



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats
Work carried out by the Bern Convention **Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species**

Draft European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

co-authors

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- Why does Europe need a Strategy on invasive alien species?
- Who is the Strategy for?
- Process for development
- Summary of content
- Most difficult issues

Why a Strategy?

- IAS are a real threat to European biodiversity
- From all taxonomic groups
- Europe has many countries, shared borders and growing freedom of trade and movement
- European countries actively supported adoption of CBD Decision VI/23 and Guiding Principles
- Need common approaches to make the Guiding Principles operational and agree on priorities (especially for transboundary problems)

Why the Bern Convention?

- longstanding focus on IAS (different taxonomic groups; eradications; law & policy etc.) but progress is piecemeal
- provides a pan-European framework for more effective prevention and management
- traditionally engages wide range of stakeholders (governments, NGOs, relevant sectors...)
- ideal forum for helping to make Guiding Principles operational in Europe

Who is the Strategy for?

- European governments (involvement of all concerned sectors is critical – recognition that plant and animal health agencies have particular expertise)
- Bern Convention and other relevant international bodies (strengthen coordination)
- Other key stakeholders (industry and trade, transporters, hunters, aquaculture, tourists, the public, NGOs....)

Process for developing the draft Strategy

- Preliminary ideas based on existing resolutions discussed at CBD SBSTTA (March 2001) and Bern Standing Committee (December 2001)
- Draft 1 circulated in 2002 and discussed in Expert workshop (Horta, Azores, October 2002) and by Standing Committee (December 2002)
- Detailed comments submitted by Parties, international organisations and other stakeholders: meetings with key stakeholders (e.g. EPPO, March 2003)
- Draft 2 considered by Experts Group (June 2003): more comments received
- Draft 3 finalised (September 2003): will be submitted to the Bern Convention Standing Committee for possible adoption in December 2003

STRATEGY

Objectives

Scope

1. Building awareness and support
2. Collecting, managing and sharing information
3. Strengthening policy, legal and institutional frameworks
4. Regional cooperation and responsibility
5. Preventing unwanted introductions
6. Early detection and rapid response
7. Management, control, mitigation
8. Restoration

Objectives

Making efficient use of existing measures, resources and expertise:



Trachemys scripta elegans

develop and implement coordinated measures to minimise IAS impacts on Europe's biodiversity, economy and human health and wellbeing.

- increase awareness
- prevent introductions of new IAS
- reduce the impact of existing IAS
- restoration of native species, habitats, ecosystems where feasible



Cervus nippon Sika deer

Scope

The Strategy applies to:

- . terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Bern Convention Parties. It also provides guidance for activities carried out in areas beyond national jurisdiction (e.g. inter-continental trade and transportation)
- . alien species (as defined by the CBD Guiding Principles) including feral animals of domestic species (cats, dogs, goats, etc.)
- . It does not apply to genetically modified organisms.

.....scope:

It does not apply to **genetically modified organisms**

The Strategy does not cover GMOs, although some of these have the potential to become invasive alien species, because these are separately regulated under European Community legislation and by several other European states. However, there may be scope for countries to coordinate activities relevant to both IAS and genetically modified organisms (e.g. risk analysis, contained use, field trials, control of release, monitoring)

TERMINOLOGY

The Strategy uses the **definitions agreed by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD** for the purposes of the Guiding Principles (see Box 1).

For plant health and animal health issues, **internationally-agreed terminology developed by competent organisations (IPPC, OIE) is relevant.**

For the purposes of this Strategy:

“regional” refers to the whole of Europe;

“subregional” refers to an area (land, sea or freshwater) shared by two or more neighbouring States.

1. Building awareness and support

Raising public awareness of IAS is crucial (GP6 §1)



- Information/communication for target audiences (government agencies, local authorities, general public...)
- Incorporate IAS in environmental education/awareness programmes
- Build partnerships with sectoral stakeholders to produce codes/guidance for those using or affected by IAS
- Support IAS workshops/conferences

2. Collect, manage & share information

States should “undertake research on and monitoring of IAS (GP5 §2)... assist in the development of an inventory and synthesis of relevant databases (GP8 §2)



Heracleum mantegazzianum

Species inventories

Research and monitoring

Indicators for priority research

Efficient use of existing regional information systems and networks (eg EPPO)

Link national databases to subregional/regional information mechanisms

3. National policy and legal frameworks



Procambarus clarkii



Mustela vison

Legal review and development

Leadership and coordination

National strategies

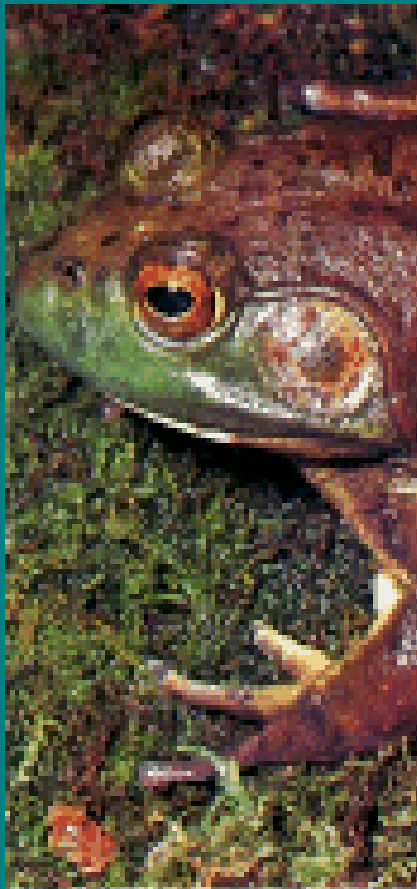
Principles and tools

- precaution
- risk analysis
- ancient introductions

Compliance – mixed voluntary-regulatory approaches incl. codes

4. Regional cooperation and responsibility

States should recognize the risk that activities within their jurisdiction or control may pose to other States as a potential source of IAS (GP4 §4).... A State's response ... may require a cooperative effort between two or more countries (GP9 §4)



Rana catesbiana

Cooperation between States

- information exchange and consultation.
- harmonise measures for problem species
- regional pathway management

Possible role of the Bern Convention

- core advisory group?
- Maximise coordination with existing institutions (EPPO...)
- European forum on IAS?

Promote subregional cooperation

- common approaches to shared problems

5. Preventing unwanted introductions

- Prevention at source and on arrival: border control and quarantine measures
- Intentional introductions
- Unintentional introductions
- In-country prevention
- Special measures for isolated ecosystems
- Prediction and prevention of spontaneous spread

6. Early detection and rapid response

Surveillance

- cooperation of all stakeholders
- database for rapid identification
- Early Warning System
- surveillance of vulnerable areas
- information materials



Dreissena polymorpha. M..Orlova, N.Caspian Sea

Rapid response/contingency plans

- powers to take necessary action
- contingency plans
- training

7. Mitigation of impacts

States ... should take appropriate steps such as eradication, containment and control, to mitigate adverse effects (GP12 §6 87)



Rattus rattus



Rattus norvegicus

Legal and institutional aspects

- appropriate legal status for AS
- regulate supply of problematic species (possession, trade, transport)
- phase out perverse incentives

Eradication, containment, control

- prioritise by species, area, ecosystem
- long-term cost-benefit analysis
- risk analysis, public consultation
- coordinate with other countries
- staff training

8. Restoration



- restoration policies in IAS strategies
- phase out AS in landscaping, revegetation, erosion control etc. (where suitable native alternatives exist)
- promote increased supply and use of reliably-sourced local native species

Outstanding issues

- Breadth of objectives
- The issue of regional species (black) lists
- Ensuring ‘added value’ from a regional Strategy – what is it really useful for?



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Will shortly be available on

<http://www.nature.coe.int/english/cadres/bern.htm>