

# NGO views on the proposed EU instrument

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# Why it matters to WWT



# Why this matters to us

- Through the eyes of the vulnerable
  - Most historic bird extinctions due to IS
  - 44% of critically endangered impacted by IS
  - 23% threatened or near threatened, impacted by IS
  - Mosses, stoneworts, ferns, liverworts...localised extinctions taking place right now
  - Severe effects, which are escalating despite increase in measures, and which climate change will compound
- Relationship with and interdependency on other EU and domestic instruments
- Biodiversity is our 'business', and is actually our 'businesses' and 'delivers for other businesses'

# Principles 1

- Strong and effective legislation is required – there is a right role for regulation. Process of unification is why the Directive is so important – CBD sets targets
- There is a right role for voluntary action and exhortation
  - Sequencing, financing and political backing important for an effective mix
- Hierarchical approach – prevention and rapid response ahead of long term containment
- Precautionary principle – lack of evidence should not in itself necessarily hinder action

# Principles 2

- Managing out the unintentional routes as well as managing for the intentional
- White lists on sale, movement and release of selected groups. For some groups individual species **must** be proven harmless. Makes biological sense.
- Black lists for others groups, trade and keeping – variation between countries. Big grey list for a long time....but grey doesn't give the green light. Who does the horizon scanning?





# Principles 3

- Compulsory labeling and information systems
- Polluter pays principle, with cost recovery
- Utilization of citizen science approach
- Cost benefit analysis must include effects on other biodiversity
- Must facilitate ecosystem restoration where IS are a significant contributor to ecosystem degradation

# Principles 4

- Spatially literate, and prioritised action – islands and freshwater habitats
- Destruction of problem IS plants, caveats on animals
- Rapid risk assessments – ones to watch – hundreds of thousands, but we need to home in and if in doubt, don't sell until we know

# Outcomes

- Identified species or groups that we manage out
- Identified species or groups we manage for
- Fast detection and eradication
- Effective horizon scanning with proactive measures
- Directives that talk to each other and are workable for (importantly, ALL) Member States