

GLISPA Helping Islands Adapt Workshop

Auckland, New Zealand

April 11-16, 2010



List of Participating Regions/Groups

Caribbean

Coral Triangle

Indian Ocean

Pacific

Global Organization and Initiatives

Networking and Support

Introduction

There are important and complex connections between biodiversity and climate change. While biodiversity around the world is clearly threatened by the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, flooding and species migration, Islands by nature of their small size and isolation, are inherently more sensitive to such impacts and can be limited in their options or capacity to adapt. However, not only is biodiversity threatened by climate change impacts, there is increasing evidence that biodiversity can play an important role in both mitigating and adapting to such impacts. Healthy ecosystems, high in biodiversity have proven to foster increased resilience to the impacts of climate change in many cases.

This workshop was designed to help strengthen and mobilize capacity on islands across the globe to address the threats posed by invasive species. It was also intended to help garner more widespread donor and political support for these efforts, as well as to place invasive species management squarely at the centre of the broader international discourse on biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. The primary focus was on institutional relations and collaboration among key stakeholders. Discussions covered the intersection of a range of sectors (agriculture, environment, natural resource management) and ecosystems (terrestrial, marine, inland waters).

The Expected Outcomes of the GLISPA Helping Islands Adapt Workshop

1. Lessons from regional collaboration and coordination in the Pacific and other island regions showcased
2. List of actions prepared to strengthen invasive species management in regions, building on existing regional strategies and other guidance
3. Networks and resources necessary identified to support implementation of the actions on IAS and the links with climate change and adaptation
4. Key steps identified to catalyse support at the 10th Conference on the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10) implementing the recommendations of the workshop to inform, strengthen, and build regional initiatives for the prevention and management of IAS on islands

Day 1: Setting the Scene and Showcasing

Focused on fulfilling outcomes 1 and 3 respectively.

Outcome 1: Lessons from regional collaboration in the Pacific and other island regions showcased

Outcome 3: Networks and resources necessary identified to support implementation of the actions of IAS and the link with climate change adaptation

Major Presentations

Chair's Opening Remarks

Presenter: Dr. Spencer Thomas

The chair for the Workshop was Dr. Spencer Thomas. He highlighted the fact that IAS are a direct driver of biodiversity loss. Island ecosystems are the most fragile and susceptible ecosystems. The loss of native biota, extinctions, transformation of structure and composition of ecosystem are all occurring at unprecedented rates and climate change will only intensify these problems. He added that it was important that the necessary policies and dialogue be had at all levels to combat the threat and as much as possible develop regional initiatives for collaboration and cooperation between island nations to provide solutions to the problem of IAS. Dr. Thomas explained that 2010 being celebrated as International Year of Biodiversity offered a great opportunity to mainstream national, regional and international strategies to dealing with IAS.

Welcome from Host- Dept. Conservation, New Zealand

Presenters: Nicola Holmes

The workshop was built upon the vision that conservation is essential to a nation's survival. It underpins economic activity and quality of life. She stressed that focus needed to be placed on the building of healthy/resilient biodiversity and ecosystems as it ultimately results in a healthy society. Healthy biodiversity provides free gifts which are termed ecosystems services. The challenge comes with the Management Approach taken to dealing with IAS. Economic considerations have to be placed on the value of conservation, as healthy biodiversity brings in money into a country's economy while saving it from unwanted costs. In New Zealand it is estimated that native biodiversity provides twice the value of the country's GDP. Thus proving that prosperity and preservation are interdependent.

She highlighted that the ever increasing challenges of dealing with IAS, reflects that we are no longer isolated island nations but part of a large global development. The focus now needs to expand to form equivalent partnerships and responses in other island regions. Emphasis needs to be placed on managing borders and pre-border biosafety control mechanism to curtail the spread of invasives from one country/region to another. She underscored the importance of collaboration evolving to meet the needs of the different regions. This she added would only be achievable through the cross pollination of ideas, lessons, successes, challenges and triumphs to help rebuild resilient island ecosystems.

CDB Statement

Presenter: Junko Shirma

See Appendix 2 for the CBD Statement as read.

Keynote Speaker

Presenter: Dr. Matt McGlone

Dr. McGlone addressed the issue of climate change and the impact it will have on island biodiversity. Dr. McGlone was of the opinion that for conservation and biodiversity on small islands, climate change does not matter that much. He aided this assumption by showing plots of the change in temperature over time. The graphs showed that since the turn of the century there has only been a 1°C rise in temperature. He also added that future casting of climate change and its effects has dominated using predictive models that were not sound in the 1900's and still remain flawed in the 21st century. Reviews of climate change and biodiversity consequences and predictions for New Zealand have not found any information that shows that climate change in New Zealand has affected the biodiversity.

Dr. McGlone outlined that since there is no conclusiveness on the issue of climate change focus should then be placed on what can be done to halt the progress of and mitigate against the worst effects of climate change. There are two (2) features of climate in which changes are certain, CO₂ levels will continue to rise and temperature will increase. Key questions that should be asked are: will the rise in CO₂ levels affect plants when they interact with heat; and will it provide an advantage to C4 plants? Dr. McGlone explored the resulting activities as a result of increase in temperature:

- Temperature Increase: it is predicted that in the South Pacific temperature will increase by 2° by 2070 and 3° by 2100, there is no certainty of what will happen beyond 3°. On temperate islands climate will move out of freezing zone, this will make islands more prone to invasions. Tropic and sub-tropic islands will not be predisposed to invasion by warming. The hilly zones however could be opened up to invasions as an increase in temperature by ½° will give 100 M rise in temperature.
- Sea Level: On a global scale sea levels will rise, however the variation range is huge. Nothing is really sure on the impacts however for “sinking islands” biodiversity consequences are high with rise in sea levels. There are no biodiversity consequences for IAS.
- Rainfall: Changes in rainfall are very important and will make a more significant difference than change in temperature. There are several as changes in ecosystems due to increased or decreased rainfall. These changes (land slippage or droughts) will open up vegetation, remodel ecosystems thus opening them up for invasions. Global models estimate rainfall poorly however it is widely accepted that there will be variations.
- Tropical Cyclones: warmer oceans should produce more storms and more intense storms. Both sides can be argued that there will be an increase or a decrease in storms. An increase in activity is important to island ecosystems. Cyclones that do occur are expected to be more intense in rainfall and wind velocity. This is likely to cause problems in Island ecosystems.

In summary climate change is a real phenomenon. The threats are nebulous and unpredictable with regards to magnitude of change and timing. However climate change issues have trumped biodiversity issues. The threat to biodiversity is real and currently very manageable; focus should be placed on preservation rather than the threat of climate change. What is important at this point is to work through the issues of when, how much and what’s practical regarding climate change and its impact on Islands. More importantly one has to be cognisant of the fact that the real world is interactive. Not all climate change will be bad, as some aspects may make indigenous biodiversity more resilient to invasives. Climate change is at present a distraction and countries need to be practical about it. The question that island nations need to answer is this: Is the risk of climate change worth taking funding from other places?

Regional Presentations on Lessons Learnt

Mexico and the Pacific Region shared their success stories and lessons learnt from the implementation of IAS interventions.

Mexico

Presented by Alphonso Aquirre-Munoz

Mexico consists of over 1000 islands that range from dessert to tropical and approximately 10,000 km of coastlines. The Project over the last 10-15 years has accomplished 55 eradications on 31 islands and restored 51,195 ha. Eradicated species included; cats, rodents, rabbits, ungulates among others. Eradications were achieved using a systematic approach and ranged from traditional to extremely high tech. Traditional techniques included the use of dogs, trapping, specialized baits and hunting, while non-traditional/high tech techniques included the use of helicopters, the Navy, and GPS.

In addition to preserving and sustaining biodiversity, the projects have also improved the quality of life for local communities and the education of its children involved. IAS Management is a priority as 77% of extinctions have occurred on islands. The achievements are tangible; there is also sovereignty and sustainable development through conservation working together with the fisher folk and the Navy.

Involvement of all key stakeholders was pivotal in the success of the project. Not-for-profit organizations were very important in advancing the cause of IAS management. Networking was key between governmental organizations. The task required committed person and a collaborative effort between non-profit organizations, biologists, technicians, graduate students, government staff, the Mexican Navy and donors.

Challenges

- Legal framework
- Animal rights defenders
- Personnel retention
- Correct techniques
- Finances (Private, Public, International) approximately US \$7 million was spent over the 11 year period.

Lessons Learnt

- Stay focused on the goal
- Important to remain professional under all circumstances
- Follow priorities
- Pay close attention to public relations and education as it's key to the success of any such project.

What's next for Mexico?

- Development of a strategic plan
- Development and improvement of research centre
- Improving facilities

Pacific Region

The Pacific Region covers half of the earth's surface. Their approach to IAS management was that it makes sense to work together as a region as there is greater coordination and communication which leads to more efficient and effective work being done. The region IAS management is operated through several bodies which have been formed to focus on specific IAS management needs. These are outlined below with their respective successes and lessons learnt.

Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP)

PIP is the umbrella regional coordinating body for agencies working on invasive species on more than one country in the Pacific. It promotes coordinated planning and targeted assistance for regional and international agencies, to meet the IAS management needs of countries/territories within the Pacific. There are 24 member agencies that make up PIP. Emphasis is placed on coordination to avoid duplication and increase efficiency; providing guideline/support and building capacity and providing assistance. There are several other initiatives of PIP that address specific IAS management needs. These are outlined below.

Cooperative Islands Initiative (CII)

This is initiated by smaller islands/territories to address invasive species issues with each independent country/territory. The CII within each country/territory provides technical support, training, workshops and programmes needed to address invasive species management.

Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII)

This is the regional initiative of CII. PII builds the invasive species management capacity in Pacific island countries and territories by providing technical support, training, assistance with proposal and project design, and access to expertise. This is in a bid to increase effective actions on the ground.

PII Achievements

- 36 agencies gained knowledge and skills
- 4 training courses developed and delivered
- Best management practices tools developed and delivered
- 6 successful eradications and 2 additional ones which are awaiting confirmation

Lessons Learnt

- Start small then build and branch out
- Build solid partnerships
- Institutional capacity is essential
- Celebrate and communicate success
- Rigorous planning based on best practices is essential
- Invest in good programme design with key stakeholders
- Delivering on social and economic goals is essential and requires the right partners

Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN)

PILN is a professional network for invasive species workers in the Pacific. It provides linkages for countries and territories; fosters multi-agency teams within countries and promotes sharing of experiences, expertise and skills. In addition PILN also identifies training needs and develop training to meet same. It currently is comprised of 14 pacific countries, territories/states.

PILN Achievements

- 6 Invasive Species Plans developed
- Provided ~ 30 training opportunities

Lessons Learnt

- Take a strategic approach to planning IAS management

- Programme can only be effective with a full term coordinator
- Success depends on number of countries participating

Pacific Ants Prevention Programme (PAPP)

PAPP is a response mechanism put in place by the region to prevent the arrival of red fire ants in Pacific Islands.

PAPP Achievements

- 150 quarantine and custom staff trained on ant surveillance (Red Fire Ants)
- 35 entomologists and quarantine officers trained in ant taxonomy
- Development of an Emergency Response Plan

Lessons Learnt

- The work has to undertaken regionally for it to be successful
- Need to have a dedicated coordinator
- Regular training and reinforcement essential
- Build partnerships
- Use experts within the region

Summary

Throughout all its initiatives the Pacific has adopted a start small and build on success approach which has proven to be continuously successful. The achievements of the region hinge on the following principles:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ▪ Unity | ▪ Trust |
| ▪ Shared vision and planning | ▪ Clarity of roles and responsibilities |
| ▪ Achievement and building momentum | ▪ Acknowledgement and celebrating success |
| ▪ Communication | ▪ Recognizing different contributions |

Workshops and Breakout Sessions

The Workshop Process

There were 6 groups that operated throughout the workshop. This comprised of four regions (Indian Ocean, Pacific, Coral Triangle and Caribbean regions) and 2 additional groups; one group

which comprised of persons representing Global Organizations and Initiatives and the other group which provided networking and technical support. Each group was assigned a harvester who was responsible for documenting information shared and the outcomes of group activities.

What Works? Session

This section of the workshop focused on identifying the things that were working within in country in each region. Each representative from each country/territory was asked to identify 5 things that were working well regarding IAS management within their country and 3 things that were not working so well. These were then shared with the larger region group and collated by the assigned note taker for the group. They were then further discussed by the group to come up with the final 5 things that were working well and 3 things not working so well which was representative of the region.

Jamaica's Contribution

5 Things Working Well

- AISWG formed
- Policies in place
- Multi-agency approach to IAS Management
- IABIN Database
- Recently awarded IAS Project

3 Things Not Working So Well

- Limited awareness and level of importance placed on IAS
- No legislation to legally remove IAS
- No legislation for regulation of pet stores for species we wish to control
- Human and financial resources

Caribbean Consensus

The Caribbean region had difficulty placing outcomes into the 2 absolute groups as not all countries were at the same stage regarding activities, so an intermediate group was formed. The outcomes are summarized in the table below. See Appendix 3 for a more detailed report of the session.

WORKING

Species-specific methods

- Charismatic champion
- Important economically or for food e.g. pink hibiscus mealy bug
- Stakeholder buy-in (or lack of resistance)

Regional collaboration among countries

- Effective strategy
- Institutional support
- Perceived local/personal interest

Partnerships within countries

- Effective strategy
- Institutional support
- Strong economic interest
- Public awareness

Richness of activity

- Lots of threatened resources
- Access to lots of small bits of funding
- High biodiversity
- Sectoral interests – agricultural/bio
- US interest

Information available

- Methods well-established
- Lots of regional assessments and data
- IABIN?

SOMETIMES WORKING

Legislation

In many cases none exists, but where it does exist, no enforcement in place or still in the process of being enacted.

Policies

Strategy in place

International support

Funding for eradication

Community involvement

NOT WORKING

Resources (staff and financial)

Lack of awareness and political will.

Bureaucracy

Even if political will, the process can take too long when a quick response is required. When Lion fish problem became apparent, it was initially unlawful to eradicate e.g. the green iguana in Cayman.

Enforcement of existing policy

Each region was then asked to report back to the larger group in a series of presentations.

Common Theme

After visiting all 6 groups and listening to their outcomes, all were then collated to point out similarities between the regions in terms of success and hurdles as outlined.

Successes

- there is already existing a multi-country or regional approach in dealing with invasive species management
- there was already existing a multi-sector approach that placed IAS not just as a conservation issue but more broadly in terms of fisheries, agriculture, tourism, development and health
- there has been some incorporation of IAS issues into broader frameworks such as national legislations or inclusion in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans for countries
- collaborative partnerships (local, national, regional)
- activities geared towards raising awareness and sharing information have begun in all regions

Hurdles

- lack of key champions
- lack of awareness
- lack of coordination
- funding as focus tends to be placed on development rather than biodiversity conservation, where funding is available it's not just insufficient but there are also problems regarding access and funding cycles

Day 2: The Issues from the Participants

Day 2 focused on fulfilling Outcomes 1-3.

Outcome 1: Lessons from regional collaboration in the Pacific and other island regions showcased

Outcome 2: List of actions prepared to strengthen invasive species management in regions, building on existing regional strategies and other guidance

Outcome 3: Networks and resources necessary identified to support implementation of the actions of IAS and the link with climate change adaptation

Session 1: Systems Thinking Analysis

Using the outcomes produced from Day 1 groups were asked to reconvene and use systems thinking techniques to build a clear picture of key issues identified. It looked at the event the patterns and the enabling structures for each hurdle identified. This session did not aim at solutions just at trying to understand the hurdles being faced by the region. The results are summarized below; see Appendix 4 for a more detailed report on the proceedings.

Event – Lack of resources or inefficient use of available resources

Influence/ key challenges –

1. Political and public awareness,
2. Bureaucracy
3. Where legislation exists and enforcement remain poor.

Patterns

1. Response to IAS is uneven; priorities are health and economy – biodiversity prioritised as low.
2. Resources being spread very thinly due to many ports of entry and large borders which are complex.
3. Formal and informal/illegal points of entry
4. Customs perception that wildlife crime/biodiversity of low significance. Opportunity for cost effective pro-active action at borders often lost
5. Lax enforcement history/traditionally easy going. Seen as new issue so no new money available, so ad hoc issue when it comes to funding.
6. Lack of knowledge/interest from customs.

Underlying structure

1. Awareness of biodiversity value comparatively low. No one agency to deal with IAS incursions into country.
2. Expensive to police
3. Customs officers (when motivated) see criminal activity revenue generation for government as priority. Little reward/incentive for bio-security action. Linked to the fact that customs officers ex police rather than ex conservation.
4. Customs perception that wildlife crime/biodiversity of low significance. Opportunity for cost effective pro-active action at borders often lost
5. IAS money pot not established for this “new” issue
6. A general lack of sufficient technical training/incentives. Some custom officers disinterested.

At the end of the 1st session on Day 1, groups shared information developed so far to aid in the rest of the days activities. The region was encouraged to put together a list of the “Least 10 Wanted IAS” to use as a part of the Public Education Campaign. It was also identified that environmentalists needed to change how we speak, to get our audience to listen. Experts aren’t always the most effective presenters of messages or the best to engage donors or to lobby. It is often times more productive to have a trained communicator relay the message. If not then we need to learn how to speak their language and show how conservation of biodiversity is economically important and essential. Another avenue was to show how a lack of conservation affects livelihoods to make the case that conservation adds value to countries.

Session 2: Searching for Possibilities

The second section of Day 2 focused on developing possible solutions to issues identified. This was developed through interactive sessions with all representatives from groups visiting each others stations and contributing to discussions. The discussions were time bounded and guided by key questions geared at bringing to the fore passion, desire, and resolve in the Regions. The 3 guiding questions were:

- What is it that you are most motivated to address?
- What do you need to address the issue?
- What’s holding you back/What could you start doing now?

The second part of session 2 had groups reconvening and reporting back on information gathered. See Appendix 4 for detailed information on the outcome of the session. Attention was then placed on identifying 5 things that the region has learnt so far; 5 things that we needed to explore more as a region; and 5 things that we have to offer now as a region:

5 things learned so far

- We seem to agree that IAS is compartmentalized, so prioritization is different depending on where it lies. Health/agricultural/tourism/ bio-security
- Small size makes it difficult to have a big voice which underlies need for collaboration and aggregation.
- Experts are not good communicators so need to approach outside channels to ensure relevance of message.
- Key issue is small department sizes, key individuals and lack of training and turnover and lack of institutional memory.
- Border control seems to be the most cost effective but badly managed however it is not the only issue, historically most impact from invertebrate IAS the cost and diff could be used as case study for stronger border control.

5 things that you want to explore further

- Learning from successful regional initiative.
- Improved marketing of IAS to all levels but especially for border control
- Develop regional framework to rep an action for regional priorities
- Facilitate access to resource, teams and practitioners and expertise
- Potential management support from international NGOs towards institutional strengthening and resources e.g. CANARI toolkit for NGOs to operate a small business.

5 things that we have to offer now

- Willingness to work together and contribute experiences
- A current provision of elements with good resources albeit specific and scattered resources
- Understanding importance of IAS issue and our own limitations
- Willingness to seek and receive help

Day 3: Possibilities

Day 3 focused on fulfilling outcomes 2 and 3.

Outcome 2: List of actions prepared to strengthen invasive species management in regions building regional strategies and other guidance

Outcome 3: Networks and resources necessary identified to support implementation of the actions of IAS and the link with climate change adaption

It is hoped that the results of this workshop will be fed into international processes such as the biodiversity process and the UN General Assembly and climate change process. One key conclusion that is clear from literature is that biodiversity and climate change are linked, and climate change will exacerbate the issues of invasive species. Another key conclusion moving forward is that healthy ecosystems are important in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Further discussions were had on the outcomes of the previous days exercise. The lists were revised and the following presented to the larger group:

5 things learned so far

- We seem to agree that IAS is compartmentalized, so prioritization is different depending on where it lies. Health/agricultural/tourism/ bio-security
- Small size makes it difficult to have a big voice which underlies need for collaboration and aggregation.
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- Key issue is small department sizes, key individuals and lack of training and turnover and lack of institutional memory.
- Border control seems to be the most cost effective but badly managed however it is not the only issue.
- Historically most impact from vertebrate IAS the cost and diff could be used as case study for stronger border control.

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- Develop regional framework to represent and to promote regional priorities
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Session 1: Strengthening Possibilities

Open discussion were held within the Caribbean group as to what each member was personally prepared to do within the next three months to advance their most important issue. The practicality of each personal action was evaluated by the group. Each person also identified 3 regional actions points that they could assist with. See appendix 5 for detailed report of outcomes.

Session 2: Field Trip: Visit to Rangitoto Island

Rangitoto Island is of volcanic origin having emerged from the sea in a series of explosions which formed the 259 M cinder core and black basalt rock which makes up 95% of the Island. The island hosts more than 200 species of native trees and flowering plants. Birdlife is sparse on the Island but has become more abundant following the successful pest eradication, ridding the Island of rats, mice, hedgehogs, stoats, rabbits, and cats.

The project was implemented in phases and started in June 2009 with aerial application of bait mainly to target rats and mice. Phase 2 included work on rabbits, cats, stoats, and hedgehogs.

Rabbits were hunted using 4 persons teams. Since the second round of bait drops in July and August 2009, it is reported that only 1 surviving rabbit was spotted.

The stoat and hedgehog trapping network was activated 2 weeks after the bait drop. Approximately 1,050 traps have been deployed and checked 6 times to date and no stoats have been caught. To date hedgehogs have been the greatest survivors and are present in relatively high numbers on the neighbouring Motatapu Island. Trained dogs are used to locate survivors.

There has been a degree of success with the eradication of cats as several cats have been caught in traps. Researchers feel that they are now dealing with the last few individuals of the population on the Island. The cat populations are said to have thrived after bait applications because of the abundance of available animal carcasses. The cats are however, believed to have altered their eating habit to eating just the muscle tissue of dead animals thus avoiding the risk of secondary poisoning as poisons do not accumulate in muscle tissue.

Two years of monitoring is required before success can be truly confirmed. The Department of Conservation, Auckland Conservancy, has become very vigilant to ensure that there are no reintroductions by travellers to the Island. As such checks are conducted at the terminals prior to departure using trained dogs. In addition checks are made of boats, gear and equipment before boats are allowed to depart from the main land to the Islands.



Ranger and his trained dog preparing to check bags of workshop participants prior to loading the boat to Rangitoto.



Trained dog conducting tests of bags specifically for rats and other rodents

Day 4

Day 4 focuses on fulfilling outcomes 2-4.

Outcome 2: List of actions prepared to strengthen invasive species management in regions building regional strategies and other guidance

Outcome 3: Networks and resources necessary identified to support implementation of the actions of IAS and the link with climate change adaption

Outcome 4: Key steps identified to catalyse support at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) implementing the recommendations of the workshop to inform, strengthen, and build regional initiatives for the prevention and management of IAS on islands.

Session 1: Drafting Plans and global Connections

The regional action points identified by individuals in the previous day's session were evaluated by the larger Caribbean group. The suggested regional actions points were placed into 6 key summarizing themes – Framework, Data/Information and Tools, Marketing, Funding, Capacity Building and Bio-security. The Caribbean group broke up into smaller groups to develop an action statement for each of the key themes. The main actions identified were as follows (See Appendix for 6 a detailed description of outcome):

- Secure funding
- Conduct marketing surveys
- Develop, collate and coordinate data, information and tools
- Create a regional framework
- Improve biosecurity

Session 2: International Processes

For 2010 there are 3 processes on which focus should be given all of which will have side events.

1. UNGA
 - CSD Meeting in May
 - UNGA Meeting in September
2. CBD
 - SUBSTTA Meeting in May
 - COP10 Meeting in October

3. UNFCCC

- Annual Meeting in November/December

Key messages to share as islands are:

- IAS Management is difficult for island nations
- Extinction rates are becoming alarming due to lack of support for conservation
- IAS management is more economical than the consequence

Objectives

- Identify the importance of IAS
- Strongly advocate the inter-linkages of IAS, Biodiversity and climate change
- Show passion, hope and optimism
- Promote partnership

At all side events of major meeting of focus the aim will be:

- Brief participants to side events on the outcomes of the workshop
- Provide the written outcomes for the workshop
- Request that negotiators make sure IAS references remain in text and are not removed during the negotiation process
- Monitor side events
- Carry message and raise IAS issues
- Include IAS in planning where possible

There is an upcoming review of CBD Islands Programme of Work in 2011. There is still a lot to be done between now and the time of review to advance the cause of IAS management.

Day 5: Agreements

Day 5 focused on fulfilling outcomes 2 and 4

Outcome 2: List of actions prepared to strengthen invasive species management in regions building regional strategies and other guidance

Outcome 4: Key steps identified to catalyse support at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP10) implementing the recommendations of the workshop to inform, strengthen, and build regional initiatives for the prevention and management of IAS on islands

The action plan for the Caribbean region was finalized.

Category	Action	By when	By whom
Network	<p>Action: The group will be in contact by email over the next 3 weeks and created a distribution list</p> <p>Subject for emails – Caribbean IAS</p>	April	All
Category	Action	By when	By whom
<p>Framework</p> <p>Defined as a regional approach A system of connected elements</p>	<p>Action: Document existing mechanisms and elements of IAS in the Caribbean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – strengths and gaps – regional and national <p>Action: Appoint a regional coordinator(s) for IAS at a regional level, replicating the Pacific example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – identify a champion to advance the appointments of behalf of the region – Cayman Islands and JNCC <p>Action: Develop opportunities for regional to get together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – E.g. in association with CFCS or other meetings <p>Continue development of framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Communication within framework organisations 	Report back quarterly	All Bob

Category	Action	By when	By whom
Marketing	<p>Action: Marketing research (public opinion and attitudes)</p> <p>Action: Develop marketing tools, drawing on a social market research results</p> <p>Action: Identify regional and local champions and support them with marketing tools</p>	Report back quarterly	<p>All</p> <p>Bob</p> <p>Frank</p> <p>Nelsa</p> <p>David</p> <p>Brad</p>
Category	Action	By when	By whom
Data/info and Tools	<p>Action: Develop a regional repository website – find a host Collate the information – find existing data – list in record Valuation of resource – Training personnel to fill the gaps</p> <p>Notes from Nelsa Need to target persons participating in high level meetings – SUBSTTA Data information/tools – Development of a regional repository via a website – Collate information to be served to website Case studies/success stories – Field techniques (control or eradication) – Risk assessment guidelines – IAS database (refined, existing and potential) – Human resource database – Results of valuation studies – Posting of information sheet on all existing projects – Valuation of resources and filling gaps. Training in techniques expert contact information.</p>	Report back quarterly	<p>All</p> <p>Bob</p> <p>Mat</p> <p>Shyama</p>
Category	Action	By when	By whom
Bio-security	<p>Action: Develop a model bio-security framework for legislation,</p>	Report back	<p>Erik (MAF)</p>

	institutional and financial managements for Caribbean countries to manage IAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – An early warning system is a critical part of the Institutional Framework – Ensure thorough marketing efforts that it covers, agriculture, trade, health and environment <p>Action: Build capacity at regional and national level to manage IAS</p>	quarterly	Bio NZ) Dawn to liaise and provide info to Bob
Category	Action	By when	By whom
Funding	<p>Action: Adopt a regional coordinated approach to donors and “mother” governments for funding as part of the framework for actions on IAS in the Caribbean</p> <p>Action: Adopt a pro-active marketing for the benefits of controlling IAS in the Caribbean</p>	Report back quarterly	Mat Frank

Impact of Workshop on the Caribbean Region

The workshop was timely and quite relevant. Participants were encouraged in their commitment to champion the cause of addressing IAS challenges within their countries. The sharing of experiences, successes and lessons learnt facilitated a fora for exchange of information between island nations especially those garnering useful information from Islands who are further advanced in the fight against IAS. It has also allowed for partnerships to be formed with countries within the Caribbean region, who prior to the workshop were not aware of the similarities in IAS related activities being undertaken within the Region. Working together as a group a number of hurdles were identified and agreed upon. These included: lack of funding and available resources, lack of awareness and political will, bureaucracy, and poor enforcement of policies coupled with non-existent or inadequate legislation. In moving forward as a Region emphasis has to be placed on the 6 identified actions (networking, development of framework, marketing, data/information generation and sharing, Funding and biosecurity) especially those focused on information gathering and sharing as well as making meaningful strides to developing and implementing proper biosecurity measures at our islands’ borders.

Members of the Caribbean Group

The Caribbean Region included the following persons:

Dr. Mat Dacosta-Cottam – Dept. of Environment, Cayman Islands

Nelsa English – NEPA, Jamaica

Lloyd Gamble – US Dept. of State, USA

Bradford Keitt – Island Conservation

Judy Pierce – US Fish & Wildlife, Virgin Islands

Naitram Ramnanan – CABI, Trinidad & Tobago

Dr. Dalia Salabarría Fernández – Ministry of Science, Technology & Environment, Cuba

Jennifer Wheeler – US Fish & Wildlife, USA

Frank Lowenstein – TNC, USA

James Millet – RSPB, United Kingdom

Olivia Renshaw – Conservation Dept., Ascension Island

David Knowles – BNT, Bahamas



Some members of the Caribbean Group at the Helping Island Adapt Workshop

Appendix 1: Helping Islands Adapt Workshop Programme Outline

SUNDAY 11 APRIL

5.00pm – 7.30pm Powhiri (Official Maori Welcome) & Welcome Reception

Welcome from Minister of Conservation

Princes Ballroom C & Terrace

Hyatt Regency Auckland

MONDAY 12 APRIL

Purpose: Focussing on Outcome 1: Gaining the lessons learnt from regional collaboration and coordination.

Morning	Welcome Setting the scene of the Workshop Keynote speaker Regional presentations: Pacific Lessons - learning what went well and building on this
Afternoon	Breaking into Regional Groups and a donor group: What works well – what can we build on from the successes in all regions Report Back
Evening	At your own arrangements

TUESDAY 13 APRIL

Purpose: Start to build Outcome 2: Gathering the actions that exist and that are needed to strengthen invasive species management and Outcome 3: Identifying and building the networks needed to support the implementation management of the invasive species and climate change adaptations on islands.

Morning	Opening Day Two & Summary Day One Donor presentations on what is needed to make a successful donor application “World Cafe” – What are the barriers to successfully managing Invasive species on Islands and what have you done to get past the barriers “Open Space” – building on the results of the above topic
Afternoon	“Open Space” Continued Report Back
Evening	At your own arrangements

WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL

Purpose: Outcome 2 and Outcome 3 continued

Morning	Opening Day Three & Summary of Day Two Break into Action Planning Groups to build regional and local action plans to support biodiversity on islands
12.30pm – 6.30pm	Visit to Rangitoto Island

An afternoon field trip to Rangitoto Island in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf, with a focus on a current Department of Conservation pest eradication operation on Rangitoto and Motutapu – an example of Pest control next to a city.

Evening At your own arrangements

THURSDAY 15 APRIL

Purpose: Build more constructive details around Outcome 2 and 3

Morning Opening Day Four & Summary of Day Three
Break into Action Planning Groups to continue the regional and local action plans
Report Back

Purpose: While continuing to firm up outcome 2 and 3 we will take the work from this workshop and craft it into what is needed for Outcome 4: Identify the key steps to catalyse support at the next Convention on Biological Diversity and the key steps to get implementation of the recommendations from this workshop on how to manage invasive species on islands.

Afternoon International Conferences
“World Cafe”
“Open Space”
Report Back

7.00pm – Midnight Workshop Formal Dinner
Top of the Town
Hyatt Regency Auckland

FRIDAY 16 APRIL

Purpose: This day will focus on solidifying the actions and key steps for Outcome 2 and 4

Morning Opening Day Five & Summary Day Four
Break into Action Groups to summarise the action plans
Report Back
Poroporoaki (Maori farewell) & Summary

Appendix 2: CBD Statement



STATEMENT

BY MR. AHMED DJOGHLAF

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**HELPING ISLANDS ADAPT
A WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT INVASIVE
SPECIES ON ISLANDS TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY AND ADAPT TO
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Auckland, New Zealand 11-16 April 2010

Please check against delivery



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
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Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Island biodiversity is the legacy of a unique evolutionary history. These ecosystems are irreplaceable treasures. Island species are also unique in their vulnerability: of the 724 recorded animal extinctions in the last 400 years, about half were island species. Over the past century, island biodiversity has been subject to intense pressure from invasive alien species, habitat change and over-exploitation, and, increasingly, from climate change and pollution. This pressure is also keenly felt by island economies. Among the most vulnerable of the developing countries, small island developing States (SIDS) depend on the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity for their sustainable development.

This workshop is also unique in its wide coverage of island states and contributions made by the Parties, particularly the government of New Zealand, which generously offered to host and lead this important workshop. Our colleagues in New Zealand are the leaders in the creation of biosecurity systems which protect the health of New Zealanders while ensuring the welfare of the environment, local flora and fauna, marine life, Maori resources and facilitate international trade. Working together with surrounding countries such as Australia and the Pacific Island States, I fully trust that the regional biodiversity strategy can encompass further safeguards of biodiversity and combat important threats to biodiversity, invasive alien species and climate change. The governments of Spain, Italy, Australia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom as well as the Nature Conservancy, the Global Island Partnership, the Global Invasives Species Programme, and the Pacific Invasives Initiative have also made contributions to the organisation of this workshop. They have also provided support to experts to join this excellent opportunity for regional and global collaboration between developing-country Parties in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the Coral Triangle, and the Caribbean. In addition, experts from Japan and the United States are taking part in this most welcome international collaboration.

As you are aware, 2010 is a special year for the community of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Parties to the Convention agreed in 2002 to the 2010 biodiversity target of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss worldwide by the year 2010. This was reaffirmed by Heads of States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. However, the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, to be issued on 10 May 2010, will demonstrate, based on the over 110 national reports received by the Secretariat to-date, that the 2010 biodiversity target will not be met. The report clearly indicates that the persistence and intensification of environmental pressures, including invasive alien species, provide more evidence that the rate of biodiversity loss is not being significantly reduced.

This edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook will also show the way ahead for the post-2010 biodiversity target to be adopted in October this year in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, in Japan, at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10). The proposed post-2010 target will be submitted to the Heads of State and government attending the high-level meeting on biodiversity of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in New York in September this year, and the Nagoya summit will subsequently adopt the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention. Each Party will then translate the Strategic Plan and post-2010 target into their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The outcome of this workshop will provide precious information on the strategy of island states on safeguarding biodiversity to the fourteenth meeting of Subsidiary Body for Scientific Technical and Technological Advice, which will be held in next month in Nairobi, Kenya, and then report to COP10. Therefore, the workshop will strongly guide the international community as it decides how to take the next steps regarding regional implementation of biodiversity safeguards.

I learned of an old Maori proverb that says: "*Ma tini ma mano ka rapa te whai*"

By many, by thousands, the work (project) will be accomplished. Many hands make light work. Unity is strength.

And indeed, unity and a regional approach for combating invasive species and adapting to climate change is truly the strength of island states as they strive toward the sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable development. Your participation and your action at this critical moment will make the goals of Convention on Biological Diversity achievable.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Appendix 3: Notes from Day 1 April 12, 2010.

Workshop outcome 1 – What works

Caribbean

Create a list of 5 things that are working well

Created a list of 3 hurdles or issues that you are facing

- Recurring themes in the introductions –
- Lionfish,
- Melaluca
- Wild ginger.
- Eradication and re-invasion of rats/predators.
- Lack of funding to do new work, only maintaining existing projects.
- Combined invasive plants/ predators exasperating situation.

Participants wrote down the 5 things that were working well

Cayman – lion fish control, cats, monk parakeets, hub project to access IAS funds

Jamaica – already working group formed, policies in place, enforcement, part of larger Caribbean, part of IABIN database BUT limited awareness, legislation/regulation, HR/finance impotence

Bahamas – established active multi agency, established at regional level, developed strategy, government support, institutional support and international support BUT geographical makeup, volunteers and NGOs on different islands hard to manage, lack of political will, no legislation for enforcement, major issue is funding.

US Virgin Island – good relationship/partnership with wild life services, eradication from monitoring has been successful on small islands BUT no enforcement of existing laws, no territorial invasive species strategy – lion fish is increasing issue, one way street with US mainland re: customs/border control - no biosecurity, lack of investment.

Cuba – strategy (ENO) in place, partnerships, success story BUT no legal framework, enforcement control, finance, participation

Bob (Region) – regional approach – recognition, framework developed, success stories evident, mechanisms in place being shared and funded – info sharing BUT turfism, governance issues/bureaucracy/delays, information sharing, attracting resources to IAS.

Jennifer (Region- seabirds) – work has clear baseline information, funding is available and happening, EU funding overseas territories, success stories.

Other observations or notes - The Caribbean is made up of approx 33 countries so regionally very diverse but has similar ecosystems and issues. However there are US, UK and French territories which are applying to their own government agencies for funding. Cuba has many projects but have yet to complete any, mostly due to funding and bureaucracy problems.

What allowed these successes to happen? Why?

Species-specific methods – good success when a local champion gets involved. Most departments in lots of countries are very small so reliant on a local champion. Many NGOs located in the Caribbean, lots of US islands not funding local issues and the project is reliant on the US for funding. Also locals take notice when it affects them economically or the ability to grow or catch food and that in turn affects local industry. Good stakeholder buy –in or in some cases lack of resistance to invasive species action. Lion fish and pink hibiscus mealy bug caught the imagination of the people and got political will due to its impact on the economy and tourism and people felt a personal investment in this IAS, and no animal groups against the control of it. Eradications have largely happened on smaller islands mainly due them being the last bastion of some ecosystems.

Regional collaboration – Caribbean islands close together and get IAS sometimes together, so shared information between countries as they have similar ecosystems. Economies are built around specific industries and they need safeguarding and livelihoods. It was generally agreed that if one or more countries collaborated it was deemed a regional collaboration and did not necessarily involve all countries of the Caribbean.

Partnerships within countries – sharing resources for the same problem. Nature tourism is a common interest and industry. Priorities amongst agencies shared and any agreed strategy made a difference. Political will motivated by the effects of IAS at a local level.

Richness of activity – although small there are a lot of IAS projects that are going on. Lots of agencies working in the Caribbean, so different projects attract different funding. There is a high reliance on natural resources so when there is a threat they must act fast. Funding not plentiful but they can all tap into it. Agricultural projects get the most interest due to economics, funding goes to research for this - needs to be tied in with IAS work. There is lots of funding from US so they share the money around as issues effecting islands can affect the east coast of the US.

Information available – internet access and shared information through IABIN which has all invasive species catalogued. All Caribbean countries trying to get all information into this database particularly for issues such as rat and predator eradication rather than re-inventing the wheel and where a countries department has a small staff pool.

What are the hurdles and issues? Why?

The group whittled down not working list to 4 themes but did not prioritise them.

Issues that couldn't be agreed on and were working for some countries and not for others were placed in a sometimes working column.

A discussion ensued about what sort of event or issue that brings all island nations together and it was eventually agreed that Hurricanes bring all nations together.

WORKING	SOMETIMES WORKING	NOT WORKING
Species-specific methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charismatic champion Important economically or for food e.g. pink hibiscus mealy bug Stakeholder buy-in (or lack of resistance) 	Legislation In many cases none exists, but where it does exist, no enforcement in place or still in the process of being enacted.	Resources (staff and \$\$)
Regional collaboration among countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective strategy Institutional support Perceived local/personal interest 	Policies	Lack of awareness and political will.
Partnerships within countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective strategy Institutional support 	Strategy in place	Bureaucracy Even if political will, the process can take too long when a quick response is required.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong economic interest • Public awareness 		When Lion fish problem became apparent, it was initially unlawful to eradicate e.g. the green iguana in Cayman.
Richness of activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of threatened resources • Access to lots of small bits of \$\$ • High biodiversity • Sectoral interests – agricultural/bio • US interest 	International support	Enforcement of existing policy
Information available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods well-established • Lots of regional assessments and data • IABIN? 	Funding for eradication	
	Community involvement	

Presenters at the conclusion of the workshop were Nelsa, Mat, David and Judy.

Appendix 4: Day 2 Notes

Tuesday 12 April 2010

Day 2 Workshop 1 – Using systems thinking to build a clear picture of key issues

Event – lack of resources

Q - Who gets government funding?

Government agencies have mandates but not much money and it is spread around thinly, or you have to make a bid to your minister.

Q - How does the money get split up between agencies?

Depending on how the IAS is defined and which agency is involved, drives will depend on how quickly the money materialises. Perception is how important the IAS is to the economy and the population. Example is H1N1 or pink hibiscus mealy bug, which both effect health and agricultural sectors, then the money is available immediately. If considered an issue relating to forests or conservation then you generally have to apply for a grant.

Not easy to separate socio economic issues from biodiversity problems. Cuba more than 52% of plants is endemic, so biodiversity is paramount. Biodiversity has to be taken into consideration by all ministries; the question was asked what ministry would get the funding for a new IAS problem.

In NZ IAS issues are seen as an incursion first and then dealt with.

System for applying for permits to bring in plants or animals is well set up in lots of Caribbean countries, but general bio-security checks are not structured or enforced.

Lots of agencies do not have funding or budget for emergency or reactive responses to IAS.

Identified a lack of training in bio-security and border control. Relying in the integrity of US inspection services, hands off approach by the US in regards to what is leaving the US border. Best practices are not followed.

Key issue seems to be resourcing of bio-security staffing, training. Noted that drug trafficking is perceived as more important in customs control. No development of national capacity in technical training. Application of regulatory legislation is hard to drive due to financial/resource.

Customs focus is revenue collecting, and examples such as drug busts get the most press coverage. Focus needs to be on tourism and the biodiversity connection with tourism.

Examples of public and tourists not understanding what IAS impacts are to the local ecosystem.

Snorkeling tourists thought that lion fish were pretty until they discovered that they are poisonous.

Event – Lack of resources or inefficient use of available resources

Influence/ key challenges –

4. Political and public awareness,
5. Bureaucracy
6. Where legislation exists and enforcement remain poor.

Patterns

7. Response to IAS is uneven; priorities are health and economy – biodiversity prioritised as low.
8. Resources being spread very thinly due to many ports of entry and large borders which is complex.
9. Formal and informal/illegal points of entry

10. Customs perception that wildlife crime/biodiversity of low significance. Opportunity for cost effective pro-active action at borders often lost
11. Lax enforcement history/traditionally easy going. Seen as new issue so no new money available, so ad hoc issue when it comes to funding.
12. Lack of knowledge/interest from customs.

Underlying structure

7. Awareness of biodiversity value comparatively low. No one agency to deal with IAS incursions into country.
8. Expensive to police
9. Customs officers (when motivated) see criminal activity revenue generation for government as priority. Little reward/incentive for bio-security action. Linked to the fact that customs officers ex police rather than ex conservation.
10. Customs perception that wildlife crime/biodiversity of low significance. Opportunity for cost effective pro-active action at borders often lost
11. IAS money pot not established for this “new” issue
12. A general lack of sufficient technical training/incentives. Some custom officers disinterested.

Q – If you could tackle one of the issues what would it be and why?
Strengthen existing laws for export and import plants/animals at the border.

Q – If you have success of controlling the borders, would you still have the same problems?
Even with technical training, social attitude and business attitude towards customs work in connection with IAS in the Caribbean islands is low. This is one of the underlying systems and structures. IAS is not seen as a problem by the general community. No studies or research or measures being done on the impact of incursions of IAS, then use this to speak the right language to the politicians and decision makers. Not necessarily any systems in places but this involves funding. The effects of IAS need to be tied to tourism and the impact on the economy.

The successful IAS examples are seen or managed as a separate event, and not seen as a broad IAS situation. Social marketing has been used to raise public awareness and make everyone think about it being everyone’s problem.

Q – In dealing with these issues who are the people who you need to engage and get the support from?
Who are the key ministers in the government? Policy makers, politicians, parliament. The dynamics of how strong the Minister of Environment is (if it exists at all) affects IAS issues. The Minister of Finance is often the President or PM and has the power. Be clear who your target audience, then use the right language. Direct the campaign at the constituents of the targeted minister, as votes count.

Q – When you think about the people who can influence progress, can you identify a person or a group who can help you?
Cuba – the local government
Trinidad – a champion
Jamaica – the really respected NGOs, difficulty can be that they have their own agenda and there can be tension

Bahamas – NGO that has statutory requirement, seen as seen to be able to get things done so responsibility given by the minister to get things done

Cayman – number of Caymanis out numbers ex pats and the locals are quiet and may not want to rock the boat. National Trust is the only environmental NGO, following bad press they have done less advocacy. Projects tend to be seen as sexy, IAS is not on the radar.

Environmental issues are not seen as vote making/election winning in the Caribbean because locals don't see it as a problem. The recession has marginalized IAS issues even more. Long term vision is hard to fit into the short term political climate.

Stage 2

Root problems

- People don't see IAS as a problem
- No one is measuring the impact that people value
- Not speaking the right language – e.g. economic language
- Reacting to individual invasions, not pro-active or over-arching approach that is successful

Key people

- Ministers, finance minister or head of government and the shadow minister, or key individual. Also a non-political champion is available.
- NGOS – their role/potential is complex
- Economic argument, how conservation adds value to the economy
- Not presenting effective arguments, need to be better at engaging and be better communicators

Tuesday 13 April 2010

Day 2 Workshop 2 – How we are going to search for possibilities

Nelsa English gave a summary of sharing to enable cross pollination café space conversations

Round 1

What is it that you are most motivated to act on?

- There is a need to develop a team that undertakes IAS development and issues in both national and regional context.
- By increasing public awareness you can emphasise the impact of IAS. Work through media by bombarding with images (good and bad) with social research following this campaign.
- IAS expertise expanded.
- Evaluation methods and how to get the information that you need to bring around change. Get people to understand the connection between biodiversity and their lives, by making the link and bridging the gap between the environment and people.

Round 2

What do you need?

- Provision of diplomacy to facilitate linking of key stakeholders.
- Make sure that action plans and one entity drive it. Instead of one entity, break it into regional/national strategies which reduce the need to have a committee to drive it.

- Needs to be more training to replace any staffing losses and reduce risk of information loss.
- Using existing networks for IAS information and build on it – don't re-invent the wheel.
- Need liaisons at a global level to give the small islands a voice and take their issues and needs to a bigger audience.

Round 3

What is holding you back? What could you start doing now?

- Use existing Caribbean policies and build on them even if they don't specifically include IAS, using CARICOM or UNEP for example and have a collaboration of the Caribbean programme of action.
- Also use the agricultural sector by making the IAS message to them to get information out there.
- Start developing guidelines on how to manage IAS based on other strategies from other regions in the interim until Caribbean can develop their own.
- There is a need for information/expertise sharing. Lots of tools available for IAS management, e.g. use the Australian weed risk assessment tool which has been tested and proven.
- Human resources may not be being managed properly, as well as training to increase capacity, also train managers in HR.
- Mainstream activities in local government mandates, so that when NGO funding dries up the work will continue. Try to raise your own funds which in turn can leverage more money from the government – start small and leverage.
- Increase social marketing.
- Develop databases on IAS management methods and be used as a one stop shop for information.

Q – Host. What surprised you?

Nelsa – no not really, they were similar to what had been discussed in the previous Caribbean sessions.

Discussion followed about the current limited cross regional advice and expertise. Cayman in partnership with JNCC are exploring the set up of a website or hub which has IAS resources and access to funds. The intention is to streamline resources and pool together the needs of various projects and make one application to have a better chance to get the funding. This initiative includes Cayman, BVI and TVI.

Need to build the website as a tool and not just a repository for lots and lots of documents.

Mat DaCosta-Cottam gave a summary of sharing to enable cross pollination café space conversations

Round 1

What is it that you are most motivated to act on?

Lots of different aspects that came out, key issue was issue of how ecologists and biologists are poor at communicating their work and message and the need to engage a professional marketing expert.

Round 2

What do you need?

Some invasive species are not “attractive” which makes it a hard sell to the man in the street and your pitch should be relevant and packaged well e.g. rather than branding it as an IAS issue, add it to an existing topical issue such as tourism, agricultural or economy.

Round 3

What is holding you back? What could you start doing now?

Explore the possibility of paid innovative communication and marketing, so that the message is conveyed in the right manner.

Update from International/Global workshop held in the morning session - notes taken by Frank Lowenstein

Resources, subcategory \$:

Event: Not enough resources for what we feel needs to be done

- Pattern: Small in country institutions with lack of capacity for fundraising. Small organizations, no dedicated fundraisers.

Donor base largely US based (not enough local donors?) and disconnected.

Donors uncertain about lasting results, lack confidence in institutions

Access to US donors difficult.

In-country partners good at work on the ground, but may not know how to put together proposals or in-person asks.

Out-of-country partners good at proposal and asks, but may lack on-the-ground connections and stories to make project come alive to donors or to implement well once funded.

UK ,US, possibly France don't put a sufficient proportion of biodiversity funding into island/Caribbean biodiversity conservation. Disproportionally low relative to biodiversity value. Some of the proportionality problem is due to lack of Caribbean representation in US/UK/Fr legislatures

Need better marketing of invasive species issues to take advantage of some additional funding sources (e.g. climate change funding)

Low investment in invasive species. Invasives as a non-charismatic issue, too broad, too dispersed. Hard to get people to give money to kill things. Use real bad guys (e.g. Asian carp). Gross pictures are needed.

Use the charismatic species/places at risk that people care about (e.g. focus on forests at risk, not forest pests).

Who's money: private donors, multilateral donors, bilateral/national donors

	Absolute amount of funding available for conservation	Allocation of available funding to invasives/island/Caribbean issue
Insufficient public, bilateral funding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US AID funding focused on development, or linked development and conservation, landscape scale conservation • Geography gives islands little clout, no legislators • UK overseas territories—Darwin initiative focused on overseas territories, but small

		amount of \$.
Insufficient private funding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packard—lack of critically endangered seabirds in the Caribbean • MacArthur-- wrapping up Caribbean work • Moore—focused on landscape scale conservation, not IAS. • Small foundations and individuals-- ? • Fundraisers don't have the local connections, local practitioners don't have access to donors and honed fundraising skills
Insufficient public multilateral funding	EU has some funding for work in Europe building on biodiversity conservation law, but not applicable overseas, small amount of money.	
Cross cutting issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to connect to sectors of human interests (climate change, sustainable development, livelihood) • Islands have small populations, geographic isolation that limit fundraising and political impact • Need a bigger overarching vision for invasive species

Project concepts not well developed, not specific enough about accomplishments, not compelling OR, scope of projects/vision not big enough, not connected enough across projects.

Failure by the invasive species community to embed ourselves into the larger conservation trends.

We talk too much to each other, don't embed ourselves into sustainable development, climate change adaptation. We need to make invasives compelling to others—charismatic leaders.

Need marketing and communications expertise.

Bill Nagle—Pacific Islands Initiative. Started with idea of working with governments, but found that opportunity was with LINGOs and BINGOs and now returning to government. Initially very few LINGOs, now starting to work with local entities.

Brad—National trusts taking more and more initiative in many Caribbean countries.

Resources, subcategory Human capacity:

GEF 500 Caribbean project, lots of turnover, need to restart with learning and training each time.

Might be turnover, might be reorganization and re-allocation of staff.

People moving around within an island/nation not too bad.

Need for education at the political level to provide support for people focused on the issue.

- Pattern: Low staff retention—small organizations don't provide an enabling environment—(can't get things done due to management issues), split responsibilities (too many responsibilities), low remuneration= high stress, flight risk. **Applies to both non-profits and public officials**

Career development is a key issue. Difficult to map out a career path. Hard to turn away opportunities that naturally come to brightest and most talented island-based staff.

Institutional development also key.

With so many responsibilities, hard to retain focus on invasive species as one of those responsibilities.

What capacity should you develop locally? Implementation capacity may not be needed locally, but rather people who can develop the enabling conditions (biosecurity policy, legal framework).

Management capacity is key—management of project and programs not actual management of the weeds.

Retention is one side, recruitment is the other side.

Both depend on function of the organization—planning (lack thereof), funding (lack thereof), management skills (lack thereof)

Depth on the bench tends to be lower with small organizations. How do you get organizations to consciously grow back up skills, to share staff expertise across organizations (and across islands) to provide back up. Can support organizations outside the region provide back-up on some of the skills?

International institutions skimming staff off the top is part of the problem!!!!

Recruitment—rudimentary processes for bringing on early career conservationists. This creates a limited pool of local people with the skills to accomplish conservation, so skimming has more impact.

Need to create framework for actively recruiting and retaining early career staff.

Switzer Fellows and Environmental Leadership Grants—can they be interested in the Caribbean.

Other solutions. Build student-ships into grants. Also Beebe(?) program run by CI and Birdlife international?

Management issues and conflicts seen as the greatest reason for turnover. Opportunity for personal or career growth/compensation issues secondary problems

Building capacity that moves from island to island to island.

In the Pacific, young people not interested in biodiversity. Is that just that there are not enough jobs.

Solutions: Regional vision, long term, professionally marketed to create funding. Regional implementation team to conduct IAS removal, mapping, etc. Local island presence that creates enabling conditions (political and legal), contributes to the regional vision. Regional vision and team need to support needs on the islands too.

Local ownership and/or investment in implementation is key. How to sustain funding and interest through planning phase prior to implementation (3-5years)

BL model—work with an in-country partner. Long term partnership. In-country partner has partnerships/relationships with local site support groups. Sometimes hard to find appropriate local partners?

May be a set of regional visions (agricultural, sea bird, forest, marine) that nest together.

Small business solutions: How can we create models (legislation, plans, business operations) that work for small entities, enable them to be more flexible and more productive with limited resources/staff. TIS support, leased offices, outside payroll, banking solutions. Regional clearing house of small organization solutions/services?

A lot comes down to compliance—enforcement of legislation or community compliance with bio-security measures. If not there, is it worth starting.

Awareness and political will

- Pattern: 27 territories, 13 sovereign states. High variation in languages, degree of political autonomy, economic status. Variation in political will and awareness within states (Bonaire high awareness).

Political will where and with regards to what? E.g. lionfish fairly charismatic. Change in the Bahamas with growth in internal capacity of government agencies.

Micronesia Biosecurity Plan came about due to one man's vision—president of Palau. With end of his term, regional will decreased. Problem for regional efforts.

Political will in the Caribbean. Political will/awareness in donor nations, multilateral agencies.

Need for public opinion research to understand how to speak about Caribbean issues in a way that US audiences will understand. Approximately a \$100K project. Focus groups in wealthier areas, then test with broader public

Congresswoman from Brooklyn who's originally from Jamaica agreeing to be a champion for island issues

USFWS lacks a mandate to address international invasives or biodiversity issues outside the US. Is this representative of public attitudes and we should focus on private \$?

Caribbean populations in Europe/US could be influential politically. Why aren't they? Not mobilized and organized.

Caribbean presentation for the beginning of Day 3 Wednesday 14 April 2010

5 things learned so far

- We seem to agree that IAS is compartmentalized, so prioritization is different depending on where it lies. Health/agricultural/tourism/ bio-security
- Small size makes it difficult to have a big voice which underlies need for collaboration and aggregation.
- Experts are not good communicators so need to approach outside channels to ensure relevance of message.
- Key issue is small department sizes, key individuals and lack of training and turnover and lack of institutional memory.
- Border control seems to be the most cost effective but badly managed however it is not the only issue, historically most impact from invertebrate IAS the cost and diff could be used as case study for stronger border control.

5 things that you want to explore further

- Learning from successful regional initiative.
- Improved marketing of IAS to all levels but especially for border control
- Develop regional framework to rep an action for regional priorities
- Facilitate access to resource, teams and practitioners and expertise
- Potential management support from international NGOs towards institutional strengthening and resources e.g. CANARI toolkit for NGOs to operate a small business.

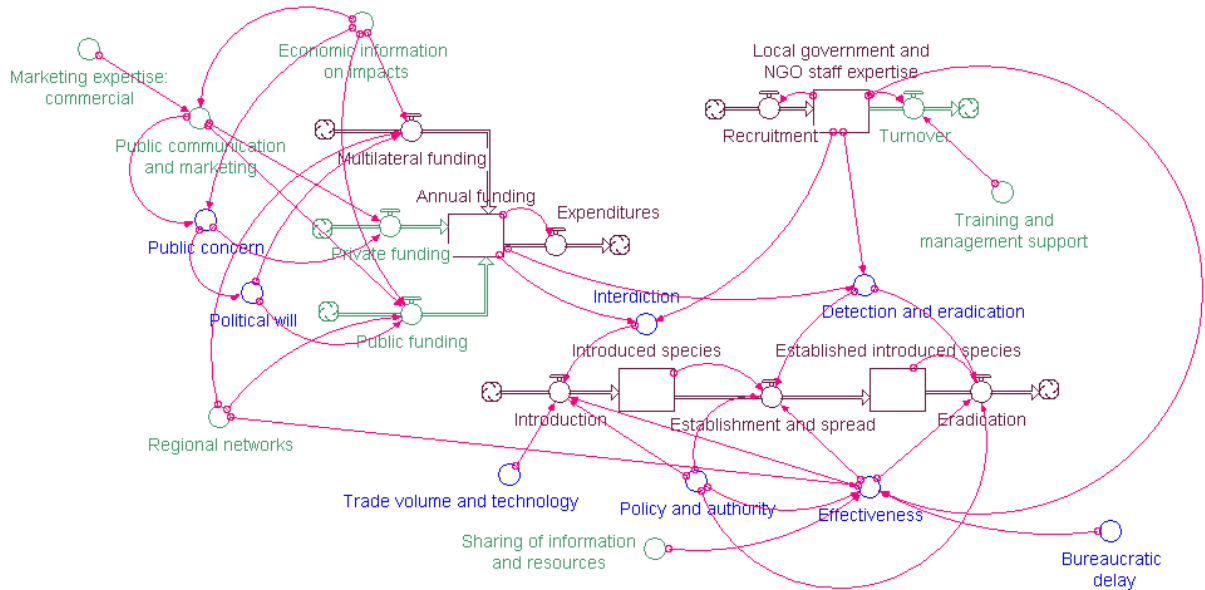
5 things that we have to offer now

- Willingness to work together and contribute experiences
- A current provision of elements with good resources albeit specific and scattered resources
- Understanding importance of IAS issue and our own limitations

- Willingness to seek and receive help

Brad Keitt noted that while prevention is important not to lose sight of the current IAS that is hastening the extinction of endemic species. By eradicating these you can show real value on the improvement in biodiversity.

Frank Lowenstein summarized the current Caribbean situation with a diagram



Appendix 5: Day 3 Notes
Wednesday 14 April 2010
Day 3 Workshop 1

Revised Caribbean presentation for the beginning of Day 3 Wednesday 14 April 2010

5 things learned so far

- We seem to agree that IAS is compartmentalized, so prioritization is different depending on where it lies. Health/agricultural/tourism/ bio-security
- Small size makes it difficult to have a big voice which underlies need for collaboration and aggregation.
- Experts are not good communicators so need to approach outside channels to ensure relevance of message.
- Key issue is small department sizes, key individuals and lack of training and turnover and lack of institutional memory.
- Border control seems to be the most cost effective but badly managed however it is not the only issue.
- Historically most impact from vertebrate IAS the cost and diff could be used as case study for stronger border control.

5 things that you want to explore further

- Learning from successful regional initiative.
- Improved marketing of IAS to all levels but especially for border control
- Develop regional framework to represent and to promote regional priorities
- Facilitate access to resource, teams, practitioners and expertise.
- Potential management support from international NGOs towards institutional strengthening and resources CANARI toolkit for NGOs to operate a small business.

5 things that we have to offer now

- Willingness to work together and contribute experiences
- A current provision of elements with good resources albeit specific and scattered resources
- Understanding importance of IAS issue and our own limitations
- Willingness to seek and receive help

Brad Keitt noted that while prevention is important not to lose sight of the current IAS that is hastening the extinction of endemic species. By eradicating these you can show real value on the improvement in biodiversity.

Day 3 Workshop 1 – Strengthening the possibilities

What are you personally prepared to do within the next three months to advance your most important issue?

Practical checklist

Will it make a difference to you and your region?

What is the level of political will/political support to do this?

What is the financial capability to allow this to happen?

What is the capability/capacity in your area to do this?

What is the level of alignment with the bottom of the “systems thinking” coral island model?

What would be your level of involvement?

Is it practical?

Why – what problem is it linked to?

What will be different as a result?

What your role in starting this with existing resources

3 suggested regional action points which were placed as post it notes on the board for consideration

Name	Personal Regional Action
Bob Ramnanan T&T TRINIDA AND TOBAGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity to measure , document and promote the social, ecological and economic impact of IAS• An efficient biosecurity system• Greater awareness of the importance of the environment in general
Mat DaCosta-Cottam CAYMAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OTs in the region should levy increased funding from “mother” countries (with help and support from international NGOs)• Establish Caribbean communications hub to facilitate information exchange and efficient working
Judy Pierce US VIRGIN ISLANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide contact information for all Caribbean countries for IAS to facilitate communication and avoid duplication of effort•
Dalia Maria Salabarría CUBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish better communications and exchange information and experiences through a network of professional working on IAS.• There are in the region several countries and institutions working on this important field.• Work together thinking as a region to achieve a regional approach•
Nelsa English JAMAICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing of success stories with all in the region which can be built on by other countries• More inclusion of all Caribbean islands in the development of a regional framework in which to act• More collaboration on existing IAS initiatives to ensure there is no overlap and wasting of resources

<p>Jennifer Wheeler USA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form some sort of network for IAS/biodiversity concerns parallel to IAS/agriculture network (working group/strategy) • Credible, compelling link between IAS management and climate change • Matrix of priorities for various IAS projects to clearly see overlap (could be by sector) e.g. CABI GEF/CEPF/EU EUTRP
<p>David Knowles BAHAMAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop regional framework to represent and to promote regional priorities • Improve marketing of IAS to all levels but especially for border control • Practical guidelines for assessing invasiveness and risk assessment
<p>Frank Lowenstein TNC USA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public opinion research to improve invasives messaging – focusing on attitudes in US donor community, Caribbean in-country public opinion and Caribbean ex-pat public opinion. • Work with Berkshire- based donors (individuals) to conduct a presentation on Caribbean invasives and their importance to climate change adaptation with attendance from Caribbean country based personnel. • Work with Stas and GISP to ensure continued dialogue among Caribbean IAS practitioners leading toward a more formal network
<p>Olivia Renshaw UK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a list of IAS for each OT and collate information onto a database • Develop a website dedicated to IAS in the South Atlantic region – to include case studies, techniques for control and eradication success stories • Develop an IAS working group to share techniques and tools. Improve communication between OIs.
<p>Lloyd Gamble USA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohesive regional co-ordinations of diverse efforts (shared forum, common goals, ID of shared pathways) • Tangible progress on age old messaging problem (expert communications input and data on economic, cross-sectoral impacts)
<p>Brad Kielt – IC USA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase regional co-ordination to develop support for IAS eradication in the region • Increased \$ resources to support on the ground action • Increases capacity to help develop the enabling conditions on the ground for implementing IAS eradications

Appendix 6: Day 4 Notes

Thursday 15 April 2010

Day 4 Workshop 1 – Actions

The suggested regional actions points were identified into 6 key summarizing themes – Framework, Data/info and Tools, Marketing, Funding, Capacity Building and Bio-security.

The Caribbean group broke up into smaller groups to develop an action statement for each of the key themes.

3 – 5 Regional action points

Essential questions to answer

1. What is the action?
2. What problem will it address?
3. Why is it important enough to focus on?
4. What help is needed to make it successful?
5. What would a successful implementation look like?
6. What are the three “next steps” towards making this happen?

Test – is it possible?

What is the action?

Why is this action needed?

What help will be needed?

Souad gave a brief overview of PII and how they have been successful in the Pacific with relationship building.

Framework Defined as a regional approach A system of connected elements	Action: Document existing mechanisms and elements of IAS in the Caribbean <ul style="list-style-type: none">– strengths and gaps– regional and national Action: Appoint a regional coordinator(s) for IAS at a regional level, replicating the Pacific example <ul style="list-style-type: none">– identify a champion to advance the appointments of behalf of the region– Cayman Islands and JNCC Action: Develop opportunities for regional to get together <ul style="list-style-type: none">– E.g. in association with CFCS or other meetings Continue development of framework
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication within framework organisations
Marketing	<p>Action: Marketing research (public opinion and attitudes)</p> <p>Action: Develop marketing tools, drawing on a social market research results</p> <p>Action: Identify regional and local champions and support them with marketing tools</p>
Capacity Building	
Data/info and Tools	<p>Action: Develop a regional repository website – find a host Collate the information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - find existing data – list in record <p>Valuation of resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training personnel to fill the gaps <p>Notes from Nelsa Need to target persons participating in high level meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SUBSITA <p>Data information/tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a regional repository via a website - Collate information to be served to website <p>Case studies/success stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field techniques (control or eradication) - Risk assessment guidelines - IAS database (refined, existing and potential) - Human resource database - Results of valuation studies - Posting of information sheet on all existing projects - Valuation of resources and filling gaps. Training in techniques expert contact information.
Bio-security	<p>Action: Develop a model bio-security framework for legislation, institutional and financial managements for Caribbean countries to manage IAS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An early warning system is a critical part of the Institutional Framework - Ensure thorough marketing efforts that it covers, agriculture, trade, health and environment <p>Action: Build capacity at regional and national level to manage IAS</p>
Funding	<p>Action: Adopt a regional coordinated approach to donors and “mother” governments for funding as part of the framework for actions on IAS in the Caribbean</p> <p>Action: Adopt a pro-active marketing for the benefits of controlling IAS in the Caribbean</p>