

BREAKOUT SESSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Breakout Number: 19 (Thursday at 2 pm, Meridian B)

Breakout Session: Biosecurity in a Changing Climate – How the United States Must Adapt to New Threats of Human and Animal Pathogens and Invasive Species

Task 1. Expedite efforts to address recommendations to prevent disease introduction through live animal imports as recommended in GAO Report 11-9 (November 2010).

Task 2. The Secretary of the Interior should request that USDA, FWS, and CDC (deploying their veterinarians and other staff) help FWS protect endangered species from imported diseases under Section 7(a)(1) of ESA."

Task 3. The Secretary of the Interior should require detailed reports on proposed imports of fish, wildlife and plants as a condition of granting import permits before they are exported to the U.S. under Section 9(e-g) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Task 4. Agencies should adopt regulations that address invasive species more proactively under Section 7(a)(1) and (2) of the ESA. FWS should regulate trade in amphibians posing risks of transmission of chytrid fungus.

Task 5. Congress and the Administration need to consider legislative revisions:

- The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) should evaluate the laws and regulations of New Zealand, Australia, Israel, and Hawaii and recommend which elements the U.S. should adopt on a national scale.
- Congress and the Administration should consider legislation and provide appropriations that better address the ability to prevent introduction of wildlife pathogens.

Task 6. Regarding the nexus of climate change and invasive species, agencies need to 1) anticipate and take preventive action, 2) expect and prepare for surprises and 3) develop strategies and resources.

Task 7. FWS should use USDA's Not Approved Pending Pest Risk Analysis (NAPPRA) rule as a model for injurious wildlife listings.

Task 8. Education and outreach, especially to adults, needs to be improved. Agencies, NGOs, the pet trade and other industries should improve outreach to ecotourists, research scientists, and other members of the public. They should use mechanisms such as Land Grant / Sea Grant Colleges, Federal agencies (e.g., USFS / Student Private Forestry, NPS / Invasive Watch), phone apps (e.g., PetWatch), Habitattitude, and providing information when issuing hunting / fishing licenses, and at border crossings.

Task 9. OSTP should convene a review by National Security Staff, CEQ and NISC to review E.O. 13112, and complete its implementation. For example, CEQ, in consultation with NISC, should issue NEPA Guidance on Invasive Species as required under the E.O. OSTP should lead the development of an enhanced Executive Order on biosecurity including action options in each area.

Task 10. International action is needed.

- The Administration should fund a rejuvenated Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP).
- In cooperation with Canada and Mexico, Federal agencies and State partners should develop Best Management Practices to recommend to cities and other local governments.
- The U.S. should strengthen its own trade policies and pursue opportunities to amend global trade policy (e.g., through the WTO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), CBD, Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and regional trade agreements) to better regulate the importation of and trade in species (plant and animal) that are potentially invasive or carriers of disease.
- The U.S. should support adding the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as an observer to the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee.