

# REPORT OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND  
9-10 JULY 2012

## INTRODUCTION

1. Invasive alien are those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8(h))<sup>1</sup>. 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. On 9-10 July 2012, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened an “Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership” at the Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Financial support was generously provided by the European Union. The primary goal of the workshop was to begin to implement the activities described in 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 creating a mechanism through which invasive alien species information users and providers could collaborate in a timely and effective manner. The workshop also served to further 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 (NISSAPs), relevant 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 helped advance Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 by advancing the opportunities for CBD Parties to access science-based information on invasive alien species. 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.

## REPORT

4. This document provides: Part I, a brief report on the aforementioned “Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Partnership” and Part II, a copy of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (hereafter GIASIPartnership) Operational Plan. A draft GIASIPartnership Operational Plan was reviewed and discussed by all of the workshop participants. The document included here incorporates comments received from participants before and after the workshop, as well as further input from an interim Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the CBD Secretariat, CAB International (CABI), Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Invasive Species Initiative (ISI) and Invasive Species

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<sup>1</sup> 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.)

Specialist Group (ISSG), and the Natural History Museum (London, UK). This is intended to be a “living document” which will be revised and updated by the GIASIPartnership Steering Committee as appropriate.

## **PART I: MEETING SUMMARY**

### **ITEM 1. OPENING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

5. The “Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership” opened at 9 a.m. on 9 July 2012 with welcoming remarks by representatives from the Natural History Museum and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The workshop format featured a mix of plenary presentations with question and answer sessions (background information; first morning) and small breakout sessions/working groups in combination with whole group discussions (strategic planning; remainder of the meeting).

6. Professor Ian Owens, the Director of Science at the Natural History Museum, welcomed the Participants to the Museum. He noted that invasive alien species were a major driver of biodiversity loss, and an issue of particular importance for data providing organisations such as the Natural History Museum. He expressed great pleasure to see representatives from so many biodiversity informatics initiatives working in a collaborative manner with Parties from around the world. He concluded by wishing the participants success in the workshop, and inviting them to find time to visit the Museum galleries.

7. Dr. Junko Shimura as a representative from the CBD Secretariat delivered a message on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Braulio Dias stressing the importance of a partnership-based approach to assisting Parties with the information they needed to implement decisions relevant to the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive alien species. She encouraged the participants to think strategically and yet creatively, and pledged support to the GIASIPartnership (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2012/sp-2012-07-09-giasip-en.pdf>). She also thanked the Natural History Museum, Dr. Chris Lyal, and Dr. Jamie K. Reaser for organizing the meeting; European Union for its generous funding and all of the participants for making the meeting on rather short notice.

8. Dr. Jamie K. Reaser, the Programme Coordinator providing short-term consultancy to the Secretariat, served as meeting facilitator. She provided an overview of the workshop goals and proposed agenda and introduced the meeting Chair (Dr. Patricia Koleff Osorio) and Rapporteur (Dr. Chris Lyal). Dr. Reaser emphasized that several tangible outcomes were expected from the workshop:

- GIASIPartnership Organisational Plan;
- Memorandum of Cooperation that can be signed by Partners at COP 11 and into the future;
- Call for Funding Proposals (to help guide the allocation of money from the EU);
- Identification of potential Partners; and a
- Plan for officially launching the GIASIPartnership a COP 11 in Hyderabad, India (tentatively 10 October, 2012)

9. Participants unanimously approved the suggested organization of work and proposed outcomes (UNEP/CBD/IAS/WS-GIASP/1/1).

10. Participants introduced themselves, described their relevant expertise, and expressed their personal interest in the workshop. Twenty-nine individuals participated, half of them representing CBD Parties. The remainder were associated with inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic/research institutions. Two observers were also present (annex I to this document).

11. Responding to points made during the participant introductions, Dr. Reaser noted that the GIASIPartnership did not have to exist in web-based environment alone; some needs were not best met through such a format, especially in parts of the world that had relatively poor internet access. She asked Participants to keep in mind that the delivery of “information” should be considered in the broadest possible sense. The Operational plan should reflect a range of needs and means to meet those needs.

## ITEM 2. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

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

12. Dr. Junko Shimura (SCBD) introduced the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2), and the cross-cutting issues under the Convention relevant to invasive alien species. She made the point that the GIASIPartnership had the potential to contribute to broad implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Strategic Plan, but that it was primarily intended to support implementation of Target 9 (invasive alien species). More On the Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets can be found at: [www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/2011-2020/Aichi-Targets-EN.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/2011-2020/Aichi-Targets-EN.pdf). The presentation is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ais/wsgiasp-01/other/wsgiasp-01-presentation-cbd-en.pdf>

13. Mr. Samy Gaiji of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) provided 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),<sup>2</sup> emphasizing the priority action items that were identified at a previous workshop. He pointed out that no single information system or information provider organization can meet the needs of Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, or many of the other CBD decisions relevant to invasive alien species. Clearly, there was a need for collaboration and a more strategic approach to making information more readily accessible to Parties and other relevant stakeholders. He noted that quality control and a lack of core-operating resources had long been challenges for information providers. He thus encouraged the participants to think about ways in which such challenges could be overcome through the Partnership. He also expressed his appreciation for the number of information provider organizations that had already said that they were willing to work together through a partnership-mechanism. The presentation can be found at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ais/wsgiasp-01/other/wsgiasp-01-presentation-gbif-en.pdf>

14. In discussions that followed, participants emphasized the need for the work of the Partnership to be: (a) scalable (global to local); (b) inclusive of taxonomic information services; and (c) a catalyst for accessing, improving, and supporting the relevant information systems and informatics tools that already exist.

### 2.2. *Demonstration/assessment of information services*

15. Ms. Shyama Pagad of the IUCN-ISSC, Dr. Samy Gaiji of GBIF, and Ds. Elizabeth Dodsworth of CABI provided an overview of some of the major information systems relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and provided advice on making the most of the opportunity to create the GIASIPartnership.

16. Ms. Pagad stated that the ISSG<sup>3</sup> was one of six commissions within IUCN and was comprised of a network of 7,500 scientific experts. A number of databases had been or were being developed under the auspices of the ISSG, including:

- The Global Invasive Species Database (GISD); [www.issg.org/database/welcome/](http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/)
- The Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species Database (IBIS); [ibis.fos.auckland.ac.nz/](http://ibis.fos.auckland.ac.nz/)

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-15/information/sbstta-15-inf-14-en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.issg.org>

- Global Register of Invasive Species (GRIS), in progress
- Compendium of Pathways of Spread, in progress
- The Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications has been constructed through a Partnership between the ISSG and Island Conservation; <http://eradicationfdb.fos.auckland.ac.nz/>

17. Ms. Pagad noted that no database was perfect that that they could all benefit from further support. For example: some species were not yet profiled; impact information may not yet be described for certain areas; current status and trends information may be absent. She expressed her hope that the Partnership would help secure sustainable funding; develop a better understanding of user needs and track these overtime; identify and develop innovative, effective methods of information dissemination; foster collaboration in the context of information sharing and project development; and helped minimize the duplication of effort and product. For a copy of this presentation, see <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ais/wsgiasp-01/other/wsgiasp-01-presentation-issg-en.pdf>

18. Mr. Samy Gaiji provided a brief overview of GBIF,<sup>4</sup> stressing what he felt GBIF could offer to the Partnership and how GBIF could benefit in turn. He then provided his personal perspective on what the GIASIPartnership should and should not be.

19. GBIF operates as an information provider (“harvester”) through an interoperable network of biodiversity databases and information technology tools. More than 400 million occurrence data points are now available in the system. The system is not explicitly focused on invasive alien species, but includes data relevant to addressing invasive alien species (as well as other environmental issues).

- The GIASIPartnership should:
  - Provide mutual benefits to Parties and Partners, and meet the needs of those with strong internet capacities, as well as those with little technological capacity;
  - Add value to what GBIF (and other Partners) can do alone;
  - Minimize/reduce duplication of effort among Partners and Parties
  - Enrich other information systems;
  - Mobilise additional the additional data needed to effectively address invasive alien species;
  - Provide an invasive alien species-specific user interface (Gateway);
  - Contribute to develop/improve the information technology infrastructure (e.g., web tools, data standards);
  - Mobilize the GBIF community (i.e., data providers, scientists etc); and
  - Demonstrate relevance of GBIF (and other Partners) for reaching the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- The GIASIPartnership should *not*:
  - Duplicate existing information systems;
  - Create yet another portal with nice interface, but little added value;
  - Be run by a single organization (must be collegiate);
  - Develop its own IT system; and
  - Be completely independent from CBD.

For more details, see the presentation at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSGIASP-01>

Key points that arose in a discussion among the participants included:

- Data quality needs to be a high priority for all information systems, and there should be some means of indicating how reliable the information is (e.g., how recently collected and updated, was the source experts or “grey literature” – such as newspaper stories). The data quality of the existing invasive alien species information systems needs to be improved. Ideally, there would be

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gbif.org>.

a mechanism for routine peer-review and data quality improvement. Policy need to base their decisions of reliable information.

- Participants noted the value of the Operational Plan and Memorandum of Cooperation in helping to provide a shared vision and clearly defined roles and responsibilities. They encouraged the development and publishing of shared vocabularies in order to further improve consistency and potential collaboration. This could be an element incorporated into the Work Plan.
- It was noted that although the GIASIPartnership is intended primarily to serve Parties, numerous other stakeholders will benefit from it. The design needs to be multi-tiered and organized in a manner that enables different stakeholder groups to gain ready access to the information and tools that they need most.

20. Dr. Elizabeth Dodworth provided background on CABI in general and on its Invasive Species Compendium<sup>5</sup> in particular, as well as some lessons learned from undertaking a series of exercises that they were invited to explore by the CBD Secretariat in advance of this workshop.

- CABI is a non-profit organization with relevant projects and programmes in more than 60 countries; there 47 member countries. Over the last ten years CABI has been developing an Invasive Species Compendium.
- The development of the Invasive Species Compendium platform and content has cost \$US3 million, and been funded by consortium of members, including government ministries, non-governmental organizations, and private companies. Maintaining it at 'silver standard' will cost approximately \$350k per annum.
- Content examples include: species datasheets, full text articles, and CABI abstracts.
- Like the other systems discussed in the morning, the Compendium alone had a limited ability to provide the information required for completing the exercises – only one of the species was in the database and the database doesn't include information that would readily enable pathways to be ranked. This demonstrates: a) the value of getting user need information so that the relevant data fields can be added over time and b) why it is important for data providers to work together in the Partnership context.
- CABI could help develop and host a federated access point as a contribution to the GIASIPartnership.

21. Due to time limitations, participants were invited to address questions to Dr. Dodsworth over during breaks and working group sessions.

### ***2.3. Global invasive alien species information partnership***

22. Dr. Jamie K. Reaser presented a brief overview of the draft Operational Plan for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASIPartnership).

- Three models were taken into consideration when developing the Operational Plan: the Global Water Partnership,<sup>6</sup> the Global Island Partnership,<sup>7</sup> and the first and early second phase of the Global Invasive Species Programme- when it was truly a partnership-based initiative, not an incorporated non-government organization (Note: GISP is no longer operating).
- The Operational Plan is a draft – it is a work in progress that will be greatly influenced by the workshop discussions. It is intended to be a “living document” which can be updated and revised, as appropriate.
- It is the CBD Secretariat's intent to release the Operational Plan as an Information document at COP 11 in October.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cabi.org/default.aspx?site=170&page=1030>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.gwp.org/>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/usa/about\\_usa/islands/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/usa/about_usa/islands/) and <http://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml>

23. Dr. Reaser provided an overview of the Operational Plan format and coached participants on how best to work through it during their afternoon working group sessions. For a copy of her presentation, see <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ais/wsgiasp-01/other/wsgiasp-01-presentation-giasip-intro-en.pdf>
24. After lunch, the participants divided into four 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.
25. After approximately two hours of discussion, the working groups presented their findings and a group discussion ensued. The working groups had reached very similar conclusions during their discussions. This indicates a strong potential for a shared vision and broad support. They all felt that the scope and direction provided by the Operational Plan was appropriate. The groups provided specific suggestions for improving the details of the text and raised several issues for further consideration during GIASIPartnership development.
26. The main points made by each working group are captured in a table and two figures in Addendum III. Collectively, the participants felt that they would like more time to discuss the governance/leadership aspects of the GIASIPartnership. The facilitator agreed to continue the working groups in the morning.
27. The first day of the workshop was closed by the Chair at approximately 5p.m.
28. Dr. Patricia Koleff Osorio, meeting Chair, opened the second day of the workshop at 9:00 a.m. on 13 July 2013 with a review of the first day's progress and encouragement to the participants to continue working creatively and collaboratively. She expressed her enthusiasm for the process so far and felt that very good progress was being made.
29. Rather than breaking into working groups, the participants decided to continue the work on the Operational Plan in plenary. The followings are key points arising from the discussion. The full breath of input from the participants was taken into consideration during revision of the Operational Plan (Part II of this document). For the sake of brevity, all of the remarks are not included in detail in this report.

#### Key Points

##### Priorities

- Development of the coordination mechanism for the Partnership and the Partnership Gateway should be the two highest, near-term priorities.

##### Participation

- The Partnership should be broad rather than narrow – both in terms of the Partners and in providing information that would help address not just biodiversity, but also human health, economic issues, infrastructure impacts, etc.
- Parties should all be considered Partners through signing of the Memorandums of Cooperation between the organization and the Secretariat of the CBD. Each government should be invited and routinely reminded to submit contact information for their Partner institutions to the Partnership Coordinator. This will help ensure the participation of key individuals and organizations. Governments might also want to publicly make a “pledge” of the financial contributions and/or in-kind services that they are providing through the Partnership. There could be a section built into the Partnership Gateway for the list of government contacts and pledges.
- It is very important that the Partners share core principles, especially the concept of open access. Serving the ‘public good’ should also be seen as a shared value.

## Steering Committee

- A Steering Committee will be necessary for the GIASIPartnership to success. Functions should include:
  - Defining and helping to develop the Operational Plan;
  - Ensuring implementation of the Operational Plan;
  - Making sure resources are raised for work programme (including in-kind opportunities);
  - Representing the Partnership and being empowered to take decisions on behalf of the Partnership;
  - Reporting to the CBD Secretariat and other relevant bodies;
  - Acting as a conduit for advice from SBSTTA to the Partnership and providing information, as appropriate, to SBSTTA via the SCBD; and
  - Keeping participants motivated.
- More extensive discussions need to be held about provide content through open access. This should be done by the Steering Committee. Considerable concern was raised about the use of the Conservation Commons. At least some potential partners provide content under Creative Commons licences with clear rights and restrictions to use, and would need to see these carries through to access via the Partnership Gateway. Some potential Partners also sell content in parts of their activities, and could not undertake to provide open access to all of the data/information they hold.
- A considerable amount of discussion took place on the composition of the Steering Committee. In the end it was decided that the interim Steering Committee that was in place to organize the workshop should continue at least through the end of the year, possibly for another year, and then it should select a Steering Committee that is fully prepared to drive the process. The Steering Committee should ultimately be comprised of invasive alien species information users and providers. The individuals on the Committee should represent Partners and Parties. They should be individuals fully committed to the GIASIPartnership, with the ability to dedicate sufficient time to programme development and oversight. A suggestion was made to explore the Global Water Partnership model.
- The Steering Committee should carefully consider Access & Benefits Sharing (ABS) issues as relevant to the CBD and this Partnership.
- The participants also invited the Steering Committee to consider the potential benefit of having a Technical Advisory Committee in the future. This was not discussed in detail.

## Partnership Coordinator

- After a brief discussion, workshop participants agreed that there was a need for a Partnership Coordinator. The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) was cited as a good example. Participants agreed that there was a need for a Coordinator to be in place as soon as possible. Ideally, the Coordinator would be a contractor (near term) or employee (future) of the SCBD or a Partner organisation. The latter was felt to potentially allow for more flexibility.
- It was felt that at least a 12 month appointment was appropriate to ensure consistency and work quality. There was also a suggestion to change the title from Coordinator to Director to reflect the professional role of the position and ensure that the Partnership is taken seriously. Roles for the Partnership Coordinator were identified as
  - Serving at the Partnership focal point;
  - Coordinating the Partnership globally;
  - Implementing decisions;
  - Tracking Work Plan progress;
  - Ensuring effective communication/linkages internally and externally; and
  - Staying aware of the other activities of the CBD and integrating/linking the Partnership into them, as appropriate.

## Working Groups

- Working Groups were identified to serve as standing committees which would oversee certain thematic areas in the Work Plan section of the Operational Plan. The Working Groups would be designed and lead at the direction of the Steering Committee. The Working Groups might designate short-term Task Teams to take on specific projects. In some cases, Task Teams might need to be cross-cutting - to have members from more than one Working Group.

## Review

- In any review process there needs to be assessment of the impact of activities. These should be measured in terms of Target 9 and its indices for success.
- The Steering Committee should be in charge of the Partnership review, with the assistance of the Partnership Coordinator and Working Group Co/Chairs, as appropriate
- To review the Work Plan a conceptual framework / logframe could prove helpful. This should include objectively verifiable indicators.
- The Partnership Coordinator needs to capture activities (and transmit / arrange feedback such as side events) and these activities should come with measures of success.
- Ideally, there should be an independent aspect to the review, and a budget will be made available. Funders might be included in the review process.
- The review should feed back to the CBD process.

## Funding

- The heading for this section should be changed to “Funding and in-kind services”.
- Para 6. Last line on financial management states that this will be provided by the CBD Secretariat or Partners. Unclear whether this means both, or offers an alternative. It was suggested that it should be taken as both, depending on how resources are received and what partners combine to acquire grants. This should be made clear in the document.
- The first contributions to the Partnership will be in-kind contributions by Partners (or potential partners, prior to COP). An assessment of these can be shown to sponsors to indicate the value of the partnership. However, caution should be exercised in how these are presented in case potential funders form the erroneous impression that the work can be done for nothing and funds are lost. Any in-kind contributions should be quantified and accredited, and the Coordinator should track these.
- Funding applications should be aspirational, and the partnership needs fleshed-out priorities to provide to donors and others at COP. Elements of the Work Plan that need to be financially supported could be presented in a set of concept notes that could be taken to different sponsors / donors (the Coordinator would have to provide help in preparing these). Capacity building and sustainability need to priorities.
- Concern was expressed that preparing even concept notes before COP would be challenging, since the potential Partners are not yet sufficiently engaged.
- It was also noted that Partners could use the Partnership to leverage funding.

## Other comments

- The Work Plan should eventually include a table that illustrates how the GIASIPartnership can address specific CBD decisions and which Partner would take the lead. This document should be updated after each COP, as appropriate.
- It is important to consider the persistence of the data systems under the auspices of the Partners and how data rights might be transferred if a Partner organization closes. Following from this point it was suggested that information system transfer under such circumstances could be addressed in the Memorandum of Cooperation.
- Eventually, there needs to be a clear mechanism by which the GIASIPartnership can report to SBSTTA/COP. The Steering Committee should explore this within the next 6-12 months.

- Building relationships within the Partnership is very important for sustainability, and may be a large challenge.

#### ***2.4. Creating a global information access/exchange site***

30. Dr. Reaser gave a brief introduction to the need and general concept for a website that will serve as a ‘gateway’ through which CBD Parties and other stakeholders can improve implementation of Target 9 through access to:

- Relevant, reliable invasive alien species information;
- Applicable informatics tools; and
- Platforms for direct information exchange (e.g., chat rooms).

31. For approximately one hour, participants broke into four working groups consisting of Parties and information service providers in order to develop a plan for the development and operation of the ‘Partnership Gateway.’ At the end of this time period, the working groups reported on their discussions and the facilitator summarized the major findings, noting that there were considerable similarities in the overall vision and direction proposed by the working groups.

32. The facilitator’s summary follows. The detailed notes from the meeting have been provided to the Partnership Gateway Working Group for further discussion and development.

- The Partnership Gateway will be a web-based entry point for invasive alien species information exchange and sharing. The ‘information’ to be included will be considered from multiple perspectives: scientific (biological/ecological), socio-economic (e.g., including cost-benefit analyses, impact studies), and methodological (e.g., best management practices).
- The Gateway should largely be constructed as a means of accessing existing resources through links (including links to the CBD-CHM resources). Duplication of information resources should be avoided. However, the Working Groups will also need to new information resources and informatics tools, and these should be made available through the Gateway.
- The Gateway will be reliable; credible; user friendly and functional (with an option to build in more functionality as the Partnership develops); regularly updated; searchable; capable of document uploading, downloading, and sharing (including spatial information), as well as supporting platforms for rapid information exchange (e.g., chatrooms and forums); and ‘archiveable.’
- The Gateway will also be able to register users (which will help with targeting and tracking), distribute invasive alien species alerts, and have mechanisms for testing functionality and inviting feedback.
- A phased-in approach to Gateway development was recommended.
- The question as to “where the Gateway” will sit was not resolved and will need to be addressed by the Partnership Gateway Working Group and Steering Committee.
- GBIF, CABI, and IUCN representatives all indicated that they were willing to link their existing e-resources into the Gateway. This opportunity will be explored by the Partnership Gateway Working Group.
- The NHM offered to explore using EDITR Scratchpad as a base for at least the Phase 1 Gateway and, with the help of the Partnership Gateway Working Group, demonstrate a prototype at COP 11.

#### ***2.5. Review of supporting documents***

33. Participants collectively reviewed and provided suggestions for improving two documents intended to support implementation of the GIASIPartnership: (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).

34. Based on participant input, minor modifications were made to the Memorandum of Cooperation. A final version, which also includes further input from the Secretariat, is included in the annex to the Operational Plan (Part II of this document).

35. Substantial discussion took place with regard to the Call for Proposals. Ultimately, the participants felt that it was premature for the Secretariat to issue a call for proposals for project funding. They felt that, as a priority, existing resources should go to: a) establishing a coordinating mechanism for the Partnership and b) developing the Partnership Gateway (which would eventually become the access point for the information-based projects that would be supported with additional resources). They also felt that it was wise to put the Interim Steering Committee and Coordinator in place before the funding process starts. Ideally, the Partnership should be in place also, requiring the Call to be after COP 11.

36. Participants noted that they didn't know how much EU funding was currently available and that maybe there is sufficient funding to address the two priorities mentioned above, as well as fund some capacity building projects. They felt this needed to be clarified before a call for proposals was fully addressed.

- The funding opportunity should be open to anyone/organization that provides the relevant information services and tools. This might also include private companies.
- Participants indicated that, in some cases, Parties would like to jointly apply for funding (e.g., in the context of regional information networks). Therefore, they recommended that there be a minimum of two months allowed for proposals to be developed.
- The Technical Review Panel referred to in the Call for Proposals should be established by the Steering Committee. Potential conflicts of interest should be carefully considered.
- The Project Criteria should be modified to reflect the Work Plan.

37. The participants noted that some in-kind contributions to the Partnership are being developed, although in all cases these are indicative and intended to demonstrate the possible benefits of the Partnership, to aid the Parties' understanding of the potential benefits of the Partnership when shown at COP. They are not to be interpreted as showing that the Partnership can deliver without funding. Funding for implementing the Work Programme is vital if the Partnership is to succeed.

38. In order to avoid future confusion, the draft call for proposals is not included in this report or the Operational Plan.

## ***2.6. Planning for the partnership launch***

39. The facilitator/programme coordinator provided a brief background on the role of side-events at CBD meetings and the desire to launch the GIASIPartnership at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Hyderabad, India (8-19 October 2012).

40. Participants were invited to provide input on the strategy for launching the Partnership and on the agenda for a side-event. Based on these discussions, it was determined that the side Event will include: a) introduction to the Partnership and how it meets the Parties' needs, b) demonstrations of Partnership services, c) signing of MoC by the Executive Secretary and the leads of the Partner organisations.

41. Several participants offered to make contributions to the side event. A list of these offers was made and will be used by the Programme Coordinator to develop/implement the side event.

42. Two other activities were identified as providing opportunities to promote and expand the Partnership and its services: a) The Island Summit and b) The Invasive Alien Species/Global Taxonomy

Initiative Kiosk. Participants were invited to volunteer to assist in one or both of these activities. A list of volunteers was generated and used for planning purposes. ISSG and Island Conservation agreed to take the lead on coordinating the GIASIPartnership contribution to the Island Summit. The Partnership Coordinator will work with the Secretariat to plan for the kiosk – which was described as a “super kiosk” because it would include a small ‘classroom’ set up (about 15 chairs) and the opportunity for Partners to give information system demonstrations and hold ‘mini courses’ during the first week of COP 11.

43. Participants were also invited to pledge specific contributions to and commitments for engaging in the GIASIPartnership. A list of volunteers for the Partnership Gateway Working Group was created. This Working Group will be lead of Dr. Chris Lyal of the Natural History Museum, London.

#### **ITEM 4. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP**

44. The representative of Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity briefly provided information on the follow-up activities and thanked the meeting host and participants.

45. The Chair, Dr. Patricia Kohleff Osorio, thanked the participants, and particularly Dr. Jamie K. Reaser, Dr. Junko Shimura, and Dr. Chris Lyal for their hard work. She noted that the Partnership development was moving forward well and good progress was being made, but still more needs to be done. She suggested that participants take the report of the meeting and move it through the fora they are involved in to alert other potential partners and encourage them to engage in the process prior to COP 11.

46. Dr. Reaser thanked the participants for bringing their expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm to the workshop. She expressed her hoped that many of the workshop participants would be at COP 11.

47. The workshop was closed by the Chair at approximately 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 July 2012.

## *Annex I*

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Annex II

TABLE I	Working Group 1	Working Group 2	Working Group 3	Working Group 4
<b>Introduction</b>				
<b>Vision</b>	Expand to include impacts on economy, livelihoods, (to protect / enhance).	Did not reach in discussion.	<p>Also wanted to categorise and broaden beneficiaries, recognising the larger impact possible, including ecosystem services, human livelihoods.</p> <p>Link to global commitments etc.</p> <p>Note that members also gain, through increased visibility and information.</p> <p>Refer to partnership working together.</p>	<p><i>[The discussion did not clearly distinguish between 'Vision' and 'Mission' and I have assigned the points where I think they are best placed. - CL]</i></p> <p>Include elements beyond biodiversity, e.g. agriculture, trade, policy-makers.</p> <p>Include impacts in other areas.</p> <p>The Vision needs to be attractive for donors (the current statement does not include any indication as to why the partnership is different).</p> <p>The vision / Mission statement needs to be brief.</p>
<b>Mission</b>	Expand to include in text: <u>'relevant</u> information' and include outcomes – parties <u>'effectively apply'</u> information to implementation. The word 'stimulate' was also proposed. Replace 'information' with 'knowledge to make informed decisions'.	Did not reach in discussion.	<p>Include 'generate information'</p> <p>Include strengthening capacity for implementation and governance through these actions.</p> <p>'Replace Credible' with 'reliable / effective' or 'authoritative'.</p> <p>A possible form of words is "Strengthen the technical and governance capacity of CBD Parties and their partners to access, exchange, and analyze the information they need to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species in a</p>	<p>Include the added value resulting from being a partnership (e.g. pulling resources together).</p> <p>Consider trans-sectorial issues (e.g. FAO, IPPC, WHO, OIE).</p> <p>Needs to focus on how the information will contribute to meeting user needs and thus to outcomes.</p> <p>The use of the word "credible" was questioned. Credible could refer to information but not eradication. Thus "credible (or peer-reviewed) information". This statement of quality could be important for decision-maker / policy users.</p>

			timely and effective, and authoritative manner.”	(The group noted the importance of discussing issues of fitness for use of information / data.)
<b>Values</b>		Did not reach in discussion.	<p>Bullet points could be used.</p> <p>Core values should be listed as items. Add collaboration, geographical sensitivity, open access to data, sharing information.</p> <p>Paragraph 1 might read: “Partners agree to adhere to the core values. GIASIP Partners agree to strive for collaboration, inclusiveness, openness, transparency, accountability, respect, geographical sensitivity, gender sensitivity, solidarity, open access to data, [data] sharing and free availability [of data]. These constitute the core values. GIASIP expects all its Partners to apply them when working together to the fulfilment of our mission.”</p> <p>Paragraph 3 can then be deleted</p>	<p>Discussed these as principles for joining, and did not challenge them.</p> <p>Open access is a necessary component. Should be included in MoC as a principle.</p>
<b>Capacities</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of changes proposed for the first paragraph: 1) Moved list of stakeholders from Section C on Coordination to under capacities; 2) Include ‘community groups’ in list of partners; 3) Mention ‘cross-cutting nature of IAS in partner statement. For example ‘aquaculture’, ‘tourism industry’.</li> <li>• Following this, Para 1 reads: “Recognizing that IAS is a cross-cutting issue, the partners comprise invasive alien species information users and providers from around the world. The stakeholders of the Information</li> </ul>	No comment.

			<p>Partnership are its Partners - developed and developing country government institutions, agencies of the United Nations and other multi-lateral organizations, donor organizations, professional associations, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the private sector.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para 2, sentence 2, should read: “The improvement of availability, quality and applicability of information ...”</li> <li>• In Examples of services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bullet point 1: Advisory services to CBD <u>Parties</u></li> <li>○ Bullet point 5: Delete ‘small’ from before grants</li> <li>○ Add – ‘and applied tools for effective management”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Para 5 should read: “As countries become ...the partnership will encourage them to recognise they cannot solve this issue...”</li> <li>• Overall – need consistency in referring to the ‘Partnership’ or using the acronym. Thus in paragraph 6 “Information Partnership” in line 1 should be replaced by “Partnership” and “network” in line 3 also by “Partnership”</li> </ul>	
<b>Participants</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should we bring in other</li> </ul>	Broadly in line with what WG said.	Should be a very inclusive list, not just data

		<p>conventions or is it just CBD?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptor such as ‘biodiversity community’ are unclear, since it is uncertain who is a member of this (is there a defined list?). There is a need to ensure clear references for terminology used in the document (see also next section comment under ‘Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species’).</li> <li>• The Partnership should be broad rather than narrow, and should include, for example, organisations engaged in agriculture, aquaculture and trade, and dealing with all ecosystems, indeed any organisation that would ultimately support implementation of Target 9. Agencies with regulatory powers are necessary partners. For example, agencies dealing with or regulating biocontrol or herbicides. The group identified IMO (International Maritime Organization), IPPC (International Plant Protection Commission) and OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) as global regulatory authorities and noted their potential for supplying distributional data.</li> </ul>	<p>Para 1, line 2. As communities and indigenous peoples are mentioned, the word ‘organizations’ does not apply. Thus replace ‘organizations’ with ‘stakeholders’ [“The Network is open to all stakeholders involved in the use and provision of information...”]. The second part of the first paragraph (the list in square brackets) should be used in the first part of the document, so is pasted there in place of the former list [see above].</p> <p>Para 2. First sentence to read: “This initiative does not constitute a new organization, but a Partnership.”</p> <p>Para 4 Replace ‘organizations’ with ‘stakeholders’ in first and second sentences.</p> <p>Numbered list – replace “1. Participants” with “1. Partners”</p>	<p>publishers.</p>
<b>Steering</b>	Communication pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The identity of the Inter-Agency Liaison group on IAS</li> </ul>	<p>Para 1 line 3 replace “committed” with</p>	<p>There is a need for a Steering Committee. The</p>

committee	should be mentioned.	<p>was not known to the group; in the final document there needs to be a glossary or clear links.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Steering Committee is necessary.</li> <li>• What it should do (roles and responsibility) needs spelling out: policy, advice etc. There should be limits to what it does. Its existence depends on funding of partnership and its members. The SC should not operate in lieu of implementation ('things on the ground happening') but should empower it.</li> <li>• Clear linkage to what Parties have stated they want (CBD priorities).</li> <li>• Needs to involve users, not just technical providers. Range of representatives.</li> </ul>	"commitment"	<p>composition of the SC was not discussed.</p> <p>SC Role includes defining and implementing the work plan.</p> <p>There is also a need to have permanent full-time coordination person separate from and facilitating the steering committee. This individual will have a role with the SCBD and the SC.</p> <p>A schematic of the Governance model was presented (Fig. 2)</p>
Working groups and task teams				
Review procedures				
Funding		Suggested that we need sustainability to 2020 (at least). If the intent is to implement Target 9 then the GIASP needs to be active until then (and be involved in	Add bullet: "funding for capacity building"	

		<p>indicators etc). The Partnership needs to agree on a time period before seeking money.</p> <p>If the Partnership does implement an 8-year programme it needs to have a structure to deliver this (effective and strong project management). An alternative is that the ‘senior partners’ [<i>undefined term - cl</i>] gain enough [funding from the partnership] to deliver as a consortium [<i>this was phrased as a question – cl</i>]</p>		
Work Plan	<p>a) Should expand to include and inventory of taxonomic nomenclature (by appropriate taxon level) [I took this to mean getting the names listed at supraspecific, specific and infraspecific levels as appropriate – cl]</p> <p>b) ‘Data mapping’ should be used instead of ‘common vocabulary’. Where is GISIN in this effort? Need to establish standards for new (and existing?) databases, and make the data accessible</p>	<p>a) Taxonomy of organisms is a problem; there is no global authority for all names. (Some authorities listed: CABI Thesaurus, Fauna Europa, WORMS, Catalogue of Life, Brazilian list; perhaps mediated through GBIF). Identifiers and tags [<i>not sure what they mean here, but suggest ‘unique identifiers’ would cover is – cl</i>].</p> <p>b) Agree with ‘b’, but: Need to develop common understanding of terms but not a common taxonomy (=vocabulary), so although different terms may be used (e.g. non-native vs alien) common understanding is obtained. Terms should be</p>	<p>a) No change</p> <p>b) No change</p>	<p>Did not make points for each item.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory of ‘existing’ information systems. The GIASP is not starting from scratch. This inventory is a requirement to the analysis of gaps (e) and elements such as common documentation and annotation services, common vocabulary, registry of lists etc., and many on-going activities. It also will be a deliverable of the gateway. Actions will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compile register of existing activities and resources and update it regularly;</li> <li>○ Include information systems that are not specifically IAS [where there is a relevance] (e.g. inventory of migratory birds)</li> <li>○ Promote use of existing systems (in the widest sense, including not only information providers but also appropriate standards</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>to web services.</p> <p>c) Current wording is not clear in intent. Develop predictive models of where IAS are likely to occur (perhaps based on a series of model organisms for which appropriate data are gathered?). Ecological components that can be used to predict occurrence elsewhere might be identified (e.g. Fishbase lists salinity, temperature etc, which are likely to have predictive value). It is necessary to include native ranges in modelling.</p> <p>d) GISIN has already produced a registry; an appropriate goal may be to update this. There are many good examples of profiles; standardising profile nomenclature would be useful (taxa, ecological information, IAS status, management etc), using existing standards where they exist (GISIN has this for</p>	<p>aligned with CBD definitions where possible.</p> <p>c) Agree with this point.</p> <p>d)</p> <p>i – There is a need for a global list of IAS but must be dynamic and up to date. Needs to be context-specific – labelling something ‘invasive’ may cause them to be treated as such wherever they are. Therefore we should consider this context (national / regional / biogeographic / global). We need also to be clear what the use of the registry would be (might highlight interoperability problems, for example).</p> <p>ii. Profile information. There</p>	<p>c) Should read: “Data layers for invasive alien species’ native ranges;”</p> <p>d) Currently there is no mention of the structure to be developed – all items under ‘d’ could be part of gateway. Add (existing) resources to what is delivered by the gateway (note that GISIN created an inventory of information systems as a ‘living document’ Should read: “Development of a gateway or other structure that encompasses:”</p> <p>“(i) A global registry of invasive alien species lists and experts/skills; (build on GISIN)”</p> <p>“(ii) Invasive alien species profile information (build on ISSG, I3N, and</p>	<p>and tools)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Citizen scientists can be valuable to improve content, so we should include CS information systems (e.g. bird observations).</li> <li>○ <b>This requires a set of activities around engagement (with various sectors, including donors, organisations and informatics people), which is not currently in the WP.</b> There are many ways of engagement which need to be explored.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Add: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information on response measures and the economics thereof.</li> <li>○ Knowledge of common pathways.</li> <li>○ Socio-economic information (trade, health)</li> <li>○ Functionalities of system should enable someone to conduct risk assessment and take decisions on this.</li> <li>○ Policies and regulations (legislation + registry)</li> <li>○ Experiences, to help users evaluate what to do</li> <li>○ Information should cover the entire ‘life-cycle’ of species (not necessarily biological – means policy, biology, control etc)</li> <li>○ Note: there is an issue on where the content ‘stops’ or becomes non-core. How open should the system / WP/partnership be to additional information types.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Process</li> </ul>
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	<p>occurrences). The Partnership could <u>house</u> watch lists, separated by taxonomic group, geographic area etc; such an activity would need coordination. The product would feed into identification of information gaps. There is a need to identify where watch lists have been translated into identification tools e.g. for border controls.</p>	<p>is duplication of activity under this heading, but it is sometimes needed for a local perspective. Question: how do we make all endeavours at different formats of profiles accessible to all? In this context, noting the CABI ISC datasheets, available for download and use by practitioners on the ground, could CABI assist with a federated approach to pull together ‘factsheets’ from many sources (and would this help users?)? [CL note – this could be a functionality required of the gateway].</p> <p>iii. Watch lists. This is valuable information flow between countries. It is ‘humane’ to tell neighbours about a new invader, although countries may be mindful of trade implications. A process to produce watch lists must be developed; they will need publishing</p> <p>e) Noted the significance of geographic gaps and occurrence data. “definitions or pathways”. It is important to clarify that this refers to gaps in existing information systems and not information gaps in IAS biology. Note the relationship to target 9.</p>	<p>others); and” Add: “(iv) Development of a global index of invasive alien species primary biodiversity data integrated with GBIF and also incorporating absence data information;” [from ‘f’ – c1] There is a footnote: “Primary biodiversity data are the digital text or multimedia data records that detail the instance of an organism – the “what, where, when, how and by whom” of the organism’s occurrence and recording.” “(v) Make existing resources such as environmental education materials, training materials, case studies, economic evaluations of impacts on ecosystem services, etc. (sharing best practices) available.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short term ‘Phase I’ is bringing together existing resources</li> <li>○ Phase II would be to carry out an evaluation of gaps</li> <li>○ Will have to evaluate gaps in existing data and decide what are we going to do with the information (do users include the general public?);</li> <li>○ Ideally gaps (and quality issues) need to be prioritised; then fed back to communities that originated the data to add to and improve content.</li> <li>○ capacity-building may be needed to utilise the information; is this a role for the partnership?</li> <li>○ Should we classify or rank the information to simplify compilation?</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Issues / warnings (in the context of ‘Watch lists’) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do we deal with sensitive/confidential information? (in the context of pest interception information can be confidential. This might be an issue for data providers who carry out identifications.) User perceptions will differ as to the importance of recognising such confidentiality.</li> <li>○ Data / information quality / fitness for use needs attention and standard metrics (given that the variety of uses may need different levels of ‘quality’). Users may misinterpret information presented (e.g. the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>e) This is a critical piece of the OP. Gap analysis and prioritisation exercise to address these gaps over time should be a short-term priority task</p> <p>f) No real change to this element but it is a key activity. Absence information is critical.</p>	<p>f) Occurrence data. Data flow needs enhancing. How can countries / individuals be compelled to provide data? People on the ground may not have access to appropriate mechanisms for transferring data. There is also the problem of mapping ‘absence’ data.</p> <p>g, h, i &amp; j are all about sharing best / good practices. They require collaborative approaches to analysis and interpretation through systematic review and meta-analysis.</p> <p>g) The user of the data should have the responsibility of understanding the quality of the data they choose to use. Metadata standards should be included. There is a need for a feedback mechanism, to report errors or anomalies.</p> <p>i) overly complicated as stated.</p>	<p>e) Should read: “Assessment of major data gaps in existing information systems, geographical and taxonomic gaps, and identification of the most critical data mobilization activities in the short-medium term;”</p> <p>f) is unclear [SG added clarification: ‘targeting raw observational data’ in discussion]. Should be part of gateway (i.e. under ‘d’ – see above, together with added footnote to explain terms)</p> <p>g) No change</p> <p>h) No change</p>	<p>‘invasive alien’ label as applying to a species rather than a species in a particular context). Are there management tools we can develop for this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to agree on common structure of how information is presented.</li> </ul> <p>The working group produced a conceptual framework diagram, showing the necessary connections between content, people and informatics. This indicates the order in which activities should be scheduled. (Fig. 1)</p>
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	<p>g) No addition</p> <p>h) Add ‘to appropriate scales’ (e.g. country-level, global etc) (country unit most important for funding and activity, and differs)</p> <p>i) Expand capacity-building to include monitoring, priority-setting, risk analysis, management actions (practical implementation).</p> <p>j) Add trade, climate change.</p>	<p>k) Compile modelling approaches and work that has already been done.</p> <p>An Operational overview is very difficult without an agreed Work Plan.</p> <p>In summary, priorities from the list were identified, to provide focus:</p> <p>A) Common <u>understanding</u> of invasions and taxonomy.</p> <p>1. Global list of IAS but must be dynamic and context-specific (e.g. ‘problem in tropics but not elsewhere’); also include climatic or biogeographic context. Other appropriate qualifiers should also be included: just because a species is not on the list it is not necessarily not an invasive in some contexts.</p> <p>2. Adoption of CBD definitions and harmonise to these. Caveat; how is ‘invasive’ quantified? Such a designation should be evidence-based with very clear information (there is a risk of tautology).</p>	<p>i) Should read: “Capacity-building for the establishment of prevention, control, and monitoring mechanisms based on existing distribution records and/or primary occurrence data to determine existing spread and abundance;”</p> <p>j) No change</p> <p><i>[The flip chart includes the phrase “linkage to (Gateway / Infrastructure)” but I missed its applicability; I suspect it was linked to ‘GIASP will focus its efforts on... - cl]</i></p> <p>Paragraph beginning “GIASP will focus...” – delete [GISP Secretariat] and insert ‘Partners’ [<i>and note acronym slip anyway - cl</i>]</p> <p>Throughout the document refer to GIASP Partners not ‘Participants’</p>	
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		Sharing Good Practice. (referring to h, i and j in particular).		
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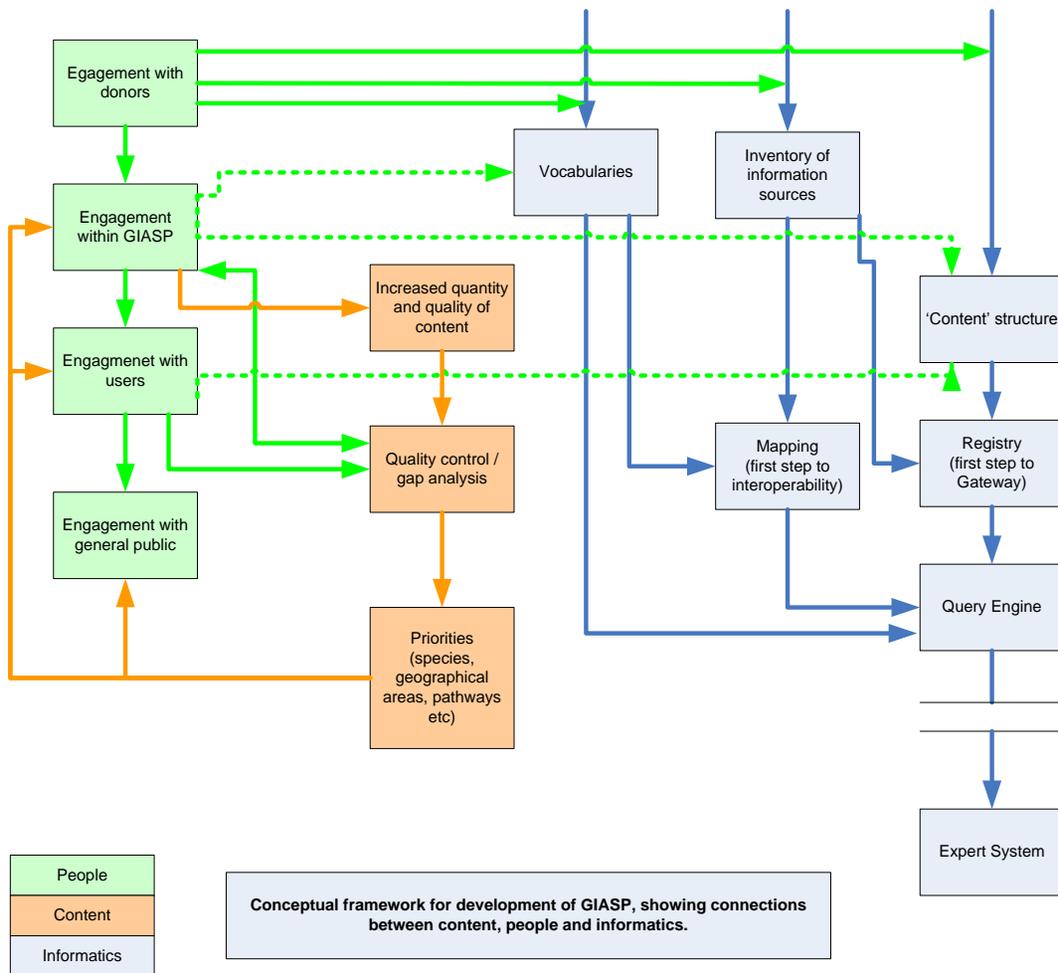


Fig. 1. Conceptual framework for the development of the GIASPartnership, presented by Working Group 4.

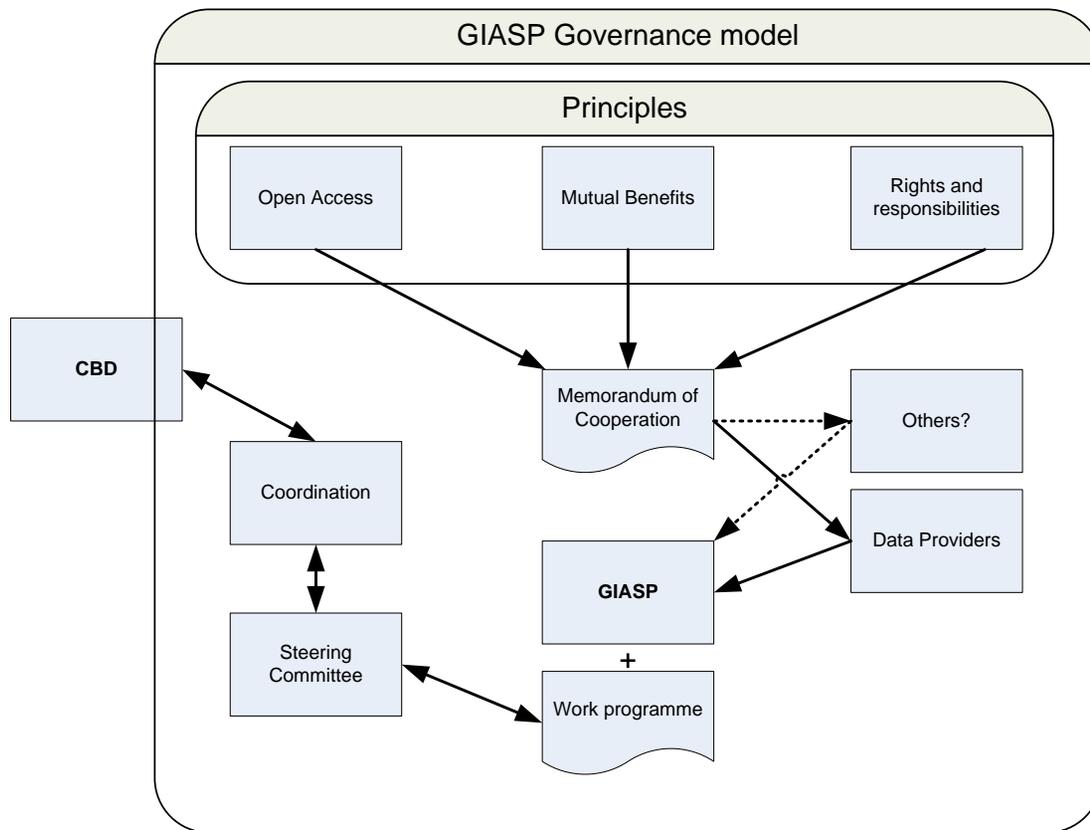


Fig. 2. Governance Model for GIASP, as conceived by Working Group 4.

**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"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Foster the collection, entry, open-source accessibility, interoperability, and analysis of data relevant to the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive alien species</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<p>2. What is important about what the global invasive alien species information partnership wants to achieve? Why would others care to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive alien species are one of the leading drivers of biodiversity loss worldwide. They can also have adverse impacts on human health,</li> </ul>

Questions to address	Response
<p>support or participate in its activities? (motivation)</p>	<p>economic growth, and sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Preventing, controlling, and eradicating invasive alien species may enable species/ecosystems to be more resilient to other stressors, e.g., climate change</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Agreement (MOA) signed between CBD and key information provider organizations</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Information providers document a substantial increase in system access and application over the next three years</li> <li>• Analyses indicate quality improvement in major invasive alien species information systems, starting with COP 12 (2014 or 2015)</li> <li>• Gaps in information to be identified by the global invasive alien species information partnership are</li> </ul>

Questions to address	Response
	<p>filled in the appropriate time frame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.)</li> </ul> <p>Secondary Measures/Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Biodiversity will be safeguarded from the impacts of invasive alien species, and may be more resilient to other stressors (e.g., climate change)</li> <li>• Human health, animal welfare, and sustainable development will also be better secured</li> <li>• Economic loss caused by invasive alien species is reduced</li> </ul>
<p>5. What are the potential challenges to implementing these activities? (challenges)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of clear, long-term leadership and vision</li> <li>• Differing perspectives on mission, goals,</li> </ul>

Questions to address	Response
	<p>objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Overly time-committed staff among the information provider organizations</li> <li>• Paucity of data in some cases</li> <li>• Questionable reliability of data in some cases</li> <li>• Changing data that is difficult to track/convey over time (e.g., taxonomic names)</li> <li>• Varying definitions of invasive alien species and use of terminology</li> <li>• Territoriality of some organizations/information holders and constraints of existing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agreements</li> <li>• Incompatibility of existing database structures and other technical complexities</li> </ul>
<p>6. What can be done to overcome these potential challenges? (opportunities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Clear and effective communication strategy between Partners (informed by the operational plan)</li> <li>• Identify institutional lead(s) and their relevant roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Demonstrate success through the Partnership Encourage partners to apply best practices in addressing taxonomic identification and terminology relevant to invasive alien species</li> </ul>
<p>7. Who needs to be involved, when, and where? (context)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBD Secretariat</li> <li>• CBD Parties, especially individuals who are invasive alien species information users and providers</li> <li>• Major invasive alien species information providers (Partners)</li> </ul>

<b>Questions to address</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organizations with relevant analytical tools</li><li>• Non-CBD information users who can assist Parties in meeting their needs relevant to invasive alien species prevention, control, and eradication</li><li>• Donors</li><li>• Launch the global invasive alien species information partnership at COP 11</li><li>• Internationally distributed institutional partnership, with focal lead to be determined</li></ul>

<p>8. What are the existing resources that can be used for these activities? (resources)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous existing information systems and analytical tools</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Committed staff/consultants at relevant organizations</li> <li>• Funding from the European Union</li> <li>• Information needs assessment for target 9 distributed by the CBD Secretariat</li> </ul>
<p>9. What additional resources are needed? How can they be obtained? (resources)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource needs assessment should be undertaken as part of the operational plan development process</li> </ul>
<p>10. What are the steps to planning and executing these activities? (procedure)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct Party information needs assessment (underway and info in SBSTTA/15/INF/14)</li> <li>• Conduct analysis of current capacities/gaps of major information systems and tools (under way)</li> <li>• Conduct gap analysis on information/tools</li> <li>• Draft operational plan (under way)</li> <li>• Engage CBD Parties in development of the operational plan (July workshop)</li> <li>• Determine functions, design options, etc. for information system portal/café (at and after July workshop)</li> <li>• Fund capacity building initiatives to improve data input, accessibility, reliability, interoperability etc. (post July workshop; announce at COP 11)</li> <li>• Launch Partnership with MOA/MOU signing at COP 11</li> <li>• Plan implementation leadership/implementation to be determined</li> </ul>
<p>11. What are the steps that need to be taken immediately and who should take them? (implementation/responsibility)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See near-term planning timeline</li> </ul>
<p>12. What are some of the potential options for expanding the scope of the operational plan by COP 12 (options)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding the Partnership (inviting additional organizations to join)</li> <li>• Collaborating through/with the Invasive Alien Species Inter-Agency Liaison group</li> <li>• Collaboration through/with the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) / knowledge management</li> </ul>

## Part II

### OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP

*Note by the Executive Secretary*<sup>8</sup>

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

48. Invasive alien species (IAS) are those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity).<sup>9</sup> In some ecosystems – islands for example – invasive alien species are the leading cause of biodiversity loss. A lack of reliable, readily accessible information has been identified as a barrier in Parties' efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species.

49. On 9-10 July 2012, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened an "Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership"<sup>10</sup> at the Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, thanks to the generous financial support of the European Union.

50. The primary goal of the workshop was to further the implementation 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) by creating a mechanism through which invasive alien species information users and providers can collaborate in a timely and effective manner.

51. Workshop participants thus collaborated in the development of an Operational Plan for a "Global Invasive Species Information Partnership." The Operational Plan follows and includes two annexes: (a) a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) template through which relevant organizations can join the Partnership (annex I) and (b) the provisional Work Plan (annex II).

52. The Partnership is not conceived as a new stand-alone organization, but instead 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.

53. While free and open access to information is a core value to be shared by participants in the Partnership, the need for partners to operate according to individual intellectual property right (IPR) policies has been recognized and will be addressed, as appropriate, during Work Plan implementation.

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<sup>8</sup> This note has been prepared in close collaboration with Interim Steering Committee for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership which was established at the organizational workshop referred to in the Background Information below.

<sup>9</sup> 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.)

<sup>10</sup> A detailed workshop report will be accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/>.

54. Relevant organizations are encouraged to sign the MoC contained in annex I, thus joining the Partnership.<sup>11</sup>

55. The official launch of the Partnership will take place during a side-event in the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) (Wednesday, 10 October 2012, 1.15-2.45 p.m.; Room 1.10, Level 1) which will include an MoC signing ceremony presided by the Executive Secretary of the CBD.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. *Invasive Alien Species*

56. Invasive alien species (IAS) are those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (Article 8(h)).<sup>12</sup> 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.

57. Rapid globalization of trade, travel, and transport are now exacerbating and accelerating invasive alien species problems, creating new problems for the future. Large-scale trends in climate and land use also appear likely to make invasive alien species an issue of growing importance.

58. 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 the most critical pathways of introduction of alien species and highlighted the need to address the gaps and inconsistencies of the international regulatory framework in 2006. Further efforts to close the gap in the international regulatory framework have continued through the Conference of the Parties, as well as dialogue among relevant international organizations. For example, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its standard-setting bodies<sup>13</sup> provide opportunities to develop capacity to implement the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (“SPS Agreement”).

59. The challenges posed by invasive alien species are 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. To control the transboundary movement of live species and contaminated goods that threaten biodiversity, it is necessary to implement the CBD Guiding Principles,\* as well as other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, in a timely and well-informed manner.

60. 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,

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<sup>11</sup> Please send to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) with a copy to [junko.shimura@cbd.int](mailto:junko.shimura@cbd.int).

<sup>12</sup> The following definitions are used since the Guiding Principles\* were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: "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; "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).

<sup>13</sup> International Plant Protection Convention ([www.ippc.int/](http://www.ippc.int/)), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE; <http://www.oie.int/>), Codex Alimentarius ([www.codexalimentarius.org/](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/)).

costly controls are required. This can be an indefinite drain on limited national resources, and put native species and ecosystem services at great risk.

61. 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 spread; ecological and climatic patterns and trends at sites of introduction and potential introduction; options for prevention, control, and management; and socio-economic factors influencing introduction, spread, and effective response.

62. 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.

63. Information sharing and communication within Governments, as well as between Governments and stakeholders, is urgently needed to support every aspect of invasive alien species prevention, eradication, and control. The organizations that provide invasive alien species information and relevant technologies have a critical role to play in enabling Governments to make well-informed decisions on which non-native species to address – and how, when, and where to take action in order to minimize their spread and impact.

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

64. In paragraph 3 (b) of decision X/38, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene a meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group established in paragraph 2 of that decision, to consider ways to increase the interoperability of existing information resources including existing databases and networks.

65. At the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting 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, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)<sup>14</sup> 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.

66. GBIF convened the Informatics Expert Meeting on Invasive Alien Species in Copenhagen, Denmark, 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.

67. Participants in the Copenhagen meeting worked with the Secretariat 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).<sup>15</sup> The purposes 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.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.gbif.org>.

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-15/information/sbstta-15-inf-14-en.pdf>.

68. Based on the points made in the “Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9”, 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 advance relevant activities until the end of November 2012.

69. At the sixteenth meeting of SBSTTA (Montreal, Canada; 30 April – 5 May 2012) 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.

70. Section II below presents the Operational Plan for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership. The text of the MoC can be found in annex I below, and the Work Plan for Phase I (from October 2012 to 2020), including the plan of implementation of the Partnership Information Gateway, can be found in annex II.

## **II. THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP**

### ***A. Organizational Planning***

71. An organizational workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership was hosted by the Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 9-10 July 2012. Twenty-nine individuals participated in this meeting, representing fourteen Parties, four intergovernmental organizations, three non-governmental organizations, three academic/scientific institutions, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Two observers were also present.<sup>16</sup>

72. This Operational Plan is largely the result of facilitated discussions at the Organizational Workshop of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership and decisions made thereafter by an interim Steering Committee,<sup>17</sup> in consultation with the Secretariat.

### ***B. Organizational Profile***

#### **1. Vision**

73. Biodiversity and human well-being are protected from the adverse impacts of invasive alien species.

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<sup>16</sup> A detailed workshop report and list of participants will be accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/>.

<sup>17</sup> The interim Steering Committee has been comprised of CAB International (CABI; Gareth Richards, Elizabeth Dodsworth, Lucinda Charles), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF; Samy Gaiji), the Natural History Museum, London (NHM; Chris Lyal), the IUCN Invasive Species Initiative (Geoffrey Howard), the IUCN-Species Survival Commission-Invasive Species Specialist Group (IUCN-SSC-ISSG; Shyama Pagad, Piero Genovesi.), the coordinator for invasive alien species information services contracted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Jamie K. Reaser) and the Secretariat of the CBD (Junko Shimura).

## 2. Mission

74. *Through global-scale cooperation, maximize the capacity of CBD Parties and their partners to access, exchange, analyse, and effectively apply the information<sup>18</sup> and informatics tools needed to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species in a timely and reliable manner (i.e., to implement Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9).*<sup>19</sup>

## 3. Values

75. The Partnership's core values are intended to enable the network's diverse partners to collectively pursue its mission in a constructive manner, from a common foundation. These values support meaningful dialogue among people/organizations with different interests, expertise, and cultural norms. They also strengthen the Partnership's ability to maintain a neutral stance and credibility.

76. Partnership members agree to strive for:

- (a) Accountability;
- (b) Global collaboration;
- (c) Scientific relevance/accountability;
- (d) Cultural, gender, and geographic sensitivity;
- (e) Inclusiveness;
- (f) Free and open access to information;<sup>20</sup>
- (g) Openness;
- (h) Mutual respect; and
- (i) Transparency.

77. These constitute the core values. The Partnership expects all its partners to apply them, to the extent feasible, when working together to fulfilment of its mission.

## 4. Distinct Capacities

78. The Partnership achieves its mission by providing a collective vision and by catalyzing invasive alien species information initiatives at national, regional, and global scales. The Partnership operates through a "Partnership Network" comprised of invasive alien species information users and providers from around the world. The Partnership stakeholders are its partners – Government institutions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, academic/research institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the private sector.

79. Although Partnership partners have diverse missions, the Partnership's services are primarily intended to support Parties to the CBD who are committed to the effective implementation of Article 8(h), Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species), and the various decisions under the CBD pertaining to the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive alien species. The improvement of availability,

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<sup>18</sup> In the context of the mission statement, "information" also includes "data and knowledge" and relevant technologies.

<sup>19</sup> This mission statement is a result of a consultative process. The interim Steering Committee will work to further streamline/simplify the language during its meeting at COP 11. The intent/concepts will remain the same.

<sup>20</sup> With proper attribution/citation of the original data publishers, when feasible.

quality, and application of scientifically relevant information on invasive alien species is the underlying theme for all Partnership activities.

80. The Partnership has the ability to achieve outcomes that no single organization or Government could achieve on its own. Importantly, it also has the ability to enable a more timely delivery of invasive alien species information for policymaking needs.

81. Examples of services provided by the Partnership include:

(a) Advisory service to Parties to the CBD on matters relevant to invasive alien species information systems, data, and analytical tools;

(b) A forum for collaboration and information exchange among invasive alien species information providers and users;

(c) Creation and management of a web-based Information Gateway for access to and the exchange of information on invasive alien species in a timely and accurate manner;

(d) Designing and implementing activities to facilitate the development of new and better information systems and analytical tools to address the issues related to invasive alien species; and

(e) Facilitating the provision of targeted grants and in-kind services to build the capacity of invasive alien species information systems and analytical tools.

82. The collaborative nature of the Partnership encourages countries to recognize that they face difficulty to solve the invasive alien species issue by solely working within their borders. Invasive alien species are largely an international problem. The data and other information resources that one country needs to address invasive alien species can often be found in another country. The Partnership helps countries to access the information resources worldwide, and to become a resource for others.

83. The Partnership works in a similar manner with international organizations to prevent the isolated, sector-focused approaches to invasive alien species issue that can lead to duplicative efforts and ineffective policies. The Partnership enables Governments, environmental groups, trade industries and other stakeholders to share information and engage in positive, constructive dialogue, as well as implement projects with tangible, high-impact outcomes.

### ***C. Partnership Work Plan***

84. Although the Partnership is intended to be a flexible initiative that is able to address arising issues and take advantage of new opportunities, it will operate on a foundation of core initiatives that have been designed to address the most pressing invasive alien species information issues and take full advantage of the unique capacities of the Partnership.

85. The Partnership is envisioned to provide indefinite service to CBD Parties, pending available resources. The first phase of its Work Plan will be consistent with the timeline for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, lasting through 2020. A full review of the Partnership should take place in 2019, and a plan for Phase II of the Work Plan implementation completed no later than mid 2020. Ideally, Phase II would be launched at a meeting of SBSTTA in late 2020 or early 2021.

86. Phase I of the Work Plan can be found in annex II below. These activities represent priorities derived from 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 the Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership, held in London,

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 9-10 July 2012.<sup>21</sup> The Work Plan is subject to revision and updating by the Steering Committee, with input from the Working Group Chairs/Co-Chairs.

87. Every effort will be made to accomplish the Work Plan objectives in a participatory and timely manner, and to make products widely available in languages and formats that best serve CBD Parties. Much of the work of the Partnership will be project-based. Each project will be addressed by one or more Working Groups/Task Teams (see point 4 of section D below), and the products will be made freely available through the Information Gateway. A Chair or Co-Chairs of each Working Group/Task Team will be appointed by the Partnership Steering Committee. These Co-Chairs/Chairs will be responsible, in collaboration with the Partnership Coordinator, for their particular aspect of Work Plan. The CBD Secretariat will provide support to this work, as appropriate.

#### ***D. Partnership Leadership and Coordination***

88. The Partnership (like many largely volunteer-based partnerships) requires a clear, yet multifaceted, governance structure with semi-autonomous components.

89. The Partnership will be directed by a Steering Committee, with input from other relevant bodies, including Parties and donors. Subject to the availability of the necessary resources, a Partnership Coordinator will oversee the implementation of the Work Plan. Working Groups/Task Teams comprised of Party representatives and experts on invasive alien species information issues will have the primary responsibility for designing and implementing the Partnership activities.

##### **1. Partners**

90. The Partnership is not conceived as a new stand-alone organization, but instead 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: developed and developing country Government institutions, agencies of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, donor organizations, professional associations, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the private sector.

91. Any organization or other group that provides information services and tools that could help maximize the ability of CBD Parties to implement Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species) is welcome to become a member of the Partnership by signing a MoC with the CBD (See annex I for the MoC template). CBD Parties and their collaborating stakeholders are assumed to be members of the Partnership. CBD Parties will be routinely reminded to provide up-to-date contact information for their national representatives to the Partnership Coordinator.

##### **2. Steering Committee**

92. The Steering Committee will oversee planning and financing of the Partnership. It is intended to be a coordinating body comprised of individuals/organizations who can dedicate a reasonable amount of time to guiding/supporting the Partnership Coordinator and Working Groups. Members of the Steering Committee will be internationally recognized leaders in invasive alien species and/or information management with a strong commitment to the implementation of Partnership's mission. Steering Committee members will be able to use their own expertise and reputation to provide direction to the Partnership, as well as to identify, engage and build productive relationships with potential partners and donors. Steering Committee membership will be drawn from the Partnership partners and CBD Parties. The fair representation of organizations is fully intended. An elected Chair and Vice-Chair will coordinate the Steering Committee. The Partnership Coordinator will coordinate financial management and act as the

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<sup>21</sup> A detailed workshop report will be accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/>.

Secretary/Treasurer to the Steering Committee. Specific roles and responsibilities for the Steering Committee include:

- (a) Defining and helping to develop the Operational Plan;
- (b) Ensuring implementation of the Operational Plan, especially the Work Plan;
- (c) Facilitating/supporting the acquisition of resources to support the Work Plan (including in-kind opportunities);
- (d) Representing the Partnership and being empowered to take decisions on behalf of the Partnership;
- (e) Reporting to the CBD Secretariat and other relevant bodies; and
- (f) Keeping participants motivated.

93. The Partnership will begin the process for establishing the Steering Committee in 2012.<sup>22</sup> The process will be gradual in order for the Partnership to ensure the identification and representation of a breadth of countries, organizations, and expertise.

94. Steering Committee members will be appointed for a period of two years, with the option for renewal. Notwithstanding the proactive process mentioned above, new membership of the Steering Committee will be sought through a global call for nominations and the existing Steering Committee will make selections with emphasis on equality and considerations for a diverse and balanced membership. The Steering Committee will do their best to ensure appropriate representation and active participation in the Partnership activities.

### **3. Partnership Coordinator<sup>23</sup>**

95. Daily operations of the Partnership will be led by a Partnership Coordinator, subject to the availability of funds. The Partnership Coordinator is expected to:

- (a) Serve as the primary focal point for the Partnership;
- (b) Provide overall direction in implementation of the Partnership Operational Plan, including tracking progress;
- (c) Secure funding and in-kind services (whenever possible) to enable implementation of the Partnership Operational Plan;
- (d) Coordinate the Partnership network globally, encouraging partners to constructively work together in keeping with the Partnership's core values (point 3 of section B above);
- (e) Support the Steering Committee in governance, finance, communications, planning, and operational management and review;
- (f) Guide/support the Working Groups/Task Teams in project development, implementation, communications, and fundraising;

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<sup>22</sup> An interim Steering Committee will operate through at least the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA, at which time the interim Steering Committee may choose to adopt the first full Steering Committee comprised of information providers and users, including representatives of selected partners (organizations which have signed the MoC) and Parties.

<sup>23</sup> An interim coordinator is currently contracted by the Secretariat of the CBD through 30 November 2012.

(g) Oversee the Partnership Gateway, working to ensure that it is serving the needs of the Parties in keeping with the Partnership's mission;<sup>24</sup> and

(h) Maintain a close working relationship with the CBD Secretariat and integrate/link the Partnership into CBD activities, as appropriate.

#### **4. Working Groups/Task Teams**

96. Working Groups are identified/directed by the Steering Committee with support from the Partnership Coordinator, and constitute the Partnership infrastructure. The members will design and implement activities in keeping with the Work Plan presented in annex II, as well as provide technical advice to the Steering Committee and Partnership Coordinator as requested.

97. The Working Groups are intended to be standing committees led by a voluntary Chair or Co-Chairs. Although the Working Groups are intended to be inclusive, a core team of partners will be invited to participate by the Steering Committee in order to ensure the necessary commitment and expertise to implement the Partnership activities. Working Group Chair/Co-Chairs will make every effort to engage experts in such a manner as to ensure geographic, cultural, gender, and technical balance.

98. During Phase I, the Working Groups will focus on:

- (a) The Partnership Gateway functionalities;
- (b) Database interoperability, data gaps and quality improvement;
- (c) Information synthesis and assessment;
- (d) Taxonomic information services; and
- (e) Best practices for the non-electronic means of information access and exchange.

99. Task Teams will work under the direction of the Working Groups and be designed by the Working Group Chair/Co-Chairs. Task Teams are temporary bodies that exist only to implement a specific, time-bound project. Once the project has been approved by the Working Group Chair/Co-Chairs, the task team can be dissolved. For some projects, Chair/Co-Chairs from multiple Working Groups may decide to create a cross-cutting Task Team.

#### **5. Review Procedures**

100. The Steering Committee will review the Partnership Work Plan and the performance of the Partnership Coordinator and Working Groups on an annual basis, and will implement changes as required. The Secretariat will make available to Parties reports on progress on a regular basis. If necessary, additional reviews for donor organizations and Parties will be carried out.

#### ***E. Funding and In-Kind Services***

101. Phase I of the Partnership has an 8-year time horizon, with the option for continuation after an external review, organized by its Steering Committee. For the duration of this program, the Partnership will require external funds and in-kind contributions to support its core operations and specific projects in keeping with the Work Plan. Partnership elements requiring financial and/or in-kind support include:

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<sup>24</sup> This is likely to take the form of supporting/interfaces with a partner organization which offers to host/run the Information Gateway.

- (a) Salary and benefits for the Partnership Coordinator;
- (b) Office equipment, recurrent office costs, site lease of accommodation for the Partnership Coordinator, if necessary;
- (c) Travel allowance to enable the Partnership Coordinator or delegate to fully participate in relevant meetings, conferences, and committees;
- (d) Establishment and maintenance of a web-based Information Gateway for ready access to and exchange of invasive alien species information;
- (e) Working Group operations, including the implementation of specific projects under the direction of the Working Groups and possibly one organizational workshop per year per Working Group; and
- (f) Travel and subsistence for members of the Steering Committee to meet in person at least once per year, subject to the availability of funds.

102. This core support will be augmented by grants for specific activities deriving from the Working Groups/Task Teams or the CBD Secretariat needs. Working Groups/Task Teams will be particularly involved in generating funding and in-kind services for their activities – their support from the Partnership core funding is considered catalytic.

103. Financial management for the Partnership will be provided by partner organizations, the CBD Secretariat, and/or CBD Parties,<sup>25</sup> as appropriate.

104. The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the CBD and information provider organization(s) in support of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership to be signed is presented in annex I.

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<sup>25</sup> In some instances, Government institutions may choose to become active participants in the Partnership and take on leadership of one or more Work Plan elements. In such cases, they may need to manage these project resources on behalf of the Partnership.

Annex I

**Memorandum of Cooperation  
Between  
The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
and  
[name of information provider organization[s]]  
in support of**

**THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP**

This Memorandum of Cooperation is entered into by and between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) and [name of information provider organization](hereafter “[abbreviation for provider organization]”);

*Recalling* Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which provides that "Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species”;

*Recalling* decisions relevant to the implementation of Article 8(h) in which Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations were urged to develop and make available technical tools and related information on invasive alien species, and the Executive Secretary was requested to support the development and dissemination of technical tools and related information;

*Recalling* Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 which 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”;

*Recognizing* the need to cooperate in order to promote access, collaboration, and timeliness towards the goal of providing scientifically valid information to Parties and their partners in order to achieve Target 9 and related decisions; and

*Noting* the key points made in 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);

*Have agreed* as follows:

Article 1  
Objective

The objective of the Memorandum is to promote collaborative activities among the participating organizations and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate access, exchange and analysis of information on invasive alien species with a view to supporting action by Parties to the CBD and other Governments, and by other organizations and stakeholders, to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species in line with Article 8(h) of the CBD, and other relevant agreements, and to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This objective will be pursued through the establishment and implementation of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership. The activities taken through this Memorandum of Cooperation will facilitate the provision of scientific and technical information related to invasive alien species and strengthen the capacity of the parties to this Memorandum and their constituents to support Parties to the CBD, other Governments and biodiversity stakeholders to implement Article 8(h) and, in particular, to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

Article 2  
Cooperative activities

The parties to this Memorandum will work collaboratively with a view to:

- 2.1 Develop and implement plans for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership to serve as a mechanism for collaboration on invasive alien species information access, exchange, and capacity-building worldwide;
- 2.2 Develop a Partnership Gateway with a view to facilitating access to invasive alien species databases and analytical tools, as well as the timely exchange of information among biodiversity stakeholders;
- 2.3 Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by the participating organizations to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues, and other concerns of mutual interest in the context of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership;
- 2.4 Facilitate, as appropriate, the participation of relevant experts from the participating organizations in consultations, side-events, and other activities organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to further strengthen the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

Article 3  
Access to information

As far as possible, through their collaborative activities that fall within the scope of this Memorandum, and without prejudice to their other activities, the parties to this Memorandum will:

- 3.1 Promote free and open access to information, data and knowledge relevant to addressing the threats from invasive alien species;
- 3.2 Provide relevant information, data, and knowledge, through the Partnership Gateway, and other channels that may be agreed, and to regularly update such information, data, and knowledge, as necessary;
- 3.3 Endeavour to provide data providers with full attribution for any uses of their data, information, or knowledge, and respect the original integrity of their contributions; and
- 3.4 Respect the intellectual property rights and/or licenses associated with documents, data, records, tools, software or materials that are used or made accessible to further the objectives of this Memorandum.

Article 4  
Execution

- 4.1 The execution of this Memorandum will be effected through annexes relating to specific activities agreed upon by the parties under this Memorandum.
- 4.2 Such annexes will form an integral part of this Memorandum.

Article 5  
Disclaimer

- 5.1 Information transmitted by one party to another party under this Memorandum shall be as accurate as possible, but the transmitting party does not warrant the suitability or authenticity of the information for any use or application by the receiving party or by any third parties.

Article 6  
Planning and Review of Activities

- 6.1 The parties to this Memorandum shall designate representatives who, at times mutually agreed upon by the parties, shall review the activities being carried out under this Memorandum.

Article 7  
Settlement of Disputes

- 7.1 Any dispute between the Secretariat and [information provider organization] arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled amicably by negotiation. If the parties to this Memorandum are unable to reach agreement, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules under the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as at present in force.

Article 8  
Entry into Effect, Amendment and Termination

- 8.1 The Memorandum will enter into effect upon signature of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the [Chair/President/CEO/Executive Director] or the [information provider organization].
- 8.2 Any amendment to the Memorandum will be effected only on the basis of written consent of the Secretariat and [the information provider organization].
- 8.3 This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party giving six months written notice.
- 8.4 The termination of this Memorandum shall not affect the validity or duration of the projects under this MOC that are initiated prior to such notification.

**THE PARTIES HEREBY EXECUTE THIS MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION, EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF SIGNATURE.**

Convention on Biological Diversity

[information provider organization]

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Executive Secretary  
Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Chair/President/CEO/Executive Director]

## WORK PLAN FOR THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP<sup>26</sup>

1. The Partnership will focus its efforts on five major areas of work: Partnership Gateway, Database Interoperability and Quality Improvement, Information Synthesis and Assessment, Taxonomic Information Services, and Best Practices for the Non-Electronic Means of Information Access and Exchange. These areas represent priorities derived from 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 the Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership, held in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 9-10 July 2012.<sup>27</sup>
2. Working Groups/Task Teams will undertake this work with support and guidance from the Partnership Coordinator, subject to the availability of funds. The provisional Work Plan is outlined as below. The five Work Plan elements will each be addressed by a separate Working Group. Some projects may necessitate Working Group collaboration.
3. **Partnership Mission:** *Through global-scale cooperation, maximize the capacity of CBD Parties and their partners to access, exchange, analyse, and effectively apply the information<sup>28</sup> and informatics tools needed to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species in a timely and reliable manner (i.e., to implement Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9).*<sup>29</sup>

### I. PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION GATEWAY

**Goal:** *Establish and manage a web-based site for access to and the exchange of the information and informatics tools Parties require to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive alien species.*

**Strategy:**

- (a) Obtain a URL address through which Parties and other stakeholders can access and exchange relevant invasive alien species information;
- (b) Develop a Partnership Gateway design and implementation plan, using a phased-in approach. The plan should identify the institution/agency which will host the site;
- (c) Identify/create an informatics platform that will readily deliver the information services that Parties and other stakeholders have identified as needed in order to achieve Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (invasive alien species);<sup>30</sup>
- (d) Link various existing, relevant information sources and informatics tools into the “Information Gateway”. This will help improve access to existing information systems. Examples of

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<sup>26</sup> The interim Steering Committee will further develop the Work Plan during its meeting at COP 11.

<sup>27</sup> A detailed workshop report will be accessible at <http://cbd.int/invasive/giasipartnership/>.

<sup>28</sup> In the context of the mission statement, “information” also includes “data and knowledge”.

<sup>29</sup> This mission statement is a result of a consultative process. The interim Steering Committee will work to further streamline/simplify the language during its meeting at COP 11. The intent/concepts will remain the same.

<sup>30</sup> While the Partnership holds free and open access to information as a core value, it recognizes that the Partners will need to operate according to individual intellectual property right (IPR) policies. The Working Group intends to address these issues within the Information Gateway (annex II) development plan, which is a work in progress.

resources to link into the Gateway include databases, analytical tools, best practice guidance, training modules, and education/outreach materials;

(e) Add new invasive alien species information and informatics resources to the Partnership Gateway as they become available – especially products from other Partnership Working Groups;

(f) Create and moderate mechanisms (e.g., chat rooms, forums, list-serves) for the active exchange of relevant information within the Partnership Gateway;

(g) Direct and attract Parties to the CBD and other relevant stakeholders to the Information Gateway;

(h) Review and improve the Information Gateway in an ongoing manner so as to best meet Parties' needs; and

(i) Promote the Information Gateway and the Partnership to Parties to increase usage and elicit feedback.

## **II. DATABASE INTEROPERABILITY AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

*Goal: Facilitate linkages among and the reliability of information contained in information systems which can provide Parties with the data and tools they need to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive alien species.*

**Strategy:**

(a) Develop and promote standards vis-à-vis quality control procedures for data and information capture, including metadata, related terminology, vocabularies used in data and information capture, and taxonomic services;

(b) Map vocabularies used by partners in order to facilitate interoperability in circumstances in which it can provide added value; and

(c) Establish and/or promote mechanisms for assessing data quality in relevant information systems and providing feedback to the data managers (e.g., peer review committees, on-line feedback forms, small grants for data quality improvement).

## **III. INFORMATION SYNTHESIS AND ASSESSMENT**

*Goal: Facilitate and support the development of information resources and informatics tools needed by Parties to implement CBD decisions in the context of invasive alien species prevention, eradication, and control.*

**Strategy:**

(a) Conduct a gap analysis of Parties' information needs for achieving Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, and incorporate findings into this Work Plan;

(b) Assess the major data gaps in existing information systems and identify/support the most critical data mobilization activities in the short-medium term;

- (c) Develop<sup>31</sup> and make available through the Information Gateway, as appropriate:
- (i) Global registries of:
- a. Introduced and invasive alien species, which can serve as a resources for risk analyses and an early warning system;
  - b. Invasive alien species informatics tools;<sup>32</sup>
  - c. Education, outreach, social marketing, and training resources;
  - d. Best management practices (for addressing species and pathways);
  - e. Economic evaluations (cost-benefit analyses and impact studies); and
  - f. Risk analyses.
- (ii) A global index of the alien species primary biodiversity data<sup>33</sup> integrated with GBIF. This should include occurrence “absence” (non-detection) data;
- a. Use cases relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Target 9;<sup>34</sup>
  - b. An information system which can be used for identifying, mapping, ranking, and conducting risk analyses of biological invasion pathways.

#### IV. TAXONOMIC INFORMATION SERVICES<sup>35</sup>

**Goal:** Build the capacity of Parties to readily access the taxonomic information to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species.

**Strategy:**

- (a) **Conduct** a needs/gaps analysis of taxonomic services Parties require to achieve Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9,<sup>36</sup> and use this to inform further development of the Work Plan;
- (b) **Assist** the Parties in developing a common understanding of linkages between addressing invasive alien species and taxonomic information;
- (c) **Establish** common documentation and annotation services of invasive alien species based on taxonomic references;

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<sup>31</sup> Some of these products are already under development; updating and/or quality improvement is warranted.

<sup>32</sup> This should include analytical and modelling tools that can be made available through the Gateway.

<sup>33</sup> Primary biodiversity data are the digital text or multimedia data records that detail the instance of an organism – the “what, where, when, how and by whom” of the organism’s occurrence and documentation.

<sup>34</sup> This is from the EU funding agreement and needs further clarification in the next draft of the Work Plan.

<sup>35</sup> This Working Group should have direct linkages to the Global Taxonomic Initiative (GTI) and take relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets into consideration.

<sup>36</sup> See previous work by BioNet INTERNATIONAL, and make this available through the Gateway as appropriate.

- (d) **Compile** and/or link to lists of prioritized species names and associated taxonomic resources; and
- (e) **Develop** a directory of taxonomic authorities/services.

## V. **BEST PRACTICES FOR NON-ELECTRONIC INFORMATION ACCESS AND EXCHANGE**

**Goal:** Develop means to make Gateway content, links and facilities available through systems other than the internet.

**Strategy:**

- (a) **Conduct** a needs assessment to identify what means of information provision and exchange can best be utilized by those who do not have reliable internet access;
- (b) **Identify** and **foster** approaches to disseminating information to Parties who will not be able to access the Partnership Gateway in a timely or reliable manner; and
- (c) **Encourage** and facilitate non-internet feedback and contribution systems that support the Parties in implementing Article 8(h) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

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