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INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Third Session

Rome, 2-6 April 2001

Joint Consultation on IPPC-CBD Cooperation

Agenda Item 6.4 of the Provisional Agenda

1. A consultation to discuss potential collaboration between the CBD and IPPC was held 6-8 February 2001 in Bangkok, THAILAND. A small group of government representatives with technical expertise in IPPC or CBD issues were invited by the Chairperson of the ICPM to participate. The meeting was conducted as a follow-up to recommendations made by the Exploratory open-ended working group on the phytosanitary aspects of GMOs, biosafety and invasive species conducted 13-16 June 2000 in Rome, ITALY.
2. The meeting supported the earlier recommendations and further elaborated on specific mechanisms by which the CBD and IPPC could collaborate. The attached report of the meeting summarizes the main conclusions reached in the consultation.
3. The ICPM is invited to consider the report of this meeting in conjunction with recommendations made by the Exploratory open-ended working group on the phytosanitary aspects of GMOs, biosafety and invasive species (ICPM 01/07).

A. INTRODUCTION

4. The results of the ICPM Exploratory Open-ended Working Group on the Phytosanitary Aspects of GMOs, Biosafety and Invasive Species which met in Rome in June 2000 and discussions held at the Global Invasive Species Programme meeting in Cape Town in September 2000 led to the proposal that a programme of collaboration between the IPPC and CBD be initiated. The Chair of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) invited experts familiar with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in particular in relation to the implementation of Article 8(h) and experts familiar with the implementation of the IPPC to consider this proposal further.
5. The meeting noted that some LMOs have the potential to be invasive species. It also noted however that LMOs have been handled as a special issue in the CBD under the Cartagena Protocol and are often treated separately in national legislation. For this reason, the meeting

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focused on invasive alien species in relation to the implementation of Article 8(h) of the CBD without specifically considering LMOs.

6. The purpose of the meeting was to:
 - explore areas of potential collaboration between CBD and IPPC; and
 - provide proposals for the consideration of SBSTTA and / or the ICPM for collaboration projects.
7. The meeting noted that both the CBD and the IPPC have recognized the imperative for capacity building particularly in developing countries in the areas of phytosanitary protection and invasive alien species and noted the strong similarity in subjects covered by technical assistance being proposed by the Conventions.
8. The meeting noted that many organizations and agreements are undertaking work relating to alien species and that the work of these organizations could contribute to the implementation of Article 8(h).¹ The meeting noted that cooperation between those organizations is desirable and the CBD could play a coordination role in achieving this cooperation.

B. SCOPE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION

9. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) regulates pests of plants and any organism, object or material capable of harbouring pests or spreading pests that affect plants and plant products with the purpose of preventing the spread and introduction of these pests and promoting measures for their control.
10. Its scope covers organisms that cause damage to plants, including indirect damage (e.g. flatworms that predate earthworms). It also covers biological control agents that control pests of plants. Pests are defined as any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products. This includes invasive plants (i.e. weeds). It was noted that the IPPC term “plants” includes organisms such as fungi.
11. The IPPC provides for a comprehensive system for plant protection and establishes international standards for phytosanitary measures² that are recognized by the SPS Agreement. The standards address issues including the prevention, early detection, eradication and control of invasive alien species that are plant pests.

C. PROVISIONS OF THE IPPC AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (ISPMS) RELEVANT TO THE CBD

12. The provisions and standards of the IPPC actively support the implementation of Article 8(h). The areas covered include:
 - providing legal and regulatory frameworks;
 - assessing and managing potential plant pest risks;
 - applying measures to prevent unintentional introduction of plant pests;
 - detecting, controlling, and eradicating plant pests in both areas under cultivation and wild flora;

¹ Article 8(h) of the CBD states that Contracting Parties shall as far as possible and as appropriate: “prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.”

² Phytosanitary measure refers to “any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of pests.”

- protecting areas that may be threatened by plant pests;
- assessing and managing the intentional introduction of organisms that may be pests of plants and biological control agents;
- certifying that risk management procedures have been applied for exports;
- exchanging of scientific and regulatory information relevant to plant pests;
- cooperating between countries to minimize the impact of plant pests; and
- building capacity and technical assistance for developing countries.

13. These activities are the responsibility of the National Plant Protection Organizations or equivalent bodies, which have been established in most countries. Regional Plant Protection Organizations serve as coordinating bodies.

D. CONSIDERATION OF ISPMS:

14. The meeting considered the existing standards and the draft standard for *Pest risk analysis of quarantine pests* in the context of Article 8(h) of the CBD.

15. **ISPM 1 *Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade***: The meeting noted that the language of ISPM 1 is no longer consistent with the New Revised Text of the IPPC and that major revision is required. It recommended that the issue of including environmental concerns be addressed when the standard is revised. It was noted that the standard was programmed for review, but little priority was given to the revision of this standard.

16. **ISPM 2 *Guidelines for pest risk analysis*** and DRAFT ***Guidelines for pest risk analysis for quarantine pests***: The meeting noted that pest risk analysis³ (PRA) is a particularly critical element in preventing the spread and introduction of plant pests. Addressing standards relating to PRA should be a priority for collaborative work.

17. It recommended that the IPPC seek input from the CBD as the IPPC further elaborates risk analysis standards that address environmental considerations.

18. **ISPM 3 *Code of conduct for the import and release of exotic biological control agents***: The meeting recommended an amendment to include consideration of risk of spread of biological control organisms to other countries.

19. **ISPM 4 *Guidelines for the establishment of pest free areas***: The meeting considered that the standard could be used for the establishment of pest free areas specifically for the protection of biodiversity.

20. **ISPM 5 *Glossary of phytosanitary terms***: The meeting recommended that the IPPC work with CBD to produce a common translation dictionary that would reduce potential misunderstandings for the IPPC and CBD constituencies arising from the use of differing terminology. The work would also consider the way key concepts are expressed and addressed in the core documentation of the two Conventions.

21. **ISPM 6 *Guidelines for surveillance***: The meeting considered that the standard could be valuably used by countries in implementation of the CBD particularly in detection of new pest incursions, but recommended the development of supporting practical manuals.

³ Pest risk analysis is “the process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it.”

22. **ISPM 7 *Export certification system***: The meeting noted that the export certification process provides a mechanism to insure compliance with countries' importation requirements and those requirements can protect biodiversity. In addition, export certification could potentially be used for responding to Interim Guiding Principle 9a.
23. **ISPM 8 *Guidelines for determination of pest status in an area***: The meeting considered the standard could be valuably used by countries in implementation of the CBD particularly in detection of new pest incursions.
24. **ISPM 9 *Guidelines for pest eradication programmes***: The meeting considered that the standard could be valuably used by countries in implementation of the CBD particularly in eradication of new pest incursions. The meeting was informed that CBD may consider providing biodiversity specific advice to countries on eradication. The meeting recommended that ISPM 9 should be considered if this advice is developed.
25. **ISPM 10 *Guidelines for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites***: The meeting considered that the standard was not applicable to the implementation of Article 8(h).
26. The meeting noted that there is a need for IPPC and CBD to identify any gaps in coverage or improvements needed in standards to ensure that environmental concerns, including threats to species, ecosystems and habitats, are taken into account.

E. AREAS FOR COLLABORATION:

Participation

27. The meeting recommended that the Secretariats establish regular participation, as appropriate, of representatives of the two conventions at their various meetings. Representation should be appropriate to the type of meeting.

Information exchange

28. The meeting recommended that the Secretariats should ensure timely and free access to relevant and appropriate information between the Conventions in particular related to:
- meetings and processes;
 - development of technical advice, standards, databases and other support for Parties; and
 - capacity building efforts.

Standards and other guidance for implementation

29. The meeting noted that there is a need for IPPC and CBD to identify any gaps in coverage or improvements needed in standards to ensure that environmental concerns, including threats to species, ecosystems and habitats, are taken into account.
30. Guidance for implementation may include:
- where the IPPC develops standards of relevance to the implementation of Article 8(h), CBD experts should be engaged in an appropriate manner;
 - where the CBD is developing guidance to parties in the implementation of Article 8(h), IPPC experts should be engaged in an appropriate manner;
 - each organization, on request, will assist the other by clarifying, explaining and elaborating guidance for implementation; and
 - issues identified in the discussions on ISPMs (see previous section).

31. The meeting also recommended the development of a standard for procedures that would allow all intentional introduction of plants and plant related organisms to be assessed for their potential to be plant pests.

Development of terminology and concepts

32. The meeting recommended that key concepts used in core documents be identified and the relationship between the concepts used in the two Conventions explained. The meeting noted that “economic importance” in the IPPC is interpreted to include environmental considerations. This includes the ways in which pests may threaten ecosystems, habitats and species. It was recommended that a key task is for both the IPPC and CBD to clarify the following terms:

- economic importance;
- environmental impact;
- and how these terms relate to threats to ecosystems, habitats and species.

33. The meeting also noted that the IPPC covered both direct and indirect damage to plants which is of relevance to the implementation of Article 8(h). It therefore recommended that the concept and definition of indirect damage be clarified.

Science and research

34. Where scientific concerns are of relevance to both organizations, the development of joint programmes could be considered.

Database relationships

35. Both organizations have a common interest in this area and it is recommended that they work together where possible. This should minimize duplication and maximize use of resources.

Capacity development

36. Both organizations facilitate capacity development for countries. Dialogue between the organizations should be aimed at minimizing the duplication of efforts and maximizing the use of resources.

Additional points

37. Based on the areas of cooperation identified, the meeting recognized that there are a number of areas for cooperative action. The meeting recommended that the Secretariats of both organizations together develop mechanisms for collaboration on the implementation of Article 8(h). This may include the development of a work programme and a specific Memorandum of Understanding.

Concluding remarks

38. The meeting noted the value of this first liaison meeting and recommended that future meetings be arranged on a regular basis to review and enhance the degree of collaboration. The meeting recommended that the liaison should be at an appropriate technical level. It was agreed that the Chair of the ICPM would liaise with the Chair of the SBSTTA to identify a mechanism to further this proposal. It was recommended that the two Secretariats should develop an appropriate mechanism for on going collaboration to develop this proposal.