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THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP: WORK PLANS OF WORKING GROUPS IN 2015 -2016

Note by the Executive Secretary¹

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its eleventh meeting the Conference of the Parties welcomed the development of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (paragraph 21 of decision XI/28). In paragraph 22 of the same decision the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the implementation of the plan of work.

2. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary continued collaboration with chairs and co-chairs drawn from the four Working Groups² of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership, namely: (i) Information Gateway; (ii) Database Interoperability and Quality Improvement; (iii) Information Synthesis and Assessment; and (iv) Best Practices for Non-Web-Based Communications, with generous financial support from the European Union. The progress made by the four working groups was reported to the seventeenth meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.³

3. The chairs of the four working groups then met in Copenhagen, Denmark on 13-14 December 2013 to develop an implementation plan for the prototype of an integrated system to be presented to the Conference of Parties in the margins of its twelfth meeting, with in-kind financial and technical support from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

4. Further to facilitate implementation of the Partnership's agenda, the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Executive Secretary of the GBIF as co-Chairs convened meetings of the Steering Committee for the GIASI Partnership in line of paragraph 22 of decision XI/28 in Montreal, Canada (15 October 2013, 10 March 2014 and 22 June 2014).

* UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1.

¹ This note has been prepared in close collaboration with partners of the Global Invasive Alien Species Partnership shown in <http://giasipartnership.myspecies.info/node/19> and the CONABIO, Mexico which joined the partnership in the margins of 18th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific Technical and Technological Advice.

² The operational plan for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership indicated five working groups. However, a Taxonomic Information Service working group has not been established to date.

³ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-17/information/sbstta-17-inf-11-en.pdf>.

5. At its second meeting of the Steering Committee,⁴ representatives of the working groups reported on an implementation plan for a searchable interface on the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species which will provide links to databases of partners and other primary data providers. Under the guidance of the Steering Committee the working groups have implemented this plan during the period between January 2014 and October 2014 with generous financial support from the European Union. The result of this phase of implementation will be presented at the Invasive Alien Species and Taxonomy Experts Kiosk on the margins of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. At its third meeting of the Steering Committee⁵ the Committee encouraged the GBIF to become a provider of invasive alien species information that was submitted from the GBIF participants, in particular, the data from GBIF national information facilities.

7. Envisioning that the needs of invasive alien species information by Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 may rapidly increase (to identify priority invasive alien species and priority pathways to manage at the national or regional levels), the work plans in 2015-2016 include:

(a) To further increase the data coverage of the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species;

(b) Development and implementation of application programming interfaces around the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species;

(c) Upgrading data presentation on the Information Gateway with search interface on the GIASI Partnership integrated data system;

(d) Data mobilization from a wider range of primary data providers on invasive alien species;

(e) Connecting the GIASI Partnership search interface into the Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention;

(f) Provision of user support including capacity building for planning and reporting on national or regional invasive alien species management;

(g) An alert mechanism on new incursions invasive alien species, as appropriate.

8. The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee held on 23 September 2014 considered the work plan of each working group. The following section contains the work plans submitted from the working groups of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership to the Steering Committee, and received by the Secretariat.

9. The work plans presented in this document will be implemented, subject to availability of funding under the supervision of the Steering Committee for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership and progress will be reviewed the Steering Committee in accordance with paragraph 53 of the operational plan for the partnership.⁶

II. THE GLOBAL INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES INFORMATION PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN 2015-2016

A. The Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species and other key resources

10. The data architecture of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership is composed of central repository of introduced and invasive alien species data and linked information that are presented by primary data providers. [The primary data is connected from the central repository with

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/doc/giasip/sc-meeting-02-report-en.pdf>

⁵ To be accessible at <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/doc/giasip/sc-meeting-03-report-2n.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/information/cop-11-inf-34-en.pdf>

species name, geographic reference (country or site of occurrence) or pathways information if the introduction pathways are identified in the databases.^{2]}

11. The central repository has been developed by the IUCN-Invasive Species Specialists Group (IUCN-ISSG) in collaboration with the Group's country editors, as an independent database managed by the IUCN-ISSG, the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS). Over 120 draft annotated country inventories, in the process of validation and verification by nominated country editors, will be available by October 2014.

12. The coverage of the GRIIS should be global so all Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are able to access the information on invasive alien species occurring in their country, their neighbors, region and trading partners by 2016. To achieve this ambitious goal the IUCN-ISSG will continue to engage country experts as the country editors in 2015.

13. In collaboration with GBIF national information facility and the organizations that have expressed their interests in developing GRIIS in the Joint Work Programme the IUCN-ISSG will continue to collate the invasive alien species occurrence data in 2015-2016.

14. A resource providing information on pathways and their management including legislation and regulation has been developed by the IUCN-ISSG and partners including CEH (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology), UK in the form of the Invasive Alien Species Pathway Management Resource. This will be further elaborated and linked to the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership Information Gateway as an important management tool.

15. The IUCN-ISSG will initiate a project to develop a standard methodology (that is scientifically robust, peer reviewed and transparent) to rank invasive species based on the magnitude of their impacts. As part of this initiative the IUCN ISSG with its partners aims to collate global information on impact risks and report to the Steering Committee for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership no later than the end of 2015.

16. The results of the first phase of the project above (see para. 15 above) will be presented at a potential side event in the margins of the 19th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)".

B. Application programming interfaces to present data from partners and to guide efficient reuse of data

17. The datasets provided by primary data providers are not always in a compatible format for the integrated system of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership. To absorb the format difference and to present the primary data with appropriate citation and for guided reuse of Parties and relevant organizations a package of software (application programming interfaces) will be developed and implemented on the central registry. Similar software can be installed on remote databases, if the remote database providers agree on it in order to facilitate synchronizing the central repository of the integrated system.

18. Development of application programming interfaces may include enabling the following functions on the integrated system:

- (a) Search by taxon; by common name; by country name; by pathway;
- (b) Distribution map of invasive alien species;
- (c) Chronological presentations of distribution map of invasive alien species;
- (d) National list of introduced and invasive alien species occurrences;
- (e) Data submission interface from primary data providers, country editors or GBIF national information facilities;
- (f) Alerting on invasive alien species newly arrived.

19. An appropriate data sharing agreement text will be developed by the GBIF in order to give full confidence to data providers who committed to share their intellectual property, and to maximize the use of shared data for planning and reporting of interested Parties. This will be further considered by the Steering Committee as soon as possible and no later than beginning of 2015.

20. To determine appropriate specification for each function that are expected for the upgraded integrated system a workshop with all working groups and relevant collaborators will be needed in early 2015.

21. With appropriate application programming interfaces installed on the upgraded integrated system will be presented to Parties no later than the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2016.

22. This work plan will be implemented by the working group for Database Interoperability and Quality Improvement lead by GBIF in close collaboration with IUCN-Invasive Species Specialist Group, CABI and potential remote data providers.

C. Upgrading the integrated system to present on the Information Gateway

23. Building on the experience of the development of the prototype integrated system to be presented in the margins of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Information Gateway will implement the interfaces proposed in the section B above and the upgraded integrated system will be presented no later than the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

24. The working group on Information Gateway will collect users' feedback on the prototype system during 2015 and the Information Gateway will be updated to include information to assist users to be able to search and utilize the data for planning and reporting that are required to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on invasive alien species. This work will be implemented by the Information Gateway working group lead by Natural History Museum, UK in close collaboration with GBIF, IUCN-Invasive Specialists Group, CABI and the Secretariat of the CBD in 2015.

25. The installation of upgraded interface of the integrated system will be conducted by Natural History Museum, UK in close collaboration with GBIF.

D. Data mobilization from wider participation of primary data providers on invasive alien species

26. To improve the coverage of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership Information Gateway and to respond to the necessity of presenting speedily to the Information Gateway on the new arrival of invasive alien species, development of capacity in data mobilization to the central repository from the country editors, GBIF national information facilities, as well as potentially from practitioners or indigenous and local communities at the national or regional levels is critically important.

27. Information and experiences generated as a result of projects on early detection and rapid response to invasive alien species are also important in order to communicate with stakeholders to prevent further spread of the invasive alien species. The relevant sectors, experts and community should attain capacity to identify invasive alien species and report to wider region. In particular, island nations where biodiversity is more vulnerable to invasive alien species, and developing countries where border controls are not yet sufficiently in place may require adequate support to monitor entries and spread of invasive alien species and to report on the evidence of invasions to the rest of the world.

28. In this context the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership may require the establishment of capacity-building working group for small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) to mobilize their data through an appropriate interface, e.g. phone application to the central repository of the Partnership data system.

29. To maximize the existing capacity in species identification and database management at various levels, the GBIF national information facilities and other relevant networks in taxonomy should be encouraged to participate to the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

30. Recognizing the importance of capacity-building in SIDS and LDCs, the activities of the newly proposed working group on Capacity Building may include:

- (a) Identifying experts, citizen scientists, organization such as GBIF national information facilities or communities that can potentially become reporters to the partnership central repository;
- (b) Assessing the existing capacity and needs in building capacity for data mobilization, data utilization and data communication with the Government, community or others;
- (c) Develop tools for the identified reporters to mobilize data into partnership central repository or other databases, taking into account the results of capacity needs assessment above;
- (d) Provision of trainings for the reporters on how to use data mobilization tools;
- (e) Provision of trainings for the reporters on how to use the already accessible data through the Information Gateway for their works on the ground.

31. This work plan will be implemented by the newly proposed working group, which may comprise leading information providers and GIASIP partners, in particular their national and regional offices and networks, which may be composed of partners of former Global Invasive Species Programmes and former Global Invasive Species Information Network, among others. The current working group on Best Practices for Non-Web-Based Communications may be reorganized into a new working group “Capacity Building working group” in early 2015.

32. To establish this new working group a substantive planning workshop is needed in early 2015. Also, this workshop should specify the function of data submission interface mentioned in paragraph 16 (e) above and report to the working group on Interoperability and Data Improvement.

33. The Capacity Building working group, when established, may initiate capacity building training with appropriate capacity evaluation and capacity needs assessment for the targeted regions within 2015 and initiate organization of training sessions for data mobilization and utilization in 2016.

34. Additional workshops for planning of effective capacity building might be needed with appropriate collaborating organizations in early 2016.

E. Connecting the GIASI Partnership search interface into the Clearing-house Mechanism

35. The Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership search interface should be used by Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on invasive alien species. For those national focal points for the CBD and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans coordinator should be benefited with the accessible data of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

36. The interoperability working group will collaborate with Secretariat of the CBD to connect the GIASI Partnership search interface to the Clearing-house Mechanism at the Secretariat of the CBD no later than the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

37. This work plan will be conducted by the working group on Interoperability and Data Improvement in collaboration with the GBIF and Secretariat of the CBD as early as possible in 2016.

F. Alerting mechanism on invasive alien species newly arrived

38. Currently, there is no official surveillance system on invasive alien species at the global level. Invasive alien species management costs are prohibitive. To facilitate implementation of preventative measures, an early detection and rapid response programme, including monitoring and surveillance on early knowledge of potential and ongoing incursions, is critical. An alert system which would document and report on new incursions will be very useful for Parties to assess risks on spread and plan for management in timely manner.

39. Regarding animal diseases in wildlife, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has developed the World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) interface for listed diseases, and WAHIS-wild interface for non-listed diseases.⁷ It is important that the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership to communicate with the OIE and other organizations participating in the Inter-

⁷ http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahidwild.php

agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species to explore opportunities to harmonize the planned alerting mechanism in terms of the information on wildlife diseases and their vectors. It is also important to consider that the alert mechanism is supported by scientific evidence and addresses concerns about potential impact on countries access to international markets.

40. The Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership will communicate with the OIE and determine opportunities to collaborate in delivering the alerting system for newly arrived invasive alien species in 2015.

41. Based on the output of the planning workshop and taking into account the progress of application programming interfaces, the Interoperability and Data Improvement working group in close collaboration with IUCN-ISSG and relevant organizations participating in the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species may develop such an alerting system with appropriate application programming interfaces no later than the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

42. To summarize the work plans along the timeline between the 12th meeting and 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the timetable of planned works is presented on the next page.

Working group	Leading organization	Provisional collaborators	Jan-Mar 2015	Apr-Jun 2015	July-Sep 2015	Oct-Dec 2015	Jan-Mar 2016	Apr-Jun 2016	July-Sep 2016	Oct-Dec 2016	
Information synthesis and assessment	IUCN-ISSG	GRIIS-Country editors CABI CONABIO DAISIE FishBase/SeaLife Base I3N NOBANIS	Populating Global Registry of Introduced and Invasive Species								
			Populating Invasive Alien Species Pathway Management Resource								
Interoperability	GBIF	All Partners GBIF national information facilities Secretariat of the CBD	Planning workshop for the work plans implementation with partners, Secretariat of the CBD and relevant organizations	Development of a package of APIs, incl. alert system, data mobilization tools				Implementation of APIs on relevant servers			
				Development of data sharing agreement				Upgrading the Information Gateway Connecting GIASIP interface(s) to			
Information Gateway	NHM in UK	GBIF	Planning workshop for the work plans implementation with partners, Secretariat of the CBD and relevant organizations	Collection of users' feedback, development and presentation of FAQ				Upgrading the Information Gateway			
Capacity building	IUCN/IUCN-ISSG & CABI	GBIF Secretariat of the CBD Former GISP and GISIN network participants Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species		Identifying potential actors of data mobilization and assessing their existing capacity needs				Planning workshop for capacity building		Trainings on data and mobilization utilization	