



## The Global Invasive Species Programme

GISP • c/o CABI - Africa • P.O.Box 633-00621 • Nairobi • Kenya  
Located at the ICRAF Complex • United Nations Avenue • Gigiri • Nairobi • Kenya  
Tel: +254 – 20 – 722 4450/62 • Fax: +254 – 20- 7122150 • E-mail: [d.rangi@gisp.org](mailto:d.rangi@gisp.org)  
Web: <http://www.gisp.org>

19 November 2007

Mr. Kalemani Mulongoy,  
Principal Officer – Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters

Ms. Junko Shimura,  
Programme Officer – Invasive Alien Species

Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity  
413, St. Jacques Street, Suite 800  
Montreal QC H2Y 1N9 Canada  
Eml: [jo.mulongoy@cbd.int](mailto:jo.mulongoy@cbd.int); [junko.shimura@cbd.int](mailto:junko.shimura@cbd.int); [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)  
Fax: +1 514 288 6588

### **Re: Input into CBD In Depth Review on Invasive Alien Species**

Dear Mr. Mulongoy and Ms. Shimura,

Please find enclosed a submission from the Global Invasive Species Programme for the upcoming in depth review on invasive alien species under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This letter responds to the Notifications sent out by the CBD Secretariat (20 October 2006 and 31 October 2007) and includes information on the activities of GISP in support of the Convention's work.

The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) was established in 1997 to address global invasive alien species threats and to provide support to the implementation of Article 8(h) of the CBD. GISP is currently composed of a partnership of CAB International (CABI), the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).<sup>1</sup> GISP also cooperates with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and related organisations involved in invasive species issues such as the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The GISP Secretariat is currently located in Nairobi, Kenya.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the present submission focuses on the contributions of GISP, including work of the partners in collaboration with the Secretariat. It does not focus on the core activities of each partner, which will be detailed in their separate submissions.

GISP focuses its efforts in regions and countries where national capacity and/or political awareness has generally been lacking to address basic invasive species management issues, let alone the prevention of new introductions. Given available resources, off-the-shelf biosecurity systems modeled on exemplar countries like New Zealand and Australia are largely unattainable. Therefore, GISP's approach has been to support the enabling conditions that will engage policy-makers and support national prevention systems in the longer term. To this effect, GISP's current focus is on:

- Influencing and supporting governance, policies and institutional arrangements related to invasive species, at multilateral levels, including through the CBD;
- Facilitating information exchange on invasive species; and
- Promoting global awareness among key public and private sector decision makers.

A number of CBD COP Decisions highlight activities for GISP. Of particular note is Decision VI/23 (18(b)) which recommends “continuing cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Programme and requests the Executive Secretary to explore the development of arrangements for this further cooperation.” To this effect, GISP and the CBD Secretariat signed an MoU in 2001. Some of the other major COP decisions call for GISP in collaboration with others to:

- Develop in conjunction with the CBD Secretariat a joint programme of work on invasive alien species (VIII/27 and VI/23);
- Address the priorities for practical actions identified in the decisions of the Conference of the Parties (e.g., standardized terminology on alien species; criteria for risk assessments; economic impact assessments; research on the impact of alien invasive species on biological diversity; means to enhance the capacity of ecosystems to resist or recover from alien species invasions; a reporting system for new invasions of alien species and their spread; and priorities for taxonomic work) (V/8, VII/13);
- Provide input on specific gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework, as well as advice for governments and organizations at the regional and national level (VI/23, VIII/27);
- Address impediments to the management of marine alien species, particularly to address technical problems related to the identification and control of marine invasions (VI/23);
- Serve as an international focal point for invasive alien species under the CHM and calls for collection and dissemination of available technical information, particularly related to international cooperation and expertise; performance of effective risk assessments; potential pathways for introduction; and management and control efforts, including technical support for rapid response (VI/23); and
- Identify a mechanism(s) for providing Parties with access to financial support for rapidly responding to new incursions by alien species (VI/23).

The GISP Secretariat and partners have made advances in many of these areas which will be touched upon in the sections below. Unfortunately, available resources have not been sufficient to engage upon all of the work and GISP would like to reiterate language from Decision V/8 (17) which “Invites the Global Environment Facility, Parties, Governments and funding organizations to provide adequate and timely support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the present decision.” In this regard, GISP remains committed to assisting the CBD process, its Parties and other interested organizations in mobilizing implementation efforts to address the threat of invasive alien species.

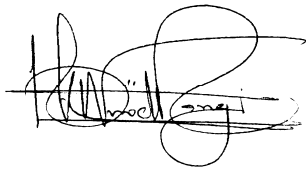
The GISP submission for the in depth review contains sections on:

- GISP Partners;
- GISP collaboration with the CBD Secretariat;
- Invasive species management – materials and training courses;
- Development of invasive species indicators;
- Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;
- Marine invasive alien species;
- Economic impacts of invasive alien species;
- Pathways – civil aviation and animal screening;
- Regional efforts; and
- Additional GISP resources.

GISP looks forward to further engagement with the CBD Secretariat, Parties and other interested organizations on developing the necessary policies, tools and awareness to effectively address the threat of invasive alien species at the national, regional and international levels.

Please feel free to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,



Dennis Rangi, Chair  
Global Invasive Species Programme

## Input into the CBD In Depth Review on Invasive Alien Species

### GISP Partners

**CABI (<http://www.cabi.org>):** Invasive Species is one of three Global Themes implemented by CABI – an international, intergovernmental, not-for-profit, organisation that improves people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. Working in partnership with member country governments and collaborators in nearly 70 countries, CABI implements donor-funded projects, through its global network of centres, to reduce the spread and impact of invasive species. CABI also provides support to international conventions and programmes by raising awareness, conducting innovative research particularly in the management of invasive species using biological control, training and capacity building especially in developing countries and through information sharing.

CABI has developed a suite of information products and services on invasive species including its: Crop Protection Database, Biocontrol Abstracts, Invasive Species Glossary (IAS-CTC) and the Invasive Species Compendium (ICS). CABI, together with IUCN and partner governments in Africa is currently seeking to, 'Remove barriers to the management of invasive species', by raising awareness of the threat of invasive species, both nationally and regionally, developing national invasive species strategies, promoting information exchange, and by implementing management strategies. A similar initiative is currently under development with partner governments and agencies in the Caribbean.

**IUCN – the World Conservation Union (<http://www.iucn.org>):** IUCN's Invasive Species Initiative is supporting the GISP efforts to assist States Parties to the CBD with detailed reporting for the in-depth review on alien invasive species. Further IUCN's Policy Programme will be assisting the delegations to COP-9 to prepare for discussion of the in-depth review. Together with CABI, IUCN is assisting several states in Africa to prepare for the in-depth review and to develop IAS perspectives for COP-9 – both nationally and regionally.

**The Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies>):** TNC's Invasive Species Team is a cross-cutting initiative within the Nature Conservancy that supports the efforts of Conservancy programs in over 30 countries. The Invasive Species Team incorporates expertise on science and management; partnerships and stakeholder engagement (e.g., public and private sector); and national, regional and international policy and institutions. Geographically, TNC's invasive species activities are focused in North, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and the Asia/Pacific region (while TNC is starting to engage in Africa and Central Asia, work on invasive species in those areas is currently minimal).

**South African National Biodiversity Institute (<http://www.sanbi.org>):** SANBI served as host of the GISP Secretariat from 2003 to 2007 and played a key role in servicing its staff. SANBI's mission is to promote the sustainable use, conservation, appreciation and enjoyment of the rich diversity of South Africa. SANBI has brought its scientific expertise and connections with other South African government agencies and partners, such as the Working for Water Programme and the Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology, to the table.

## **GISP collaboration with the CBD Secretariat**

As referenced above a number of decisions call for collaboration between GISP and the CBD Secretariat on priority issues. To lay the foundations for a strong cooperative effort among the major international organizations and instruments, the CBD Secretariat established a liaison group, as provided for in Decision IV/16 Annex I. The liaison group meeting on invasive alien species was held in Kirstenbosch, Cape Town from 17 to 22 September 2000, to assist in the work on alien invasive species under the CBD and the report subsequently presented to SBSTTA6 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/7). The venue and timing of the meeting were chosen to take advantage of the participation of liaison group members at the synthesis meeting of phase 1 of the GISP, which was held in Cape Town from 18 to 22 September 2000.

In 2001, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed between the Secretariat of the CBD and GISP, with the objective of assisting the Secretariat in developing a pilot initiative on invasive alien species within the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). GISP was also designated the international thematic focal point under the Clearing-House Mechanism. Other activities under the MoC include: dissemination of information on invasive alien species; collaboration in the development of programs on invasives; and participation in GISP activities.

GISP has also developed concept papers on several priority actions as requested by the CBD COP. The concept papers include the following elements: capacity building; implementation of target 10 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; support to the Global Taxonomy Initiative; research and assessment; development of a joint work programme between the CBD Secretariat, GISP and other relevant international agreements and organisations; development of a financial mechanism for the management of invasive alien species; support to the development of the Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN); support for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA); and incorporation of IAS issues into the thematic programmes of the CBD.

### **Development of a Joint Work Programme**

Decision VI/23 / paragraph 26(e) requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with GISP and other relevant organizations, to develop a joint programme of work on invasive alien species. In response to this decision, GISP and the CBD Secretariat organized two workshops on marine and coastal invasive alien species, and on terrestrial and freshwater invasive alien species.

The Workshop on the Joint Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Invasive Species was organized and hosted by the SCBD, GISP and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, with financial support from GISP and the Regional Seas Programme (27-29 June 2005, Montreal, Canada; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/10). The workshop identified gaps in activities relating to marine invasive species, and developed a draft work plan for the management of marine invasive species to address those gaps (see Decision VII/5).

The Workshop on the Joint Global Work Plan on Terrestrial and Freshwater Invasive Alien Species was organized and hosted by the CBD Secretariat and GISP and included a range of intergovernmental organizations and other experts (23-25 November 2005, Montreal, Canada). The workshop identified gaps in activities relating to terrestrial and freshwater invasive species for both national implementation and guidance at the regional and international levels. A draft work plan was developed for terrestrial and freshwater invasive alien species.

GISP condensed the results of the two workshops along with the output of COP Decision VIII/27 relating to international gaps and inconsistencies for guidance on pathways of introduction into a single draft joint work programme. That draft was provided to the CBD Secretariat in September 2007, during a discussion which noted the need to prioritize activities and engage other interested organizations in the implementation of the programme. Further work pends discussion between GISP and the CBD Secretariat.

## **Invasive Species Management – Materials and Training Courses**

GISP is working with the World Bank to develop a training module on legal frameworks for delivery in western and eastern Africa. GISP has also worked to assist implementation of CBD related decisions through the development of a GEF project including Chile, Costa Rica, Senegal, Tanzania and Vietnam (currently on hold). In addition to the aforementioned marine and coastal training, GISP also developed a training course on invasive species management to raise awareness and build capacity. The courses were piloted in Eastern and Southern Africa.

GISP and CABI also produced a manual, entitled *Invasive Alien Species: A Toolkit of Best Prevention and Management Practices*, to summarize best management practices for the prevention and management of invasive alien species. Topics covered include building strategy and policy, prevention, early detection and management. The toolkit includes 100 case studies from around the world to illustrate particular aspects of “best practices.” The contents were designed and partially drafted at an international workshop, held in Malaysia, in March 1999. The 26 participants of this conference include an impressive array of experts from at least 12 countries, including a number of smaller, island states, such as Mauritius, Tahiti, Hawaii and Samoa. The problem of invasive species on islands is a particular focus of this work. The main aims of the 'toolkit' are to assist those involved in environmental and biodiversity conservation and management. It is a global attempt to summarize best practice with regard to prevention and management of invasive alien species. (See <http://www.gisp.org/publications/toolkit/Toolkiteng.pdf>)

## **Development of Invasive Species Indicators**

GISP has the responsibility for developing the indicators for the 2010 Biodiversity Targets for Invasive Species and began by working with the CBD Secretariat to develop a background paper on available information and ideas for indicators which was prepared by the Institute of Zoology in UK. An additional concept was developed by a partner in South Africa (the Centre for Invasion Biology, University of Stellenbosch) and these two approaches were discussed at an *ad hoc* workshop in UK in January, 2007 to develop a plausible process for indicator selection and development. Possible indicators were debated in several aspects of the targets and a range of indicators ranked for development in the future. GISP is currently negotiating with the UNEP WCMC 2010BIP programme to take the next steps with a reduced number of direct and composite indicators.

## **Global Strategy for Plant Conservation**

GISP addressed Target Ten of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) firstly by developing an awareness brochure outlining the target and its intentions as well as the significance of IAS to plants and their conservation. GISP then set up a pilot process to try to establish how to develop a list of the “100 major invasive alien species that threaten plant, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems” for which management plans should be in place by 2010. GISP carried out a process in three East African countries, six countries in South America and in Costa Rica to debate the opinions of

countries and regions as to the most important IAS that threaten plants. The results were confusing because most countries had long lists and many countries' lists did not coincide with other countries in their region. So while the data collected were interesting, they did not further the development of a process to establish those 100 major invasive species. GISP then made a proposal for funding to try another approach using a web-based questionnaire to specifically target countries with very definite expected returns. This proposal presently awaits funding.

## Marine Invasive Alien Species

GISP has been working with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme (UNEP RSP) in a number of areas. UNEP RSP supported GISP's development of a brochure on Marine Invasive Species and the Regional Seas Programme and a needs assessment in the Regional Seas programmes on Marine and Coastal invasive alien species. The objective is to increase information and awareness on Marine and Coastal IAS and on the RSP; aid fundraising; determine prioritized needs of the countries in the RSPs; increase capacity building; and improve IAS management.

GISP also piloted a training course in Tanzania on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species that was attended by scientists, managers and representatives from ports authorities. As part of this effort, GISP also engaged in a taxonomic study of aquatic species in the port of Mombasa. The pilot was developed into a Training Toolkit on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species, which was subsequently delivered in Istanbul, Luanda and Panama.

## Economic Impacts of Invasive Alien Species

Using funds provided through the World Bank, GISP commissioned a number of studies to assess the impact of invasive alien species on local livelihoods, taking into account both environmental and socioeconomic consequences. Studies included:

- Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) – East Africa
- Giant sensitive plant (*Mimosa pigra*) – Zambia
- Triffid weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) – Ghana, South Africa
- Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) – Central African Republic, South Africa
- Larger grain borer (*Prostephanus truncatus*) – Togo, East Africa
- Parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) – South Africa
- *Lantana Camara* – India

In May 2006, GISP convened a workshop to identify and share: preliminary results on these efforts; methodologies and techniques for further refinement; and priority next steps for work on economic assessments of invasive alien species. GISP also produced a publication on the impacts of invasive alien species on poverty and livelihoods, including food security and human health issues, to highlight the threat of invasive alien species to national development as a whole.

## Pathways – Civil Aviation and Animal Screening

Building on recognition as a key pathway gap under the CBD as well as an important issue for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), GISP has focused on the issue of aviation as a key vector for the movement of invasive alien species. GISP convened a workshop on Prevention of Invasive

Species Entering through African Airports (12-14 March 2007, Kempton Park, South Africa), funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands in South Africa. The meeting reviewed existing activities and policies in major African airports and also incorporated best practices from other countries. The resulting report was crafted into draft guidance that has been presented to the ICAO Secretariat. Next steps are to test the guidance in a range of airports and to submit the guidance to the ICAO Assembly for further consideration.

COP Decision VIII/27 also recognized animals (terrestrial and aquatic, including their association with the pet/aquarium trade and aquaculture) as a key area requiring further guidance. With SBSTTA-13's consideration of standards regarding terrestrial animal invasives and the CBD Secretariat's liaison with relevant international organizations, GISP has entered into discussions with IUCN's Invasive Species Specialist Group and the University of Notre Dame (Indiana, USA) on convening a workshop to identify best practices and how they can be introduced into the CBD process. The workshop has tentatively been planned for April 2008, in order to benefit from SBSTTA-13's discussions on the topic and to provide input into deliberations at COP-9 in May.

## Regional Efforts

GISP has also had a strong involvement at the regional level, where it convened a series of meetings to identify priority threats and needs. From 2001-2004, GISP and a number of collaborators convened regional consultations in Nordic/Baltic countries, Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, South America, Southern Africa, South and Southeast Asia, the Austral Pacific and West Africa. The results were compiled into a series of workshop reports as well as the *Invaded* series of publications.

GISP also supported the launch of the Cooperative Islands Initiative (CII) in 2002, which was endorsed in COP Decision VI/23 (19). The CII was designed to provide a more coordinated and cooperative approach to addressing invasive species threats. To date, the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII) has been the only program established under the CII, although GISP partners are currently working with governments and other interested stakeholders in assessing interest in other regions.

## Additional GISP Resources

GISP has contributed to IAS Guiding Principle 8 (Exchange of information), through the development of many concept papers, brochures and reports on several priority areas (All can be found on <http://www.gisp.org>). GISP has produced the "Invaded Series", which presently comprises publications on South America, Tropical Asia and Africa. Available at

- <http://www.gisp.org/publications/invaded/index.asp>

GISP has produced reports of training courses as well as toolkits and best practice information. There are also numerous workshops that GISP has organized all over the world since 1999 to assess invasive alien species challenges and opportunities for regional collaboration. Available at:

- Training courses – <http://www.gisp.org/publications/courses/index.asp>
- Toolkit – <http://www.gisp.org/publications/toolkit/index.asp>
- Regional workshops – <http://www.gisp.org/publications/workshops/index.asp>

GISP produces a bi-annual newsletter on invasive species work. GISP has produced a series of publications on the economic impacts of IAS on the African continent. In addition, GISP has developed a



Global Interactive Map which links to the invasive alien species pages of the CBD website and provides support to the Global Invasive Species Information Network. Available at:

- Newsletter – <http://www.gisp.org/publications/newsletter/index.asp>
- Economic impacts – <http://www.gisp.org/publications/economic/index.asp>

In collaboration with GISP, the CBD activated a restricted website to gather existing information from GISP partners and other organizations on elements of COP decision VI/23. Information obtained from this electronic forum was to be synthesized by the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with GISP, and disseminated to Parties and the wider community through the CHM.

Other GISP related publications include:

- The Aid Trade: International Assistance Programs as Pathways for the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species (with the World Bank);
- National and Regional Legislation for Promotion and Support to the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Invasive Alien Species (with the World Bank)
- Invasive Alien Species and Trade: Integrating Prevention Measures and International Trade Rules (with the Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy)
- Invasive Species and Poverty: Exploring the Links
- Information sheets on economic impacts, biofuels and climate change.