

Management Effectiveness
Session 4b and 5b. Invasive alien species

Session leaders: Maj De Poorter, ISSG and Geoffrey Howard IUCN EARO
Session rapporteur: John Mauremootoo (Mauritian Wildlife Foundation)

Footnote: "invasive alien species" means an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity (CBD Dec VI/23)

The workshop re-emphasized the urgency of dealing with Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in protected areas: many further species are facing extinction, protected area values are threatened and communities are facing drastic livelihood deterioration unless IAS are addressed. Almost all protected areas are currently facing significant IAS issues even if there is not widespread awareness of this. In spite of the seriousness of the problem, there are good reasons for optimism, as methodologies and knowledge are increasing and improving rapidly, and solutions for fighting back and for preventing further biological invasions exist and improve continuously. However, lack of awareness of the issues and/or of the solutions available threatens to perpetuate IAS problems. Management of IAS, must be mainstreamed, as support from governments, agencies, PA managers and local communities are crucial for successful prevention, eradication and control of IAS.

Session recommendation - Emerging issues

Management of invasive alien species (IAS) in Protected Areas (marine as well as terrestrial) must be considered a priority and IAS issues must be mainstreamed into all aspects of PA management, including effectiveness monitoring. IAS Management is best carried out using the ecosystem approach. Protected area managers and other stakeholders should urgently be made aware of the serious implications for biodiversity, PA management and livelihoods that result from lack of recognition of the IAS problem and failure to address and prevent it. Awareness that solutions exist and ensuring capacity to implement effective IAS management should become part of standard operating practices in PAs. In addition to the consideration of "benefits beyond boundaries", the concept of "impacts from across boundaries" must be addressed in IAS management in PAs.

Especially for Marine PAs, a "cross boundary" approach to management will be necessary, considering the interconnectedness of the oceans and the need to prevent invasions at their source. This must include integration of management for all vectors and pathways. MPA management must include monitoring regimes (in the zone of influence rather than only the MPA itself) for early detection coupled with response plans for incursion management.

Considering the relatively recent recognition of IAS in the marine realm there is an urgent need for both multi- and bi-lateral organizations to support comprehensive technical cooperation programmes to build the necessary MIA management capacity.

WPC Recommendations

The participants endorsed Rec 5.18 3d
[note for Geoff Vince: only paragraph with IAS in it]