



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/JM/JSH/CRm/77422

1 September 2011

NOTIFICATION
Invasive Alien Species and Taxonomy Expert Kiosk at SBSTTA 15

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity has recognized that there is an urgent need to minimize the spread and impact of invasive alien species (IAS). Article 8(h) of the Convention states: *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.* National strategies on invasive alien species reported in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) provide a strategic context for this work.

IAS are one of the leading threats to natural ecosystems and biodiversity worldwide. If not addressed as a priority, IAS can place constraints on biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and/or economic growth. Geographically and evolutionary isolated ecosystems, such as Small Island Developing States, are especially vulnerable to the establishment and impacts of IAS.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) invites Parties to build their capacity to address invasive alien species by actively participating in the IAS Experts Kiosk at the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA15).

Accordingly, on Monday, 7 November to Wednesday, 9 November from 10:00am to 1:00pm, experts on IAS will be available to assist Parties at the IAS Kiosk located in the ICAO foyer.

- Parties are particularly encouraged to seek support on drafting national IAS strategies and and/or incorporating IAS into NBSAPs.
- Parties may also wish to seek scientific and technical support in advance of the SBSTTA discussion on IAS issues scheduled for Tuesday, 8 November from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

To: CBD and GTI focal points

The Secretariat encourages Parties to come prepared for substantive discussions with the IAS experts. Access to this Kiosk, which is free of charge, provides a valuable opportunity for gaining scientific and technical advice.

Experts will include representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations and Inter-Governmental Organizations with a substantial focus on IAS, including Dr. Jamie K. Reaser, former Executive Director of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP). Dr. Reaser is currently providing scientific and technical support to the Secretariat's work on IAS through the Smithsonian Institution.

For a summary of the Secretariat's programme of work on IAS, please see the Convention's IAS Portal at: <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/background.shtml>.

Experts interested in providing assistance at the IAS Kiosk, should contact the Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int with a copy to Dr. Jamie K. Reaser at ecos@nelsoncable.com.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary