

GISIN Newsletter August 2006

WWW.GISINetwork.org

Invasive Species Information Node,
National Biological Information Infrastructure,
National Program Office – USGS,
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 302, Reston, VA 20192, USA.



Dear GISIN Member,

We would like to express our great appreciation for your support and contributions to the continued development of the Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN). This is a brief progress report describing recent events and achievements relating to the GISIN. The first GISIN newsletter distributed in June 2004 after the first GISIN Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland, USA in April can be found online at http://www.gisinetnetwork.org/Documents/GISIN_Newsletter_June2004.pdf.

-- SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT --

Invitation to attend GISIN Symposium on Saturday October 21, 2006 (9:30 am - 10:45 am) at the Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG) Annual Meeting.

The Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG) is a scientific and educational association (affiliated with the International Union of Biological Sciences) that was formed to establish international collaboration among biological database projects and promote more effective dissemination of information about biological organisms. TDWG develops, adopts, and promotes standards and guidelines for the recording and exchange of data about organisms; and acts as a forum for discussion.

One of the TDWG meeting subthemes is Applications and Standards for Invasive Species. At the GISIN Symposium, we will discuss our progress and propose the creation of a TDWG invasive species working group to carry the schema forward through a formal standards adoption process, and to solicit input from biodiversity technical experts working outside the invasive species community (to assure that existing standards are incorporated into the schema wherever possible). Using funding from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), we plan to set up a test case with a cross search function among several different databases, to compare invasive species checklist information. **Please consider participating in the GISIN Symposium.**

The 2006 Annual Meeting and Symposium of the TDWG will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, 15 - 22 October 2006. The meeting schedule can be viewed online at <http://tdwg2006.tdwg.org/programme/schedule/>. For more information and to register go to: <http://tdwg2006.tdwg.org/>.

GISIN Invasive Alien Species Profile Schema

2006 GISIN Steering Committee and Experts Workshop to Review an Invasive Alien Species Profile Schema (IAS-PS) in Agadir, Morocco, February 20-24.

Members of the GISIN interim Steering Committee and experts from eleven countries met on February 20-24 in Agadir, Morocco to review the Invasive Alien Species Profile Schema (IAS-PS) developed for the GISIN and released for comment in August 2005 (see Michael Browne and Jerry Cooper's report online at <http://invasivespecies.nbi.gov/documents/CBB-report-to-CBD.pdf>). The schema and discussion topics of the three working groups (Checklists, Terminology, and Technical Implementation) that were convened at the February meeting are available online at <http://wiki.cs.umb.edu/twiki/bin/view/IASPS/>.

Progress Report to CBD COP8

Following the GISIN IAS-PS workshop in Morocco, a report was prepared and submitted for consideration at the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP8) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). To read the "**Progress Report on the Implementation of the Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN)**" go to <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-08/information/cop-08-inf-35-en.pdf>.

GISIN IAS-PS Wiki

The GISIN Invasive Alien Species Profile Schema (IAS-PS) that was discussed at the GISIN Technical Meeting in Agadir, Morocco in February 2006 continues to develop through discussions of technological, metadata, and terminology issues on the GISIN IAS-PS Wiki pages <http://wiki.cs.umb.edu/twiki/bin/view/IASPS/> hosted by the Dr. Bob Morris' group and the [University of Massachusetts at Boston](http://www.umass.edu) and the [Electronic Field Guide](http://www.electronicfieldguide.org) project which provides the wiki infrastructure. Please visit the GISIN IAS-PS Wiki for more details on how to participate in these discussions. Within the Wiki, there is a "User Scenarios / Case Studies" section open to contributions. Please see: <http://wiki.cs.umb.edu/twiki/bin/view/IASPS/UserScenariosAndUseCases>. We are actively seeking the submission of more scenarios.

GISIN Web sites

New announcements and publications are posted regularly on the Publications & Products page (<http://www.gisinetwork.org/pubs.html>), the GISIN Events page (<http://www.gisinetwork.org/events.html>), and the News page (<http://www.gisinetwork.org/news.html>) of the GISIN web site (<http://www.gisinetwork.org/>). The GISIN web site is hosted and maintained by the Invasive Species Information Node of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII). The USGS-NBII also continues to host and maintain the GISIN online Community or intranet where members may upload and download documents, view or post GISIN announcements, and communicate or

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exchange information with other GISIN members. Please contact Elizabeth Sellers (esellers@usgs.gov) with any questions you have concerning the GISIN online Community.

GISIN Listserv

In 2006, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility agreed to host a moderated email list service (where all postings are previously approved by the list moderators).

In the short term, we expect this list to discuss:

- 1) the general progress of the GISIN to implement the sharing of IAS checklist information
- 2) milestones of achievement in formalizing the GISIN's structure
- 3) other brief items of interest to the general GISIN community

The address of this mailing list is gisin.projects@ig.circa.gbif.net. If you want to unsubscribe, or have other technical questions, send a request to Annie Simpson leader.gisin.projects@ig.circa.gbif.net or Hannu Saarenmaa helpdesk@gbif.org.

IAS Databases List

The list of online invasive alien species (IAS) databases and information systems has continued to grow and currently consists of over 240 records. The NBII will continue to expand and maintain the list, which can be downloaded in PDF, DOC, and TXT format from the GISIN web site Publications & Products page (<http://www.gisinetnetwork.org/pubs.html>).

The USGS NBII is developing [Dublin Core](#) compliant metadata records for each of these databases in the NBII Metadata Catalog. The metadata records are served from the database onto various NBII Web sites using web portal technology. For an example of a Web site where some records for the IAS databases are being served online, visit the new prototype web site for the U.S. National Early Detection, Rapid Assessment, Rapid Response (EDRR) Framework (<http://edrr.nbii.gov>). This prototype web site is a catalog of resources, arranged into the seven components of the EDRR concept: Identification, Reporting, Expertise, Occurrence Databases, Rapid Assessment, Planning, and Rapid Response. Records for databases in the GISIN list are displayed mainly on the [Occurrences Databases Web page](#) (Go to <http://edrr.nbii.gov> and click on the **D. Occurrences** link on the left).

Interim Steering Committee

The GISIN Steering Committee welcomes new members Gritta Schrader from the Federal Biological Research Centre in Germany, Richard Smith from BioNET-INTERNATIONAL in Great Britain, Fang-Hao Wan from the Ministry of Agriculture Center for Management of Invasive Alien Species in China, and Sergio Zalba from the Global Invasive Species Programme and the Universidad del Sur in Argentina. These new members were nominated and selected for their expertise in invasive species information management and to increase the GISIN Steering Committee's international representation.

The GISIN Steering Committee meets regularly via telephone to discuss and plan the continued development of the GISIN. Each teleconference is facilitated by Annie Simpson, the Steering Committee Chairperson.

GISIN Steering Committee Members

Name	Organization	Country
Malika Bounfour	Ministère de l'Agriculture, Direction de la Protection des Vegetaux	Morocco
Michael Browne	Invasive Species Specialist Group, IUCN-World Conservation Union	New Zealand
Hannu Saarenmaa	Global Biodiversity Information Facility Secretariat	Denmark
Soetikno Sastroutomo	CAB International-South East Asia Regional Centre; ASEANET (South East Asian LOOP of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL)	Malaysia
Gritta Schrader	Federal Biological Research Centre	Germany
Annie Simpson (*Chair)	National Biological Information Infrastructure; US Geological Survey	United States
Richard Smith	BioNET-INTERNATIONAL	Great Britain
Fang-Hao Wan	Ministry of Agriculture; Center for Management of Invasive Alien Species	China
Yan Xie	Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences	China
Sergio Zalba	Global Invasive Species Programme; Universidad del Sur	Argentina

Brief Announcements

January 29 - February 02, 2007 - In the area of capacity building, Soetikno Sastroutomo of the CAB International-South East Asia Regional Centre and ASEANET (South East Asian LOOP of BioNET-INTERNATIONAL) has obtained funding from the US Department of State (US-DOA) for the creation of an ASEAN hub of the GISIN. His organization will be holding a training workshop in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia for representatives from ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) in late January that will have presentations about the GISIN IAS-PS (Michael Browne), GISIN's goals and objectives (Annie Simpson), I3N database and Website templates (Sergio Zalba), and the creation of Web-enabled species identification guides (John Pickering).

October 16-19, 2006 - A poster about the GISIN will be presented at the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Conference theme: Preparing for the future: Adapting Technology to Support Sustainable Resource Management.

October 15-21, 2006 - A poster about the GISIN will be presented at the Taxonomic Databases Working Group Annual Meeting in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA. A GISIN Symposium will be held at TDWG on Saturday, 21 October (see details above).

February 20-24, 2006 - GISIN interim Steering Committee and experts meeting to review Invasive (Alien) Species Profile Schema (IAS-PS). Members of the GISIN interim Steering Committee and experts from eleven countries met on February 20-24 in Agadir, Morocco to review the Invasive Species Profile Schema developed for the GISIN and released for comment in October 2005. The schema and discussion topics of three working groups (Checklists, Terminology, and Technical Implementation) convened at the meeting are available for review and comment online at <http://wiki.cs.umb.edu/twiki/bin/view/IASPS/>.

February 2006 – ESRI ArcUser Journal Article. The GISIN was mentioned in the February edition of the Environmental Sciences Research Institute – better known as ESRI – ArcUser Online journal thanks to an article by Hannu Saarenmaa, Deputy Directory for Informatics with the Global Biodiversity Information facility (GBIF) Secretariat, and member of the GISIN Steering

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Committee. In Saarenmaa's Information Pyramid, GISIN represents the type of information network operating between those that serve primary data (such as GBIF) and those that serve secondary and tertiary data (such as the Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM)). Read the article online at <http://esri.com/news/arcuser/0206/biodiversity1of2.html>.

January 26, 2006 - Reuters Foundation Alertnet Feature Article. Annie Simpson and Michael Browne (GISIN interim Steering Committee members) were quoted in Reuters Foundation Alertnet Feature Article "Costly alien invaders rock world's balance" by Lucas van Grinsven. Read the article (<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L12568324.htm>)

January 8-12, 2006 – A poster about the GISIN was presented at the Ecological Society of America International Conference held in Merida, Mexico. Conference theme: Ecology in an Era of Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities for Environmental Scientists in the Americas.

Poster (<http://www.gisnetwork.org/Documents/GISIN%20ESA-Merida%20poster%202006.pdf>)

Poster Abstract (http://www.gisnetwork.org/Documents/GISIN%20ESA-Merida%20poster%20Abstract_Eng.pdf)

Upcoming - Biological Invasions Article. Annie Simpson, Elizabeth Sellers, Andrea Grosse, and Yan Xie have an article in press on the importance of Invasive Species Information Networks in the journal *Biological Invasions* to be included in a special edition of the journal from the Beijing International Symposium on Biological Invasions held in Beijing, China June 8-11, 2004.

These opportunities to reach out to the international invasive species and information management communities continue to generate interest and encourage contributions to the growth of the GISIN.

Comments: Please contact Elizabeth Sellers at esellers@usgs.gov or Annie Simpson at asimpson@usgs.gov with any comments you have concerning this newsletter.