Task No. 10

Invasive species and wetlands

The fifth meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species
Nairobi, 13th and 14th January, 2014

The IALG-IAS was established by the CBD to emphasize the importance of global communication amongst the international organizations involved in the control of IAS. A group to liaise between these organizations was necessary to facilitate this communication.

The main purpose of the meeting was:

(i) focus on collaboration among the relevant organizations that contribute to
(ii) the international regulatory framework relevant to invasive alien species
(iii) capacity-building support for developing countries to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

The main output of the meeting are:

- **A discussion on the activities of the organizations of Inter-agency Liaison Group (WTO, IPPC, CBD, WCO, CABI, IMO) on Invasive Alien Species in capacity development.**
- **SCBD representative gave overview on the partnership with relevant organizations, activities to strengthen implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and gaps such as lack of standards. Discussion was carried on the criteria for prevention of IAS and pathways.**
- **IUCN Conservation Group representative gave Presentation on "Promotion of Aichi Biodiversity Targets (CBD decision X/2) and contribution of IUCN work programme for 2013-2016.**

- **The group discussed and listed the following gaps and inconsistencies in international regulatory framework relevant to invasive alien species and progress on development of guidance on management of pathways.**
  - **Aquaculture**
  - **Ballast water and hull-fouling**
  - **Biocontrol agents**
  - **Civil air transport**
  - **Ex-situ animal breeding**
  - **International development assistance**
  - **Inter-basin water transfer and navigational channels**
  - **Internet trade**
  - **Scientific research**
  - **Tourism**

There was further discussion on expanding membership, including which organizations should be members and how strict these policies should be. Some organisations (including Ramsar) feel that it is necessary to expand membership to help and strength the group. The chairperson agreed and supports this side. Others felt that the membership should be limited to the original members. It was finally decided to delay this decision for more communication. The group was also informed that the Ramsar Secretariat strongly requesting that they be considered for membership of the group

RANDY
IPBES

Production of the first draft of STRP Briefing Note (BN)

- **Guidance and Sources of Information on Alien Invasive Species in Wetland, outlining major wetland-IAS issues and actions, which would target policy makers, wetland managers and the wider community.**

Contents of BN

- Background information
- Related documents:
- Key messages and recommendations:
- Framing the responses to invasive species in wetlands
- Sources of information
- Other issues related to an effective addition of issues of biological invasions to the Ramsar Convention topics of importance
- References

Major threats of Invasive alien species

- Loss of biodiversity
- Environmental Threats
- Impact on native plant or animals
- Economic Threats
- Social and Human Health Threats
- Impact on rural communities
- Threats to International Trade

CASE STUDY

Invasion of Water hyacinth

From list of: 100 of the world worst invasive alien species

Distribution of Water hyacinth in Arab region

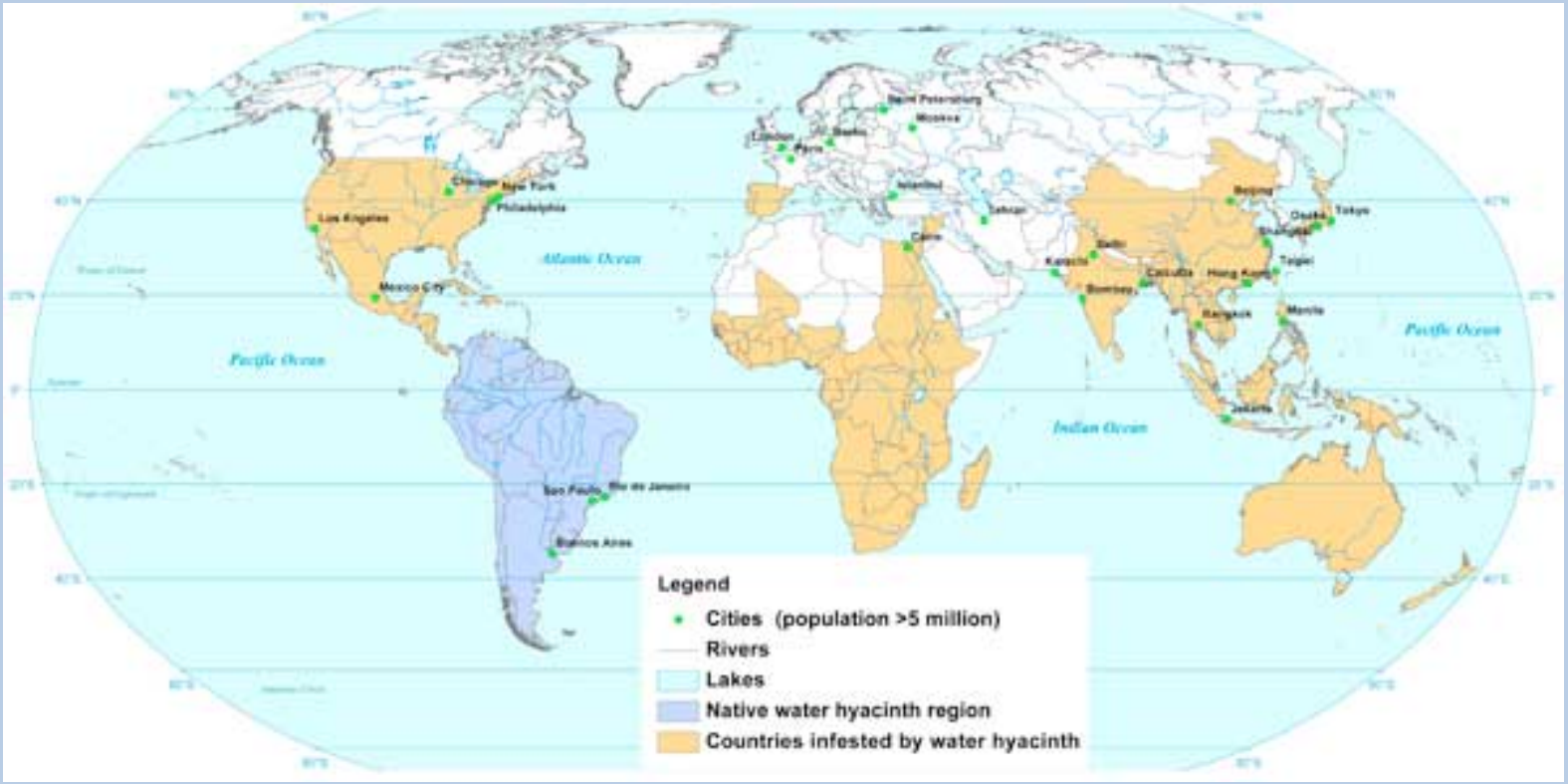
In Egypt: reported from the late 1879

In Sudan: recorded in 1955, (in the Nile between Juba to the Jebel Aulia).

Recently, it was recorded in Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon

Distribution of Water hyacinth in Nile Basine

One of the worst invasions by Water Hyacinth was its infestation of the edges of Lake Victoria in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, where almost all of the approximately 4,000 km of lake edge was tightly packed with this plant – in some places extending 2 km into the lake with an impenetrable mat of vegetation.



Impact of Water hyacinth

1. In Egypt, total infested area: 487 km^2 of the drainage and irrigation canals, and 151 km^2 covering lakes.
2. Total amount of water loss by evapotranspiration : 3.5 billion m^3 per year. This amount is sufficient to irrigate about 432 km^2 every year.

1. In Sudan, the annual water loss from evapotranspiration more 4 billion m^3 per year.

It's shading and crowding reduces biological diversity in aquatic ecosystems

Prevents sunlight and oxygen from reaching the water column and submerged plants.

The dense infestation gives rise to great difficulties for navigation, fishing, and irrigation.

In 50 days, a single plant produces 43 offsets which produce 1894 offsets in another 50 days and after 200 days from the start, one expects to have 3,418,800 new offsets. He indicated that about 20 dry tons per hectare can be harvested from standing water hyacinth plants, wherease a 5 to 8 harvests can be collected per year

Possible follow-up products:

1) **Fact Sheets on IAS of particular concern containing relevant guides for guidance as to their management**
2) **A more detailed information paper (more detailed guide for guidance), targeting mainly wetland managers, which would be developed as a COP12 Information Paper.**

Next Steps

- Strengthen International cooperation (Interagency Liaison Group)
- Combination between IAS and other thematic areas (urbanisation, climate change …)
- Inclusion of invasive species issues in the subregional Capacity-building Workshops
- Produce technical report on IAS and wetlands to presented to parties