



The International Day for Biological Diversity in Italy

On 22 May 2009, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity that will be dedicated to Invasive Alien Species (IAS), the Italian Minister of the Environment Stefania Prestigiacomo has announced financial support for the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD), the freely accessible online inventory of the ISSG, that is acknowledged as the most authoritative and comprehensive database on alien species at the global scale. The financial contribution will be important to enhance improvement of the GISD, and in particular to integrate it with other information services, thus increasing the support to decision makers. See <http://www.issg.org>

Following the appointment of Piero Genovesi as new ISSG chair, GISD in the next future will be hosted at the Environmental Protection and Research Institute (ISPRA) in Rome, Italy.

The initiative emphasizes the high level of competence achieved in Italy on this theme and confirms the Italian engagement for a European Strategy on IAS.

The commitment of the Italian Minister is also a first implementation of the actions listed in the Syracuse Charter on Biodiversity, agreed at the last G8 Environment Ministers meeting, that calls for developing and strengthening actions to prevent and to control invasive alien species, also strengthening global information systems.

Best regards
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