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**Written reports from international organizations - Report by the
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

Agenda item 15.2

Prepared by the Secretariat of the CBD

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report summarizes work undertaken by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity pursuant to decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fourteenth meeting (COP 14), held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 17 to 29 November 2018, of particular relevance to cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

2. Section II of this report provides information on the collaborative activities between the secretariats of IPPC and CBD undertaken in the context of their joint work plan 2019-2020¹ during the intersessional period between the fourteenth and the fifteenth sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-14 and CPM-15).

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

A. Activities conducted in the context of cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions

3. The Secretariat of CBD continued to facilitate the operation of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions as a mechanism to foster cooperation among the conventions². The Secretary of IPPC participated in the fourteenth meeting of the Liaison Group held from 26 to 27 September 2019 at the International Whaling Commission, Cambridge, United Kingdom. During 2020, several meetings of the Liaison Group were held by videoconference in order to exchange information, including on the impacts of the pandemic on the work of the conventions, the rescheduling of their statutory meetings, and the convening of meetings using online technology.

4. With contribution from the Secretariat of IPPC, joint statements, focused largely on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, were prepared and delivered on behalf of the Liaison Group at the seventh session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (April 2019), the first and second meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (August 2019 and February 2020), the eighth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (November 2019) and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (February 2020). A joint statement was also delivered in the Voices for Nature, multi-stakeholder segment, at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity held on 30 September 2020.

5. In response to CBD COP decisions 14/30 and 14/34, and in the context of the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Secretariat of CBD convened a Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held from 10 to 12 June 2019 in Bern, Switzerland³. The Secretariat of IPPC and five representatives of contracting parties to

¹ The joint work plan 2019-2020 was signed at the margins of the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held from 10 to 12 June 2019 in Bern, Switzerland

² The eight conventions represented by the Heads of their secretariats in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions are the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and International Whaling Commission (IWC).

³ The report and documents of the workshop are available online at: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/brc-ws>

IPPC participated in the workshop⁴. The representatives of contracting parties included members of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measure's: Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, Standards Committee, and the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) Steering Committee. At that occasion the IPPC and the CBD Secretariats signed the joint-work plan for 2019-2020. The Secretariat of IPPC also contributed to a follow-up workshop (Bern II) organized by the United Nations Environment Programme with participation of representatives of the Secretariat and parties. Related consultations were held throughout 2020 and the workshop was eventually held online from 18 January to 2 February 2021.

6. The Secretariat of CBD also convened teleconferences between the Liaison Group and the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held on 16 October 2020, 28 January 2020 and 8 September 2020. The Secretariat of IPPC participated in these meetings. The meetings further discussed ways in which the conventions can contribute to the elaboration of the post-2020 framework and identify specific elements that could be included in the framework. In response to CBD notification 2020-045, the Secretariat of IPPC submitted comments on indicators for the draft goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework of particular relevance to invasive alien species.

7. In response to CBD COP decision 14/27, the Secretariat of CBD convened a teleconference on 20 January 2020 to consult with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions on identifying concrete actions to advance synergies in reporting. The Secretariat of IPPC participated in this discussion and provided comments on a draft document. The result of this work will be presented to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting⁵. Based on this ongoing work and on decisions 14/27 and XIII/24, the members of the Liaison Group were requested to seek direction from convention governing bodies to enable implementation of the key action in decision XIII/24 on keeping under review opportunities for cooperation in reporting under conventions, and for ensuring interoperability between reporting systems or platforms.

8. In response to the aspects of CBD COP decisions XII/30, XIII/21 and 14/23 that concern the enhancement of programmatic synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, the Secretariat of CBD provided the opportunity for the conventions to submit elements of advice that may be taken into account by the CBD COP in preparing its guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Accordingly, the Secretariat of IPPC issued a call for advice from the IPPC contracting parties concerning the funding of national priorities. The Secretariat of CBD and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention will prepare draft guidance to the GEF, including proposals for a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026) of the GEF Trust Fund, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, for consideration by the CBD COP at its fifteenth meeting⁶.

9. In response to CBD COP decision 14/26, the Secretariat of CBD continued to implement the framework for a global communications strategy on biodiversity, convening the active involvement and contribution of other organizations and convention secretariats, including the Secretariat of IPPC, through regular virtual meetings. The Secretariat of CBD contributed to outreach on the IYPH, led and coordinated by the Secretariat of IPPC.

⁴ <https://www.ippc.int/fr/news/the-ippcs-participation-at-the-consultation-workshop-of-biodiversity-related-conventions-on-the-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework/>

⁵ The third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation was scheduled to be held from 25 to 30 May 2020 in Montreal, Canada, but has been postponed to 2021.

⁶ The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD was scheduled to be held in October 2020 but has been postponed to 2021.

B. Cooperation in the context of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

10. The Secretariat of CBD continued to facilitate the operation of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species as a mechanism to foster cooperation among international organizations on the issue of invasive alien species. The tenth meeting of the Liaison Group was co-hosted by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) from 4 to 5 June 2019. The meeting prepared for the CBD Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species (see paragraph 12, below).

11. The major activities and outcomes of the activities of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species between the CPM-14 and CPM-15 have been as follows:

- (a) The security and safety matters related to e-commerce were incorporated in the World Customs Organization Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards⁷;
- (b) The World Customs Organization E-Commerce Package with Technical Specifications⁸ incorporated “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”;
- (c) The Secretariats of CBD and IPPC participated to the sixth meeting of the World Customs Organization E-Commerce Working Group held in Brussels, Belgium from 12 to 14 February 2020 to further input on the development of the E-Commerce Package to sufficiently cover the risks of biological invasions and pest for plants. The process of further update on the Package will be continued through the Permanent Technical Committee of the World Customs Organization in 2020 and beyond;
- (d) In response to decision 14/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat of CBD, in collaboration with the Secretariat of IPPC, OIE, CABI and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) submitted an informal document on “Environmentally hazardous articles (living organisms)”⁹ to the 55th session of the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) held in Geneva, Switzerland from 1 to 5 July 2019 aimed to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species by escaping from the confined conditions and inappropriate disposals of materials associated with consignments of live organisms. The TDG noted the request from the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on the inclusion of environmentally hazardous living organisms into ‘*Chapter 2.9 Class 9 - Miscellaneous Dangerous Substances and Articles, including Environmentally Hazardous Substances*’ of the *Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulation* and recommended to resume consideration of this subject at the forthcoming session. Experts on biological invasions were invited to join the session to provide more detailed information on possible risk and hazards¹⁰.
- (e) Several members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species have joined an informal network of e-Commerce experts hosted by the Secretariat of IPPC. This

⁷ http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/e-commerce/wco-framework-of-standards-on-crossborder-e-commerce_en.pdf?la=en

⁸ http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/e-commerce/1_technical-specifications_en.pdf?db=web

⁹ UN/SCETDG/55/INF.46 Environmentally hazardous articles (living organisms)
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2019/dgac10c3/UN-SCETDG-55-INF46e.pdf>

¹⁰ ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/110, Report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its fifty-fifth session <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2019/dgac10c3/ST-SG-AC.10-C.3-110e.pdf>

network is intended to enhance collaboration among the participants, facilitate the exchange of information about e-Commerce initiatives and issues, and identify opportunities for addressing the phytosanitary risks, including risks posed by invasive species that affect plants that are associated with cross-border e-Commerce.

C. Other Invasive Alien Species related activities

12. In response also to decision 14/11, the Secretariat of CBD organized an Online Forum on Invasive Alien Species (<http://cbd.int/invasive/forum2/>) to develop 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, from 1 May 2019 to 30 September 2019.

13. The information collected through the Online Forum was further considered at the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting on Invasive Alien Species held in Montreal, Canada from 2 to 4 December 2019¹¹, at which the Secretariat of IPPC participated. The outcomes of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species will be further considered at the 24th meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice^{12, 13, 14}. The technical elements include the following:

- (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; and
- (f) Additional advices, including application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures for the management of invasive alien species.

14. The Secretariat of CBD organized a regional training on the application of DNA barcoding (GTI-DNA-tech) for Latin America to enhance existing capacity for rapid identification of priority species, including quarantine pests and invasive alien species in Cali, Colombia from 17 to 21 February 2019.

15. The Secretariat of CBD, in collaboration with expert organizations and partners, prepared CBD Technical Series No.94, *“The Global Taxonomy Initiative 2020: A Step-by-Step Guide for DNA Barcoding”* and No.96¹⁵, *“The Global Taxonomy Initiative in Support of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”*, which cover various tools applicable for broad sectors to address the issue of invasive alien species, pests and pathogenic agents, noting that plant health in production and conservation relies on the identification of species to undertake pest risk analyses and application of risk reduction measures.

¹¹ Meeting documents and outcomes are accessible at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/IAS-AHTEG-2019-01>

¹² Originally scheduled to be held in Montreal, Canada from 18 to 23 May 2020, the 24th meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice has been postponed to 2021.

¹³ CBD/SBSTTA/24/10, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/4e0e/0677/296c40f85b26a582b8116160/sbstta-24-10-en.pdf>

¹⁴ CBD/SBSTTA/24/10/CORR1, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/a7c9/3647/db6d7f55488e58b3a8cc1933/sbstta-24-10-corr-01-en.pdf>

¹⁵ To be posted at <https://www.cbd.int/ts/>

16. The Secretariat of CBD, in collaboration with the IUCN-Species Survival Commission- Invasive Species Specialist Group and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, made the information on alien species occurrences and their impacts accessible on the country profile pages of the Clearing-house Mechanism¹⁶ (data is linked via invasive alien species button). This information on biological invasions was validated with scientific principles for Parties to prevent the spread of invasive alien species with appropriate measures, according to the international standards.

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/countries/>