



Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership
Steering Committee, 1st meeting
Montreal, 15 October 2013

REPORT

Introduction

1. To achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, Parties need access to scientifically valid information on invasive alien species (IAS), including their occurrence with geographic references their ecological features and pathways and vectors of introduction and spread. “A Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14) was developed to improve access to the necessary information during a workshop organized by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) in Copenhagen, Denmark 5-6 September 2011.
2. The SBSTTA, at its 15th meeting, welcomed the Joint Work Programme. To facilitate work prior to COP-11, the Executive Secretary convened a workshop “Organizational Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership”¹ at the Natural History Museum in London, United Kingdom, 9-10 July 2012. The workshop prepared the “Operational Plan for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI Partnership)” (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/34).
3. On the margins of 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) the following organizations signed the Memoranda of Cooperation with the CBD Secretariat, to join the Partnership: CABI; International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its Invasive Species Specialists Group (IUCN-ISSG); Fishbase Information and Research Group; Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF); *Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle* (France); Natural History Museum UK (Natural History Museum); The Horus Institute for Environmental Conservation and Development (Brazil); and Anatrack Ltd.
4. COP-11 welcomed the development of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI Partnership) and requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate its implementation (paragraph 22 of decision XI/28). Accordingly, the first meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled to be held at the Conference Room of the CBD, in Montreal, Canada on 15 October 2013.
5. The objective of the first meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) is to review the progress of the Partnership (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/INF/11) and provide guidance on their inter-sessional activities between SBSTTA17 and COP12 (October 2013 – October 2014) further to facilitate the implementation of the work plans described in the Operational Plan for the Partnership (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/34) taking into account the progress made by the Partners since COP-11 to date.

¹ A detailed workshop report is accessible at [http://cbd.int/invasive/GIASI Partnership/](http://cbd.int/invasive/GIASI%20Partnership/).

6. The list of the participants and agenda as adopted can be found in the Annex I and II to this document, respectively.

ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. The meeting was opened by Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 15 October 2013.
8. He welcomed all participants and introduced the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2) and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. He expressed that IAS is a cross-cutting issue in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and if the management of this threat is successful it will contribute to achieving wide range of Targets example Target 5, 11, 12 and 17. In particular, Target 9 was set to address the issue of IAS globally. Therefore this Partnership will be focused on the provision of scientifically valid information on IAS by Parties and all implementers of the Convention. He also stressed that this Partnership may have strong potential to collaborate with other on-going activities under the Convention, such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) Forum, Biodiversity Indicator Partnership and a new system that the CBD Secretariat developed, Online National Reporting System. He encouraged the representatives of the partner organizations to collaborate not only within this Partnership but also beyond the Partnership with all relevant stakeholders in their on-going activities in making progress towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
9. The Executive Secretary further explained that this meeting is the first meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee the activities of the GIASI Partnership and stressed that the activities are aimed for supporting Parties to achieve Target 9 and other relevant Targets.

ITEM 2 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

10. The Executive Secretary chaired the meeting and presented apologies from the members, Mr. Hesiquio Benites Dias and Mr Saw Leng Guan who were not able to present due to the evening session for Friends of Chair meeting of SBSTTA17 which was taking place in parallel with the SC1.
11. Then, he invited participants to select one co-chair for the Steering Committee from among the members of the SC and a rapporteur for this meeting. The meeting selected Mr. Donald Hobern, the Executive Secretary of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) as Co-chair of the SC, and Ms. Shyama Pagad, Programme Officer of the IUCN-Species Survival Commission-Invasive Species Specialist Group (IUCN ISSG) as a rapporteur for SC1.
12. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda with amendment of order of some sub-items of the agenda (annex II). After self-introduction of members, including remotely participating members via Skype or Telephone, the Chair explained the role of the SC in accordance with the Operational Plan for the GIASI Partnership (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/34).
13. Briefly, the SC oversees the functioning of the Partnership and provides guidance on its coordination and activities of the Working Groups (WGs) to ensure implementation of the Operational Plan, especially the work plans of the WGs. The SC will also report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the work plan.

ITEM 3. ORGANIZATION OF THE GIASI PARTNERSHP

14. Mr. Chris Lyal, Chair of the interim SC explained the status of the WGs to date: (i) Information Gateway WG; (ii) Information Synthesis and Assessment WG (iii) Interoperability and Quality Improvement WG; and (iv) Best Practices and Non-web Information and Communication WG. He mentioned that the Taxonomy WG mentioned in the Operational Plan while having several members, did not have a Chair.. He also informed the SC that the interim SC which was established on the margins of COP11 It had an effective communication plan with monthly conference calls of the interim SC, wider Partnership and WG Chairs
15. The ex-officio members expressed their gratitude to the interim SC Chair for his continued efforts to engage all information providers and other organizations in the activities of the WGs over the first year of operation among the partners and beyond.
16. Mr. Piero Genovesi, IUCN-ISSG Chair explained to the SC that the foundation of the Partnership was conceived during a discussion at the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food”² held on 16-18 February 2011. At this meeting GBIF offered to organize a workshop of IAS information providers to facilitate sharing and provision of IAS information in a more collaborative manner. This workshop produced a joint work programme for the major IAS information providers to work in collaboration to assist Parties in making progress to achieve Target 9. The strong willingness of the information providers to collaborate on developing an information service for Parties and the development of the Joint Work Programme was informed to SBSTTA15. The European Union (EU) provided funds through the Secretariat of the CBD for further work to elaborate this Joint Work Plan and for the relevant organizations to develop an Operational Plan for the GIASI Partnership with a template of Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the SCBD and the information provider(s).
17. The ex-officio members of the SC (working groups chair/co-chairs) informed the SC of the ‘Technical Workshop for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership’ held in May 2013 with generous funding support from the EU. Plans of action were developed by each of the WGs including a plan to implement interoperable system in 2014 (UNEP/CBD/SBATTA/17/INF/11).
18. In response to decision XI/28, paragraph 20-22³ Secretariat of the CBD informed the SC that coordination role to facilitate implementation of the GIASI Partnership would be conducted by the GBIF Secretariat until COP12. .

² <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ais/ahteg-ias-02/official/ahteg-ias-02-sbstta-15-inf-01-en.doc>

³ Paragraph 20. *Recalling* paragraph 7 of decision X/38, welcomes the work of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to improve the interoperability of online databases and networks and facilitate the use of information necessary to conduct risk and/or impact assessments, and encourages Parties, Governments and relevant institutions and organizations to participate in developing interoperable information systems that can be used in developing early-detection and rapid-response systems;

paragraph 21. *Recognizing* the vital importance of access to accurate information on invasive alien species in developing indicators to monitor the progress of achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and the

need to maximize synergies among existing information services, welcomes the development of the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership to further the joint work programme to strengthen information services on invasive alien species, as a contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/34);

19. GBIF informed the SC that it has planned to organize a meeting just after this SBSTTA to review the plan of work, priorities and plan of action to deliver tools and data resources before SBSTTA18 and to present to COP 12. The meeting will be a good opportunity for the Partnership to work under the supervision by the SC to agree on priorities and implement the plans, subject to the availability of funding, in harmonized manner.
20. After discussion on positive contributions from the relevant partner organizations since the Partnership launching to date, the SC seconded the arrangement by the Executive Secretary for the Partnership coordination to be conducted by the GBIF as a feasible and appropriate way to facilitate the implementation of the intersessional work until COP12. It was stressed that the GBIF's role to make biodiversity information freely accessible on Internet is highly appreciated. It was also observed that the implementation of the operational plan of the Partnership further to the Joint Work Programme (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14) produced at the Copenhagen workshop in 2011 has been recognized by Parties and relevant organizations.

ITEM 4: ACTIVITIES OF THE GIASI PARTNERSHIP

21. The WGs representatives (ex-officio members of the SC) expressed that all partners are keen to implement, however, challenges remain in implementation of interoperability.
22. The SC further discussed on priority activities for the next four months (by February 2014) to be able to report the progress of implementation to SBSTTA18. Consensus at this meeting on priority work include:
 - (a) Enhancement of gateway which can be developed in collaboration between the NHM and IUCN ISSG;
 - (b) Implementation of inter-operability system with development of the central register in which the GBIF and NHM may take lead;
 - (c) Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) and Pathway management Resource, in which the IUCN ISSG may lead the activities with partners such as CABI, DAISIE, FishBase, IABIN- I3N.
23. The Best Practices and Non-web Information and Communication working group informed the SC that the relevant activities was not fully implemented due to limited time of partners. However, it was stressed that development of mobile telephone application to facilitate access non-web information has high potential impact on engaging civil society and implementers on the ground, particularly in the region where internet connection is limited (e.g. Eastern and Southern Africa). With wider interests of CABI in capacity development CABI is keen to work with the Partner organizations to facilitate use of CABI Invasive Species Compendium by Parties.
24. The SC further discussed additional activities to be conducted in the next four months:

paragraph

22. *Recognizing* also the progress made in developing the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership and its importance in addressing invasive alien species at national, regional and global levels, invites relevant organizations and experts in biological invasion and information science to participate in the Partnership, encourages Parties, other Governments and donors to provide financial support to implement the plan of work, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate its implementation.

(a) Notification to Parties and organizations to call for engagement with the GIASI Partnership (action by SCBD);

(b) In the context of Pyonchang roadmap for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 to be developed at COP12, call for attention of Parties on Target 9 is important. Preparation for COP12 . SCBD needs to consider this point in its preparation for COP12.

(c) Interoperability WG to create the planned central register is urged, taking into account that assessment on link to partners is needed and overlaps of data would also be needed to address. Regarding use cases of the interoperable system, Parties questions on invasive alien species need to be considered. The SC members, particularly representing Parties may provide suggestions on this matter.

(d) The GRIIS may contribute to develop an indicator for Target 9, for example, on the status of biological invasion at the national and regional levels. This may contribute to the online-reporting system for National Report that has been developed by the SCBD. The relevant working groups are invited to explore collaboration with SCBD to build a component on the online-reporting system for Target 9.

(e) Tools to support Parties to enable early detection and rapid responses would be urged. The SC recommends the Partner organizations are invited to take into account the outputs of SBSTTA17 on scientific and technical needs of Parties. Global tools customized to local conditions will be appreciated by Parties.

(f) Tools may also include materials to support Parties to develop appropriate national invasive species strategies and action plans as a part of NBSAPs or PoWPA action plans.

(g) Although it is a short notice, “Global Workshop on Reviewing Progress and Building Capacity for the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Revision Process”⁴ to be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 11 - 15 November 2013 is suggested by the Executive Secretary for the Partnership to support Parties to achieve Target 9 with invasive alien species information. CABI and IUCN East Africa are encouraged to participate in the event as leading Partner organizations of the GIASI Partnership.

25. The Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) introduced their recent work on listing invasive alien species in the region in collaboration with FAO and other organizations. The SC welcomed the APFISN to the GIASI Partnership and its immediate offer of collaboration to share the information.

ITME 4 OTHER MATTERS

26. An ex-officio member raised a question what is a difference between SC members and ex-officio members within the SC. The SC exchanged views on the different roles of the members. Some members of the SC interpreted “ex officio” to relate to nothing other than the basis on which the member is selected for membership in the SC, and others considered that the role of “ex officio”

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2013/ntf-2013-073-nbsap-en.pdf> Participation, Side-events and Exhibition Space at the Global Workshop on Reviewing Progress and Building Capacity for the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Revision Process Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 November 2013.

members was limited to ensuring good communication. It was recognized that further clarification was needed on this topic.

27. The SC felt that clear Terms of Reference for the SC were needed although documentation is not a primary purpose of this body. This will be followed up in the next four month of work by the SC.
28. The next SC meeting would be convened via telephone/skype and timing will be informed to the members of SC due course.

ITEM 5 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

29. The Co-chairs of the SC thanked for participation to all SC members, especially for those members who remotely joined members from different time zones. The meeting was closed at 10:00 p.m. on 15 October 2013.

Annex I

**List of Members of the Steering Committee for
the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership**

<p>Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias</p>	<p>The Executive Secretary Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 413 St-Jacques Street, Suite 800 Montreal, Canada braulio.dias@cbd.int</p>
<p>Mr. Donald Hobern</p>	<p>Executive Secretary The Global Biodiversity Information Facility Universitetsparken 15 DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø Denmark dhobern@gbif.org</p>
<p>Mr. Tshildzi Edward Netshithothole, on behalf of Mr. Sabino Meri Francis Ogwal, Uganda</p>	<p>Deputy Director International Biodiversity and Heritage Department of Environmental Affairs Private Bag X447 Pretoria 0001 South Africa enetshithothole@environment.gov.za</p>
<p>Mr Andrew Young, on behalf of Ms. Judith West, Australia</p>	<p>Director Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization CSIRO Plant Industry GPO Box 1600 Canberra ACT Australia andrew.young@csiro.au</p>
<p>Mr. David Morveley*</p>	<p>Invasive alien species specialist Small Island and Developing States SPREP PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa davidm@sprep.org</p>

<p>Ms. Melodie McGoch*</p>	<p>Assoc. Professor Faculty of Science Clayton Campus Monash University Victoria 3800 Australia melodie.mcgeoch@monash.edu</p>
<p>Mr. Piero Genovesi</p>	<p>Chair of IUCN Invasive Species Specialists Group Senior Scientist ISPRA Institute for Environmental Protection and Research Via V. Brancati 48 00144 Rome, Italy piero.genovesi@isprambiente.it</p>
<p>Mr. Christopher Lyal</p>	<p><i>ex-officio</i> Chair, Interim Steering Committee for the GIASI Partnership Life Sciences department Terrestrial Invertebrates Division Natural History Museum Cromwell Road London SW7 5BD C.lyal@nhm.ac.uk</p>
<p>Mr. Samy Gaiji</p>	<p><i>ex-officio</i> Interoperability and quality improvement working group Senior Programme Officer for Science & Scientific Liaison The Global Biodiversity Information Facility Universitetsparken 15 DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø Denmark sgaiji@gbif.org</p>
<p>Ms. Shyama Pagad</p>	<p><i>ex-officio</i> Information synthesis and assessment working group Program Manager Invasive Species Information Management University of Auckland Private Bag 92019</p>

	<p>Auckland 1142 New Zealand s.pagad@auckland.ac.nz</p>
Mr. Martin Parr	<p><i>ex-officio</i> interim Non-web based information and communication working group – at this meeting he represents CABI Programme Manager CABI Head Office Nosworthy Way Wallingford Oxfordshire OX10 8DE UK m.parr@cabi.org</p>
Ms. Junko Shimura	<p><i>ex-officio</i> Programme Officer for invasive alien species Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 413 St-Jacques Street, Suite 800 Montreal, Canada junko.shimura@cbd.int</p>

*participants who joined SC1 through conference call

Annex II

AGENDA AS ADOPTED

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Opening remarks by the Executive Secretary

2. Organizational matters

2.1 Selection of Co-chairs

2.2 Adoption of agenda

3. Organization of the GIASI Partnership

3.1 Operational Plan and report from interim Steering Committee Chair

3.2 Origin of the GIASI Partnership

3.3 Role of the Steering Committee

3.4 Coordination of the Partnership

4. Activities of GIASI Partnership

4.1 Progress during the period between COP11 and SBSTTA17

- Information Gateway
- Information Synthesis and analysis
- Interoperability
- Non-web information

4.2 Plan of activities for the working groups 2013-14

5. Other matters

5.1 Next meeting (virtual meeting)

6. Closure of meeting

Annex II

Agenda as adopted

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6. Closure of meeting

List of documents

- A Joint Work Programme to Strengthen Information Services on Invasive Alien Species as a Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 9” (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/14);
- Operational Plan for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI Partnership) (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/34);
- Progress report on the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/INF/11).