

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (e)

PROGRAMME AREA: Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species

OBJECTIVE:

Development of a National Regional Strategic Framework on Global Invasive Species

PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION:

A) BACKGROUND

The Global Invasive Species Programme

The mission of Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) is to conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread and deleterious impacts of invasive alien species. GISP's main focus is to promote global co-operation in invasive species prevention and management, by fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between relevant international instruments and organizations. GISP has a mandate to support the implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention of Biological Diversity, which addresses the issue of invasive alien species.

Set up in 1997, GISP was initially a small, mainly voluntary partnership programme. In early 2005, GISP was constituted as a legal entity with Founding Members IUCN, CABI, The Nature Conservancy, and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The GISP Secretariat – sponsored primarily by the World Bank through the Bank Netherlands Partnership Programme and Development Grant Facility – is based in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity was one of the key agreements adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Convention establishes three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. Article 8(h) of the Convention states that Contracting Parties to the Convention should, as far as possible and appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

The desire to prevent the potentially serious negative impacts of invasive alien species in the marine environment is reflected in the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, which incorporates the issue of invasive alien species as one of its five “programme elements”.

The past year has seen the emergence of a growing collaboration between the Marine and Coastal Programme under the CBD, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, and the Global Invasive Species Programme on the issue of marine and coastal invasive species. One aspect of that collaboration has been the development of a training course on marine and coastal invasives, which was piloted in late 2005 in Tanzania in association with the Nairobi Convention.

Following the distribution of a flyer advertising the training course at COP 8 in Curitiba in March, and at the IMO-UNEP Forum in London, both the UNEP-RS Office in Nairobi, and the GISP Secretariat, had received numerous requests to have the training course presented in various Regional Seas areas. We are therefore in

the process of developing an 18-month programme which would see the delivery of the training course in at least 6 of our regions by the end of 2007.

SACEP had expressed its interest during the IMO-UNEP Forum, and an offer was received from UNEP for the conduct of a Training Course for the South Asian Seas Region, This was in May 2007.

However there was a change in the Focal Point and the responsibility for the conduct of such training programmes was shifted to the International Oceans Institute of Southern Africa University of the Western Cape South Africa

SACEP has been in communication with IOI in South Africa and it proposed to conduct such a training programme during the course of 2008

Title of Course:

Training Course on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species

Details of Training Course

Modules

- Introduction to Marine & Coastal Invasive Species
- Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management
- Prevention
- Early detection and Rapid Response
- Incursion Management
- The International Response
- Developing a National Strategic Framework
- Communication, Education and Public Awareness

There would be 2 participants from each of the 5 SAS countries participating and IOI would provide the training staff and will conduct the Training Course

B) Present Status

Negotiations are currently on with IOI South Africa for the conduct of this Training Course. The estimated cost is around US \$ 59,000 of which the commitment of the Host Government and SACEP will be US \$ 16,000

There is a possibility that this course being dovetailed to a Regional Training Programme conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka and if so, the commitment from IOI would be reduced.

The time frame for this activity is during the course of 2008