

EU POLICIES ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Ahmet ULUDAG
Project Manager on IAS

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



**invasion by alien species
represents one of the
greatest biological threats
to biodiversity,
second following to
fragmentation only to
habitat destruction.**



Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

The Convention on Biological Diversity was inspired by the world community's growing commitment to **sustainable development**. It represents a dramatic step forward in the **conservation of biological diversity**, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.



Convention on Biological Diversity

Article 8. In-situ Conservation

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:

(h) Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;



Convention on Biological Diversity

The Conference of the Parties is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings.

- COP 04 (1998): **1 C** Cross-cutting issue
- COP 05 (2000): **08** Interim guiding principles
- COP 06 (2002): **23** Guiding principles
- COP 07 (2008): **13** Gaps in the international regulatory frameworks
- COP 08 (2008): **27** Gaps in the international regulatory frameworks
- COP 09 (2008): **04** Gaps in the international regulatory frameworks
- COP 10 (2010): **38** Gaps in the international regulatory frameworks)



STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

"Living in harmony with nature"

- **Strategic goal B. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use**

Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.



- ***X/4. Third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook: implications for the future implementation of the Convention***
- *The Conference of the Parties*
- *5. Notes that a strategy for reducing biodiversity loss requires action at multiple levels including:*
- (b) **Urgent actions to curb the five pressures directly driving biodiversity loss** (habitat change, overexploitation, pollution, **invasive alien species** and climate change) with a view to fully implementing the three objectives of the Convention and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and to avoid that ecosystems are pushed beyond certain thresholds or —tipping points;



European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

- The Strategy is primarily targeted at governments of Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention and of other European States.
- The Strategy also seeks to engage stakeholders involved in the movement, use and control of potentially invasive alien species (industry and trade, transporters, retailers, resource managers, the public etc.) and to build on the expertise and commitment of competent non-governmental organisations and research institutes. Many of the proposed key actions call for joint or complementary initiatives by private and public stakeholders.



European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

1. Building awareness and support

2. Collecting, managing and sharing information

2.1. Species inventories

2.2. Research and monitoring

2.3. Regional exchange of information

3. Strengthening national policy, legal and institutional frameworks

3.1. Leadership and coordination

3.2. Policy and legal review and development

3.3. Strategies and action plans

3.4. Key approaches and tools

3.5. Ancient introductions

3.6. Compliance and enforcement

4. Regional cooperation and responsibility

4.1. Cooperation between Bern Convention Parties

4.2. Role of the Bern Convention

4.3. Subregional cooperation



European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

5. Prevention

5.1. Prevention at source and on arrival: border control and quarantine measures

5.2. Intentional introductions

5.3. Unintentional introductions

5.4. In-country prevention

5.5. Special measures for isolated ecosystems

5.6. Prediction and prevention of spontaneous spread

6. Early detection and rapid response

6.1. Surveillance

6.2. Rapid response and contingency planning

7. Mitigation of impacts

7.1. Policy and legal aspects

7.2. Eradication

7.3. Containment

7.4. Control

8. Restoration of native biodiversity

[Go to 58](#)



European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

Regional cooperation and responsibility

Key actions *Cooperation between Bern Convention Parties*

4.1.1 Use existing mechanisms for inter-State information exchange, notification and consultation on IAS (e.g. EPPO, OIE, CBD Clearing House Mechanism, Bern Convention) and establish new mechanisms where necessary.

4.1.2 Where not already in place, develop procedures to provide any available information on a species' invasive behaviour (or the invasive potential of a species) to neighbouring States, trading partners and countries with similar ecosystems and histories of invasion.

4.1.3 Provide all relevant information on the State's specific import requirements for alien species, particularly those already identified as invasive, and make this information available to other States.



European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

Regional cooperation and responsibility

Key actions *Role of the Bern Convention*

4.2.1 Continue and support the work of the Convention's Group of Experts on IAS.

4.2.2 Work with key regional and global institutions (e.g. European Commission, EPPO, OIE) to promote the further development of effective IAS measures for Europe and the Mediterranean Region, in particular concerning transboundary movement of potential IAS.

4.2.3 Contribute at the European level to developing a common interpretation of IAS terms and concepts.

4.2.4 Monitor the implementation of this Strategy and report to the Standing Committee on the possible need for further actions in the future.



European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

Regional cooperation and responsibility

Key actions *Subregional cooperation*

4.3.1 Promote dialogue between countries, sectors and key institutions in the same subregion, where not already established, to harmonise strategic direction and develop common approaches to shared IAS pathways and problems.

4.3.2 Develop and implement sub-regional action plans and initiatives for priority IAS, especially for transboundary areas and shared watercourses.

4.3.3 Make use of existing subregional expertise and networks (International Commission for Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea; Nordic-Baltic Network on Invasive Species; Regional Biological Invasions Centre hosting the virtual European Research Network on Aquatic Invasive Species; EPPO etc.).



EU ACQUIS

- *EU Legislation on animal diseases*
- *Plant Health Directive*
- *Aquaculture Regulation on IAS*
 - **Risk assessment for introduction/translocation of aquaculture species and associated non-target species**
- *Wildlife Trade Regulation*

- *Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive, Nature Directives,...*
- *Environmental Liability Directive, EU financial instruments,...*



Sixth Environmental Action Programme (2001-2010) (Decision 1600/2002/EC of the EP and the Council of 22 July 2002

Article 6 in a specific objective: 'halting biodiversity decline with the aim to reach this objective by 2010, including prevention and mitigation of impacts of invasive alien species and genotypes',
and in a specific priority action: 'developing measures aimed at the prevention and control of invasive alien species including alien genotypes'.



The 'Plant Health' Directive. Directive on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread in the Community (2000/29/EC) as amended.

This Directive concerns protective measures against the introduction into the MS from other MS or third countries of organisms which are harmful to plants or plant products. The general principles are based upon provisions laid down in the International Plant Protection Convention and in the World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

No specific reference to IAS

Under evaluation now.



The Action Plan for the implementation of the EU's Animal Health Strategy for 2007-2013 COM(2008) 545 final adopted on 10 September 2008

The EU Animal Health Strategy is based on the principle, “Prevention is better than cure”. It covers the health of all animals in the EU kept for food, farming, sport, companionship, entertainment and in zoos; wild animals and animals used in research where there is a risk of them transmitting disease to other animals or to humans; and the health of animals transported to, from and within the EU.

The species-specific and general Directives containing precautions against animal disease introductions. There are a large number of these Directives and also Regulations These relate to specific types of animals and animal products



COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010 (COM(2010) 4 final)

In 2001, the EU set itself the target to *halt biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010 (COM (2001) 162 final)*.

Efforts to tackle biodiversity loss were subsequently stepped up, and an EU Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was adopted by the Commission in 2006 to accelerate progress (*COM (2006) 612 final*).

Despite the efforts to date, however, there are clear indications that the EU will not achieve its target (*COM (2008) 864 final*)



states achievements and shortcomings of the current policy

Second (out of six), major policy gaps remain to be addressed. In particular, the policies on soils and **invasive species** require further development, as they are crucial to addressing biodiversity loss.



describes options for a post-2010 EU vision and target for biodiversity

There is broad consensus among stakeholders on what should be the main features of the new EU long-term vision for biodiversity. The vision should include a clear time-frame (**up to 2050**), reflect the urgency of the biodiversity crisis and the intrinsic and tangible values of biodiversity and the importance of the services it provides. It should be understandable and acceptable to the public, and should apply to the EU and global levels.

Four levels of ambition for a 2020 headline target are presented below in increasing order:

Option 1. Significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020

Option 2. Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020

Option 3. Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 and restore them insofar as possible

Option 4. Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 and restore them insofar as possible, and step up the EU's contribution to averting global biodiversity loss



NEXT STEPS

The setting of a post-2010 vision and target is not an end in itself. It marks the beginning of a process to put a new EU biodiversity strategy in place by the time the current target runs out.

The Commission will continue its work in the course of 2010, including through further stakeholder consultations, to establish the evidence base necessary to further define the new EU policy framework. This will also contribute to the EU's strategy and objectives for negotiating the future international biodiversity framework.



Biodiversity Communication and Action Plan (COM (2006) 216 Final) (Communication on Biodiversity: Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 - and Beyond (22 May 2006)

A priority objective in Policy Area 1 (Biodiversity in the EU) is 'to reduce the impact on EU biodiversity of invasive alien species and alien genotypes'.

The EU Action Plan for 2010 and Beyond (Annex 1) includes specific actions for IAS, including developing a Community Strategy to address IAS which may contain measures to fill gaps; and establishing an early warning system for the prompt exchange of information between countries on the emergence of IAS and cooperation on control measures across national boundaries.

The Council's Conclusions on COM(2006)216 of 18 December 2006, call on the Commission:

to assess gaps in the current legal, policy and economic framework for IAS prevention, control and eradication;

in cooperation with MS, to prepare an EU strategy and an effective early warning system, taking into account biogeographical regions, on the basis of the CBD Guiding Principles, taking into account the Bern Convention European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and recognizing the efforts made by relevant Conventions and Organisations such as IPPC and EPPO.



Mandate for an EU strategy on IAS

- 2006: Commitment to develop an EU strategy, 2006
- 2008: Consultation meetings with representatives from MS and stakeholders, web-based public consultation
- Communication: Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species
 - **A: Business as Usual**
 - **B: Maximising the use of existing legal instruments together with voluntary measures**
 - **B+: Adapting existing legislation**
 - **C: Comprehensive, dedicated EU legal instrument**
- 2006-2010: Technical support
- 2010 Stake-holders meeting

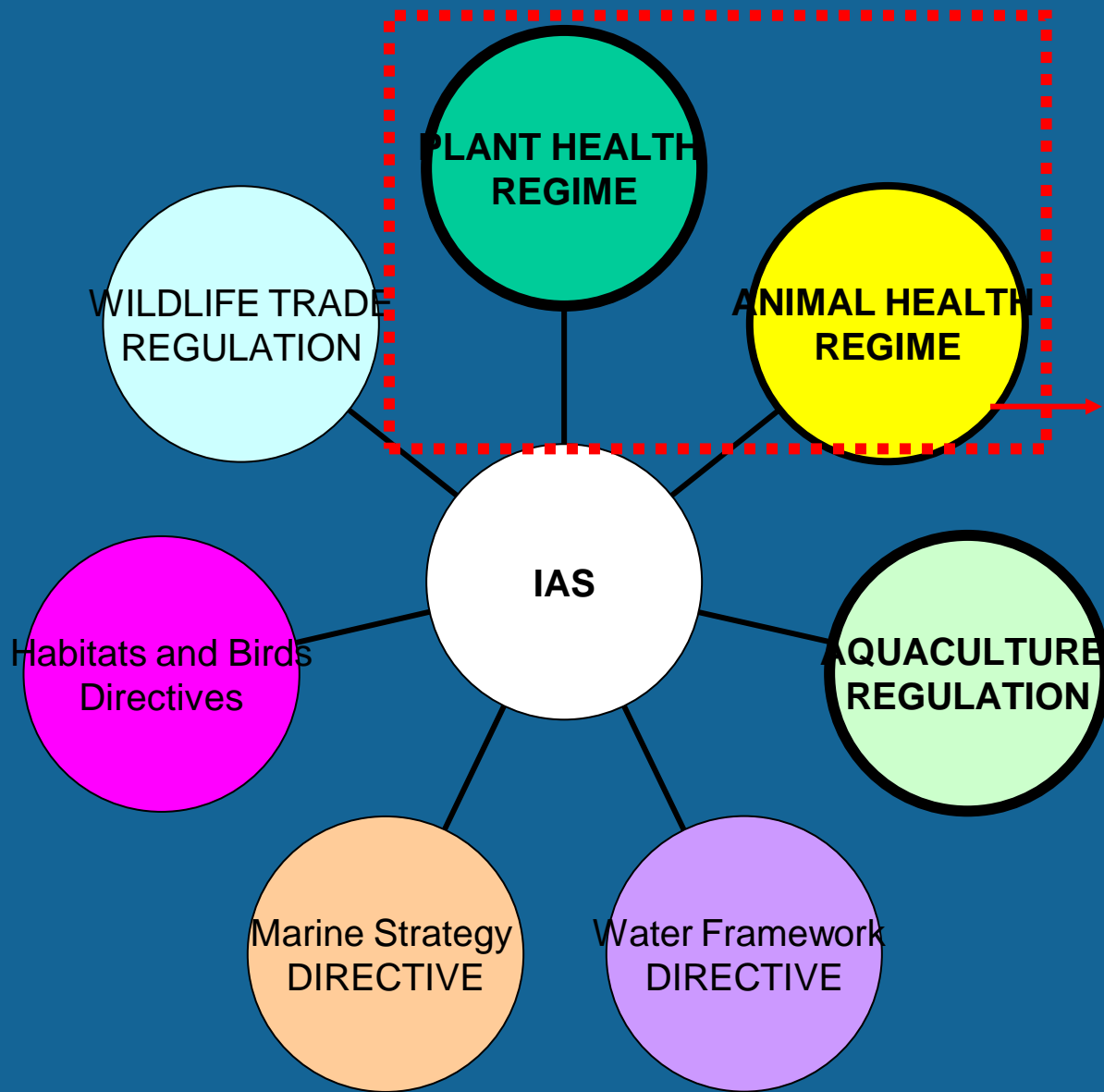
Borrowed from M. Dumortier



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





**UNDERGOING
REVISION IN
2012**

Borrowed from M. Dumortier



EU Biodiversity Strategy (May 2011)

Target 5, by 2020:

**IAS and pathways are identified and prioritized
priority species are controlled or eradicated
pathways are managed to prevent introduction
and establishment of new IAS**

Actions:

Action 15: Integrate additional biodiversity concerns into the Plant and Animal Health regimes by 2012

Action 16: Fill policy gaps in combating IAS by developing a **dedicated legislative instrument by 2012**

