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## INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: PROGRESS REPORT ON MEASURES TOWARDS ACHIEVING AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 9

*Note by the Executive Secretary* 

# I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, annexed to decision X/2 contained a specific target on invasive alien species, as follows: 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. In addition, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 contains a target specifically to address invasive alien species: By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

2. In line of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Target 15.8 on invasive alien species in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Executive Secretary has continued collaboration, pursuant to decision IX/4A, paragraph 15 of decision XI/28, paragraph 9(d) and 9(g) of decision XII/17 with members of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species, and other relevant organizations.

3. This document summarizes the progress on the measures towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 undertaken by members of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species and other partner organizations since the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

4. Section II contains information on the status of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments and the works undertaken by other Conventions to fill the gaps of international regulatory framework related to invasive alien species. Section III summarizes two new initiatives: (a) Honolulu Challenge as an outcome of the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Hawaii, United States of America; and (b) CABI invasive species global partnership programme. Section IV and V summarize the progress of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership and the Secretariat's capacity development activities related to invasive alien species, respectively.

<sup>\*</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1.

#### **II. INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK RELATED TO INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

#### A. International Maritime Organization

Status of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments

5. The conditions for entry into force of the *International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments* (BWM Convention) were met on 8 September 2016 by the accession of Finland, and the Convention will therefore enter into force on 8 September 2017. The number of contracting Governments to the BWM Convention is at present 53, representing 53.28% of the world's merchant fleet tonnage.

6. With regard to the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 70, 24 to 28 October 2016, London, UK), the main outcomes related to ballast water management are outlined as below:

(a) The MEPC adopted revised "Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems" (G8), which update the Guidelines issued in 2008. The revision to the Guidelines updates the approval procedures for ballast water management systems (BWMS), including more robust test and performance specifications, as well as more detailed requirements for type approval reporting, and control and monitoring equipment, among others. The type approval process was expanded, with detailed requirements for land-based, shipboard, and other tests set out in an annex. A ballast water management system in which every respect fulfils the requirements of the Guidelines may be approved by the Administration for fitting on board ships. The approval should take the form of a Type Approval Certificate for BWMS, specifying the main particulars of the BWMS and any limiting operating conditions;

(b) The MEPC recommended application of the revised Guidelines (G8) as soon as possible, but not later than 28 October 2018, and agreed that BWMS installed on ships on 28 October 2020 or after this date should be approved in accordance with the revised guidelines. Systems installed prior to that date could be approved using the existing guidelines or the revised guidelines. It was also agreed that the approval process should be made mandatory and the MEPC instructed the IMO Secretariat to prepare the "Code for approval of ballast water management systems" as well as draft amendments to the BWM Convention making the Code mandatory, for circulation with a view to adoption following entry into force of the Convention;

(c) The MEPC also further discussed the agreed roadmap for implementation of the BWM Convention and agreed to instruct a correspondence group to develop a structured plan for data gathering and analysis of experience gained with the implementation of the BWM Convention;

(d) Submissions were invited to MEPC 71 in relation to developing guidance on contingency measures under the BWM Convention and amendments to the Guidelines for risk assessment under regulation A-4 of the BWM Convention (G7) to incorporate the "same risk area" concept, which the Committee agreed may already be applied to grant exemptions under the Convention;

(e) Further work on the implementation of the Convention will also take place at the next session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 4), in January 2017, including the review of guidance on sampling and analysis and the completion of a manual "Ballast Water Management – How to do it".

7. With regard to the dates of implementation of the BWM Convention, the MEPC recalled that proposed draft amendments to regulation B-3 (Management and control requirements for ships) of the Convention relating to the time scale for implementation of its requirements had been previously approved at the last session of the Committee (MEPC 69) for circulation upon entry into force of the Convention, with a view to subsequent adoption. The draft amendments would provide for compliance with regulation D-2 (Ballast water performance standard) of the Convention by a ship's first renewal survey following entry into force. A proposal for alternative draft amendments, which would allow for compliance by the second renewal survey in certain circumstances, was put forward. It was agreed that the alternative proposal would be debated at the next Committee session (MEPC 71), in July 2017.

### **B.** International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

#### Update on the progress for establishing 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)

8. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Committee on Agriculture endorsed the proposal for an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020. This proposal will now be submitted to the FAO Conference where it is hope this will be recommended to the United Nations General Assembly for final endorsement.

#### Update on the development of a standard setting related to sea containers

9. At the  $11^{\text{th}}$  session of Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-11), 4-8 April 2016, Rome, Italy, the contracting parties to the IPPC held a special topics session on sea containers. The CPM-11 recognized that the implementation of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)<sup>1</sup>, and of the Recommendation CPM 10/2015\_01 on sea containers should help to reduce the risks of moving sea containers that are contaminated with invasive alien species. As the implementation of the CTU code has just begun, CPM-11 decided to allow some time for the shipping industry to show they will be able to voluntarily help reduce the risk of the spread of invasive alien species on shipping containers. CPM-11 agreed to place the topic for a standard on Minimizing Pest Movement by Sea Containers (2008-001) on hold for a maximum of five years, to allow for the implementation of the CTU Code and the CPM Recommendation (CPM  $10/2015_01^2$ ). After this time an analysis of the impact on reducing pest movement by sea containers can be done, providing the CPM with information to decide whether or not to move forward for the continued development of a standard on this subject.

10. Following the CPM11, the CPM Bureau met in June 2016 and discussed the development of a "set of complimentary actions" which may offer some value in assessing and managing the pests threats associated with sea containers.

11. The Bureau thought that an analytical approach to discuss this matter should be used by looking at the pathway of "sea containers" and follows each step of the sea container cycle and identify where actions related to phytosanitary considerations are necessary and if there is a need by the IPPC to intervene. As complimentary actions the Bureau proposed the following actions:

(a) Development of a joint IPPC/IMO/industry protocol on data generation to be completed by CPM-16 (2021);

(b) Monitor the uptake and implementation of the CTU shipping code through industry reporting and national plant protection organization (NPPO) monitoring;

(c) Verify the efficacy of the CTU shipping code in ensuring the arrival of clean sea container through monitoring for pest contamination and freedom of soil by NPPOs;

(d) Increasing awareness of pest risks of sea container through publication of the data of the EWG by the IPPC, call for and publication of pest risk management guidance material for sea containers, notification to industry on the pest risks and possible international actions by NPPOs, and consideration of consistency of relevant regulation with the CPM Recommendation related to sea containers;

(e) Establishment of a Task Force (under the guidance of the Capacity Development Committee / The Focus Group on Implementation) which is complementing and supervising the actions above through: providing information on pest risks and its management of sea containers, coordinating with contracting parties, Regional Plant Protection Organizations, industry and other international organizations, establishing reports for the CPM and contracting parties on progress and achievements, advice on how the sea container CTU code or any other instrument could be updated, and provide a final report on its activities to CPM 16 (2021);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup><u>http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Cargoes/CargoSecuring/Pages/CTU-Code.aspx</u> <u>http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/guidelinespackingctus/intro.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Recommendation CPM 10/2015\_01 Sea Containers (Revised): <u>http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-recommendations-1/cpm-recommendations/</u>

(f) The Task Force should have members from contracting parties to the IPPC knowledgeable in IPPC matters and sea container logistics. It should have industry experts and other relevant international organizations. The Task Force may consult experts on sea containers, such as ex-EWG members, as required.

12. The Bureau recommended that resources are provided by contracting parties or industry to the IPPC to facilitate the work and, the Bureau will consider this further in December 2016 and develop a proposal for consideration by CPM-12 (2017). It should be noted that further actions will only be possible through extrabudgetary funds.

13. During CPM-11 (2016), a representative of the CBD Secretariat gave a presentation on the "Guidance on Devising and Implementing Measures to Address the Risks Associated with the Introduction of Alien Species as Pets, Aquarium and Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food" (annexed to decision XII/16 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention) as well as disseminated booklets on Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, which was produced through a generous financial contribution from the European Union.

# C. World Organisation for Animal Health and World Trade Organization

14. A representative of the Secretariat of the CBD also gave presentations on the "Guidance on Devising and Implementing Measures to Address the Risks Associated with the Introduction of Alien Species as Pets, Aquarium and Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food" at the 84th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Paris, France, 22-27 May 2016 and at the information session in the margins of the World Trade Organization's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, in Geneva, Switzerland on 30 June 2016.

### D. Standard and Trade Development Facility

15. The Standard and Trade Development Facility  $(STDF)^3$  is a global partnership that supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets.<sup>4</sup>

16. The Secretariat of the STDF visited the Secretariat of the CBD on 2 June 2017 to exchange information and explore further opportunities for collaborative works. The secretariats agreed to continue sharing information on invasive alien species and other areas of work relevant to improvement of human, animal and plant health and trade. Improving SPS control systems (border control, quarantine and using the relevant IPPC and OIE guidelines is critical in managing invasive alien species.

# III. NEW GLOBAL INITIATIVES ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

# A. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

### Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species

17. In response to a call for more action on invasive alien species voiced at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in Honolulu, United States of America, from 1 to 10 September 2016, IUCN, along with its Species Survival Commission-Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), interested organizations (IUCN members) and the Executive Secretary, launched a new initiative, the Honolulu Challenge.<sup>5</sup> It challenges countries and organizations to commit to taking bold yet practical measures necessary to safeguard biodiversity and human well-being from the devastating impacts of invasive alien species.

18. The following Governments and organizations made their commitments expressed to meet the aim of the Honolulu Challenge at the Congress:

(a) The New Zealand Government commits to making New Zealand predator-free by 2050;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>http://www.standardsfacility.org/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In 2012 the STDF held a workshop on Invasive Alien Species and International Trade, and subsequently published a study on this topic, in close collaboration with the IPPC and the OIE. Relevant documents can be viewed and downloaded at <u>http://www.standardsfacility.org/invasive-alien-species</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>https://www.iucn.org/theme/species/our-work/invasive-species/honolulu-challenge-invasive-alien-species</u>

(b) The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia commits to doubling of long term co-investment with partners into invasive species management;

(c) The BirdLife partnership aims to remove invasive alien threats from at least a further 35 high biodiversity islands worldwide by 2020;

(d) Island Conservation commits to protect more than 100 threatened species at risk from invasive species on 40 Islands by 2020;

(e) Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, Mexico has committed to remove invasive mammals from all of its islands by 2030.

19. Supporters of the Honolulu Challenge include the following IUCN bodies, Conventions, Governmental bodies, organizations, institutions, societies and others, as of November 2016: IUCN; IUCN-Species Survival Commission; IUCN-Invasive Species Specialist Group; IUCN-Commission on Ecosystem Management; IUCN-Ecosystems and Invasive Species Thematic Group; Convention on Biological Diversity; Bern Convention; Australian Invasive Species Council; Department of Conservation of New Zealand; Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Ashoka Trust Fund for Research in Ecology and the Environment; BirdLife International; CABI; CSIRO; CONABIO; Conservación de Islas in Mexico; Conservation International; Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust; Global Biodiversity Information Facility; Global Island Partnership; Island Conservation; Island Conservation; Society; Jägareförbundet in Sweden; Landcare Research; Mauritian Wildlife Foundation; Nature Fiji; Pacific Invasives Initiative; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Centre of Invasion Biology; South African National Biodiversity Institute; SPREP; Trilateral Island Initiative.

20. The Honolulu Challenge text is annexed to the present document.

21. IUCN has also continued its development and application of the Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT). A resolution made at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, called for an IUCN wide consultation on EICAT so it can be passed to the IUCN Council to be considered for adoption as an official IUCN Standard.

22. IUCN has also relaunched its Global Invasive Species Database (www.iucngisd.org), with increased search functionality and reciprocal links to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

### **B.** CABI

23. At its 19<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the CABI a new global CABI-led partnership programme (<u>www.invasive-species.org</u>) on invasive species for the protection and improvement of rural livelihoods in developing countries was endorsed by its member countries in July 2016. Invasive species that threaten food security, trade and agricultural and natural ecosystems are addressed under this initiative. The CABI will extend the global Plantwise programme (www.plantwise.org) and further develop and deliver the three stage hierarchical approach (prevention, early detection/response and control) to a management of invasive species. The CABI initially is mobilizing existing validated solutions, building capacity and outreach as the programme grows.<sup>6</sup>

#### IV. GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP

24. The partnership activities has been supported with the generous financial support from European Union to engage experts as country data editors, data providers and international organizations such as CABI, IUCN and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) among others to develop and update Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS).<sup>7</sup> The prototype integrated view of the three data providers is linked from the Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on each country's profile page<sup>8</sup> for review by users.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Video on the initiative of CABI is available at <u>https://youtu.be/n05doLUQIOE</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://griis.org

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> <u>https://www.cbd.int/countries/</u> To access the linked information, select a country, then click on the "invasive alien species" button on the left column.

### V. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

With support from Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Executive Secretary organized a capacity-building 25. workshop for small island developing States in the Pacific regarding Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on invasive alien species. Held in Apia, Samoa, from 15 to 19 August 2016, the workshop was attended by 13 small island developing States in the Pacific region (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshal Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) with representation from the environmental and agricultural sectors (primarily from national plant protection organizations) and produced logical frameworks for comprehensive invasive alien species management projects/programmes. The following organizations supported the workshop by providing information on invasive alien species management and opportunities for addressing invasive alien species or facilitation of safe international trade: Secretariat of the Standard for Trade Development Facility (STDF); the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC); BirdLife International; Global Biodiversity Information Facility; Island Conservation; the International Union for Conservation of Nature-Invasive Specialist Group (IUCN-ISSG); Landcare Research New Zealand, Ltd; and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Australia. The outcome of the workshop will be issued as an information document.

26. The Executive Secretary organized the Global Taxonomy Initiative training course in 2016 on rapid taxonomic identification of invasive alien species. The training course was undertaken by the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario, University of Guelph, Canada, with financial contribution from the Japan Biodiversity Fund. Thirty trainees were selected, in consultation with the GTI Coordination Mechanism, from 80 nominees from Parties under the categories of developing and least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition. The selected trainees were invited to take an eight-week online training course hosted by the Office of Open Learning of the University of Guelph.<sup>9</sup> Following the successful completion of the online training course, the 17 trainees who achieved the highest performance scores in the online course (Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Moldova, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey, Philippines, Uganda and Viet Nam) received hands-on training for four weeks in a specialized research training facility<sup>10</sup> at the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario. Training activities covered standardized DNA-based (DNA barcoding) approaches towards invasive alien species diagnostics, as well as policy discussions related to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by Parties to the Convention as it relates to international exchange of samples and data relevant to molecular diagnostics of invasive alien species.

27. The Executive Secretary plans continuous facilitation of capacity development for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, globally. The provisional schedule for the capacity development events in 2017-2020 are summarized in the table below.

Timing	Region/focal area of work	Expected outcomes and goals	Partners, including potential partners	Status of funding
January 2017	Small island developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean/- Formulation of programme towards	Logical framework of IAS management programme	UNEP CABI GBIF Island	Japan Biodiversity Fund
	Target 9	Partnership between Parties and expert organization	Conservation IUCN-ISSG	Confirmed

#### Provisional schedule of capacity development workshops toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (2017-2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> http://dnabarcodingcourses.com

<sup>10</sup> http://dnabarcode.training

Timing	Region/focal area of work	Expected outcomes	Partners,	Status of
		and goals	including	funding
			potential	
ord			partners	
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	SIDS in Africa, Indian Ocean,	Logical framework of	CABI	Not
2017	Mediterranean and South China	IAS management	GBIF	confirmed
	Sea (AIMS) / Formulation of	programme	Island	
	programme towards achieving		Conservation	
	Aichi Biodiversity Target 9	Partnership between	IUCN-ISSG	
		Parties and expert		
and		organization	<b>T</b> 1 1 1	37.
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	The first regional workshop for	Project proposals ready	Technical and	Not
2018	programme/project proposals	to submit to targeted	scientific	confirmed
	writing and management for	donors	partners on IAS	
	Parties that have submitted high	Effective programme	D	
	quality logical frameworks /	coordination and	Proposal writing	
	Sustainable programme on invasive	management capacity	experts	
	collaboration and its affective	regional levels	Pagional	
	management at the national and	regional levels.	organizations	
	regional levels		organizations	
	(Region will be identified based on		Donors	
	the quality of submitted logical			
	framework to the secretariat)			
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	The second regional workshop for	Project proposals ready	Technical and	Not
2018	programme/project proposals	to submit to targeted	scientific	confirmed
	writing and management for	donors	partners on IAS	
	Parties that have submitted high	Effective programme	issues	
	quality logical frameworks /	coordination and		
	Sustainable programme on invasive	management capacity	Proposal writing	
	alien species through international	at the national and	experts	
	collaboration and its effective	regional levels.		
	management at the national and		Regional	
	regional levels		organizations	
	(Region will be identified based on			
	the quality of submitted logical		Donors	
	framework to the secretariat)			
2nd quarter	Interested region (to be called for	Parties are able to	Interested	Not
2019	proposals) the workshop for review	manage international	partners	confirmed
	of progress to report to COP 15	programmes on IAS in	International	
		ne of NBSAPs as	organizations	
		national priority	that set	
			regulatory	
2 <sup>rd</sup> quantan	Interested region (to be called for	Dartias are chia to	Juntaria d	Not
3 quarter	proposale) workshop for review of	rarues are able to	niterested	1VOI
2019	progress to report to COP 15	nrogrammes on LAC in	International	conjirmea
	progress to report to COF 15	line of NRSADs as	organizations	
		national priority	that set	
			regulatory	
			guidance on IAS	

Timing	Region/focal area of work	Expected outcomes and goals	Partners, including potential	Status of funding
			partners	
Throughout	The GTI training/workshops to be	DNA sequence based	Trained trainers;	Not
2017-2019	organized by the trained trainers	rapid species	Interested	confirmed
	who completed the GTI training	identification	Parties;	
	courses in 2015-2016 in support of	technology and its	The International	
	the Secretariat and respective Party or region/	associated information are understood by	Barcode of Life and relevant	
	Spread of DNA technology for	Parties and applied for	taxonomic	
	biodiversity conservation and	national IAS	institutions	
	support NBSAPs implementation,	management		
	in particular for achieving Aichi			
	Biodiversity Target 9			

Annex



# The Honolulu Challenge on Invasive Alien Species

Invasive alien species (IAS) are animals, plants or other organisms introduced by humans into places outside their natural range, where they become established, generating a negative impact upon native biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing.

IAS are among the most significant drivers of species extinction<sup>11</sup> and ecosystem degradation, and are also a global threat to agriculture<sup>12</sup>, food security and human health<sup>13</sup> and many other ecosystem services including economic activities and cultural integrity. The huge scale of the socio-economic costs caused are poorly understood, but are estimated to be almost 5% of global GDP.<sup>14</sup> Hawaii, which hosted the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, is sadly at the forefront of alien species invasions. Of an estimated 1093 native endemic Hawaiian plants, 415 have been assessed for the IUCN Red List and 87% of these are classed as threatened due to impacts from IAS.<sup>15</sup>

Unfortunately, the problem is getting worse with biological invasions on the increase<sup>16</sup> due to ever increasing movement of people and goods around the world, and because of the synergistic effects of climate change. Although developed countries have borne the brunt of biological invasions to date, it is emerging economies with some of the world's poorest communities and biodiversity rich areas that face the greater risk in the future.<sup>17,18,19</sup> If an introduced species becomes established and spreads, it can be very costly and difficult to eradicate and often mitigation of the impacts of the IAS is the only option. This makes prevention the most cost effective measure by far. This however can be very challenging for countries with contiguous borders.

In 2010 almost all of the world's governments adopted at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP 10 the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which included a commitment to address IAS (Aichi Target #9): "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". This Strategic Plan has since been endorsed by other biodiversity related conventions and by the United Nations General Assembly.

In addition the importance of reducing the impacts of IAS to support sustainable development was reinforced in 2015 through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has a target (#15.8) specifically on IAS "By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species"

There has been some progress with meeting these targets, but it is far from adequate. While governments, NGOs and communities are increasingly taking steps to eradicate and control IAS, preventative measures have been

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Bellard et al. 2016. Alien species as a driver of recent extinctions. Biol. Lett.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Panini et al. 2016. Global threat to agriculture from invasive species. PNAS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Mazza wt al. 2013. Biological invaders are threats to human health. Eth, Eco & Evo.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Pimentel et al. 2001. Economic and environmental threats of alien plants, animal and microbe invasions. Agr. Eco. & Env [>1.4 Trillion USD]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> IUCN. 2016. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2016-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Tittensor et al. 2014. A mid-term analysis of progress toward international biodiversity targets. Science

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Seebens et al. 2015. Global trade will accelerate plant invasions in emerging economies under climate change. Global Change Biology

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Paini et al. 2013. Global threat to agriculture from invasive species. PNAS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Early et al. Global threats from invasive species in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and national response capacities. Nature Communications

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taken in only a limited number of countries. As a consequence, the overall rate of invasions, with great economic and ecological costs, shows no sign of slowing<sup>20</sup>. In fact, only 3% of countries are currently on track to meet these international commitments<sup>21</sup>.

Most countries, and in particular those in the developing world, have limited capacity to act and are likely to suffer high environmental, social and economic impacts as a result. Therefore they need urgent support in developing measures to prevent future invasions and manage existing ones.

In Hawaii it is resoundingly clear that the indigenous people, the Native Hawaiians, have a deep understanding and relationship with the 'āina—the land and sea, the natural environment and species--that stretches back more than a thousand years, and continues today. The arrival and proliferation of invasive alien species is disrupting this relationship. It is therefore essential that local communities and indigenous people are involved in the efforts to address IAS, in particular empowering First Nations People by recognizing their traditional ecological knowledge in legislation, to inform decision making, participation, policy, evaluation and outcomes of the management of invasive species.<sup>22</sup>

There is, therefore, an urgent need to take the bold, yet practical, measures necessary to safeguard biodiversity and human wellbeing from the devastating impacts of invasive alien species.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Secretariat of the CBD. 2014. Global Biodiversity Outlook 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> CBD. 2016. Updated analysis of the contribution of targets established by parties and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

# THE HONOLULU CHALLENGE ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

**During the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, there has been a** call from the Union and the host community in Hawaii, including experts, governmental and intergovernmental representatives, NGOs, and protected area managers for greater action on addressing invasive alien species in order to protect biodiversity and human wellbeing from their impacts.

For this aim to be achieved we need to...

Multiply efforts to develop and enact <u>effective biosecurity policies and programmes</u> for countries and islands

**Enforce** effective measures to <u>address priority pathways</u> of invasions, including efforts to strengthen collaboration with relevant sectors in particular agriculture and health

**Greatly increase** the number and scale of invasive alien species <u>eradications</u>, especially on islands and in other priority sites; by 2020 there shall be a doubling of commitments to achieve this goal

Substantially increase resources for invasive alien species management and control

**Integrate** invasive alien species into planning and management for Protected Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas

**Invest** in the development, application and sharing of innovative technologies, and other <u>solutions</u> to prevent further invasions, and eradicate or control invasive alien species

**Institutionalise** invasive alien species programmes across government ministries, co-operating with the private sector, NGOs, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders on programme implementation

Support assessments on the social and economic impacts of invasive alien species

**Engage with** relevant sectors and civil society to <u>raise awareness</u> of the negative impacts of invasive alien species, including the compounded impacts under climate change, and increase <u>public support</u> for potential solutions

Work with public and private financial institutions to <u>increase international financial flows</u> and <u>mobilise</u> <u>domestic resources</u> for addressing invasive alien species

**Enable** enhanced knowledge on invasive alien species, their impacts and pathways of invasion, through investment in <u>data</u> collection, standardization, sharing and open access

# **Commitments** towards achieving the **Honolulu Challenge**



Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawbai*  The New Zealand Government commits to making New Zealand **predator free by 2050**.

Specifically, that the country will be free of the most damaging invasive alien species (rats, stoats and possums) by 2050. The New Zealand government will work in partnership with others (indigenous people, communities, NGOs, scientists, business, philanthropists) to achieve this goal.

As an interim goal, by 2025 the Government has committed to:

1) Eradicate all pests from all island nature reserves.

2) Develop a method for eradicating one of the key target pests from mainland New Zealand.



The Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation commits to **doubling of long term co-investment** with partners into invasive species management

Specifically, CSIRO will double its long term co-investment with partners into invasive species management research plans for national priority pests, weeds and diseases, including biological control solutions where existing or applicable in the future and make our science, data and experience publically available.

This will include trialling a global first biological control program against an aquatic vertebrate pest (European carp) within the next 5 years to push the boundaries of this application of this approach.

In addition, CSIRO will double its investment in the risk assessment, public acceptability assessment, required new regulatory mechanisms and technical development of novel innovative technologies (genetic and robotic) and their application for the prevention, eradication and management of national priority pests, weeds and diseases to improve the cost-effectiveness of IAS response strategies.



The BirdLife partnership aims to **remove invasive alien** threats from at least a further **35 high biodiversity islands** worldwide by 2020

Specifically, the BirdLife partnership is by 2020 seeking to have removed invasive alien threats from a further 35 high biodiversity islands including those in the Pacific and African regions and UKOTs Gough, and Henderson. We will also support the development of biosecurity policies, legislative frameworks and their implementation in safeguarding these sites, and for all UKOTs, and Europe through strengthening of the EU regulations.



Island conservation commits to protect more than 100 threatened species at risk from invasive species on 40 islands by 2020

Specifically, by 2020 Island Conservation is committed to supporting and working with island communities, stakeholders, governments, and NGO partners around the world to protect more than 100 populations of threatened species by removing invasive species on 40 islands. We will seek funding, policies, plans, and partnerships to advance these, and others', island conservation interventions. The dividends from this work will also benefit the local peoples' livelihoods and wellbeing, ecosystems, and 1000s of native island species.

# **Supporters**<sup>23</sup> of the Honolulu Challenge



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Supporters include organisations attending the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress who were part of the development of the Honolulu Challenge, and additional organisations who have since lent their support.

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