



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ORGANIZATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE
GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP
London, 9-10 July 2012

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Invasive alien species (IAS) are those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8(h))¹. In some ecosystems – islands for example – invasive alien species are the leading cause of biodiversity loss. In addition, they can pose a threat to food security, human health and economic development. Increasing trade and travel translate into greater risks of biological invasion unless the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive alien species become national priorities.

2. The goal of this workshop is to build upon the Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14) by developing a plan for launching and implementing a global invasive alien species information partnership. The workshop supports the work of Parties and organizational partners to achieve goals set forth in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national invasive species strategies and action plans, Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and various decisions of the Parties relevant to invasive alien species (e.g., VI/23*).

3. In particular, this organizational meeting will help advance Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 by building the capacity of Parties to access science-based information on invasive alien species in a timely

¹ The following definitions are used since the Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in decision VI/23*:

- i. "alien species" refers to a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce;
- ii. "invasive alien species" means an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity (For the purposes of the present guiding principles, the term "invasive alien species" shall be deemed the same as "alien invasive species" in decision V/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.)

* One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

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manner. Target 9 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”. Target 9 cannot be achieved without ready access to and exchange of credible information on such topics as invasive alien species identification, classification, and biology; effective prevention, eradication, and control methodologies; pathways of dispersal; relevant laws, policies, and codes of conduct; and lists of experts and organizations providing technical support.

4. The workshop is organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the generous financial contribution from the European Union.

A. *Invasive alien species*

5. Under the Convention, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species annexed to decision VI/23* in 2002. The Conference of the Parties also identified, in 2006, the pathways of introduction of alien species and highlighted the need to address the gaps and inconsistencies of the international regulatory framework (decision VIII/27). Further efforts to close the gap in the international regulatory framework have continued through the Conference of the Parties, as well as through dialogue among relevant international organizations. For example, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its standard-setting bodies provide opportunities through the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)² to develop capacity to implement the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (“SPS Agreement”).

6. The invasive alien species issue is complex from biological, jurisdictional, and legal perspectives. Cross-sectoral partnerships are needed at national, regional, and global levels to adequately prevent and combat invasive alien species. The Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species (decision VI/23*), as well as other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, can help control the transboundary movement of live organisms and contaminated goods that threaten biodiversity, in a timely and well-informed manner.

7. Prevention is widely considered the most cost-effective means for addressing invasive alien species. The eradication of invasive alien species generally requires their early detection and a rapid response. In many instances, however, invasive alien species become so well established that perpetual, costly controls are required. This can be an indefinite drain on limited national resources, and put native species and ecosystem services at great risk.

8. Analytical approaches to addressing invasive alien species (e.g., risk analysis, pathway analysis, climate matching, and ecological niche modelling) require adequate information on a wide variety of factors, such as organismal identification and biology; potential impacts of alien species; pathways of introduction and spread; ecological and climatic patterns and trends at sites of introduction and potential introduction; options for prevention, control, management and mitigation; and socio-economic factors influencing introduction, spread, and effective response.

² The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a joint initiative in capacity-building and technical cooperation aiming at raising awareness on the importance of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, provides SPS-related assistance, and mobilizing resources to assist developing countries enhance their capacity to meet SPS standards <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/index.htm>. The WTO organized two regional SPS seminars in November 2010 for Latin America and for Asian and Pacific Countries. Approximately 50 government officials attended each of these seminars deepening their knowledge of SPS measures, international standards and their link to trade. Both workshops were enriched by the technical expertise, regional knowledge and up-to-date information of representatives from Codex, IPPC and OIE (Source: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/54038201/WTO-STDF-Newsletter-10-Mar-2011-En>).

9. The Convention on Biological Diversity and the other relevant organizations are actively promoting the creation of information sources and the exchange of information relevant to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

10. Information sharing and communication within Governments and between the Government and stakeholders is urgently needed to support every aspect of invasive alien species prevention, eradication, and control.

B. Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species

11. In decision X/38, an ad hoc technical expert group was established (paragraph 2) that would, among other things, consider ways to increase the interoperability of existing information resources including existing databases and networks (paragraph 3 of annex to decision X/38).

12. At the meeting of the above-mentioned ad hoc technical expert group on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of invasive alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species and as live bait and live food held in Geneva from 16 to 18 February 2011 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/1), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) offered to organize an informatics expert meeting to clarify user requirements, identify priority activities and develop a roadmap for the development of a global informatics infrastructure for invasive alien species building on existing initiatives.

13. As a result, GBIF convened the Informatics Expert Meeting on Invasive Alien Species in Copenhagen from 5 to 6 September 2011. It was attended by a group of 10 experts involved in various initiatives on invasive alien species and experienced in the interface between informatics and environmental science.

14. Participants in the Copenhagen meeting worked with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to produce an information document released at the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) as the “*Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9*” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14). The purpose of this document was to (a) describe how to improve the effectiveness of existing information services on invasive alien species through a series of coordinated activities carried out by specialized partners and (b) demonstrate that a reasonable amount of support can significantly contribute to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, and hence raise interest among Parties and other donors to facilitate the mobilization of resources for the full implementation of this joint work programme.

15. The fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 15) considered how Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations are addressing gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework regarding invasive alien species (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/7), and the joint work programme to strengthen information services on invasive alien species as a contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14). In recommendation XV/4 (paragraphs 17 and 18 respectively) on invasive alien species, the SBSTTA:

...encourages Parties, Governments and relevant institutions and organizations to participate in developing interoperable information systems that can be used in developing early-detection and rapid-response systems;

and

Recognizing the vital importance of access to accurate information on invasive alien species in developing indicators to monitor the progress of achieving target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the need to maximize synergies among existing information services, *welcomes* the proposed the joint work programme to strengthen information services on invasive alien species as a contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14), and *requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate its implementation, and invites Parties, information services and other organizations to contribute to this work.

16. Based on the “*Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9*” in light of the support of SBSTTA 15, the Secretariat received generous financial support from the European Union to move the process forward. The Secretariat thus hired a short-term programme coordinator and convened an informal, interim steering committee in order to coordinate this organizational workshop (London, 9-10 July 2012) and other relevant activities until the end of November 2012. The direction of work beyond 2012 will largely be determined through this workshop, and events at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Hyderabad, India; 8-19 October 2012).

17. At SBSTTA 16, several individuals/organizations who had taken leadership roles in the *Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9* met with the Executive Secretary and other Secretariat staff to discuss objectives and activities for 2012. At this meeting, it was proposed that the term “*Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species (...)*” be replaced with the “*Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership*” in order to more readily reflect the intent to create an open alliance of information providers and users intent on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species).

18. A draft conceptual plan for the global invasive alien species information partnership is provided in the annex below. This table was contributed by the interim steering committee, facilitated by the programme coordinator, as a resource for this organizational workshop.

19. It should be noted that the Secretariat does not intend to create or facilitate the creation of a single invasive alien species database/information system, or to take over management or any existing information system(s). Numerous studies have indicated that the most effective way forward is to promote the inter-operability of relevant information systems, the accessibility and exchange of relevant information, and the availability of relevant analytical tools. It is also imperative that information providers be supported in their efforts to obtain and share information that is credible (scientifically defensible) and has broad coverage (e.g., taxonomically and geographically). Ultimately, ecologists, taxonomists, resource managers, and other technical experts need to be able to collect high quality information relevant to the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive alien species and deposit this information in well-managed and well-funded information systems (databases).

20. The Secretariat hopes to launch the global invasive alien species information partnership (GIASIP) at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11), and to fund the first series of projects to build the capacity of invasive alien species information within the next few months. Participants in the organizational workshop will have the opportunity to provide input on these activities.

ITEM 1. OPENING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

21. Workshop registration will be opened on Monday, 9 July at 8.30 a.m. at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, United Kingdom (tel. of contact person, Mr. Chris Lyal: 020 7942 5113 from outside the Museum).
22. The official language for this workshop is English.
23. The workshop will be opened at 9 a.m., with welcoming remarks by representatives from the Natural History Museum and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
24. Ms. Jamie K. Reaser, the programme coordinator providing short-term consultancy to the Secretariat, will serve as meeting facilitator and provide an overview of the workshop goals and proposed agenda, as well as a slate of nominees for the role of meeting Chair(s) and Rapporteur.
25. Participants will be invited to approve the suggested organization of work (UNEP/CBD/IAS/WS-GIASIP/1/1).
26. Each participant will have 2-3 minutes to introduce themselves, describe their relevant expertise, and express their expected outcome of this workshop.
27. The emphasis of the workshop will be on the development of an operational plan for the global invasive alien species information partnership. With this in mind, the workshop format features a mix of plenary presentations with question and answer sessions (background information) and small breakout sessions/working groups (strategic planning).

ITEM 2. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

2.1. Introduction to the programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity

28. A representative of the Convention on Biological Diversity will introduce the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2), and the cross-cutting issues under the Convention relevant to invasive alien species.
29. Mr. Samy Gaiji of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) will provide an overview of the “*Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9*” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14).
30. Participants will be invited to ask questions, and the facilitator will reiterate the goals of this workshop in order to initiate communication among the presenters and other participants.

2.2. Demonstration/assessment of information services

31. Ms. Shyama Pagad of the IUCN SSC³ Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), Mr. Samy Gaiji of GBIF, and Ms. Elizabeth Dodsworth of CABI (tentative) will provide an overview of some of the major information systems relevant to target 9 and demonstrate current capacities, gaps, and needs.
32. Participants will be invited to ask questions and to take notes for later communication and discussion.

³ International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission

2.3. Global invasive alien species information partnership

33. Ms. Jamie K. Reaser will present a brief overview of the draft operational plan for the global invasive alien species information partnership.

34. Participants will break into working groups consisting of Parties and information service providers in order to review the draft operational plan in detail and make specific recommendations for advancement.

35. Working groups will present their suggestions and a group discussion will follow.

2.4. Creating a global information access/exchange site

36. After a brief review of Day 1 activities by the meeting Chair(s), Ms. Jamie K. Reaser will provide criteria for the development of a web-based information site (i.e., portal, café)⁴ that can readily facilitate access to and the exchange of information on invasive alien species globally.

37. Participants will break into working groups consisting of Parties and information service providers in order to develop a creative vision for the development and operation of the global information access/exchange site.

38. Working groups will present their suggestions and a group discussion will follow.

2.5. Review of supporting documents

39. Participants will collectively review and provide suggestions for improving two documents intended to support implementation of the global invasive alien species information partnership: (a) a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and relevant organizations and (b) a Call for Proposals to facilitate the distribution of funds from the European Union intended to build the capacity of information systems and analytical tools relevant to achieving target 9 (invasive alien species).

40. The Rapporteur will annotate and report on the suggested modifications during and at the close of the discussion.

2.6. Planning for the partnership launch

41. The facilitator/programme coordinator will briefly provide background on the role of side-events at CBD meetings and the desire to launch the global invasive alien species information partnership at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad, India (8-19 October 2012).

42. Participants will be invited to provide input on the strategy for launching the Partnership and on the agenda for a side-event at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

43. Participants will also be invited to pledge specific contributions to and commitments for engaging in the global invasive alien species information partnership.

44. The Rapporteur will summarize the key points, contributions, and commitments noted during the discussion.

⁴ Term/title to be suggested by the participants.

ITEM 3. OTHER MATTERS

45. Time permitting, participants will be invited to raise other relevant topics for discussion and/or propose to use the time remaining for further networking activities. This might include one or more demonstrations of information systems not already presented during the meeting.

ITEM 4. CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP

46. The representative of Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will provide information on the follow-up activities and thank the meeting host and participants.

47. The workshop is expected be closed by the Chair(s) at approximately 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 July 2012.

Annex

GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP

STRATEGIC PLANNING – CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

Working draft 12 June 2012

Questions to address	Response
<p>1. What does the global invasive alien species information partnership hope to achieve? (outcomes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable CBD Parties to access, exchange, and analyze the information they need to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species (Article 8(h) of the Convention) in a timely and credible manner, especially Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national invasive species strategies and action plans, relevant decisions of the Conference of Parties, and other targets under of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as appropriate • Provide a mechanism for invasive alien species information providers to more effectively collaborate, and be in collective service to the CBD Parties and other biodiversity stakeholders • Provide a mechanism for expanding opportunities for invasive alien species information providers to effectively attract and collaborate with relevant partners (e.g., IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Global Island Database, Ramsar Sites Information Service, World Database on Protected Areas) in order to better serve Parties and other biodiversity stakeholders through cross-cutting initiatives, especially initiatives that help address gaps, inconsistencies, and priority pathways as identified by the Parties in relevant decisions • Foster the collection, entry, open-source accessibility, interoperability, and analysis of data relevant to the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive alien species • Foster the exchange of information relevant to the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive alien species, particularly among Parties and networks that support capacity building for Parties at national and regional levels (e.g., small island developing States, SIDS)
<p>2. What is important about what the global</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive alien species are one of the leading

Questions to address	Response
<p>invasive alien species information partnership wants to achieve? Why would others care to support or participate in its activities? (motivation)</p>	<p>drivers of biodiversity loss worldwide. They can also have adverse impacts on human health, economic growth, and sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD Parties have agreed to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species. The ability to access reliable information in a timely and meaningful manner can be a barrier to meeting Parties’ needs, especially in “developing countries” • The movement of invasive alien species is intricately tied to trade, and accurate information on invasive alien species is required in the context of trade regulation/ rules and in directing resources at preventing their movement across national boundaries. Furthermore, information on invasion pathways is key to the prevention and management of biological invasions • Preventing, controlling, and eradicating invasive alien species may enable species/ecosystems to be more resilient to other stressors, e.g., climate change • It is essential that invasive alien species prevention and control measures and knowledge sources keep pace with movements in associated factors such as climate change, human population distribution, transport/trade trends and agricultural practices • The global invasive alien species information partnership will enable information providers to professionally network, exchange and update information, and collaborate more effectively and possibly operate in a more cost-effective manner (individually and collectively)
<p>3. How will we know when the global invasive alien species information partnership has achieved its outcome(s)? (indicators/evidence)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Agreement (MOA) signed between CBD and key information provider organizations • A portal/café (term to be determined) for invasive alien species information access/exchange is fully operational and analytical tools indicate substantial use by CBD Parties • Information providers document a substantial increase in system access and application over the next three years • Analyses indicate quality improvement in major invasive alien species information systems,

Questions to address	Response
	<p>starting with COP 12 (2014 or 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in information to be identified by the global invasive alien species information partnership are filled in the appropriate time frame • Substantial increase in the quantity and quality of CBD Party actions to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species, as evidenced in (NBSAPs, national invasive species strategies and action plans, routine reporting, etc.) <p>Secondary Measures/Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) and other progress-monitoring programmes related to invasive alien species information are successful and appreciated • Biodiversity Indicators Partnership is able to receive substantial information on progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (primarily on target 9) • Relevant CBD Parties applying for, receiving, and effectively implementing multilateral and/or bilateral funds to address invasive alien species due to increases in ability to identify and communicate specific needs • Invasive species information networks are active and expanding, especially on small island developing States (SIDS), and stakeholders are exchanging information on best practices, experiences and lessons learned • Member states of other relevant international agreements can access and use invasive alien species information (e.g., IPPC, OIE, WTO-SPS, FAO, IMO, ICAO, IATA, MEAs)
<p>4. What will happen when the global invasive alien species information partnership achieves its outcome(s)? (impact)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive alien species will be prevented, controlled, and eradicated in a more timely and cost-effective manner. (Target 9 and other relevant goals of the CBD Strategic Plan are achieved) • Biodiversity will be safeguarded from the impacts of invasive alien species, and may be more resilient to other stressors (e.g., climate change) • Human health, animal welfare, and sustainable development will also be better secured • Economic loss caused by invasive alien species is

Questions to address	Response
	reduced
5. What are the potential challenges to implementing these activities? (challenges)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clear, long-term leadership and vision • Differing perspectives on mission, goals, objectives • Funding • Overly time-committed staff among the information provider organizations • Paucity of data in some cases • Questionable reliability of data in some cases • Changing data that is difficult to track/convey over time (e.g., taxonomic names) • Varying definitions of invasive alien species and use of terminology • Territoriality of some organizations/information holders and constraints of existing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreements • Incompatibility of existing database structures and other technical complexities
6. What can be done to overcome these potential challenges? (opportunities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an operational plan that provides information on mission, goals, objectives, operational strategy, and implementation resources (e.g., MOA/MOU) for the global invasive alien species information partnership • Clear and effective communication strategy between Partners (informed by the operational plan) • Identify institutional lead(s) and their relevant roles and responsibilities • Secure funding – with the potential of increasing the availability, accessibility, and reliability of relevant data, as well as increasing staff capacity/collaboration within global invasive alien species information partnership members where necessary • Demonstrate success through the Partnership Encourage partners to apply best practices in addressing taxonomic identification and terminology relevant to invasive alien species
7. Who needs to be involved, when, and where? (context)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD Secretariat • CBD Parties, especially individuals who are

Questions to address	Response
	<p>invasive alien species information users and providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major invasive alien species information providers (Partners) • Organizations with relevant analytical tools • Non-CBD information users who can assist Parties in meeting their needs relevant to invasive alien species prevention, control, and eradication • Donors • Launch the global invasive alien species information partnership at COP 11 • Internationally distributed institutional partnership, with focal lead to be determined
<p>8. What are the existing resources that can be used for these activities? (resources)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous existing information systems and analytical tools • Group of organizations already committed to the Joint Programme of Work: GBIF, IUCN SSC ISSG, CABI, FishBase, DAISIE, NOBANIS, GISIN, IABIN I3N; see SBSTTA/15/INF/14 • Committed staff/consultants at relevant organizations • Funding from the European Union • Information needs assessment for target 9 distributed by the CBD Secretariat
<p>9. What additional resources are needed? How can they be obtained? (resources)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource needs assessment should be undertaken as part of the operational plan development process
<p>10. What are the steps to planning and executing these activities? (procedure)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Party information needs assessment (underway and info in SBSTTA/15/INF/14) • Conduct analysis of current capacities/gaps of major information systems and tools (under way) • Conduct gap analysis on information/tools • Draft operational plan (under way) • Engage CBD Parties in development of the operational plan (July workshop) • Determine functions, design options, etc. for information system portal/café (at and after July workshop) • Fund capacity building initiatives to improve data input, accessibility, reliability, interoperability etc.

	<p>(post July workshop; announce at COP 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launch Partnership with MOA/MOU signing at COP 11• Plan implementation leadership/implementation to be determined
11. What are the steps that need to be taken immediately and who should take them? (implementation/responsibility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See near-term planning timeline
12. What are some of the potential options for expanding the scope of the operational plan by COP 12 (options)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expanding the Partnership (inviting additional organizations to join)• Collaborating through/with the Invasive Alien Species Inter-Agency Liaison group• Collaboration through/with the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) / knowledge management
