



## Taking stock of the GISP in 2004

The Global Invasive Species Programme is a truly international partnership, designed to tackle the growing threat of invasive alien species across the globe. With our partner organizations active throughout the world, and a new Secretariat established in mid-2003, GISP has made important strides at the international level in raising awareness and combating invasive alien species (IAS). Our partner organizations include the World Conservation Union (IUCN), CAB International, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and two cutting-edge partners in our host country, South Africa: Working for Water and the National Botanical Institute.

GISP Phase II has focused its efforts in several major action areas, where its ability to mobilize scientists, policymakers, and conservationists can have maximum effect. GISP represents a rapidly growing consensus for practical and functional responses at the local, national and regional levels to IAS threats. As a result of our initiatives, we are pleased to report the emergence of the following products and events, with more forthcoming:

**Expert consultations on IAS impacts:** At the request of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the GISP and its partners have assembled experts' consultations on the consequences of IAS on islands and in inland waters, in October 2002 and July 2003 respectively. The islands report, a CBD Technical Series Publication, was an information document for SBSTTA 9; the inland waters report is nearly complete.

**IAS strategies:** The GISP and its partners have begun actively working with national and state governments to identify gaps and develop national IAS strategies in India, China and the Caribbean. Regional workshops in the Baltic-Nordic, South-Southeast Asia, Meso-american and Caribbean (through IUCN), South American, Southern African, and Austral-Pacific regions have highlighted these regions' overwhelming need to develop national and regional strategies and build capacity. A seventh workshop will be held in West Africa in March, 2004. These regional workshops have generated a number of practical implementation activities, in the South Pacific and in Africa.

**IAS action plans and implementation:** The GISP and its partners are building capacity in Africa (Ghana, Zambia, Uganda, Ethiopia) by providing knowledge and tools to address IAS impacts, prevention and management. Action plans and implementation activities will also be developed with the Seychelles and state governments in India and China. GISP's partners IUCN and TNC are actively involved in IAS projects in the South Pacific, the USA and Brazil.

**Regulatory frameworks:** Partner organization CAB International, on behalf of the GISP, is providing advice about the development of international regulatory instruments to the joint dialogue of the Convention on Biological Diversity and International Plant Protection Convention. The GISP Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species is being used as a model framework for planning and decision-making throughout the world. GISP and its partners are also focusing on regulation of the trade, transport and other pathways of IAS infestation.

**Management tools:** The GISP Toolkit of practical management aids and best practices is available on the website and as CDs, in English, Spanish and French. A series of regional IAS training manuals highlighting priorities and case studies has just been initiated, starting with Africa, followed soon by Asia and South America.

**Facilitation:** The Secretariat and partner organizations of the GISP are actively networking with countries and within regions in the developing and industrialized world to support sound planning, prevention, rapid response and management of IAS. The GISP website, [www.gisp.org](http://www.gisp.org), will provide a one-stop link to much of the world's digital information on IAS management; more links and metadata will be added weekly.

**National and regional capacity:** The GISP and its partners are piloting a generic, module-based capacity building programme for IAS management, including professional training, institutional capacity, resource planning and mobilization of equipment and skills, for adaptation anywhere in the world.

# GISP

## The Global Invasive Species Programme

