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**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY TO
THE COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES AT ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP13), the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP COP-MOP 8), and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP COP-MOP 2) were held concurrently in Cancun, Mexico from 4 to 17 December 2016.

2. The present report provides an overview of activities, which were undertaken by Parties to the CBD and the Secretariat of the CBD in response to the decisions of the concurrent meetings, that may be of relevance to the International Plant Protection Convention (Section II), and provides an overview of collaborative activities undertaken by the Secretariats of the IPPC and the CBD during the intersessional period between the twelfth and the thirteen sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures presented (section III).

**II. SUMMARY OF THE RELEVANT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY PARTIES TO
THE CBD AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CBD IN RELATION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION**

Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

3. In decision XIII/1,¹ the Conference of the Parties addressed, among other things, the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.² In decision XIII/3,³ the Conference of the Parties addressed strengthening the mainstreaming of biodiversity through relevant international processes, including: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals; cross-sectoral mainstreaming; sector-specific mainstreaming with regard to agriculture, forests, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism; and the engagement of key actors to enhance mainstreaming, including business, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, the scientific community and with regard to gender mainstreaming.

4. A total of 154 Parties to the CBD revised or updated their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and set national targets or similar commitments and mapped them against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Overall, the majority of national targets and/or commitments contained in the NBSAPs were lower than the Aichi Targets or did not address all of the elements of the Aichi Target. These commitments and efforts will need to be significantly scaled up if the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, more generally, are to be met. The information from this analysis is broadly consistent with the information presented in the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which concluded that, while progress is being made towards the achievement of all targets, progress is not sufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and additional action is required to keep the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 on course.

¹ Decision XIII/1 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-01-en.pdf>

² Decision X/2 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-02-en.pdf>

³ Decision XIII/3, Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-03-en.doc>

Invasive alien species

5. In decision XIII/13,⁴ the Executive Secretary of the CBD was requested to prepare, in collaboration with the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species, draft supplemental guidance on unintentional introduction of alien species as “hitchhikers” or contaminants, and materials associated with the trade in live alien species, such as packing material, substrate or food. Accordingly, the Secretariat of the CBD sent notifications 2017-056¹ and 2017-074² seeking relevant information from Parties and observers; convened the eighth meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (Brussel, Belgium 22-23 November 2017); and organized an informal Expert Workshop (Montreal, Canada 6-8 December 2017). The resulting draft supplemental guidance will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty second meeting.⁵

6. Further in decision XIII/13, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to explore with the World Customs Organization, as well as member organizations of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, in which the Secretariat of IPPC is a member, 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, and to develop such tools or guidance where appropriate.

7. In this context, the Secretariat of the CBD participated the World Customs Organization Working Group on E-Commerce Sub-groups meeting held in Brussels, Belgium, 23-25 January 2018, and submitted information to the first Global Cross-border E-Commerce Conference in Beijing, China, 9-10 February 2018 to draft the WCO Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework (E-Commerce Framework). To date, the draft E-Commerce Framework contains a guidance on safety and security section to address invasive alien species, in addition to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Pending the endorsement of the E-Commerce Framework by the third meeting of the Working Group on E-Commerce, the Framework will be finalized by the Policy Commission of the World Customs Organization in June 2018.

8. Under the auspice of the Convention Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership has published Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) in which data was validated by experts in each country and made data available at <http://griis.org> and https://www.gbif.org/dataset/search?publishing_org=cdef28b1-db4e-4c58-aa71-3c5238c2d0b5. In addition, Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT) data standard was developed by the International Union of Conservation of Nature, Invasive Species Specialist Group⁶.

Synthetic biology

9. In decision XIII/17, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on synthetic biology reaffirming its earlier decision (decision XII/24), in which it urged Parties and invited other Governments to take a precautionary approach with regards to synthetic biology. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities to submit to the Executive Secretary information and supporting documentation on synthetic biology and encouraged the undertaking of activities related to research, dialogue and awareness-raising, and cooperation in the development of guidance and capacity-building. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to the decision, and the open-ended online forum to support the work of the AHTEG on Synthetic Biology.

⁴ Decision XIII/13, Invasive alien species: addressing risks associated with trade, experiences in the use of biological control agents, and decision support tools, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-13-en.doc>

⁵ UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/22/11 <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-22>

⁶ https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/eicat_standard_version_1_may_2017.pdf

10. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary established a process comprising: (a) the submission of information on synthetic biology; (b) an open-ended online forum with discussions on specific topics of synthetic biology; (c) one face-to-face meeting of the AHTEG on Synthetic Biology; and (d) peer review of the report of the AHTEG on Synthetic Biology.

11. The AHTEG on Synthetic Biology held its face-to-face meeting from 5 to 8 December 2017 in Montreal, Canada.⁷ The outcomes of the meeting will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty second meeting.

The financial mechanism

12. In decision XIII/21,⁸ the Conference of the Parties took note with appreciation of the elements of advice received from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the input received from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora for consideration in the development of the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund. Elements and input that fall within the mandate of the Global Environment Facility are reflected at a strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities annexed to the decision.

13. The seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund is expected to have a final consideration of the proposal for Programming Directions at its fourth meeting to be held on 25 April 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden. The document Programming Directions prepared by the GEF Secretariat suggests increased allocation to the focal area of biodiversity, as well as three impact programmes on food systems, land use, and restoration, sustainable cities, and sustainable forest management. There will be ample opportunities for the National Plant Protection Organizations and the implementers of the Convention on Biological Diversity to collaborate together to make best use of the resources to be available under enabling activities for national planning and reporting, prevention, control and management of invasive alien species, and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, etc, within their country allocations. Over 20 percent of biodiversity focal areas resources have been proposed as set aside for integrated programming and other global and regional programmes.

Framework for a communications strategy

14. In decision XIII/22,⁹ the Conference of the Parties welcomed the framework for a global communications strategy contained in the annex to the decision. The framework recognizes the importance of the biodiversity-related conventions to its implementation. Among other things, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, urged Parties, and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to promote synergies, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, when facilitating and implementing communication activities.

Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearing-house mechanism

15. In decision XIII/23,¹⁰ the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue work to promote a more integrated and coordinated approach to capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, through multiple partnerships, including with biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant conventions. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary, urged Parties, and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to

⁷ The report of the meeting is available at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SYNBIOAHTEG-2017-01>.

⁸ Decision XIII/21 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-21-en.pdf>.

⁹ Decision XIII/22 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-22-en.pdf>

¹⁰ Decision XIII/23 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-23-en.pdf>

promote synergies in accordance with decision XIII/24¹¹ on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, when facilitating and implementing capacity-building activities.

16. The Global Taxonomy Initiative of the CBD called for proposals of training on DNA Barcoding in developing countries in 2016¹² and eleven training proposals were selected¹³. Seven training courses out of the eleven selected courses will provide trainings to quarantine officers and others on identification of invasive alien species or pests. The Secretariat of the CBD provides standardized DNA Barcoding training package for hands-on laboratory training on DNA Barcoding, establishment of DNA libraries and sharing valid sequence data on a public domain. The Secretariat of the IPPC is invited to make a presentation on the role of National Plant Protection Organizations to prevent introduction of alien species at a training course to be held in Sri Lanka in August 2018.

17. The BioBridge Initiative¹⁴ of the CBD programme on technical and scientific cooperation also supports three projects on application of DNA Barcoding for conservation in 2018, and two of them are covering invasive alien species as targeted organisms.

18. In line with decisions IX/4, XI/28 and XII/17 on the requested collaborative works by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized a Capacity-Building Workshop for Caribbean Small Island Developing States towards Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, from 28 to 22 September 2017. The National Plant Protection Organizations in the Caribbean, together with the CBD authorities in the region participated in the workshop. The outcome of the workshop included some comprehensive invasive alien species and pest management project logical frameworks,¹⁵ with which the countries should formulate full project proposals that may fit to apply to the Global Environment Facility and/or Standard and Trade Development Facility, as appropriate.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

19. In decision XIII/24, the Conference of the Parties welcomed options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level and a road map for actions at the international level from 2017 to 2020, each contained in annex to the decision. The Conference of Parties invited the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to further strengthen cooperation and coordination at the global level within their respective mandates and enhance synergies among themselves, to encourage mutually supportive decisions, pursue their efforts to align their own strategies with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, where appropriate, and to support implementation of the options for action by Parties and the road map contained in the annex to the decision.

20. The Conference of the Parties, furthermore, invited the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, the governing bodies of the conventions, and the international organizations that provide the secretariats for these conventions and other relevant international organizations, to undertake, where appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, the actions foreseen in the road map.

21. In accordance with the decision, an informal advisory group on synergies was established to provide advice to the Executive Secretary, the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, as relevant, on further prioritization and implementation of actions in the road map. The informal advisory group has conducted its work through a meeting held in Montreal from 17 to 18 December 2017 and in online meetings and will report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting.

¹¹ Decision XIII/24, Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-24-en.doc>

¹² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-110-gti-en.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2018/ntf-2018-021-gti-en.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/projects/selected>

¹⁵ Meeting report <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/IASWS-2017-01>

National reporting

22. In decision XIII/27,¹⁶ the Conference of the Parties adopted the guidelines, including the reporting templates, for the sixth national report and requested the Executive Secretary to finalize the resource manual for the sixth national report, taking into account, among other relevant elements, guidance on common data sources, indicators and other relevant information provided by the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other means.

23. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio conventions, to explore options for enhancing synergy on national reporting among these conventions, including consideration of the following possibilities: (a) common sets of indicators, where appropriate; (b) common reporting modules on shared issues; (c) interoperability of information management and reporting systems, and; (d) harmonization of tools for national reporting. This matter will be discussed at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Global Biodiversity Outlook and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity-related Conventions

24. In decision XIII/29, the Conference of the Parties decided to initiate the preparation for a fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which, among other things, should include an analysis of the contribution of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to the Sustainable Development Goals, draw upon official and the best available scientific information, such as information from the other biodiversity-related conventions, and be developed in a manner that avoids duplication with other processes. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a work plan for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a joint communication strategy with the secretariats of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and biodiversity-related conventions on the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and related reports and products and relevant deliverables of the Platform, and invited the secretariats of the Platform and the other biodiversity-related conventions to collaborate on this matter. This issue was discussed by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-first meeting and the ensuing recommendation will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety - Cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives

25. In decision CP-VIII/6,¹⁷ the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol welcomed the cooperation of the Executive Secretary with the International Plant Protection Convention and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and underlined the importance of cooperation and coordination among relevant organizations, multilateral agreements and initiatives for the effective implementation of the Protocol and the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, adopted by COP-MOP at its fifth meeting. The meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to further enhance cooperation and collaboration in biosafety with relevant organizations. The meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, at its ninth meeting, will consider a note prepared by the Executive Secretary summarizing the cooperative activities that took place in the intersessional period.

¹⁶ Decision XIII/27 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-27-en.pdf>

¹⁷ Decision CP-VIII/6 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/mop-08/mop-08-dec-06-en.doc>.

Risk assessment and risk management

26. In decision CP-VIII/12,¹⁸ the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol took note of the voluntary Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms and invited interested Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take the Guidance into account as a voluntary tool to assist in conducting risk assessment in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol.

27. In the same decision, the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol invited Parties to submit to the Executive Secretary (a) information on their needs and priorities for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, (b) proposals on criteria, including the technical justification, that may facilitate the selection of topics for the development of further guidance, and (c) views on perceived gaps in existing guidance materials. Furthermore, the meeting of the Parties extended the Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to exchange experiences on risk assessment, provide information and views on, and perceived gaps in existing guidance materials, and proposals to address any gaps identified. Furthermore, the meeting of the Parties invited its Bureau to appoint a lead moderator to moderate and report on the online discussions.

28. The Executive Secretary issued a notification to Parties¹⁹ and convened discussions on the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management through the Biosafety-Clearing House from 29 January to 12 February 2018.²⁰

29. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its twenty second meeting, will review the information provided and is due to recommend a way forward to address the needs, priorities and gaps identified by Parties for consideration by the ninth meeting of the Parties, including the possible establishment of a new ad hoc technical expert group.

Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

30. In decision CP-VIII/16,²¹ the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted operational definitions of the terms “unintentional transboundary movement” and “illegal transboundary movement” and deemed it appropriate to use the definitions for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the Protocol.

31. In the same decision, the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol encouraged Parties to establish effective mechanisms to support the workflow for sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms by, for example, providing border control officials and laboratories with the appropriate mandates. The meeting of the Parties also took note of the draft training manual on the detection and identification of living modified organisms and requested the Executive Secretary to continue working on the draft training manual, in an expeditious manner, in collaboration with the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms.

32. The Secretariat convened a series of activities of the Network of Laboratories²² to further develop the manual and will make a draft version available, in all official languages, for consideration by the ninth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

¹⁸ Decision CP-VIII/12 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/mop-08/mop-08-dec-12-en.doc>.

¹⁹ Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-035-bs-en.doc>.

²⁰ The online discussions are available at: https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/forum_ra/discussion.shtml.

²¹ Decision CP-VIII/16 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/mop-08/mop-08-dec-16-en.doc>.

²² The discussions of the Network of Laboratories are available at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_detection/discussions.shtml.

III. THE COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE TWO SECRETARIATS RELATED TO THE PHYTOSANITARY AND OTHER SETS OF MEASURES FOR BIODIVERSITY

A. *The Liaison Group of Biodiversity Related Conventions*

33. The twelfth ordinary meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Convention was held on 28 September 2017 at the headquarters of FAO in Rome, co-hosted by the Secretariats of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and IPPC. In addition to exchanging information on key developments under each of the conventions and preparations for their forthcoming meetings and events, the meeting addressed issues of elevating the global visibility and political attention given to biodiversity; development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, including implementation of CBD COP 13 decision XIII/24. The secretariats reaffirmed commitment to strengthen cooperation towards common objectives of the global biodiversity agenda, including in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the post-2020 framework.

34. In conjunction with this, a meeting was convened by the Secretariat on 29 September 2017 at FAO headquarters between the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and each of the international organizations hosting the secretariats of these conventions, as a means to strengthen cooperation to support implementation of common objectives of the biodiversity-related conventions, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its follow-up. As a recommendation of this meeting, the Secretariat convened teleconferences with the capacity development coordinators of the convention secretariats and relevant international organizations to review existing mechanisms, programmes, projects and activities, identify common areas and gaps across the Conventions requiring capacity-building, propose means for exchanging best practices, and identify concrete joint actions. Further meetings are scheduled to take place in 2018.

B. *The Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species*

35. The eighth meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species was co-hosted by the World Customs Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Brussels, Belgium from 22 to 23 November 2017²³. The meeting reviewed a draft supplemental guidance to incorporate 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, 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* (annex to decision XII/16). The Liaison Group also discussed other matters to be considered by the twenty second meeting of the Subsidiary Body of the Scientific Technical and Technological Advice²⁴.

²³ Report of the eight meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species to be posted at <http://cbd.int/invasive/lg/>

²⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-22>.