

Thematic Report
Germany

Please provide to following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	Germany
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Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report

This report has been prepared by the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in cooperation with the Federal Environmental Agency and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

It is based on current scientific literature and the following Research and Development Projects:

- No. 107 99 999/03. Published by Umweltbundesamt (Eds.) 1996: Changes in fauna and flora as a result of watercourse development - nezoans and neophytes, November 16, 1995. TEXTE 74/96 (German and English).
- No. 2 98 82779/05. Published by Umweltbundesamt (Eds.) 1999: Alien Organisms in Germany - Documentation of a Conference on 5 and 6 March, 1998. TEXTE 18/99 (English). TEXTE 55/99 (German).
- No. 108 02 901/02. Published by Umweltbundesamt (Eds.) 1999: Release of non-native organisms - policy and practice. TEXTE 20/99 (German).
- No. 102 04 250. Published by Umweltbundesamt (Eds.) 2000: Introduction of non-indigenous organisms into the North Sea and Baltic Sea: investigations on the Ecological impact through ship traffic. TEXTE 5/00 (German).

Ongoing Research and Development Projects:

- No. 296 89 901/01. Study on the effect of biology and genetics of selected neozoans on the ecosystem and comparison with the potential effects of genetically engineered organisms.
- No. 296 85 900. Changes in the genetic stock of native animal species caused by crossing with non-native species and domestic strains (including genetically engineered organisms).
- No. 299 81 202. Development of risk assessment criteria for the release of alien plant species: impacts on plant communities and selected animals.
- No. 800 86 001. Study on the effects of fresh water fisheries management on biological diversity.

Article 8h Alien species

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	x	c) Low	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	x
				d) Severely limiting	

3. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	x
c) a comprehensive system tracks introductions	
4. Has your country developed national policies for addressing issues related to alien invasive species?	
a) no	x
b) yes - as part of a national biodiversity strategy (please give details below)	
c) yes - as a separate strategy (please give details below)	
5. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	x
c) most alien species have been assessed	
6. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA

7. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential projects under way	x
c) active development of new projects	

8. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	x
c) yes - significant extent	

Case-studies

9. Has your country submitted case-studies on the prevention of introduction, control, and eradication of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, in response to the call by the fourth meeting of SBSTTA?	
a) no - please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	
b) yes - please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	x
10. How many case-studies are available that could be used to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding alien species in your country?	
a) none	
b) 1-2 - limited understanding	
c) >2 - significant information available	x

Transboundary issues

11. Are known alien invasive species in your country also a problem in neighbouring or biogeographically-similar countries?	
a) not known	
b) none	
c) a few - but in general alien invasive species problems are specific	
d) more than a few - in general we share common problems with other countries	x
12. Is your country collaborating in the development of policies and programmes at regional, sub-regional or international levels to harmonise measures for prevention and control of alien invasive species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential collaboration underway	x
c) development of collaborative approaches for a limited number of species	
d) consistent approach and strategy used for all common problems	

Further comments

About 12% (256 species) of the flora of the Federal Republic of Germany (2147 species) have been classified as alien plant species which occur regularly. Only a small fraction (1 to 2%) of the total number of introduced species (about 12,000) has succeeded, however, in establishing itself permanently in autochthonous ecosystems. The precise number of alien animal species in Germany still remains to be determined; it is presently estimated at about 2.9% (1322 species) of the fauna, of which about 262 species have become established in autochthonous ecosystems. For marine ecosystems the number of alien species introduced with ballast water, tank sediments and on the hull of ships is estimated at 7.4 mill. organisms daily, or about 86 individuals per second.

The large numbers of alien organisms introduced into Germany do not generally endanger the biodiversity on a large scale. Anthropogenic dispersal of native species to inadequate sites induces just as many ecological problems. Alien species, however, create important small-scale ecosystem changes at some locations. But the possibility of an "ecological disaster" does exist.

In the context of national law, § 20 d para. 2 of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (*Bundesnaturschutzgesetz, BNatSchG*) foresees framework regulations for the release of alien animals and plants into the wild (*in die freie Natur*).

In addition the Federal Plant Protection act (*Pflanzenschutzgesetz, PflSchG*) provides for the protection of plants on the federal level mainly of cultivated plants including forests against pests of plants which include alien species. Measures against the introduction and spread of plant pests including eradication are based on § 3, 4 and 5 PflSchG. These measures are specified in a federal order and are fully harmonised inside the EU by the Directive 2000/29/EC. They are based on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and are in line with the International Standards available in that framework. There are also other regulations regarding alien organisms in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, seed licensing, animal protection, marine law etc. This sectoral approach needs to be harmonised.

Licensing procedures according to the Federal Nature Conservation Act require that the possibility of "contamination" be prevented. A guideline with appropriate criteria is in the process of being developed to help the federal states (*Länder*) conduct the necessary risk assessments and to standardise the licensing procedures throughout Germany.

However, applications for licences to release alien plants and animals, are only received in comparatively modest quantities. Most applications are made with the aim of reintroducing formerly native species of game or for research purposes. Licenses for the import or release of regulated plant pests and their host plants are issued by the responsible plant protection services in accordance with detailed provisions of a federal order. Risk assessments for plant pests are performed on the federal level. Licenses for import or release of biocontrol agents are not required up to now but the respective regulation is under preparation.

Reforms are needed with regard to monitoring procedures (at the state, federal, and European level), as well as with regard to the elimination of identified threats of alien organisms to habitats. The question of liability must be clarified.

The relevant EC provisions do prescribe some duties to report and consult. These must be taken into account. The Federal Nature Conservation Act does not make such provisions. Consultation would above all be necessary and meaningful when release might have cross-border consequences.