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Implementing the provisions on invasive alien species of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020*

RECALLING that Aichi Target 9 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* 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”;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) *Programme of Work on Islands* highlights the vulnerability of islands’ biodiversity to invasive alien species, coupled with the weak capacity to respond to this threat;

NOTING that, in regard to the role of biological invasions as a key driver of biodiversity loss, invasive alien species management in protected areas is highlighted as an issue that needs greater attention by Decision X/31 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD;

ALARMED that biological invasions are constantly increasing among all taxonomic groups, and in all environments, from marine to freshwater and terrestrial, causing growing impacts on world biodiversity, affecting a high proportion of threatened species;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that many invasive alien species are pathogens, pests or weeds, costing the global economy many hundreds of billions of dollars each year;

EMPHASIZING that vast segments of the world’s population, especially in developing nations, suffer from vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue, West Nile virus and others, many of which are spread by invasive vectors such as mosquitoes;

FURTHER EMPHASIZING that invasive alien species also affect world food security, as they can severely impact activities such as fisheries, and inflict huge pre- and post-harvest yield losses;

RECALLING that much of the growth in the number of invasive alien species is caused by human activities such as trade, tourism and travel, and that it is therefore crucial to involve all the relevant societal sectors in the prevention and control of invasive alien species;

NOTING that climate change is likely to further increase the magnitude of the problem and reduce the management options available to combat invasive alien species;

FURTHER NOTING that the Joint Work Programme to strengthen information services on invasive alien species, presented at the 15th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD and welcomed by the participants to the meeting, will indeed provide crucial information to improve the efficacy of prevention measures of invasions and the efforts aimed at mitigating the impacts caused by invasive alien species;

AWARE that through the IUCN Commissions, the Secretariat and many of its Members, IUCN has particular strengths and expertise in species conservation, in the involvement of societal sectors in conservation issues, and engagement with decision makers; and

ALSO RECALLING that Recommendation 2.67 *Invasive alien species* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000) requested the Director General to take an active role to ensure that international trade and financial agreements, codes of practice, treaties and conventions took into account the threats posed by invasive alien species;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:

1. CALLS ON all countries to:
 - a. Identify invasive alien species present in their territories for priority control intervention, and to identify potential and actual pathways of invasive alien species introduction for priority prevention measures;
 - b. Enforce stringent regulatory measures to prevent the import and intentional or accidental release of invasive or potentially invasive alien species, ensuring full consistency with the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, and without hampering important conservation activities, such as *ex situ* breeding programmes conducted by zoos, botanic gardens and other institutions;
 - c. Encourage voluntary measures to prevent the spread of invasive or potentially invasive alien species, such as the voluntary code of conduct for zoos under development by the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), and the Bern Convention;
 - d. Ensure that policies and measures in other fields – such as ecosystem restoration and climate change – take account of the risk of causing further invasions (e.g. biofuel species promotion, assisted colonization, use of potentially invasive alien species in habitat restoration programs, etc.), balancing the short-term benefits with the long-term costs of invasions;
 - e. Work at removing legal, financial and human resources constraints to rapid responses to address new incursions of invasive alien species, especially in developing countries;
 - f. Promote eradication campaigns of priority invasive alien species, taking into account their potential or actual impact on biodiversity as well as on food security and human well-being, and giving priority to key areas such as islands, protected areas, and key points of entry, such as ports and airports; and
 - g. Incorporate invasive alien species and biosecurity policy imperatives in water and land-use planning at all scales from local to global, including islands protected areas, river and lake basins, production landscapes and seascapes;
2. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Commissions to:
 - a. Strengthen cooperation with the Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species established by the CBD with the aim of improving international, national and regional trade regulatory processes for minimizing the spread of invasive alien species, and composed of IUCN and international standard setting organizations such as WTO, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
 - b. Identify potential gaps in IUCN's policy and programmatic coverage of invasive alien species, and propose specific actions to fill the gaps in consultation with Council;
 - c. Improve interoperability between IUCN knowledge products with particular reference to the Global Invasive Species Database, the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*,

the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and the World Database on Protected Areas for supporting the identification of priority invasive alien species, and enhancing early warning systems and rapid responses to new invasions;

- d. Support collaboration between the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to promote the compilation and dissemination of best practice guidelines on invasive alien species management in protected areas, promote appropriate training to address this threat and enhance more effective management in protected areas; and
 - e. Strengthen support through the IUCN Secretariat and regional programmes to promote action and capacity building to address invasive alien species issues, especially through the protected areas, water, forests and drylands programmes;
3. CALLS ON the global scientific community worldwide to initiate and promote research on effective and novel methods to control invasive alien species, such as rapid taxonomic identification, improved border surveillance biological control, chemical control, mechanical methods, as well as on restoration indicators, risk assessment and bio-economics, and social and cultural engagement; and
 4. CALLS ON funding agencies, including in the public and private sectors and civil society to:
 - a. Provide greatly increased support to capacity building and public awareness of key issues, involvement of local communities, and the establishment of appropriate frameworks to enable early detection and management of new incursions, especially on islands and in developing countries;
 - b. Support the Joint Work Programme to strengthen information services on invasive alien species, presented at SBSTTA 15 and aimed at contributing to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9; and
 - c. Support prevention, eradication and control campaigns, especially on islands and in key biodiversity areas, protected areas and ecosystems threatened by invasive alien species.

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