



## Fuzhou Declaration on Biological Invasions

(Adopted at the International Congress on Biological Invasions,  
Fuzhou, China, 2-6 November 2009)

### 'Managing Biological Invasions under Global Change'

The Inaugural Meeting of the International Congress on Biological Invasions (ICBI), convened in Fuzhou, China, 2-6 November 2009, co-sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and CAB International (CABI); ably organised by the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, the Fujian Academy of Agricultural Sciences; and with the support of more than 10 international partners (see below), has been declared an **'overwhelming success'**, with more than 500 participants from 44 countries. The aim of the congress was to, 'Strengthen international collaboration and work together towards managing biological invasions under global change'.

Costs of damage caused by invasive species are estimated to be a staggering, US\$ 1.4 trillion *per annum*, yet this enormous threat continues to require more attention by policy-makers globally. With a strong focus on: (i) Key links between biological invasions, biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services; (ii) Interactions between climate change and biological invasions; and (iii) Threats of invasive species to biodiversity, food security, trade, human health and economic development; the congress provided an exciting and unique opportunity for experts from all over the world to share the latest scientific findings on both pure and applied aspects of invasive species. The congress heard the latest figures from China which suggest that there are now more than 500 species which are recognised as being invasive!

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are comprehensively addressed under Article 8h of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the ICBI meeting is an important contribution to the CBD process. Furthermore, the United Nations has declared 2010 as International Year of Biodiversity! As invasive species constitute the second biggest threat (after habitat destruction) to biodiversity globally, the timing of ICBI 2009 in the lead-up to 2010, was particularly strategic!

Key outcomes of ICBI (2009) include:

1. A call to governments, international organisations and conventions to reaffirm their commitment to CBD Article 8h, to prioritise invasive species and provide the necessary resources to address this global threat.
2. Establishment of an International Expert Committee to provide scientific, technical and policy guidance to the International Congress of Biological Invasions (ICBI) on the development of an ICBI Website, e-Newsletter, and a forum for the exchange of scientific ideas and capacity building.
3. Agreement that the International Congress on Biological Invasions (ICBI) would in future be held on a regular basis (4-year interval).



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