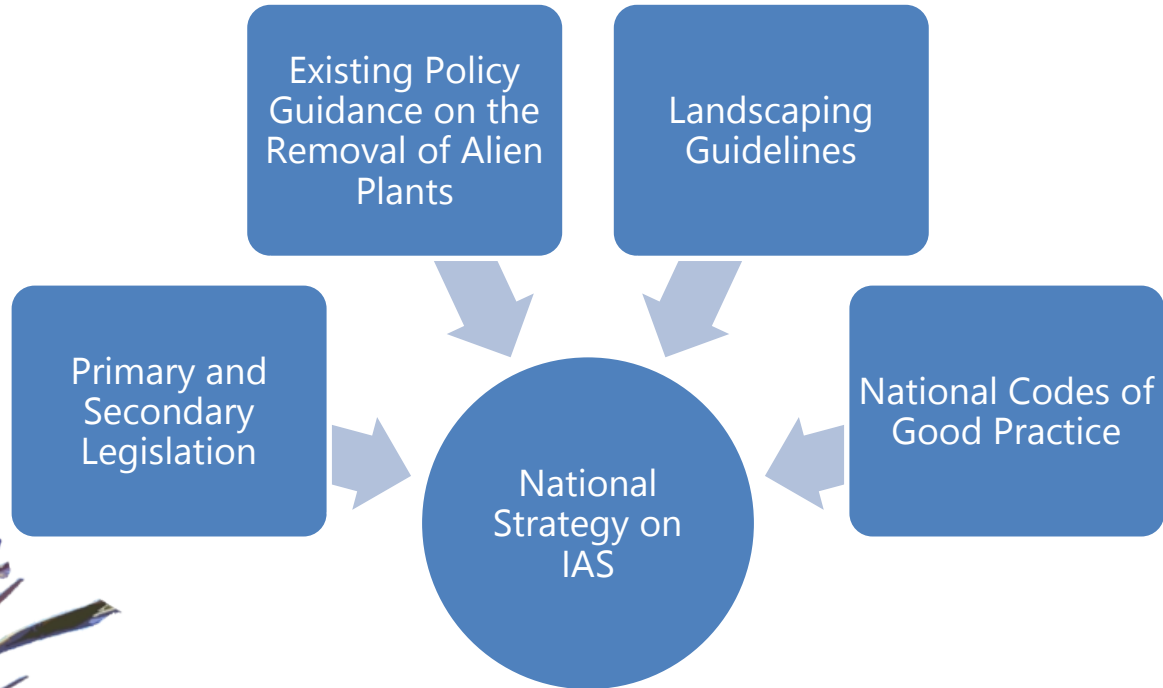


Invasive Alien Species

Malta



Strengthening Malta's National Policy to Combat IAS



'By 2020, measures are in place to prevent, in so far as practical, the introduction and establishment of new invasive non-native species, while those that are established are identified and prioritised for eradication or control, where feasible'



Horticulture

Zoos &
Aquaria

Companion
Animals

Landscaping
& Forestation

Fishing

Hunting

Protected
Areas

Gardens

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141

- Designates thirty-seven invasive alien species of Union concern
- Includes two alien species found in the Maltese territory:
 - Common Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
 - Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta*)
- These 2 species are restricted to 2 small sites with little potential of spreading due to Malta's dry climate.



Eichhornia crassipes



Trachemys scripta

National Policies

•NBSAP– 5 targets on IAS

1. Prevent introduction
2. Early warning system
3. IAS national strategy
4. Remedial action
for species and habitats affected
5. Cooperation with stakeholders



•**Dossier on the Capture and Killing of Wild Terrestrial Fauna** - awaiting approval, includes recommendations on control and eradication

•**National IAS strategy** – under development, provides overview of IAS situation in Malta

•**Guidance document on the removal of IAS** – to help site managers, eNGOS and stakeholders in implementation

•**Management Plans** for all 29 terrestrial Natura 2000 sites covering 13% of the islands

“Cooperative, coordinated and committed efforts of all key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, combined with secured effective means and optimal use of existing resources, and mobilisation of additional ones, results in the reduction in the trend of new incursions of invasive alien species in the Maltese Islands, while priority invasive alien species are effectively eradicated, contained and/or controlled, benefitting the safeguard of the economic, social and environmental interests of the Maltese Islands.”

Vision of the National IAS Strategy



Structure of the Strategy

1: The Nature of Alien Species and their Invasive Counterparts

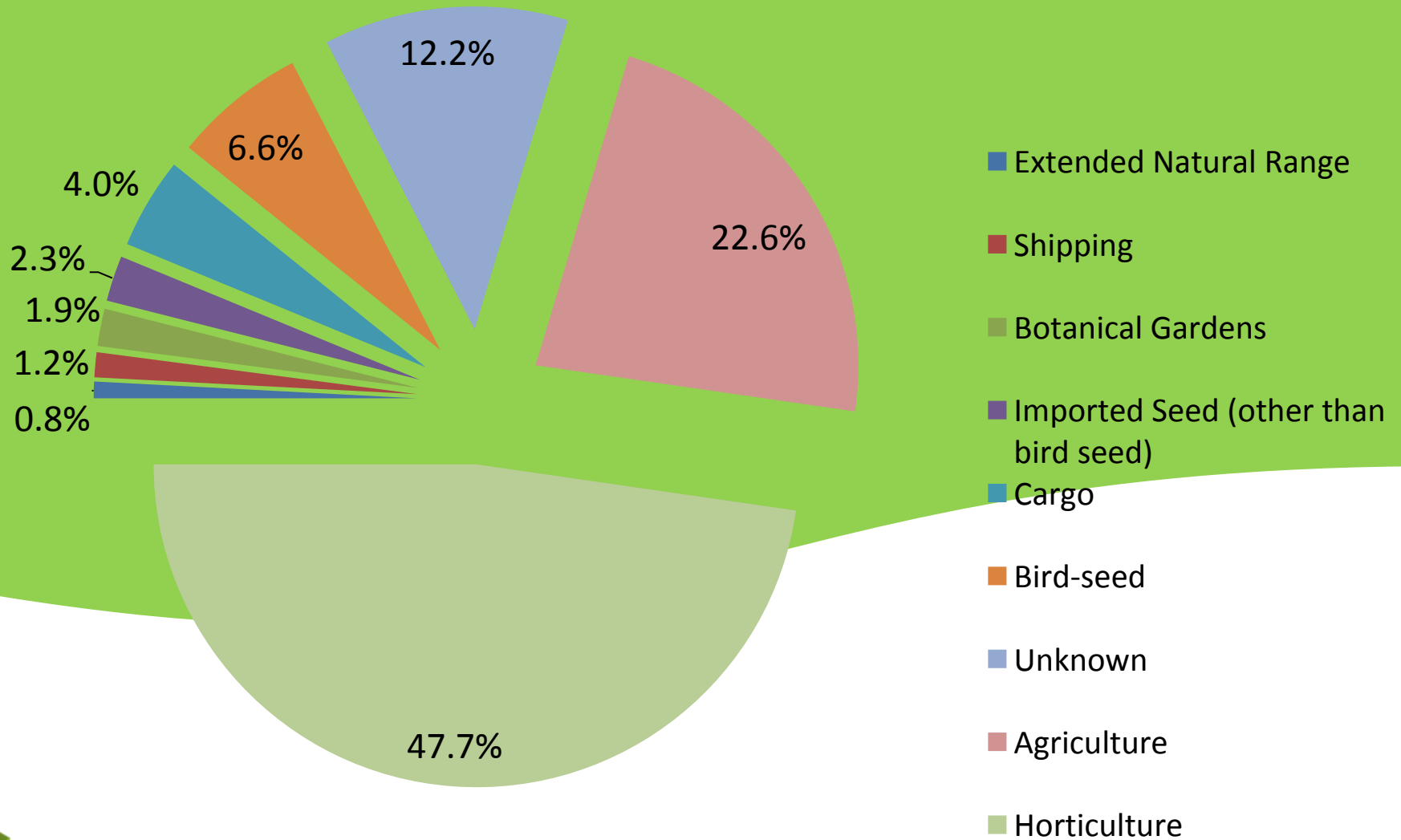
2: Legal Aspects of Invasive Alien Species

3: National Strategic Goals and Measures to combat IAS

4: Conclusion



Mode of Introduction of Alien Flora into the Maltese Islands



Natura 2000 Management Plans

A set of 22 Management Plans and 8 Conservation orders were published in 2016. IAS measures feature high in the action plan priority for the management of Natura 2000 sites. The most common species identified are:



Arundo donax



Carpobrotus edulis



Agave americana



Acacia saligna



Ailanthus altissima



Ricinus comunis



Rattus rattus

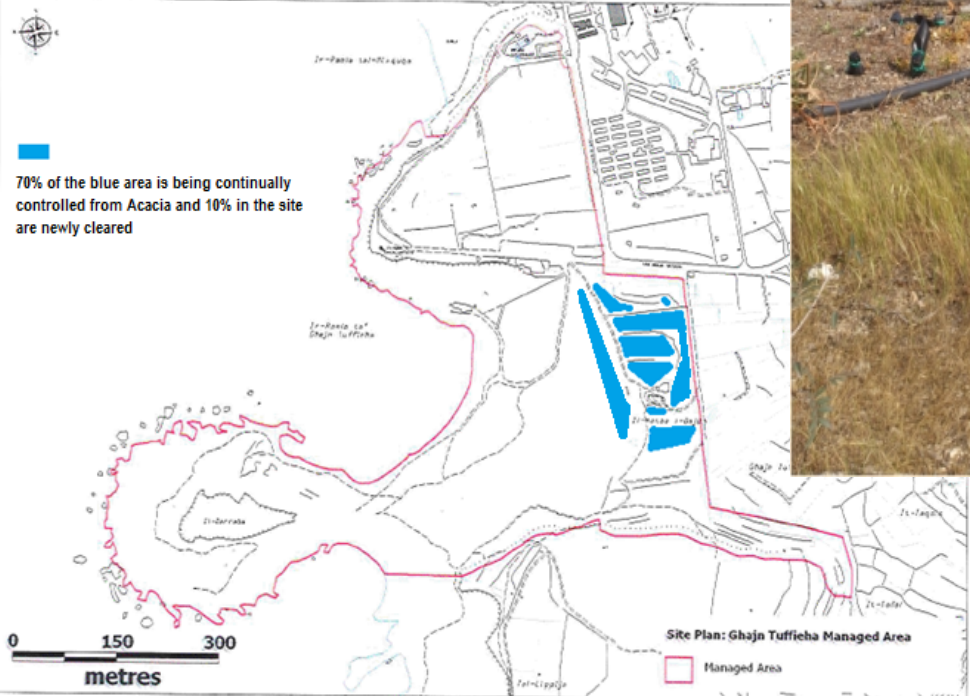


Rattus norvegicus

Control of *Arundo donax* from sand dunes at 3 Natura 2000 sites



Removal/control of Acacia from clay slopes



Complete removal of *Agave* and *Opuntia* spp. from coastal Natura 2000 sites

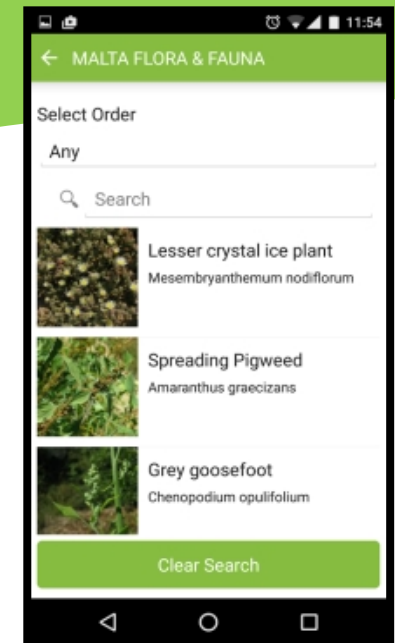
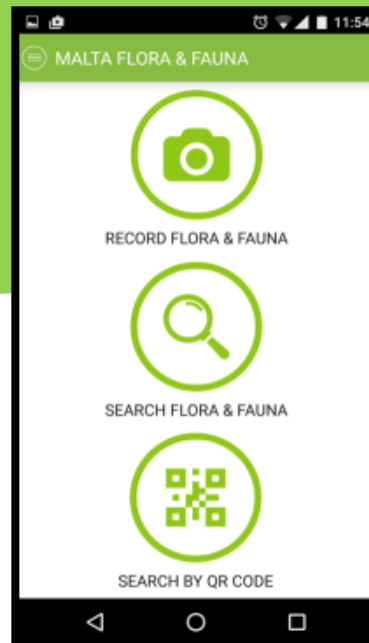


Complete removal of Carpobrotus from Gozo cliff Natura 2000 site



Launch of citizen science Fauna & Flora Mobile Application

- General public can record species by sending a geo-tagged photo
- This is then mapped on GIS layer
- Includes species identification guidance



Marine

MSFD Initial Assessment - Report on Non-Indigenous Species provided a review of 56 NIS recorded from Malta in line with the requirements of the MSFD. 26 species are listed as invasive or potentially so in the Central Mediterranean Sea (Zenetos *et al.*, 2010) while 20 species are listed amongst the 100 Worst Invasive Species in the Mediterranean (Streftaris & Zenetos, 2006).

Ballast Water Management Convention – MT carrying out a study on the preparedness to implement these obligations. An assessment of marine IAS through this pathway will be carried out.



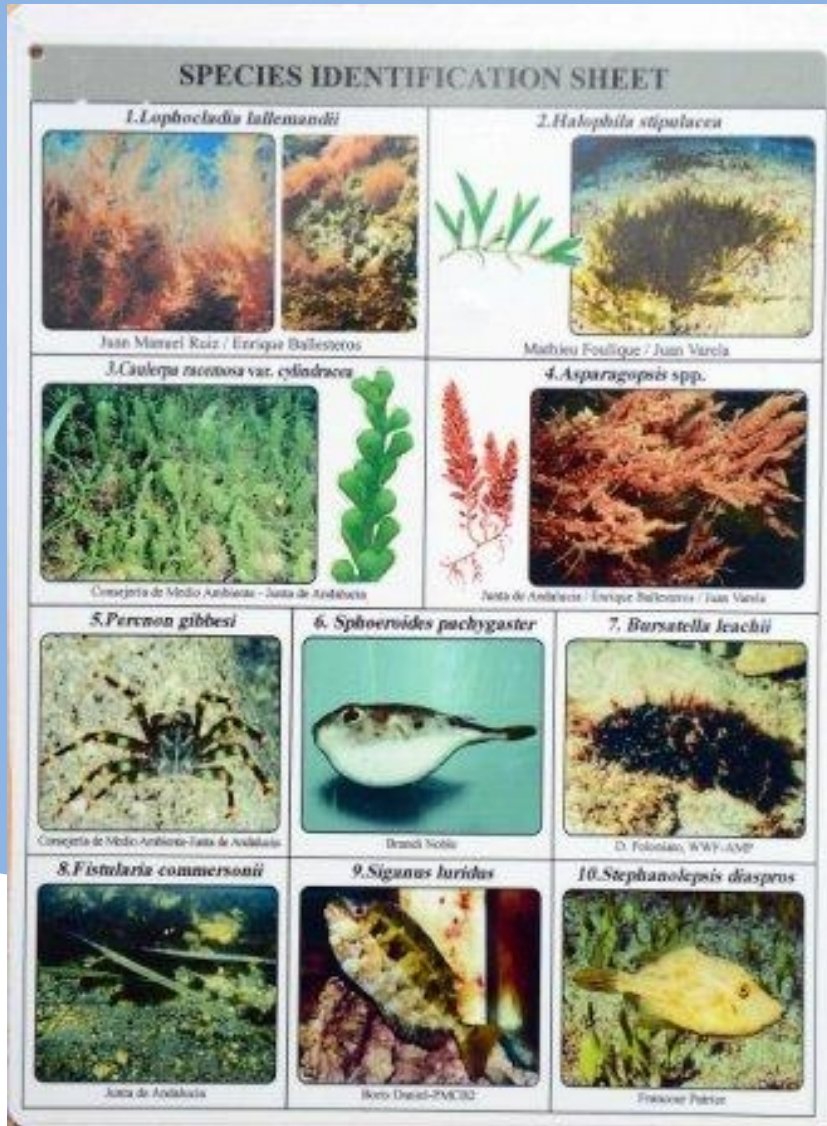
Marine

Identification of Marine Alien Species

Gathering of data for the identification of selected alien species in Malta's MPAs;

An initiative carried out with the voluntary participation of divers and financial assistance by EU and MedPAN.

An effective early warning system when coupled with ongoing other campaigns



Citizen Science campaign by University of Malta

Reporting an Alien Fish Sighting

WHEN the fish were sighted (date and AM or PM)
WHICH species of fish were sighted (refer to images below)
WHERE the fish were sighted
QUANTITY of fish (approximate number in the area)

Sending a Report

Send your report by email: aliensmalta@gmail.com
 Phone: 22926888 / 79604109
 (Fisheries Department Control Room - open 24hrs a day)

SPOT THE ALIEN FISH

Reporting an Alien Fish Sighting

WHEN the fish were sighted (date and AM or PM)
WHICH species of fish were sighted (refer to images below)
WHERE the fish were sighted
QUANTITY of fish (approximate number in the area)

Sending a Report

Phone: 22926888 / 79604109 (Fisheries Department Control Room - open 24hrs a day)
 Send your report by email: aliensmalta@gmail.com
 Visit www.aliensmalta.eu to fill a quick and easy online form



???

See a species of alien fish? Please send in the poster!

Take good photographs of the specimen (if available) and send them to the control room.

Participation in the campaign is voluntary and the information provided is for educational purposes.

Take photos of alien fish seen where possible



Awareness

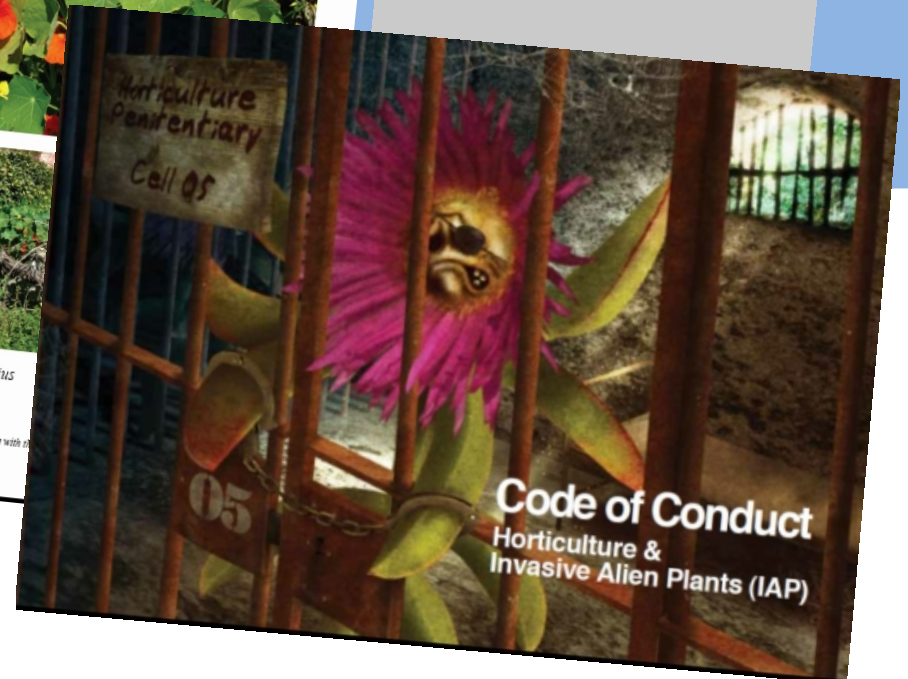
Monthly free biodiversity tours to protected areas, where the public is made aware of threats and pressures, including IAS

Guidelines and user-friendly information material

Media presence, including weekly presence on an acclaimed national TV program 'Malta u lil hinn Minnha' with walks and information on Maltese biodiversity, including IAS



Guidelines on
Trees, Shrubs and Plants
for
Planting and Landscaping
in the
Maltese Islands



Thank you for your attention

