

Side event to the 5th GEF Assembly, Cancun, QR, Mexico, May 26th 2014, from 12:30-14:00
“Progress on the implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Species in Mexico (GEF project)”



Lion fish (*Pterois volitans*) Foto: CONABIO



Cactus moth (*Cactoblastis cactorum*)
Foto: Jacksonville Shells

Mexico’s National Biodiversity Strategy highlights invasive alien species (IAS) as a critical threat to biodiversity and puts forward numerous actions to reduce their impacts. IAS are capable of displacing native species through competition, predation, habitat alteration, disease, etc., and can cause changes in ecosystems functions and alteration, degradation and fragmentation of habitats. The effects of IAS are particularly devastating in insular environments. The Government of Mexico through the GEF Project “*Enhancing the capacity of Mexico to manage invasive species through the implementation of the National Strategy on Invasive Species- ENCIS*” implemented by UNDP, aims to strengthen the institutional capacity to transform and expand the scope of existing systems for the management of invasive species, building on the momentum generated by the publication, in 2010, of its National Strategy on Invasive Species (NSIS). The objective of the project is to safeguard globally significant biodiversity in vulnerable ecosystems by building capacity to prevent, detect, control and manage IAS in Mexico.

Ice plant on Guadalupe Island, BCS (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*)
Foto: CONABIO



The side event will present the objectives and planned activities of the above mentioned project. An overview of the state of biological invasions, achievements of the private sector and other stakeholders will be given. We hope to encourage a discussion of experiences, feedback, ideas and opinions that will further promote collaboration for the successful development of the project.

Infestation with water hyacinth in Pie de la Cuesta, Guerrero (*Eichhornia crassipes*) Foto: CONABIO



Agenda

- **Opening & Introductory remarks**
José Sarukhán Kérmez, National Coordinator, CONABIO
Lyes Ferroukhi – Regional Technical Advisor- ENRM, PNUD
- **Invasive species in México: Developing the first invasive species list for the country**
Patricia Koleff, Director General for Analysis and Priorities, CONABIO
- **Enhancing National Capacities to Manage Invasive Alien Species (IAS) by Implementing the National Strategy on IAS**
Georgia Born-Schmidt, Invasive Species Advisor, CONABIO
- **Exotic invasive species in National Protected Areas**
Oscar Ramírez Flores, Director of priority species for conservation, CONANP
- **Progress on island restoration and project objectives**
Federico Méndez Sánchez, Director for Environmental Management, GECI
- **Questions**

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