

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
EIGHTEENTH SESSION
15 to 19 April 2024
WRITTEN REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report summarizes recent work of relevance to cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Section II of the report provides information on relevant outcomes of Part 2 of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022, including the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Section III presents the outcomes of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 19 October 2023, including the revision of additional guidance on invasive alien species (IAS). Section IV presents information on cooperation in the context of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species; and section V summarizes other IAS related activities of relevance to the two conventions.

**II. FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE ADOPTION OF THE KUNMING-
MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

A Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (decision 15/4)

2. At the second part of its fifteenth meeting¹, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), following a four-year consultation and negotiation process (decision 15/4).² This historic Framework, which supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and lessons learned from its implementation, sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050.

3. The Framework has four goals for 2050 and twenty-three targets to be achieved by 2030, of which Target 6 directly relates to invasive alien species, as follows:

“Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.”

4. Enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies between the CBD and its Protocols, other biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, in line with their respective mandates, has been identified as a key factor that would contribute to promote the implementation of the Framework in a more efficient and

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cop-15/documents>

² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

effective manner³. The CBD Secretariat would therefore like to take the opportunity provided by the 18th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-18) to further raise the awareness of IPPC about the GBF and its related mechanisms and strategies.

5. Through related decisions, which the Conference of the Parties (COP) affirmed to be of equal standing to the GBF, the implementation of the GBF will be supported by its monitoring framework (decision 15/5); enhanced mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (decision 15/6); resource mobilization (decision 15/7); capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation (decision 15/8); benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources (decision 15/9); and cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (decision 15/13).

6. The COP recognized national biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised or updated in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets, as the main vehicle for implementation of the Framework, including national targets communicated in a standardized format by the time of the sixteenth meeting of the COP (decision 15/6, para. 1)⁴. Additional information on the GBF is provided on the CBD website⁵.

B Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (decision 15/13)

7. In its decision 15/13,⁶ the COP invited the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions to formally endorse the GBF through their own governance processes in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring of progress in its implementation (paragraph 3). The COP further invited the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the GBF, including by strengthening cooperation and enhancing synergies among themselves, encouraging mutually supportive decisions, and coordinating their strategies with the GBF (paragraph 4). The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, at its 18th session, may wish to consider providing such endorsement of the GBF.

C The financial mechanism (decision 15/15)

8. In its decision 15/15 (paragraph 16)⁷, the COP invited the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30, and paragraph 10 of decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.⁸ The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, at its 18th session, may wish to consider providing such strategic guidance.

D Invasive alien species (decision 15/27)

9. The COP, at its fifteen meeting, also adopted decision 15/27 on invasive alien species⁹, which, among other things, requested the Executive Secretary to carry out activities to advance the work and to facilitate decision-making on invasive alien species. Among these activities, were requests for cooperation with IPPC and other members of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on IAS, with a specific

³ GBF Section C: Considerations for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/>

⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-13-en.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-15-en.pdf>

⁸ At its third meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation noted with appreciation strategic guidance prepared by the governing bodies of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (CBD/SBI/REC/3/7), <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-03/sbi-03-rec-07-en.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-27-en.pdf>

mention to IPPC, in paragraph 12(c) of this decision, towards developing a globally harmonized and operational voluntary guidance on the cleanliness of sea containers and their cargos.

10. As requested by the decision, work has been undertaken to prepare a revision of the annexes on voluntary guidance contained in decision 14/11¹⁰, through a peer review and a moderated online forum. The results were presented for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fifth meeting.

11. The joint work plan of the IPPC and CBD Secretariats, signed in June 2019 for the period 2019 to 2020, could be reviewed and updated in the context of recent developments under the IPPC and the outcomes of COP 15, including the GBF, decision 15/7 and other relevant decisions.¹¹

III. TWENTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE.

12. The twenty-fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 19 October 2023. 13. The issue of invasive alien species was considered under agenda item 10 of the meeting. The Subsidiary Body considered the relevance of invasive alien species within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and reviewed the elements of voluntary guidance presented in the following six annexes of its working document CBD/SBSTTA/25/10:

(i) Cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness and multi-criteria analysis methodologies that best apply to the management of invasive alien species, as contained in annex I;

(ii) Identification and minimization of additional risks associated with cross-border e-commerce in live organisms and the impacts thereof, as contained in annex II;

(iii) Management of invasive alien species as it relates to the prevention of potential risks arising from climate change and other drivers of biodiversity loss, as contained in annex III;

(iv) Risk analysis of the potential consequences of the introduction of invasive alien species on socioeconomic and cultural values, as contained in annex IV;

(v) Relevance of databases to support the management of invasive alien species, as contained in annex V;

(vi) Additional advice and technical guidance on invasive alien species management, as contained in annex VI;

14. The Subsidiary Body adopted a recommendation on these matters, including a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting that will be held in Cali, Colombia, in October 2024 (CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/6)¹². While each of the matters addressed in the aforementioned annexes will be relevant to the strengthening of international cooperation on IAS, the importance of the guidelines, tools and standards developed by IPPC were highlighted in the recommendation.

¹⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-11-en.pdf>

¹¹ The work plan covered nine major activities related to information exchange, mutual awareness raising activities and actions, promotion of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), support to contracting parties in capacity development activities, and provision of input into the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

¹² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-25/sbstta-25-rec-06-en.pdf>

IV. COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF INTER-AGENCY LIAISON MECHANISMS

A Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and related work

15. In 2021 and 2022, the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions continued to contribute to the preparation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework throughout its preparatory process and negotiation. The executive heads of the biodiversity-related conventions jointly prepared and delivered statements at the opening of the High-level Segment of CBD COP 15 Part 1 on 12 October 2021 (online)¹³, the joint opening of the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-3) and the subsidiary bodies of the Convention in Geneva on 14 March 2022, the opening of WG2020-4 in Nairobi on 21 June 2022, and the opening of COP 15 Part 2 in Montreal on 7 December 2022¹⁴. A representative among them spoke on behalf of the Group in a panel at the High-level Segment of COP 15 Part 2 on 15 December 2022 and at the High-level Segment of the United Nations Environmental Assembly on 1 March 2024¹⁵.

16. The executive heads of the conventions, including the Secretary of IPPC, spoke in side-events organized by the Liaison Group on strengthening the role of the biodiversity-related conventions in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, held at the margins of the intersessional meetings of the open-ended bodies of the CBD in Geneva on 17 March 2022, and on mobilizing the biodiversity-related conventions in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, held at the margins of COP 15 Part II in Montreal on 14 December 2022. The Secretary of IPPC participated in COP 15 Part 2 and also participated in the online meetings of the Liaison Group held on 6 October 2021 and 12 September 2022.

17. In decision 15/4, the COP welcomed the submissions that had been received from other multilateral environmental agreements providing views on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and, in decision 15/13, welcomed the contributions of the biodiversity-related conventions to the preparation of the GBF, including through their active participation in the “Bern process”.

18. In decision 15/13, the COP also invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to build on the Bern Process and requested the Executive Secretary and encouraged Parties to actively engage in the process. In line with this mandate, UNEP convened the Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in Bern, Switzerland, from 23 to 25 January 2024¹⁶. The conference brought together over 130 participants, including 68 Party representatives from 44 countries, nominated by the bureaux or standing bodies of 16 conventions, including three representatives of Parties to the IPPC, as well as representatives of the convention secretariats, including IPPC Secretariat, and of other relevant organizations, stakeholder groups and experts. The Preliminary Highlights of the Conference¹⁷ were presented at the margins of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and the main outcomes of the conference will be made

¹³ BLG statement delivered by IWC Executive Secretary, 12 October 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/live/WcQFIxc7kmg?feature=share&t=7001>

¹⁴ BLG statement delivered by CMS Executive Secretary, 7 December 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzFmRLNoc0Y&t=7200s>

¹⁵ BLG statement delivered by CBD Acting Executive Secretary, 29 February 2024: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/44836/CBD_BLG_Statement_EN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

¹⁶ Information on the Bern III Conference, including background documents, is provided on the event web pages at: <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions>

¹⁷ Available online at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/44836/Bern%20III%20Conference%20-%20briefing%20note%20%28final%29%20%281%29.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

available as an information document to the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to be held from 21 to 29 May 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

B Interagency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

19. The CBD Secretariat continues to facilitate the operation of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS) as a mechanism to foster cooperation among international organizations on this issue. The 11th meeting of the group was held online on 5 April, 2023¹⁸, marking the re-convening of the group after a period of inactivity in light of the COVID 19 pandemic and other factors. The 11th meeting allowed the member organizations to share information on their current work on IAS and related matters, as well as to discuss the involvement of the group in addressing, among other things, the requests and invitations made by the CBD COP in decision 15/27.

20. The main activities for which the COP requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate and engage with the IALG-IAS are as follows: (a) Proposal to the Economic and Social Council's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on a globally harmonized labelling system for consignments of environmentally hazardous living organisms or propagules; (b) developing a globally harmonized and operational voluntary guidance on the cleanliness of sea containers and their cargos (with mention to specific cooperation with the IPPC); (c) determining how approaches for the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species may be usefully applied to biological invasions of pathogenic agents, in particular zoonotic pathogens; (d) developing advice on the evaluation of existing capacity and needs for monitoring, preventing and controlling the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and their harmful effects to biodiversity; and (e) identifying gaps in knowledge, monitoring, and management of emerging infectious diseases affecting biodiversity and human health that relate to or are facilitated by invasive alien species, and to propose measures for mitigating and minimizing the negative effects on biodiversity and human health and preventing the further introduction and spread of relevant invasive alien species.

21. The IALG-IAS held its twelfth meeting, online, on 2 and 3 November 2023.¹⁹ The group discussed the outcomes of the twenty fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice related to invasive alien species, reviewed the proposals made by members at the eleventh meeting, including an update by the IPPC Secretariat on guidance on the cleanliness of sea containers for reducing pest propagation risks; and proposed items of relevance for future work. Considering the importance of the ongoing discussions under the IPPC in relation to guidance on the cleanliness of sea containers, the group considered the possibility to prepare an information document to inform the COP at its sixteenth meeting of any progress in relation to this matter.

22. IPPC's participation in the upcoming activities of the IALG-IAS will be of paramount importance in supporting the CBD Secretariat in advancing the requests from COP 15 on IAS, as well as in supporting the implementation of the GBF.

IV. OTHER INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES RELATED ACTIVITIES

23. In the report from CBD Secretariat to CPM-15, it was noted that CBD Secretariat, 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 Technical Series No. 96, "*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

¹⁸ Documents of the [11th meeting of the Inter Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species](#)

¹⁹ Documents of the [Twelfth Meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species](#)

relies on the identification of species to undertake pest risk analyses and application of risk reduction measures. At that time, technical series No. 96 was not yet available, and therefore CBD Secretariat would like to provide an update that the document has been published and is available on the CBD website.²⁰

24. In addition, in 2022, the CBD Secretariat signed a cooperation agreement with Biodiversity Data Management Ltd. with the objective to update the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) data for 90 countries, including countries of West Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, Central America, and some countries of South America and the Caribbean. This information will support the implementation and monitoring of the GBF, specifically Target 6, for which GRIIS is being considered as an indicator.

²⁰ CBD Technical Series, <https://www.cbd.int/ts/>