

INTER-AGENCY LIAISON GROUP ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MODUS
OPERANDI

(Modified: 2013-02-28, Rome, Italy; 2019-06-04 Paris, France)

- (1) The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 – 2020 the United Nations-Decade of Biodiversity (Bonn, Germany, January 2011). By doing so, the United Nations emphasized the ecological, economic, cultural, social and aesthetic dimension of biodiversity and its overall significance for sustainable development. The UN Decade aims to make a contribution to achieving the revised and updated global biodiversity targets agreed at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). The biodiversity targets and a new strategy take into consideration the ongoing biodiversity loss on a global scale.
- (2) Invasive alien species are a major and growing driver of biodiversity loss, also causing severe impacts on many aspects of human wellbeing as well as affecting multiple sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, transport and trade.
- (3) The Executive Secretary of the CBD invited several international organizations to form an Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS).¹
- (4) The Terms of Reference & Modus Operandi were revised by agreement among the liaison group at its fourth meeting in Rome on 28 February – 1 March 2013. The general purpose of the Liaison Group is to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. In the period up to 2020 the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in particular Aichi Target 9, will provide the main focus of the work of this group.
- (5) The Liaison Group will work by exchanging information on relevant policies and activities to ensure that they are complementary so as to optimize efficiency, build synergies and avoid any unnecessary duplications.
- (6) Specifically the Liaison Group will aim: 1. To address the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species; 2. To promote inter-sectoral cooperation and capacity-development activities for the prevention, control and mitigation of invasive alien species; 3. To raise awareness across the multiple sectors on the impacts of invasive alien species and on the best practices for addressing the issue; 4. To promote cooperation at all levels, and specifically at the national level, through each organization's national and regional focal points or the equivalents; 5. To promote cooperation in the gathering, access and use of relevant and reliable information.

¹ Group formed pursuant to decision IX/4 A of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD

(7) The secretariats of the following international organizations participate in the liaison group as core members:

- The Centre for Agricultural Biosciences International (CABI)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- The International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- The World Customs Organization (WCO)
- The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- The World Trade Organization (WTO)

(8) Further membership may be decided by the Liaison Group and additional organizations may be invited to participate in the meetings and work of the Group.

(9) Each organization shall identify one or more representatives to participate in the meetings of the Liaison Group and each organization shall determine a focal point to ensure communication between meetings.

(10) Meetings of the Liaison Group may be held using modern technologies or face-to-face meetings, as needed and will be convened by the member organizations, preferably on a rotational basis. The convening organization will act as the secretariat of the Liaison Group during the intersessional period, supported by other members as needed. The convening organization can arrange teleconferences or e-mail exchanges, will prepare a draft agenda at least one month in advance of the meeting, chair the meeting and prepare and finalize the report, within one month after the end of the meeting. The responsibility of the convening organization will be transferred at the end of each meeting.

(11) The CBD Secretariat will provide a public web site² where updated terms of reference, final reports and other official documentation as finalized by the Liaison Group will be posted.

² <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/lg>