

## **sDiv working group meeting summary**

### **“sTWIST - Theory and Workflows for Alien and Invasive Species Tracking”**

The sTWIST working group met for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in August 2018. The group is well mixed, consisting of researchers knowing each other very well and other who were new. However the group was well prepared and had already commented and expanded few documents and data sets meant to be the working basis for the meeting.

The main goal of this first sTWIST meeting was to define a specific roadmap towards the development of alien species indicators. We aimed for a conceptual discussion about specific elements and characteristics of potential indicators. We wanted to explore data, methodological approaches, existing indicators but most importantly which aspects an ideal indicator (irrespective of the outer constraints of feasibility) should depict.

The first two days were devoted to a longer but necessary introduction to existing indicators and data on alien species. We started with a session on how we think an ideal indicator should look like and also presented risky, crazy or half-baked ideas towards those and/or new indicator ideas. After this opening session, David and Melodie presented their ongoing review work on existing alien species indicators, which will be a basis for some of the planned group products. We discussed alien species data were Gavia ([https://figshare.com/articles/Data from The Global Avian Invasions Atlas - A database of alien bird distributions worldwide/4234850](https://figshare.com/articles/Data_from_The_Global_Avian_Invasions_Atlas_-_A_database_of_alien_bird_distributions_worldwide/4234850)), GloNAF (glonaf.org), the first record database (<http://dataportal-senckenberg.de/database/metacat/bikf.10029.16/bikf>) and GRIIS (<http://www.griis.org/>). Hanno Seebens presented the first record database and Walter Jetz showed how alien indicators are needed and in line with general distribution data based ideas for essential biodiversity variables. Shyama Pagad from the IUCN Invasive species specialist group introduced the team into the GRIIS database, which is an IUCN product and has very strict process of checking data with their national expert groups.

After having a relatively comprehensive overview of which data, which processes generate those data, which indicators sTWIST is going to use, the group discussed about the next steps and how to achieve the planned products.

As a group we came up with a set of sub-indicators depicting the most relevant aspects of alien species distributions, impacts and dynamics.

Over the next days we formed several subgroups developing the data and conceptual basis for these aspects. The groups worked on:

1. What is the theoretically/methodologically sound indicator/s?
2. What is needed to achieve this?
3. Are enough data currently available for a sensible 1<sup>st</sup> global picture?
4. What are the question/s it answers? How are these answers useful for supporting policy/decision making?

At the end of the week we already worked on a rough drafts for a conceptual paper generally about alien species indicators and few other paper products, which were less clear or developed. We discussed general figures and some statistical and data problems. We also engaged with our remote participants (Ellie Dyer, Ingolf Kuehn, John Wilson) and updated them but also got feedback to specific questions.

Overall this was a great start. The group is well mixed and perfect to achieve the goal. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting we have regular Skype sessions to update and remind us in tasks but also to discuss progress.

The sDiv cru was super helpful as always. sDiv facilities were great.

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