

DRAFT FOR PEER REVIEW

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

BACKGROUND

1. In paragraph 5 of decision [14/11](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the same decision, to ensure timely provision of advice on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, and wherever possible, meet back-to-back with other relevant meetings, and requested the Executive Secretary to convene a moderated open online discussion forum to support the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group.

2. In annex II to decision 14/11 the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species was requested to address matters that are not covered by the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Building on the work of the moderated online forum, and knowledge and experience accumulated in various different sectors, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group provided advice or developed elements of technical guidance on management measures on invasive alien species to be implemented by broad sectors to facilitate achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and beyond:

(a) Methods for cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis which best apply to the management of invasive alien species;

(b) Methods, tools and measures for identification and minimization of additional risks associated with cross-border e-commerce in live organisms and the impacts thereof;

(c) Methods, tools and strategies for the management of invasive alien species as it relates to prevention of potential risks arising from climate change and associated natural disasters and land-use changes;

(d) Risk analysis on the potential consequences of the introduction of invasive alien species on social, economic and cultural values;

(e) Use of existing databases on invasive alien species and their impacts, to support risk communication.

3. Further, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 13(a) of the same decision, requested the Executive Secretary to explore with the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the World Customs Organization and the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, the possibility of developing a system of classification and labelling, consistent and in harmony with international agreements, for consignments of living organisms that pose a hazard or risk to biological diversity related to invasive alien species, supplementary to and in line with existing international standards,

and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary convened the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species in Montreal, Canada from 2 to 4 December 2019 and prepared this document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The full report of the AHTEG is provided as an information document (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/X). The detailed advices and elements of technical guidance on management measures on invasive alien species considered by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will be shown in CBD/SBSTTA/24/X/Add.1.

5. Section I of this document presents main conclusions of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species extracted from its report mentioned in paragraph 4, above, and the progress on classification and labelling for consignments of living organisms that pose a hazard or risk to biological diversity relating to invasive alien species is described in Section II. Section III contains suggested recommendations for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

I. MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

6. **A. *Methods for Cost-benefit and cost effectiveness analysis which best apply to the management of invasive alien species***

7. Collection and review of the accumulated best practices on cost-benefit and cost effectiveness analysis with adaptation to the national circumstances is an appropriate approach to undertake the analysis. The goal of such analyses is to prioritize and select the best option of invasive alien species management, taking into account the assessed biological invasion risks and also potential consequence in social, economic and cultural values.

8. It is critical to provide a guidance to decision makers to undertake multi-criteria decision process, applying risk analysis, cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses to support risk-based prioritization.

B. *Methods, tools and measures for identification and minimization of additional risks associated with cross-border e-commerce in live organisms and the impacts thereof*

9. To address the additional risks associated with e-commerce in live organisms and the impacts thereof, following actions are necessary:

(a) Legislations and policy setting on risks posed by all forms of e-commerce, including illegal cross-border trade in living organisms, and purchasing and receiving high-risk alien species arriving in a distinct biogeographic area;

(b) Setting risk reduction measures, including:

- (i) National or regional import/export requirements on high risk alien species;
- (ii) Information dissemination on the import/export requirements using Single Windows approach or equivalent means;
- (iii) Risk-based and non-intrusive border inspection on consignments of living organisms, such as the use of scanner, sniffer dogs and automated biosensors;
- (iv) Risk communication on trade in living organisms and associated high risk materials in their consignments as environmentally hazardous articles and their potential impacts on biodiversity; and

- (v) Engagement of all e-commerce stakeholders, including sellers / vendors, e-commerce platforms, marketplaces, buyer/consumer, brokers, express carriers, logistic providers, postal operators, and payment providers, for promotion of safe and responsible e-commerce and safe transport and handling of living organisms sold via e-commerce.
- (c) Providing advice to E-commerce platforms and e-payment service providers, postal and express courier services to adhere the guidance on invasive alien species¹ in their operations, in consistent with other international obligations, inter alia, the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the World Customs Organization Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce and its Package;
- (d) Note that there is a need for effective implementation of the concept of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) using the criteria and requirement being developed by the World Customs Organization for cross border E-commerce, to the point of invasive alien species;
- (e) Building on the frameworks, Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT)² and Socio-economic impact classification of alien taxa (SEICAT)³, relevant international expert organizations should collaborate to develop an international risk-based classification of living organisms sold via e-commerce.

C. *Methods, tools and strategies for the management of invasive alien species as it relates to prevention of potential risks arising from climate change and associated natural disasters and land use changes*

10. Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders need to undertake following actions to address the potential risks arising from climate change and associated natural disasters and land use changes by broad sectors with participation of indigenous peoples and local communities:

- (a) Horizon scanning on introduction of alien species under climate change and associated natural disasters and land use changes;
- (b) Integration of risk analyses on alien species and their pathways into multi-criteria decision-making process related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as responses to natural disasters and land use changes;
- (c) Prioritization of areas vulnerable to invasive alien species which may further adversely be impacted by climate change and associated natural disasters and land use changes;
- (d) Development of user-friendly tools and training opportunities how to use them, for the users, to apply prediction models on invasive alien species, responding to climate change scenarios, in particular for developing countries;
- (e) Fine-tuning on invasive alien species risk analysis within the known climate change scenarios, taking into account those alien species whose population persistence is limited

¹ Annexes to decision VI/23*, XII/16, XIII/13 and 14/11

* One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision 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 this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

² IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa, <https://ipbes.net/policy-support/tools-instruments/environmental-impact-classification-alien-taxa-eicat>

³ Socio-economic impact classification of alien taxa, <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/2041-210X.12844>

under the present climate but predicted to exhibit greater rates of establishment under climate change (sleeper species), as well as fire enhancing plants and saline tolerant invaders, and their long-term monitoring and reporting;

- (f) Trainings targeting emergency relief /development assistance agencies on identification / detection of invasive alien species and applying rapid response measures to promote responsible operation and avoid unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species;
- (g) Spatial planning to contain or relocate high risk alien species in areas prone to extreme weather events, including ex-situ conservation facilities, e.g. zoos, aquaria, botanical gardens, research institutions, in order to prevent escapes and unintentional spread of alien species caused by natural disasters;
- (h) Safe and responsible conservation programme on vulnerable species to climate change with risk analysis to prevent that any relocated species become invasive after establishment in the new area;
- (i) Actions that promote the long-term functional resilience of ecosystems and habitats to respond to climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters and associated invasive alien species incursions, particularly in islands and coastal systems;
- (j) Development of positive incentive programmes to address invasive alien species under climate change and associated natural disasters and land use changes in the projects to be supported by, inter alia, Global Environment Facility, Clean Development Mechanism and Green Climate Fund.

D. Risk analysis on the potential consequences of the introduction of invasive alien species on social, economic and cultural values

11. Information on best practices shows that risk communication with relevant stakeholders on the consequence on social, economic and cultural values can cover the issue within the risk analysis process. Science-based risk assessment and clear communication on the assessed risk on ecosystems, habitats or native species and appropriate risk reduction measures should be informed to all relevant stakeholders in the society and economy, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in order to implement risk reduction measures by broad sectors, effectively and collaboratively.

E. Use of existing databases on invasive alien species and their impacts, to support risk communication

12. A platform that provides comprehensive information on invasive alien species, e.g. geographic distribution, impacts, management and other aspects of information essential and applicable for multi-criteria decision making can advance the evidence-based prioritization and setting measures on invasive alien species.

13. Existing databases need to be further improved in their contents to cover the entire range of known invasive alien taxa with emphasis of filling information gap in marine invertebrates, microorganisms and fungi. Further, results of risk assessments, impact assessments, their management practices, including policy and regulation setting and indicators on the policy response need to be made more accessible and searchable by the public. Such databases should be continuously updated and made open to access for wide range of users working on invasive alien species.

14. Global invasive alien species data aggregator is needed to collect and make those existing datasets accessible, which can be established by collaboration of expert organizations of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership and beyond. The global data aggregator should provide easy-to-use interface for accessing information on policy / regulation and response decision at the national or regional level, as well as biological, biogeographical and temporal information on invasive alien species.

F. Additional technical advices

15. Measures to reduce the risk of biological invasions posed by trade in living organisms is urged to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. It is also important to comply with other international obligations and existing international standards relevant to invasive alien species while applying such measures.
16. Enhanced collaboration among: (i) national biodiversity/environment authority; (ii) National Plant Protection Organization; and (iii) national veterinary authority is critical to regulate import/export of living organisms through the application of measures recognized under the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement).
17. Although the SPS Agreement does not explicitly indicate measures to address (i) invasive alien species; (ii) wildlife pathogens; (iii) disease vectors in wildlife; and (iv) other harmful organisms to biodiversity that are not recognized as pests under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) or the OIE listed diseases under the World Organization for Animal Health, development of explanatory guidance on applicable sanitary and phytosanitary measures and its notification system are important for Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to set appropriate legislation and regulations to prevent high risk alien species enter and spread via international trade.
18. To address invasive aquatic species, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Governments need to explore means of ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments and Guidelines for the Control and Management of Biofouling under the International Maritime Organization, if not have done so.
19. Regional collaboration for monitoring on invasive alien species in inter-basin water channels is important to be promoted. Appropriate planning, development and management of inland waterway at the regional level is advised to include establishment of collaborative systems for early detection and rapid response to invasive aquatic species;
20. International aid programmes, emergency relief and response activities should ensure avoiding introduction of invasive alien species through contaminants and stowaways.
21. It is vital to develop globally harmonized measures to prevent stowaways of alien species through air containers and sea containers.
22. It is also vital to address the increasing cases of spread of invasive alien species associated with tourism.
23. Building on the previous work done by the Secretariat in compiling the toolkit⁴ to facilitate the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, development of explanatory materials on the following is advised:
 - (a) Explanatory guide on application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures to prevent spread of invasive alien species;
 - (b) Multi-criteria decision support manual for policy makers;
 - (c) Technical learning materials for taxonomic identification of alien species, e.g. DNA barcoding; Artificial Intelligence aided species identification and other relevant advanced technologies;
 - (d) Manuals on how to share invasive alien species data and information with globally agreed data exchange protocol(s);

⁴ A toolkit to facilitate Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on invasive alien species (Prototype)
<https://www.cbd.int/invasive/cbdtoolkit/>

- (e) Technical advice covering best practices on successful eradications;
- (f) A model regulatory act on invasive alien species with shared responsibility among broad sectors;

Management manuals for broad sectors to communicate on invasive alien species among different stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities.

II. PROGRESS ON CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING FOR CONSIGNMENTS OF LIVING ORGANISMS

24. In response to paragraph 13 (a) of decision 14/11 the Secretariat, in collaboration with members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, including the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organization for Animal Health, the World Customs Organization, the CAB International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, submitted an informal document on *Environmentally hazardous articles (living organisms)*⁵ at its fifty fifth session of the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods held in Geneva, Switzerland from 1 to 5 July 2019.

25. The Sub-Committee noted the request from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to explore the inclusion of environmentally hazardous living organisms into chapter 2.9, class 9 to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species. It was recommended to resume consideration of this subject at the forthcoming session of the Sub-Committee.

26. At its 10th meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species held at the headquarters of the World Organization for Animal Health in Paris, France from 4 to 5 June 2019, the World Customs Organization became a member for the Group.

27. The World Customs Organization published Technical Specifications under the WCO Framework of Standards on Cross-border E-Commerce (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/XX) in June 2019. In its chapter 8.1.3 List of Prohibited and Restricted Goods, the following items are included: living organisms, invasive alien species, pests, pathogens and products derived from animals, plants and fungi that may carry the risk of biological invasions in importing countries are included to safeguard the E-Commerce supply chain.

III. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice,

Recognizing the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species, and *considering* the importance of globally harmonized measures to be implemented by broad sectors,

1. *Welcomes* the report of Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species contained in CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/X.
2. *Adopts* the outcomes of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species, contained in Section I of this note, as elements of technical guidance as described in Annex II to decision 14/11.
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other experts, to continue dialog with the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to further solicit the inclusion of environmentally hazardous living organisms into chapter 2.9, class 9 of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

⁵ Environmentally hazardous articles (living organisms) UN/SCETDG/55/INF.46 accessible at <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2019/dgac10c3/UN-SCETDG-55-INF46e.pdf>

4. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the increasing volume of consignments containing living organisms, internationally,

Considering anthropogenic changes in the environment adds further complexity in the phenomena of biological invasions and biodiversity facing them, and *emphasizing* the need of collaboration among broad sectors,

5. *Welcomes* the report of Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group contained in CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/XI, and *adopts* the elements of technical guidance as outcomes of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species contained in Section I of this note;
 6. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to enhance the implementation, by broad sectors, of measures relevant to invasive alien species and their pathways using existing globally harmonized measures;
 7. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to continue to support and promote scientific researches on biological invasions, including studies in social, economic and cultural values, and *encourages* experts and relevant organizations to make scientific evidence on biological invasions, tools and explanatory materials accessible for the public, in order for enabling multi-criteria decision making and evidence based implementation to prevent introduction and spread of invasive alien species at all levels.
 8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To submit a proposal to the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) on a globally harmonized labelling on consignments of environmentally hazardous living organisms, in consultation with the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and the Secretariat of the TDG Sub-Committee;
 - (b) To develop tools and guidance, in collaboration with relevant expert organizations, based on the outcomes of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species contained in Section I of this note, and report on the deliverables the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) To inform the World Trade Organization Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) and those governing bodies of relevant international standard setting organizations about the guidance to prevent the risks and impacts of invasive alien species adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
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