



## **Endbericht Projekt: Durchführung des Symposiums , Invasive Arten im städtischen Raum, 2013 Reference - 30852-4**

By Chantal van Ham, IUCN EU Representative Office, 23 January 2014

The main aim of the conference “Invasive Alien Species: the Urban Dimension” was to bring together European, national and local governmental representatives and experts to raise awareness and exchange knowledge and best practices that contribute to solutions that reduce the risk of invasive species in urban areas.

It served to inform the competent authorities in Europe who are responsible for implementing action to reduce the impact of invasive species, with scientific knowledge and expertise as well as guidance and examples.

The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment has committed to be the co-financing partner for this project, contributing € 40,000.

In this report we will provide an overview of the outcomes of the project, as well as relevant information on its implementation, including social media outreach and a follow-up event in Brussels, as well as the financial information related to the project implementation.

### **Conference and publication Invasive Alien Species: the Urban Dimension**

IUCN has brought together key actors from all over Europe on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September at the IUCN Global Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland for the conference Invasive Alien Species: the Urban Dimension. The conference aimed to exchange knowledge and best practices to reduce the risk of invasive alien species in urban areas. As metropolitan areas are particularly vulnerable to IAS and serve as entry pathways, the key objective of the event was to analyse the issue of IAS from an urban perspective to understand the challenges which cities face and present solutions.

Around 60 experts participated in the conference from multiple countries, representing scientific institutions, national, regional and local governments, the European Commission, cities, NGOs and international organisations (see attached participant list in annex I).

The conference served as an opportunity to share examples, establish cooperation and strengthen action for the prevention, control and management of invasive alien species across Europe. In her welcome address, IUCN Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre pointed out that “to many people outside of our community, IAS still sound like creatures out of a science-fiction movie. If we do nothing about them, this sci-fi movie may turn into a horror film. What we need instead is a box office hit: a successful production involving numerous actors, and with a happy ending! Today’s conference is an important step toward achieving this”.

In advance of the conference, IUCN published a compilation of case studies from more than 15 European countries on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in urban areas, to showcase examples of concrete action at the urban level, and a selection of case studies were presented and discussed during the conference. With this publication, IUCN highlights the key role that local and regional authorities play in implementing national and international biodiversity targets and in addressing the risks associated with biological invasions. The publication can be downloaded and is available in hardcopy for interested parties:

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/edocs/2013-027.pdf>

A number of key recommendations for strengthening awareness and action to control and manage invasive alien species in urban areas have been developed by the IUCN European Union Representative Office in collaboration with the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and with contribution of the conference participants.

The recommendations can be found online and are attached to this document in annex II:

[https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/conference\\_ias\\_the\\_urban\\_dimension\\_recommendations\\_1.pdf](https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/conference_ias_the_urban_dimension_recommendations_1.pdf)

All outcomes of the conference can be downloaded via the IUCN website:

- Conference agenda
- Speakers' presentations
- Summary of break-out sessions
- Conference abstracts
- Speakers biographies

<http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/?13708/Urban-areas-and-biological-invasions-what-can-cities-do-about-it>

## **Social media**

IUCN has given exposure to the event and publication via its social media channels with the following stories:

### ***Invasive alien species: the urban dimension***

<http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/resources/publications/?13589/Invasive-alien-species-the-urban-dimension>

### ***Webstory on the conference: Urban areas and biological invasions: what can cities do about it?***

<http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/?13708/Urban-areas-and-biological-invasions-what-can-cities-do-about-it>

### ***Blog Chantal van Ham, Invasive Alien Species are sneaking into our cities***

<https://portals.iucn.org/blog/2013/09/27/invasive-alien-species-are-sneaking-into-our-cities/>

### ***IUCN European newsletter October 2013, focus: invasive alien species***

[http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/resources/newsletters/newsletter2/european\\_october2013.cfm](http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/resources/newsletters/newsletter2/european_october2013.cfm)

**BBC news: Invasive alien species threaten urban environments**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-23936489>

**ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center newsletter September 2013, page 11**

[http://cbc.iclei.org/Content/Docs/LAB%20Newsletter%20Sept%20final\\_130904.pdf](http://cbc.iclei.org/Content/Docs/LAB%20Newsletter%20Sept%20final_130904.pdf)

### **Event in Brussels on EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species**

The European Commission has issued a proposal for an EU Regulation on invasive alien species in September 2013. The proposal is now being discussed by the members of the European Parliament and European Council following the formal EU decision-making process. The proposal by the European Commission paves the way for more, better and coordinated action in Europe and to tackle invasive alien species. The prevention, early-warning systems, eradication and control measures included in the proposal are an important step in tackling the issue, however there are some elements which need to be strengthened.

IUCN in cooperation with IUCN ISSG has organized an event on 28 November at the IUCN EU Representative Office in Brussels, targeting representatives of the 28 EU Member States who are involved in the working party of the European Council on this matter, to highlight the areas where the current proposal by the European Commission needs to be improved. The event was meant to provide an informal opportunity for discussion to complement the formal and official EU decision-making process.

### **Financial report**

A total of € 75,274.78 of expenses have been accounted for implementation of this project, consisting of staff time, administration, logistics and communication costs according to the financial report, which is sent to you separate from this report.

In this report, a division has been made between the use of funds from Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt and the co-financing partner, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.

## Annex I: Participants list conference invasive alien species: the urban dimension, 5 September 2013

Participants list IUCN Conference Invasive Alien Species: The Urban Dimension				
First name	Surname	Organisation	Country	Role in the conference
Alexandre	Aebi	Université de Neuchâtel	Switzerland	Participant
Brian	Boag	James Hutton Institute	United Kingdom	Speaker
Marcela	Bonells	Ramsar Convention Secretariat	Switzerland	Participant
Marion	Brun	Université François Rabelais	France	Participant
Sarah	Brunel	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation	France	Speaker
Isabelle	Buckelmüller	Directorate of Public Works, biosafety unit	Switzerland	Participant
Joe	Caffrey	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Ireland	Participant
Giles	Chappell	UNEP	Switzerland	Participant
Gerald	Dick	World Association of Zoos and Aquaria	Switzerland	Participant
Lesley	Dickie	European Association of Zoos and Aquaria	Netherlands	Chair break-out session
Liza	Drius	IUCN EU Representative Office	Belgium	Staff
Myriam	Dumortier	European Commission, DG Environment	Belgium	Speaker
Franz	Essl	Environment Agency Austria & University of Vienna	Austria	Participant
Piero	Genovesi	IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group	Italy	Speaker
Esther	Gerber	CABI	Switzerland	Participant
Ema	Gojdicova	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia	Participant
Sascha	Gregori	Amt für Natur und Umwelt Graubünden	Switzerland	Participant
Renato	Guidon	Directorate of Public Works, biosafety unit	Switzerland	Participant
Karen	Harper	London Invasive Species Initiative	United Kingdom	Speaker
Fiona	Harvey	The Guardian	United Kingdom	Speaker
Biljana	Hutinec	Maksimirk park	Croatia	Participant
Christiane	Ilg	Hepia	Switzerland	Participant
Nicola	Indermühle	City of Bern, Nature Division	Switzerland	Participant
Javid	Jamileh	GEOMAR- Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research	Germany	Participant
Sven	Jelaska	University of Zagreb	Croatia	Participant
Jonathan	Jeschke	Technical University Munich	Germany	Speaker
Andrew	Kelly	Humane Society International	United Kingdom	Participant
John	Kelly	Royal Society for Protection of Birds	Ireland	Speaker
Lynne	Labanne	IUCN Global Species Programme	Switzerland	Participant
Katharina	Lapin	Institute of Botany, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences	Austria	Participant
Toril	Loennechen Moen	Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre	Norway	Participant
Isabelle	Mandon	Fédération des Conservatoires Botaniques Nationaux	France	Participant

Julia	Marton-Lefèvre	IUCN	Switzerland	Speaker
Neil	McIntosh	European Centre for Nature Conservation	Netherlands	Speaker and Chair break-out session
Staci	McLennan	Eurogroup for animals	Belgium	Participant
Guntram	Meier	InGrip-Consulting & Animal Control	Germany	Participant
Bozena	Mitic	University of Zagreb	Croatia	Participant
Ana	Nieto	IUCN EU Representative Office	Belgium	Staff
Jorge	Orueta Ortiz	SEO/Birdlife	Spain	Participant
Daniele	Paoloni	University of Perugia	Italy	Participant
Dave	Parrott	Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratory Agency	United Kingdom	Participant
Sonia	Peña Moreno	IUCN Global Policy Unit	Switzerland	Participant
Jan	Pergl	Institute of Botany	Czech Republic	Speaker
Damien	Provendier	Plante & Cité	France	Participant
April	Regan	Earthmind	Switzerland	Participant
Christian	Ries	Musée national d'histoire naturelle	Luxemburg	Participant
Marta	Rossinelli	Phytopathology Service Canton Ticino	Switzerland	Participant
Angelo	Salsi	European Commission, DG Environment	Belgium	Speaker and Chair break-out session
Riccardo	Scalera	IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group	Italy	Speaker
Nicola	Schoenenberger	Museo Cantonale Di Storia Naturale Lugano	Switzerland	Participant
Yan	Steil	Musée national d'histoire naturelle	Luxemburg	Participant
Michael	Sutton-Croft	Norfolk County Council	United Kingdom	Participant
Daniel	Turner	Born Free Foundation	United Kingdom	Participant
Ahmet	Uludag	Çanakkale Onsekizmart Üniversitesi	Turkey	Participant
Chantal	van Ham	IUCN EU Representative Office	Belgium	Staff
Lieske	van Santen	World Economic Forum	Switzerland	Participant
Hildrun	Vetter	Musée national d'histoire naturelle	Luxemburg	Participant
Gian-Reto	Walther	Swiss Federal Office for the Environment	Switzerland	Speaker
Luc	Wauters	University of Insubria	Italy	Speaker
Ulrich	Witte	Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt	Germany	Speaker

## **Annex II: Recommendations conference Invasive Alien Species: The Urban Dimension**

### **Preparing the ground for action on IAS**

1. Ensure that policies and action on IAS (including any listing process) are based on the most advanced science, making use of information tools such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species<sup>1</sup>, the Global Invasive Species Database<sup>2</sup> or the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization List of Invasive Plants<sup>3</sup>;
2. Integrate urban areas in national biodiversity action plans and strategies, and consider developing dedicated action plans for cities and municipalities to develop and implement measures to combat IAS and/or prevent their introduction;
3. Strengthen interaction and cooperation between unconventional partners, such as nature organisations, landscape planners, anglers or hunters to develop solutions to deal with the IAS problem that are acceptable to all parties involved, and engage with key commercial sectors, such as pets trade, horticulture, fisheries and shipping, to raise awareness for their role in reducing the impact of IAS on biodiversity and by ensuring the implementation of measures to prevent entry and/or spread of IAS;
4. Increase understanding and assessment of the economic costs of IAS to society;
5. Increase coordination and networking at all levels, possibly developing dedicated tools to exchange information and best practices on approaches to combat IAS specifically in urban areas, e.g. by creating a database on past, current and future initiatives relevant to the IAS problem;

### **Voluntary and legislative instruments to combat IAS**

6. Establish lists of regulated invasive species that cover all taxonomic groups and are tailored to take into account the priority actions to be implemented (e.g. trade regulation, mandatory management) for regulating activities which are essential (e.g. import, need to access private land);
7. Ensure that any technical bodies created to support the implementation of the proposed EU regulation will rely on the most advanced expertise, and provide for rapid decision making, based on best science;
8. Although European and national legal instruments are crucially important, they should be complemented by voluntary approaches and instruments, e.g. codes of conduct, aimed at promoting a change in attitude towards the problem of IAS by both concerned sectors and citizens;
9. To work effectively, a voluntary approach to tackle IAS requires incentives for action, flexibility to adapt to local circumstances and increased awareness and understanding from all actors involved;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/initiatives/europe>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.eppo.int/INVASIVE\\_PLANTS/ias\\_lists.htm](http://www.eppo.int/INVASIVE_PLANTS/ias_lists.htm)

## **Communication strategies for IAS**

10. Strengthen communication on the problems caused by IAS in cities, where around 4/5 of the European population live, identify potential strategic partners/stakeholders to engage with when developing information campaigns and other outreach activities, targeted at both the regional, national and local level, starting with defining the target audience and the main messages to disseminate, and monitoring the actual impact of the communication activities;
11. Make use of the opportunities cities offer for raising awareness on IAS with the public, through zoos and aquaria, botanic gardens, natural history museums and educational programmes;
12. Learn from effective communication strategies for IAS from countries outside of Europe, such as New Zealand and Canada;
13. Increase the involvement of citizens, taking into consideration that the issue of IAS is strongly related to people's values, which can lead to conflicting perceptions on the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of nature and IAS;

## **Financing action on IAS**

14. Revise existing financial tools, such as the European Commission's LIFE programme<sup>4</sup>, to improve early warning, rapid response, and ensure effective management of priority IAS as well as proper prevention measures;
15. Promote the development of LIFE project proposals aimed at innovative communication activities related to IAS and other measures for improved governance and capacity building (e.g. for custom authorities);
16. Avoid and eliminate harmful funding policies and initiatives that contradict effective measures to eradicate/control IAS or prevent introduction and further spread of IAS;
17. Mobilise human and financial resources for the implementation of voluntary and legislative measures directed at dealing with IAS issues in urban areas, including the establishment of partnerships with municipalities, environment funding organizations, the business sector and other interested institutions;
18. Compile a list with all available sources for financing action to combat IAS in Europe.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>