

WEST BALKAN MESSAGE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Ahmet ULUDAG

Project Manager on Invasive Alien Species

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



**EEA/EIONET Workshop on Invasive Alien
Species in West Balkan Countries
28-29 OCTOBER 2010
Zagreb, Croatia**

with a selection of concerned people from West Balkan countries with the objective to exchange ideas, share information about current legal and technical situations in Western Balkan countries and Europe, and discuss future steps on the issue.



Key objectives:

- **to share information on invasive alien species within EU and neighboring countries**
- **to review the information available on invasive alien species in Western Balkan countries**
- **to discuss possible approaches for future activities and collaborations in view of the establishment of a European EWIS.**



Key questions:

- 1. What are the challenges for managing invasive species in the Western Balkan Region?**
- 2. What are the necessary elements for a strategy to facilitate regional cooperation?**
- 3. What are the steps to establish regional collaboration and promoting action?***



2. Stress the importance of regional cooperation for sharing information and other scientific and technical resources as a necessary means for effective implementation of measures to prevent, eradicate, and control IAS;

4. Encourage – with the active support of the EEA and the ISSG – all concerned actors (such as governments, the scientific community, conservation practitioners, local NGO's, national plant protection organizations, environment agencies and other appropriate stakeholders) to publicize and implement the recommendations below which are the key results of discussions from the Zagreb workshop:

- a) Recognize and promote regional coordination of action toward IAS in WB countries;**
- b) Encourage and support the inclusion and integration of WB countries in the EWIS being developed in Europe;**
- c) Promote the development and implementation of EWIS, at both the local and regional level, on the basis of the technical document realized by the EEA in cooperation with ISSG1;**
- d) Raise awareness among governments and international bodies on the urgent need to tackle the problem of IAS by implementing effective strategies based on sound legislation and by providing the needed resources;**
- e) Promote the existence of flexible mechanisms of early response, by guaranteeing the availability of sufficient human and financial resources;**
- f) Establish, with the technical support of ISSG, a network of concerned people such as experts, representatives of national authorities, NGO's and international organizations and identifying national focal points;**
- g) Support and promote the realization of harmonized national and local inventories on IAS, integrated with other European information systems, by raising awareness on the benefits of open access information systems on biodiversity related issues;**





- 5. As immediate follow up, promote voluntary mechanism and undertake concrete steps to start up networking activities within WB countries by:**
- a) Creating a list of contact people and institutions with their roles and activities under the coordination of the ISSG;**
 - b) Urging the EEA as a leading coordination body to initiate, in cooperation with ISSG and WWF MedPO, WB regional network at least identifying possibilities of establishing such a network;**
 - c) Support initiatives in the Western Balkan region aimed at development of reviews on (invasive) alien species at either the regional or country level;**
 - d) Seek the support from existing fora or initiatives such as RENA, Mediterranean initiatives, including relevant EU institutions and funding mechanisms (e.g. IPA, GEF) to establish a regional network and identify implementation bodies in WB countries;**
 - e) Explore ways (e.g. through further regional workshops) to setup a regional secretariat and promote capacity building of all stakeholders, from government and expert institutions to the relevant NGOs;**
 - f) Take the opportunity of the network being developed in order to increase the level of sharing information – both at the Balkan scale and to the larger European context - on IAS related initiatives carried out, such as national or local monitoring schemes, , risk assessments, control and eradication projects, management plans and national strategies;**
 - g) Maintain contacts with other existing networks such as ISSG, NOBANIS, NEOBOTA, DAISIE etc. or proposed networks such as Mediterranean, and Black sea etc.**



EEA member and collaborating countries

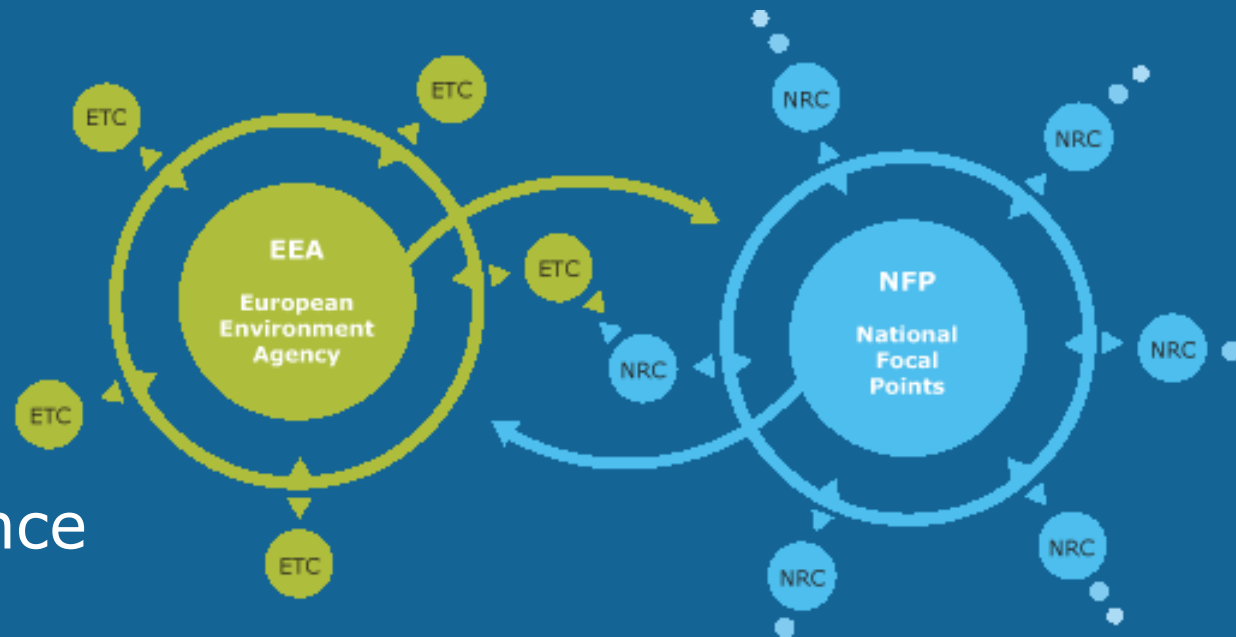


-  Member countries
-  Collaborating countries

European environment information and observation network (Eionet)

About 300 national institutions

- National focal points
- European topic centres
- National reference centres
- Other institutions



The EEA is...

- An independent information provider
 - An analyst and assessor
 - Building bridges between science and policy
 - Dependent upon strong networks to carry out its work
- ...to support policy processes and inform the public



The EEA mission

The European Environment Agency is the EU body dedicated to providing sound, independent information on the environment

*We are **a main information source** for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and also the general public*



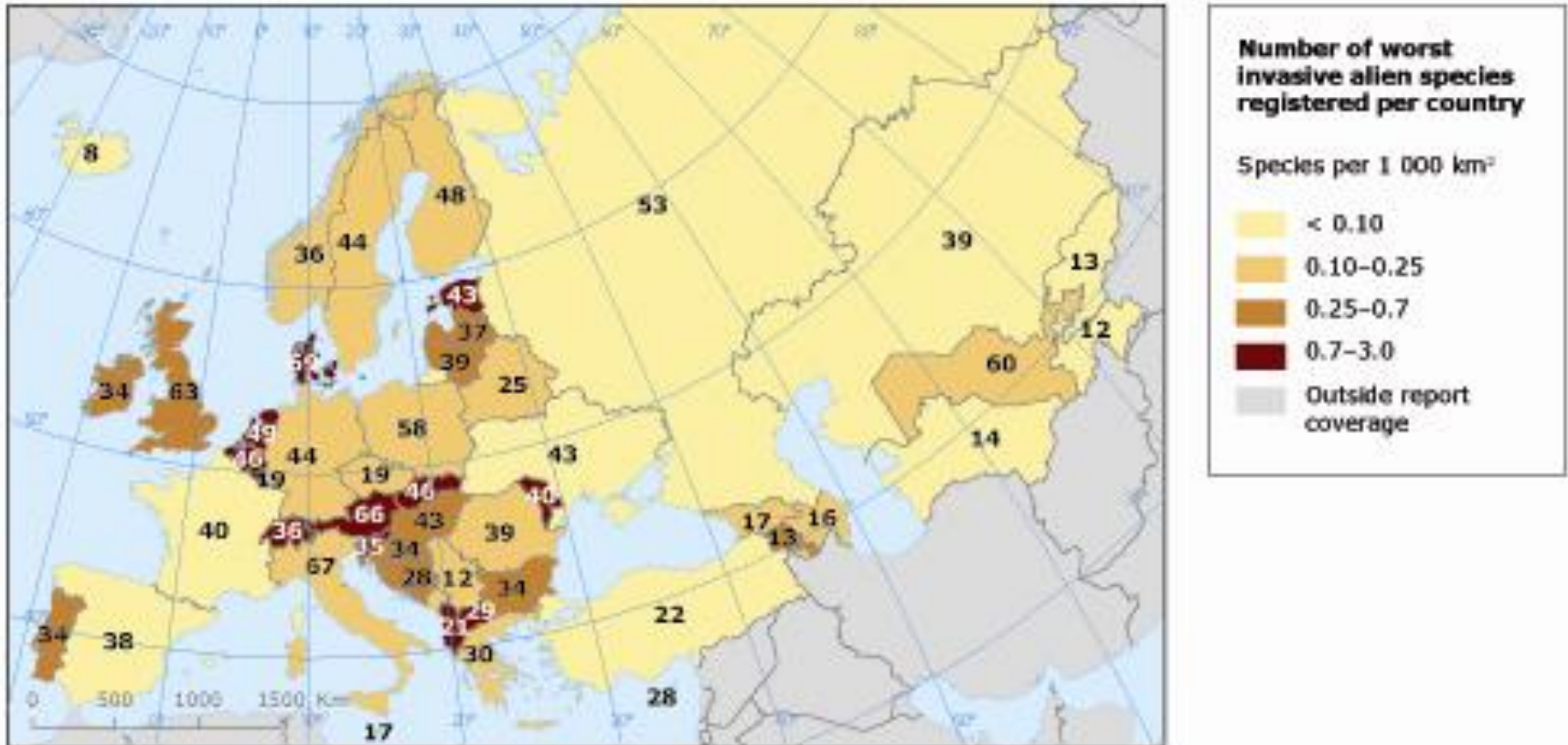
What is our mandate?

To provide European decision makers and citizens with access to timely and relevant information and knowledge in order to

- provide a sound basis for environmental policies
- help answer their questions about the environment in their daily lives
- ensure that environmental thinking and education is brought into the mainstream of decision-making



Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI 2010) project



EWRR

EEA Technical report | No 5/2010

Towards an early warning and information
system for invasive alien species (IAS)
threatening biodiversity in Europe

ISSN 1725-2237

European Environment Agency



Towards an early warning
and information system for
invasive alien species (IAS)
threatening biodiversity in
Europe

P. Genovesi, R. Scalera, S.
Brunel, D. Roy, W. Solarz

[www.eea.europa.eu/publications/
information-system-invasive-
alien-species/](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/information-system-invasive-alien-species/)

European Environment Agency



What is Citizen Science?

'Organized research in which members of the public—who may or may not be trained in science—gather or analyze data'



EEA, Photographers Lars Rørup, Harald Elmegaard, Tommy Multala



Citizen Science

– added value

- Generates large amounts of data from many different people in several regions in a relatively short period of time
- Experienced volunteers can deliver more accurate/ consistent information than 'short term' technicians
- Useful when aiming to identify trends and spatial differences/ similarities in parameters or species observed



Types of Citizen Science projects

Contributory

- Participants primarily involved in sample collection and data recording

Collaborative

- Participants are involved in data analysis, project design refinement, and results dissemination

Co-created

- Jointly designed by scientists and members of the public; some public participants are involved in all aspects of the work



Why Citizen Science?

- Increasing interest in Citizen Science
- Commitment to engage with more target audiences
- Advancement and availability of Information, Communication, Technology (ICT) tools





Eye on Earth objectives

To provide a global social data website for creating and sharing geographic information to:

- Facilitate data sharing
- Promote environmental community building
- Enhance citizen science activities

To invite a wide variety of communities and individuals to participate in a dynamic online environmental community



Waterwatch
Airwatch
Noisewatch
Landwatch
Naturewatch



Why this project?

- Political interest the monitoring of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
- Expert emphasis on the need for 'surveillance and monitoring activities'
- Biodiversity monitoring is costly and active communities already exist



Aim of this project

- Test new ways of monitoring the invasion of alien species in Europe
- Create a pilot with a longer term vision for an IAS monitoring system based on Citizen Science
- Raise general awareness of Invasive Alien Species
- Operate within the frame of the future EU strategy on IAS, ongoing activities in EU member states, and global IAS strategies (CBD)



Process foreseen

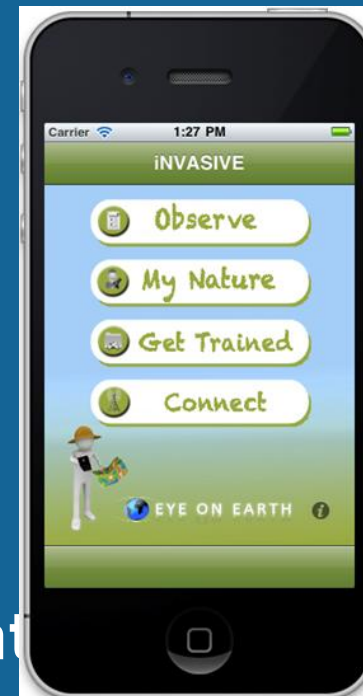
- Initial emphasis on IAS expert involvement
 - Citizen science as a tool to monitor IAS
 - Networks
 - Species
- Country involvement
 - Connecting with existing initiatives
 - Securing proper data flows, data import and verification
- Technical developments
 - Web and smart phone applications
 - Web services
- Pilot based on Citizen Science available when the longer term EU vision for an IAS monitoring system is ready



How do we use ICT to involve citizens?



- Eye on Earth
- Environmental watches
- Web and smart phone applications



Latin name	Common name in English	Group
SPECIES TO BE MONITORED IN AUTUMN		
Mustela vison	American mink	mammal
Branta canadensis	Canada goose	bird
Oxyura jamaicensis	ruddy duck	bird
Nyctereutes procyonoides	raccoon dog	mammal
Ailanthus altissima	tree of heaven	plant
Sciurus carolinensis	grey squirrel	mammal
Myocastor coypus	coypu	mammal
Threskiornis aethiopicus	African Sacred Ibis	bird
Cortaderia selloana	pampas grass	plant
Psittacula krameri	Ring-necked Parakeet	bird
Corbicula fluminea	Asian clam	fresh water
Robinia pseudo-acacia	black locust	plant
Procyon lotor	raccoon	mammal



Latin name	Common name in English	Group
SPECIES TO BE MONITORED IN SUMMER		
Trachemys scripta	red-eared slider	fresh water
Ambrosia artemisiifolia	common ragweed	plant
Eichhornia crassipes	water hyacinth	plant
Heracleum mantegazzianum	hogweed	plant
Harmonia axyridis	multicolored Asian lady beetle	insect
Carpobrotus edulis	Freeway iceplant	plant
Pacifastacus leniusculus	signal crayfish	fresh water
Nyctereutes procyonoides	raccoon dog	mammal
Fallopia japonica	Japanese knot weed	plant
Procambarus clarkii	red swamp crayfish	fresh water
Arion lusitanicus	Spanish slug	mollusk
Psittacula krameri	Ring-necked Parakeet	bird
Vespa velutina	Asian hornet	insect
Impatiens glandulifera	Himalayan balsam	plant
Sciurus carolinensis	grey squirrel	mammal

