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IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Thematic Group: Ecosystems and invasive Species
Theme Leader (Membership from 30 Countries)



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For the

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Environmental Biosecurity (Perth 8th October 2014)

The Background Information below provides a brief outline of a Framework, resulting from global consultation during 2013, for Australia to implement “adequate arrangements to prevent the entry and establishment of invasive species likely to harm Australia's natural environment” (Terms of Reference), placing Australia in a position to be a world leader in Environmental Biosecurity. This global leadership could result in the protection of Australia’s natural environment for generations to come while maintaining healthy and resilient natural environments and the people who reside within Australia.

Background Information

In my role as Theme Leader I led Global consultation during 2013 for the development and Adoption of a 4 Year Action Plan² across Europe, Pacific, Asia, Africa, Oceania on the topic of how best to deal with the topic of Ecosystems and Invasive Species:

¹ The Overarching Aim of the Ecosystems and Invasive Species Group is:

To develop an effective Ecosystem Approach to adaptive invasive species legislation, governance, policy, management and restoration, which develops functioning and resilient ecosystems, that enhances biodiversity, its services, human well-being, health, livelihoods and food security, incorporating indigenous and local communities.

COMMENT

Implementation of effective Environmental Biosecurity should be linked to Australia’s upcoming Biosecurity Bill ensuring the Bill and Regulations include Environment, Health and Production and also to Australia’s soon to be updated Biodiversity Action Plan. There are currently many overlaps with other Australian Government sectors as our Overarching Goal suggests is needed.

In my role with the IUCN I have begun preliminary discussions with DEFAT related to trade and links to the implementation of Australia’s aid money and Trade Policies, and also to ACIAR who are delivering much of this work in developing countries, including Biosecurity.