

## VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (IAS)

### SPAIN

The most relevant facts concerning IAS in Spain can be summarised as follows:

- A new publication came out in 2006 under the title “*Invasive Alien Species in Spain: Diagnosis and Basis for prevention and Management*”. This book of 287 pages has been edited by the Ministry of Environment and includes a full review of IAS in Spain as well as measures to mitigate their impact.
- From 19-22 September 2006 the Second National Congress on IAS took place in León. The meeting was attended by ca. 300 specialists and there were numerous oral and poster presentations. One of the most outstanding issues that came out is the relevance that the subject of IAS is gaining from a research perspective. There are now many Universities and research centres that are developing IAS programs in the field, to evaluate their impact on native species and ecosystems. As a consequence there are a number of Ph.D. theses that are being prepared as well as scientific reports and publications. The First National Congress on IAS took also place in León in 2003 and the proceedings were published as a special issue of the journal *Biological Invasions*.
- The Bern Convention Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species met in Reykjavik, Iceland, (22-24 May 2007) under the chairmanship of Mr Joan Mayol Serra from Spain.
- From a policy perspective, a *National Strategy for the Control and Management of the Zebra Mussel* was approved in September 2007. This document contains an overview of the situation of this species in the Ebro and Jucar basins, as well as measures to prevent its expansion to other river basins in the Iberian Peninsula.
- In the legislative front, a new *Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity* is now been discussed at the Spanish Parliament. This Law contains provisions pertaining IAS, in particular the creation of the *Spanish Catalogue for IAS*, where all those non native species and subspecies that pose a threat to native species, habitats, ecosystems, agronomy or economic resources linked to the use of the natural heritage, will be included. The inclusion in this Catalogue implies the prohibition of possession, transport, traffic and trade of live or dead specimens, as well as their remains or propagates.

Madrid, 16 November 2007