



Global Invasive Species Programme

A global response to the growing threat
of invasive species



Invasive Species

- Plants, animals or micro-organisms whose introduction and/or spread into a new ecosystem threatens biodiversity, food security, human health, trade, transport and economic development.
- A major constraint to food security, human health and global trade!
- 2nd biggest threat to biodiversity globally, & in certain ecosystems, notably Islands, pose the biggest threat to biodiversity.



Costs of invasive species



“Estimated costs of damage are at least **\$US 1.4 trillion per annum** - close to 5% GDP and they are recognised as being one of the greatest threats to the environmental and economic well-being of our planet”

Other issues:

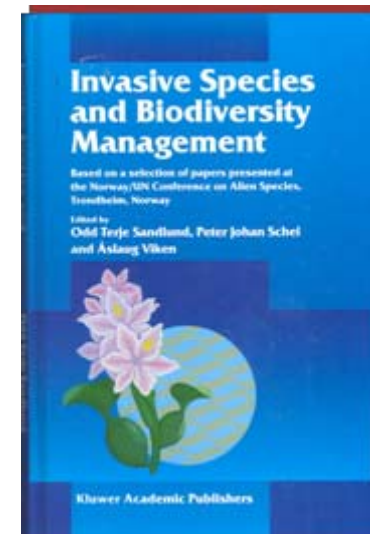
- Issue does not receive due recognition by policy-makers
- Invasive species pigeon-holed as an Environmental Issue rather than a Cross-Sectoral issue
- Link between biodiversity & food security poorly understood
- Globalisation (4Ts) escalating the problem to critical proportions
- Poor awareness is the biggest barrier to effective action
- Capacity to deal with invasive species in developing countries limited

The Organisation



An international partnership dedicated to tackling the global threats of invasive species through policy development, awareness raising & information exchange.

- **Established** in response to recommendations from the 1st International Conference on Invasive species (Trondheim, 1996).
- **Launched** as a partnership between CABI, IUCN & SCOPE to raise awareness & support international agreements of relevance to invasive species, specifically implementation of CBD Article 8h.
- **GISP Partnership** expanded and now includes:
 - CABI**
 - IUCN (including ISSG of IUCN's SSC)**
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**
 - Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD)**
 - South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)**
 - International Oceans Institute (IOI)**
 - Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)**
 - DIVERSITAS**
- **Legally** constituted in 2005.



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The Strategy

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Goal: By 2020, a majority of countries have the necessary policies in place to implement their biosecurity strategies & action plans.

Mission: To conserve biodiversity & sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread & impact of invasive species.

Objectives:

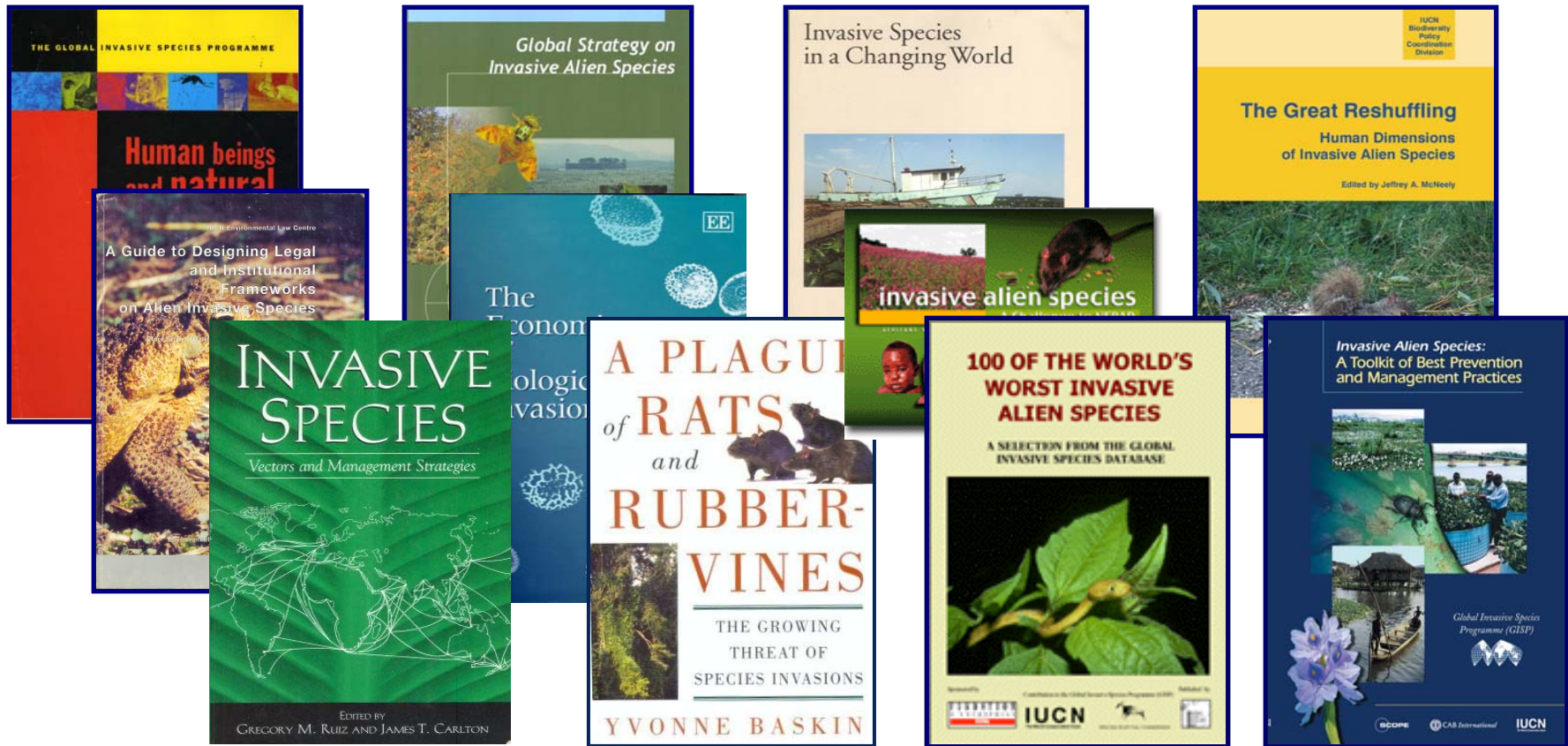
1. Facilitates the development, adoption and implementation of science-based policies and systems of governance;
2. Raises awareness of threats posed by, and solutions for, addressing invasive species;
3. Promotes the exchange of information for broader uptake by decision-makers.



The Knowledge-Building Phase



GISP together with its Partner Organisations began activities in 1997 with a **Knowledge-Building Phase** which culminated in a number of groundbreaking publications.

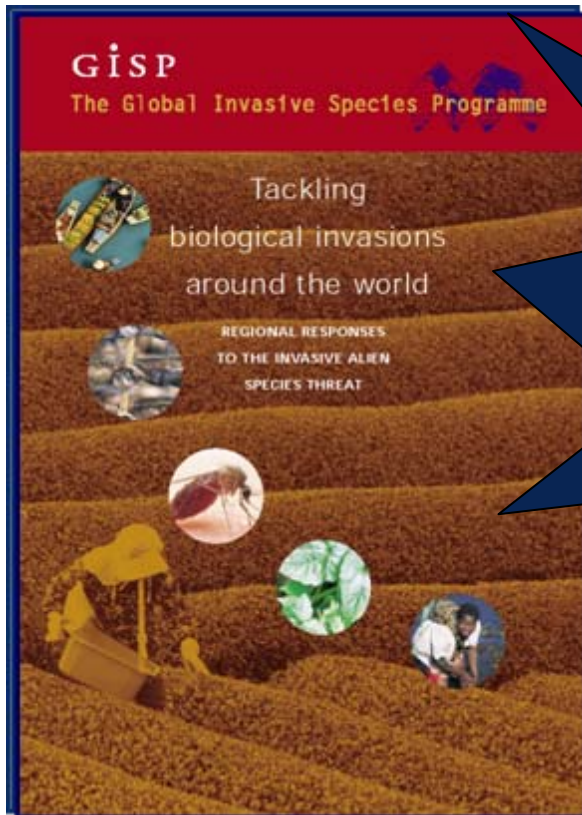


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The Capacity-Building Phase



GISP together with its partner organisations began **Regional Capacity-Building**, organising workshops around the world to raise-awareness of the threat and collect regional data.

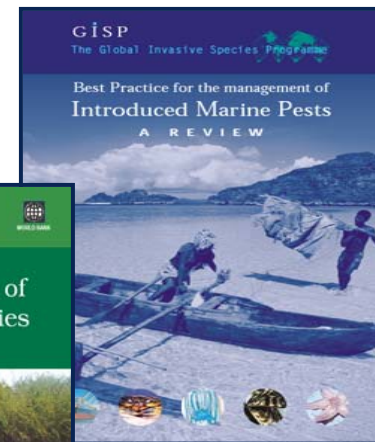
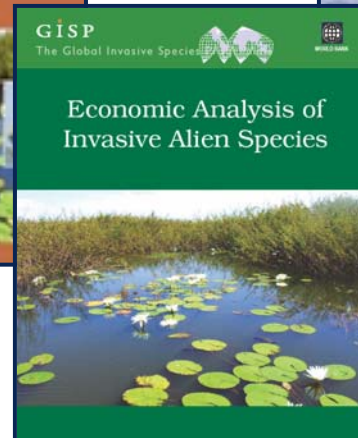
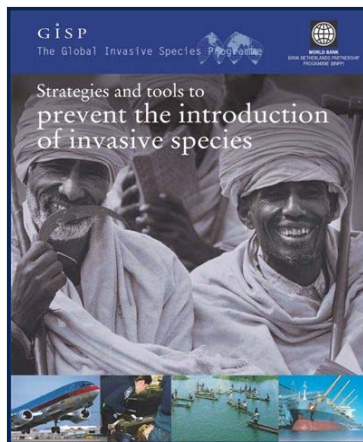


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The Training Courses

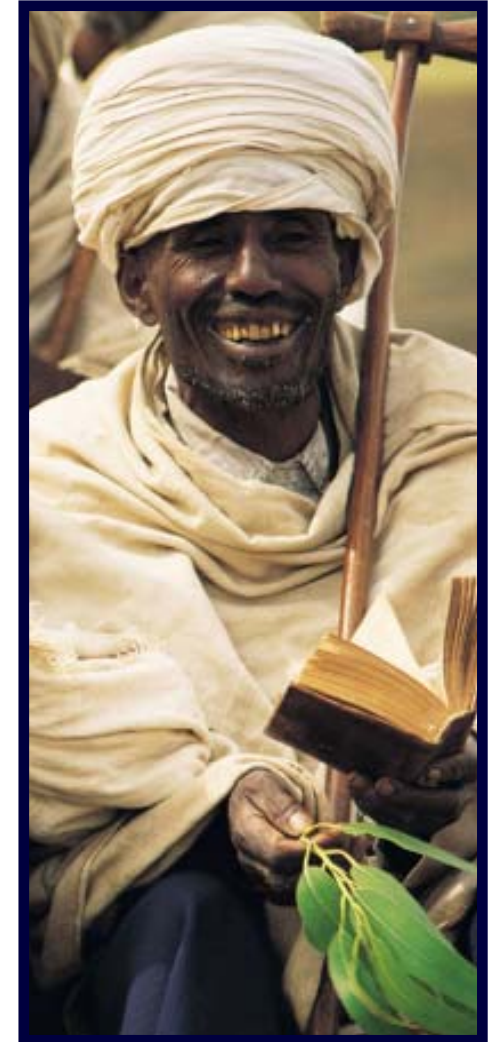


Attention turned towards the development & delivery of World Bank-funded, **GISP Training Courses** and a range of capacity building activities which targeted developing countries.



The Current Activities

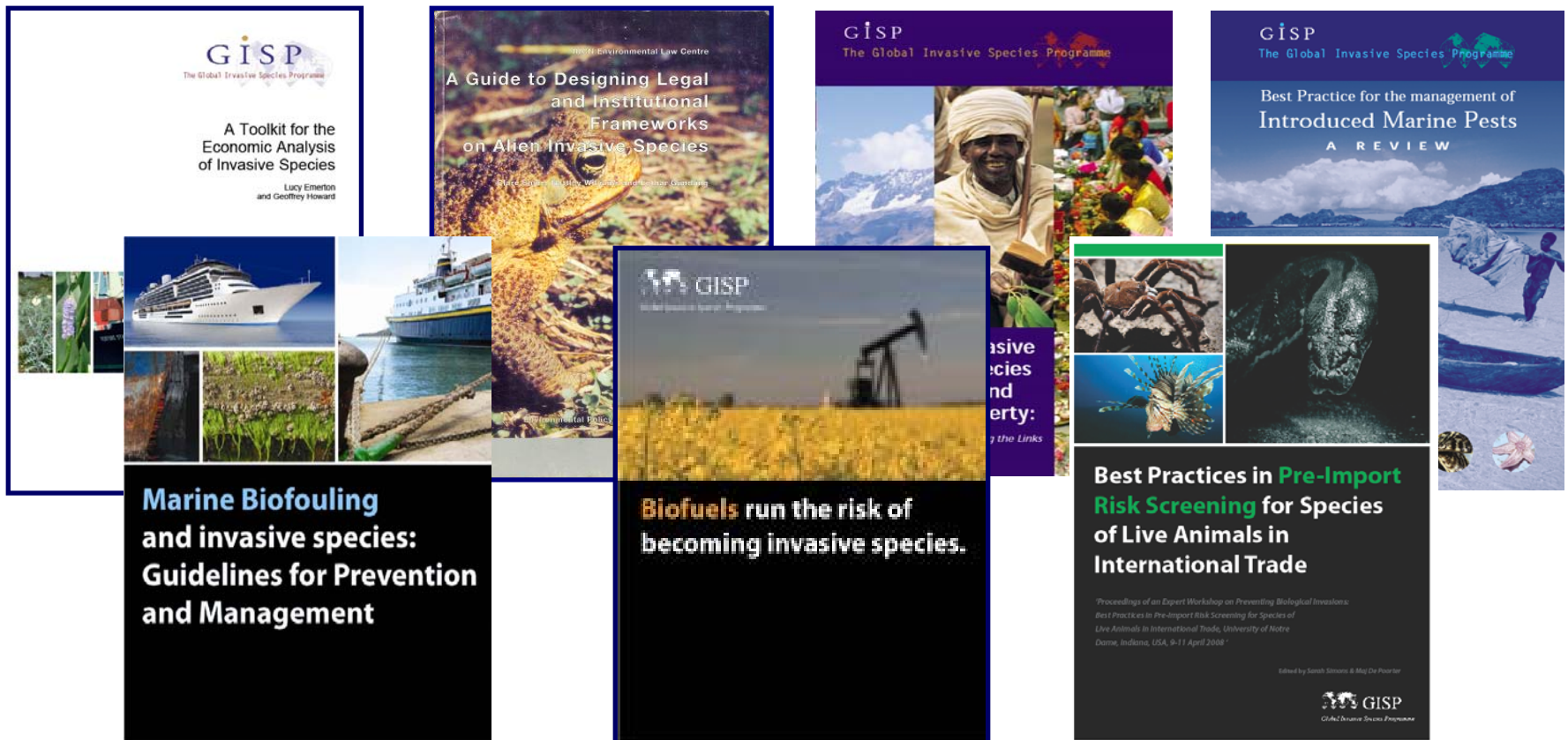
- In 2008, acknowledging the growing capacity and changing needs of its stakeholders and target beneficiaries, GISP's Global Strategy was simplified and refocused to ensure greater impact and sustainability in the next decade, and beyond!
- Now GISP provides an international platform for promoting and facilitating the development, adoption and implementation of national, regional and international policies.
- GISP's activities include building partnerships, providing policy guidance, raising awareness, and promoting the exchange of information on invasive species in support of capacity building efforts.



Policy Guidance on invasive species



GISP produces best practices, toolkits and guidelines for policy makers



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Information Exchange

- GISP Website updated and relaunched in an attempt to respond better to the needs of our stakeholders.
- GISP would like to further develop the website into a portal for global information on invasive species.
- 500 email queries per month (>50% currently relate to issues concerning biofuels).
- Continue publishing science-based policy documents.



Awareness Raising



- Awareness of the threat posed by invasive species is improving BUT GISP views it as being of paramount importance in reducing the impacts of invasive species.
- Costs of damage \$1.4 trillion – yet still relatively few people are aware of the threat, much less the costs.
- **WWW.GISP.ORG**



“Some biofuel crops could become invasive species: experts warn”

http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5ltvqo2L95J8ukDwhr64O1DF_0DpQ



“Fuel crops 'pose invasion risk”

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7410542.stm>



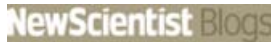
“GISP warns of invasive biofuel crops”

<http://www.biofuelreview.com/content/view/full/1586/1/>



“New biofuel sources may not be food, but they could prove invasive”

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/2008/05/20/healthscience/biofuels.php>



“Invasion of the biofuel species”

<http://www.newscientist.com/blog/environment/2008/05/invasion-of-biofuel-species.html>



“Don't Let Invasive Biofuel Crops Attack Your Country, Warn Top Scientists”

http://www.prweb.com/releases/Invasive/Biofuel_Crops/prweb958834.htm



“Biofuels a risk for wildlife in new habitats: study warns”

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSL209083020080520>



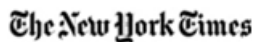
“Les plantes pour agro-carburants peuvent menacer la biodiversité”

<http://www.rtlinfo.be/rtl/news/articles/131224/-Les+plantes+pour+agro-carburants+peuvent+menacer+la+biodiversite%C3%A9>



“Warning against invasive biofuel crops”

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2008/05/21/2251464.htm?site=science&topic=latest>



“New Trend in Biofuels Has New Risks”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/21/science/earth/21biofuels.html?hp>

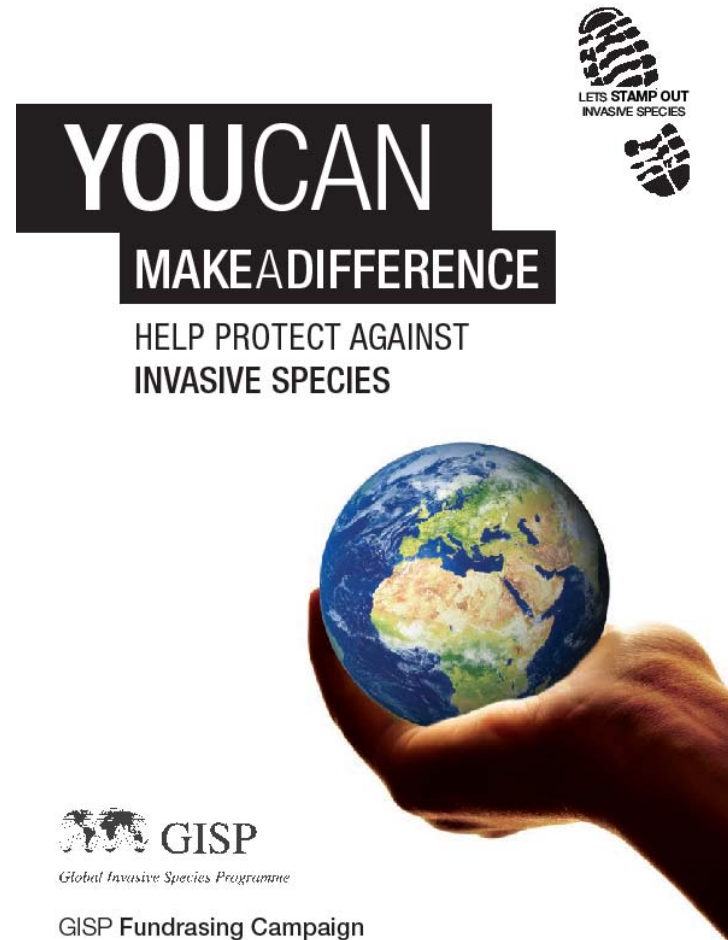


“Biofuel: a tankful of weed juice”

http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/personal_tech/article3988485.ece



GISP Fund-Raising Campaign



The Global Partnership



www.gisp.org



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