



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/35  
20 February 2006

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eighth meeting

Curitiba, Brazil, 20-31 March 2006

Item 27.3 of the provisional agenda\*

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES  
INFORMATION NETWORK (GISIN)**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the progress report on the implementation of the Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN).

The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

---

\* UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1.

## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES INFORMATION NETWORK (GISIN)

### ITEM 1. INTRODUCTION

#### *1.1. CBD Decisions in Support of a GISIN*

1. Article 8 (h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity calls for the Parties to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive alien species (IAS) which harm ecosystems, habitats, or species. In decision VI/23<sup>1</sup>, paragraph 25, the Sixth Conference of the Parties calls for contributions to the creation and maintenance of a global invasive species information network. Paragraph 27 of this decision<sup>1</sup> "urges Parties, Governments and relevant organizations, at the appropriate level, to develop and make available technical tools and related information to support efforts for the prevention, early detection, monitoring, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species and to support public awareness-raising and environmental education to the extent possible." Paragraphs 28-e. and 28-f. call for "development of databases and facilitated access to such information for all countries..." and "development of systems for reporting new invasions of alien species and the spread of alien species into new areas."

2. Guiding Principle 8-1 of decision VI/23<sup>1</sup> says, "States should assist in the development of an inventory and synthesis of relevant databases, including taxonomic and specimen databases, and the development of information systems and an interoperable distributed network of databases for compilation and dissemination of information on alien species for use in the context of any prevention, introduction, monitoring and mitigation activities. This information should include incident lists, potential threats to neighbouring countries, information on taxonomy, ecology and genetics of invasive alien species and on control methods, whenever available."

#### *1.2. Founding of GISIN*

3. In April 2004, an Experts Meeting on Implementation of a Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN) was held in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The meeting was attended by 76 scientists from 26 countries. An interim Steering Committee was chosen and continues to work with the global invasive species information management community on developing the GISIN.

4. The GISIN<sup>2</sup> is a Web-based network of data providers including government, non-government, nonprofit, educational, and other organizations that agree to work together to provide increased access to data and information on IAS around the world. Computer-based information systems like those in the GISIN present specific information to help identify, detect, rapidly respond to, and control IAS.

#### *1.3. GISIN Mission*

5. The Mission of the Global Invasive Species Information Network:

- (i) To provide a platform for sharing invasive species information at a global level, via the Internet and other digital means.
- (ii) To offer a central place for the reporting and tracking of new alien species sightings.
- (iii) To develop and share electronic information management tools to better identify, map, and predict the spread of invasive species at regional and global levels.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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>2</sup> Available on the Web at <http://www.gisinet.org>.

- (iv) To build the capacity of network members in the development and use of information tools to integrate IAS databases.<sup>3</sup>

#### ***1.4. Development of Invasive Alien Species Profile Schema for GISIN***

6. In response to these decisions, the Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with funding from the US Department of State, selected a consultant to create a draft schema for a broad invasive species profile, to be used by the GISIN. The task was to develop a data exchange standard for Invasive Alien Species Profiles (or Species Accounts) by consulting the major data providers, comparing and evaluating different schemas and data formats, and proposing a core set of data elements. The Invasive Alien Species Profile Schema (IAS-PS) was created by Mr. Michael Browne of the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and Mr. Jerry Cooper of Landcare Research New Zealand, posted for public comment in August 2005, and is still open for discussion at <http://wiki.cs.umb.edu/twiki/bin/view/IASPS/>.

7. Subsequently, the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the GISIN and with financial support from the Government of the United States and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), organized an Experts Meeting to Discuss Implementation of an Invasive Species Profile Schema on 19-24 February, in Agadir, Morocco. Financial and logistical support was also provided by the CBD Secretariat; the Moroccan Ministère de l'Agriculture, Direction de la Protection des Vegetaux; and the non-governmental organization Association des Producteurs des Agrumes au Maroc.

8. The purpose of the meeting was to examine and refine the IAS-PS in detail and to consider reviewer comments. This meeting also built on recommendations made in the CBD information document UNEP/CBD/ COP/6/INF/18, "Report of the joint convention on biological diversity/global invasive species programme informal meeting on formats, protocols and standards for improved exchange of biodiversity-related information," for the establishment of the GISIN as a pilot initiative.

9. The meeting's agenda and list of participants are contained in annex I and annex II respectively.

### **ITEM 2. EXPERTS MEETING TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES PROFILE SCHEMA**

#### ***2.1. Working Group Leaders, Rapporteurs, and Agenda***

10. Mr. Michael Browne, of the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group made a technical presentation of the IAS-PS which he prepared with Mr. Jerry Cooper, of Landcare Research New Zealand, at the request of the CBD Secretariat.

11. Meeting participants separated into three working groups. Mr. Michael Browne led the Checklist working group, with Dr. Malika Bounfour as rapporteur. Dr. Hannu Saarenmaa led the Technological Implementation working group, with Mr. Olivier de Munck as rapporteur. And Dr. Sergio Zalba led the Terminology working group, with Ms. Elizabeth Sellers as rapporteur. The meeting agenda can be found in Appendix I.

12. The results of the working group deliberations were reported during the plenary sessions.

#### ***2.2. Outputs of the Deliberations***

13. The Checklist working group is tasked with identifying important elements to be included in the schema to accommodate sharing of checklists and is concentrating on primary data only. In this regard, fact sheets (secondary data often associated with checklists) were not discussed but will be included in the

---

<sup>3</sup> The Baltimore Declaration, available online at <http://www.gisinetwork.org/Documents/BaltimoreDeclaration.htm>

future. The working group has identified eleven important concepts that consistently appear in checklists and should be supported by the schema: species name, location, biostatus, impacts, population dynamic data, introduction and/or observation dates, pathways and dispersal, uses, management, hosts, and references.

14. The Technology Implementation working group is tasked with reviewing the structure of the schema for its forthcoming implementation. The working group recommended the compilation of case scenarios and has made a data call to the invasive species scientific community for the submission of scenarios for consideration. Next steps include test implementation of the schema with different kinds of databases identified by the working group. In addition, the working group will produce a technical guidelines document for data providers.

15. The Terminology working group is tasked with developing a metadata definitions framework for key IAS terms. Terms used to indicate the biostatus of species (invasive, nuisance, noxious, weed etc.) are of particular concern to the group, because differences in terms and their definitions across databases impede effective information sharing. The working group will develop a list of biostatus terms and controlled vocabularies for other elements in the schema. Data providers will use the metadata definitions tool to describe their definition of key terms. The working group will distribute the completed lists of terms to the Technology Implementation working group for incorporation into the functional design of the schema.

16. Working group outputs and products are to be posted on the Web at <http://www.gisnetwork.org>.

### **ITEM 3. NEXT STEPS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF A GISIN**

#### ***3.1. In Cooperation with the CBD SBSTTA***

17. An information document detailing the progress in implementing the GISIN and ways the Parties may participate will be prepared for the next SBSTTA.

#### ***3.2. In Cooperation with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)***

18. The GISIN interim Steering Committee welcomes projects for the configuration of the available GBIF data provider tools for sharing invasive species checklists using a portion of the IAS-PS. Furthermore, it will be investigated whether the GISIN list of global invasive species information systems, currently available at <http://www.gisnetwork.org/Documents/DRAFTIASDB.html>, can be made an interactive metadatabase using the available GBIF tools.

#### ***3.3. In Cooperation with the Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG)***

19. Discussions are underway concerning possible accommodation of GISIN requirements for standards within the TDWG Species Observations Subgroup, the TDWG Images Subgroup, and the TDWG Species Pages Interest Group.

#### ***3.4. In Cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)***

20. The GISP Partnership Network will be consulted for case scenarios on potential uses of the IAS-PS that will help in structuring the schema, and for the dissemination of guidelines for data providers.

#### ***3.5. Next GISIN IAS-PS Implementation Meeting***

21. The next GISIN IAS-PS implementation meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in conjunction with the annual TDWG meeting in October 2006. Funding for Parties to the Convention to attend is not expected to be available. Funds are being sought to support a GISIN general assembly in 2007-8.

**Experts Meeting to Discuss an Invasive Species Profile Schema and  
Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN) interim Steering Committee meeting  
Agadir, Morocco, 19-24 February 2006**

<b>Sunday, February 19 (Arrival)</b>	
<b>5-8 pm</b>	<b>Registration (all participants)</b>
<b>Monday, February 20</b>	
<b>8:30 – 10 am</b>	<b>Registration (all participants)</b> <b>GISIN ISC MEETING (STEERING COMMITTEE)</b> ➤ Affiliations/secretariat location ➤ Funding possibilities/proposal writing ➤ Meeting working group facilitation
<b>10am-6 pm</b>	<b>Field trip to view invasive species infestations: nightshade <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> and citrus leaf miner <i>Phyllocnistis citrella</i> (all participants)</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 21</b>	
<b>8:30-9 am</b>	<b>Opening Addresses (Ms. Annie Simpson, GISIN iSC Chair; Mr. Mekki Chouibani, Head of Plant Protection and Phytosanitary Technical Inspections, Morocco Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. Derrab Mohamed, President, Association des Producteurs des Agrumes au Maroc)</b>
<b>9-9:30 am</b>	<b>Invasive Alien Species Profile Schema presentation (Michael Browne--presenter; Jerry Cooper--collaborator)</b>
<b>10-12 noon</b>	<b>Plenary schema discussion: issues to be addressed by working groups (all participants)</b>
<b>2-4 pm</b>	<b>Schema discussion continued: issues to be addressed by working groups (all participants)</b>
<b>4:30-5:30pm</b>	<b>Schema discussion: two concurrent sessions-- A) checklists (crosswalk DB fields w/schema) and B) technical implementation (metadata/registry); C) terminology (discussing broader crosswalks)</b>
<b>5:30-6 pm</b>	<b>Plenary report of priority issues for 3 groups</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 22</b>	
<b>8:30-10 am</b>	<b>Schema discussion: three concurrent sessions-- A) checklists (crosswalk DB fields w/schema) B) technical implementation (metadata/registry) C) terminology (discussing broader crosswalks)</b>
<b>10:30-12 noon</b>	<b>Schema discussion: three concurrent sessions-- A) checklists (crosswalk DB fields w/schema) B) technical implementation (metadata/registry) C) terminology (discussing broader crosswalks)</b>
<b>12-2 pm</b>	<b>Proposal working group meeting; I3N database training session</b>
<b>2-4:30 pm</b>	<b>Conclusion of schema working groups-- A) checklists (crosswalk DB fields w/schema)</b>

	<b>B) technical implementation (metadata/registry) C) terminology (discussing broader crosswalks)</b>
<b>4:30-6 pm</b>	<b>Plenary presentation of schema discussions-- A) checklists (crosswalk DB fields w/schema) B) technical implementation (metadata/registry) C) terminology (discussing broader crosswalks)</b>
<b>7pm</b>	<b>Reception by Moroccan hosts</b>
<b>Thursday, February 23</b>	
<b>8:30-9:15 am</b>	<b>Plenary presentation and discussion: Global Biodiversity Information Facility implementation of IAS checklist cross search (Hannu Saarenmaa)</b>
<b>9:15-10 am</b>	<b>Plenary presentation and discussion: Taxonomic Database Working Group and the Invasive Species Profile Schema (Bob Morris)</b>
<b>10:30-12 noon</b>	<b>Plenary discussion: How to promote the Schema; Meeting Conclusion (Annie Simpson)</b>
<b>2-4 pm</b>	<b>Field trip option (some participants) GISIN iSC meeting (steering committee)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Meeting summary and way forward</li> <li>➤ Fund raising strategy</li> <li>➤ CBD COP8 report</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, February 24 (Departure)</b>	

*Annex II*

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, EXPERTS MEETING TO DISCUSS AN INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE SCHEMA, AGADIR, MOROCCO, 19-24 FEBRUARY 2006**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Wouter Addink	wouter@eti.uva.nl	ETI BioInformatics	Netherlands
Gia (Gudbjorg Inga) Aradottir	g.aradottir@nhm.ac.uk	BioNET-INTERNATIONAL	Great Britain
Naima Barbouche	barbouche.naima@inat.agrinet.tn	Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie	Tunisia
Malika Bounfour	mbounfour@menara.ma	Directorate of Plant Protection and Technical Inspections; GISIN steering committee	Morocco
Michael Browne	m.browne@auckland.ac.nz	IUCN-Invasive Species Specialist Group; GISIN steering committee	New Zealand
Christine Casal	c.casal@cgiar.org	FISHbase	Philippines
Chan (Fook Wing Chan)	f.chan@cabi.org	ASEANET – The Southeast Asian LOOP of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL	Malaysia
Shawn Dalton	shawn_dalton@usgs.gov	US Geological Survey, NISbase	USA

Olivier de Munk	olivier.demunck@biodiv.org	Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat	
Markus Döring	M.Doering@bgbm.org	Berlin Botanical Gardens, Germany (for TAPIR)	Germany
Rob Emery	remery@agric.wa.gov.au	Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity	Australia
Abaha Lahcen	abahalahcen@yahoo.fr	Directorate of Inspection and Food Quality	Morocco
Bob (Robert) Morris	ram@cs.umb.edu	University of Massachusetts	USA
Hannu Saarenmaa	hsaarenmaa@gbif.org	Global Biodiversity Information Facility; GISIN steering committee	Denmark
Elizabeth Sellers	esellers@usgs.gov	USGS-National Biological Information Infrastructure	USA
Annie Simpson	asimpson@usgs.gov	USGS-National Biological Information Infrastructure; GISIN steering committee	USA
Kevin Thiele	K.Thiele@cbit.uq.edu.au	Centre for Biological Information Technology	Australia
Sergio Zalba	szalba@criba.edu.ar	Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network's Invasives Information Network (I3N); Global Invasive Species Programme; GISIN steering committee	Argentina