



Guidance for governments concerning Invasive Alien Species pathways action plans

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A close-up photograph of a green frog's face, showing its large, prominent eye and textured skin. The frog is positioned on the right side of the slide, with its head facing left.

36th meeting of the Standing Committee of the
Bern Convention

Strasbourg, 15-18 November 2016

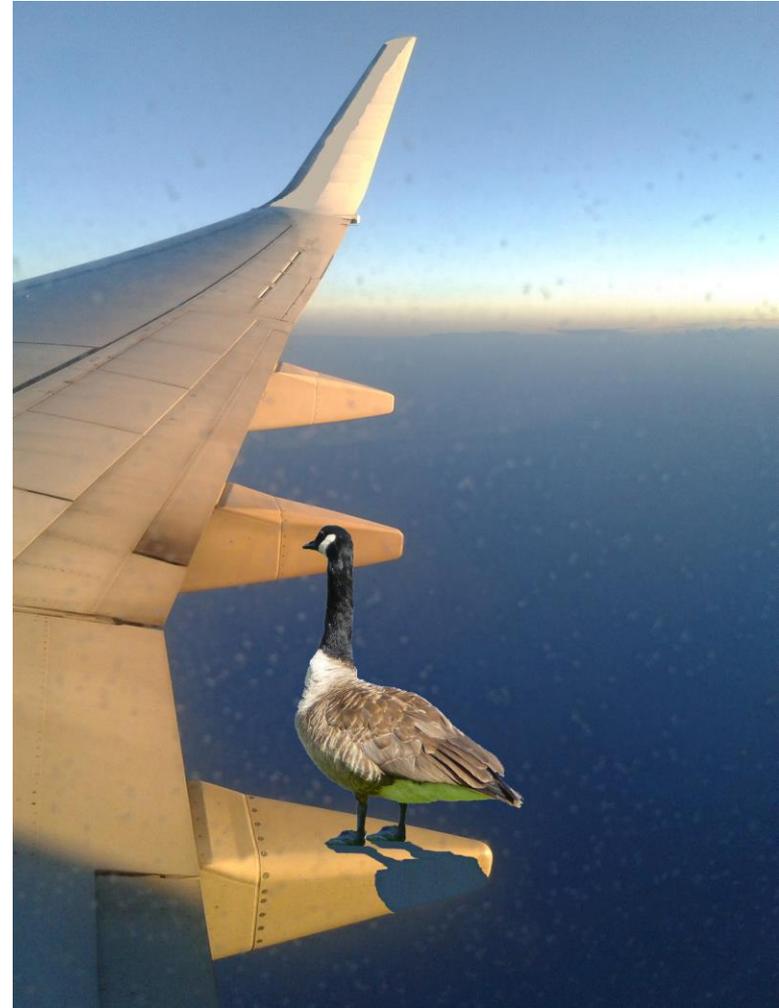
European strategy for IAS

What is a pathway?

A “Pathway” means, as applicable:

- the geographic route by which a species moves outside its natural range (past or present);
- the corridor of introduction (e.g. road, canal, tunnel); and/or
- the human activity that gives rise to an intentional or unintentional introduction.

A “vector” means the physical means or agent (i.e. aeroplane, ship) in or on which a species moves outside its natural range (past or present).



European strategy for IAS

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Publications

- ▶ [Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants \(2008\) - Illustrated version \(2011\)](#)
- ▶ [Code of Conduct on Pets and IAS \(2011\) - Illustrated version \(2016\)](#)
- ▶ [European Code of Conduct for Botanic Gardens on Invasive Alien Species \(2012\)](#)
- ▶ [Code of Conduct for Zoological Gardens and Aquaria and IAS \(2012\)](#)
- ▶ [Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS \(2013\) - Illustrated version \(2016\)](#)
- ▶ [European Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS \(2013\) - Illustrated version \(2014\)](#)
- ▶ [Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and IAS \(2014\)](#)
- ▶ [Draft Code of Conduct on Plantation Forestry and Invasive Alien Trees \(for possible adoption in December 2015\)](#)
- ▶ [European Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and IAS \(second draft\)](#)
- ▶ [European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species \(2003\) - Illustrated version \(2011\)](#)

European strategy for IAS

The *European Strategy on IAS* has explicitly identified the need to “Develop action plans to address specific problems identified e.g. for priority IAS, pathways and vectors, vulnerable sites, ecosystems, etc.” (see action 3.3.2.).

The aim is for Parties to “have specific strategies and action plans in place to address all aspects of IAS prevention and mitigation”.



In fact the *European Strategy on IAS* also highlights the need for “Subregional co-operation” at the European level according to which Parties should “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”

Rationale

CBD provisions

The need to identify and manage IAS pathways is explicitly addressed, particularly in relation to the Guiding principle 11, on Unintentional introductions



“Common pathways leading to unintentional introductions need to be identified and appropriate provisions to minimize such introductions should be in place. Sectoral activities, such as fisheries, agriculture, forestry, horticulture, shipping (including the discharge of ballast waters), ground and air transportation, construction projects, landscaping, aquaculture including ornamental aquaculture, tourism, the pet industry and game-farming, are often pathways for unintentional introductions. Environmental impact assessment of such activities should address the risk of unintentional introduction of invasive alien species. Wherever appropriate, a risk analysis of the unintentional introduction of invasive alien species should be conducted for these pathways”

Rationale

CBD provisions

At the 10th COP meeting a Strategic Plan for Biodiversity with 20 headline targets for 2020 was set out.

Aichi 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”



Rationale

EU Regulation no.1143/2014

Article 13 - Action plans on the pathways of invasive alien species

"Member States shall, within 18 months of the adoption of the Union list carry out a comprehensive analysis of the pathways of unintentional introduction and spread of invasive alien species of Union concern"

"Within three years of the adoption of the Union list, each Member State shall establish and implement one single action plan or a set of action plans to address the priority pathways".

This provision is also aimed at the achievement of task 5 of the Biodiversity Strategy



Rationale

According to Recommendation N° 179 (2015) the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention noted that important contributions could be made through technical work, including the development of guidance, in coordination with the European Commission and other relevant bodies as appropriate, regarding several aspects of the implementation of Regulation 1143/2014, including:

- ◆ guidance on the identification of priority pathways and the design of priority pathway action plans, as required under Article 13 of the Regulation



Sections of the document

INTRODUCTION

- ◆ Identification, prioritisation and management of IAS pathways
- ◆ Assessing priority pathways: preliminary results and future challenges

POLICY AND LEGAL CONTEXT

- ◆ The Convention on Biological Diversity
- ◆ The IPPC, OIE and WTO standards
- ◆ Guidelines on ballast water management and biofouling
- ◆ The Bern Convention
- ◆ The EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species
- ◆ Examples of other regional and national policies and legislations

GUIDELINES FOR IAS PATHWAYS ACTION PLANS

Structure of the plan

The plan should contain the following sections

- ◆ Description of the target pathway
- ◆ Policy and legal background
- ◆ Aims and strategies
- ◆ Identification of key stakeholders
- ◆ Foreseen measures
- ◆ Time schedule
- ◆ Financial planning



Structure of the plan

Pre-planning phase

- ◆ A checklist of subjects to be considered;
- ◆ Time-table and milestones of the planning process;
- ◆ Data gathering and administration;
- ◆ Data availability and access (and major knowledge/information gaps);
- ◆ Analysis of the information and its quality;
- ◆ Analysis of the benefits and costs of the plan (including an analysis of risks);
- ◆ Assessment of anticipated costs of implementing the plan and relevant funding sources;
- ◆ Facilitation of the planning process;
- ◆ Drafting of documents;
- ◆ Editing and technical improvement of the documents;

Structure of the plan

Pre-planning phase

- ◆ Initial identification of relevant stakeholders (it can determine the approach to follow on the further development of the plan as regards their involvement and consultations);
- ◆ Identification of persons and stakeholders who would be affected by the plan either positively or negatively (including an assessment of extent of relevant problems);
- ◆ Identification of consultation and coordination requirements (e.g. including with stakeholders);
- ◆ Consultation methods (including timing);
- ◆ Partnership approach and ownership of the plans (whether other actor and stakeholders should be involved in the development of the plan);
- ◆ Coordination at international level (it is important that plans developed in different countries for the same pathway are consistent).
- ◆ Definition of a planning team with appropriate skills and expertise

Structure of the plan

Description of the target pathway

- ◆ Analysis, assessment and discussion of impact and risks of associated IAS (most data should be available from the studies leading to the prioritisation of the target pathway);
- ◆ Identification of the problems to be addressed by the plan (e.g. species or habitats of conservation concern being threatened, possibly including transmission of pathogens and diseases);
- ◆ Evaluation of the data needed for the identification of the best management options;
- ◆ Available data sources (discussion of limits and potentialities of each);
- ◆ Knowledge of the key gaps and inconsistencies in the information available (suggestions for future research themes to promote);
- ◆ Discussion of socio-economic data related to the target pathways and the associated human activities (the action plan should be sensitive to local traditions).

Structure of the plan

Policy and legal background

It is fundamental to provide a detailed description of the following information:

- ◆ Policy and legal background (at the global, regional, national and local level, as appropriate);
- ◆ Process and procedures for development, approval, review and revision of the pathway action plan (including a discussion of strengths and weaknesses of the current provisions, as well as suggestions for improvements);
- ◆ Pathway management responsibilities (a clear review of all competent authorities acting at the appropriate level). This point should provide a clear answer to the basic question: who is the pathways action plan written for?

Structure of the plan

Aims and Strategies

The overall objective(s) of the pathway action plan, along with the specific objectives of each single action, should be clearly stated and explicitly discussed.

Aims/objectives should be:

- ◆ Quantified, clear and consistent, without ambiguity;
- ◆ Achievable within a given timeframe (inclusive of both long-term and short-term goals);
- ◆ Realistic in the context of available resources and finance;
- ◆ Understandable by policy makers, decision takers, stakeholders, target audience, general public, etc.
- ◆ Possibly (at least partly) negotiable with the key stakeholders, and if appropriate with the general public too (e.g. a formal system of appeal against elements in a plan may be considered).

Structure of the plan

Logical steps to be considered

- ◆ The identification of sound and realistic objectives is facilitated by the description of the target pathway.
- ◆ The impact of the target pathway is sufficiently known and described in a way to allow the assessment of the impact of the plan
- ◆ The measures that will enable the achievement of (all) the objectives are well defined and quantified.
- ◆ The results to be achieved through the implementation of the full plan, as well from the single measures, are clearly described and defined
- ◆ The performance indicators need to measure the success of the plan are defined and regularly monitored
- ◆ The proposed measures are sustainable and the continuity and permanence of the relevant results are ensured

Structure of the plan

Identification of key stakeholders

The **stakeholders** to be involved in the implementation of the foreseen measures, and/or from whom to gain support for the implementation of the plan, are well defined and justified (reasons why they are relevant for addressing the problem linked to the target pathway should be clearly identified).



Structure of the plan

Foreseen measures

The following main categories of actions should be distinguished in the plan:

- ◆ common measures for all management/action plan for IAS pathways.
- ◆ specific measures depending on the IAS pathway targeted;



Structure of the plan

Common measures for all management/action plan for IAS pathways.

- ◆ Management of the plan
- ◆ Preparatory actions
- ◆ Consultation with key stakeholders
- ◆ Monitoring the progress of the measures
- ◆ Monitoring the success of the plan
- ◆ Surveillance
- ◆ Review and revision of the plan
- ◆ Education, dissemination of information and public awareness

Data about timing of the foreseen measures (start date, duration, etc.), and budget (required resources, available funding sources, etc.) should also be clearly defined and discussed.

Structure of the plan

Specific measures depending on the IAS pathway targeted

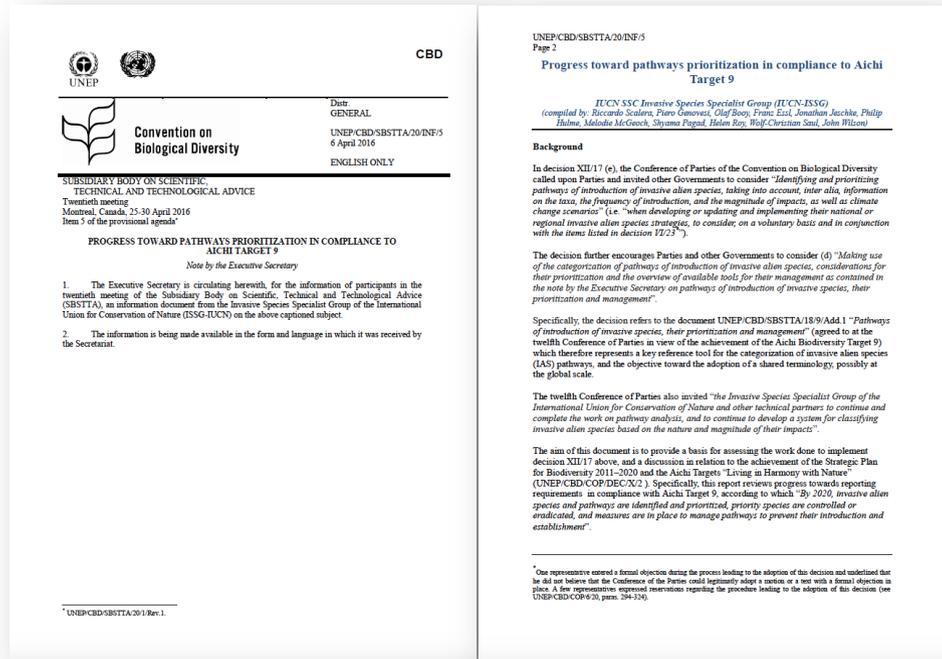
Some of the measures which could be appropriate for the different pathways are already summarised in the

- ◆ Bern Convention codes of conduct
- ◆ ISPM documents
- ◆ CBD document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/9/Add.1.
- ◆ etc.

They are reported and duly integrated with further references to best practices and other guidance documents - under the headings of the main six main groups of target pathways: Release; Escape; Transport-Contaminants; Transport-Stowaway; Corridors; and Unaided (natural dispersals).

Rationale

...a previous draft of the present guidance document prepared for the Council of Europe, inspired the information paper “Progress toward pathways prioritization in compliance to Aichi Target 9” UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/5 (Scalera et al. 2016) developed by the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (ISSG-IUCN).



The document was circulated by the Secretariat of the CBD at the 20th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) held in Montreal, Canada, on 25-30 April 2016

Thank you!

Please find additional information and relevant links in Nature Conserva©tion
<http://riccardoscalera.blogspot.it>

