

Statement by CABI to the Plenary of the United Nations CBD SBSTTA

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CABI (www.cabi.org) is an inter-governmental, not-for-profit organization established under an international treaty registered with the United Nations. Our mission and direction are influenced by our 48 member countries. CABI's mission is to improve people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment.

CABI appreciates and supports the efforts of the Secretariat and is aware of the growing concern amongst parties and the international community on the need to address the issues of IAS management in order to meet Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. In this regard, CABI will work with the CBD and others to build a global support system to enable developing countries to optimise their invasive species management capabilities and activities. Working regionally and beginning with Africa (in response to the request from Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Group), South East Asia and the Caribbean Region (in response to the request from St Kitts and Nevis for a regional project), we will reduce the negative impacts of IAS on crop and pasture production, water resources, human and animal health, the environment and economic development. This will be achieved in partnership and will ultimately improve the livelihoods of millions of the poorest people on earth and ensure that these countries meet their international obligations. This will largely be achieved by:

- i) Raising awareness of the issues through traditional and innovative communication methods, lobbying and publishing influential papers;
- ii) Targeting the top 10 invasive species in each region and supporting the appropriate authorities and land owners to implement effective management measures, including biological control;
- iii) Building capacity in all agencies responsible for the prevention, early detection and eradication and long term management of the worst invasive species;
- iv) Producing and making freely available a comprehensive global invasive species knowledge hub, drawing on CABI's Invasive Species Compendium (www.cabi.org/ISC) and existing content, which will deliver information in the appropriate format for policy-makers, quarantine officers, land managers and farmers alike and will include amongst others decision support tools;
- v) Using the granular data generated by the ***Plantwise knowledge bank and clinic data to identify exotic pest problems that are amenable to IPM approaches and supporting afflicted countries in implementing effective management aimed at minimising pesticide use and;
- vi) Providing advice on which new pests to look out for (horizon scanning) and which pests to prioritise for action based on risk assessments and eco-climatic modelling and facilitating the development of plans to prevent their incursion or expansion.

As climate changes, most species will inevitably change their distribution in response, spreading to areas where they are better adapted, and often becoming invasive in these new habitats. CABI's focus on invasive species supports national activities to prevent and slow the spread of alien invasive species, detect them when newly established, and implement the most

appropriate control and management options once they are established. CABI has a particular strength in the use of natural enemies to control invasive non-indigenous species, which will be increasingly needed in the face of the growing dispersal of invasive species in response to climate change and increased trade, travel and tourism.

***Plantwise (www.plantwise.org) is a major global programme, led by CABI, to improve food security and improve rural livelihoods by reducing crop losses.

Thank you.