

Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice - Formal online session for SBSTTA 24. May 3 - June 9, 2021

Agenda Item 10 – Invasive Alien Species

Statement of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity

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

The IIFB calls for accelerated adoption of measures at all levels. Invasive alien species have direct and indirect negative impacts on biodiversity and indigenous peoples' traditional activities and occupations, food and medicine sources, culture, spirituality and languages.

Control measures also impact cultural meanings, values and uses that must be addressed. They have displaced culturally important species and are now used as foods, medicines, materials. They may act as foundation species that provide habitat for native species. Controlling invasive species through the use of chemicals can harm the health of indigenous peoples.

We are also concerned about shifting species, assisted migration; introductions of exotic cultivated and domesticated species and introduced and shifting diseases. Feral domestic cats are significant threats to birds and other native species. Evidence is accumulating that shifting and transported species can disrupt human and natural communities. There are important distinctions with invasive species, but these are decreasing in a world of nature on the move. Some shifting, cultivated and domesticated species increasingly fit the criteria of invasiveness.

Traditional knowledge is a legitimate body of knowledge complementary to and of equal standing with science and should be mainstreamed into assessments, including biocultural indicators and the input of traditional knowledge experts.

Indigenous Peoples are the first to face the consequences of climate change and impacts of invasive alien species. We have traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies to mitigate and manage some of these impacts, but are faced with increasing challenges, many of which originate outside of our territories.

On the Annex, we will offer text-based proposals in the Contact Group.

In general:

We propose the development of text for regional workshops for indigenous peoples and local communities on invasive alien species and climate change as well as other capacity building activities.

Throughout the document we propose that wherever "stakeholder" is used, this be changed to "indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders."

Unlike Annex I and II, there are no references in annex III to indigenous peoples and local communities, and they should be included in all elements in order to operationalize elements of the preamble

In Annex III Section A. Prediction, Item 2, sub-item (f) - impacts on traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities should also be noted, ensuring the meaningful participation of IPLCs recognition of and respect for Indigenous self-developed biocultural indicators, early warning and detection systems and solutions..

In Annex III Section C on Management in Item 3 should add a sub-item on collecting best practices of indigenous peoples and local communities on the monitoring, control and mitigation of the impacts of invasive alien species, diseases and shifting species caused by climate change, subject to their free, prior and informed consent.