

Annex IV

DRAFT RISK ANALYSIS ON THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VALUES

(PROVISIONAL ADVICE PURSUANT TO DECISION 14/11, ANNEX II, PARAGRAPH 1 (D))

1. It is suggested that guidelines be developed in order to more explicitly include social and cultural values when assessing the costs, benefits and prioritization of management. This could build on existing processes (for example, Socioeconomic Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (SEICAT)) and international best practices on engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders in decision-making. New Zealand incorporates cultural knowledge, values and perspectives (mātauranga) in the management of invasive alien species. Māori are involved in the governance of invasive alien species management, especially when culturally and spiritually significant (taonga) species are at risk. This system is worthy of emulation. States should seek formal participation and ensure bidirectional data streams between data holders and generators through the national data portals (where applicable) to the global-level aggregators. Country membership status, capacity, resources and other aspects should be understood by all Parties. Open access to data and seamless integration of this data between data tools used by indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders is an imperative for better management and monitoring of this threat. This will (a) increase data flows necessary for analysis at the level of the Convention on Biological Diversity and international decision-making and (b) open opportunities for national capacity-building and resourcing.
2. It is suggested that efforts be made to increase qualitative and quantitative knowledge and data on socioeconomic and cultural impacts of invasive alien species on communities and society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and methods to use this knowledge when prioritizing invasive alien species for impact and management feasibility and likelihood of success. It will be important to define socioeconomic, cultural and community well-being criteria in order to collectively evaluate such impacts, for example how the impacts of invasive alien species on treasured, sacred, culturally and spiritually significant native species can be measured, and impact thresholds understood and addressed.
3. Enhanced risk communication is essential to facilitate dialogue and understanding between and among indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant stakeholders, who may include the general public and indigenous peoples and local communities. Risk communication seeks to reconcile the views of all interested parties in order to achieve a common understanding of the risks posed by invasive alien species, develop credible risk management options and consistent regulations, and promote awareness of issues concerning invasive alien species.
4. There is a lack of well-documented semi-quantitative criteria for socioeconomic, cultural and community well-being on which not only to evaluate impacts, but also to evaluate the effectiveness of the applied risk management option.
5. Social impact assessment offers a structured process for identifying, evaluating and addressing social costs and benefits. It has potential value for enabling public participation in planning and as a key component of integrated assessments of management options.