

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	2 January 2001

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

The report was drafted by the Contact Officer at the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), in consultation with the UK's Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, using material gathered during the preparation of a *Biological Translocations Policy* for the statutory conservation agencies in Great Britain. This policy is being prepared and will be put out to wider consultation in 2001, in fulfilment of Target 36 of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan ("Update and publicise guidelines on translocations, re-establishments, introductions and re-stocking"). A draft of the policy has been put out to consultation with appropriate Government Departments and Agencies and the responses received have been taken into account during the preparation of this report, but no stakeholders have been involved directly in the preparation of this report. The report also takes account of the recent announcement by the Government that it is to undertake a fundamental review of non-native species policy beginning early in 2001.

Material from a review prepared by the former Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, which was commissioned as a contract by the JNCC, has also been used as a source of information for this report (reference: Bullock, J.M., Hodder, K.H., Manchester, S.J. and Stevenson, M.J. (1996) *Review of information, policy and legislation on species translocation*. JNCC Report 261, Peterborough).

Information on 'alien species' (usually termed 'non-native species' in the context of biodiversity conservation in Britain) and their impacts on native flora and fauna, has also been obtained by personal contact with officers in the statutory conservation agencies in Britain (Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature and Scottish Natural Heritage). There is also some information on the impacts of non-native species upon those plant and animal species identified as priorities for conservation by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

The information and comments in this report only take into account to a limited extent the position regarding alien species in the UK's Overseas Territories, noting that so far the four territories to which the UK's ratification of the CBD has been extended are: British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar and St Helena (including Ascension Island and the Tristan da Cunha group of islands). The great majority of the UK's Overseas Territories are small islands. They contain many habitats and endemic species which have historically been greatly affected by both deliberate and accidental introductions of alien species; and which remain vulnerable to new introductions.

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	
b) yes – as part of a national biodiversity strategy (please give details below)	In preparation
c) yes – as a separate strategy (please give details below)	In preparation
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	
c) yes – significant extent	Via policy in preparation

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

Numbers refers to question numbers above

2. c) The resource implication of dealing with alien species issues will be included in the UK Government's review of non-native species policy (see 4 below).
3. c) The UK has an extensive system of biological recording, whereby volunteer observers record the presence and/or abundance of species. There are over 50 national biological recording schemes which record the distribution of both native and non-native plants and animals; most of these schemes are co-ordinated by the Biological Records Centre, which is jointly funded by JNCC and the Natural Environment Research Council. For birds there are more detailed schemes, which record the abundance and distribution of both native and non-native species; these are jointly funded by JNCC and national ornithological organisations (BTO, WWT and RSPB etc). For marine species there is the *Directory of non-native marine species in British waters*, edited by N.C. Eno, R.A. Clark & W.G. Sanderson, accessible via the JNCC web site (<http://www.jncc.gov.uk>). Data on the occurrence of invasive, non-native species that cause significant problems are also compiled by relevant Government Departments and Agencies responsible for agriculture, forestry and the environment. These various sources of data on non-native species will in future become more accessible via the *National Biodiversity Network*, recently established by a consortium of organisations that hold information on UK biodiversity. The arrival of non-native species and their subsequent spread is kept under surveillance by the schemes cited above, while more detailed studies have been carried out on the impacts of some species that have caused problems for biodiversity conservation or for agriculture, forestry or human health. The UK has systems that do more than identify only major species of concern, but the present arrangements fall short of being a comprehensive system to track introductions of plants and animals.
4. There is an established legal and policy framework that deals with non-native species from the perspective of agriculture and aquaculture (intended to prevent the establishment of pest or problem species) as well as for biodiversity conservation. However, the current framework is regarded as inadequate, and the UK Government will begin a fundamental review of non-native species policy early in 2001. Current initiatives by Government organisations are addressing the need to improve the means of preventing the arrival of non-native species and for ameliorating their effects if they become established. There is also considerable interest and concern among non-governmental conservation organisations on the issue of invasive non-native species and alternative ways of preventing or minimising their impacts on native biodiversity. The *Biological Translocations Policy*, cited in the first part of this report, is concerned with a wide range of issues involving the movement (deliberate or accidental) of both native and non-native species. This draft policy has been prepared from the perspective of biodiversity conservation, though it recognises that there are many other legitimate views on these issues, which will be revealed and discussed with other organisations and individuals through a process of further consultation. This review will provide key information for the overall UK Government review. Making progress with tackling problem non-native species is recognised as being an important part of delivering an effective Biodiversity Action Plan for the UK.
5. The impacts and potential impacts of invasive non-native species have been assessed for those species currently regarded as causing significant damage to native species, to biotopes comprising native species (or in the case of the ruddy duck species occurring elsewhere in Europe), or to agriculture, forestry, aquaculture or to other human activities or interests. There has not been any significant impact assessment for those non-native species not regarded as causing problems and little consideration of what potential invasive non-native species might arrive in the UK in future and how their establishment might be prevented.

6. It is an offence to release or allow to escape any animal which is not ordinarily resident in, or not a regular visitor to the UK. In addition it is an offence to release or allow to escape a number of established non-native plants and animals. While the UK has comprehensive regulations dealing with the introduction of non-native animal species, it has proved more difficult to formulate effective legislation to deal with non-native plants and other organisms. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions has published guidelines "*The Regulation and Control of the Release of Non-native Animal and Plants into the Wild in Great Britain*" which explains the procedures needing to be followed before the release of a non-native species. Some legislative measures have been put in place to prevent the arrival of non-native species that might be expected to cause problems for agriculture, forestry or human health, though these do not extend effectively to prevent the arrival of invasive species that might be anticipated to cause problems for native biodiversity. Local control or suppression measures are carried out by national agencies and local authorities to reduce the impact of invasive non-native species in some areas, although there is not effective national co-ordination of these measures at present. Eradication programmes have been completed successfully against two invasive non-native mammals (Coypu and Muskrat) by the Ministry of Agriculture. For other species, hitherto, the aim has generally been to seek local suppression rather than national eradication, though this approach may be reviewed in future. For the Ruddy Duck, the feasibility of eradication of the UK population over a ten year period is currently being ascertained via a three year control trial.
7. The UK is involved in discussions with other countries, mainly at a European level.
8. The UK Government's review of non-native species policy cited above will address the issue of invasive non-native species in an appropriate ecological, scientific and administrative context. This review, together with *Biological Translocations Policy* will be a contribution towards implementing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
9. a) Case studies on invasive non-native species are available and one has been submitted: Case Study on the Control of the North American Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the United Kingdom, by John Clorley and Andrew Griffiths, European Wildlife Division, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, United Kingdom. September 2000
b) Case studies are a valuable way of sharing experience about the range of problems that arise as a consequence of the spread of invasive non-native species and they can promote alternative ways of preventing and tackling these problems.
10. a) Significant information is available for the UK, but this would need to be compiled and edited to be a reliable and consistent source for wider use and reference beyond the UK.
b) Significant information is available for some of the UK's Overseas Territories, including a report by Niek J M Gremmen and Jaco Barendse on two expeditions (May/June and September 2000) to eradicate the Procumbent Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) from the Gough Island Wildlife Reserve (part of the Tristan da Cunha group of islands).
11. Many of the species are also causing problems in other parts of Europe, but there is insufficient available data to quantify this in terms of the number of species and the range of problems that result from their establishment and spread
12. There has been some discussion; see 7 above.