



Piero Genovesi

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

ISPRA Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, Via Vitaliano Brancati 48, 00144 Rome, Italy

Number of members

210

Social networks

Facebook:
Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)
Twitter:
@IUCN_ISSG
Website:
www.issg.org



Mission statement

The Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) aims to reduce threats to natural ecosystems and the native species they contain by increasing awareness of invasive alien species, and of ways to prevent, control or eradicate them.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, the ISSG envisions indications of reductions in the global overall rates of biological invasions and targeted successful management options by national governments. Robust and current data and information are invaluable for planning management, action ranging from prevention of introductions to ongoing management of invasions. By providing this support to our stakeholders, we hope to contribute to significantly reduce the impacts caused by biological invasions both by preventing introductions of invasive alien species and enforcing optimal management of ongoing invasions. Biodiversity indicators allow decision makers to see the result of their decisions, the development of sound indicators is supported by sound and current data. The ISSG is using the data it collates to develop practical and informative indicators leading to better decision making. The planned global assessment of the impacts of invasive alien species on the natural environment to be completed by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES),

that the ISSG is supporting, will use all the data and information generated during the development of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) indicators and an expert group will compute the qualified impacts of IAS on the natural environment. The ISSG envisions that this informed assessment will be a key resource when the next Strategic Plan on Biodiversity will be developed in 2020.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Research activities: (1) complete 20% of proposed linkages between the ISSG knowledge products and other significant knowledge products of the IUCN and partners, such as the Red List, Protected Planet, ECOLEX, etc.; (2) aim to complete at least 200 Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT) assessments for the most harmful alien invasive species, and post them on the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) also as preliminary profiles; (3) develop an interlink between GISD and Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS), to display 30% of information available in GRIIS also through the GISD webpage; (4) prepare at least 100 species profiles for GISD; (5) update all four Biodiversity Indicators related to invasive species; (6) support the completion of a global assessment of the impact of invasive alien species.



Piero Genovesi with Junko Pagad of the CBSD at COP 14
Photo: Archives of the ISSG



Piero Genovesi with Shyama and Junko Pagad of the CBSD at COP 14
Photo: Archives of the ISSG



Piero Genovesi with Kevin at SBSTTA 22, Montreal 2-7 July 2018
Photo: Archives of the ISSG

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Research activities

- i.** ISSG has established links to the Red List and we also hope to establish links to Protected Planet.
- ii.** About 30 Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT) assessments are being finalised, after revision of the methodology based on comments received during the online consultation.
- iii.** Development of an interlink between GISD and GRIIS still to be completed. Web portal is being redesigned to permit displaying GRIIS data into GISD.
- iv.** Ca. 30 GISD species profiles have been produced, based on those with the highest EICAT impact categories. To be published in GISD by 2019.
- v.** ISSG is well on schedule in the task of updating three Biodiversity Indicators related to invasive species and is seeking funding in the update of one: (1) Trends in introduction events: this indicator is being worked on by a team of scientists from iDiv in Leipzig including several ISSG members. Data has just been submitted by my team to the data analysis leads. (2) Trends in vertebrate eradications-Island Conservation: an IUCN member that includes ISSG members is responsible for the update of this indicator. The update was committed for completion in April this year; however, there has been a change in personnel and we are waiting for news on who will lead this work. (3) Trends in pathways of introduction of alien and invasive species: proposed to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) to include in the BIP suite. All metadata on the development of this indicator,

including methodology, have been submitted and results of the expert group assessment are expected. Data for an update this year is ready. (4) Legal response indicator: survey forms have been completed and country NSO are being contacted for country updates. We have also applied for funding to facilitate this work and are awaiting responses. (KSR #32)

vi. We are well on schedule for the global assessment of the impact of invasive alien species. The assessment will be in the form of scientific papers submitted to a leading journal. The team at iDiv (Leipzig) – the same team working on the indicators, including members of Group on Earth Observations (GEOBON) – will be co-authors. (KSR #32)

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Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 1/5

Assess **6** ██████

Main KSRS addressed: 32

KSR: Key Species Result