



# Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

State of play

Bern Convention

Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

St Julians, Malta, 18-20 May 2011



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# Introduction

## *Invasive Alien Species (IAS)*

- Transport across **ecological barriers**
- Negative impacts on biodiversity, human health and the economy

### *The problem*

- one key driver of biodiversity loss
- no comprehensive EU instrument
- rapidly growing driver of biodiversity loss
- cost of inaction/delayed action >> cost of policy action



# Introduction

## *Some estimates of the cost of inaction*

- World            US\$     1.4 trillion per year – close to 5% of global GDP
- UK                £        1.7 billion per year
- US                US\$     138 billion per year
- China            US\$     14.45 billion in 2000 – 1,36 % of their GDP

## *Estimates for the EU*

- Possible scale of total cost for EU policy action:
  - € 40 – 190 million per year
- Estimates of the cost of inaction
  - € 12 billion per year



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# International context

## *Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)*

### ■ Three-stage hierarchical approach:

- **Prevention**
- **Early detection and rapid eradication**
- **Control and/or containment**

### ■ COP 10 Nagoya (18-29 October 2010)

#### → **By 2020**

- **IAS and pathways are identified and prioritized**
- **priority species are controlled or eradicated**
- **measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment**



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# International context

- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
  - **Prevent introduction of diseases to animals and humans**
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) / European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)
  - **Prevent introduction of pests of plants and plant products**
- Ballast Water Convention
  - **Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments**
- Also regional and sub-regional instruments:
  - **E.g. Bern Convention, Alpine Convention ...**



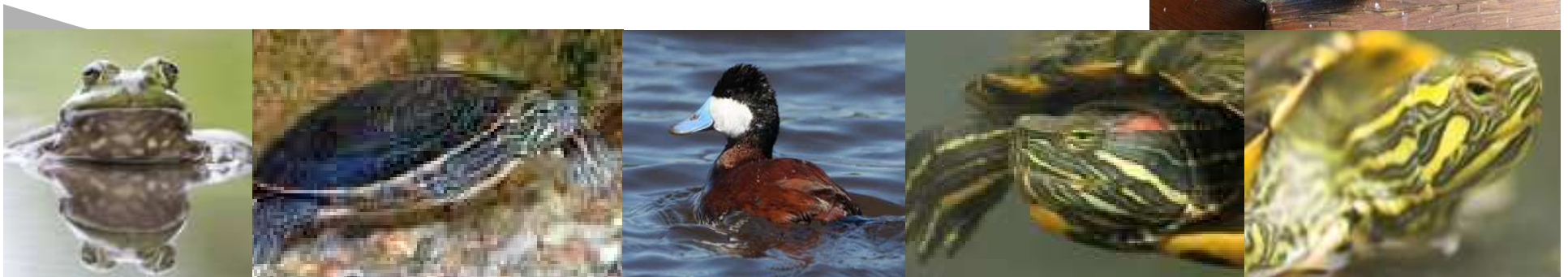
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# EU context

## *EU existing instruments on IAS*

- Animal health regime and plant health regime
  - ➔ **Under review**
- Aquaculture Regulation on IAS
- Wildlife Trade Regulation
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive, Birds and Habitats Directives
- Environmental Liability Directive
- ...



# National context



- Variety of valuable initiatives in Member States
  - ➔ Stimulated by Bern Convention “Strategy on Invasive Alien Species”
- Constraints
  - ➔ Variability
  - ➔ No common framework for risk assessments
    - Except for plant pests and pest plants
  - ➔ Variable scope/definitions
    - Number of incompatible databases
  - ➔ Absence of streamlined EU-framework
    - Lack of leverage for Member State action
    - Potential intra-EU trade issues



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# Mandate for an EU strategy on IAS

- 2006 - Commitment to develop an EU strategy
- 2008 - Consultation meetings with representatives from MS and stakeholders, web-based public consultation
- 2008 - Communication “Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species”
  - ➔ **Business as Usual**
  - ➔ **Maximising the use of existing legal instruments and voluntary measures**
  - ➔ **Adapting existing legislation**
  - ➔ **Comprehensive, dedicated EU legal instrument**
- 2006-2011: Technical support



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# Mandate for an EU Strategy on IAS

- Environment Council, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, June 2009
  - ➔ **Fill existing gaps, including preparing new legislative elements and amending existing provisions**
  
- European Council, March 2010
  - ➔ **EU headline target: To halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems services in the EU by 2020, restore them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss**



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# Mandate for an EU Strategy on IAS

## *New Biodiversity Strategy*

- “Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020” COM (2011)244
  - published on 3 May 2011
  - 6 sub-targets
- Target 5 specific to IAS:
  - By 2020, Invasive Alien Species and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS.
- Measures:
  - Action 15: Strengthen the EU Plant and Animal Health Regimes - The Commission will integrate additional biodiversity concerns into the Plant and Animal Health regimes by 2012.
  - **Action 16: Establish a dedicated instrument on Invasive Alien Species - The Commission will fill policy gaps in combating IAS by developing a dedicated legislative instrument by 2012.**



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# Consultative process

## *Stakeholder consultation (September 2010)*

- Prevention
  - ➔ **Priority species/priority pathways?**
  - ➔ **Risk Assessment procedures?**
- Early warning and rapid response
- Control, eradication, management
- Restoration of damaged ecosystems
- Financing
- Horizontal issues
  - ➔ **Outermost regions and overseas countries and territories**
  - ➔ **Communication, education, research**



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# Consultative process

## *IAS Working Groups*

### ■ Participants

- **Member States' representatives**
- **stakeholders organisations**
- **experts**

### ■ Role

- **provide advice and expertise to the Commission**
- **formulate opinions and recommendations**

### ■ Output

- **report summarising all different points of view**
- **report to be publicly available on CIRCA**



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# Consultative process

## *IAS Working groups*

### ■ *Working group 1: prevention*

- Priority species
- Priority pathways
- Risk assessment

### ■ *Working group 2: early warning and rapid response*

- IAS information system
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Early warning and rapid response

### ■ *Working group 3: eradication, management and restoration*

- Eradication, management, restoration



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# Consultative process

## *IAS Working groups – horizontal tasks*

### ■ **Communication and awareness raising**

- Goals
- Tools
- Target audiences

### ■ **Financing and liability**

- Codes of conduct and best practices
- Labelling, certification and accreditation
- Greening the supply chain
- Taxes, charges and cost recovery mechanisms
- Liability and the role of the insurance sector



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# Next steps

## *Working Groups*

- Process to be finalised by end of July 2011

## *Dedicated legislative instrument*

- Analysis of impacts – 2011/2012
- Drafting of a proposal – 2011/2012
- Publication foreseen in 2012



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# Towards an EU Strategy on IAS

*For updated information see:*

## ■ DG Environment website

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

## ■ CIRCA

[http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/ias/library?l=/general\\_information&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/ias/library?l=/general_information&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

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