

short-term challenge is to develop legal and economic instruments, which are currently being worked out by the policy makers. The second challenge is to fill in the legal instruments with the help of combining scientific efforts when it comes to integrating and linking different databases, web portals and other data collections and including evidence based science. Furthermore the workshop addressed 4 issues: how to make the best prioritisations when it comes to regulations and management plans; how to balance our efforts with other stakes such as climate change and economy; future challenges when a similar species but genetically different from the original species becomes invasive and outcompetes the original species; how to build upon existing surveillance and monitoring systems such as citizen science.

When it comes to prioritisation for regulations and management plans, the recommendation was that scientists need to work on baselines to be able to compare the different (damaging) impacts. Work should be done on systematic data collection for empirical evidence of the risk assessments and how and when species changes or have changed from being a low risk species to a high risk species. Emphasis should be on collecting a burden of proof. Policy however should focus on the precautionary principle, but also on the regulations of already existing invasions (e.g. regional black (forbidden)/grey (monitored)/white (allowed) species lists).

With regard to balancing our efforts with other stakes 4 recommendations were formulated: 1) Focus on observatories and collecting evidence (evidence-based science) on impact on socio-economy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning; 2) Because future risk assessments are difficult, we need to focus on documented risks in closely related and/or demographically/ecologically similar species (Evidence-based science) and work on the precautionary principle. Evidence-based science can furthermore help in scenario work for future risk assessments; 3) Work on strengthening existing ecosystems and make/keep them resilient and robust so they can 'defend' themselves against IAS; 4) Do not allow the introduction of alien species for the mere purpose of replacing natives as this amounts to a natural experiment with unforeseeable and unnecessary risks.

The discussion on out-competition and becoming invasive, it was decided that it is important to distinguish between natural movement of a species and the deliberate/artificial introduction of a species in a certain area. But insight is needed into what is 'genetic pollution' and when it occurs. Is losing ge-

netic variability harmful? We need to indicate what is happening in nature anyway and anyhow and keep in mind the adaptation capacity of native populations.

The participants also agreed not to (mis)use citizen science as a general and easy data collection tool but that we should work out specific targeted potentials within the big box of 'citizen science' and concentrate on those. However the effect of public involvement is poorly investigated and largely unknown and therefore long-term studies are necessary. Also studies on how public opinion is influenced are needed.

The session on Target 5 – addressing the problem of Invasive Alien Species – resulted in 9 recommendations as described above. For the specific formulation of the Target 5 recommendations and for information on the recommendations of the other 5 EU targets session, please look at <http://www.alter-net.info/outputs/conf-2013>.

() ALTER-Net brings together 26 leading scientific institutes from 18 European countries. They share the goal of integrating their research capability to assess changes in biodiversity, analyse the effect of those changes on ecosystem services and inform the public and policy makers on the issues at a European scale. Originally funded by the European Union's Framework VI program to stimulate a collaborative approach, ALTER-Net is now operating independently. See www.alter-net.info for more information.*

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Red-whiskered bulbul eradicated from Aldabra

In July 2013, the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) completed their second invasive species eradication on Aldabra Atoll in less than a year when staff caught a single introduced red-whiskered bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* that has eluded capture efforts for almost a year.

The red-whiskered bulbul and a small population of introduced Madagascar fodies were discovered in the remote Takamaka area of Aldabra in March 2012. Both species are thought to have colonised from the nearby island of Assumption, where they were introduced from Mauritius in the 1970s. Assumption now hosts large populations of both species and eradication





Team Leader of Takamaka Eradication, Terence Mahoune, with the red-whiskered bulbul on Aldabra. Photo: J. Raguin

efforts there aimed to eliminate the threat of their introduction to Aldabra's avifauna.

Since then, an intensive eradication programme has been launched with the support of UNESCO Emergency Funding. Initial activities focussed on observations and setting up a field base in the area from which a permanent eradication team could be based. Following this, full-time eradication of the two species was started in January 2013. Although there appeared to be only a single red-whiskered bulbul, the bird proved extremely difficult to catch, despite targeted efforts. Eventually, in mid-July 2013, the SIF team of Terence Mahoune and Jeremy Raguin identified where the bird was roosting and managed to catch it in a mist-net. They subsequently confirmed that there were no other red-whiskered bulbuls present. Following the successful feral goat eradication in 2012 (see

article in this issue), the capture of this bird marks another invasive species eradication success for SIF. Aldabra was thought to be one of the largest tropical islands in the world with no introduced bird species prior to the discovery of red-whiskered bulbuls and Madagascar fodies at Takamaka. Re-gaining and maintaining Aldabra's status of free of introduced birds in the long-term, however, depends on further eradication successes on both Aldabra and Assumption.

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