



LET'S STAMP OUT  
INVASIVE SPECIES



# Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)

Annual Report

(1 January 2009 – 31 December 2009)

GISP's mission is to conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread and impact of invasive species

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## Acknowledgements

The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) is an international partnership dedicated to tackling the global threats of invasive species through policy development, awareness raising and information exchange. It is legally constituted as a Voluntary Association between four founding partner organisations: CABI, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). Without the generous technical, financial and logistical support provided by these partner organisations, GISP would not be operational and publication of GISP's 2009 Annual Report would not have been possible.

A number of key donors and development partners have also supported and invested in GISP during 2009, enhancing our achievements and increasing global impact. GISP hereby acknowledges the generous support of the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the auspices of the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) - 2010 Biological Indicators Partnership (BIP) Project, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) under the auspices of the Swedish International Biodiversity Programme (SwedBio)/Swedish Biodiversity Centre (CBM) and the University of Notre Dame, USA.



## Abbreviations & Acronyms

<b>BIP</b>	Biological Indicators Partnership	<b>NBII</b>	National Biodiversity Information Infrastructure, USA
<b>CABI</b>	CAB International	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity	<b>PIJAC</b>	Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
<b>CBM</b>	Swedish Biodiversity Centre	<b>SANBI</b>	South African National Biodiversity Institute
<b>CoE</b>	Council of Europe	<b>SBSTTA</b>	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
<b>COP</b>	Conference of Parties	<b>SCBD</b>	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CSIRO</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia	<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Agency
<b>DIVERSITAS</b>	An International Programme of Biodiversity Science	<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>DG</b>	Director General	<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
<b>EB</b>	Executive Board	<b>STDF</b>	Standards Trade and Development Facility
<b>ED</b>	Executive Director	<b>SwedBio</b>	Swedish International Biodiversity Programme
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organisation	<b>TNC</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>GAO</b>	GISP Affiliate Organisation	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>GAP</b>	Gender Action Plan	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>USGS</b>	United States Geological Survey
<b>GISIN</b>	Global Invasive Species Information Network	<b>UWC</b>	University of the Western Cape
<b>GISP</b>	Global Invasive Species Programme	<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>GISP Sec</b>	Secretariat of the Global Invasive Species Programme	<b>WCMC</b>	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
<b>GMT</b>	GISP Management Team	<b>WfW</b>	Working for Water, South Africa
<b>GPO</b>	GISP Partner Organisation	<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation
<b>GSPC</b>	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation		
<b>IABIN</b>	Inter American Biodiversity Information Network		
<b>IAS</b>	Invasive Alien Species		
<b>ICAO</b>	International Civil Aviation Organisation		
<b>IGO</b>	Intergovernmental Organisation		
<b>IH</b>	Horus Institute for Environmental Conservation and Development		
<b>MO</b>	International Maritime Organisation		
<b>IOI</b>	International Ocean Institute		
<b>IPBES</b>	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services		
<b>ISAC</b>	Invasive Species Advisory Committee		
<b>I3N</b>	IABIN Invasives Information Network		
<b>ISSG</b>	Invasive Species Specialist Group (of IUCN's Species Survival Commission)		
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature		
<b>JGWP</b>	Joint Global Work Programme		
<b>LOA</b>	Letter of Agreement		
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding		
<b>NISC</b>	National Invasive Species Council		



## Foreword



**Dr William Jackson**, Chairman  
of the Executive Board, Global  
Invasive Species Programme (GISP)

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the role of Chairman of the Board of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) in September 2009. I have had a long association with GISP and am very much aware of its history and influence in the international invasive species arena. The impacts of invasive species on biodiversity have grown dramatically in the last decade although for a variety of reasons, the influence of GISP has not always kept pace. In taking on this responsibility, I am determined to return GISP to the forefront of global efforts to address the spread and impact of invasive species.

2009 was a turning point for GISP, due in no small way to the efforts of the Executive Director and the quiet support of the GISP Partner Organisations and Management Team. This report reflects our growing interactions with agencies involved in the struggle against biological invasion and the new GISP logo demonstrates our determination to make a difference. 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and quite simply, if we are to stem biodiversity loss significantly, we must address biological invasions at local, national and global levels.

## Executive Summary

GISP is an international, not-for-profit partnership dedicated to tackling the global threat of invasive species, whose global impacts cost at least US\$ 1.4 trillion annually. Established in response to the first international meeting on invasive species held in Trondheim, Norway in 1996, GISP aims to provide policy support to international agreements of relevance to invasive species, specifically Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and build knowledge on and raise awareness of the threats posed by invasive species globally. GISP's Goal is that by 2020, a majority of countries will have the necessary policies in place to implement their national biosecurity strategies and action plans. The Annual Report contained herein provides a record of GISP's achievements in 2009 and ensures transparency and accountability.

2009 was never going to be an easy year for GISP starting, as it did, in the absence of any core funding from external donors. Nonetheless, it proved to be a particularly exciting year, in which considerable progress was made towards achieving its goal, new project funding was secured, new partnerships were developed and new reports were published. GISP welcomed a new Chairman of its Executive Board, Dr William Jackson (Deputy Director General of IUCN) and 2009 culminated in the recruitment of GISP's new Policy Director, a new GISP presence in Washington DC and the publication of a groundbreaking scientific paper on global indicators of biological invasion, to widespread media acclaim.

Other highlights included a celebration of International Biodiversity Day (22 May), which in 2009 focussed on invasive alien species, embarking on an exciting new World Bank-funded project on mainstreaming gender into invasive species management, jointly organising an international conference on biological invasions in Fuzhou, China and initiating a process to identify the linkages between climate change and invasive species. GISP published a new 'Best Practices Manual', collaborated in the production of scientific papers and newsletters, and gave presentations at a number of key international fora of relevance to invasive species. GISP also continued to provide policy support to the CBD Parties and Secretariat on issues specific to invasive species as well as the broader post-2010 CBD strategic Plan.

Looking ahead to 2010 and the United Nations declared, 'International Year of Biodiversity', there will never be a more crucial year for bringing the issue of invasive species and the enormous threat they pose to biodiversity, to the fore in the minds of policy-makers, media and the general public, alike. GISP will be focussing its attention on invasive species on islands and exploring the links between climate change and invasive species in more depth. In the run-up to the CBD's 10th Conference of Parties in Nagoya, Japan (October 2010), there are numerous preparatory meetings to which GISP has been invited to contribute and/or co-host including, the 6th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity (February 2010), 'Helping Islands Adapt – a workshop on regional action to combat invasive species', in Auckland, New Zealand (April 2010) and the CBD's 14th Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Nairobi, Kenya (May 2010). At the same time, fundraising will continue to be a major priority for GISP in 2010. While GISP has made enormous progress towards its goal and some pledges of core funding have been received, there continue to be significant funding challenges for this small, fledgling programme on invasive species!

## GISP Executive Board

Dr William Jackson, Chairman  
 Dr Dennis Rangi, CABI Representative  
 Dr Jane Smart, IUCN Representative  
 Dr Frank Lowenstein, TNC Representative  
 Dr Tanya Abrahamse, SANBI Representative  
 Dr Junko Shimura, CBD Representative  
 Dr Sarah Simons, Secretary (Ex Officio)  
 Dr Arne Witt, CABI Representative (Alternate)  
 Dr Geoffrey Howard, IUCN Representative (Alternate)  
 Dr Doria Gordon, TNC Representative (Alternate)  
 Mr Morris Akiri, Finance Director  
 Dr Mark Lonsdale, DIVERSITAS Representative

## GISP Management Team

Dr Sarah Simons, Executive Director  
 Dr Stas Burgiel, Policy Director  
 Dr Geoffrey Howard, Director  
 Dr Doria Gordon, Director  
 Dr Adnan Awad, Director  
 Dr Piero Genovesi, ISSG  
 Dr Sergio Zalba, Gruppo Gekko  
 Mr Morris Akiri, Finance Director  
 Dr Arne Witt, Director  
 Dr Junko Shimura, Director  
 Dr Silvia Ziller, Regional Director & Instituto Horus  
 Dr Andy Shepperd, CSIRO  
 Dr Annie Simpson, GISIN  
 Mr Martin Cocks, GISP Webmaster



## About GISP



Burmese pythons (*Python molarus bivittatus*), could squeeze the lower third of the USA (USA Today, Feb 2008)

GISP is an international, not-for-profit partnership dedicated to tackling the global threat of invasive species. Established in response to the first international meeting on invasive species held in Trondheim in 1996 (Sandlund et al., 1999), GISP provides support to international agreements of relevance to invasive species, specifically Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and builds knowledge on and raises awareness of the threats posed by invasive species globally.

Following its launch, GISP made significant progress towards implementing specific elements of its global strategy (McNeely et al., 2001) and contributed extensively to the knowledge and awareness of invasives. Then, in 2008, acknowledging the growing capacity and changing needs of its stakeholders and target beneficiaries, GISP's Executive Board refocused and simplified its Global Strategy (GISP, 2008) to reposition GISP as an international science-policy platform for addressing invasive species, thereby ensuring greater impact and sustainability in the next decade, and beyond!

GISP's Goal is that by 2020, a majority of countries will have the necessary policies in place to implement their national biosecurity strategies and action plans. GISP pursues this goal through implementation of its global strategy, with three overarching objectives on policy development, awareness raising and information exchange. Activities are co-ordinated from a Secretariat (GISP Sec) with offices in Nairobi and Washington DC, headed by GISP's Executive Director. Day-to-day support is provided by GISP's Management Team comprising Directors and Liaison Officers from GISP's Partner and Affiliate Organisations located around the world, thereby ensuring GISP is responsive to the needs of different sectors and has a global outreach. GISP has a mandate for addressing invasive species under the CBD and is a crosscutting network of Diversitas International.

## About Invasive Species

Invasive Species<sup>1</sup> cost at least US\$ 1.4 trillion annually – close to 5% GDP (Pimental et al., 2001)! They pose the biggest single threat to food security and human health, the 2nd biggest threat to biodiversity globally (and in many ecosystems, notably Small Island Developing States, the greatest threat), and constitute a major constraint to economic development. Climate change is widely predicted to exacerbate the costs and impacts of invasive species resulting inevitably, in even greater threats to food security, health and biodiversity. In short, they are one of the greatest threats to the environmental and economic well-being of our planet!

Invasive species are not a new issue - farmers have been fighting weeds since the beginnings of agriculture (McNeely, 2001) and throughout history, epidemics of exotic human diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, typhus, and bubonic plague have been recorded (Elton, 1958). CABI, one of GISP's partner organisations, has been managing invasive pests and diseases effectively for the past 100 Years! Yet it was just over 50 years ago that the term 'invasive species' was first coined and the cross-sectoral nature of the threat was finally brought to the world's attention by publication of, *The Ecology of Invasions by Animals and Plants* (Elton, 1958) - widely recognized as the starting point for focussing global attention on biological invasions.

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<sup>1</sup>Invasive species are plants, animals or micro-organisms whose introduction and/or spread into a new ecosystem threatens biodiversity, food security, human health, trade, transport and/or economic development (GISP, 2008)

## Introduction to 2009

2009 was never going to be an easy year for GISP! Following on from a year of considerable upheaval in 2008, which saw the relocation of the GISP Secretariat from one country to another, the appointment of a new Executive Director and the development of a new Global Strategy (GISP, 2008), little time remained for the all-important activity of fundraising. As such, GISP commenced 2009 rather ominously, in the absence of any core funding from external donors. This, coinciding as it did, with the global recession, did little to improve GISP's prospects. Then, when in February, one of GISP's Partner Organisations disbanded its entire Invasive Species Team, resulting in the sudden and unexpected departure of two Board Members and a GMT Representative, GISP's prospects for surviving 2009 and tackling the ever-increasing threat of invasive species, looked particularly bleak!

As the saying goes, 'things could only get better', and indeed they did! 2009, was the first full year of implementing GISP's new Global Strategy (2008-2010), and proved to be a particularly exciting year, in which GISP made considerable progress towards achieving its goal. New project funding was secured, new partnerships were developed and new reports were published. In September, GISP welcomed a new Chairman, Dr William Jackson, who took over from Dr Dennis Rangi (Executive Director of CABI), after he had served a maximum of two consecutive and highly successful terms. 2009 culminated in the recruitment of GISP's new Policy Director, Dr Stas Burgiel, the return of a GISP presence in Washington DC, and publication of a groundbreaking scientific paper on global indicators of biological invasion (McGeoch et al., 2010), to widespread media acclaim.

In the absence of significant amounts of core funding in 2009, without the generous technical, financial and logistical support provided by GISP's international partner organisations, none of these achievements would have been possible. CABI, IUCN and TNC made a combined cash contribution of nearly US\$ 100,000 (plus an equivalent of in-kind funding) during 2009, which together with the funding provided by SwedBio/CBM, constituted the core support to GISP. Project funding from the World Bank, UNEP/GEF under the auspices of the UNEP-WCMC 2010 BIP Project and from the University of Notre Dame, USA, also provided valuable additional support to GISP's activities during the course of the year.

Looking ahead to 2010 and the United Nations declared, 'International Year of Biodiversity', there will never be a more crucial year for bringing the issue of invasive species, and the enormous threat they pose to biodiversity, to the fore in the minds of policy-makers, media and the general public, alike. GISP has already received some pledges of core funding but it remains to be seen whether the current global economic climate and its corresponding impacts on partners and collaborators are too great a challenge for a small, fledgling programme on invasive species!



There are hundreds of species of Tarantulas, some of which are invasive.

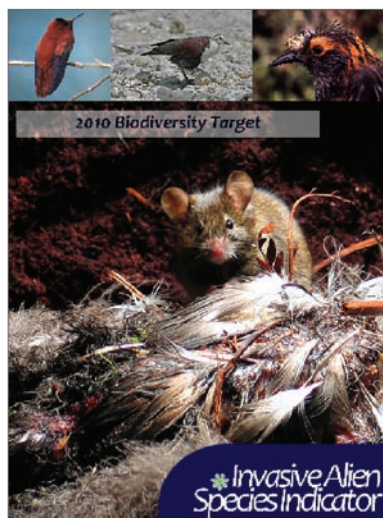


Dr Stas Burgiel, who is based in Washington DC was recruited as GISP's new Policy Director in October 2009.



## Highlights of 2009

### 1st Global Invasive Species Indicator Published



A GISP publication on the 2010 BIP indicator, Trends on Invasive Alien Species has for the first time highlighted the status and impact of invasive alien species. The publication "Global indicators of biological invasion: species numbers, biodiversity impact and policy responses", looked at 57 countries and found that, on average, there are 50 non-indigenous species per country which have a negative impact on biodiversity.

Following the launch of the UNEP-WCMC 2010 BIP Project in 2007 and as a key indicator partner in the project, GISP has been busy leading the development and implementation of global indicator(s) for invasive species within the context of the CBD's 2010 Biodiversity Target. In a highly successful collaboration including the Centre for Invasion Biology (CIB) at the University of Stellenbosch, IUCN and BirdLife International, the combined team effort delivered some impressive results in 2009. A number of technical reports and papers on the status of alien species, on trends in invasive species-related international agreements and on conventions and other headline indicators were published, as well as newsletters and presentations at key international fora on invasive species (McGeoch & Spear, 2009; McGeoch et al., 2009; Spear et al., 2009a,b; UNEP-WCMC, 2009).

In one report, prepared for GISP by Birdlife International and IUCN, Red List Indices for invasive species' impacts, were investigated. The study demonstrated the magnitude of the threat to biodiversity, with the percentage of threatened species impacted by invasive species ranging from 33% for birds, to 16% for mammals, and 28% for amphibians (Butchart et al., 2009).

Of particular note, however, was the joint publication of two scientific papers.

The first, entitled, 'Tracking progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity target and beyond', was published in Science (Walpole et al., 2009) and, just as 2009 was drawing to a close, a second, groundbreaking paper, 'Global indicators of biological invasion: species numbers, biodiversity impact and policy responses' (McGeoch et al., 2010)! Presenting for the first time, global indicators for invasive species to improve quantification of progress towards the CBD 2010 and post-2010 Targets, GISP organised a Press Release to announce publication of the paper and the item was picked up by news agencies around the world.



2010 BIP Project Newsletter Edition 4 focused on the development of indicators for invasive species, led by GISP. <http://www.twentyten.net/>

### Celebrating International Biodiversity Day (22 May)

As in previous years, GISP has continued to lend support to the UN declared, International Biodiversity Day (IBD), celebrated on 22 May each year. 2009 was particularly poignant for GISP as the focus of IBD was on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) as a threat to global biodiversity. Many Parties to the CBD together with IGOs and NGOs around the world used this opportunity to raise awareness of the issue and increase practical action to tackle the problem. To mark the occasion GISP, CABI, IUCN and UNEP joined forces in Kenya to support an exhibition hosted by the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and to hold a press conference on invasive species. GISP also provided publicity materials and inputs to a number of similar events, which took place in more than 160 countries around the world.



### Mainstreaming Gender into Invasive Species Management

At the start of 2009, with funding from the World Bank, GISP embarked on an exciting new project on, 'Mainstreaming gender into the prevention and management of invasive species'. A study was undertaken by representatives of the GMT in CABI Africa, examining impacts and control of invasive species from a gender perspective, incorporating a literature review, key informant interviews, field work in Ethiopia and information from an ongoing UNEP/GEF-funded, CABI/IUCN-executed project, 'Removing barriers to invasive plant management in Africa'. In common with other issues in natural resource management, taking a gender perspective on invasive species can improve understanding of the problem, increase the effectiveness of the prevention and management of invasives and contribute to social equality. Gender differences in the impacts of two important invasives, *Parthenium hysterophorus* and *Prosopis juliflora* were observed in Ethiopia, arising out of the different



GMT Representative, Dr Arne Witt (left) posing as an invasive together with the Hon John Michuki, Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources; and Dr Dennis Rangi (right), immediate past Chairman of GISP and current GISP Board Representative, celebrating International Biodiversity Day (22 May)



roles and responsibilities of men and women. For *P. hysterophorus*, which is seen by almost everyone as undesirable, these differences may be less important than for *P. juliflora*, which has some uses as well as negative impacts. Men, for example, often view *P. juliflora* as being more useful than women, and such gender differences are thus particularly important to understand for these so-called, "conflict species". The study found that much of the research and implementation on the prevention and management of invasives, with the notable exception of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in agriculture, has been gender-blind. This is partly due to the generally slow progress in mainstreaming of gender in environmental management. In Africa, decision-making and policy regarding invasives is often confused, and based on inaccurate or insufficient data. Disaggregating data and information on invasive species by gender may further complicate the picture, but should be undertaken as a matter of efficiency and effectiveness, as well as equity. The study concluded that GISP is well placed to promote gender mainstreaming in regard to the policy and practice of the prevention and control of invasive species.

### Screening Live Animals in Trade

In response to a decision from CBD COP8 that highlights the lack of international guidance for addressing potential risks of animals that are not plant pests, i.e., species used in aquaculture/mariculture, and pets, aquarium and live bait species, GISP together with the SCBD, the ISSG of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC), the University of Notre Dame and Defenders of Wildlife, jointly organised a workshop on 'Pre-import risk screening for species of live animals in international trade'. The workshop was hosted and co-sponsored by the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, USA (9-11 April 2008) and culminated in a CBD information document (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/32/Add.1), together with a Rapporteur's Report of the workshop, published in January 2009. GISP subsequently used these documents as a basis for developing and publishing guidelines on 'Best Practices in Pre-import Risk Screening for species of live animals in International Trade' (Simons & De Poorter, 2009). The publication, which is available in hard copy from the GISP Secretariat or can be downloaded from GISP's Website ([www.GISP.org](http://www.GISP.org)), is viewed as being a first step towards addressing the lack of international guidance on this issue. This preliminary work will be followed up in 2010 with side events at CBD SBSTTA14 in May 2010 and possibly a joint CBD/GISP, Ad hoc Technical Expert Group meeting to be convened later in the year.

### International Congress on Biological Invasions

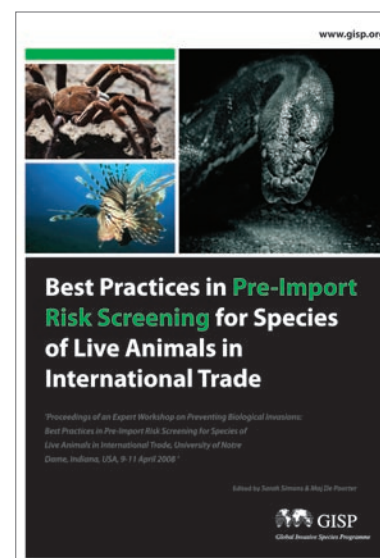
Throughout 2009, GISP contributed to the International organising and scientific committees, and subsequently participated in the 1st International Congress on Biological Invasions (ICBI) held in Fuzhou, China (2nd- 6th November 2009). The event was declared an 'overwhelming success' by more than 500 participants from 44 countries. ICBI 2009 concluded with unanimous support for the, 'Fuzhou Declaration', which has 3 main outcomes:

1. Calls on Governments, International Organisations and Conventions to reaffirm their commitment to implementing Article 8h of the CBD.
2. Establishes an International Expert Group on Biological Invasions to provide scientific, technical and policy guidance to ICBI.
3. Recommends that ICBI becomes a regular international event on biological invasions (4-year interval).

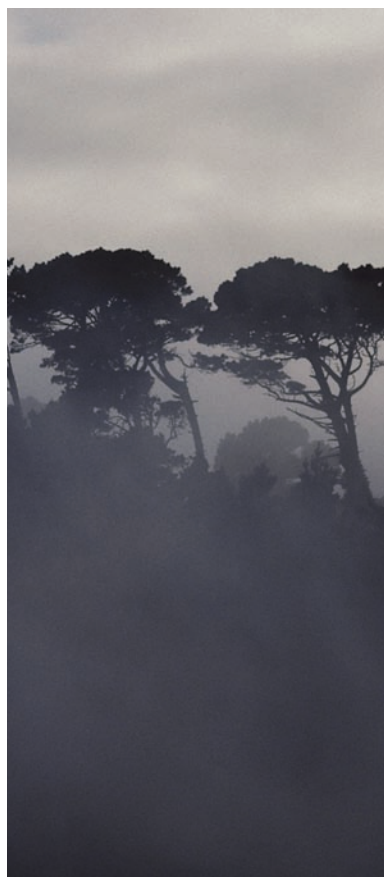
GISP is currently working in partnership with other symposia conveners at ICBI to prepare a proceedings of the event, which will be published in 2010 as a Special Issue of the journal, *Biological Invasions*, under the guidance of its Editor-in-Chief, Dan Simberloff of the University of Tennessee, USA.



Gender differences in the impacts of two important invasives, *Parthenium hysterophorus* and *Prosopis juliflora* were observed in Ethiopia, arising out of the different roles and responsibilities of men and women.



Opening ceremony: Dr Gary Whitfield, Chair of CABI's Executive Council, CABI Board Member & Science Director, Agriculture & Agri-food, Canada



## Developing Invasive Species Policy

2009 has been another busy year for GISP in terms of developing policy and preparing policy documents on invasive species. In preparation for upcoming discussions in 2010 on invasive alien species, GISP worked in close conjunction with the SCBD to identify a strategic path for moving the issue through the CBD's scientific body (SBSTTA14) and into COP10 scheduled for October 2010. Such efforts included participating in the CBD's International Liaison Group on invasive species, participating in the CBD's liaison group on the global strategy for plant conservation, contributing to the Project Development Workshop on invasive species under the CBD's Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), assisting in the preparation of a chapter on biological indicators in the CBD's Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (scheduled to be launched in May 2010 during CBD SBSTTA14), focussing on next steps in developing guidance around the international trade in live animals (e.g., pet trade, live bait and fish food, internet trade) and providing inputs to the draft SBSTTA14 documents on invasive species.

GISP also worked in close collaboration with the SCBD on the incorporation of invasive alien species into the broader set of objectives and targets for the Convention beyond 2010. To this end, GISP participated in a series of expert meetings and conferences held around the world to facilitate the development of the CBD Post-2010 Framework and Strategic Plan (Targets and Indicators).

At the European level, GISP engaged with the Bern Convention's Group of Experts on IAS during 2009. The "Bern Convention" is the short and informal name given to the, 'Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat' - a regional treaty negotiated by the Council of Europe (CoE) in the late 1970s. One of the main products of the Group was the European Strategy on IAS, which was adopted in 2003 and is the result of collaboration between the CoE and one of GISP's partner organizations, IUCN. The group of experts meets every two years to check progress in implementation and propose new ideas. GISP was invited to participate in the 8th meeting, which was held in Brijuni, Croatia, 5th-7th May 2009 and to present a global perspective on invasive species to the 'group of experts'.

During 2009, GISP started hosting a new Database on Invasive Species Policy and Global Environmental Governance Developed by Dr Peter Stoett, Associate Professor and Chair of Department of Political Science at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, and his team; with sponsorship provided by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Peter and his team recognised the vital role of policy co-ordination in tackling invasive species! Since international efforts to co-ordinate policy formulation and to measure outcomes must be based on adequate information, they developed this database to provide awareness of invasive species policy frameworks in countries ranging from Albania to Zimbabwe! While there are several databases devoted to the identification and description of invasive species, there are few databases which explicate the policies that have been developed to combat them. GISP is currently looking for additional contributions to the database.

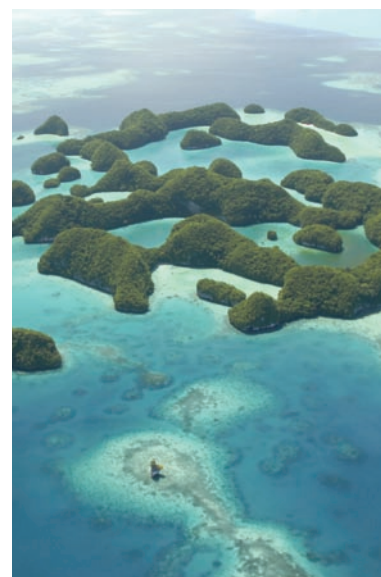
## Building Island Capacity to Address Invasives and Climate Change

Building on work initiated by one of GISP's Partner Organisations, TNC, GISP has taken a key role in working with the Government of New Zealand on preparations for "Helping Islands Adapt - A Workshop on Regional Action to Combat Invasive Species", which will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, 12th-16th April 2010. This initially involved the organisation of an event with a number of government agencies from New Zealand and the USA at the 17th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in May in New York. GISP has also developed a regional mapping of major invasive species initiatives and organisations in the Caribbean, Europe, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific, which is serving as a core document for the broader planning process. At the close of 2009 and moving into 2010, GISP has been working closely with the Global Island Partnership on how to use this process to leverage broader support under the CBD and other international processes including the UN review of the Mauritius strategy of implementation related to small island developing states.

In October 2009, CABI's regional office in the Caribbean convened the inception meeting for a new, UNEP/GEF-funded project on invasive species in the insular Caribbean. The project, which is led by CABI, involves the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. GISP participated in the inception work to provide guidance particularly on the development of broader national policies and frameworks, as well as potential linkages to opportunities at the regional and international levels. Building on the meeting's results, GISP now serves on its advisory panel and will likely play a role in facilitating the development of regional strategies specific focused on the marine, freshwater and terrestrial habitats. In a related effort, TNC convened the second meeting of its Florida/Caribbean Invasive Species and Fire Learning Network in Puerto Rico in December 2009. GISP participated as an advisor to promote links with other regional efforts and to provide input on the particular projects and strategies under development by the different teams. The effort includes the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and southern and central Florida.

## Biofuels Becoming Invasive

Until now, the issue of ways to reduce the risk of biofuel crops becoming invasive and outcompeting native species has received little attention but this is about change. Following on from two successful workshops organised and hosted by one of GISP's Partner Organisations, IUCN Invasive Species Initiative based in the IUCN Regional Office in Nairobi and the Business and Biodiversity Programme of IUCN, in collaboration with GISP in Nairobi, Kenya, and a period of wider public consultation, IUCN has published the groundbreaking, 'Guidelines on Biofuels and Invasive Species' (IUCN, 2009). The initial workshop, held in April 2009, focussed on incorporating invasive species concerns into the wider issue of managing biodiversity risks of biofuels projects, specifically avoiding, mitigating and managing the risks of invasion posed by commercial scale biofuel developments in Africa. The workshop convened experts from regional governments, plant protection organisations, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector to identify risks along the biofuel production and supply chain and weaknesses with current regulations. The workshop was used to develop a framework for guidelines for the prevention and management of invasion related to biofuel developments. A follow-up workshop was held in October 2009 to discuss the first workshop's findings with other stakeholders (e.g., the private sector and other government agencies), to further refine the guidelines and ensure that the text was consistent with broader efforts under the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels. The guidelines outline step-by-step recommendations for how to minimise risks of biological invasions along the biofuels supply chain.



The Pacific islands of Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia and Hawaii have all experienced the devastating impact of invasive species, disrupting delicate ecosystems and the communities which depend on the natural resources they provide. Seabird populations have been threatened by invasive ants, snakes and rats. Agriculture has been affected by the introduction of new crop diseases and smothering weeds. Mosquitoes and African snails carry pathogens which can be harmful to both people and animals. All aspects of island life have been impacted, from the economy to the environment.



IUCN, one of GISP's Partner Organisations has published groundbreaking, 'Guidelines on Biofuels and Invasive Species' (IUCN, 2009). Until now, the issue of ways to reduce the risk of biofuel crops becoming invasive and outcompeting native species has received little attention.



A growing number of voices from the scientific and practitioner communities are highlighting the linkages between invasive species and management in ecosystem-based adaption approaches to climate change.

## Invasives and Climate Change

Global attention focused on climate change in 2009, beginning with a Scientific Congress on Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions held in March to which GISP contributed and culminating in COP15, the UN Conference on Climate Change, in December, both held in Copenhagen, Denmark. During these processes (and throughout many intervening preparatory meetings held around the world), GISP identified a growing number of voices from the scientific and practitioner communities highlighting the linkages between climate change and invasive species. In response, GISP initiated a process to identify the broad themes of this debate and to identify potential policy avenues for moving forward. This effort resulted in a white paper circulated for comment on the role of invasive species management in ecosystem-based adaption approaches to climate change. The results were also highlighted by GISP in a keynote presentation at a meeting of the U.S. Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC)/National Invasive Species Council (NISC) in Washington DC in December. Participation in this meeting has subsequently led to further engagement with ISAC and NISC on the issue, as well as engagement by the World Bank to develop a more detailed report in 2010.

GISP was also invited to participate in an event on Climate Change and Agricultural Trade: Risks and Responses, which was jointly organised by World Bank's Development Research Group and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), and held at the World Bank in Washington D.C. on 22-23 September 2009. [STDF is a joint initiative in capacity building and technical cooperation, which aims to raise awareness on the importance of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, increase coordination in the provision of SPS-related assistance, and mobilise resources to assist developing countries enhance their capacity to meet SPS standards]. The event focussed on key issues related to climate change, its effects on agriculture trade, and the regulatory reforms that will likely be necessary to adapt to these changes, specifically how climate change may require countries to upgrade their SPS systems in order to deal with emerging challenges. As a follow-up to this meeting, GISP has been invited to participate in a STDF Working Group meeting in 2010 to make a presentation on GISP and the interface between invasive species and trade.

## Expanding into the USA

Building on its new physical presence in North America, GISP broadened its outreach to the US invasive species community with a particular focus on federal agencies, scientific experts and NGOs active on the subject. As has been previously mentioned, this increased links and the exchange of information with the US National Invasive Species Council as well as with experts throughout the mid-Atlantic, Florida, New York and Washington State. One key area of engagement was participation in the Aquatic Invasive Species Vector Management Workshop held in December in Baltimore. This meeting provided an opportunity to link some of GISP's work under the CBD on the international trade in live animals with guidance being developed by practitioners at the local level. This participation has also given rise to a number of discussions with interested partners on addressing marine invasive species and an invitation to participate in a workshop on that topic in Alaska in 2010.



## Overview of activities related to GISP's objectives in 2009

### I. Facilitate the development, adoption and implementation of science-based policies and governance systems.

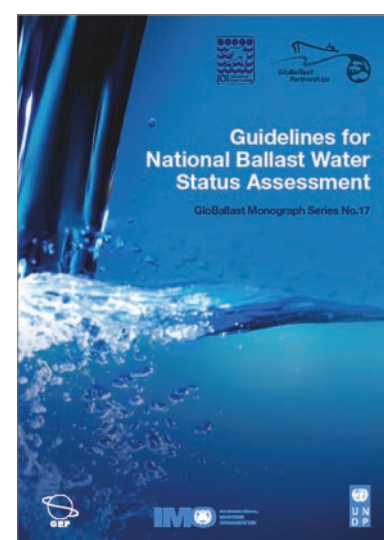
- Provided ongoing policy support to the SCBD including assisting in the preparation of documents for SBSTTA and COP, and participating in the CBD's International Liaison Groups and project development workshops.
- Worked with the SCBD to incorporate invasive alien species into the targets and indicators of the CBD's post-2010 Strategic Plan.
- Contributed to the Science Committee of Diversitas International at their meetings in February and October 2009.
- Worked with the Government of New Zealand to prepare for a workshop in 2010, 'Helping Islands Adapt – A regional workshop to Combat Invasive Species'.
- Contributed to the development of IUCN's Guidelines on biofuels and invasive species.
- Prepared a briefing paper on the role of invasive species management in ecosystem-based adaption approaches to climate change.
- Provided policy inputs to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee of the US National Invasive Species Council.
- Provided guidance on national policies and frameworks to the inception meeting for a new UNEP/GEF-funded project on invasive species in the insular Caribbean.

### II. Raise awareness of threats posed by, and solutions for addressing the issue.

- Designed and disseminated two new fundraising posters for GISP.
- Contributed to the Scientific Congress on Climate Change held in Copenhagen, 10-12 March 2009 (<http://climatecongress.ku.dk/pdf/synthesisreport>).
- Produced and circulated Press Releases on key aspects of GISP's work on invasive species.
- Celebrated International Biodiversity Day (22 May).
- Gave presentations on GISP and more broadly, invasive species, as requested at a range of key international and regional fora.

### III. Promote the exchange of information for broader uptake by decision-makers.

- Co-ordinated the development and implementation of global indicators for invasive species under the auspices of the 2010BIP project.
- Published a 'Best practices manual' on Pre-import risk screening for species of live animals.
- Co-organised and participated in the International Conference on Biological Invasions, Fuzhou, China.
- Hosted a new database on invasive species policy and global environmental governance, developed by collaborators at Concordia University, Canada.
- Participated in and contributed to Council of Europe - Bern Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species 8th Meeting, Brijuni, Croatia.
- Participated in the second meeting of the Caribbean/Florida Invasive Species and Fire Learning Network organised by TNC, Puerto Rico, USA.
- Initiated and received almost daily exchanges with the GISP team in Nairobi, Washington and Brazil which, together, responded to many email requests for information from GISP.





- Promoted links between national, regional and international initiatives on invasives species.
- Co-sponsored publication of Guidelines for National Ballast Water Status Assessment.

#### Other activities undertaken during 2009

- Provided guidance to a World Bank-funded project on mainstreaming gender into invasive species management.
- Facilitated the development of a new concept note entitled, 'Preparedness for the threat of biological invasions to food security in East Africa', which has since been submitted to the World Bank and is currently under consideration.
- Continued collaborating in the development and resubmission (following feedback from Reviewers) of the PreDICT project within the ecoSERVICES project of DIVERSITAS International.
- Provided technical guidance to the International Steering Committee of the UNEP/GEF-funded FSP, 'Removing barriers to invasive plant management in Africa' (December 2009).
- Fundraised for core support for GISP Sec activities.

#### Events at GISP Sec in 2009

- GISP Annual Executive Board Meeting was held at IUCN HQ, Gland, Switzerland in September 2009.
- A new Chairman of GISP's Executive Board, Dr William Jackson was appointed in September 2009.
- GISP appointed a new Policy Director, Dr Stas Burgiel in October 2009
- GISP has a new presence in Washington DC, USA with effect from October 2009.
- Regular GMT Teleconferences were organised.
- The number of GISP's Partner Organisations expanded to include Diversitas International
- The number of GISP's Affiliate Organisations expanded to include CSIRO, ISSG, GISIN, NBII, IH and WfW
- GISP's website, which is hosted and supported by the University of Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa, was redeveloped and updated throughout 2009.
- GISP Sec fielded more than 500 questions and enquiries from stakeholders around the world.
- GISP was represented at more than 40 international and regional fora of relevance to invasive species. A calendar of key events, missions and meetings can be found in Annex 1.
- A list of Dissemination Outputs and Publications for 2009 can be found in Annex 2.
- A fundraising campaign for 2010 was developed.
- GISP adopted a new strapline, 'Let's stamp out invasive species' and a new logo.

## Looking ahead to 2010 – International Year of Biodiversity

Looking ahead, the UN declared 2010, 'International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)', and given that invasives pose one of the biggest threats to biodiversity, it is inevitable that the upcoming year will be crucial for the international invasive species agenda. Requests for inputs and policy support from GISP are already exceeding the capacity of the current GISP Sec. As 2010 progresses, an increasing number of events and celebrations in support of IYB is widely anticipated and in June 2010, the third and final meeting on the formation of International Science-based Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is scheduled to take place, at which agreement to proceed with IPBES is widely expected. IPBES could potentially have a bearing on the future *modus operandi* of GISP.

Given current funding constraints, however, GISP's priorities will be to focus on the main CBD processes, SBSTTA14 and COP10 together with the ongoing development of post-2010 Targets and Indicators for the new CBD Strategic Plan. GISP is also committed to further work on addressing gaps in pathways for invasive species, notably through the trade in live animals, in close collaboration with the SCBD, and will host a number of events to promote its 'Best Practice Manual' and assist the SCBD in organising an AHTEG to progress the development of policy.

Preparations for the joint workshop on 'Helping Island Adapt' - a key event for GISP, in partnership with the Government of New Zealand and GLISPA are already well underway. The outcomes of the workshop will also be used to leverage further support for SIDS under the CBD and other international processes. Of particular interest to GISP will be providing further support to the development of national and regional policies for the prevention and management of invasive species on islands. At the same time, GISP is keen to develop the linkages between invasive species management and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to climate change and with the support of the World Bank aims to produce a detailed report on the issue during 2010.

GISP will also continue providing its core secretariat functions including regular updates of its website ([www.gisp.org](http://www.gisp.org)) and responding to email enquiries. Bringing the issue of invasive species and the enormous threat they pose to biodiversity, to the fore in the minds of policy-makers, media and the general public, alike, is essential, but at the same time, GISP cannot afford to forego the all-important issue of fundraising for 2010 and beyond! GISP has received some pledges of core funding for 2010 but the current global economic climate remains a major hurdle for this small, fledgling programme on invasive species!



## GISP Annual Core & Project Financial Report (2009)

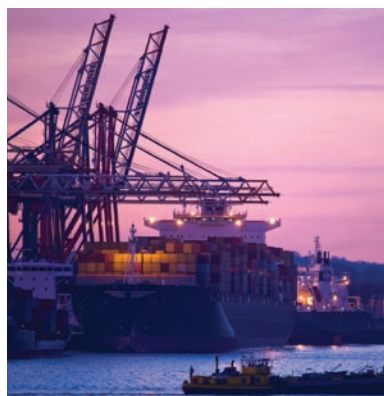
A summary of GISP's finances during 2009 can be found in Table 1 (below).

**Table 1: Summary of GISP Core Budget, Income & Costs: January – December 2009**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2009	
Details	US\$
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>CORE INCOME</b>	
CAB International	50,000.00
SwedBio	-
The Nature Conservancy	36,600.00
IUCN	-
Sub Total: Core Income	<b>86,600.00</b>
<b>PROJECT INCOME</b>	
UNEP - WCMC 2010 BIP IAS Indicators	114,516.29
World Bank Gendered Analysis of Invasive Plant Management	24,000.00
Sub Total: Project Income	<b>138,516.29</b>
<b>CONSULTANCY INCOME</b>	
Notre Dame	6,000.00
Sub Total: Consultancy Income	<b>6,000.00</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>	
Sundry Income	347,180.97
Sub Total: Miscellaneous Income	<b>347,180.97</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME CORE AND PROJECTS</b>	<b>578,297.26</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>GISP CORE EXPENDITURE</b>	
Personnel Costs	201,086.00
Travel	51,044.87
Communications	5,050.77
Workshops, Publications & Website Development	21,248.83
Computer Supplies	360.00
Sundry Expenses	5,011.60
Audit Fees	2,068.97
Sub -Total: CORE Expenditure	<b>285,516.29</b>
<b>PROJECT EXPENDITURE CORE AND PROJECTS</b>	<b>424,387.32</b>
<b>Surplus(Defelt)</b>	<b>153,909.95</b>

### Notes:

- I) Sundry Income refers to funds available as at 1st January 2009
- II) The surplus includes 590,508 for staff time that was provided for in 2007 audit
- III) World bank funds spent in 2009 have been accounted for
- IV) The figures are based on External Audits for 2007 and 2008





## Annex 1: Calendar of Key Events, Missions & Meetings (2009)

### January

- 21-24: Visit 2010 BIP project collaborators at ZSL, Imperial College, Birdlife International and UNEP-WCMC. Cambridge & London, UK
- 26-29: Supervisory visit to 2010 BIP project collaborators at CIB, University of Stellenbosch. Stellenbosch, South Africa.

### February

- 6-10: Scientific Committee Meeting of Diversitas International. Washington DC, USA.
- 11-14: Participate in the Darwin Symposium. Washington DC, USA.

### March

- 9-12: Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges & Decisions. Copenhagen, Denmark. <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>
- 14-16: Supervisory visit to 2010 BIP project collaborators at CIB, University of Stellenbosch. Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 16-18: Supervisory visit to GISP Webmaster at the University of Western Cape. Cape Town, South Africa.

### April

- 5-9: 1st Brazilian Congress on Biological Invasions, Sao Luis, Maranhao State, Brazil.
- 16: CBD International Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species. Teleconference.
- 20-22: IUCN's Workshop on Biofuels and Invasive Species. Nairobi, Kenya.

### May

- 5-7: Council of Europe - Bern Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species 8th Meeting. Brijuni, Croatia.
- 22: International Biodiversity Day (Invasive Alien Species), Nairobi, Kenya.
- 26-28: CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Liaison Group Meeting. Dublin, Ireland.

### June

- 24-30: Fundraising Trip to Europe. London & Bristol, UK.

### July

- 6-8: International Expert Meeting on 2010 Biodiversity Indicators. Reading, UK.
- 9-10: UNEP WCMC Annual 2010 BIP project partnership meeting. Cambridge, UK.

### August

- 23-27: 10th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions (EMAPI 10) <http://www.emapi2009.co.za/>. Stellenbosch, South Africa.

### September

- 16-17: Roundtable discussion on the way forward between IUCN ISI, IUCN-SSC-ISSG and GISP. Gland, Switzerland.
- 18-19: GISP Executive Board Meeting. Gland, Switzerland.
- 20-24: National Congress on Protected Areas in Brazil. Curitiba, Brazil.
- 22-23: World Bank DRG & STDF Workshop on Climate Change. Washington DC, USA.

### October

- 2-3: UNEP Post 2010 Biodiversity Targets. Nairobi, Kenya.
- 5-6: 2nd IUCN Workshop on Biofuels and Invasive Species. Nairobi, Kenya.
- 5-9: 2nd IPBES Meeting. Nairobi, Kenya.
- 11-13: Scientific Committee Meeting of Diversitas International. Cape Town, South Africa.
- 14-17: Diversitas 2nd Open Science Conference. Cape Town, South Africa.
- 19-21: CABI's Global Summit and Review Conference. London, UK.
- 22-23: CABI's Compendia Development Consortia Workshop. Wallingford, UK.
- 27-30: Inception Meeting UNEP/GEF-funded CABI Caribbean project on invasive species. Kingston, Jamaica.

### November

- 1-7: International Congress on Biological Invasions <http://www.icbi2009.org>. Fuzhou, China.
- 16-17: CBD/BioNET/GTI Project Development Seminar for GTI in Africa. Nairobi, Kenya.
- 24-26: UNEP/GEF-funded CABI/IUCN International Steering Committee Meeting of the RBIPM project. Nairobi, Kenya.

### December

- 1: US Invasive Species Advisory Committee/National Invasive Species Council Meeting. Washington DC, USA.
- 2: Aquatic Invasive Species Vector Management Workshop: A Prevention Solution [http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/vectorworkshop/Baltimore, USA](http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/vectorworkshop/Baltimore,USA).
- 7-9: TNC Florida/Caribbean Invasives & Fire Learning Network. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

## Annex 2: Dissemination Outputs & Publications



Burgiel, S. 2009. National Biosecurity Systems and Regional Coordination. Insular Caribbean UNEP/GEF Project Inception Meeting. 26-30 October 2009. Kingston, Jamaica.

Burgiel, S. 2009. Role of invasive species management in ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to climate change. US Invasive Species Advisory Committee, National Invasive Species Council. 1 December 2009. Washington DC., USA.

Butchart, S.H.M., Chanson, J & Hoffmann, M. 2009. Red List Indices for invasive species' impacts. Technical Report for the Global Invasive Species Programme. Birdlife International, Cambridge and IUCN, Washington DC, USA. 15pp.

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