

**Workshop on “AN ALIEN SPECIES DATABASE FOR THE CANARY  
CURRENT LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM:  
DEFINITIONS TO BE APPLIED AND PROGRESS”**

23 June 2022 – On-line meeting

## **Meeting report**

**Fourth meeting of the project *Invasive alien species and other ocean stressors: Furthering the scientific knowledge and capacity basis in the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem***

A project implemented by the IOC of UNESCO,  
in partnership with the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), and funded by the  
Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)



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## 1. Context of the meeting

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is currently implementing the project *Invasive alien species and other ocean stressors: Furthering the scientific knowledge and capacity basis in the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME)*, which is funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The project is implemented in collaboration with the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO, Spain). This is the fourth of a series of projects implemented in the CCLME region - the first one started in 2013.

The project aims at furthering the scientific knowledge and capacity basis in the countries in the region – Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal and Spain (Canary Islands) – by adding a focus on the effects of multiple ocean stressors to the knowledge base of the Canary Current system. This new focus will include a collaborative approach to the question of invasive alien species (IAS), its connection with other ocean stressors, and an assessment of IAS and other ocean stressors in the region.

The kick-off meeting of the project was held 24 February 2022, counting with the participation of 46 experts. A total of 32 experts participated in the second and third meetings, held on 24 March 2022 and 5 May 2022 respectively. The presentations and the meeting reports are available in the dedicated meeting pages ([24 February](#), [24 March](#), [5 June](#)). These meetings are aimed at facilitating the scientific discussions and all have counted with the participation of experts from all the above-mentioned countries in the region, as well as of experts from other countries.

## 2. Summary of the meeting, discussion and conclusions

This fourth meeting of the project, entitled Workshop on “An alien species database for the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem: Definitions to be applied and progress”, had two main objectives:

- To agree on a list of terms and definitions on the topic of alien species, to be applied in the elaboration of the database and the assessment to be elaborated in a collaborative manner and published as part of the IOC Technical Series report series;
- To agree on a list of next steps and their timing.

The agenda for the meeting is presented as [Annex 1](#).

A total of 19 experts participated in the meeting. The list of participants is presented as [Annex 2](#), and a screenshot taken during the meeting is presented in [Annex 3](#).

### 2.1 Brief introduction to the project

Itahisa Déniz González, IOC Project Coordinator, reminded the scope of current fourth phase of the project with a focus on IAS activities, as well as the intended outputs in relation to the topic of invasive alien species. To sum up, the final objective of these collaborative effort is the elaboration of an assessment on IAS and other stressors in the region, to be published as IOC Technical Series report. The definitions to be agreed during this meeting will be the ones applied in both the elaboration of the assessment and its related regional database. The [presentation](#) is available in the [meeting dedicated page](#).

### 2.2 Definitions and terminology to be applied

The discussion was intended to take decisions on the terms and definitions to be used onwards within the project.

To facilitate the discussion, a set of internationally agreed terms and definitions were presented (see [presentation](#)), as retrieved in:

- The Glossary of terms of the Convention on Biological Diversity, available at <https://www.cbd.int/invasive/terms.shtml>, which compiles definitions from different sources, and
- The Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1417443504720&uri=CELEX:32014R1143>;

Also, a definition of a Darwin Core term was included for the discussion about the use of the terms vector versus pathway, as pathway will be used in the database to be developed under the frame of the project. The definitions of Darwin Core terms are available at: <https://dwc.tdwg.org/terms>

After a lively discussion among the experts on the topic of alien species, and other experts working on the topic, it was agreed to use the definitions provided by the CBD, when available for the terms of our interest and if matching with the scope of our project. This said, one definition by ICES and one definition of a Darwin Core term will be also used. The final choice of terms and definitions agreed is presented in the [slides summarizing the decisions](#) taken and are also listed in item 2.4 of this meeting report.

### **2.3 Progress on an Alien Species Database for the CCLME: Summary of the feedback and input received and next steps**

A summary was done on where we are since last meeting and according to the timeline discussed therein. The discussion included a summary of the feedback received so far about different project activities:

1. Willingness to help in the extensive bibliographic search to be carried out to complete the draft [list of references](#). Help could be provided to do a search in one or several databases, and in one or several of the languages agreed to be used (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish). The list of contributors to the bibliographic search was further completed during the meeting and it was agreed that the IOC Secretariat will distribute the work and circulate an updated table, so that the experts engaged can start with the bibliographic search.
2. Willingness to contribute with data already published to facilitate the work (avoiding data extraction from publications and decreasing associated risks).
3. Discussion on keywords. The discussion focused on an agreement on the keywords in English language. The IOC Secretariat will ensure follow up with experts native in the different languages to complete the list of translations into the other languages to be used in the bibliographic search (Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish).
4. Database: fields and terms. Provided that feedback had been received until Friday 17 June, IOC Secretariat will look at all new fields proposed and shall circulate a final database template, to be filled with data already published, as agreed.

The delays in several of the steps were pointed out, and next steps in the implementation of this activity were discussed. A timeline is presented as [Annex 4](#). Further information about decision is explained in item 2.4.

## 2.4 Summary of the discussion and wrap-up

### 2.4.1 Terms and definitions

It was agreed to apply the following set of [terms and definitions](#) onwards in the project:

Term	Source	Definition
Alien species	CBD	A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce
Native species	ICES	A species or lower taxon living within its natural range (past or present) including the area which it can reach and occupy using its natural dispersal systems (modified after CBD, GISP)
Introduction	CBD	the movement by human agency, indirect or direct, of an alien species outside of its natural range (past or present). This movement can be either within a country or between countries or areas beyond national jurisdiction
Invasive alien species	CBD	"An alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity (For the purposes of the present guiding principles, the term "invasive alien species" shall be deemed the same as "alien invasive species" in decision V/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity)."
Pathway	Darwin Core terms	The process by which an Organism came to be in a given place at a given time.

It is to be noted that the spread of native species due to climate change will not be considered as an introduction. Climate change is a driver of shifting in a natural geographic area but also in the spread of and establishment of alien species after their primary introduction.

### 2.4.2 Next project meeting

The possibility to programme a fifth project meeting before the summer break was discussed. It was agreed to do a consultation of experts' availability for 28 July 2022, 11-14:30 h CEST. The meeting will be shaped as a Workshop to discuss on the scope and structure of the Invasive Alien Species Assessment for the CCLME to be elaborated under the frame of this project. The intended focus of the meeting is briefly introduced in the related [slides](#).

### 2.4.3 Follow-up on the activities

1. The IOC Secretariat will liaise bilaterally with experts either native or versant in the different languages to be used in the bibliographic research, to discuss any further translations needed. Final version is expected by 1 July 2022.
2. Based on the expressions of interest to contribute to the bibliographic search, the IOC Secretariat will distribute the work and circulate an updated table by 1 July 2022.
3. The experts engaged with the bibliographic search have until 15 July 2022 to accomplish this task.
4. IOC Secretariat will compile and consider the latest feedback received on the database template for the Alien Species database, and will circulate an updated version by 15 July 2022.

5. Experts who have expressed their willingness to fill in int the table with shared published data are expected to do so before 19 August 2022.

A timeline with the tasks agreed for the weeks to come is attached as [Annex 4](#).

## Annex 1. Agenda for the meeting



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### **WORKSHOP ON “AN ALIEN SPECIES DATABASE FOR THE CANARY CURRENT LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM: DEFINITIONS TO BE APPLIED AND PROGRESS”**

VENUE: ON-LINE MEETING (GOTOMEETING)

DATE: 23 JUNE 2022

TIMES INDICATED IN CET (UTC+1)

### **AGENDA**

#### **TIME**

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<b>11:00-11:15</b>	<b>WELCOME, MEETING AGENDA AND BRIEF INTRODUCTION</b> Itahisa Déniz González (IOC-UNESCO)
<b>11:15-12:30</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY TO BE APPLIED</b> Moderators: Cheikh Inejih (DDECOMAR, Mauritania) and Itahisa Déniz-González (IOC-UNESCO, France)  <i>DISCUSSION</i>
<b>12:30-12:45</b>	HEALTH BREAK
<b>12:45-13:45</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY TO BE APPLIED (CONT'D)</b>
<b>13:45-14:20</b>	<b>PROGRESS ON AN ALIEN SPECIES DATABASE FOR THE CCLME: SUMMARY OF THE FEEDBACK AND INPUT RECEIVED AND NEXT STEPS</b> Itahisa Déniz-González (IOC-UNESCO, France)  <i>DISCUSSION</i>
<b>14:20-14:30</b>	SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AND WRAP UP

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## Annex 2. List of participants

- Kandè BANGOURA (Centre de Recherche Scientifique de Conakry Rogbanè, Guinea)
- Hocein BAZAIRI (Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco)
- Mamadouba CAMARA (Centre de Recherche Scientifique de Conakry Rogbanè, Guinea)
- Guilherme DA COSTA (Ministério do Ambiente e da Biodiversidade, Guinea-Bissau)
- Anis DIALLO (ENVOCEAN SARL, Senegal)
- Jesús FALCÓN (Instituto Español de Oceanografía-CSIC, Spain)
- María GELADO-CABALLERO (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain)
- Ricardo HAROUN (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain)
- Cheikh INEJIH (DDECOMAR, Mauritania)
- Amadou JALLOW (Ministry of Fisheries & Water Resources, Gambia)
- Mamudou JALLOW (University of The Gambia, The Gambia)
- José María LANDEIRA (Instituto de Oceanografía y Cambio Global – Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain)
- Bouya M'BENGUE (Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Océanographique et des Pêches, Mauritania)
- Ismaïla NDOUR (Centre de Recherches Océanographiques Dakar-Thiaroye, Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles, Senegal)
- Mika ODIDO (IOC-UNESCO, Kenya)
- Juana Magdalena SANTANA-CASIANO (Instituto de Oceanografía y Cambio Global – Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain)
- Péricles SILVA (Ocean Science Centre Mindelo, Cabo Verde)
- Itahisa DÉNIZ GONZÁLEZ (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, France)

Annex 3. Screenshot of the meeting





WORK IN THE DATABASE				
Share published data owned by the experts in the group using the database template	IAS experts engaged in the assessment	Itahisa to compile inputs and provide support	18/07/2022	19/08/2022
DRAFTING PROCESS				
1st drafting WS: Assessment structure, authors	All	Itahisa to organize the meeting, and all to confirm attendance and circulate the materials to be discussed ahead of the meeting	28/07/2022	