



Piero Genovesi

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### Number of members

210

### Social networks

Facebook:

Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

Twitter: @IUCN\_ISSG

Website: [www.issg.org](http://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 and action ranging from prevention of introductions to ongoing management of invasions. By providing this support to our stakeholders, we hope to contribute to significant reductions in biological invasions, both in preventing introductions of alien species and optimal management of ongoing invasions. Biodiversity indicators allow decision makers to see the result of their decisions, and the development of sound indicators is supported by sound and current data. The ISSG hopes to use 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), 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 is 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 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) 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) complete a global assessment of the impact of invasive alien species.

### Activities and results 2020

#### Assess

##### Research activities

i. IUCN Red List: Links between invasive species mentioned in the threat section of the Red List assessments were linked to the profile pages on the Global Invasive Species Database in the past few years. These links need to be reviewed and updated. (KSR #32)



SSC Steering Committee meeting WCC 6.4, virtual, 1-4 Sept 2020  
Photo: ISSG archives

**ii. Protected Planet:** The ISSG has compiled as many as 75 checklists of introduced and invasive species in protected areas and their buffer zones as part of the GRIIS (Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species) project. These have been published on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) portal. Discussions are taking place on providing a link between this data and the Protected Planet pages. (KSR #32)

**iii. ECOLEX:** There had been discussions on linking data on invasive species legislation and enactments to ECOLEX but a lack of funding has hampered progress on this activity. (KSR #32)

**iv.** Over 120 species are being worked on for EICAT classification. (KSR #32)

**v.** Global coverage of GRIIS has been completed; these data have been presented in the GBIF portal but are yet to be posted on the GRIIS webpage or GISD. IT issues have been an obstacle.

**vi.** Updated biodiversity indicators related to invasive species: (1) Policy Response Indicator (BIP and SDG 15.8.1): this indicator has been measured and updated in 2020. The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) webpage has been revised and submissions have been made to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); (2) Indicator on Introduction Events: global coverage of data has been achieved and analysis completed. The BIP page will be updated once the publications related to these analyses are published in the next two months; (3) Eradications of Vertebrate Invasive Animals: this indicator has been updated in 2020, including the webpage on the BIP page with our partners Island Conservation. Note: the impact indicator is being led by BirdLife International. (KSR #32)

**vii.** Global assessment of the impacts of invasive alien species has been completed for key taxon groups, including amphibians, reptiles, fish, aquatic plants and terrestrial plants. These data will contribute to the IPBES ongoing assessment. (KSR #32)

## Acknowledgements

ISSG would like to acknowledge the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) for their continued support for the GRIIS project to achieve global coverage. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for providing small grants to complete the work on the impacts of IAS project. ISSG would like to acknowledge the funding support from the French Ministry for Ecological Transition (MTE) to complete the update of the Policy indicator and work on impacts of invasive species. ISSG would like to acknowledge the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) for their continued support to implement the core business of the ISSG.

## Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 1/5

Assess **7** ■■■■■■

Main KSRs addressed: 32

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-018-EN

KSR: Key Species Result