



CBD



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### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eleventh meeting

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Item 13.9 of the provisional agenda\*

### OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP

*Note by the Executive Secretary<sup>1</sup>*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Invasive alien species (IAS) are those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity).<sup>2</sup> In some ecosystems – islands for example – invasive alien species are the leading cause of biodiversity loss. A lack of reliable, readily accessible information has been identified as a barrier in Parties' efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species.

2. On 9-10 July 2012, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened an "Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership"<sup>3</sup> at the Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, thanks to the generous financial support of the European Union.

3. The primary goal of the workshop was to further the implementation of the Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

<sup>1</sup> This note has been prepared in close collaboration with Interim Steering Committee for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership which was established at the organizational workshop referred to in the Background Information below.

<sup>2</sup> The following definitions are used since the Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in decision VI/23.\*

- i. "alien species" refers to a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce;
- ii. "invasive alien species" means an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity (For the purposes of the present guiding principles, the term "invasive alien species" shall be deemed the same as "alien invasive species" in decision V/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.)

<sup>3</sup> A detailed workshop report will be accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/>.

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Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14) by creating a mechanism through which invasive alien species information users and providers can collaborate in a timely and effective manner.

4. Workshop participants thus collaborated in the development of an Operational Plan for a “Global Invasive Species Information Partnership.” The Operational Plan follows and includes two annexes: (a) a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) template through which relevant organizations can join the Partnership (annex I) and (b) the provisional Work Plan (annex II).

5. The Partnership is not conceived as a new stand-alone organization, but instead as a dynamic network of stakeholders involved in the use and provision of information and tools relevant to the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive alien species.

6. While free and open access to information is a core value to be shared by participants in the Partnership, the need for partners to operate according to individual intellectual property right (IPR) policies has been recognized and will be addressed, as appropriate, during Work Plan implementation.

7. Relevant organizations are encouraged to sign the MoC contained in annex I, thus joining the Partnership.<sup>4</sup>

8. The official launch of the Partnership will take place during a side-event in the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) (Wednesday, 10 October 2012, 1.15-2.45 p.m.; Room 1.10, Level 1) which will include an MoC signing ceremony presided by the Executive Secretary of the CBD.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. *Invasive Alien Species***

9. Invasive alien species (IAS) are those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8(h)).<sup>5</sup> In some ecosystems – islands for example – invasive alien species are the leading cause of biodiversity loss. In addition, they can pose a threat to food security, human health and economic development.

10. Rapid globalization of trade, travel, and transport are now exacerbating and accelerating invasive alien species problems, creating new problems for the future. Large-scale trends in climate and land use also appear likely to make invasive alien species an issue of growing importance.

11. Under the Convention, the Conference of the Parties adopted the “Guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species” annexed to decision VI/23\* in 2002. The Conference of the Parties also identified the most critical pathways of introduction of alien species and highlighted the need to address the gaps and inconsistencies of the international regulatory framework in 2006. Further efforts to close the gap in the international regulatory framework have continued through the Conference of the Parties, as well as dialogue among relevant international organizations. For example, the World Trade Organization (WTO)

<sup>4</sup> Please send to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) with a copy to junko.shimura@cbd.int.

<sup>5</sup> The following definitions are used since the Guiding Principles\* were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: “alien species” refers to a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce; “invasive alien species” means an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity (for the purposes of the present guiding principles, the term “invasive alien species” shall be deemed the same as “alien invasive species” in decision V/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.)

and its standard-setting bodies<sup>6</sup> provide opportunities to develop capacity to implement the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (“SPS Agreement”).

12. The challenges posed by invasive alien species are complex from biological, jurisdictional, and legal perspectives. Cross-sectoral partnerships are needed at national, regional, and global levels to adequately prevent and combat invasive alien species. To control the transboundary movement of live species and contaminated goods that threaten biodiversity, it is necessary to implement the CBD Guiding Principles,\* as well as other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in a timely and well-informed manner.

13. Prevention is widely considered the most cost-effective means for addressing invasive alien species. The eradication of invasive alien species generally requires their early detection and a rapid response. In many instances, however, invasive alien species become so well established that perpetual, costly controls are required. This can be an indefinite drain on limited national resources, and put native species and ecosystem services at great risk.

14. Analytical approaches to addressing invasive alien species (e.g., risk analysis, pathway analysis, climate matching, and ecological niche modelling) require adequate information on a wide variety of factors, such as organismal identification and biology; potential impacts of alien species; pathways of spread; ecological and climatic patterns and trends at sites of introduction and potential introduction; options for prevention, control, and management; and socio-economic factors influencing introduction, spread, and effective response.

15. The Convention on Biological Diversity and the other relevant organizations are actively promoting the creation of information sources and the exchange of information relevant to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

16. Information sharing and communication within Governments, as well as between Governments and stakeholders, is urgently needed to support every aspect of invasive alien species prevention, eradication, and control. The organizations that provide invasive alien species information and relevant technologies have a critical role to play in enabling Governments to make well-informed decisions on which non-native species to address – and how, when, and where to take action in order to minimize their spread and impact.

#### ***B. Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species***

17. In paragraph 3 (b) of decision X/38, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene a meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group established in paragraph 2 of that decision, to consider ways to increase the interoperability of existing information resources including existing databases and networks.

18. At the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of invasive alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species and as live bait and live food held in Geneva from 16 to 18 February 2011, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)<sup>7</sup>

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\* One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

<sup>6</sup> International Plant Protection Convention ([www.ippc.int/](http://www.ippc.int/)), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE; <http://www.oie.int/>), Codex Alimentarius ([www.codexalimentarius.org/](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/)).

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.gbif.org>.

offered to organize an informatics expert meeting to clarify user requirements, identify priority activities and develop a roadmap for the development of a global informatics infrastructure for invasive alien species building on existing initiatives.

19. GBIF convened the Informatics Expert Meeting on Invasive Alien Species in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 5 to 6 September 2011. It was attended by a group of 10 experts involved in various initiatives on invasive alien species and experienced in the interface between informatics and environmental science.

20. Participants in the Copenhagen meeting worked with the Secretariat to produce an information document released at the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) as the “Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14).<sup>8</sup> The purposes of this document was to: (a) describe how to improve the effectiveness of existing information services on invasive alien species through a series of coordinated activities carried out by specialized partners and (b) demonstrate that a reasonable amount of support can significantly contribute to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, and hence raise interest among Parties and other donors to facilitate the mobilization of resources for the full implementation of this joint work programme.

21. Based on the points made in the “Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9”, the Secretariat received generous financial support from the European Union to move the process forward. The Secretariat thus hired a short-term Programme Coordinator and convened an informal, interim steering committee in order to advance relevant activities until the end of November 2012.

22. At the sixteenth meeting of SBSTTA (Montreal, Canada; 30 April – 5 May 2012) several individuals/organizations who had taken leadership roles in the Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 met with the Executive Secretary and other Secretariat staff to discuss objectives and activities for 2012. At this meeting, it was proposed that the term “Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species...” be replaced with the “Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership” in order to more readily reflect the intent to create an open alliance of information providers and users intent on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

23. Section II below presents the Operational Plan for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership. The text of the MoC can be found in annex I below, and the Work Plan for Phase I (from October 2012 to 2020), including the plan of implementation of the Partnership Information Gateway, can be found in annex II.

## **II. THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP**

### **A. *Organizational Planning***

24. An organizational workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership was hosted by the Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 9-10 July 2012. Twenty-nine individuals participated in this meeting, representing fourteen Parties, four intergovernmental organizations, three non-governmental organizations, three academic/scientific

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-15/information/sbstta-15-inf-14-en.pdf>.

institutions, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Two observers were also present.<sup>9</sup>

25. This Operational Plan is largely the result of facilitated discussions at the Organizational Workshop of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership and decisions made thereafter by an interim Steering Committee,<sup>10</sup> in consultation with the Secretariat.

## ***B. Organizational Profile***

### **1. Vision**

26. Biodiversity and human well-being are protected from the adverse impacts of invasive alien species.

### **2. Mission**

27. *Through global-scale cooperation, maximize the capacity of CBD Parties and their partners to access, exchange, analyse, and effectively apply the information<sup>11</sup> and informatics tools needed to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species in a timely and reliable manner (i.e., to implement Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9).<sup>12</sup>*

### **3. Values**

28. The Partnership's core values are intended to enable the network's diverse partners to collectively pursue its mission in a constructive manner, from a common foundation. These values support meaningful dialogue among people/organizations with different interests, expertise, and cultural norms. They also strengthen the Partnership's ability to maintain a neutral stance and credibility.

29. Partnership members agree to strive for:

- (a) Accountability;
- (b) Global collaboration;
- (c) Scientific relevance/accountability;
- (d) Cultural, gender, and geographic sensitivity;
- (e) Inclusiveness;
- (f) Free and open access to information;<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> A detailed workshop report and list of participants will be accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/>.

<sup>10</sup> The interim Steering Committee has been comprised of CAB International (CABI; Gareth Richards, Elizabeth Dodsworth, Lucinda Charles), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF; Samy Gaiji), the Natural History Museum, London (NHM; Chris Lyal), the IUCN Invasive Species Initiative (Geoffrey Howard), the IUCN-Species Survival Commission-Invasive Species Specialist Group (IUCN-SSC-ISSG; Shyama Pagad, Piero Genovesi,), the coordinator for invasive alien species information services contracted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Jamie K. Reaser) and the Secretariat of the CBD (Junko Shimura).

<sup>11</sup> In the context of the mission statement, “information” also includes “data and knowledge” and relevant technologies.

<sup>12</sup> This mission statement is a result of a consultative process. The interim Steering Committee will work to further streamline/simplify the language during its meeting at COP 11. The intent/concepts will remain the same.

<sup>13</sup> With proper attribution/citation of the original data publishers, when feasible.

- (g) Openness;
- (h) Mutual respect; and
- (i) Transparency.

30. These constitute the core values. The Partnership expects all its partners to apply them, to the extent feasible, when working together to fulfilment of its mission.

#### **4. Distinct Capacities**

31. The Partnership achieves its mission by providing a collective vision and by catalyzing invasive alien species information initiatives at national, regional, and global scales. The Partnership operates through a "Partnership Network" comprised of invasive alien species information users and providers from around the world. The Partnership stakeholders are its partners – Government institutions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, academic/research institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the private sector.

32. Although Partnership partners have diverse missions, the Partnership's services are primarily intended to support Parties to the CBD who are committed to the effective implementation of Article 8(h), Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species), and the various decisions under the CBD pertaining to the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive alien species. The improvement of availability, quality, and application of scientifically relevant information on invasive alien species is the underlying theme for all Partnership activities.

33. The Partnership has the ability to achieve outcomes that no single organization or Government could achieve on its own. Importantly, it also has the ability to enable a more timely delivery of invasive alien species information for policymaking needs.

34. Examples of services provided by the Partnership include:

- (a) Advisory service to Parties to the CBD on matters relevant to invasive alien species information systems, data, and analytical tools;
- (b) A forum for collaboration and information exchange among invasive alien species information providers and users;
- (c) Creation and management of a web-based Information Gateway for access to and the exchange of information on invasive alien species in a timely and accurate manner;
- (d) Designing and implementing activities to facilitate the development of new and better information systems and analytical tools to address the issues related to invasive alien species; and
- (e) Facilitating the provision of targeted grants and in-kind services to build the capacity of invasive alien species information systems and analytical tools.

35. The collaborative nature of the Partnership encourages countries to recognize that they face difficulty to solve the invasive alien species issue by solely working within their borders. Invasive alien species are largely an international problem. The data and other information resources that one country needs to address invasive alien species can often be found in another country. The Partnership helps countries to access the information resources worldwide, and to become a resource for others.

36. The Partnership works in a similar manner with international organizations to prevent the isolated, sector-focused approaches to invasive alien species issue that can lead to duplicative efforts and ineffective policies. The Partnership enables Governments, environmental groups, trade industries and other stakeholders to share information and engage in positive, constructive dialogue, as well as implement projects with tangible, high-impact outcomes.

### **C. Partnership Work Plan**

37. Although the Partnership is intended to be a flexible initiative that is able to address arising issues and take advantage of new opportunities, it will operate on a foundation of core initiatives that have been designed to address the most pressing invasive alien species information issues and take full advantage of the unique capacities of the Partnership.

38. The Partnership is envisioned to provide indefinite service to CBD Parties, pending available resources. The first phase of its Work Plan will be consistent with the timeline for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, lasting through 2020. A full review of the Partnership should take place in 2019, and a plan for Phase II of the Work Plan implementation completed no later than mid 2020. Ideally, Phase II would be launched at a meeting of SBSTTA in late 2020 or early 2021.

39. Phase I of the Work Plan can be found in annex II below. These activities represent priorities derived from the Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14) and the Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership, held in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 9-10 July 2012.<sup>14</sup> The Work Plan is subject to revision and updating by the Steering Committee, with input from the Working Group Chairs/Co-Chairs.

40. Every effort will be made to accomplish the Work Plan objectives in a participatory and timely manner, and to make products widely available in languages and formats that best serve CBD Parties. Much of the work of the Partnership will be project-based. Each project will be addressed by one or more Working Groups/Task Teams (see point 4 of section D below), and the products will be made freely available through the Information Gateway. A Chair or Co-Chairs of each Working Group/Task Team will be appointed by the Partnership Steering Committee. These Co-Chairs/Chairs will be responsible, in collaboration with the Partnership Coordinator, for their particular aspect of Work Plan. The CBD Secretariat will provide support to this work, as appropriate.

### **D. Partnership Leadership and Coordination**

41. The Partnership (like many largely volunteer-based partnerships) requires a clear, yet multifaceted, governance structure with semi-autonomous components.

42. The Partnership will be directed by a Steering Committee, with input from other relevant bodies, including Parties and donors. Subject to the availability of the necessary resources, a Partnership Coordinator will oversee the implementation of the Work Plan. Working Groups/Task Teams comprised of Party representatives and experts on invasive alien species information issues will have the primary responsibility for designing and implementing the Partnership activities.

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<sup>14</sup> A detailed workshop report will be accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/>.

## **1. Partners**

43. The Partnership is not conceived as a new stand-alone organization, but instead as a dynamic network of stakeholders involved in the use and provision of information and tools relevant to the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive alien species: developed and developing country Government institutions, agencies of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, donor organizations, professional associations, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the private sector.

44. Any organization or other group that provides information services and tools that could help maximize the ability of CBD Parties to implement Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species) is welcome to become a member of the Partnership by signing a MoC with the CBD (See annex I for the MoC template). CBD Parties and their collaborating stakeholders are assumed to be members of the Partnership. CBD Parties will be routinely reminded to provide up-to-date contact information for their national representatives to the Partnership Coordinator.

## **2. Steering Committee**

45. The Steering Committee will oversee planning and financing of the Partnership. It is intended to be a coordinating body comprised of individuals/organizations who can dedicate a reasonable amount of time to guiding/supporting the Partnership Coordinator and Working Groups. Members of the Steering Committee will be internationally recognized leaders in invasive alien species and/or information management with a strong commitment to the implementation of Partnership's mission. Steering Committee members will be able to use their own expertise and reputation to provide direction to the Partnership, as well as to identify, engage and build productive relationships with potential partners and donors. Steering Committee membership will be drawn from the Partnership partners and CBD Parties. The fair representation of organizations is fully intended. An elected Chair and Vice-Chair will coordinate the Steering Committee. The Partnership Coordinator will coordinate financial management and act as the Secretary/Treasurer to the Steering Committee. Specific roles and responsibilities for the Steering Committee include:

- (a) Defining and helping to develop the Operational Plan;
- (b) Ensuring implementation of the Operational Plan, especially the Work Plan;
- (c) Facilitating/supporting the acquisition of resources to support the Work Plan (including in-kind opportunities);
- (d) Representing the Partnership and being empowered to take decisions on behalf of the Partnership;
- (e) Reporting to the CBD Secretariat and other relevant bodies; and
- (f) Keeping participants motivated.

46. The Partnership will begin the process for establishing the Steering Committee in 2012.<sup>15</sup> The process will be gradual in order for the Partnership to ensure the identification and representation of a breadth of countries, organizations, and expertise.

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<sup>15</sup> An interim Steering Committee will operate through at least the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA, at which time the interim Steering Committee may choose to adopt the first full Steering Committee comprised of information providers and users, including representatives of selected partners (organizations which have signed the MoC) and Parties.

47. Steering Committee members will be appointed for a period of two years, with the option for renewal. Notwithstanding the proactive process mentioned above, new membership of the Steering Committee will be sought through a global call for nominations and the existing Steering Committee will make selections with emphasis on equality and considerations for a diverse and balanced membership. The Steering Committee will do their best to ensure appropriate representation and active participation in the Partnership activities.

### **3. Partnership Coordinator<sup>16</sup>**

48. Daily operations of the Partnership will be led by a Partnership Coordinator, subject to the availability of funds. The Partnership Coordinator is expected to:

- (a) Serve as the primary focal point for the Partnership;
- (b) Provide overall direction in implementation of the Partnership Operational Plan, including tracking progress;
- (c) Secure funding and in-kind services (whenever possible) to enable implementation of the Partnership Operational Plan;
- (d) Coordinate the Partnership network globally, encouraging partners to constructively work together in keeping with the Partnership's core values (point 3 of section B above);
- (e) Support the Steering Committee in governance, finance, communications, planning, and operational management and review;
- (f) Guide/support the Working Groups/Task Teams in project development, implementation, communications, and fundraising;
- (g) Oversee the Partnership Gateway, working to ensure that it is serving the needs of the Parties in keeping with the Partnership's mission;<sup>17</sup> and
- (h) Maintain a close working relationship with the CBD Secretariat and integrate/link the Partnership into CBD activities, as appropriate.

### **4. Working Groups/Task Teams**

49. Working Groups are identified/directed by the Steering Committee with support from the Partnership Coordinator, and constitute the Partnership infrastructure. The members will design and implement activities in keeping with the Work Plan presented in annex II, as well as provide technical advice to the Steering Committee and Partnership Coordinator as requested.

50. The Working Groups are intended to be standing committees led by a voluntary Chair or Co-Chairs. Although the Working Groups are intended to be inclusive, a core team of partners will be invited to participate by the Steering Committee in order to ensure the necessary commitment and expertise to implement the Partnership activities. Working Group Chair/Co-Chairs will make every effort to engage experts in such a manner as to ensure geographic, cultural, gender, and technical balance.

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<sup>16</sup> An interim coordinator is currently contracted by the Secretariat of the CBD through 30 November 2012.

<sup>17</sup> This is likely to take the form of supporting/interfacing with a partner organization which offers to host/run the Information Gateway.

51. During Phase I, the Working Groups will focus on:

- (a) The Partnership Gateway functionalities;
- (b) Database interoperability, data gaps and quality improvement;
- (c) Information synthesis and assessment;
- (d) Taxonomic information services; and
- (e) Best practices for the non-electronic means of information access and exchange.

52. Task Teams will work under the direction of the Working Groups and be designed by the Working Group Chair/Co-Chairs. Task Teams are temporary bodies that exist only to implement a specific, time-bound project. Once the project has been approved by the Working Group Chair/Co-Chairs, the task team can be dissolved. For some projects, Chair/Co-Chairs from multiple Working Groups may decide to create a cross-cutting Task Team.

## 5. Review Procedures

53. The Steering Committee will review the Partnership Work Plan and the performance of the Partnership Coordinator and Working Groups on an annual basis, and will implement changes as required. The Secretariat will make available to Parties reports on progress on a regular basis. If necessary, additional reviews for donor organizations and Parties will be carried out.

### E. Funding and In-Kind Services

54. Phase I of the Partnership has an 8-year time horizon, with the option for continuation after an external review, organized by its Steering Committee. For the duration of this program, the Partnership will require external funds and in-kind contributions to support its core operations and specific projects in keeping with the Work Plan. Partnership elements requiring financial and/or in-kind support include:

- (a) Salary and benefits for the Partnership Coordinator;
- (b) Office equipment, recurrent office costs, site lease of accommodation for the Partnership Coordinator, if necessary;
- (c) Travel allowance to enable the Partnership Coordinator or delegate to fully participate in relevant meetings, conferences, and committees;
- (d) Establishment and maintenance of a web-based Information Gateway for ready access to and exchange of invasive alien species information;
- (e) Working Group operations, including the implementation of specific projects under the direction of the Working Groups and possibly one organizational workshop per year per Working Group; and
- (f) Travel and subsistence for members of the Steering Committee to meet in person at least once per year, subject to the availability of funds.

55. This core support will be augmented by grants for specific activities deriving from the Working Groups/Task Teams or the CBD Secretariat needs. Working Groups/Task Teams will be particularly

involved in generating funding and in-kind services for their activities – their support from the Partnership core funding is considered catalytic.

56. Financial management for the Partnership will be provided by partner organizations, the CBD Secretariat, and/or CBD Parties,<sup>18</sup> as appropriate.

57. The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the CBD and information provider organization(s) in support of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership to be signed is presented in annex I.

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<sup>18</sup> In some instances, Government institutions may choose to become active participants in the Partnership and take on leadership of one or more Work Plan elements. In such cases, they may need to manage these project resources on behalf of the Partnership.

*Annex I*

**Memorandum of Cooperation  
Between  
The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
and  
[name of information provider organization[s]]  
in support of**

**THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP**

This Memorandum of Cooperation is entered into by and between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter "the Secretariat") and [name of information provider organization](hereafter "[abbreviation for provider organization]");

*Recalling Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which provides that "Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species";*

*Recalling decisions relevant to the implementation of Article 8(h) in which Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations were urged to develop and make available technical tools and related information on invasive alien species, and the Executive Secretary was requested to support the development and dissemination of technical tools and related information;*

*Recalling Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which states: "By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment";*

*Recognizing the need to cooperate in order to promote access, collaboration, and timeliness towards the goal of providing scientifically valid information to Parties and their partners in order to achieve Target 9 and related decisions; and*

*Noting the key points made in the Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14);*

*Have agreed as follows:*

**Article 1**  
**Objective**

The objective of the Memorandum is to promote collaborative activities among the participating organizations and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate access, exchange and analysis of information on invasive alien species with a view to supporting action by Parties to the CBD and other Governments, and by other organizations and stakeholders, to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species in line with Article 8(h) of the CBD, and other relevant agreements, and to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This objective will be pursued through the establishment and implementation of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership. The activities taken through this Memorandum of Cooperation will facilitate the provision of scientific and technical information related to invasive alien species and strengthen the capacity of the parties to this Memorandum and their constituents to support Parties to the CBD, other

Governments and biodiversity stakeholders to implement Article 8(h) and, in particular, to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

Article 2  
Cooperative activities

The parties to this Memorandum will work collaboratively with a view to:

- 2.1 Develop and implement plans for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership to serve as a mechanism for collaboration on invasive alien species information access, exchange, and capacity-building worldwide;
- 2.2 Develop a Partnership Gateway with a view to facilitating access to invasive alien species databases and analytical tools, as well as the timely exchange of information among biodiversity stakeholders;
- 2.3 Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by the participating organizations to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues, and other concerns of mutual interest in the context of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership;
- 2.4 Facilitate, as appropriate, the participation of relevant experts from the participating organizations in consultations, side-events, and other activities organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to further strengthen the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

Article 3  
Access to information

As far as possible, through their collaborative activities that fall within the scope of this Memorandum, and without prejudice to their other activities, the parties to this Memorandum will:

- 3.1 Promote free and open access to information, data and knowledge relevant to addressing the threats from invasive alien species;
- 3.2 Provide relevant information, data, and knowledge, through the Partnership Gateway, and other channels that may be agreed, and to regularly update such information, data, and knowledge, as necessary;
- 3.3 Endeavour to provide data providers with full attribution for any uses of their data, information, or knowledge, and respect the original integrity of their contributions; and
- 3.4 Respect the intellectual property rights and/or licenses associated with documents, data, records, tools, software or materials that are used or made accessible to further the objectives of this Memorandum.

Article 4  
Execution

- 4.1 The execution of this Memorandum will be effected through annexes relating to specific activities agreed upon by the parties under this Memorandum.
- 4.2 Such annexes will form an integral part of this Memorandum.

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Article 5  
Disclaimer

- 5.1 Information transmitted by one party to another party under this Memorandum shall be as accurate as possible, but the transmitting party does not warrant the suitability or authenticity of the information for any use or application by the receiving party or by any third parties.

Article 6  
Planning and Review of Activities

- 6.1 The parties to this Memorandum shall designate representatives who, at times mutually agreed upon by the parties, shall review the activities being carried out under this Memorandum.

Article 7  
Settlement of Disputes

- 7.1 Any dispute between the Secretariat and [information provider organization] arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled amicably by negotiation. If the parties to this Memorandum are unable to reach agreement, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules under the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as at present in force.

Article 8  
Entry into Effect, Amendment and Termination

- 8.1 The Memorandum will enter into effect upon signature of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the [Chair/President/CEO/Executive Director] or the [information provider organization].
- 8.2 Any amendment to the Memorandum will be effected only on the basis of written consent of the Secretariat and [the information provider organization].
- 8.3 This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party giving six months written notice.
- 8.4 The termination of this Memorandum shall not affect the validity or duration of the projects under this MOC that are initiated prior to such notification.

**THE PARTIES HEREBY EXECUTE THIS MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION,  
EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF SIGNATURE.**

Convention on Biological Diversity

[information provider organization]

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The Executive Secretary  
Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

[Chair/President/CEO/Executive Director]

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*Annex II*

## **WORK PLAN FOR THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP<sup>19</sup>**

1. The Partnership will focus its efforts on five major areas of work: Partnership Gateway, Database Interoperability and Quality Improvement, Information Synthesis and Assessment, Taxonomic Information Services, and Best Practices for the Non-Electronic Means of Information Access and Exchange. These areas represent priorities derived from the Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14) and the Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership, held in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 9-10 July 2012.<sup>20</sup>
2. Working Groups/Task Teams will undertake this work with support and guidance from the Partnership Coordinator, subject to the availability of funds. The provisional Work Plan is outlined as below. The five Work Plan elements will each be addressed by a separate Working Group. Some projects may necessitate Working Group collaboration.
3. **Partnership Mission:** *Through global-scale cooperation, maximize the capacity of CBD Parties and their partners to access, exchange, analyse, and effectively apply the information<sup>21</sup> and informatics tools needed to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species in a timely and reliable manner (i.e., to implement Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9).<sup>22</sup>*

### **I. PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION GATEWAY**

**Goal:** Establish and manage a web-based site for access to and the exchange of the information and informatics tools Parties require to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive alien species.

**Strategy:**

- (a) Obtain a URL address through which Parties and other stakeholders can access and exchange relevant invasive alien species information;
- (b) Develop a Partnership Gateway design and implementation plan, using a phased-in approach. The plan should identify the institution/agency which will host the site;
- (c) Identify/create an informatics platform that will readily deliver the information services that Parties and other stakeholders have identified as needed in order to achieve Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species),<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> The interim Steering Committee will further develop the Work Plan during its meeting at COP 11.

<sup>20</sup> A detailed workshop report will be accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/>.

<sup>21</sup> In the context of the mission statement, “information” also includes “data and knowledge”.

<sup>22</sup> This mission statement is a result of a consultative process. The interim Steering Committee will work to further streamline/simplify the language during its meeting at COP 11. The intent/concepts will remain the same.

<sup>23</sup> While the Partnership holds free and open access to information as a core value, it recognizes that the Partners will need to operate according to individual intellectual property right (IPR) policies. The Working Group intends to address these issues within the Information Gateway (annex II) development plan, which is a work in progress.

- (d) Link various existing, relevant information sources and informatics tools into the “Information Gateway”. This will help improve access to existing information systems. Examples of resources to link into the Gateway include databases, analytical tools, best practice guidance, training modules, and education/outreach materials;
- (e) Add new invasive alien species information and informatics resources to the Partnership Gateway as they become available – especially products from other Partnership Working Groups;
- (f) Create and moderate mechanisms (e.g., chat rooms, forums, list-serves) for the active exchange of relevant information within the Partnership Gateway;
- (g) Direct and attract Parties to the CBD and other relevant stakeholders to the Information Gateway;
- (h) Review and improve the Information Gateway in an ongoing manner so as to best meet Parties’ needs; and
- (i) Promote the Information Gateway and the Partnership to Parties to increase usage and elicit feedback.

## **II. DATABASE INTEROPERABILITY AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

**Goal:** *Facilitate linkages among and the reliability of information contained in information systems which can provide Parties with the data and tools they need to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive alien species.*

**Strategy:**

- (a) Develop and promote standards vis-à-vis quality control procedures for data and information capture, including metadata, related terminology, vocabularies used in data and information capture, and taxonomic services;
- (b) Map vocabularies used by partners in order to facilitate interoperability in circumstances in which it can provide added value; and
- (c) Establish and/or promote mechanisms for assessing data quality in relevant information systems and providing feedback to the data managers (e.g., peer review committees, on-line feedback forms, small grants for data quality improvement).

## **III. INFORMATION SYNTHESIS AND ASSESSMENT**

**Goal:** *Facilitate and support the development of information resources and informatics tools needed by Parties to implement CBD decisions in the context of invasive alien species prevention, eradication, and control.*

**Strategy:**

- (a) Conduct a gap analysis of Parties’ information needs for achieving Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, and incorporate findings into this Work Plan;

- (b) Assess the major data gaps in existing information systems and identify/support the most critical data mobilization activities in the short-medium term;
- (c) Develop<sup>24</sup> and make available through the Information Gateway, as appropriate:
  - (i) Global registries of:
    - a. Introduced and invasive alien species, which can serve as a resources for risk analyses and an early warning system;
    - b. Invasive alien species informatics tools;<sup>25</sup>
    - c. Education, outreach, social marketing, and training resources;
    - d. Best management practices (for addressing species and pathways);
    - e. Economic evaluations (cost-benefit analyses and impact studies); and
    - f. Risk analyses.
  - (ii) A global index of the alien species primary biodiversity data<sup>26</sup> integrated with GBIF. This should include occurrence “absence” (non-detection) data;
    - a. Use cases relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Target 9;<sup>27</sup>
    - b. An information system which can be used for identifying, mapping, ranking, and conducting risk analyses of biological invasion pathways.

#### IV. TAXONOMIC INFORMATION SERVICES<sup>28</sup>

**Goal:** Build the capacity of Parties to readily access the taxonomic information to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species.

**Strategy:**

- (a) **Conduct** a needs/gaps analysis of taxonomic services Parties require to achieve Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9,<sup>29</sup> and use this to inform further development of the Work Plan;

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<sup>24</sup> Some of these products are already under development; updating and/or quality improvement is warranted.

<sup>25</sup> This should include analytical and modelling tools that can be made available through the Gateway.

<sup>26</sup> Primary biodiversity data are the digital text or multimedia data records that detail the instance of an organism – the “what, where, when, how and by whom” of the organism’s occurrence and documentation.

<sup>27</sup> This is from the EU funding agreement and needs further clarification in the next draft of the Work Plan.

<sup>28</sup> This Working Group should have direct linkages to the Global Taxonomic Initiative (GTI) and take relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets into consideration.

<sup>29</sup> See previous work by BioNet INTERNATIONAL, and make this available through the Gateway as appropriate.

- (b) **Assist** the Parties in developing a common understanding of linkages between addressing invasive alien species and taxonomic information;
- (c) **Establish** common documentation and annotation services of invasive alien species based on taxonomic references;
- (d) **Compile** and/or link to lists of prioritized species names and associated taxonomic resources; and
- (e) **Develop** a directory of taxonomic authorities/services.

## **V. BEST PRACTICES FOR NON-ELECTRONIC INFORMATION ACCESS AND EXCHANGE**

**Goal:** Develop means to make Gateway content, links and facilities available through systems other than the internet.

**Strategy:**

- (a) **Conduct** a needs assessment to identify what means of information provision and exchange can best be utilized by those who do not have reliable internet access;
- (b) **Identify** and **foster** approaches to disseminating information to Parties who will not be able to access the Partnership Gateway in a timely or reliable manner; and
- (c) **Encourage** and facilitate non-internet feedback and contribution systems that support the Parties in implementing Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

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