

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FORUM ON BIODIVERSITY

STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 5

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: ADDRESSING THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TRADE; BIOLOGICAL CONTROL; AND DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS

Mr/Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB). We thank the Secretariat for preparing the documents in relation to Invasive Alien Species.

We welcome this opportunity to share our perspectives on these very critical issues that can have a devastating effect on the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and in particular the biological control of invasive alien species.

Indigenous peoples and local communities have ownership, occupation, management, or control of around 20% of lands globally and we welcome the approach to use the precautionary principle as the basis for all decisions on the release of biological control agents.

The cost financially, environmentally on the biological diversity and ecosystems and culturally to effectively manage or eradicate the invasive alien species is an enormous burden to Parties, other Governments, relevant organisations, and Indigenous peoples and local communities with significant effect on designated environmentally sensitive or protected areas as well as on human use (eg. Water quality, recreational uses, tourism, animal grazing, hunting, and fishing).

The IIFB draws SBSTTA's attention to the *Guidelines for Assessing the Risk of Non-native Animals Becoming Invasive* developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health and the *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures* produced by IPPC, both of which provide standards for risk assessment process on pests or non-native animals, and indicate to consider direct and indirect consequences that are highly relevant to Indigenous peoples and local communities in the risk assessment processes. These standards include consideration on the consequence in the environment or socio-cultural values. Failure in assessing risks on these could have substantial impacts on the livelihood, food sources, and the social and cultural well-being of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

- The IIFB therefore recommends that the suggested recommendation paragraph 10 should be broadened, taking into account the inputs from Indigenous peoples and local communities, with regard to identification of, and assessing risks and the impacts posed by invasive alien species on their livelihood and socio-cultural values; human health and well-being; as well as gaps in risk assessment and risk management for the use of biological control agents against invasive alien species.

As well, in the decision support tools, it is critical to engage Indigenous peoples and local communities to use their knowledge, innovations and practices for the management of invasive alien species. Indigenous peoples and local communities have also established economic enterprises to support their livelihood and the impacts of invasive alien species can be devastating to their independence.

Indigenous peoples and local communities should be instrumental in the management, monitoring and regulation of invasive alien species with appropriate education and training in controlled or eradication measures to manage pathways to control invasive alien species. It is essential that Indigenous peoples and local communities who have adapted to rely on some of these invasive alien species for food sources is engaged in these processes.

- The IIFB would therefore recommend in accordance with the CBD Article 8(j), that Indigenous peoples and local communities are engaged to participate in the compilation or development of decision support tools, and the development of the technical guide for conducting cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis for the management of invasive alien species.

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair