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Dear Mr. Mulongoy and Ms. Shimura,

**Re: Input into the CBD In-Depth Review of Work on Invasive Alien Species**

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

If you have any clarifications or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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**CABI improves people's lives worldwide by providing  
information and applying scientific expertise to solve  
problems in agriculture and the environment**

## **Input into the In-Depth Review of Work on Invasive Alien Species**

### **Introduction**

CABI is an international, intergovernmental, not-for-profit organisation established by a United Nations treaty level agreement between its member countries. The organisation is nearly 100 years old, having been founded in 1910 as the then, 'Entomological Research Committee (Tropical Africa)'. The following year it launched the scientific journal, *Bulletin of Entomological Research* and in 1913, launched the first abstract journal (summarising current entomological literature). CABI's mission is, 'To improve people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment'. The organisation is governed by an independent board, an Executive Council and a quinquennial Review Conference of Member Countries. CABI's head-quarters is located in the UK and it operates through a global network of regional centres and offices located in more than 20 countries in Africa, America, Asia and Europe.

Since its establishment in 1910, CABI has been working on the taxonomy, prevention and management of invasive alien species, and *Invasive Species* is one of CABI's three Global Themes, headed by a full-time Global Director (Invasive Species). Working in partnership with member country governments and collaborators in five continents and nearly 70 countries, CABI implements more than 70 donor-funded projects aimed at addressing invasive alien species and combining local, regional and international expertise, with a focus on projects in developing countries. The goal of CABI's invasive's team is to be a major contributor in the global effort to reduce the spread and impact of invasive species. Within this overall goal the priorities are:

- Promote safe trade through improved risk analysis and quarantine services.
- Develop and disseminate innovative new information products/services.
- Conducting innovative research particularly in the management of invasive species using biological control.
- Support national regulatory bodies, build capacity and strengthen national strategies and action plans, with a particular focus on developing countries.
- Provide technical support to international conventions and programmes.

From its inception in 1992, CABI has supported the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Secretariat, and in 2003, signed a Memorandum of Co-operation. To this end, CABI provides or makes available; technical support, knowledge tools, information, and case studies, thereby contributing towards implementation of Article 8h of the CBD.

CABI is one of founding partners of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), together with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). A CABI representative sits on the GISP Board and the GISP Secretariat is hosted by CABI Africa, located in Nairobi, Kenya. CABI, together with IUCN and TNC, jointly manage the GISP Secretariat, and contributes logistical, financial, technical support, as its contribution towards the Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species, which was prepared by jointly by IUCN, SCOPE and CABI for GISP in 2001.

### **Legislative measures and national policies**

CABI, assisted by IUCN, is currently assisting several governments in Africa to develop an enabling policy environment for the prevention and management of invasive alien species, under the auspices of a GEF-funded project, implemented by UNEP. Similar projects are also being implemented or developed in other regions including the Caribbean and South-East Asia (in partnership with CABI's Regional Centres, IUCN, TNC and GISP) to address the prevailing weak policy and institutional environments. In partnership with IUCN and GISP, CABI is also implementing training courses on legal aspects of the management of invasive alien species, with financial support provided by the World Bank. This course is currently being tested in Eastern and Western Africa, and the Southern Pacific to ensure that it is applicable to a range of developing countries.

## **Management**

For nearly 100 years, CABI has been actively involved in management of invasive alien species using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches, and specialising in the biological control of invasive plants and micro-organisms. More recently, CABI has also been implementing projects on the *prevention* of invasive alien species, specifically through the provision of technical support to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

CABI, together with IUCN and partner governments in Africa, is currently implementing a GEF-funded, UNEP-implemented project entitled, 'Remove barriers to Invasive Plant Management in Africa'. By raising awareness of the threat of invasive species (both nationally and regionally), promoting the development of national invasive species strategies and action plans (NISSAPs) (either as a component of NBSAPS or as stand-alone documents) through a series of on-the-ground training courses and workshops, facilitating information exchange, implementing management strategies and building capacity, the aim is to empower developing countries to address the threat posed by invasive alien species more effectively. Similar initiatives are currently being implemented or are under development with partner governments and agencies in the Caribbean, South Asia and South-East Asia.

CABI, on behalf of GISP, has also developed and published a toolkit entitled, '*Invasive Alien Species: A Toolkit of Best Prevention and Management Practices*' (Wittenberg & Cock, 2001) which is available on the GISP Website ([www.gisp.org/publications/toolkit](http://www.gisp.org/publications/toolkit)). The main aims of the toolkit are to assist those involved in environmental and biodiversity conservation and management. Topics covered in the manual include; building strategy, prevention, early detection and management, together with 100 case studies from around the World which are used to illustrate specific aspects of 'best practices', with a particular focus on small island developing states (SIDs).

## **Assessment**

CABI and IUCN are currently developing tools and procedures for assessing the impacts of invasive plants on locally and globally significant biodiversity under an ongoing GEF-funded project. The assessments will be carried out at regular time intervals in order to monitor changes following the effective management of invasive alien species, as the indigenous biodiversity returns. Although such assessments have been undertaken successfully in a number of developed countries, they need to be adapted for use in developing countries particularly where base-line data may not exist or be incomplete.

This GEF-funded programme is developing practical solutions to species assessments and spreading this concept to other regions through related GEF projects (currently under development).

### **Economic instruments**

CABI, in partnership with IUCN, has been undertaking pilot activities on the economics of invasive alien species using cost-benefit analysis in a series of case studies on key invasive species, funded by the World Bank. In partnership with GISP, CABI and IUCN are also in the process of developing and or adapting economic tools and instruments for quantifying the costs and impacts of invasive alien species in developing countries. These initiatives will be pursued with potential donors, notably the World Bank, and applied in developing countries specifically those in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Provision of resources**

CABI has worked with the GEF through UNEP, to assist countries to develop projects which address the threat posed by invasive alien species issues and are compliant with GEF funding requirements. CABI has also contributed to the development of the current policy of GEF 4 in order to ensure that invasive alien species are retained in the Biodiversity Focal Area and is currently working in close collaboration with the GEF through UNEP to develop a GEF-Framework for invasive species. Constraints to the implementation of Article 8h of the CBD, particularly in developing countries, include a lack of resources (from donors and others), specifically to strengthen the policy and institutional frameworks, build capacity and to access information resources.

### **Communication, education and public awareness**

CABI excels in the provision of innovative information products and services in invasive alien species, thereby contributing to Guiding Principle 8 (Exchange of Information), particularly in the context of 'Knowledge for Development', which is the second of CABI's three Global Themes. Good examples of the type of information currently being produced by CABI on invasive alien species, often in collaboration with other public and private sector partners such as IUCN, TNC and the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), include; the Crop Protection Database, Biocontrol Abstracts, CABI's Invasive Species Glossary (IAS-CTC) which is available on CABI's website, and CABI's Invasive Species Compendium (ICS), which aims to draw together scientific information and databases on invasive alien species for policy-makers, scientists, extensionists, students and practitioners. This will be a comprehensive global interactive encyclopaedia on all aspects of invasive alien species including their taxonomy, distribution, spread, risk, habitat, host range, symptoms/signs, biology and ecology, means of movement and dispersal, impacts, and management, all supported by published literature. This expert knowledge will be gathered from many hundreds of specialists around the world, and peer-reviewed, with coordination by CABI. Wherever possible, co-operation with other projects having similar aims is being arranged, to minimize duplication of effort.

Ultimately, CABI's ISC will cover all regions, all natural and managed ecosystems, and all taxa. It will focus on organisms that have the highest impact on livelihoods and the environment. The Compendium will be delivered on a novel web-based platform, giving it a high degree of interactivity between its components and with external systems

including other Compendia and bibliographic databases. Stand-alone versions of the Compendium will also be developed.

An alpha version of the ISC covering 1000 species is currently being released. The complete version of the ISC will be available by 2010, covering more species, with the addition of decision-support tools including risk analysis, and supported by enhancements to the IT platform. The project to develop the ISC has a budget of US\$3M over 3 years. Funding is obtained from contributions provided by the 12 members of its Development Consortium. Following its release, CABI's ISC will be kept up to date through a regular programme of renewal. Further details are available at <http://www.cabicompendium.org> and the project's progress can be followed at <http://cabi-isc.pbwiki.com/>.

CABI, through a range of different outlets, has produced and/or published numerous publications to improve the availability of, and access to, information concerning invasive alien species, their prevention and management. Include amongst this list are many products of GISP Phases 1, and more recently Phase 2, specialist books and manuals.

CABI, through partnerships with GISP, IUCN and TNC, has also developed country-level awareness programmes in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, and has focussed on invasive alien species in SIDS. The organisation continues to ensure that awareness is an essential part of any project or initiative on the prevention and management of invasive alien species.

Wherever possible, CABI's information on invasive alien species is made freely available to stakeholders, especially those living and/or working in developing countries. A large number of CABI's information products and or services on invasive alien species are available on CABI's website ([www.cabi.org](http://www.cabi.org)) and can be downloaded for free!

## **Cooperation**

CABI, through its business unit in International Development, has provided support to developing countries to assist with their implementation of the CBD in relation to invasive alien species and continues to provide support to, and offer advice concerning SBSTTA and COP delegations under the CBD, and CABI and IUCN were instrumental in ensuring that invasive alien species were a significant inclusion in the Environment Action Plan of the New Partnership for Africa (NEPAD) and of its five sub-regional environment actions plans.

## **Looking ahead**

- Climate change will undoubtedly exacerbate the impacts of Invasive Alien Species, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, because they possess traits favoured by the predicted changes. Invasive alien species have already been identified as one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss and a major threat to ecosystem integrity. So, looking ahead, one of the priorities will be to build capacity to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of climate change on invasive alien species, in order to protect agricultural production and to conserve biodiversity.
- CABI would also like to prioritise methods for rapid risk assessments of invasive alien species coupled, where appropriate, with rapid intervention strategies.