



## RECOMMENDATIONS

May 2000

**GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME (GISP)**  
(a collaboration between SCOPE, IUCN, CAB International, and UNEP)

*For further information, please contact:*

**Jeff Waage** and **Mathew Cock**  
CABI Bioscience  
Silwood Park, Buckhurst Rd, UK  
e-mail: [j.waage@cabi.org](mailto:j.waage@cabi.org) and  
[m.cock@cabi.org](mailto:m.cock@cabi.org)  
Phone: +44 1344 87-2999  
Fax: +44 1491 82-9123

**Harnold Mooney**  
Biological Sciences  
Stanford University  
Stanford 94305-5020, USA  
e-mail: [hmooney@jasper.stanford.edu](mailto:hmooney@jasper.stanford.edu)  
Phone: +1 650 723-1179  
Fax: +1 650 723-9253

**Maj de Poorter/Mick Clout**  
IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group  
School of Environmental and Marine Science, University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland, New Zealand  
tel: +64 9 373-7999 ext. 6819  
fax: +64 9 373-7042  
e-mail: [m.depoorter@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.depoorter@auckland.ac.nz)  
[m.clout@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.clout@auckland.ac.nz)

**Martha Chouchena-Rojas**  
IUCN - The World Conservation Union  
Rue Mauverney 28  
1196 Gland, Switzerland  
e-mail: [mtr@hq.iucn.org](mailto:mtr@hq.iucn.org)  
Phone: ++41 (22) 999-0254  
Fax: ++41 (22) 999-0025

Global Invasive Species Programme

## Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

(Nairobi, Kenya 15-26 May 2000)

### Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems

(Agenda item 17.3)

#### INTRODUCTION

A rapidly growing body of evidence shows that alien invasive species are having profound, negative impacts on biological diversity at both the local and global level. They have disrupted freshwater and marine ecosystems, tropical, boreal and temperate forests, urban areas, islands, grasslands and deserts, impacting on ecosystem functioning and health. They are the second largest cause of biodiversity loss after habitat degradation. In addition, there are huge economic consequences of biological invasions, ranging from the decline of industries to the costs incurred by ongoing control. This has resulted in growing recognition around the world of the severity of the challenge posed by alien invasive species. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Article 8(h), calls on governments to "prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats, or species".

#### BACKGROUND

SBSTTA 4 and SBSTTA5 discussed the alien invasive species issue and provided the following recommendations: Recommendation IV/4 "Development of guiding principles for the prevention of impacts of alien species and identifying priority areas of work on isolated ecosystems and giving recommendations for further development of the Global Invasive Species Programme", and Recommendation V/4 "Alien species: guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts". Both recommendations include requests for a significant amount of work which will need to be prepared and presented at SBSTTA6.

CABI, IUCN and SCOPE commend Parties at SBSTTA4 and 5 for the recognition and importance they clearly attributed to the alien invasives issue.

## SBSTTA6 AND BEYOND

One of the immediate ramifications of Recs. IV/4 and V/4 is that the requirements for elaboration, development and reporting, currently earmarked to be presented at SBSTTA6, are very substantial. There may not be sufficient time leading up to SBSTTA6 to do justice to these, and SBSTTA 7 may have to be considered as an alternative. On the other hand, it is our understanding that any aspect of the alien invasive issue that is not taken forward to COP6, may have to wait for at least five years or more before returning to the CBD's discussion agenda.

**Given the urgency to comprehensively tackle alien invasive species and the grave threat that they pose to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, CABI, IUCN and SCOPE urge COP5:**

- ✓ to provide a workable mechanism to continue the CBD's work on alien invasive species issues after COP5 and in time for inclusion in COP6 discussions, by requesting the Secretariat to:
  - ✎ develop a detailed and realistic workplan with explicit deadlines and financial implications to address the tasks identified in recommendations IV/4 and V/4. This should be done with the Global Invasives Species Programme (GISP) and other relevant partners, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (including the International Plant Protection Convention), the International Maritime Organization, and the World Health Organization;
  - ✎ develop a detailed agenda for the thorough and substantial consideration of invasive species at either SBSTTA6 or SBSTTA7 on the basis of the work programme above; and
  - ✎ establish a mechanism so that intersessional work, necessary to carry out the tasks identified in the proposed workplan, can be accomplished in time for COP6. This mechanism could include the establishment of a Liaison Group, or the organization of informal working meetings with the participation of the organizations mentioned in recommendations IV/4 and V/4.
- ✓ to take into account the financial implications of the work proposed by SBSTTA4 and SBSTTA5 to address in an effective manner the threat of invasive species, and to reflect these in the Secretariat's budget.

## DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD TERMINOLOGY AND THE INTERIM GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON THE PREVENTION, INTRODUCTION AND MITIGATION OF THE IMPACTS OF ALIEN SPECIES

V/4 includes the recommendation that the Executive Secretary be requested, in close collaboration with the Global Invasive Species Programme, and other relevant international and regional organizations, to ensure consistency with the development of standard terminology on alien species (as referred to in Recommendation IV/4, paragraphs 4 (f) and 4 (i)), and to further elaborate the *interim guiding principles on the prevention, introduction and mitigation of the impacts of alien species*, to be considered by the Subsidiary Body at its sixth meeting, in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. We are very supportive of this development.

In the CBD context, standardisation in the use of biological and management terms will maximise the benefits of sharing information and experience via the Clearing House Mechanism. At present, for instance, words like *control*, *pest*, or *naturalised species* are used with different meanings by different people, and even the terms *alien species* and *invasive alien species* are sometimes used indiscriminately.

The *GISP synthesis workshop* (September 2000) will have sessions focusing on the development of standard terminology, elaboration of the *interim guiding principles* and development of guidelines. Representatives of nations, international organisations, as well as individual invasive experts, will participate, so that a broad consensus should be achieved. Results will reported on to SBSTTA6.

**In the development of standard terminology on alien species (as referred to in recommendation IV/4, paragraphs 4 (f) and 4 (i)), and in the further elaboration of the interim guiding principles on the prevention, introduction and mitigation of the impacts of alien species, CABI, IUCN and SCOPE call on COP5 to request that:**

- ✓ the interim guiding principles are developed and elaborated in a timely fashion; and
- ✓ the outcomes of the *GISP synthesis workshop* (September 2000) are used as a basis to contribute to such development and elaboration.

## GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME (GISP)

The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) is coordinated by SCOPE, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, in conjunction with IUCN—the World Conservation Union, CABI Bioscience (CABI), and UNEP, the United Nations Environment Programme.

### Phase I of GISP

International teams of biologists, natural resource managers, economists, lawyers and policy makers are developing a global strategy to address the invasive species problem. The Programme's goal is to enable local, national, and multi-national communities to draw on the best available tools to immediately improve alien invasive prevention and control systems, and to identify priorities and lay the groundwork for new tools in science, information management, education, and policy that must be developed through collaborative international action. In addition this programme will assess the current status of the science dealing with invasive species.

There are currently ten components to the Programme: Education, Pathways of Invasives/Vectors/Risk Assessment, Human Dimensions, Ecology of Invasives, Early Warning Systems, Economic Consequences, Current Status & Assessment, Global Change and Invasives, Legal and Institutional Frameworks, Assessment and Best Management Practices.

The results of this work will be disseminated via published reports, international meetings, and a new network of information exchange and training to be developed as part of this project. A major international "wrap up" meeting, the *GISP Synthesis Workshop*, will be held in Capetown in September 2000.

SBSTTA V/4 also contains the recommendation for GISP to report on this *GISP Synthesis Workshop* to SBSTTA6. GISP is pleased to be given this opportunity to contribute. In addition, all GISP's programme outcomes will be available to CBD Parties and others, and it is hoped that this may make a significant contribution to the Parties efforts to implement Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### GISP Phase II

With Phase I coming to an end, GISP is preparing for its second phase, which will further elaborate some aspects of phase I as well as focus on implementation and capacity building. The recommendations IV/4 and V/4 of SBSTTA4 and 5 make many references to GISP's work, and contain specific

requests to GISP to contribute to the CBD's future work on the alien invasive issue. GISP is looking forward to this challenging task, which will need to extend into the GISP Phase II.

The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) has identified priorities for further action to mitigate the threat of alien invasive species, as part of its plan for a second phase, beginning 2001. This plan prioritizes both global and regional actions.

On the global scale, priority is given to:

- ✦ elaboration and dissemination of continuously updated information on alien invasive species through improvement and integration of national and regional (including global) electronic and printed databases and guides. Such information will have an immediate impact on limiting the further spread of known invasives. Prevention of new introductions and early eradication of recent introductions is often more feasible and cost effective than control of existing problems, making information dissemination and awareness raising a priority action;

- ✦ engagement of key sectors involved in potential introduction of alien invasive species, through organization of sector-specific workshops and initiatives to develop codes of conduct and other self-imposed regulatory systems. Sectors involved in shipping, horticultural and pet trade, tourism, aquaculture, botanical and zoological collections, and developmental assistance will be important participants in such an effort;

- ✦ research to support needs of alien species prevention and management, including ecological models for prediction of invasiveness and susceptibility of ecosystems to invasion, taxonomic tools to improve identification of alien species and populations, new methods for control of alien invasive species and for rehabilitation of habitats after control of invasives; and

- ✦ cooperation between Conventions and organizations involved in alien invasive species programmes at the international and national level, including CBD, IPPC, IMO and others, to harmonize terminology and methods (e.g. for risk assessment) towards a goal of a common biosecurity platform at the national and international level.

On the national and regional scale:

- ✦ priority is given to development of national capacity in invasive species prevention and management, and encouragement of regional cooperation to address regional threats. Capacity building at the national level has particular relevance to developing countries, and should draw upon experience of countries with existing, successful alien

invasive species programmes as well as existing toolkits and databases, such as those developed by GISP.

A number of alien invasive species problems are now shared between countries and provide priorities for international action, not only because of their impact on livelihoods and the environment, but to elaborate models in alien species prevention and management, in order to assist in building national capacity and regional cooperation. These include, for instance, alien water weeds such as water hyacinth in tropical wetlands, invasive alien plants in tropical forestry systems, and alien predatory mammals on oceanic islands.

**The second phase of GISP will be further discussed at the GISP Synthesis Workshop in Capetown in September 2000, where a more detailed plan will be prepared in cooperation with participating developing and developed countries. CABI, IUCN and SCOPE urge COP5, and Parties to the CBD:**

- ✓ to provide feedback and recommendations on priority activities for GISP's planned Phase II, so as to allow GISP to be as effective as possible in contributing to the tasks identified in recommendations IV/4 and V/4, as well as to further tasks or intersessional activities identified; and
- ✓ to support work in the priority areas.