

Press Brief

Invasive Alien Species

Why is this important?

Invasive alien species are among the top threats to biodiversity worldwide as, outside their natural habitats, they can cause local extinctions of native species and disturb the natural balance of wild or cultivated ecosystems. They cause billions of dollars worth of damage annually and can have serious impacts on food security and the health of people, plants and animals — all of which can have major consequences for people's wellbeing and may hinder the development of countries.

Non-native species are especially problematic if they reproduce rapidly, compete strongly with native species for food and habitat, or directly feed upon or parasitize local species. The negative effects of invasive alien species on biodiversity can be intensified by climate change, habitat destruction and pollution. Isolated ecosystems such as islands are particularly affected.

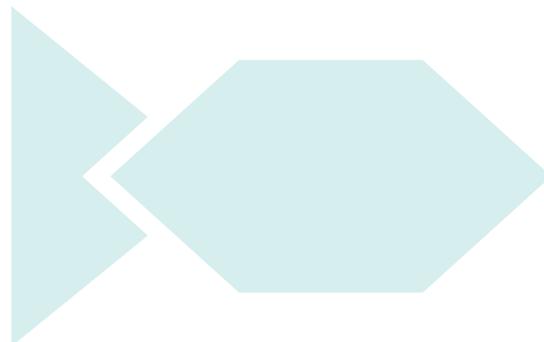
Human actions can spread non-native plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms to over long distances and beyond natural boundaries both deliberately (e.g. fish farming) and unintentionally (through transport, travel, trade, biological pest control, etc.)

However, in many parts of the world, border controls on alien species are not in place.

Once invasive species are established, eradication is the most desirable solution, but it can be very expensive, so prevention remains the best answer.



Convention on
Biological Diversity



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What news to expect in Nagoya?

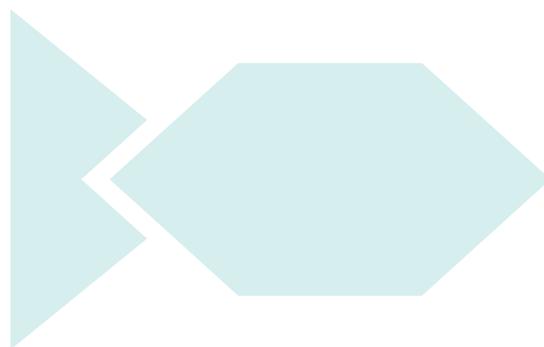
Target 9 of the new Strategic Plan that Parties to the CBD will be asked to adopt at COP10 focuses on invasive alien species. It states that by 2020 such species will be identified, prioritised and controlled or eradicated — and that there will be measures in place to control their introduction and establishment.

COP10 will also address gaps in the international regulatory framework that relate to the risks invasive species pose — such as when they are introduced intentionally as pets, aquarium species, live bait and live food.

This will require the development of practical guidelines that countries (especially developing nations) can use to control and manage the pathways by which invasive species can be introduced to new areas.

An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, set up by the CBD in 2010, will develop these guidelines in collaboration with different governmental sectors, the private sector, international organizations, and standard-setting organizations.

To implement such guidelines, some Parties will need greater capacity and appropriate legislation. This includes early warning systems to prevent invasions and capacity to conduct risk and impact assessments before allowing alien species to be introduced.



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