

IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

198

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @IUCNSSCISSG

Twitter: @IUCN_ISSG

Website: www.issg.org

Mission statement

The Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) aims to reduce threats to natural ecosystems and the native species they contain by increasing awareness of invasive alien species, and of ways to prevent, control or eradicate them.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The ISSG promotes and facilitates the exchange of invasive species information and knowledge across the globe and ensures the linkage between knowledge, practice and policy so that decision making is informed. The two core activity areas of the ISSG are policy and technical advice, and information exchange through our online resources and tools and through networking.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS): Carry out 2022 scheduled updates of all national checklists.

T-003 Enhance the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS).

T-007 Update Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicator 15.8.1.

NETWORK

T-002 Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS): Expand networks of country editors.

COMMUNICATE

T-004 Complete integration of the Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT) on the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD).

T-005 Populate EICAT assessments, finalising at least 100 assessments in 2022.

T-006 Contribute to discussion on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework for what concerns Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Communication

T-003 (KSR 5)

Addition of key annotations to the GRIIS compendium: 100

Result description: Through various funded projects, data on key annotations such as dates of introduction, pathways of introduction and impacts have been compiled and recorded in the GRIIS master Research Database.

Policy

T-001 (KSR 5)

Numbers of country checklists updated: 130

Result description: The complete global coverage of the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species entails the update of 198 national checklists and is extended over a two-year period. The process began in 2021 and we have processed over 130 checklists for update.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-004 (KSR 12)

EICAT framework visible on the GISD website; species assessments online: 50%

Result description: EICAT assessments produced, and EICAT search options implemented in GISD.

T-005 (KSR 12)

Number of assessments online: 30%

Result description: Over 30 assessments were published in 2021.

T-006 (KSR 12)

Engagement with the CBD and key persons: 100%

Slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta*), commonly traded as pets, have been introduced to many countries by people releasing them to the wild, then becoming invasive
 Photo: ISSG archives



Result description: The ISSG, through its Chair and global membership, has and is playing a key role in constructive discussions at different fora related to the development and wording of the Post-2020 invasive alien species target.

Acknowledgements

The Invasive Species Specialist Group would like to acknowledge the membership in supporting the group to actively raise the profile of this key threat through their work. Several members of the ISSG are leading the writing of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Invasive Alien Species Assessment as lead authors, review editors, etc. Over 450 country experts, many of them ISSG members, have contributed to the GRIIS project as editors and contributors of data. The ISSG would like to acknowledge the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale), for hosting the Global Invasive Species Database and providing IT support. The ISSG would like to acknowledge the support of La Trobe University for hosting the GRIIS Research Database and IT support; this has been made possible through Prof. Melodie McGeoch who is the science lead



Communicating children key messages on invasive species
 Photo: ISSG archives

for the ISSG in the development of IAS indicators. We would also like to acknowledge the University of Auckland for its over two decades of support to the ISSG. ISSG would also like to acknowledge the funding support from IUCN Headquarters for the update of the SDG Policy indicator 15.8.1.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 7 Global

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

Communicate: 3 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

