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## **An holistic approach connecting Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to international conventions with Indigenous peoples and invasive species as the connectors**

**Key words:** Indigenous peoples, invasive species, nature based solutions

### **Abstract:**

Invasive Species are considered the second greatest threat to biodiversity globally. Within Oceania they pose the greatest threat to Natural World Heritage Sites. Invasive Species severely affect the ecosystem services we depend on, with enormous economic costs. The IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Ecosystem and Invasive Species Thematic Group has developed an holistic approach to the topic to ensure responsibility involves all with an interest in protecting the planet for future generations. The Overarching Theme of the Group lines up with the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Conceptual Framework and is linked to 6 CBD Aichi Targets, SDG's, Ramsar Convention, Nagoya Protocol, UNCCD, Biofouling Convention and World Heritage Convention to name a few. The Overarching Goal is: To develop an effective Ecosystem Based Approach to adaptive invasive species legislation, governance, policy, strategy, planning, management and restoration, which develops functioning and resilient ecosystems, that enhances biodiversity, its services, human well-being, health, livelihoods and food security, incorporating indigenous and local communities to enhance nature based solutions. Our major Prioritisation and Key Focus is Water: "Water including riverine and aquatic ecosystems including riparian and floodplain vegetation and wetlands from catchment to coast, incorporating estuaries and the receiving marine environments, ground water dependent ecosystems, and the near coastal vegetation strips affected by the marine and riverine environments. This approach incorporates islands due to their extensive coast lines." The strong focus on working with Indigenous and Local Communities to achieve this holistic approach has enlivened the topic and its importance at the International to National to Local levels providing enhanced nature based solutions driven by Indigenous people incorporating their Traditional knowledge. Examples of this approach in Action will be provided.