

ESA Presentation Abstract

SubTheme: Invasive Species

Title:

The Global Invasive Species Information Network

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Abstract

The transport, translocation, and introduction of invasive alien species (IAS) are issues of global concern. Successful early detection, prevention, and management of IAS and their impacts on the environment require global cooperation on IAS information exchange. The Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN) was proposed at the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), The Hague, 2002. It is a network of IAS experts, information managers, and computer scientists sharing knowledge and experience, adopting standards and protocols for information exchange, and facilitating the dispersal and increased availability of IAS information at the local, national, regional, and global level. In 2004, experts from 26 countries attended the first GISIN meeting to establish goals and an Interim Steering Committee to move the network forward. In 2005 a Web site was established for the GISIN <<http://www.gisnetwork.org>> and an extensible markup language (XML) schema for invasive species profiles was developed with support from the CBD Secretariat. The schema will establish a standard method for global IAS information exchange. The number and complexity of IAS information systems, databases, clearinghouse mechanisms, and networks in Mexico, Canada, and the United States is growing. The GISIN will continue to evolve with them and encourage IAS information sharing among them.

Keywords: *invasive alien species, IAS, invasive species, invasives, alien species, exotic species, introduced species, non-native, nonnative, database, information system, Web, Internet, online, global invasive species information network, GISIN, IAS, extensible markup language, XML, information exchange, information management, information systems.*

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