

# Developing an EU Framework on Invasive Alien Species

European conference on Invasive Alien Species  
15-16 January 2008, Madrid

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# Content

1. Problem
2. Policy background
3. Gaps in current EU framework
4. Development of EU framework on IAS



# IAS – problem?

- Globally – 2<sup>nd</sup> major threat to biodiversity
  - competition with local species, toxicity, vector for diseases, hybridisation
  - IAS cause socio - economic problems
    - health (allergies), economic damages

X

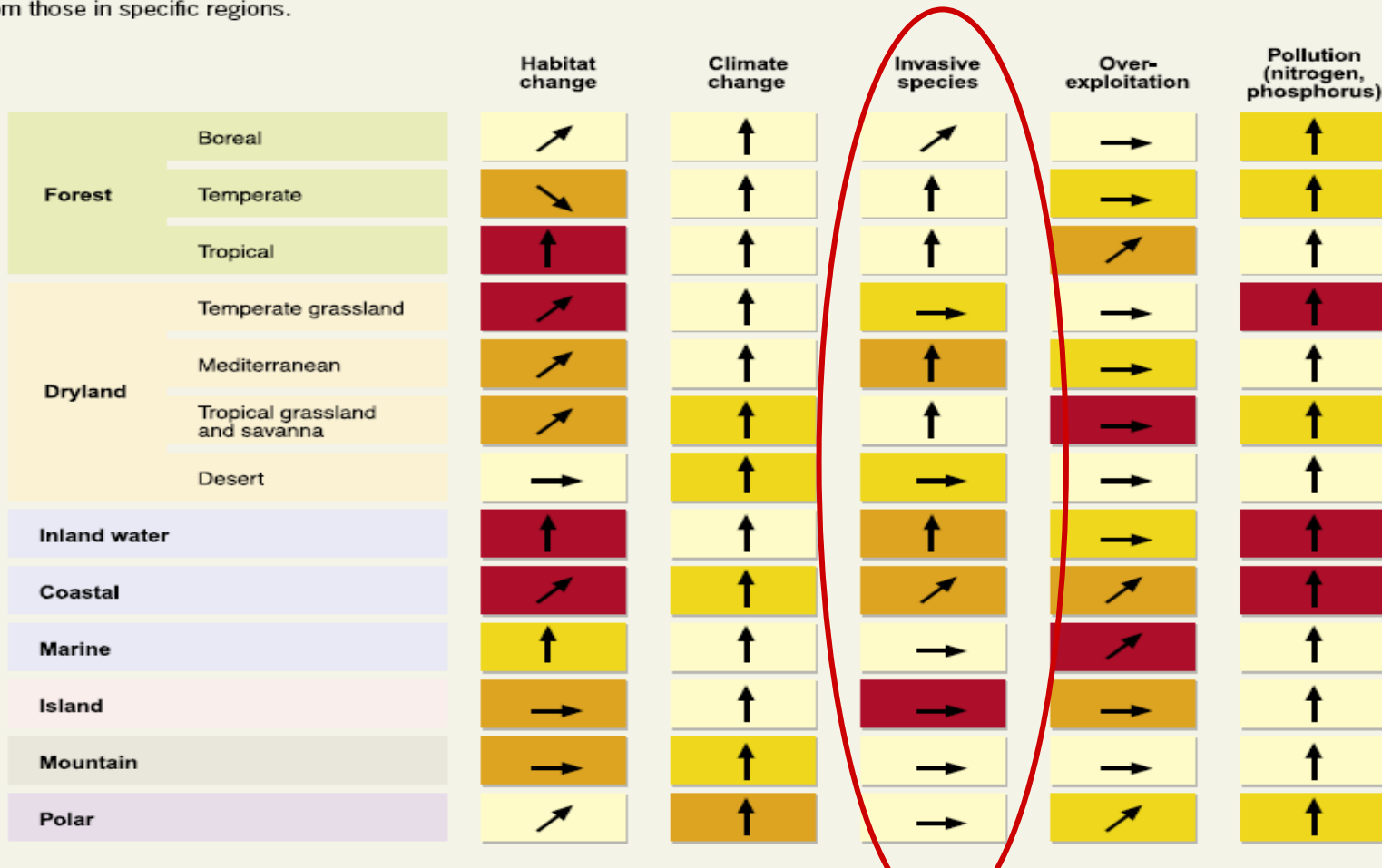
- Benefits from introduced species
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- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

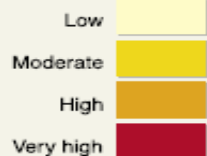


**Figure 3. MAIN DIRECT DRIVERS**

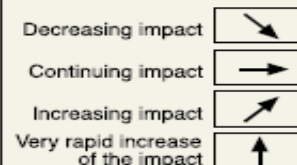
The cell color indicates the impact to date of each driver on biodiversity in each biome over the past 50–100 years. The arrows indicate the trend in the impact of the driver on biodiversity. Horizontal arrows indicate a continuation of the current level of impact; diagonal and vertical arrows indicate progressively increasing trends in impact. This Figure is based on expert opinion consistent with and based on the analysis of drivers of change in various chapters of the assessment report of the Condition and Trends Working Group. This Figure presents global impacts and trends that may be different from those in specific regions.



Driver's impact on biodiversity over the last century



Driver's current trends



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

# IAS – problem for Europe?

- Ecological problem



*Mustela vison*, (photo:Remek Meel)



*Fallopia japonica* (Photo: Petr Pyšek)



grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)  
(Photo: Sandro Bertolino)



# IAS – problem for Europe?

- Health problem



Giant Hogweed Photo: J. Hüls



# IAS – problem for Europe?

Economic problem



*Dreissena polymorpha* (Photo: Dan Minchin)



# Policy background

- EU commitment - **to halt biodiversity loss by 2010**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme (2002) – prevention and mitigation of IAS as one of objectives to halt loss of biodiversity
- Communication on Biodiversity – IAS as key priority area



# Communication on Biodiversity (1/4)

- Major policy document on biodiversity
- Adopted by the Commission in May 2006 (COM(2006)216)
- Communication
  - 4 policy areas
    - Biodiversity in the EU
    - The EU and global biodiversity
    - Biodiversity and climate change
    - The knowledge base
  - 10 objectives related to these policy areas + 4 key supporting measures

+ Action Plan



# Communication on Biodiversity (2/4)

- Objective 5: To substantially reduce the impact of invasive alien species and alien genotypes
- 4 actions required in Action Programme:
  - to assess gaps and develop an EU strategy to address IAS
  - MS to develop national strategies
  - MS ratification of Ballast Water Convention
  - to establish early warning system



# Communication on Biodiversity (3/4)

- Environmental Council (Dec. 2006) - conclusions in favour of the Communication
  - on IAS: COM + MS to prepare EU strategy and effective early warning system, taking into account biogeographical regions, on the basis of CBD, taking into account the European Strategy on IAS and recognising efforts made by relevant Conventions, e.g. IPPC, EPPO



# Communication on Biodiversity (4/4)

- European Parliament – report in the Committee on the Environment .. (March 2007) - in favour of the Communication
- Committee of the Regions (opinion from December 2006)
- Economic and Social Committee
  - both positive opinion on Communication



# Where are we?

- On-going activities related to IAS
  - International
    - CBD, Bern Convention, Ballast Water Convention, IPPC/EPPO
  - European level
    - SEBI 2010, research projects, LIFE projects
    - EEA – assessing feasibility of developing an EU Early warning and information system for IAS



# EU research

- Framework programme (FP) 5
  - Project Giant Alien (Giant Hogweed)
- FP 6
  - DAISIE (Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe),
  - ALARM (Assessing Large-scale Risks for biodiversity with tested Methods) – incl. IAS
- FP 7



# Gaps in current EU framework

- Study “Scope options for EU action on invasive alien species” (July 2006)
- Objectives of the project:
  - Assess the current European Community and Member states legal / policy framework in relation to IAS
  - Identify gaps in existing EU framework against CBD Guiding principles and the European strategy on IAS
  - Provide assistance to COM on future actions with respect to IAS

## Link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index\\_en.h](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm)



# Study “Scope options for EU action on invasive alien species” (1/2)

- Key findings:
  1. Categories with legal framework established:
    - Animal diseases, plant pests, aquaculture organisms, (GMO)
    - 4 animal species regulated under the Wildlife Trade Regulations
  2. Outside these categories – no Community framework
  4. Competences in relation to CBD Guiding Principles
    - almost all – shared competence between EC and states
    - GP 7. Border control and quarantine measures – EC competence



# Study “Scope options for EU action on invasive alien species” (2/2)

- Gaps in EU framework identified:
  - Varying coverage of groups of organisms
  - Lack of coordination between Member States (MS)
  - Single Market is (perceived) barrier to MS action on IAS
  - No early warning system for IAS threatening biodiversity
  - Low awareness
  - Lack of attention to IAS when dealing with third countries
  - Insufficient implementation of existing EU instruments by MS
  - Inconsistent definition of IAS in different MS



# Development of EU framework on IAS (1/3)

European strategy on IAS  
(Bern Convention, 2003)

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EU policy framework on IAS / strategy  
(under development)



# Development of EU framework on IAS (2/3)

## Definitions – CBD

### The three-stage hierarchical approach

1. Prevention
  2. Early detection and rapid eradication
  3. Long-term control and containment
- **Trade issues**
  - **Early warning and information system**



# Development of EU framework on IAS (3/3)

## Horizontal issues

1. Communication, education and public awareness
2. Improved co-ordination and building partnerships
3. Support of action at MS level
4. Knowledge base
5. Financing
6. Removing of inconsistencies
7. EU as an exporter of IAS



# Development of EU framework on IAS – planning (1/3)

2 steps approach

- Communication on policy options to tackle IAS (November 2008) – in “Biodiversity package” (with Mid-term report on the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan)
- Communication on EU framework on IAS (2009-2010)



# Development of EU framework on IAS – planning (2/3)

## Consultation process

- Meetings with stakeholders (MS, COM, NGO, etc.)
  - 2 meetings in 2007
  - 2 meetings planned for 1<sup>st</sup> half 2008
- Public web consultation – „Your Voice in Europe“ (03-04/2008)



# Development of EU framework on IAS – planning (3/3)

Supporting project: “Technical support to EU strategy on IAS”

- Aims:
  - assess impacts of IAS
  - identify possible policy options
  - analyse impacts of policy options
  - recommend best options for EU policy

## ➔ Impact Assessments

- For 18 months, end : mid-2009
- Contractor: IEEP



# Other activities related to IAS

- Financing opportunities: LIFE +
- Final conference of DAISIE project,  
23 January 2008, Slovenia
- Neobiota conference, 23-26 September 2008,  
Czech Republic



Thank you for your attention

