

COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
AND  
THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as SCBD), having its office at: 413 St-Jacques Street Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9 – Canada, Represented by Dr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary

and

The World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter referred to as the OIE), having its Headquarters at 12, rue de Prony; 75017 Paris – France, Represented by Dr Bernard VALLAT, Director General.

The CBD Secretariat and the OIE are hereinafter designated as “the party” or “the parties”, as appropriate.

Preamble

*Recalling* that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

*Recognizing* that Article 8(h) of the CBD on *in-situ* conservation is to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;

*Further recalling* that the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, notably Target 9, which 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;

*Noting* that the Conference of the Parties to the CBD requested the Executive Secretary to cooperate with other international bodies with the aim of coordinating work on alien invasive species;

*Noting* that the Conference of the Parties to the CBD invited the OIE, as it elaborates further standards and agreements, or revise existing standards and agreements including for risk assessment/analysis, to consider incorporating criteria related to the threats to biological diversity posed by invasive alien species;

*Recognizing* that the mandate of the OIE is to improve animal health and welfare worldwide, to improve transparency in reporting animal diseases and zoonoses, to contribute to safeguards at the animal/human/ecosystems interface, and to facilitate safe trade in animals and animal products by setting-up sanitary standards. Those standards are recognized as international standards by the WTO-SPS Agreement;

*Recognizing* that the OIE's fifth strategic plan (2011-2015) identifies as a major consideration, the relation between animal production and the environment, including the contribution of climate and environmental changes to the occurrence and geographical spread of diseases, disease vectors and invasive species;

The parties have concluded the following Cooperation Agreement:

### **Article 1: Scope of the Agreement**

1. The aim of the present Agreement is to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Convention on Biological Diversity in fields of mutual interest, according to the respective mandates granted to the parties by their Members. Such fields include but are not limited to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, improvement of animal health and welfare and the promotion of the "One Health" approach to manage the risks presented by animal diseases and zoonoses at the animal-human-ecosystem interface.
2. In particular, the parties agree to collaborate on activities that will make a direct contribution to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Target 9, and of the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan of OIE by facilitating the control or eradication of alien species that threaten biodiversity. Such activities include:
  - (a) developing and disseminating relevant standards, guidelines and recommendations;
  - (b) supporting capacity-building activities, and
  - (c) facilitating collaboration with Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres as appropriate through OIE and CBD Headquarters
3. Each party may provide technical assistance to the other party or that party's members, in accordance with each party's internal rules and technical competence.

## **Article 2: Exchange of information by the parties**

4. The parties undertake to keep each other informed of their respective work programs and activities relevant to the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the field of animal health and zoonoses that could be of mutual interest;
5. The parties agree to exchange information, including publications and other information sources, relevant to the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the field of animal health that could be of mutual interest.

## **Article 3: Attendance at meetings**

6. Each party will invite the other to attend, as an observer, meetings of the party's governing body - that is, the annual General Session of the OIE and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The conditions of such attendance will be in accordance with each party's internal rules.
7. Each party will invite the other to attend other meetings relevant to this agreement and will make the reports of such meetings and other relevant information available to the other party, according to the internal rules of the parties.

## **Article 4: Cooperation activities**

8. The parties may undertake cooperation activities, such as:
  - (a) activities to promote the use of international standards relevant to the mandates of the parties;
  - (b) the dissemination of relevant information to the members of the parties and
  - (c) the organisation of workshops, meetings or seminars on topics of mutual interest.
9. The parties may develop annexes to this agreement if it is necessary to specify joint activities or joint work programmes, subject to the internal rules of each party.

## **Article 5: Duration of the Agreement**

10. This Agreement shall enter into effect on the date of signature by both parties and shall remain valid until termination;
11. Either party may propose the termination of this Agreement by giving the other party three months' written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement;

## **Article 6: Amendment of the Agreement**

12. Either party may propose amendments to this Agreement by giving the other party written notification. Agreement on proposed amendments to this Agreement shall be reached through an exchange of letters.

In witness whereof, the Executive Secretary of the CBD and the Director General of the OIE signed the present Cooperation Agreement, in two English original copies.

For the Secretariat of the Convention on  
Biological Diversity

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

Executive Secretary

For the World Organisation for Animal  
Health (OIE)

Bernard Vallat

Director General

Date: 15 February 2013