological control agents and post-release monitoring and surveillance;

(c) Full engagement by the State authority for the management of pests and pathogens and of appropriate State regulators responsible for release decisions, including consultation and collaboration across sectors, such as the agricultural, environmental, health sectors and border services, as well as between the private and public sector;

(d) Engagement of all relevant stakeholders, at the cross-jurisdictional, cross-sectoral, and community levels, regarding their varying views on goals, collaborative sharing of knowledge, experience, distribution of benefits and costs, and capacity development.

9. Countries planning to release biological control agents are urged to inform potentially impacted countries and, if they might be affected by a release, consult with them at an early stage in the planning process and prior to any release. Notification and consultation with the potentially impacted countries are necessary in order to inform them of potential benefits and risks, and to promote consultation and participation of potentially affected countries, in the decision processes, as well as to ensure the development of effective and beneficial biological control methods.

Post-release monitoring, emergency plan and rapid response

10. Post-release monitoring allows for rapid detection and measurement of any predicted, unpredicted direct or indirect negative impacts of the agents on biodiversity or agriculture and can assist emergency planning and rapid response. All biological control programmes should incorporate long-term monitoring and evaluation of impacts (positive or negative) using standardized and cost-effective methodologies.

11. Sharing post-release monitoring information widely, including with potentially impacted countries and other experts, can support the improvement of biological control programmes elsewhere and the approaches adopted in the face of climate variability, fluctuations and changes.

Decisions on release of biological control agents

12. [For decisions regarding biological control programmes, participatory decision-making is an essential factor for engaging support and success. This includes the communication of information on risks and options for their management. This process is most usefully initiated at the early stage of the development of a biological control programme to ensure that the interests of all relevant stakeholders, including cultural interests, are considered in view of the conservation goals set for the specific programme.]

13. The provision of relevant scientific information for potentially impacted countries prior to the approval of the release of biological control agents is necessary in order to support regional consultation and the sharing of relevant knowledge, and allows relevant stakeholders to contribute to the decision-making process and prepare for any potential negative impacts.

Capacity development

14. Technical and scientific cooperation to develop capacities in classical biological control, including scientific understanding, the regulatory process, and the training of skilled staff, is crucial for the success of biological control programmes.

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