

## **PROPOSAL FOR PILOT INITIATIVE ON ALIEN SPECIES**

### **Background**

Decision V/14 Annex II (e) proposed the development of a pilot initiative to assist work on the thematic issues within the SBSTTA work programme. The manager of the CHM has indicated that he is in a position to consider undertaking such an initiative.

### **Alien Species as a Possible Thematic Issue**

Alien species would be an appropriate issue for such a pilot study, for a number of reasons.

1. it is the main thematic issue for SBSTTA 6 and COP 6
2. it is a pressing issue, with countries seeking implementation assistance
3. there has already been a strong willingness to develop scientific and technical cooperation shown by Parties, including through the development of an intergovernmental initiative on invasive species
4. given the work to date by the COP, the issue is now being considered primarily at a technical level, with few significant political issues outstanding.

### **Possible Activities**

Given the direction proposed in the decision, the following are possible activities which could be undertaken.

1. Review the alien species page on the CHM web site. This review would include undertaking a survey, using CHM and SBSTTA focal points, to identify the priority needs to be met by the page. A small review team could be drawn from SBSTTA delegates active on the alien species issue, who could act as a peer review team for page development.
2. Place the case studies and relevant material from national reports on the CHM site. These should be included in their totality, but abstracts should also be prepared to allow users to rapidly identify (including by searching for keywords) whether issues or species of interest to them are covered in the case studies. This material could become the core of a progressively expanded data base on experience.
3. In association with other proposals/projects, develop a data base of experience and expertise. This could be a standalone data base, and/or link to relevant data bases held by other organisations.

4. Identify a few key issues that are common to a significant number of Parties (particularly developing countries). Establish a communication technology approach (using email, faxes or other communication means) to allow a dialogue between experts on those issues. For example, issues which were common to many case studies/national reports were tropical water weeds, temperate freshwater fish, and marine biosecurity problems.

5. Carry out a review to identify the range of information system technologies being used or developed for:

- developing predictive capacity to identify the risks of invasions
- supporting prioritisation of risk management and mitigation efforts
- modelling the effects of possible mitigation actions in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness and support decision-making

Provide information on these through the CHM.

Possibly also facilitate:

- technology transfer of the identified systems to developing countries
- cooperation between experts working on information technology use for alien species management
- reviewing systems to provide advice on the relative advantages and disadvantages of available technology for different uses.