

National Policies' Framework on Invasive Alien Species in Albania

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Existing data on IAS in Albania

Limited data, due mainly to the limited research on several groups, especially invertebrates, and on aquatic habitats (both marine and freshwater).

Most of data related to the IAS has been gathered sporadically, during other general studies focused on several groups of flora and fauna.

The first publication specifically oriented to the IAS of Albania is: ***Invasive Species of Albania and the National Action Plan (MEFWA, 2007)***.

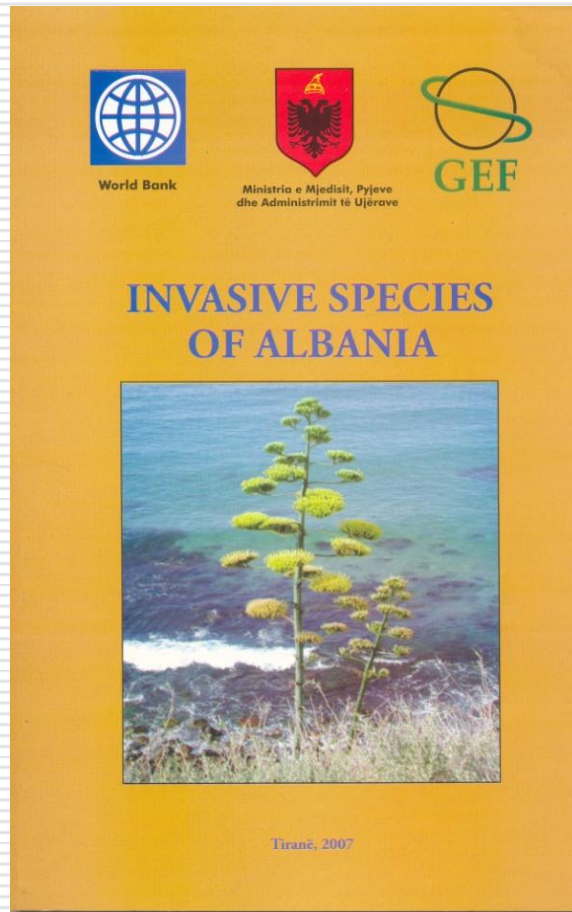
Existing data on IAS in Albania

The most recent studies, focusing specifically on the IAS:

- Data on the distribution of the blue crab *Callinectes sapidus* Rathbun, 1896 in the Albanian coast (2009 – 2011).
- Rapid assessment survey of marine alien species in the Albanian and Montenegrin coast (2010 – 2011).



Invasive species of Albania (2007)



Freshwater plants:	1 species
Marine plants:	1 species
Marine algae:	1 species
Terrestrial plants:	12 species
Nematodes:	1 species
Mollusks:	1 species
Insects:	21 species
Crustaceans:	1 species
Freshwater fish:	18 species
Mammals:	5 species

Total: 62 species

Additional data from most recent studies (2009 - 2011)

Marine macroalgae:	5 species
Marine annelids:	1 species
Marine gastropods:	1 species
Marine bivalves:	4 species
Marine crustaceans:	2 species
Marine fish:	4 species

Total: 17 species

Total for Albania: 79 species

Expected number of potential IAS in Albania is much higher!

Institutional and legal framework related to IAS in Albania

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MEFWA) is the main administrative body.
 - Directorate of Biodiversity Policies
 - Directorate of Fishery Policies
 - Directorate of Forestry Policies
 - National Environment Agency
 - Regional Environment Agencies (in the districts).
 - Inspectorate of fishery (in the districts).
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Institutional and legal framework related to IAS in Albania

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection.
 - Directorates of Agriculture and Food (in districts)
 - Ministry of Health
 - Directorates of the Public Health (in districts).
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Main environmental laws that also involve IAS in Albania

- ❑ Law on hunting and protection of wild fauna (1994).
 - ❑ Law on the fishery and aquaculture (1995).
 - ❑ Law on protection of marine environment from pollution and damage (2002).
 - ❑ Law on the protected areas (2002).
 - ❑ Law on protection of biodiversity (2006).
 - ❑ Law on Protection of Environment from Transboundary Impacts (2007).
 - ❑ Law on Definition of Rules and Procedures for the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wildlife Flora and Fauna (2008).
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Main international conventions and agreements ratified by Albania that also involve IAS.

- ❑ ESPOO Convention "On Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context."
 - ❑ Bern Convention "For the Protection of Flora and Wildlife Fauna of the Natural Environment in Europe".
 - ❑ Bonn Convention "On Protection of Migratory Species of Wildlife".
 - ❑ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
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Main international conventions and agreements ratified by Albania that also involve IAS.

- ❑ Washington Convention (CITES) “On International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora”.
 - ❑ ACCOBAMS “Agreement of the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Zone”.
 - ❑ Barcelona Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.
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Main research institutions that may relate to the IAS in Albania.

- University of Tirana:
 - Biology Department
 - Museum of Natural Sciences;
 - Botanical Garden

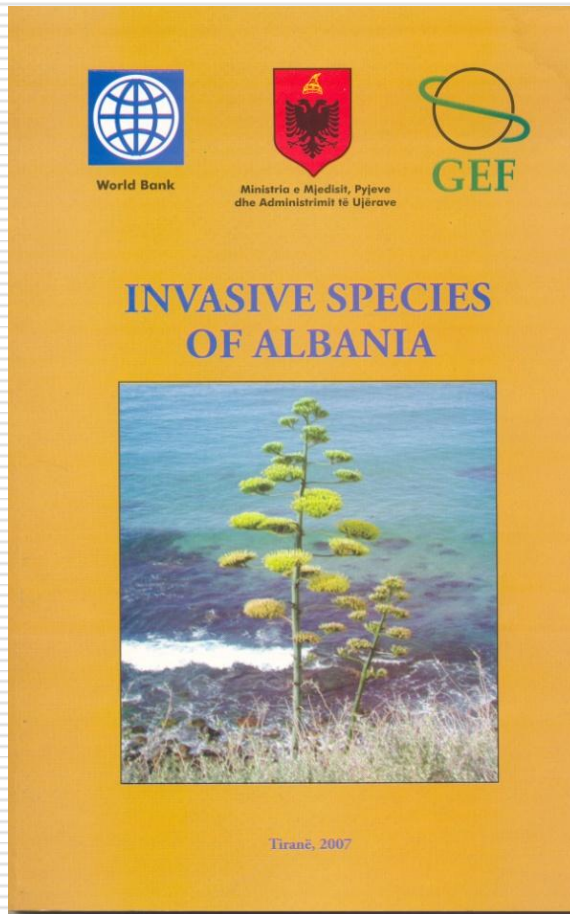
 - Agricultural University of Tirana

 - Public universities in the districts (Shkodra, Elbasan, Vlora, Gjirokastra, Korca).

 - Food Safety and Veterinary Institute

 - Institute of Public Health
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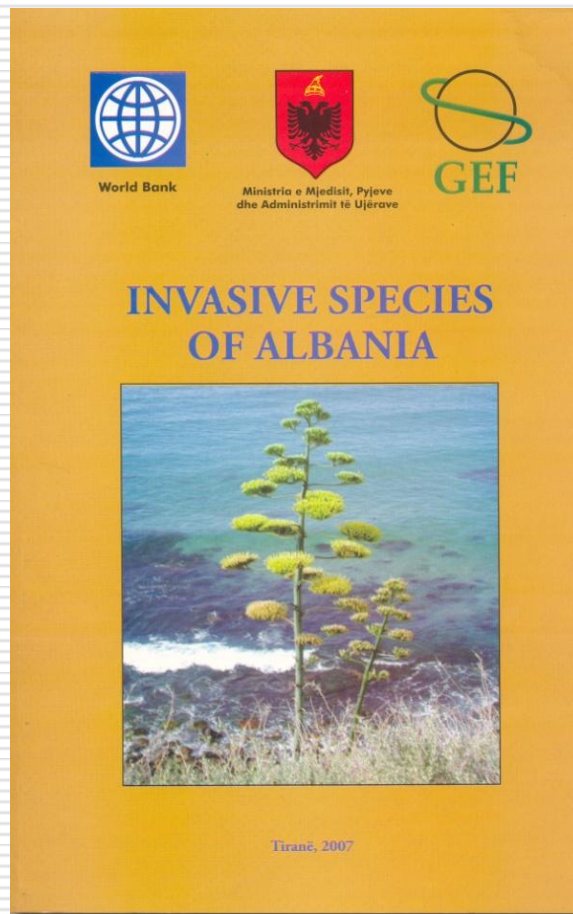
National Action Plan on Invasive Species (2007)



Goal:

To promote the development and implementation of coordinated measures and cooperative efforts to prevent or minimize adverse impacts of invasive species on biodiversity, as well as their consequences for the economy, human health and well being.

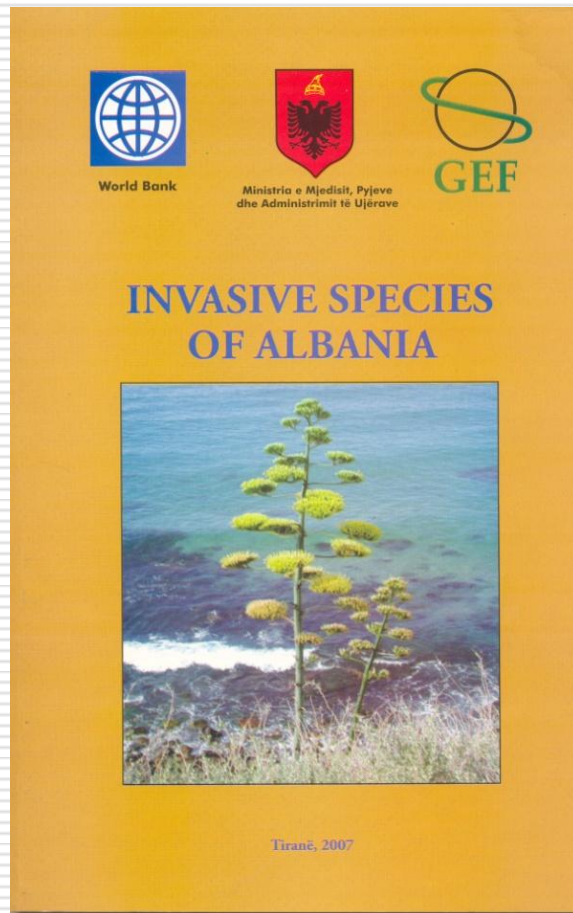
National Action Plan on Invasive Species (2007)



Scope:

- To rapidly increase awareness and information on IAS issues and control mechanisms.
- To identify and prioritize key actions to be implemented at the national and regional level.
- To strengthen national and regional capacity and cooperation to deal with IAS issues.
- To prevent the introduction of new IAS.
- To support rapid response to detected incursions.

National Action Plan on Invasive Species (2007)



Priorities:

- Education and awareness-raising.
- Capacity building.
- Research and monitoring.
- Legal and organizational implementation.