



**“Protected Areas in Europe: the next 50 years”**  
 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore and Massaciuccoli, Italy 21-22 May 2015

# **Invasive alien species and protected areas in Europe: from a global picture to management guidelines**

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# Protected Areas and IAS

Biological invasions affect protected areas all over the world causing dramatic effects to the biodiversity



“Let the nature take its course” is not a strategy that can be used for IAS and active management is fundamental

**Without management to prevent and address IAS**, protected areas values, including ecosystem services and biodiversity, will be **inevitably eroded**





# The legal and policy context

A number of treaties, policies, legal instruments and position statements deal with: (1) the threats of IAS to PAs and (2) the need for management of IAS in PAs to preserve biodiversity.

- **IUCN World Park Congress in Durban (2003)** considered the need to manage IAS as an "emerging issue", stating that "*management of invasive alien species is a priority issue and [...] promoting awareness of solutions to the IAS problem and ensuring capacity to implement effective, ecosystem-based methods must be integrated into protected area management programmes.*
- **CBD COP 10th in Nagoya (2010) Decision X/31** "*Protected areas*" "*[...] invites Parties to consider the role of IAS management as a cost effective tool for the restoration and maintenance of protected areas and the ecosystem services they provide, and thus to include management of invasive alien species in the action plans for implementation of the programme of work on protected areas [...].*"



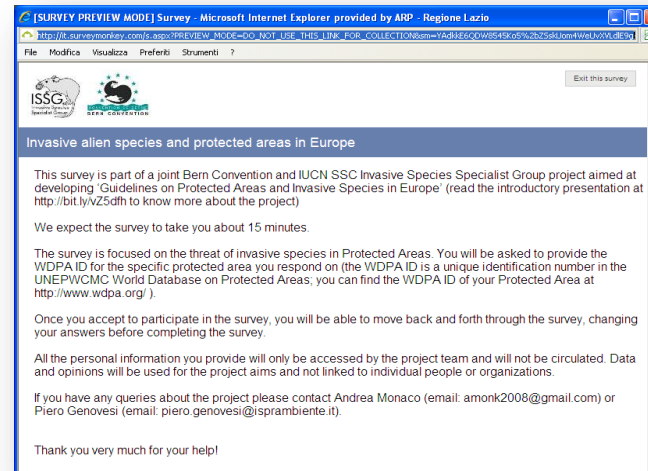
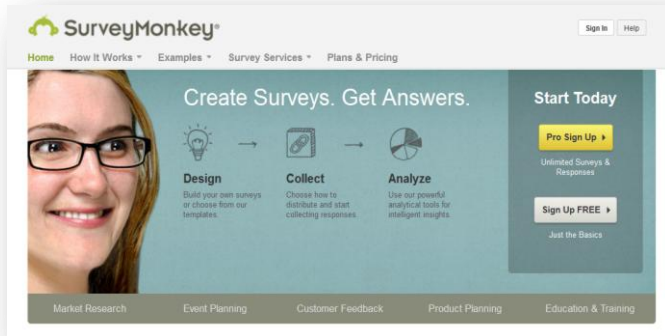
# Protected areas in Europe: a brief overview

- The term “Protected Area” covers a wide variety of designations and management regimes
- Mean level of human presence is higher than in other continents
- PAs in EU cover about 15% of the total surface (higher if we consider also sites designed in Natura 2000 network and Emerald Network)<sup>1</sup>
- European PAs are, on average, very small in size (90% smaller than 1,000 ha and 65% smaller than 100 ha)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>European Environment Agency (2012) “Protected areas in Europe: an overview”. EEA Report 5/2012



# A web survey on IAS and PAs



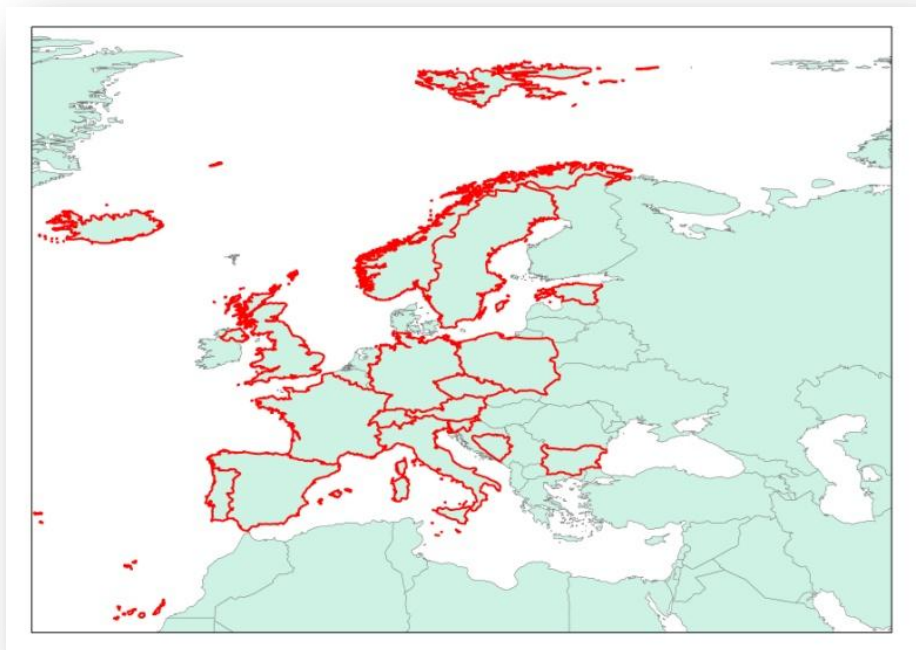
## TO COLLECT RELEVANT INFORMATION AND OPINIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES

### TOPICS

- threats
- impacts
- management options
- key impediments in dealing with IAS
- top invasive species (animals and plants)



# A web survey on IAS and PAs



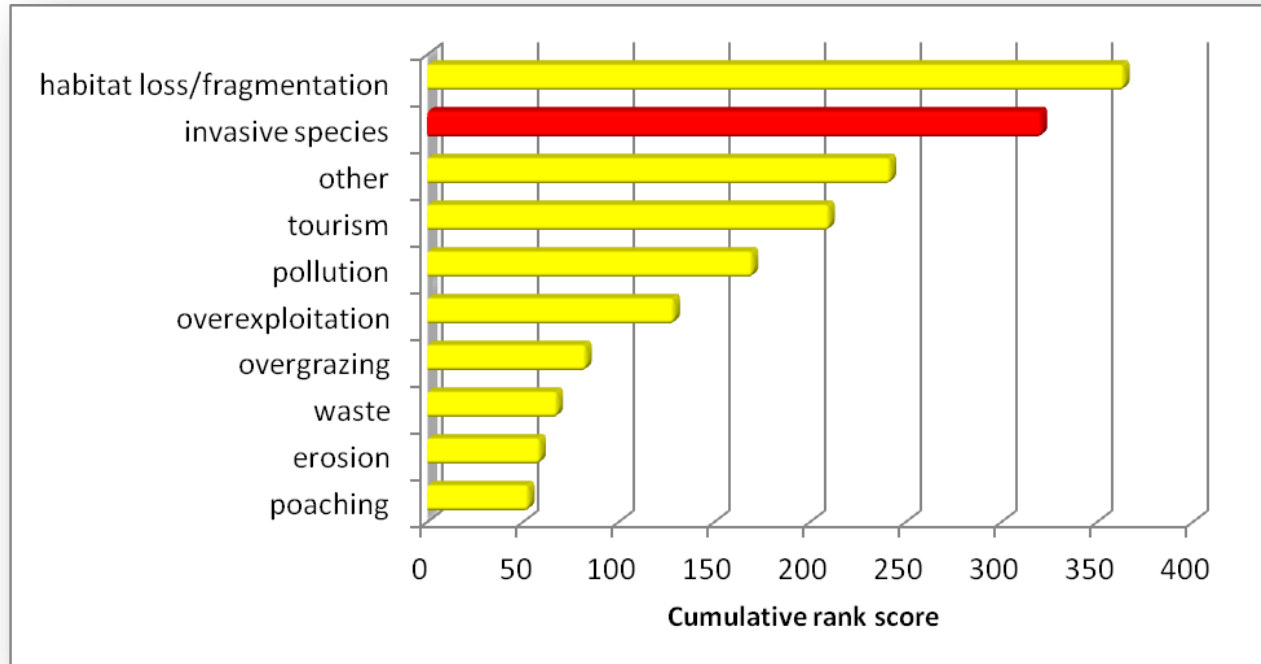
**138 responses from 21 countries  
alpine to marine PAs**

**\* Complete results of the web survey are reported into the Annexe 2 of the Guidelines**



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THREATS TO YOUR PROTECTED AREA?

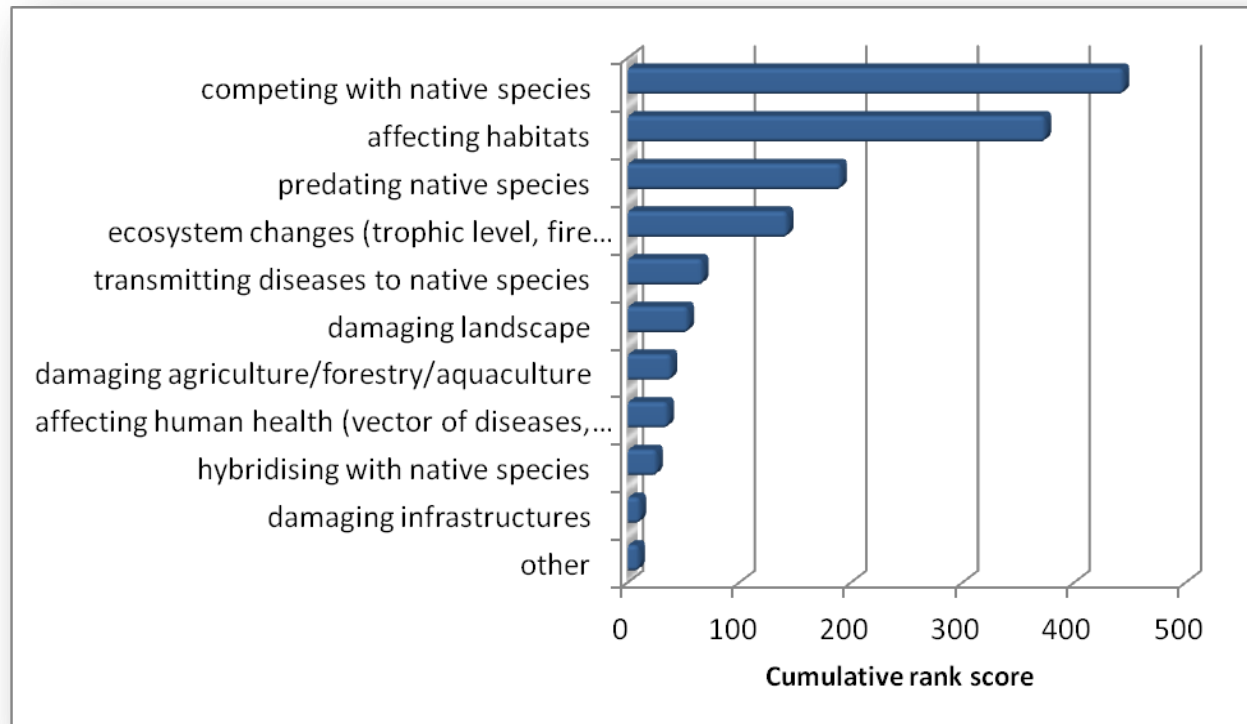


high concern about the threats posed by IAS



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE WORST IMPACTS CAUSED BY INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR PA?



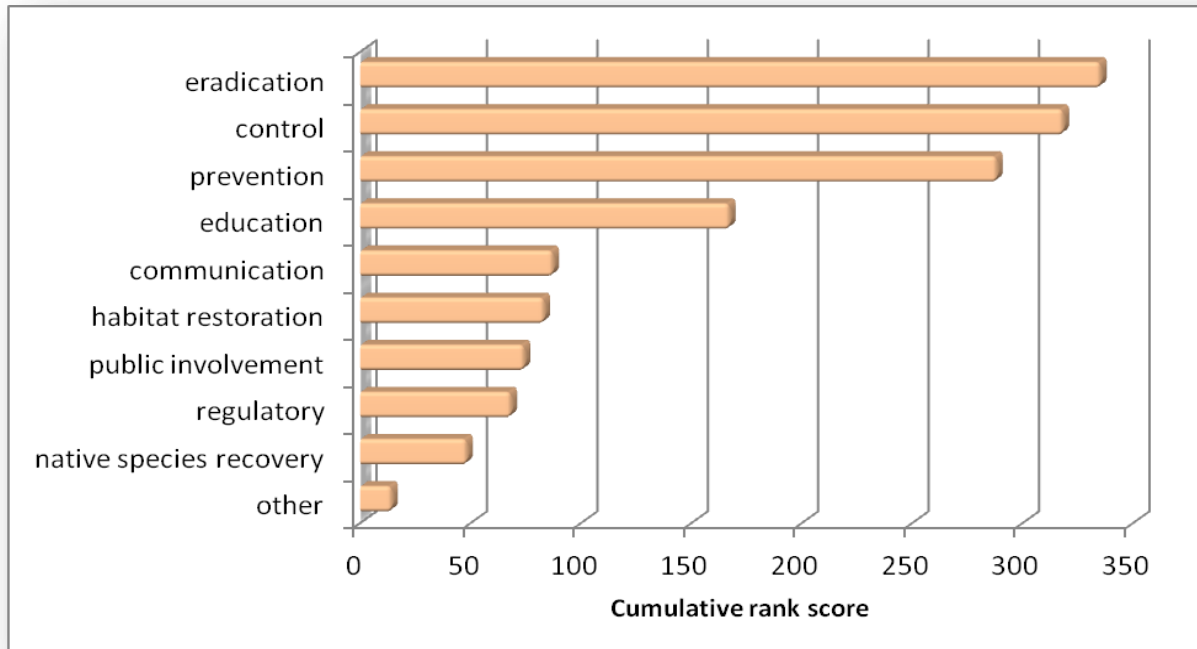
merging both plants and animals, competition with native species and changes on habitats and ecosystem functioning





# A web survey on IAS and PAs

WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS TO DEAL WITH THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR PROTECTED AREA?

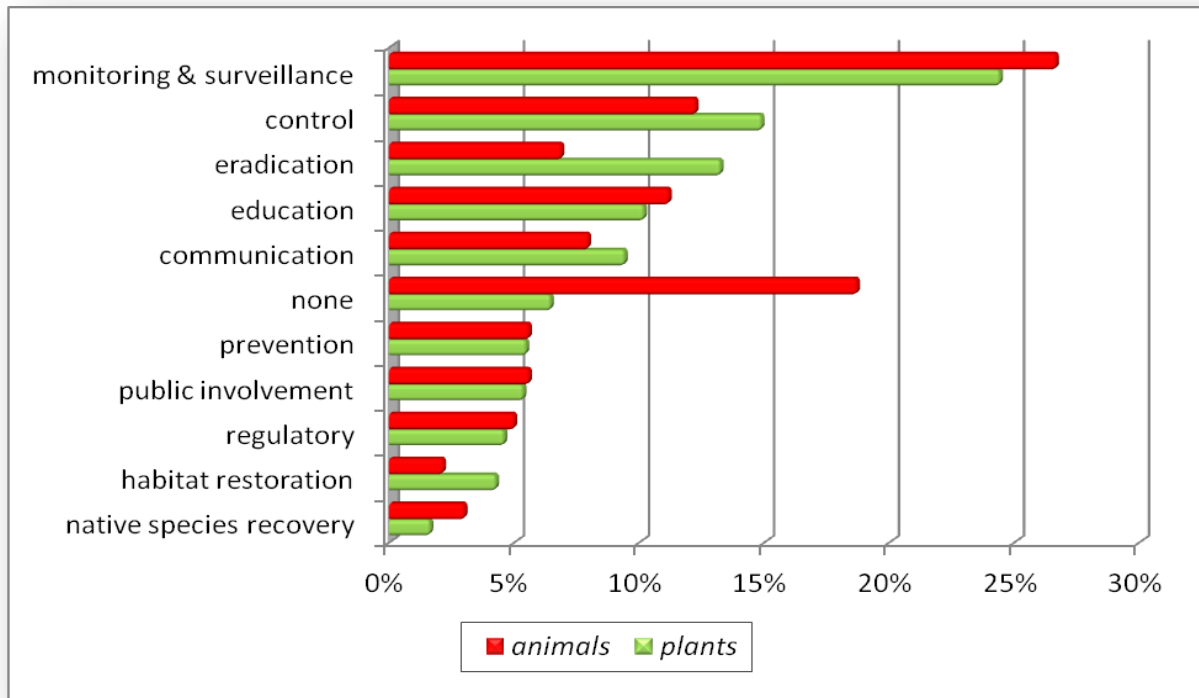


PAs tend to focus more on responding to invasions than working on prevention



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

WHAT ARE THE KIND OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE TOP INVASIVE SPECIES BEING IMPLEMENTED IN YOUR PROTECTED AREA?

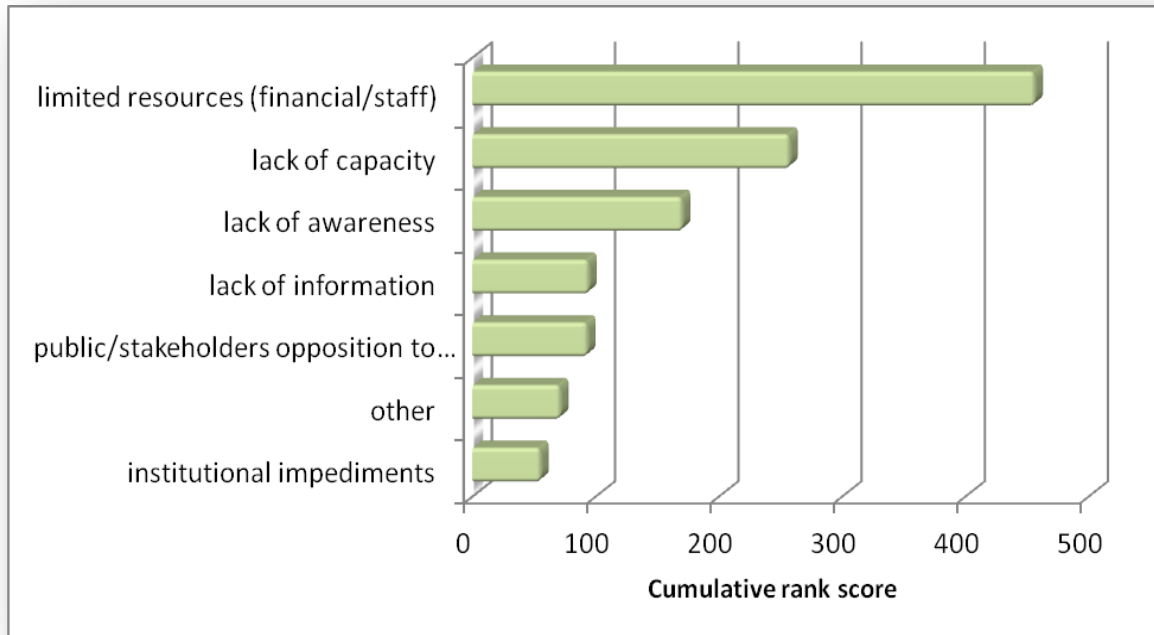


active management options are under-represented compared with how frequently they are suggested as being the best strategy.



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE KEY IMPEDIMENTS IN DEALING WITH THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR PROTECTED AREA?



Limited resources, lack of capacity and lack of awareness are the most indicated key impediments



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

TAXON	NUMBER OF PAs
<b>Neovison vison</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Myocastor coypus</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Procambarus clarkii</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Trachemys scripta</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Orconectes limosus</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sciurus carolinensis</b>	<b>10</b>

Top 5 invasive animals as indicated by European PAs managers  
(tot. = 89 species)



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

TAXON	NUMBER OF PAs
<b>Fallopia japonica et sp.</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Impatiens glandulifera</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Robinia pseudoacacia</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Ailanthus altissima</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Heracleum mantegazzianum</b>	<b>11</b>

Top 5 invasive plants as indicated by European PAs managers  
(tot.= 125 species)



# THM about the web survey on IAS and PAs

- IAS are perceived as the second major threat after habitat loss
- Competition with native species is considered as the worst impact caused by IAS
- Eradication and control are considered as the most effective management options to deal with IAS
- Monitoring is the most implemented activity on IAS
- Limited resources is considered as the key impediment to more effective IAS management



# European Guidelines on Protected areas and invasive alien species

The Guidelines has been developed with the technical support of the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group and **adopted by the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Dec 2013)**

The Guidelines should be considered **as an implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species** and a contribution to the ongoing development of the EU strategy on IAS

**Present a set of key principles** that should be adopted for protected areas, in order to prevent and manage the threat of IAS at all scales.

Aimed mainly to **PAs managers and staff, practitioners, decision makers and local communities** in the mainstreaming of the IAS issue into all aspects of protected area management



EUROPEAN GUIDELINES  
ON PROTECTED AREAS AND  
INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES



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# The general principle

Protected areas cannot stop invasions, but can and should play a major role in the struggle against invasions, preventing and mitigating the global effects of this threat by being **reservoirs** of the heritage of native species and ecosystems, **sentinels** of incursions to speed up response at all levels, **champions** for increasing awareness within the different sectors of the society, and **catalysts** for action also beyond their boundaries

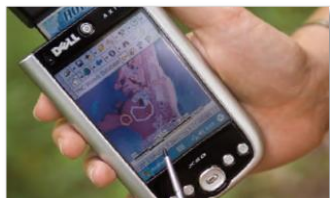






# The eight Principles of the Guidelines

- 1: *Raise awareness on biological invasions at all levels***
- 2: *Integrate invasive species and protected area management***
- 3: *Implementing site-based prevention actions as a priority***
- 4: *Develop staff capacity for all aspects of invasive species management***
- 5: *Set up rapid detection and prompt response framework***
- 6: *Manage invasive species beyond the protected area boundaries***
- 7: *Build surveillance, monitoring and information exchange networks***
- 8: *Lobby with Institutions and decision-makers to support stringent policies***





# An agreed text

The Guidelines has been presented and discussed at:

- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bern Convention **Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species** of the Council of Europe (2011: St. Julians, Malta; 2013: Alghero, Italy)
- Informal meeting of the Select Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (2012: Rome, Italy).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bern Convention **Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks** (2011 and 2013: Strasbourg ,France)

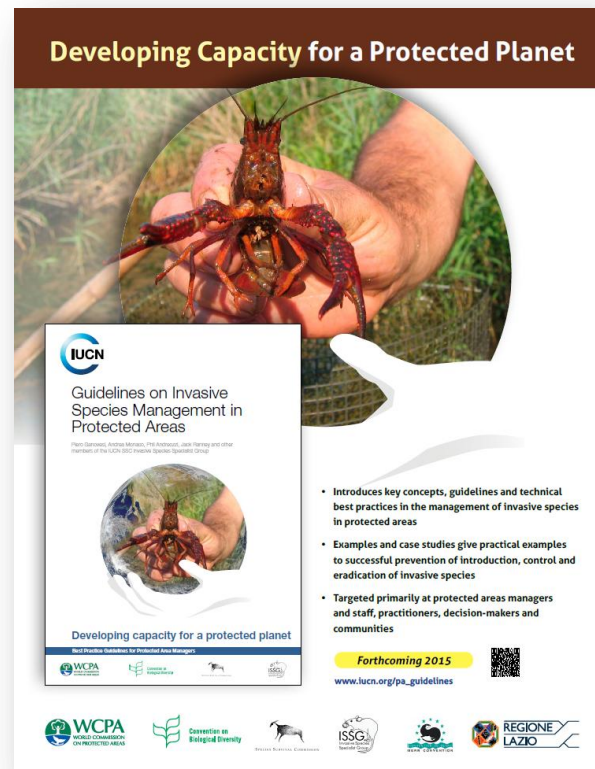
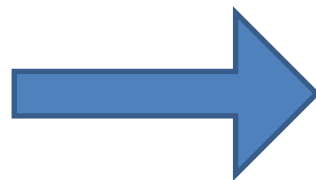


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# From the European Guidelines to...



The European Guidelines are now the **starting point for the World Guidelines**, a joint release by the IUCN WCPC and the IUCN ISSG, presented at the last World Park Congress (Sydney 2014)





# Acknowledgments

Many experts contributed to the Guidelines with comments, suggestions case studies and information.

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Thanks also to Iva Obretenova, Federico Minozzi, Europarc, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN Regional Office for Europe, IUCN Med Office, the Group of Experts of the Bern Convention on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks.

We sincerely thank Llewellyn Foxcroft, Dave Richardson and Petr Pysek for allowing us to access to the huge amount of information on IAS in PAs.

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*Thanks for your attention!*

