

FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON INVASIVE TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS AND PATHOGENS



**Summary of
2019 Annual ITAP Planning
Meeting Results**

November 2019

Prepared By

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Summary of 2019 Annual ITAP Planning Meeting Results

Meeting Overview

The full ITAP Committee was originally scheduled to attend an Annual Planning Meeting on September 30, 2019 at the Agricultural Research Service's George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, Maryland. However, due to end-of-year scheduling conflicts, attendance was expected to be low, and the meeting was delayed. Instead, each of the four active Subcommittees held a four-hour webinar during which time they each achieved the following desired results to:

Share SC plan highlights and accomplishments

Update SC Work Plans with FY20/21 actions

Discuss membership growth and participation

The **Systematics Subcommittee** convened on Monday, November 18, 2019 from 9:00-12:00pm. Twelve members participated, included those listed below (other members dialed in, but their names were not recorded by the webinar software):

- Appcandreozi
- Hilda Diaz-Soltero
- Lisa Castlebury
- Megan Romberg
- Nina Shishkoff
- Susan Pasko

The **Animal Pathogens Subcommittee** convened on Monday, November 18, 2019 from 12:00-4:00pm. Twenty-one members participated, including those listed below (other members dialed in, but their names were not recorded by the webinar software):

- Alan Franklin
- D. K. Styles
- Hilda Diaz-Soltero
- Julianna B.
- M. Camille Hopkins
- Pauline Nol
- S. Jewell
- Stas Burgiel
- Susan Pasko
- Todd Atwood
- V. Slopez

The **Plant Pathogens Subcommittee** convened on Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 9:00-1:00pm. Eighteen members participated, including those listed below (other members dialed in, but their names were not recorded by the webinar software):

- G. Ramos
- Hilda Diaz-Soltero
- Jennifer Rowland
- John Hammond
- Julius Fajardo
- Julius Fajardo
- Nina Shishkoff
- Rosemarie Hammond
- Stas Burgiel

The **Invertebrates Subcommittee** convened on Friday, November 22, 2019 from 9:00-1:00pm. Twentynine members participated, including those listed below (other members dialed in, but their names were not recorded by the webinar software):

- Annie Simpson
- Appcandreozi
- Armando Rosario-Lebron
- Armando Rosario-Lebron
- C. A. Blanco
- Doug Burkett
- Hilda Diaz-Soltero
- Kevin Hackett
- Tracy Leskay

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ITAP Context and Background

Each webinar began with opening remarks from ITAP Executive Secretary, Hilda Diaz-Soltero. Her messages have been summarized below:

- There is no other entity performing the same role as ITAP, and the effort and work performed by this Committee has never been more important.
- Many ITAP members are leaving or preparing to retire. It is very important that the Subcommittees continue to recruit new members, young members, and encourage greater engagement and participation from existing members.
- Given competing priorities and resource constraints, it is important that each Subcommittee develops an updated Work Plan that is realistic, achievable, and focuses actions on the greatest priorities and areas of opportunity. The plans should also be flexible and adjust based on emerging constraints and opportunities (e.g. schedule deadlines).
- The hard work, dedication, and time given from each ITAP member is *deeply* appreciated and has a genuine positive impact on the world.

ITAP Progress and Accomplishments

Each Subcommittee began their webinars with a look back at the previous year – highlighting accomplishments, recognizing key member contributions, and considering challenges faced and potential solutions to deploy in the coming year. These annual reviews have been summarized below:

Systematics Subcommittee

Highlights of Accomplishments

- Conducting surveys for three ARS systematics collections: Mycology (fungi, author Lisa Castlebury, completed), Entomology (insects, author Mark Metz, 75% completed), and Nematodes (25%, author Lisa Castlebury, completed). Draft for the Entomology systematics survey is done and in review. The Mycology survey and Action Plan will be finalized by Dec. 2019. A presentation to the ARS leadership will follow.
- Presented memo to the ARS Director justifying systematic collections as "infrastructure" to assist the agency to obtain future Infrastructure Initiative funds to enhance the collections per the SSC Action Plans.

Member Recognitions

- Lisa Castlebury for her work in the Mycology Systematic survey.
- Ben Rosenthal and Mark Metz for their work in the Entomology Systematic Survey.
- Hilda Diaz-Soltero for her leadership and oversight in all the surveys and her creativity to prepare the decision memo defining systematics collections as ARS infrastructure; and
- Hilda for sustaining and representing ITAP during this year with no Co-Chairs.
- All federal civil servants working in systematics collections need to be celebrated for their commitment and tenacity.

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Challenges and Solutions

- Challenge: Other efforts to document the need for systematics collections (OSTP 2019). Lead in USDA: ARS Kevin Hackett.
 - Proposed solution: Exec. Sec. SSC communicate about the work of ITAP SSC. Explain the difference in approach and demonstrate that they are complementary, not duplicative.
- Challenge: SSC needs additional committed members to do more systematics surveys.
 - Proposed solution: Identify federal staff that has the expertise to join the SSC.

Animal Pathogens Subcommittee

Highlights of Accomplishments

- PP# 02 (Hopkins): Held regular membership quarterly meetings (remotely).
- PP# 12 (Richgels): Developing draft manuscript on ITAP invasive pathogen success stories where interagency collaboration led to successful mitigation of pathogens affecting agriculture and human health.
- PP# 13 (Franklin): Revising white paper on Federal Priorities for Invasive Animal Pathogens based on recently released agency strategic plans.
- PP# 22 (Hopkins/Franklin/Richgels): Developing symposium focusing on innovations in animal pathogen surveillance and management; have explored 3 different venues and will develop proposal for TWS 2020.
- Developed following subgroups to move forward.
 - Improve Collaboration, Information Sharing and Planning among Agencies (6 members).
 - Raise Awareness of Animal Pathogens and the Value of ITAP Coordination (5 members).
 - Promote Innovation and Enable Animal Pathogen Science and Research (5 members).
 - Coordinate and Encourage New Approaches to Invasive Animal Pathogens Management (4 members).

Challenges and Solutions

- Challenge: Improve ITAP Animal Pathogens SC web page to provide timely dissemination of information to the public.
 - Proposed solutions:
 - Move webpage to non-federal server.
 - Make webpage easy to edit.
 - Allow SC Chair and Exec Sec to edit SC page.
- Challenge: Allow members to gain credit for membership in ITAP SC and provide formal time commitment.
 - Proposed solution: ITAP Chair writes blanket letter requesting that member supervisors include ITAP membership in performance standards (as Exceeds?).

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Plant Pathogens Subcommittee

Highlights of Accomplishments

- Developed a list of 33 invasive plant pathogens was prepared for generating the next set of CABI datasheets (identified experts).
- Continued to collaborate with CABI to strengthen the database of invasive plant pathogens threatening the USA.
- Communicated with APS Emerging Diseases and Pathogens Committee on Workshop of National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS) at the 2019 APS meeting on recovery plans of newly introduced diseases in the USA.
- Continued to recruit new members of the subcommittee.

Challenges and Solutions

- Challenge: Time constraints of Chair and Exec Sec.
 - Proposed solution: Recruit new Exec Sec as she has taken on duties of Research Leader or assign co-chairs of SC to work together.
- Challenge: Communication of what we are doing and how important it is.
 - Proposed solution: Publication in Phytopath News (general awareness) or journal (technical paper) or website (e.g. APS).
- Challenge: Communication to members of PPSC.
 - Proposed solution: Webinar with members.

Invertebrates Subcommittee

Highlights of Accomplishments

- KH getting list from different agencies & groups provide priorities 5 K effort to sequence arthropods.
- Annie Simpson (USGS) haven't met, but priority is update on comprehensive list of non-natives and established in 3 major regions, updated to version 2.0, shared subset that has inverts with Carlos, looking for feedback on how to improve the list. Early detection/rapid response.
- Establish criteria for how to categorize criteria, list of 15 invasive species was accomplished. SC should review before Hilda tries to get them into compendium.
- 2 publications ERS scientists, part of invert SC, economic impacts of 2 invert species.
- Ramped up outreach PMB, daily Facebook feed highlighting pest issues, for inverts impacting DOD installations. E.g. Spotted lanternfly, Asian long horned tick, Asian gypsy moth, coconut rhinoceros beetle.
- Citrus greening - have made significant progress.

Challenges and Solutions

- Team needs to regroup/elect SC Chair.
- SC Chair needs to work with team members to increase involvement.
- Difficult with movement ARS to KC, have lost some key members, going ahead with vice Rosalind position, PD coming out soon, looking for recommendations.
- Mealy bug - killing cacti, biological controls being identified (2 in Argentina, bringing into PR), group of species (at least 6). 2nd project sending some species to US.
- Coffee borer? SP done a few years ago, one of the coffee berry borers works in HI.

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Subcommittee Plan Updates

Each Subcommittee revised their Strategic and Work Plans – modifying, eliminating, and adding FY20 (and in some cases FY21) actions. Several Subcommittees also requested a consolidated action list to aid in the tracking of actions, deadlines, and progress. In support of this request, a consolidated action list has been added to each Work Plan. The intent of this additional list and format is to allow any member to quickly scan what actions are scheduled for completion in the coming quarter/year, and which actions they are leading:

Goal 1: Goal statement								
Actions	FY??							
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. <i>Action statement. (Deadline; L: Action Lead's Name)</i>			●					
2. <i>Action statement. (Deadline; L: Action Lead's Name)</i>				●				
3. <i>Action statement. (Deadline; L: Action Lead's Name)</i>								●

All updated Work Plans may be found as attachments to this report.

Plan Update Highlights and Agreements

Each Subcommittee focused most of their discussion and action development in the core mission areas of their plans – developing lists, priorities, and conducting assessments and action plan.

The other key discussion point for all Subcommittees was that of increasing membership and/or engagement and participation. Several suggestions and actions were developed that may be valuable to adopt in other Subcommittees if they have not already, including:

- Providing mentoring (e.g. a “buddy system”) between new and veteran members. This would allow new members to ask questions, better understand ITAP, the Subcommittees, and find out about opportunities to participate and get more involved.
- Providing regular (quarterly) brief (~15-20 minute) *high level* ITAP webinars to educate and entice new and potential members. These webinars would explain what ITAP does, how it fits into the landscape of other agencies, what each of the Subcommittees is doing, and how to get more involved.
- Continuing to have regular (bi-annual or quarterly) Subcommittee meetings/webinars to review Work Plan progress including accomplishments, challenges, and upcoming priorities and opportunities to participate in fulfilling actions and objectives.

