

**Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological  
Advice - informal online preparatory session for SBSTTA 24.  
February 17–19 and February 24–26**

**Agenda Item 10 – Invasive Alien Species**

**Statement of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, presented by Aslak  
Holmberg (Saami Council).**

Thank you Mister/Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

The IIFB notes with concern the increasing prevalence of invasive alien species on our traditional lands, territories and waters. We call for accelerated and strengthened adoption of measures both at the national and local levels, to be aimed at the control and eradication of particularly harmful invasive alien species that disturb the traditional species. Such invasive alien species will have a negative impact not only on the biodiversity, but also on the people living and conducting traditional activities in these territories. Indigenous Peoples and Local communities are particularly vulnerable to these impacts on the traditional activities and food sources, but also on the occupation, culture, spirituality and languages.

However, there are also some invasive alien species that are used as part of food sources by Indigenous peoples and local communities. An example of this is the Kamchatka King Crab for Coastal Saami people in Norway. After years of being of invasive character causing huge problems for the local fishermen, the crab is today managed as a subsistence and commercial species side by side with the traditional fish stocks. The Sámi Parliament in Norway is consulted on the management regime for the crab.

The traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities enable us to monitor, manage and control invasive alien species. Such knowledge should be utilized in the monitoring process to control and eradicate invasive alien species, while ensuring the free, prior and informed consent of the IPLCs.

This includes the identification of what is occurring within a given environment and what challenges there may be. For example, with changing climate there is also a shift in some animal migration patterns resulting in a higher concentration of some animals in part of the world, than what has occurred in the past. Such as an increase in orcas and beavers in the Arctic and a question of what impact this is having. Within all of this discussion is the need to understand and address the cumulative impacts that arise from quickly changing environments, such as the coupling of increasing sea surface temperatures, shipping traffic, tourism, shifts in food web dynamics, and invasive and/or alien species.

We request the CBD Secretariat to organize global and regional workshops for indigenous peoples and local communities on the theme of "Invasive Alien Species as a result of Climate Change: ecosystem transformation and impact to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities", while taking into account geographical balance and linguistic diversity. The rationale for these workshops is that Indigenous Peoples and local communities live in the most biodiversity-rich areas, and are the first to face the consequences of climate change and impacts of invasive alien species.

It is important that Parties and other governments ensure full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in management and in monitoring at country level, of movement and

spread of invasive alien species. In terms of analysis methods and advanced tools for the management of invasive alien species, Indigenous Peoples and local communities' systems and practices for monitoring and controlling certain invasive alien species can become best practices at all levels.

Finally, we note the need to strengthen information work on this topic, especially at the local level, and encourage Parties support activities on the capacity building of Indigenous Peoples and local communities who are constantly encountering invasive alien species, taking into account the linguistic and territorial characteristics of ILPC's.

We will propose additions to the recommendation in: document **CBD/SBSTTA/24/10** To reflect the points raised above. We will submit them in writing.

Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair,

Proposal:

**In Annex III**

**Section A.** Prediction, **Item 2**, sub-item **(f)** - the impact on traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities should also be noted.

**In Annex III**

**Section B.** Planning and prevention, in **Item 3**. should be added sub-item on the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in planning for the management of invasive alien species in cases where there is a risk of climate change.

**In Annex III**

**Section C.** Management in **Item 3**. should be added sub-item on collecting best practices of indigenous peoples and local communities on the monitoring, controlling and mitigation of the impacts of invasive alien species caused by climate change, with free, prior and informed consent.

Thank you, Mr./Ms. Chair.