



Organization: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

ID: 2996

Title of the side-event:

The Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership

Time: Monday, 14 October 2013, 13:15 - 14:45 Room D (Level 1)

Summary:

Parties to the Convention need access to a wide range of information on invasive species, their status, potential impact, pathways, management tools etc. to prioritize their activities, address obligations under Article 8h and numerous decisions of the Conference of Parties and achieve Biodiversity Strategy Target 9. The GIASI Partnership has been set up as a dynamic network of stakeholders involved in the use and provision of information and tools relevant to the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species. Collaboration through this Partnership should enable complementarity of content to fill each existing database's information gaps and highlight work still required. The side event presented collaborative progress in the activities of the Partnership since its launch at COP 11 in Hyderabad. Presentations were made by the Natural History Museum (UK), the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, and are available at <http://giasipartnership.myspecies.info/content/giasipartnership-side-event-sbstta17-2013#>

The GIASI Partnership Information Gateway is available at <http://giasipartnership.myspecies.info/>. It provides links to and brief descriptions of nearly 700 web-based resources for Parties to discover invasive alien species information, organized according to content and also accessible through a search and keyword system. It also contains lists of species known to be invasive over parts of their ranges (lists provided from Partners' databases), with links to those databases and dynamic links to additional scientifically valid external resources, and facilities to facilitate communication between users and providers. There has been significant development of the Global Registry for Introduced and Invasive Species, through harmonizing the lists of names from some 50 databases provided by the collaboration among the Partners organizations and other organizations that responded to the partners' call for data sharing. The GRIIS is carefully designed to navigate users to the original information sources, so that participating data providers will benefit by receiving increased access from users, and users can see the full range of information available from over 60 information sources, as well as recognize the authority



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of the data provider. A large number of country experts have participated to validate the data to be registered in the GRIIS. Considerable progress in the Invasive Alien Species Pathway Management Resources were described. A prototype system to permit interoperability among Partners' databases was presented. This when implemented will allow Parties to search, for a range of important information, e.g. known species' biological invasions, and facilitate helpful displays. The information resources and interoperable search and presentation systems demonstrated will support Parties in finding, among other resources: (i) the status of biological invasions worldwide; (ii) means of establishing risks and prioritizing action at national and regional levels; (iii) pathways of introduction and spread; (iv) possible management measures. The side event concluded with a few summary statements on the current achievements and future developments of the Partnership:

1. Tools to achieve Target 9 are discoverable by Parties via the Information Gateway, the Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species, and Pathway Management Resources.
2. The interoperable system will enable the flow of information needed by Parties to achieve Aichi Target 9 and also contribute to Target 19 (knowledge and information sharing). For example: it will be possible to visualize known invasive species' native and invaded ranges, and its entry / spread pathways.
3. Tools already developed can address mobilization of invasive alien species information from the wider community, including citizen scientists; farmers; protected areas managers etc.

At the end of the event the Executive Secretary of the CBD highlighted that the Partnership can help in creating indicators for Target 9 and thus assist Parties in monitoring and reporting the status of biological invasion and progress of implementation activities. There was an announcement that Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network signed the Partnership Memorandum of Cooperation and became a Partner.
