

G7 Workshop on Invasive Alien Species, Rome 26th November 2024 Chair's Summary

AGENDA

Tuesday 26 November 2024 - Workshop IAS	
11:30-11:45	Welcome by G7 IT Presidency and objectives of the workshop
11:45-12:25	Contributions from international organizations and the European Union 11:45-11:55: CBD Secretariat, Marianela Araya Quesada "COP outcomes - what is next for IAS" 11:55-12:05: IUCN, Kevin Smith "IUCN support for meeting Target 6" 12:05-12:15: IPBES, Helen Roy "Uptake and impacts from the IPBES thematic assessment report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control" 12:15-12:25: European Commission, Daniel Nuijten "The EU IAS regulation; a coordinated approach between Member States."
12:25-13:00	Information sharing among G7 Countries Italy (15 min) Japan (10 min) Canada (10 min)
13:00-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30-14:10	..continued information sharing France (10 min) Germany (10 min) United Kingdom (10 min) United States of America (10 min)
14:10-14:20	Q&A
14:20-16:15	14:20-15:20 Discussion on Potential Ways Forward 15:20-16:15 Chair's summary
16:15-16:30	Closing remarks

Preamble

As highlighted in the communiqué¹ adopted in Torino on April 2024 by the G7 Ministers of Climate, Energy, and the Environment (Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué; Torino, April 29-30, 2024) biodiversity is declining at an alarming and unprecedented rate, as a consequence of human activities. The global rate of species extinction is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than the average rate over the past 10 million years. The 2019 IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services provides clear and strong evidence of the biodiversity crisis we are facing, and that biodiversity loss is directly driven by several drivers including—as also presented in the IPBES Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control—invasive alien species (IAS).

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) provides a comprehensive response to biodiversity loss. Biodiversity, climate change, pollution and health are interconnected, and it is essential to promote and support collaboration across sectors and disciplines to improve health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems.

The G7 Ministers stressed in the communiqué that halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 is not only an ecological necessity but also a social and economic imperative. The continued loss of biodiversity threatens our life support systems, jeopardizes our capacity to address climate change, and undermines sustainable development. It is therefore necessary to achieve international biodiversity targets and goals, including Target 6 on invasive alien species.

The G7 Ministers of Climate, Energy, and the Environment committed in Torino, among other issues, to prevent introduction and minimize the impact of IAS by working together to enhance international cooperation and through the engagement of business and other sectors to achieve KMGBF Target 6 and manage IAS and their pressures and impacts, including by holding a G7 Workshop on KMGBF Implementation, with a focus on IAS.

To respond to these commitments, Italy hosted a Workshop on IAS, that was held on November 26th, 2024, in Rome, with representatives of all G7 countries, and invited representatives of relevant international organizations, namely the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the IUCN, the IPBES, and the European Commission.

The workshop organized by the Italian G7 Presidency intended to give continuity to the work on IAS initiated by the previous Japanese Presidency, through the organization of a workshop aimed at defining the priorities for future collaborative action between G7 countries and within their regions towards the implementation of Target 6 of the KMGBF. At the end of the workshop, that was held in Tokyo from 20 to 22 November 2023, the participants adopted the “G7 Statement on Invasive Alien species: Enhancing international cooperation towards managing invasive alien species and their impacts”², that recognized the need for increased international cooperation in addressing IAS and

¹ www.g7italy.it/wp-content/uploads/G7-Climate-Energy-Environment-Ministerial-Communique_Final.pdf

² www.env.go.jp/content/000173656.pdf

accelerated efforts to implement Target 6 of the KMGBF. Regarding the promotion of global, regional and bilateral collaborations, the G7 countries made explicit their intention to create regular opportunities to share information and discuss possible collaborations among member countries, actively participate in discussions on IAS in relevant international contexts and promote cooperation among G7 members, as well as in their regions.

Summary of the Workshop on Invasive Alien Species held in Rome on November 26th

The one-day G7 Workshop on Invasive Alien Species was held remotely in Rome and was attended by representatives from all G7 countries. Following the approach adopted by Japan in the previous G7 meeting, representatives of relevant international organizations were also invited to participate to the workshop, including the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), IPBES, and the European Commission.

The workshop was opened by Mrs. Laura D'Aprile, Director General of the Sustainable Development Department, Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE), and Coordinator of the Working Group Environment for G7 Ministerial on Climate, Energy and Environment. Mrs. D'Aprile welcomed the participants, recalling that the workshops is one of the concrete initiatives of Italy following the commitments adopted by the G7 Climate, energy and Environment Ministers in Venaria, that include a formal commitment to prevent the introduction and minimise the impact of invasive alien species.

The Ministers pledged to do so by working together not only to announce international cooperation, but also through the engagement of business and other sectors. Such a commitment not only is essential for the conservation of our natural heritage, but also for safeguarding the well-being of our communities, economies and ecosystems.

Mr. Francesco Tomas, Director General for the Protection of Biodiversity and the Sea at MASE, stressed that Italy has placed IAS high on the environmental policy agenda, recognising the profound threat that they posed to biodiversity. Numerous projects to mitigate this threat have been carried out in the country, including several successful eradication campaigns such as the removal of the raccoon from the Italian region Lombardy and many eradications from islands. It should be noted that Italy hosts and maintains, with a key role of the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), two of the most authoritative global databases on invasive species, namely the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database, and the IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT). Lastly, Mr. Tomas recalled that the workshop follows the commitments taken in Japan in 2023, to organise online meetings annually to further discuss our efforts on and share information, experience, and progress in the enforcement of Target 6 of the GBF and concluded with a hope that also future presidencies of the G7 will maintain the focus on this important issue.

The Workshop was chaired by Mr. Piero Genovesi, head of the Wildlife Service of ISPRA and coordinator for invasive alien species.

Representatives of the international organizations and the European Commission presented updates on the work carried out within their mandates, summarized below:

- The representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Maryanela Araya Quesada summarized the outcomes of COP 16 held in Cali relevant to IAS and presented the CBD IAS Toolkit, prepared with support of IUCN. At COP16 the CBD Parties affirmed their commitment towards T6 and adopted new guidance documents. The Parties also called for international cooperation and collaboration, in particular through the Liaison Group on IAS, what shows understanding that one single actor cannot deal with the problem alone. In addition, through the decision, Parties were urged to, among other things, enhance coordination and collaboration among countries and international and regional mechanisms, and across sectors, to support the implementation of the One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, and to ensure that sustained strategic actions are taken to manage invasive alien species. The representative of the CBD Secretariat stressed how significant progress in reducing the impacts of IAS is achievable, and indicated that there are already good tools and resources that could be used towards this end. However, we need to improve the capacity of the users to take full advantage of this. It was also noted the call made from Parties to the CBD Secretariat, to continue to assess existing gaps, and it could be worth exploring which gaps are currently most important to be addressed.
- The representative of IUCN Kevin Smith highlighted the importance of IAS data, which underpins the development of actions toward Target 6. IUCN, its Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) and other partners are supporting this process globally by providing key information through dedicated knowledge products such as the Global Database on Invasive Species, the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species and EICAT, that are designed to help all countries meet Target 6. However, long-term sustainable funding is essential to maintain and expand this data provision. With adequate support, it would be achievable to complete EICAT assessments for all known IAS, whose total number was estimated by the IPBES report as 3,500, providing countries and institutions with a valuable tool to guide their decisions. IUCN noted that the CBD IAS Toolkit, accompanied by training materials, was recently acknowledged in the latest COP decision [noted with appreciation]. The toolkit, which was produced by IUCN and CBD in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Liaison Group, outlines the actions required to meet Target 6 and how to develop a National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP). Typeset and translated versions will be made available soon. IUCN is ready to support countries in its implementation.
- The co-chair of the IPBES Thematic assessment on IAS Helen Roy reported on the significant impact that the assessment had since its publication. She also stressed the importance of engaging diverse stakeholder groups including raising awareness, ensuring messages are relevant to the audience, but also sharing frameworks to inform biosecurity. Mrs. Roy also stressed the need for adequate and sustained resourcing to build capacity and implement actions.
- The representative of the European Commission Daniel Nuijten updated about the progresses in applying at the EU scale the dedicated legislation on IAS, that indeed is permitting a

coordinated supranational approach to the issue and could be seen as a model also for other regions of the world. The EU has in fact a regional comprehensive legal framework dealing with pathway management, monitoring and management that works, and the Union bodies are continuously looking to improve through different programmes its application by Member States. The Implementation of the IAS Regulation is supported by the European Alien Species Information Network (Art. 25 of IAS Regulation; <https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/easin>) and a notification system (<https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/notsys>) through which the MS notify the Commission and inform the other Member States of new detections of IAS of Union concern, related eradication measures and their effectiveness (Art. 16 & 17 IAS Regulation), official control detections (Art. 15 IAS Regulation), and derogations from the obligation of rapid eradication under Art. 18 (IAS Regulation).

The G7 participants presented the relevant activities carried out in their countries, also presenting key messages emerged from the national experiences.

- Italy opened the presentations by G7 countries, expressing its support to continuing also in the future technical exchanges on measures and best practices on invasive alien species, with the aim to support the enforcement of Target 6 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, through the organisation of workshops, and also exploring the possibility to establish a multi-year working group under the G7. In this regard, Italy considers very helpful to continue applying the approach proposed by Japan in 2023, of including in the discussions on invasive alien species also key international organisations, such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and IUCN.
- Italy also stressed that it is important to support action on invasive alien species also beyond the G7 countries, as biological invasions are a global threat that requires global action to be effective. In this regard, Italy recalled that the country host several of the most authoritative global databases on invasive alien species, namely the Global Invasive Species Database and EICAT, that provide an important support to action at all scales.
- Japan strongly committed to strengthening cooperation by full use of existing international or regional frameworks, including the G7 on the issue of invasive alien species.
- Japan recalled its significant efforts to improve collaboration at the regional scale on this issue, for example to manage the red imported fire ant in constant contact with China and the Republic of Korea. Also, in 2024 Japan confirmed the eradication of the Small Indian Mongoose from Amami-Oshima Island by continuous efforts with local stakeholders.
- Japan also underlined as it would be meaningful for G7 to promote a whole-of-society approach to further involve international logistics-related businesses in IAS measures including the use of the indicators of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).
- Canada shared information on progress achieved with regards to biodiversity and invasive alien species since the November 2023 meeting in Japan. This includes the release of Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy in June 2024, which presents implementation plans for each 23 targets of the KMGBF. Detailed information on the implementation plan for how Canada is working toward Target 6 was also provided, and the importance and usefulness of the CBD IAS Toolkit in supporting the implementation of Target 6 at the domestic level was noted in that context.
- Canada thanked Japan for its leadership with regards to IAS, notably under the G7, and expressed appreciation to the Italian Presidency for this workshop. Canada also noted the

value-added of IAS-focused workshops at the expert level and shared its support for continued work under the G7 on priorities identified in the 2023 G7 Statement on invasive alien species.

- While priorities for its 2025 Presidency are still being finalized, Canada is looking to pursue this important work during its upcoming G7 Presidency and facilitate exchange among G7 members on progress towards achieving Target 6, as stated in the G7 Statement on invasive alien species.
- France reported on the efforts carried out to address the issue of invasive alien species at the national scale, and also in the overseas territories. In particular, the National strategy is based on five pillars, namely the prevention of introduction and spread of IAS, the IAS management and ecosystem restoration efforts, the knowledge acquisition and sharing, and finally on capacity building and awareness raising. France also highlighted some of the challenges the country faces in addressing IAS, for example regarding the techniques for dispatching animals and the disposal of the carcasses, how to address pathways of unintentional introduction of IAS, and the relation between tourism and biological invasions.
- Germany reported the work done in the country on invasive alien species, describing the efforts to actively addressing invasive alien species through strategic planning, innovative methods and collaborative frameworks, in line with the EU regulation. It was also emphasised the importance of focusing action also on prevention and on public awareness. Germany is working at implementing innovative information tools to support action, and it was stressed the challenge of adopting a coherent approach under a highly fragmented administrative framework as the German one. Also, the German representative reported about the ongoing implementation of a dedicated portal on IAS, to support the action of the different authorities responsible for the issue
- UK reported on the work done at the country level on prevention and management of invasive alien species including on pathway management, contingency response, listing, supporting local management and particularly on identifying prevention, eradication and management priorities for KMGBF Target 6 as well as approaches for measuring progress towards the quantitative component of Target 6.
- UK highlighted the potential benefit of maintaining shared information about which species G7 countries are working on, including for regulation, risk assessment and eradication, and noted some initial work they have done to compile this information from that provided at and after the Tokyo workshop. This could be useful to help inform work being done in each country (e.g. risk assessment or management) as well as to help identify shared priorities, such as species or pathways we have in common.
- UK supported the idea to explore the possible establishment of a multi-year working group in IAS in the future, to continue exchanging information and experiences on the issue. They noted a desire to have a short list of concrete actions that the group could work on.
- USA described the peculiar context of action in their federal system, where the competencies are spread across a number of federal agencies, federal departments, as well as state roles. Therefore, a challenge in the US system is to enhance collaboration, communication and coordination across federal departments, and for this aim an executive order was adopted in 1999 and updated in 2016.
- In order do address the challenge of ensuring consistent action in a federal organisation of roles and responsibility, the National Invasive Species Council was a established, with the aim

to provide federal coordination and the development of an invasive Species advisory committee.

- Among the many lines of activity on IAS in the USA, particular attention is being devoted to the interlinks between IAS and climate change, for example addressing the possible effects of IAS management in disasters such as storms, hurricanes, floodings and wildfires. The challenge of climate change requires a better understanding of how IAS are moved by natural disasters, and how IAS respond to climate change. Also, this requires an improvement of early detection rapid response frameworks, and also to improve our ability to detect possible new invaders for example by using horizon scanning approaches.

In summary, during the discussions held in Japan and Italy, the G7 countries, with inputs from relevant organisations, highlighted themes that could be addressed to support meeting the challenges discussed:

- Addressing administrative fragmentation
- Integrating IAS in the One Health approach
- Addressing IAS through a whole-of-society approach
- Supporting prioritization
 - Share horizon scanning approaches and outputs
 - Share risk assessments
 - Lists of regulated species (at different scales, i.e., regional/national/subnational)
 - Pathway identification and prioritization methods
- Improving management measures
 - Best practices on IAS management/eradication, and surveillance for early detection
 - Pathway action plans for targeted IAS pathways
 - Practices for IAS green waste management, including the reception, control, and eradication of IAS fauna
 - Protocols for the release of regulated IAS into the environment
- Monitoring/reporting
 - Indicators, in particular to track progress of Target 6 implementation and enforcement of relevant legislations when they exist
 - Sharing alerts and notifications of recent new incursions at relevant scales
 - Effectiveness of management methods/strategies (especially in marine environments)

- Strengthening scientific research – fill knowledge and data gaps
 - Support global datasets (e.g. GISD, EICAT) and help ensuring that national data are incorporated into global datasets where possible
 - Increase accessibility of data, including the information collected for the IPBES thematic report on IAS
 - Explore the use of new technology to increase availability of relevant data
- Capacity building
 - Support work of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on IAS (IALG-IAS) (see mandate from COP16)
 - Support capacity building for non-G7 countries to apply CBD IAS Toolkit
 - Share awareness raising and outreach resources in multiple languages
- Biosecurity
 - Biosecurity regulations in exporting countries
 - Control of IAS introductions through tourism

It was noted that the themes discussed in Rome directly build upon the outcomes of the G7 workshop held in Tokyo in 2023. Specifically, integrating IAS into the One Health approach, prioritizing tools, implementing management measures, and improving monitoring and reporting align with point 2 of the Statement adopted in Japan (Strengthening scientific research, global databases, and information systems). Furthermore, addressing administrative fragmentation corresponds with point 3 of the Statement (Outreach and mainstreaming through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach).

Starting from the larger list of relevant themes reported above, the participants to the G7 workshop in Rome discussed the need for a short list of prioritised topics on which the group could focus on in the future, including working on more concrete actions and outcomes. Some initial possibilities include:

- Sharing resources and information that would be useful across the G7, such as risk assessments that are complete or underway, species and pathways that we manage
- Capacity building, to improve the capacity of G7 and non-G7 countries to address the IAS issue, encouraging and facilitating the application of the CBD IAS Toolkit presented at COP16
- Ensure the circulation of awareness raising and outreach resources in multiple languages
- Adoption of a One Health approach also to address IAS, integrating different policies into a consistent framework
- Addressing technical challenges in the development of indicators of invasions and for tracking progresses in terms of reduction of rate of introduction
- Exploring the interlinks between climate change and IAS, which may lead to improvements in EDRR systems and horizon scanning approaches

- Supporting a whole-of-society approach to addressing IAS by working with sectors that may act as pathways for IAS, and sharing lessons learned for other sectors

Finally, all participants strongly supported the continuation of exchanges among G7 countries on the issue of IAS, also involving international organisations such as CBD Secretariat and IUCN, in forms to be further explored, including if feasible the creation of a G7 multi-year working group.

IUCN expressed its commitment to voluntarily support any further exchange, for example providing a technical secretariat if required, to support and facilitate the work of the G7 countries by the provision of an information platform to host documents and other relevant materials.