



IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group
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"No-One is an Island - A Global Perspective on Invasive Alien Species is Critical to New Zealand's Biosecurity"

IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group Workshop
17th November 2004, Auckland, New Zealand

Held in conjunction with the Second New Zealand Biosecurity Summit hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), New Zealand, 18-19 November 2004 at Waipuna Conference Centre

Rationale for workshop

The need for an international approach to deal with the growing problem of invasive alien species (IAS)¹ stems from the global nature of the phenomenon. IAS do not respect national borders. Similar IAS problems are repeatedly faced in different parts of the world, and sharing management information is crucial. In addition, knowledge of past invasiveness elsewhere is a key component of early warning and is important in assessing potential risks from new introductions (Wittenberg, R, Cock, MJW (eds) 2001).²

Even though New Zealand is a world leader in the field of biosecurity and a forerunner in the development and improvement of techniques for management of invasive alien species, our biosecurity and conservation people can learn from others' experience.

List of participants

Workshop agenda

Note: In some cases only PowerPoint presentations are available.

1300 – 1305

Alan Saunders (CII)
Introduction to workshop

¹ "Invasive Alien Species": an alien species which becomes established in natural or semi-natural ecosystems or habitat, is an agent of change, and threatens native biological diversity (IUCN 2000)

² Wittenberg, R., Cock, M.J.W. (eds) 2001 Invasive Alien Species: A Toolkit of Best Prevention and Management Practices. CAB International, Wallingford, Oxon, UK, xii- 228

1305 - 1325	Paula Warren (DOC) <u><i>New Zealand's role on the international IAS scene, including international conventions.</i></u>
1325 – 1330	Questions
1330 – 1350	Alan Saunders <u><i>Cooperative Islands Initiative</i></u>
1350 – 1355	Questions
1355 – 1415	Simon O'Connor (MAF) <u><i>The development of a regional ant prevention plan.</i></u>
1415 – 1420	Questions
1420 – 1440	Jacqueline Beggs (University of Auckland) <u><i>Biosecurity and ecosystem functioning</i></u>
1440 – 1445	Questions
1445 – 1500	Tea break
1500 – 1520	Joanne Wilson and Amelia Pascoe (MAF) <u><i>Relevance of international information for risk analysis</i></u>
1520 – 1525	Questions
1525 – 1545	Mike Harré (Auckland Regional Council) <u><i>Human dimensions: changing beliefs and future challenges.</i></u>
1545 – 1550	Questions
1550 – 1610	Shyama Pagad (ISSG) <u><i>Relevance of international information exchange for the national biosecurity strategy - the role of ISSG.</i></u>
1610 – 1615	Questions
1615 – 1700	Discussion

“Take home” messages from the workshop

Speakers illustrated various aspects of the relation between New Zealand and international IAS activities and benefits to New Zealand, including

- The advantage of approaching IAS management in an international context, and existing international instruments of relevance (see presentation by **Paula Warren**)
- The opportunities offered to fight back against IAS by taking a cooperative approach (see presentations by **Alan Saunders**, **Simon O'Connor**)

- The need of New Zealand biosecurity managers to access invasive alien species (IAS) management skills, techniques, research and experience from elsewhere to improve New Zealand's biosecurity (see **Joanne Wilson & Amelia Pascoe, Jacqueline Beggs**)
- The importance to New Zealand biosecurity managers of knowing about prior invasiveness of species elsewhere (see **Joanne Wilson & Amelia Pascoe, Shyama Pagad**)
- Improved biosecurity, especially in our trading partners and neighbours, will provide less opportunity for invasives to reach New Zealand, hence, protecting our biodiversity as well as our primary production and exports (see **Paula Warren, Simon O'Connor**).
- Human issues are an important part of dealing with IAS (see **Mike Harre**)

What are the barriers in managing IAS?

- Lack of continuity within organisations e.g. staff changes require a re-start of relationships.
- Lack of trust between or within organisations.
- Different time zones/languages, etc.
- Bureaucracy versus 'on-the-ground' interactions / the importance of networks.
- Different perspectives/conflicting interests.
- Others may not recognise the problem or are not interested.
- Timing issues – (good results take time, but responses are often time-critical).

What are the priorities for IAS management?

- Prioritisation at every level is important, given limited resources.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities.

What are the solutions?

- Get key people involved.
- Work from the ground level up so management have to take notice.
- Get experts and other agencies (local and international) to review programmes
- Expose New Zealanders to information from overseas.
- Collaboration between programmes with similar agendas (e.g. marsupial research project between NZ and Australia, Galapagos/Chile, PAPP).
- Political leadership to improve cooperation.

Questions arising from discussions

1. What are the relative merits of small focused programmes (i.e. invasive ants) and general border programmes? (Paula Warren)

2. What is the right scale to consider priorities (e.g. regional council, South Islands, Australasia, Pacific)? Does the answer depend on the species (i.e. case-by-case)? (David Wansbrough)
3. What are some of the generic scientific/technical questions common to the CII demonstration projects that need answering and therefore advocating? (Greg Sherley)
4. What are some of the existing inter-governmental/agency arrangements which might be capitalised upon to benefit CII projects/PAPP, etc? (Greg Sherley)
5. Should biosecurity priorities be linked to trade (imports) priorities? (David Chandler)
6. What are the needs/opportunities to link on-the-ground projects with regional biosecurity programmes? (Alan Saunders)

Acknowledgements

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INVASIVE SPECIES SPECIALIST GROUP (ISSG) IUCN - SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION

The Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) is a network of expert volunteers, organised under the auspices of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN (The World Conservation Union).

The World Conservation Union was founded in 1948 and brings together States, government agencies, and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations in a unique international partnership. It has over 980 member institutions spread across 140 countries.

The Invasive Species Specialist Group was established ten years ago. It currently has around 160 voluntary members from over 40 countries and is chaired by Dr Mick Clout at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. The mission of ISSG is:

“to reduce threats to natural ecosystems and the native species they contain, by increasing awareness of alien invasions and of ways to prevent, control or eradicate them”.