



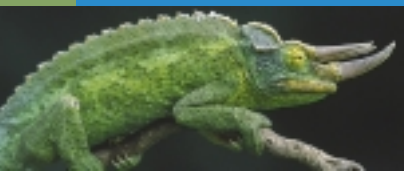
Protecting plants

and plant habitats from invasive alien species

A look at the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Implementing Target 10:
Tackling invasive species which threaten plant diversity





To halt the destruction of plant diversity, the Global Invasive Species Programme calls on the world community to *prevent, eradicate or control* invasive alien species, and work together to implement the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

GISP's mission: To conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread and impact of invasive alien species.



What are invasive alien species and how do they threaten plants and plant habitats?

Invasive alien species (IAS) are those species which have been introduced outside their normal current or past range, and whose introduction and spread cause harm to human health, the economy, and/or the environment. They pose particular threats to plant biodiversity, and to the plant habitats on which we and millions of other species depend for survival.

IAS may have been introduced accidentally or intentionally, and they may be plants, animals, fungi, bacteria, blue-green algae or viruses. IAS from all these groups are an immense threat to the world's plant diversity.

Apart from habitat destruction, IAS are the single biggest reason for the accelerating biodiversity crisis. Invasions of alien species are also made worse by many of the other pressures facing the planet – habitat degradation, climate change, urban sprawl, and the impact of globalization and trade on natural resources and biodiversity, both wild and domesticated.



Photo by Dr. John Meade, weed scientist emeritus



The global strategy for Plant Conservation

In 2002, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), with its sixteen outcome-oriented targets to be achieved by 2010.

The Strategy contributes to the World Summit on Sustainable Development biodiversity target agreed in Johannesburg in 2002, *"to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth."*

GSPC Target 10: *"Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems."*



http://www.kennethphotography.com/ML_Evans.htm

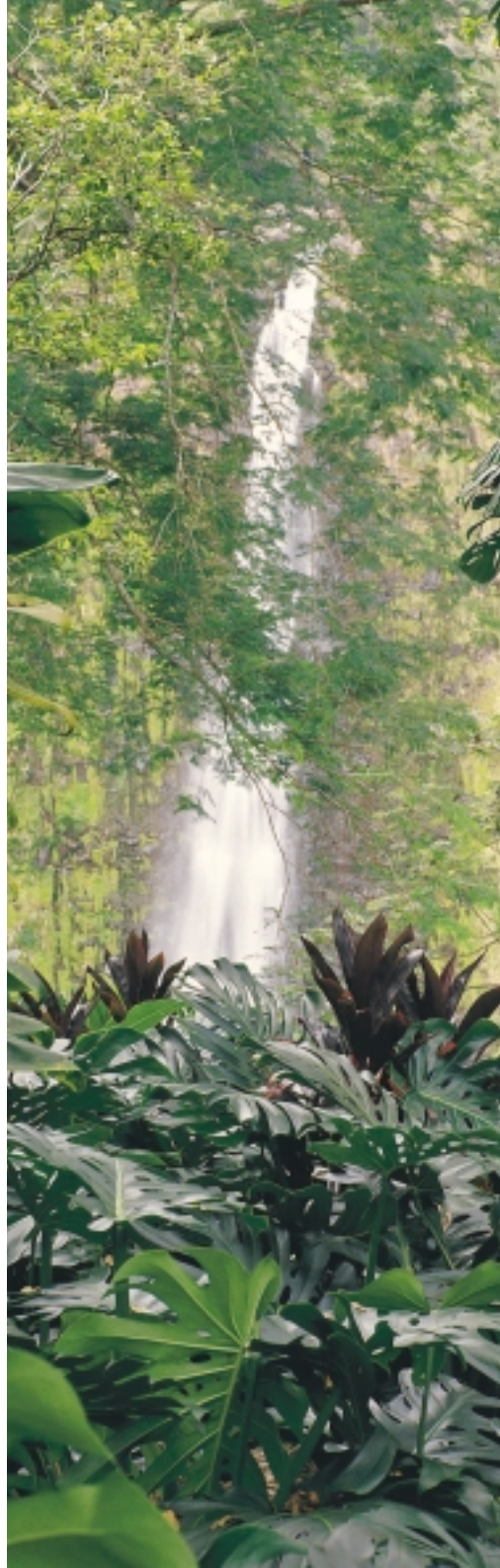
Target 10:

Addressing alien species that threaten plants and plant habitats

The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) has been designated as *Lead Institution* by the CBD to facilitate stakeholder consultations whose outcomes will guide the implementation of Target 10 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

Meeting Target 10 of the GSPC by the year 2010 will require countries, organizations, development agencies and specialists to share their experience, expertise and resources in order to address the most serious impacts of invasive species on critically important plant habitats and ecosystems, and develop effective and realistic management plans. Capacity building in invasive species prevention, eradication and control will be crucial to enable Parties to protect plants, plant communities, and their habitats and ecosystems from degradation by alien species invasions.

Invasive alien species are an enormous threat to plant diversity, as well as to the economy of many countries and the well-being of their people. Countering this threat is a huge challenge for countries, and the costs are significant. However, the costs of ignoring the problem will be almost incalculable -- lost agricultural production, lost trade opportunities, spoiled crops, human disease and allergies, clogged catchments, reduced water availability, threatened rural livelihoods, disrupted ecosystem services, and species extinctions.





“The world’s plant diversity is critical to the survival of humankind, and underpins human development. Invasive alien species pose an enormous threat to this diversity, and they can cause enormous economic and ecological damage. I urge the world community to implement the Global Strategy on Plant Conservation, including through the prevention and management of invasive alien species, without delay.”

Dr Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity



“The economic, ecological, and human health consequences of invasive alien species are accelerating. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation provides a pragmatic way to address this crisis, an opportunity to turn the tide through on-the-ground application of knowledge. The Global Invasive Species Programme’s partnership network will contribute to this initiative by matching the demand for knowledge on invasive species management with providers from around the world.”

Dr W. Mark Lonsdale, CSIRO, Australia, Chair of the GISP Board

The Global Invasive Species Programme is an international organization working to raise the profile of invasive alien species threats to the environment, the economy, and human livelihoods. It is a thematic focal point of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to support the work of the CBD and its Parties on invasive alien species.

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation provides an important framework to bring together a great diversity of organizations and initiatives to meet common objectives in plant conservation. Many organisations and institutions are already working on the implementation of a range of initiatives that support the implementation of the Strategy and the achievement of its 2010 targets. Many are incorporating relevant actions towards the achievement of specific targets into their existing work programmes. However the need for wider partnerships and involvement by many more organisations in the achievement of the objectives of the Strategy is crucial.

– from the Statement on the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, Kuala Lumpur, 13 February 2004

Global Invasive Species Programme www.gisp.org

For more information on invasive alien species and their threats to plant diversity, please contact the Global Invasive Species Programme, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, Private Bag X7, Claremont 7735, South Africa Tel: +27 (0)21 799 8836 • Fax: +27 (0)21 797 1561

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Convention on Biological Diversity www.biodiv.org

For more information on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, please contact the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Email: stella.simiyu@biodiv.org or sws@iucnearth.org. Websites: www.biodiv.org and www.plants2010.org/



CBD

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