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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eighth Session

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Report by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Agenda item 12.2.3

Prepared by the CBD Secretariat (English only)

I. Summary

1. Pursuant to decisions X/2 and XI/28 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and on invasive alien species, the Secretariat of the CBD continued the collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the following three areas: (i) coordination through the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species; (ii) capacity-building activities in addressing invasive alien species, and; (iii) exchange of information relevant to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

II. Introduction

2. Pursuant to decision X/2 adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides a framework for action by all stakeholders in achieving 20 global targets (the "Aichi Biodiversity Targets"). Target 9 aims at identifying and prioritizing invasive alien species and their pathways. These prioritized species are to be controlled or eradicated, and measures put in place to manage their pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

3. At its eleventh meeting, the COP, in decision XI/28, encouraged Parties and other Governments to ensure effective collaboration among national authorities and focal points that deal with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Plant Protection Convention in addressing threats from invasive alien species, and as appropriate, to make full use of existing standards in addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food.

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4. In the same decision, the COP encouraged members of the International Plant Protection Convention to further address, including by developing and improving international standards, guidelines and recommendations, the risks associated with the introduction of alien species that are a potential threat to biodiversity but are not considered pests to plants, pathogens or parasites that affect domestic animals, or are harmful to human health, taking note that the risks associated with the introduction of alien species may include impacts on ecosystem functioning and biodiversity at the ecosystem, species and gene levels.
5. The COP also welcomed the publication on “Aquatic Plants: Their Uses and Risks”, by the International Plant Protection Convention which provides information on the protection of plants, including bryophyte and algal species, in marine and aquatic environments.
6. In decision BS-VI/6 on cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives, Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at their sixth meeting, welcomed the Executive Secretary’s cooperation with the International Plant Protection Convention.
7. This report contains an overview of collaborative activities between the Secretariats of the IPPC and the CBD between February 2012 and March 2013 in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with particular reference to Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, and with other relevant decisions on invasive alien species under the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Section II summarizes the activities of the two Secretariats. Section III provides a summary of relevant activities under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

III. Collaboration on Invasive Alien Species

A. Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

8. The third meeting of the Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (LG-IAS)¹ took place at the headquarters of the World Trade Organization, Geneva, on 13 July 2012. In addition to the CBD and IPPC, the following Secretariats also took part in the meeting: World Trade Organization and Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), CABI, International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
9. At the third meeting, the Group reviewed the terms of reference for the inter-agency liaison group to further improve its effectiveness in undertaking joint activities and to encourage relevant organizations to join to the liaison group.
10. Specifically, the Group explored the possibility of inviting the World Customs Organization and the International Maritime Organization to participate in the Group’s activities. The Group further agreed to organize a high-level meeting on invasive alien species to raise awareness and visibility of the issue and to publicize the activities of the Group.
11. The fourth meeting of LG-IAS took place at FAO, Rome, Italy, from 28 February to 1 March 2013. In addition to the CBD and IPPC, the following Secretariats also took part in the meeting: World Trade Organization, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); the relevant departments of FAO, CABI and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
12. The meeting report will be made available at the website of the LG-IAS (<http://cbd.int/invasive/lg/>).

¹ The meeting report is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ais/iaslg-03/official/iaslg-03-02-en.pdf>.

B. Capacity Building Activities

13. The Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) participated in the Seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species organized by the STDF in collaboration with the IPPC and the OIE in Geneva, Switzerland on 12-13 July 2012. The SCBD made a presentation on “Invasive Alien Species: Scope, objective, obligations and opportunities under the Convention on Biological Diversity” and served as a panelist for the discussion on coverage of invasive alien species under the WTO SPS Agreement. The Seminar highlighted the fact that the Sanitary and Phytosanitary systems under the WTO SPS Agreement can be applied to address the issue of invasive alien species. Participants were encouraged to further coordinate cross-sectoral communication on developing policies and strategies to manage the risks associated with introduction of alien species.

14. The SCBD, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the IPPC, organized a “Subregional Capacity-building Workshop to Address Invasive Alien Species and to Achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 in the Arab Region” in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 11 to 14 February 2013. The national authorities to both Conventions were invited to exchange views and experiences on invasive alien species and plant pests in order to ensure effective collaboration at the national and regional levels. The workshop identified the elements needed to develop national invasive alien species strategies and action plans for integration into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

IV. Collaboration in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

15. In the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the CBD Secretariat continued cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat under the guidance of decisions BS-II/6 and BS-VI/6 adopted by the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol at their second and sixth meetings respectively.

16. A representative of the IPPC continued to participate in deliberations for the development of further guidance on risk assessment of LMOs under the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management established by the Parties in decision BS-IV/11 and extended in decisions BS-V/12 and BS-VI/12.