

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE IBPES ASSESSMENT ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND THEIR CONTROL

The document provided is an info note on the [Summary for Policymakers of the IPBES Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control](#) which was published January 2024. It highlights key findings related to the growing threat of invasive alien species (IAS) to biodiversity, ecosystems, and human well-being

Key messages:

1. Invasive Alien Species as a global threat:

- More than 37,000 alien species have been established globally due to human activities, with around 3,500 of these classified as invasive.
- These species pose significant threats to biodiversity, ecosystems, and human well-being. They contribute to local and global species extinctions and lead to biotic homogenization (a reduction in the uniqueness of ecosystems).
- Invasive species are recognized as one of the five main drivers of biodiversity loss, alongside land-use change, exploitation, climate change, and pollution.

2. Widespread impacts:

- Invasive species affect all regions and ecosystems, with disproportionate impacts on islands and terrestrial habitats like forests and agricultural lands.
- The economic costs of biological invasions are significant, exceeding USD 423 billion annually, primarily due to the negative impacts on agriculture, human health, water resources, and biodiversity.

3. Increase in invasive species and future risks:

- The rate of IAS introductions is accelerating due to human activities such as international trade, travel, and climate change, which facilitates their spread and establishment.
- Without intervention, the number of invasive species and their impacts will continue to rise, leading to further biodiversity loss and ecosystem disruption.

4. Prevention and management:

- Effective management and prevention strategies can reduce the spread and impact of invasive species. Prevention, early detection, and rapid response are the most cost-effective measures.
- There have been successful eradication programs, especially on islands, but control measures are more challenging in marine environments and connected water systems.
- Engaging stakeholders, including Indigenous peoples and local communities, in management strategies enhances effectiveness and sustainability.

5. Governance and policy recommendations:

- Integrated and collaborative governance, both nationally and internationally, is critical to address biological invasions.
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Target 6, offers an opportunity for countries to strengthen their policies and actions on invasive species by setting national targets and strategies.
- Investment in research, technology, and capacity building is essential to improve the prevention and management of biological invasions.

6. Impacts on human well-being:

- Invasive species negatively affect human well-being by disrupting food security, livelihoods, water resources, and health. Their effects disproportionately impact marginalized communities, including Indigenous peoples and those directly dependent on nature.
- The social and cultural effects of invasive species can include loss of traditional knowledge, livelihoods, and increased inequities.

7. The value of voluntary codes of conduct:

- The IPBES document highlights hunting in voluntary codes of conduct for managing the risk of introducing and spreading IAS.
- These voluntary codes guide participants in activities that could facilitate the spread of IAS.
- Practical guidance is provided on best practices to prevent the inadvertent transport and establishment of invasive species.
- The codes are designed to complement national legislation on IAS.
- They emphasize the role of stakeholders, including hunters, in minimizing IAS-related risks.

FACE's contribution to voluntary codes of conduct for control IAS

FACE (The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation) plays a significant role in emphasizing practical strategies through voluntary codes of conduct, complementing international legislation. Adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee in 2013, FACE together with IUCN produced the European Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species. This code guides hunters in minimizing the risk of introducing and spreading IAS and encourages them to regularly report on its implementation via FACE. Further, FACE promotes best practices by collecting and sharing projects by hunters that are active in IAS management via its [FACE Biodiversity Manifesto](#).

Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
Negative impacts and Hunters' positive role in tackling IAS

+70%
Invasive Alien Species increased by 70% since 1970

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are **1 of 5** main drivers of **Biodiversity Loss** next to:

1. climate change
2. pollution
3. land/sea use change
4. over-exploitation
5. IAS

Island ecosystems and endemic species are highly vulnerable

MOST IMPACTED SECTORS

- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Health
- Fisheries
- Environment

The price of IAS in Europe

- € 142.73 billion by 2040
Estimated costs related to IAS
- € 406 million
Annual costs on IAS management

Most harmful IAS

- Muskrat
- Raccoon dog
- American mink
- Nutria
- Ruddy duck

FACE BIODIVERSITY MANIFESTO

Over 20 projects showcase hunters' actions against IAS throughout Europe

HOW HUNTERS TACKLE IAS

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Detection
- ✓ Monitoring
- ✓ Active management
- ✓ Habitat restoration

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

33rd meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

EUROPEAN CODE OF CONDUCT ON HUNTING AND IAS

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Document prepared by
Mr Andrea Monaco¹, Mr Piero Genovesi², Angus Middleton³
¹ Regional Parks Agency – Lazio Region (Italy)
² Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Italy)
Chair IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group

³ FACE – Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU
on behalf of the Bern Convention

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