



Regional Seas



West to East: North-East Pacific, South-East Pacific, Wider Caribbean, West & Central Africa, Mediterranean, Black Sea, Eastern Africa, Red Sea & Gulf of Aden, ROPME Sea Area, South Asian Seas, East Asian Seas, North-West Pacific, Pacific. Partner programmes: Arctic, North-East Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Caspian Sea, Antarctic.

The UNEP Regional Seas Programme

The Regional Seas Programme, launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1974, aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. It achieves this by engaging neighbouring countries in comprehensive and specific actions to protect their shared marine environment.

Today, more than 140 countries participate in 13 Regional Seas programmes established under the auspices of UNEP. In addition, five partner programmes for the Antarctic, Arctic, Baltic Sea, Caspian Sea and North-East Atlantic Regions are members of the Regional Seas family. The programmes cover issues ranging from oil spills and coastal development to the conservation of marine life and ecosystems.

The Regional Seas Coordinating Office is based at UNEP's Nairobi Headquarters. Implementation of the programmes and aspects of the regional action plans - such as marine emergencies, prevention of pollution from land-based activities, marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, information management and pollution monitoring – is done at a regional level.

www.unep.org/regionalseas



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The Global Invasive Species Programme

The mission of Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) is to conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimizing the spread and deleterious impacts of invasive alien species. GISP's main focus is to promote global co-operation in invasive species prevention and management, by fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between relevant international instruments and organizations. GISP has a mandate to support the implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention of Biological Diversity, which addresses the issue of invasive alien species.

Set up in 1997, GISP was initially a small, mainly voluntary partnership programme. In early 2005, GISP was constituted as a legal entity with Founding Members IUCN, CABI, The Nature Conservancy, and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The GISP Secretariat – sponsored primarily by the World Bank through the Bank Netherlands Partnership Programme and Development Grant Facility – is based in Cape Town, South Africa.

www.gisp.org



The Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity was one of the key agreements adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Convention establishes three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. Article 8(h) of the Convention states that Contracting Parties to the Convention should, as far as possible and appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

The desire to prevent the potentially serious negative impacts of invasive alien species in the marine environment is reflected in the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, which incorporates the issue of invasive alien species as one of its five "programme elements".

www.biodiv.org



CBD



GISP

The Global Invasive Species Programme



Regional Seas

Training course on the management of
**Marine and Coastal
Invasive Species**



Invasive alien species (IAS) are introduced species that become established in a new environment, then proliferate and spread in ways that are destructive to human interests and natural systems.

Invasive alien species are widely recognised as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity globally. They also have serious economic, environmental and health impacts, placing major constraints on development.

In marine and coastal ecosystems, invasive species have been identified as one of the four main environmental problems, together with land-based sources of marine pollution, overexploitation of living marine resources, and habitat degradation.

In order to address this serious issue, it is vital to build capacity in managing invasive species and their impacts. UNEP has recently adopted the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP), which is an intergovernmentally agreed approach to strengthening technology support and capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. BSP stresses that capacity building should respond to needs and priorities of countries in a holistic approach and be in line with sub-regional and regional environment initiatives. Assistance and capacity building to countries on the management of IAS is fully in line with BSP objectives.

*In response to this need, the **Global Invasive Species Programme**, in conjunction with the **UNEP Regional Seas Programme**, has developed a training course on the management of marine and coastal invasive species.*

- The training course consists of 8 modules:**
- 1. Introduction to Marine and Coastal Invasive Species**
 - 2. Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management**
 - 3. Prevention**
 - 4. Early Detection and Rapid Response**
 - 5. Incursion Management**
 - 6. The International Response**
 - 7. Developing a National Strategic Framework**
 - 8. Communication, Education and Public Awareness.**



The training course was piloted in Tanzania in November 2005, under the auspices of the Nairobi Convention.

Held over 4 days, it was attended by scientists, managers and representatives from port authorities and conservation organizations.

The course included a number of practical exercises, as well as a field trip to three possible risk sites for marine and coastal invasive species: a seaweed farm cultivating an introduced species, a fishing boat harbour, and a salt pan frequented by migratory birds.

The course is available for delivery in other regions. Further information can be obtained from the GISP Secretariat or the UNEP-Regional Seas Coordinating Office.



Course content

Module 1 – Introduction to Marine and Coastal Invasive Species

- Definitions and related terminology
- The invasion process
- Intentional versus unintentional introductions
- Pathways and vectors
- Impacts of marine and coastal invasive species
- Predicting invasions
- The need for invasive species management

Module 2 – Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management

- Applying management goals and principles to marine and coastal invasive species
- Management tools
- Legal and institutional issues
- Promoting best practice management
- Awareness-raising

Module 3 – Prevention

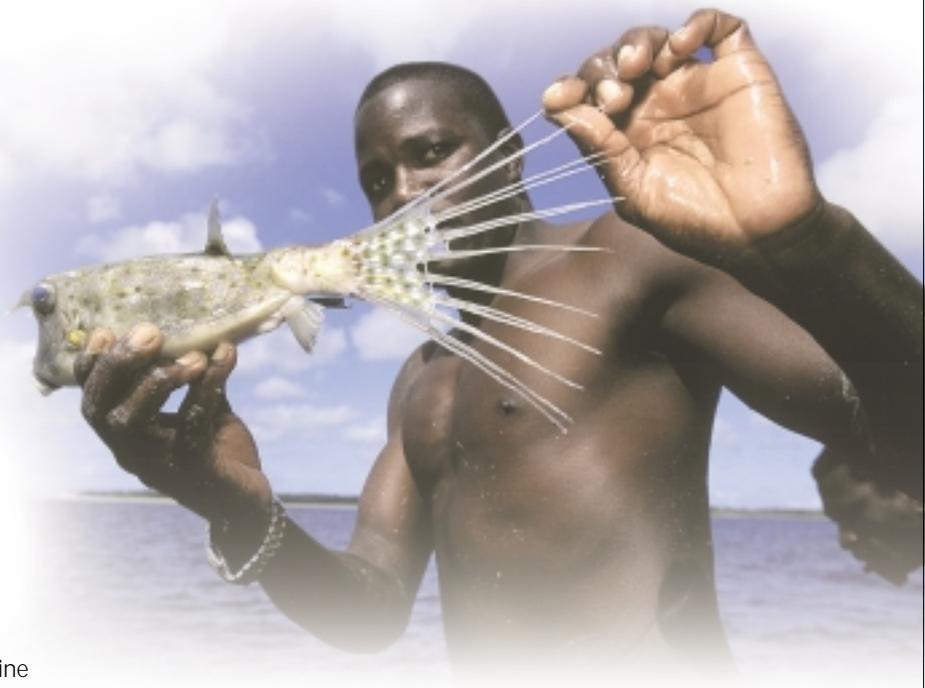
- The importance of prevention
- Principles of prevention
- Strategies and procedures for marine and coastal invasive species prevention
- The role of risk analysis
- Preventing intentional and unintentional introductions
- The limitations of prevention

Module 4 – Early Detection and Rapid Response

- The importance of early detection and rapid response
- Active and passive surveillance
- Data management and record-keeping
- Rapid assessment and response
- Contingency planning

Module 5 – Incursion Management

- Strategies for managing established marine and coastal invasive species
- Decision-making process for strategy selection



- Containment versus eradication
- Mechanical, chemical and biological control
- Mitigation and monitoring
- Integrated pest management

Module 6 – The International Response

- The international regulatory framework and invasive species issues
- International initiatives with relevance to marine and coastal invasive species
- Regional considerations
- Information sharing and support systems

Module 7 – Developing a National Strategic Framework

- Essential components of national strategies for invasive species management
- Developing and implementing a national strategy
- Legal and institutional frameworks – key requirements and common weaknesses

Module 8 – Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

- The role of CEPA programmes
- Designing an awareness-raising campaign
- Target groups and communications tools.

