



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**INTER-AGENCY LIAISON GROUP ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
RECENT ACTIVITIES OF GROUP MEMBERS**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The WTO Secretariat is participating as a member in the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species. This document is intended to inform the SPS Committee of some recent relevant activities of the members of the Group, in particular regarding progress in the development of guidance on pathways and in the implementation of the international regulatory framework relevant to invasive alien species.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1. Pursuant to decision VIII/27 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on Gaps and Inconsistencies in International Regulatory Framework Relevant to Invasive Alien Species, the Executive Secretary of the CBD has been requested to continue to collaborate with the secretariats of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as other international organizations, such as United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), with a view to filling gaps and promoting coherence in the regulatory framework, reducing duplication, promoting other actions to address invasive alien species at the national level and facilitating support to parties including through capacity-building (decision IX/4A).

2.2. In response to this decision the Executive Secretary of the CBD invited the relevant international organizations to establish the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (the Liaison Group). Since 2010 the Group has met five times and the reports of its meetings are accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/lg/>. The Group updated its Terms of Reference and Modus Operandi in 2013. The updated version is available at <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/doc/tor-mo-ialg-2013-02-028-en.pdf>. The general purpose of the Liaison Group is to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. The Group facilitates the exchange of information on relevant policies and activities to ensure that they are complementary so as to optimize efficiency, build synergies and avoid any unnecessary duplication. In the period up to 2020, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in particular Aichi Target 9 on invasive alien species, provides the main focus of the work of the Group.

2.3. This document summarizes the progress made by members of the Liaison Group in the development of guidance for the management of the pathways and causes of introduction of alien species that were identified by the COP to the CBD, and activities undertaken to facilitate the implementation of this guidance. The summary contained in this document may not be exhaustive.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights or obligations under the WTO.

3 DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE

3.1. The COP to the CBD reaffirmed the need to address the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework relevant to invasive alien species, and therefore encouraged parties to make use of the risk assessment guidance and other procedures and standards developed by the IPPC, the OIE, and other relevant organizations. The COP to the CBD further invited the relevant international organizations to address the identified gaps and inconsistencies of the international regulatory framework related to invasive alien species. Members of the Liaison Group have continued their efforts and have undertaken a number of activities which contribute to the follow up of these decisions (decisions VIII/27, IX/4 A and XI/28 of the COP to the CBD).

3.2. The IPPC included aquatic plants and invasive plants in its international standard for phytosanitary measures (ISPM) no. 11 - Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests (ISPM 11:2013). Under the IPPC, within its mandate, a clarification is being discussed that "protection of plants" also covers the protection of algae and fungi, consistent with the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants. As a consequence, ISPM 5 (Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms) will be updated, which is the basis for terminology in all ISPMs.

3.3. The OIE developed and published Guidelines for assessing the risks of non-native animals becoming invasive. The OIE also listed diseases that can infect wild animals and threaten biodiversity: Ranavirus and *Batrachochytrium dendrobatitis*; and updated OIE standards on these diseases.

3.4. The FAO developed and published guidance relevant to invasive alien species:

- a. Guide to the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry;
- b. Understanding and applying risk analysis in aquaculture.

3.5. With regard to specific guidance on pathways or cause of introduction of alien species the following activities have been conducted by the members.

3.1 Aquaculture

3.6. FAO published the following guidance:

- Understanding and applying risk analysis in aquaculture;
- FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 13. Recreational Fisheries;
- Aquaculture development 6. Use of wild fishery resources for capture-based aquaculture;
- Aquaculture development. 5. Use of wild fish as feed in aquaculture;
- Aquaculture development. 4. Ecosystem approach to aquaculture;
- A brochure on Introduced species in fisheries. Responsible use and control².

3.2 Conveyance

3.7. The IPPC initiated the development of new ISPMs on Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001), and Safe handling and disposal of waste with potential pest risk generated during international voyages (2008-004), to help address the potential risks of spreading pests and invasive alien species.

3.8. In response to the work on the IPPC draft ISPM on Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001), the IMO, International Labor Organization and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe have prepared an updated version of their Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units to include advice on how to help ensure that sea containers (cargo transport units, CTUs) do not act as conveyance for the spreading of pests and invasive alien species. This code will be used by those responsible for the packing and securing of the cargo and by those whose task it is to train people to pack such units. This updated Code is expected to be approved in due course.

² <ftp://ftp.fao.org/Fl/brochure/alien/y4710e.pdf>.

3.9. In 2013, the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants, which are accessible on the CITES website at <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/transport/index.php>. The Conference of the Parties also adopted Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on Transport of live specimens, which was updated *inter alia* to include references to the new CITES guidelines.

3.3 Ballast water

3.10. The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) was adopted in 2004, but has yet to enter into force. IMO has developed and adopted a number of Guidelines relating to the uniform implementation of the BWM Convention since the 53rd session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in 2005:

- Guidelines for sediment reception facilities (G1) (resolution MEPC.152(55));
- Guidelines for ballast water sampling (G2) (resolution MEPC.173(58));
- Guidelines for ballast water management equivalent compliance (G3) (resolution MEPC.123(53));
- Guidelines for ballast water management and development of ballast water management plans (G4) (resolution MEPC.127(53));
- Guidelines for ballast water reception facilities (G5) (resolution MEPC.153(55));
- Guidelines for ballast water exchange (G6) (resolution MEPC.124(53));
- Guidelines for risk assessment under regulation A-4 of the BWM Convention (G7) (resolution MEPC.162(56));
- Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8) (resolution MEPC.174(58));
- Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of Active Substances (G9) (resolution MEPC.169(57));
- Guidelines for approval and oversight of prototype ballast water treatment technology programmes (G10) (resolution MEPC.140(54));
- Guidelines for ballast water exchange design and construction standards (G11) (resolution MEPC.149(55));
- Guidelines on design and construction to facilitate sediment control on ships (G12) (resolution MEPC.209(63));
- Guidelines for additional measures regarding ballast water management including emergency situations (G13) (resolution MEPC.161(56));
- Guidelines on designation of areas for ballast water exchange (G14) (resolution MEPC.151(55));
- Guidelines for ballast water exchange in the Antarctic treaty area (resolution MEPC.163(56));
- Information reporting on type approved ballast water management systems (resolution MEPC.228(65));
- Procedure for approving other methods of ballast water management in accordance with regulation B-3.7 of the BWM Convention (resolution MEPC.206(62));
- Installation of ballast water management systems on new ships in accordance with the application dates contained in the ballast water management convention (BWM Convention) (resolution MEPC.188(60));
- Guidelines for ballast water exchange in the Antarctic treaty area (resolution MEPC.163(56)).

3.4 Marine bio-fouling

3.11. IMO developed the 2011 Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic species, resolution MEPC.207(62), and the Guidance for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species as biofouling (hull fouling) for recreational craft (circular MEPC.1/Circ.792). MEPC 65 also adopted Guidance for evaluating the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (circular MEPC.1/Circ.811).

3.5 Civil air transport

3.12. The ICAO in collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Programme drafted Guidelines for preventing the transport and introduction of invasive alien species by air in 2007. Formalization of these guidelines is still pending.

3.13. The IPPC List of Topics for standards includes air containers as one topic, which will be further developed once the ISPM Minimizing pest movement by sea containers has been adopted.

3.14. In 2013, the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants which are accessible on the CITES website at <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/transport/index.php>. The Conference of the Parties also adopted Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on Transport of live specimens, which was updated *inter alia* to include references to the new CITES guidelines. The CITES guidelines have been included as an annex to the International Air Transport Association's Live Animals Regulations.

3.6 Pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and live bait and live food

3.15. The CBD Secretariat drafted guidance to be considered by Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its 18th meeting in June 2014. (See also transport of live species by civil air transport and ex-situ animal breeding programme).

3.7 Biocontrol agents

3.16. Several years ago, the IPPC has produced ISPM 3 (Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms).

3.8 Ex situ animal breeding programmes

3.17. In Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev.CoP15), the Conference of the Parties to CITES urged Parties to undertake an assessment of ecological risks prior to the establishment of captive-breeding operations for exotic species in order to safeguard against any negative effects on local ecosystems and native species.

3.18. In the same Resolution, the CoP to the CITES urged CITES Management Authorities to work closely with captive-breeding operations to prepare the information required to be provided to the CITES Secretariat by the Management Authority on operations to be registered by the Secretariat, or to establish a support group with members representing breeders and government to facilitate the procedure.

3.9 International web-based market places

3.19. In 2012, the IPPC prepared a document on Internet Trade (e-Commerce) in Plants - Potential Phytosanitary Risks to present preliminary findings of a desk study that explored the range of products being offered for sale through the internet and highlighted potential risks on plant health and the environment.

3.20. The CITES Secretariat is developing an Internet portal as part of the CITES website to compile, publish and disseminate information submitted by Parties and stakeholders related to e-commerce of CITES-listed species (<http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/e-commerce.php>) in accordance with Decisions 15.57, 16.62 and Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP15) on e-commerce.

3.10 Other pathways

3.21. Guidance for management of the following pathways or causes of introduction of alien species are planned to be addressed by the appropriate organizations or bodies:

- Military activities;
- Emergency relief, aid and response;
- International development assistance;
- Scientific research;
- Tourism;
- Inter-basin water transfer and navigation channels;
- Action or lack of action to address spread of invasive alien species;
- Inconsistency in terminology.

3.11 Facilitation of implementation

3.22. The Standards and Trade Development Facility, in collaboration with the IPPC and the OIE, organized a Seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Geneva, Switzerland from 12 to 13 July 2012 and published a study titled International Trade and Invasive Alien Species and a one-page briefing on the same subject. The study is available at http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/IAS/STDF_IAS_EN.pdf; the briefing at http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Briefings/STDF_Briefing_No9_EN_web.pdf.

3.23. The CBD organized regional capacity building workshops for Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9:

- Group of Latin American Countries, 12-13 November 2011, Montreal, Canada in collaboration with the FAO;
- African sub-region (Eastern Africa), 7-9 December 2011, Nairobi, Kenya in collaboration with IUCN and the OIE;
- East and South East Asia, 30 July-1 August 2012, Bangkok, Thailand in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and others;
- Arab region, 11-14 February 2013, Dubai, United Arab Emirates in collaboration with the IPPC, CABI and UNEP;
- West and Central Africa, 4-7 March 2013, Dakar, Senegal;
- Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 9-12 December 2013, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in collaboration with the IPPC, IUCN and UNEP.

3.24. The CBD in collaboration with invasive alien species database providers initiated activities on the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

3.25. The IMO, the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility provided an opportunity for capacity development on ballast water management (GloBallast Programme in 2000-2007). The second phase of the GloBallast Programme, referred to as GloBallast Partnerships, was initiated in late 2007 and is intended to build on the progress made in the original project. It is focussed on national policy, legal and institutional reforms in targeted developing countries with an emphasis on integrated management. GloBallast Partnerships has been extended to the end of September 2016.

3.26. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, in collaboration with the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia, held a capacity building workshop, 7-10 October 2014, Changwon, Republic of Korea, for National Focal Points and Scientific and Technical Review Panel National Focal Points, which included a session on wetlands and invasive species to identify guidance used in Asia for the prevention, eradication, control and management of invasive alien species.

3.27. The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel is working, as part of its work on the 2013-2015 work plan, on developing a guide to available guidance on wetlands and invasive species, targeted at policy makers, wetland managers and local communities.

3.28. Guidance on the use of electronic permits and certificates under CITES is provided in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) on permits and certificates as well as a CITES electronic permitting toolkit which can be accessed at <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/e/e-permitting-toolkit.php>. The use of electronic permits can facilitate the tracking of live specimens in CITES trade and the detection of trade in violation of the Convention or related national legislation.
