

A Regional Approach to Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean with relevance to OTs



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**“Mitigating the Threats of Invasive
Alien Species in the Insular
Caribbean”**

Global Importance of Caribbean Biodiversity

- spans 4.31 million km² of ocean and just 0.26 million km² of land area
- encompasses most island groups in the Caribbean Sea and extends to southern tip of Florida
- contains habitats of international biodiversity and conservation value

Caribbean 'biodiversity hotspot'

(Myers *et al.*, 2000)



Endemicity of Caribbean biodiversity



High level of endemicity

- 60 spp. of corals, ca. 1,500 spp. of fish recorded, of which nearly 25% endemic
- Regional endemicity of other groups:
 - 60% of flora
 - 85% of herpetiles
 - 30% of mammals
 - 22% of birds

Invasive Alien Species – A Major Threat to Biodiversity in the Caribbean



The beginning...

2002-2003: CABI in collaboration with TNC undertook project 'Invasive Species Threats in the Caribbean Region'

- 552 IAS in insular Caribbean (*Kairo et al. 2003*)
- identified as priority areas
 - Development of national and regional policies and strategies
 - Specific action plans to deal with present and potential problems in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems
 - A framework for exchange of information, in particular networking with existing / ongoing or proposed projects / activities
 - Access to information:
 - Strengthening existing national / regional mechanisms OR
 - Creation / development of a specific initiatives focused on the Caribbean
 - Capacity building (prevention / management of IAS, taxonomy)
 - Regulatory and legislative frameworks: awareness-raising among policy and decision makers
 - Global linkages (Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), International Maritime Organization (IMO) etc.)



Development of a proposal for funding by the Global Environment Facility

Activities began in 2003, with consultations to develop partnerships and linkages

- National organizations – Ministry of Environment / Agriculture and related agencies, in particular GEF Focal Points in the countries that expressed an interest in participating in the project
- Regional agencies, including the Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group (CISWG - formed during the 2003 CFCS Meeting in Grenada)
- Global:
 - Organizations involved in global projects dealing with Invasive Alien Species (IAS): GISP (of which CABI is a founding member), IMO, TNC and others
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): one of the implementing agencies for Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects

Proposal for GEF funding

- A Full Size Project was proposed with two development phases:
 - Project Development Facility A (PDF-A)
 - Project Development Facility B (PDF-B (now PPG))
 - Full-Size Project (FSP) Implementation
- Proposal document prepared based on priorities identified in Kairo et al. (2003)
- Iteration of the proposal with stakeholders and partner agencies

Project Goal and Objective

Development Goal:

“To conserve globally important ecosystems, species and genetic diversity on the islands and surrounding marine waters”

Objective:

“The mitigation of the threats to biodiversity and the local economy of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the insular Caribbean” (including terrestrial, fresh water and marine ecosystems)

Components of Full-size Project

- Develop National / Sub-regional Strategies
- Caribbean-wide Cooperation & Strategy
- Information and Knowledge Management and Dissemination
- Prevention of IAS in Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine Systems
- Early Detection, Rapid Response and Control of IAS Impacts in Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine Systems

Key elements of the project

- Coordinated national and regional approach for effective IAS prevention and management in a region-wide strategy
- Transfer of experience and best practices across the region as well as building on global experience
- Information on IAS: corner stone as well as a cross-cutting issue
- Key issues in marine, freshwater and terrestrial sectors addressed to promulgate & demonstrate relevant policies, control technologies etc.
- Use of a number of IAS from different taxa as models in pilot activities

Project Details

GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP

Executing Agency(ies):

- CABI Caribbean and Latin America (CABI-CLA)
- National agencies

GEF Strategic Objectives:

- Strategic Objective SO-3 – ‘Safeguarding Biodiversity’

GEF Operational Programme:

- Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species

Project Status



- PDF-A (July 2006 – February 2007)
 - National consultations in participating countries
 - International workshop (Trinidad)

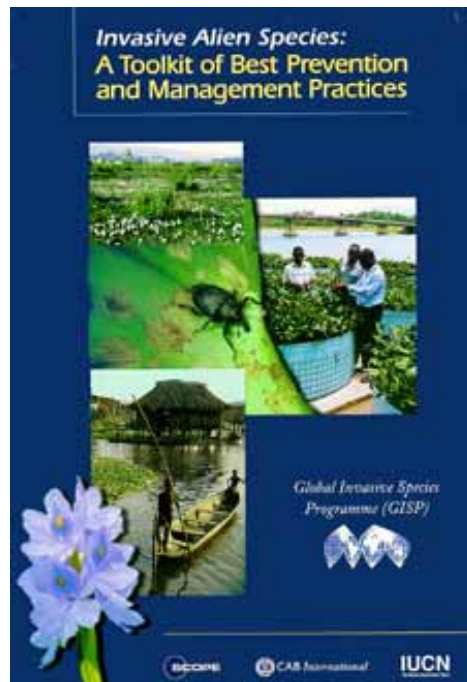
- PPG (formerly PDF-B)
 - Activities:
 - Gap analysis in plans and policies
 - Outline national communications and capacity-building strategies
 - Criteria/baseline surveys for IAS/sites for pilot projects
 - Collate information to prepare development for regional strategy
 - Project coordination and preparation of FSP proposal

 - 9 months (September 2007- May 2008)
 - Proposal envisaged to be submitted mid July 2007

- Full-size project (FSP) implementation: 4 years (2008-2011)

International framework & linkages

- Consistent with SIDS priorities
- Focus: utilization of results from relevant international programmes:
 - GISP's 'Tool kit for Best Prevention and Management Practices of Invasive Alien Species'
 - Global Ballast Water Management Programme Phase I (PDFA – GloBallast: 2001-2004) and Phase II (PDFB – GloBallast Partnerships: in preparation)



Regional Linkages

Endorsed by the Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group (CISWG):

CABI, CARDI, CARICOM, CIRAD (France), FAMU, FAO, IICA, PAHO, USDA-APHIS, University of Florida, University of Puerto Rico, University of the West Indies

CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) has formally recognized, and mandated, CISWG to develop regional strategies for managing IAS



Regional / National linkages

Build on national / regional experiences and programmes:

- Report “Caribbean Invasive Species Threat” (Kairo et al., 2003)
- CISWG programme of activities (e.g. CISSIP)
- Capacities, outputs and experiences from other ongoing / completed GEF and other relevant projects in the region/globally
- Outputs of Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) desk study on national / regional capacities and experiences on marine invasive species management in the Wider Caribbean, including ballast waters management (Lopez & Krauss 2006)

Participating countries



- The Bahamas
- (Cuba)
- Dominican Republic
- Jamaica
- St. Lucia
- Trinidad and Tobago

Other countries will be invited to participate: based on willingness to contribute to project objectives and outcomes

IAS in the wider Caribbean UKOTs

- UKOT's biodiversity of global significance
- IAS issues are a priority in the OTs
- Lack of capacity/infrastructure to manage IAS
- JNCC report "Non-native species in UKOTs" (Varnham 2006)
work in progress
- RSPB report (2007) "Costing Biodiversity Priorities in the UKTOs"
- Audit of preventative measures, pathways of entry, feasibility of eradication/ control seen as short/long-term priorities by UKOTs

Relevance of GEF initiative to wider Caribbean UKOTs

- Regional approach to tackle IAS issues
 - Co-operation and linkages to facilitate information exchange
 - Support ongoing/ future IAS initiatives in UKOTs
 - Strengthen position to develop national/collective IAS strategies
 - Opportunity for UKOTs to input into the regionwide IAS strategy to be developed
- Contribute to preserve biodiversity in OTs and achieve 2010 goals

Where to go from here...

- UKOTs have expressed strong interest to link up with GEF initiative
- Opportunity to draw on experience of South Atlantic regional project
- OTEP proposal “*Building a co-operative strategy to prevent and manage non-invasive species*” not approved at last OTEP round, 2006
- Funding sources need to be identified to enable strategic work on IAS prevention and management in wider Caribbean UKOTs

Thank you!



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