



ISLAND CONSERVATION

Preventing Extinctions

100 Shaffer Road Santa Cruz, CA 95060 831-359-4787 www.islandconservation.org

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June 24, 2011

Mr. Oliver Hillel
Programme Officer
Island Biodiversity Programme of Work
Convention on Biological Diversity

RE: In-depth review of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work

Dear Mr. Hillel,

Island Conservation (IC) is a US-based, international non-profit organization, accredited by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The mission of IC is to prevent extinctions by removing invasive species from islands.

IC is grateful for this opportunity to provide input on the in-depth review of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPoW). We recognize that the in-depth review is being conducted on the entire IBPoW, with emphasis on the Aichi Targets outlined in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Decision X/2).

Our comments are focused on the specific threat to island biodiversity caused by invasive alien species (IAS). We note the threats to biodiversity caused by IAS and actions to abate those threats are identified as priorities in both the IBPoW (annex to decision VIII/1) and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (annex to decision X/2, targets 9 and 12).

Several key facts demonstrate the overwhelming need to mitigate the impact of IAS on island biodiversity:

1. Islands provide habitat for 20% of all bird, reptile and plant species.
2. Approximately two-thirds of all extinctions recorded in the last 400 years have been of island species.
3. Islands provide the sole habitat for 40% of all IUCN listed critically endangered (CR) and endangered (EN) species.

Nevertheless, we see a general decline in funding to combat invasive species, including the loss of strategic, invasive species programs in some key supporting organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, as well as the shutdown of the Global Invasive Species Programme at the end of March 2011.

After a detailed review of the IBPoW, we believe that mitigating the impacts of IAS on globally important and unique insular biodiversity – and thereby significantly reducing the extinction rate of island species – must become a higher priority if the IBPoW is to be achieved.

Island Conservation respectfully presents the following recommendations on improvements and next steps for the IBPoW.

1. Renewed efforts must be undertaken to prevent further extinctions, especially of unique endemic insular taxa.
2. To ensure the efficient use of the financial resources, a major emphasis should be put on managing and eventually eradicating IAS that threaten insular biodiversity with extinction.
3. The IBPoW should support the development of Long-Term Financial Mechanisms—whether at a global, regional, or national level—that would allow the Parties achieve their commitments to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 9 and 12. Further engagement with the GEF, especially during the planning phases of the next replenishment, will be especially important.
4. The IBPoW should support the development of a global, centrally coordinated campaign to prevent extinctions on islands. This campaign would be meticulously designed to service the priorities and commitments of island Parties and Parties with islands, and would take advantage of the economies of scale provided by a combination of centralized funding and an integrated approach across CBD member nations. It would draw on the expertise and resources of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Global Environment Facility. Over the next five years, the campaign would ensure the conservation of at least 40 threatened species, while simultaneously improving the resilience and livelihood of island populations worldwide.
 - a. This campaign could be coordinated by Island Conservation, a US-based non-governmental organization with deep technical expertise and a long track record in successfully designing and implementing island invasive species eradication programs around the world.
 - b. This campaign would engage key scientific and conservation institutions and groups that will provide a solid science base and validity, such as the IUCN, BirdLife International, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.



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- c. This campaign would engage additional funding partners, specifically bilateral cooperation agencies from developed countries who may be willing to not only prevent further extinctions in their own countries, but also contribute financially to prevent extinctions in developing and less developed countries, particularly Small Island Developing States.

Island Conservation is grateful for the opportunity to work with the CBD in support of the IBPoW, to establish and support an invasives working group, and we are available to provide further input on the IBPOW if that would be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William R. Waldman".

William Waldman
Executive Director