

GISP

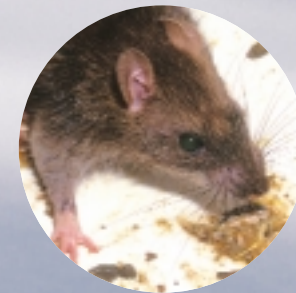
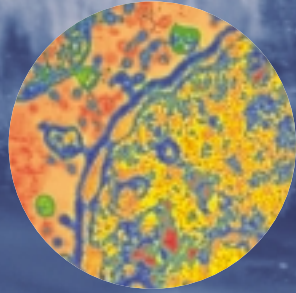
The Global Invasive Species Programme



The Ten Nations Initiative

for implementation of the
Global Strategy on
Invasive Alien Species

June 2005





The GISP Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

The GISP Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (2001) has ten elements:

- Build management capacity
- Build research capacity
- Promote sharing of information
- Develop economic policies and tools
- Strengthen national, regional and international legal and institutional frameworks
- Institute systems of environmental risk analysis
- Build public awareness and engagement
- Prepare national strategies and plans
- Build invasive species into global change initiatives
- Promote international cooperation to deal with the problems of invasive alien species

Over the past few years, GISP and its partners have made substantial progress in the implementation of some elements of this strategy at national, regional and global levels, and in certain key sectors. However, the series of regional workshops held under the auspices of GISP and its partners between 2001 – 2004 to evaluate the status of invasives and identify the needs of countries in those regions, made it frighteningly clear, that if these efforts are to have a significant global impact, the strategy needs to be implemented far more rapidly, and more effectively.

Context

Invasive alien species pose an enormous, and accelerating, cost to economies, societies, and ecosystems around the world. Conservative estimates of the direct costs for countries as diverse as India, Brazil, Australia and the USA run to billions of US dollars per country, per year. India, for example, has crop losses to insect pests alone estimated at \$ 16.8 billion/year. Additional costs are incurred as a consequence of, amongst other things, trade disruption, outbreaks of disease, or the indirect costs of ecosystem degradation, which reduces the capacity of natural capital assets to support economic activity. Moreover, globalization has become a “freight train” of biotic invasion, with the growth in global trade, transport and travel giving rise to ever more frequent incursions.

Over the past ten years, it has therefore become increasingly clear that **invasive species are not just an ecological, agricultural, or health problem**. They pose major constraints to development at national, regional and global level, and will compromise our ability to meet **Millennium Development Goals such as the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the combating of diseases, reduction of child mortality, and ensuring environmental sustainability**.

At the same time, there is mounting evidence that a modest investment of time and money on prevention, early detection and control of invasive species can significantly reduce, not only the economic impacts, but the amount needed to be spent on attempts at a “cure” – eradication, ongoing control and rehabilitation. Cost-benefit ratios for managing invasive species in the United States, for example, have been shown to range from 1/11.4 to 1/1659. On the other hand, it is also clear, given the cross-border nature of invasive species, that

there is limited advantage in isolated efforts at management, and that optimisation of these investments requires a collaborative approach.

In the past, invasive species management has been largely a sectoral and relatively low-key activity, with regulations for the protection of the environment, agriculture, or trade being included in a wide variety of legal instruments. The 1996 Norway/UN Conference on Alien Species, however, recognised the problem as “immense, insidious, increasing and irreversible”, and highlighted the urgent need for a global strategy and action plan. This call precipitated the establishment in 1997 of the **Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)**. GISP Phase I (1997 – 2000) saw the production of a number of ground-breaking publications, including a **Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species**, a comprehensive, ten-point plan to combat invasive species.

These and other initiatives served also to raise the profile of invasive species within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, where invasive alien species are recognised as a cross-cutting issue. Recent decisions of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity urge governments and organizations to build capacity to address invasive species, in the framework of biodiversity strategies and action plans, in accordance with a set of guiding principles, and with an emphasis on mainstreaming invasive species issues within broader national frameworks.

The Global Strategy developed by GISP, together with the relevant provisions and decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity provide a solid basis for collaboration in the fight against invasive species at all levels and across all sectors.



Purpose and aims of the Ten Nations Initiative

GISP was initially founded as a small, mainly voluntary partnership programme, by three international organizations: IUCN – The World Conservation Union, CAB International, and the UN's Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE). In addition to the Global Strategy, GISP Phase I (1997 – 2000) produced publications such as *The Economics of Biological Invasions* (Perrings et al, (eds) 2000); *A Guide to Designing Legal and Institutional Frameworks on Alien Invasive Species* (Shine et al, 2000) and *Invasive Alien Species: A Toolkit of Best Prevention and Management Practices* (Wittenberg and Cock, 2001).

The main focus of GISP Phase II (2001 – present) is to promote the implementation of the practical recommendations of these publications, thereby furthering the objectives of the Global Strategy and assisting countries to meet their obligations under Article 8 (h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The initial activities included the regional workshops mentioned above, which were intended both to assess the status of invasives in different regions across the globe, and to determine the needs of national governments with respect to IAS management. In a bid to strengthen this process, the World Bank (through its Development Grant Facility, and the Bank-Netherlands Partnership Programme) provided GISP with seed funding to set up and support a Secretariat for a period of 3 years (June 2003 – June, 2006).

Although the funds provided through the World Bank have been invaluable in establishing the small team of professionals that constitutes the Secretariat of GISP, they are temporary, and insufficient to implement even a modest portion of the Global Strategy. Additional funds are required both to escalate implementation of the strategy, and for the ongoing coordination of activities, with priorities including:

- building capacity at national, regional and international levels
- sharing of relevant information, especially on best management practice
- provision of technical support to developing countries
- the development of practical, science-based and up-to-date tools to guide decision-making and management



- promoting an integrated, holistic approach to IAS management, with an emphasis on prevention
- promoting closer collaboration across sectors at national, regional and global levels
- building awareness of the serious economic, health and environmental threats posed by invasive species.

The anticipated funds required for these activities are outlined in **Table 1**.

The purpose of the Ten Nations Initiative is to address these priorities by securing funding from ten or more forward-thinking nations, over a ten year timeframe. Given the political constraints of long-term commitments, the initiative would however, allow for a phased approach, in which countries could commit to only one phase at a time. The Ten Nations Initiative's five explicit aims are to:

1. raise a minimum of US\$1 million annually for ten years, to increase significantly the effectiveness and pace of the global response to the invasive species threat
2. demonstrate the commitment of lead nations to the goals of invasive species prevention and management and the minimization of ecological, economic and social impacts at national, regional and global levels
3. improve the sustainability of coordination efforts to strengthen the global response and support the implementation of Article 8(h) by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
4. significantly improve the ability of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to meet the 2010 biodiversity targets, and their own national targets, for invasive species management
5. highlight globally the diverse ecological, economic and social impacts of invasive species, and the potential advantages of investing in the prevention and management thereof.

Anticipated Outcomes

Outcomes would include:

- Increased ability of national governments to implement Article 8(h) of the Convention, to meet the 2010 biodiversity targets, and their own national targets
- Heightened awareness at all levels of the threats posed by IAS
- An improvement in strategies for the prevention of IAS introductions, and the application thereof, leading to a reduction in the number of incursions
- A reduction in the economic, health and environmental impacts of IAS
- Increased collaboration across sectors at national, regional and international levels.

Roles of participating countries

Countries participating in the Ten Nations Initiative could take one of several roles.

- **Core Partner Countries**, with either a once-off, cash contribution (minimum \$300,000) or, preferably, an annual cash commitment (minimum \$100 000 per year) for 3-10 years.
- **Associate Partner Countries**, with an annual commitment of \$50,000 consisting of a combination of cash (minimum \$10,000) and an in-kind annual commitment to some agreed avenue of activity which furthers implementation of the *Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species*.
- **Partners-in-Kind**, who cannot make an annual cash commitment, but who can commit resources to an agreed avenue of activity furthering implementation of the *Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species*, with specified outputs.



Benefits for Partner Countries in the Ten Nations Initiative

Invasive alien species are by definition a cross-border issue, and countries will continue to be seriously exposed to the threats of invasions as long as there is a lack of capacity to manage invasives in any one of their neighbours or trading partners. Support of the Ten Nations Initiative will allow the GISP Secretariat to continue its technical support to countries that are currently unable to effectively manage invasives, thereby enabling them, not only to meet their obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other treaties, but also to reduce the threat which they pose to others as a potential sources of invasives.

In addition, Governments who support the GISP and the implementation of the *Global Strategy* through the Ten Nations Initiative will receive the following:

- High-profile acknowledgement by GISP of Ten Nations Initiative core partnership funding, which illustrates the country's commitment to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Partner Countries in the Ten Nations Initiative will be acknowledged at a special event at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2006
- Acknowledgement in all programme publications – Government coat of arms and name, with other donors' and supporters' logos
- Copies of each publication produced by the GISP Secretariat
- Invitations to Government officials to take part in training and information workshops
- Invitations to Governments to host regional conferences or training workshops
- Information and decision support tools on invasive species to empower Governments to develop prevention, rapid response and other management programmes to deal with potential and current invasions
- Information on tender opportunities to be circulated nationally on work that is to be delivered through the Programme
- Greater international profile through which to leverage financing for national invasive species work.



Administration

In early 2005, GISP was legally constituted under South African law as a Voluntary Association, registered under the Nonprofit Organisations Act, 1997, and has tax-exempt status. Its Founding Members are IUCN, CAB International, The Nature Conservancy, and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). It has a formal Executive Board made up primarily of representatives of the Member Organisations, but with provision for additional members. The Board is responsible for overseeing the Programme, with SANBI, as the Host Member, providing day-to-day management and administrative support.

The current Secretariat was established in June, 2003 at Kirstenbosch Gardens in Cape Town, South Africa, and comprises a small team of professional and administrative staff, headed by a Director. The Director is an *ex officio*, non-voting member of the Board, accountable to them, and with delegated decision-making powers.

The Ten Nations Initiative will be managed by the Secretariat, under the supervision of the Executive Board, and in accordance with bilateral agreements reached between GISP and participating countries.

Timetable for action to secure the Ten Nations Initiative

Actions to be taken by GISP & potential TNI Partners	By whom	By when
Circulate draft concept note	GISP Secretariat	30 April 2005
Distribute final concept note and funding agreement to potential Partner Countries	GISP Secretariat	30 June 2005, ongoing
Follow-up discussions with potential Partner Countries	GISP Secretariat and Board	May – December, 2005
Confirmation of in-principle support by Partner Countries	Partner Countries	31 October 2005 ongoing
Signature of funding agreement by 50% of Partner Countries	GISP, Partner Countries	31 December 2005
Signature by remaining Partner Countries	GISP, Partner Countries	31 March 2006
Transfer of first tranche of funds	Partner Countries	1 Jan – 1 Sept 2006

For further information on the Ten Nations Initiative, contact:

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Table 1

Provisional Budget for implementation of the Global Strategy: 2006 - 2010

Anticipated Expenditure (US\$)	Y 2006	In hand or anticipated	Y2007	In hand or anticipated ^{1,2}	Y2008	Y2009	Y2010
Core staff costs	\$ 300,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 275,000		\$300,000	\$325,000	\$350,000
Office & travel costs	\$ 75,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000		\$ 85,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 95,000
Priority 1: Capacity building ²	\$ 650,000	\$ 580,000	\$2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Priority 2: Information sharing / technical support	\$ 230,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Priority 3: Development of management tools / Best Practice	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Priority 4 : Promoting prevention / holistic management ³	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Priority 5: Promoting international co-operation	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Priority 6: Building awareness	\$ 350,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000
Total funds required	\$ 2,105,000	\$ 995,000	\$ 3,505,000	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 3,535,000	\$ 3,565,000	\$ 3,595,000

1 Anticipated funds reflected in this column are from a GISP-UNEP-GEF project on Capacity Building and Awareness Raising which is currently in the pipeline. It is hoped that the PDF B will be completed in 2006, and the Full Project will commence in 2007. The amounts reflected here will be repeated for the 5 years of the project (i.e. 2007 – 2011). PDF B income and costs are reflected under 2006.

2 Incorporates Elements 1,2,5 and 8 of the Global Strategy.

3 Invasive species management includes prevention, early detection & rapid response, eradication, ongoing control and mitigation, and restoration. The most cost-effective approach, though, is to reduce the introduction of alien species by having rigorous prevention programmes in place. GISP therefore intends to place greater emphasis on enhancing prevention activities, especially in areas where there are currently gaps.



The GISP mission is to conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread and impact of invasive alien species (IAS).

The GISP Vision

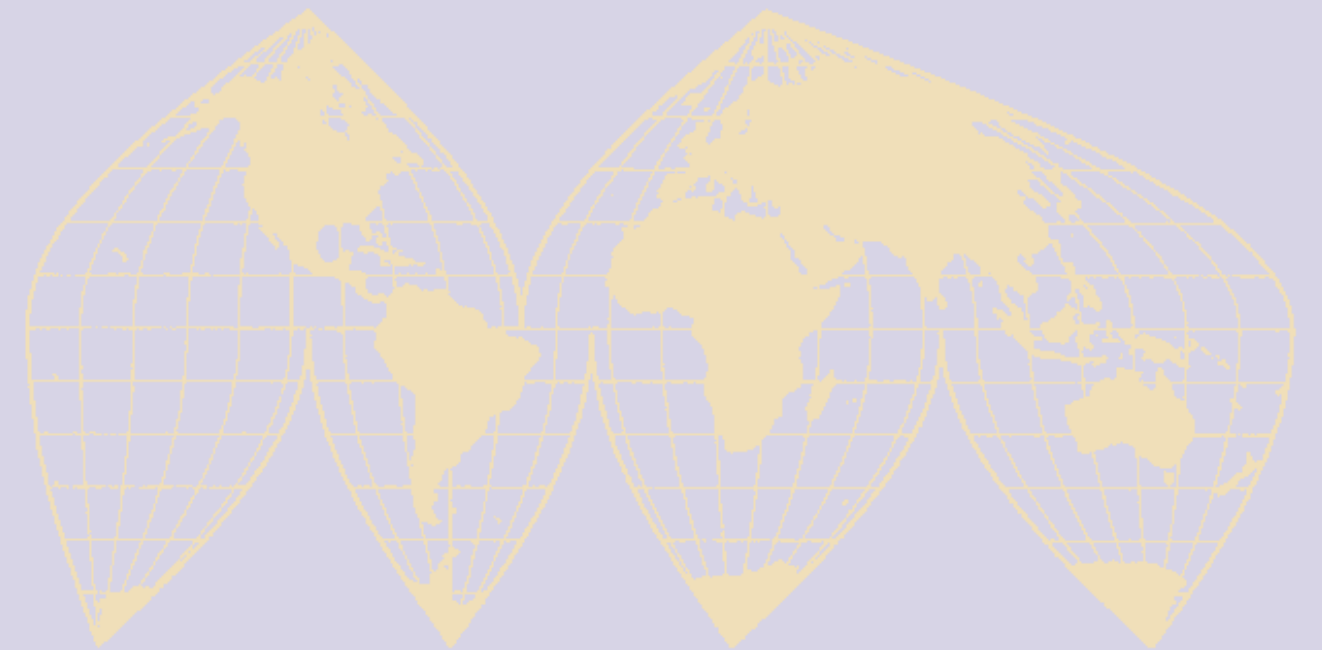
GISP seeks to

- improve the scientific basis for decision-making on invasive species
- develop capacities to employ early warning and rapid assessment and response systems
 - enhance the ability to manage invasive species
- reduce the socio-economic impacts of invasive species and control methods
 - develop better risk assessment methods, and
 - strengthen international agreements.

GISP strives to

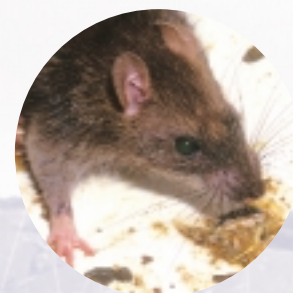
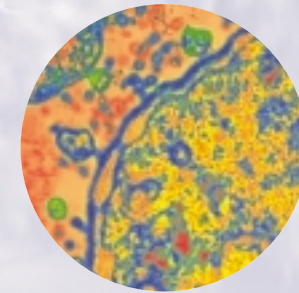
- develop public awareness and education about invasive species
 - improve understanding of the ecology of invasive species
- examine legal and institutional frameworks for controlling invasive species
- develop new codes of conduct for the movement of species, and
 - design tools for quantifying the impact of invasive species.

GISP



The Global Invasive Species Programme

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