

# Peer Review Summary INVASIVESNET

(6/15/2016)

## Peer Review Plan

[INVASIVESNET initiative: towards the development of the International Association for Open Knowledge on Invasive Alien Species](#) [18 KB PDF]

## Title and Authorship of Information Product Disseminated

INVASIVESNET: towards an International Association for Open Knowledge on Invasive Alien Species, By Frances E. Lucy, Helen Roy, Annie Simpson, James T. Carlton, John Mark Hanson, Kit Magellan, Marnie L. Campbell, Mark J. Costello, Shyama Pagad, Chad L. Hewitt, Justin McDonald, Phillip Cassey, Sidinei M. Thomaz, Stelios Katsanevakis, Argyro Zenetos, Elena Tricarico, Angela Boggero, Quentin J. Groom, Tim Adriaens, Sonia Vanderhoeven, Mark Torchin, Ruth Hufbauer, Pam Fuller, Mary R. Carman, David Bruce Conn, Jean R.S. Vitule, João Canning-Clode, Bella S. Galil, Henn Ojaveer, Sarah A. Bailey, Thomas W. Therriault, Renata Claudi, Anna Gazda, Jaimie T.A. Dick, Joe Caffrey, Arne Witt, Marc Kenis, Maiju Lehtiniemi, Harry Helmissaari, and Vadim E. Panov.

## Peer Reviewers Expertise and Credentials

Peer reviewer #1 holds an M.S. in Zoology, is a program manager in aquatic invasive species, has been involved in numerous national and international invasive species research activities and work groups, and is the author of a respected invasive species reference book and numerous peer reviewed articles concerning invasive species.

Peer reviewer #2 holds an M.S. in Environmental Policy, is a USGS point of contact for <http://data.gov> and the Administration's Open Data effort, and is the U.S. node manager for a global biodiversity network.

Peer reviewer #3 holds a Ph.D. in Zoology, is a research ecologist with expertise in explicit models of species occurrence and abundance, has authored more than 50 scientific publications, and assists multiple agencies and groups with modeling invasive species distributions.

## Charge Submitted to Peer Reviewers

The reviewers were asked to make an objective evaluation of the INVASIVESNET initiative described in the manuscript as to its intended purpose, which is to encourage open sharing of invasive species information at a global level through the collaboration of invasive species networks, open access publishers, and interested industry partners.

## Summary of Peer Reviewers Comments

Comments received were favorable overall and the manuscript was described as a "sound" product.

Reviewer #1: Commented that the wording "a network of networks" was confusing and suggested also including the word "association".

Reviewer #2: Commented on the overall stated goals, "Are all sectors mentioned as comprising INVASIVESNET (I'm thinking industry, but others as well) fully supportive of these goals?" The reviewer's comments concerning goal #8: "Has the group considered forming a separate, related entity to undertake this activity? In many countries, it may entail a different legal status (as well as

skillsets and membership)." Regarding the suggestion to form an advisory board to INVASIVESNET, the reviewer asked: "Will Board members and others serve on a volunteer basis?"

Reviewer #3: Found the overall manuscript satisfactory "as is." The reviewer recommended three new references be added and suggested mention of Nature's open source data journal *Scientific Data* in the body of the manuscript. The reviewer suggested the authors clarify that analyses of new technologies are needed in order to determine their long-term efficacy and also suggested the authors add a stronger reference to the importance of high quality data. The reviewer questioned what is important—the amount of information produced, the type of information produced, or the ways of communicating this information to those who need it.

## Summary of USGS Response to Peer Reviewers Comments

In response to Reviewer #1's confusion over the reference to "a network of networks," their idea to include the term "association" in the INVASIVESNET organizational title was submitted to the journal's lead author for consideration. The change was made in response to the reviewer's comment.

In response to Reviewer #2 questioning whether all sectors are fully supportive of the overall stated goals, since membership in INVASIVESNET is voluntary, members from all its sectors will be fully supportive of the stated goals, will work from within its framework to change them, or will resign their membership. In response to the reviewer's comment about goal #8 (which originally stated, "Recommend how legislation is implemented, such as the Nagoya protocol and the EU IAS Regulation, such that these instruments support research on IAS."); the goal 8 was rewritten as follows: "Suggest how international legislation on IAS, namely the targeted Convention on Biological Diversity decisions and other relevant international agreements, can be implemented effectively based on solid scientific evidence." At this time, there has been no consideration of forming a separate, related entity to perform this activity, but it could be a future option. In response to the question from Reviewer #2 about members serving on a volunteer basis; yes, any members of the advisory board would serve as unpaid volunteers. Eventually, if enough support is obtained, the formation of a paid secretariat position may be considered.

In response to Reviewer #3's question about what is important (the amount or type or information or the ways of communicating information); all are important, and the manuscript text was revised to better clarify these points. In response to the recommendation to expand the references on the topic of citizen science and invasive species, three new citations were added to the previous list of references. Although it was suggested that the lead author also add mention of Nature Publishing Group's *Scientific Data* in the list of thematic open access journals, the final list was limited to five other journals.

## The Dissemination

The published information product will be released in the open-access peer-reviewed journal *Managing Biological Invasions*, available at <http://www.reabic.net/journals/mbi/2016/Issue2.aspx>.