

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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| Contracting Party | Republic of Hungary |
| <i>National Focal Point</i> | |
| Full name of the institution: | Ministry for Environment, Authority for Nature Conservation |
| Name and title of contact officer: | Mr. Gábor Nechay, Senior Counsellor |
| Mailing address: | Ministry for Environment Költő u. 21 Budapest H-1121 HUNGARY |
| Telephone: | +361-395-6857 / 395-7458 +361-275-45-04 |
| Fax: | +361-395-7458 |
| E-mail: | <u>nechay@mail2.ktm.hu</u> |
| <i>Contact officer for national report (if different)</i> | |
| Name and title of contact officer: | |
| Mailing address: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Fax: | |
| E-mail: | |
| <i>Submission</i> | |
| 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

Control of alien species is an issue in Hungary, which received great attention even before the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Thus, several activities including legislation and programmes have been initiated and continuously implemented. This report, which involved the co-operation of Mr. Zsombor Baltay and Mr. Brandon Anthony, is an attempt to give information on basic materials,

Fundamental materials used:

- a) **Foundations for Developing a National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation (Committee on Ecology, Biology Section, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) (1994). A. Zool. Acad. Sci. Hung., 40 (4) pp.289-327.**
- b) **Long-term Environmental Plan of Hungary-Phase 1. Natural Environment: Air, Water, Soil, Biota/ in Hungarian, English sum./(Eds. Beliczay, E., Bulla, M., Vári, A.) HAS, Budapest, 1994**
- c) **Haraszthy, L. Opportunities for Conservation of Biodiversity in Hungary-WWF series 8., 1995**
- d) **National Environmental and Nature Conservation Policy Concept - MERP, Budapest, 1995**
- e) **Act No. LIII of 1995 on the General Regulations Concerning Environmental Protection**
- f) **Act No. XCI. of 1995 on Veterinary Hygiene**
- g) **Act No. LV of 1996 on the Protection of Game, Game Management and Hunting**
- h) **Act No. LIV of 1996 on Forests and the Protection of Forests**
- i) **Act No. LIII of 1996 on Nature Conservation in Hungary**
- j) **National Environmental Program - Resolution No. 83/1997 of the National Assembly**
- k) **Act No. XLI of 1997 on Fishery and Sport Fishery**
- l) **Act No. CLIV of 1997 on Public Health**
- m) **Act No. XXXV. of 2000 on Plant Protection (Hungary-amendment of existing legislation since the 1960s, draft English translation only)**
- n) **Hungary: First National Report on the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

These strategic documents/materials are not considering alien species as main concern. Certain, mainly game species are dealt with only, which are harmful to forestry. The need to use native tree species and local forms is also emphasised when making reforestation.

Article 8h Alien species

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|---|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| 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 |
| 3. Has your country identified alien species introduced? | | | | | |
| a) no | | | | | |
| b) only major species of concern | | | | | X |
| c) a comprehensive system tracks introductions | | | | | X |
| 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) | | | | | |
| c) yes – as a separate strategy (please give details below) | | | | | X |
| 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 | | | | | X |

Remark. In case of certain alien species such there are comprehensive systems and measures. Therefore answers 3. c) and 6. d) are also justified.

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

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| 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 |

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| c) active development of new projects | |
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| 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

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| 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 | X |
| 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. | |
| 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

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| 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 | |
| c) development of collaborative approaches for a limited number of species | X |
| d) consistent approach and strategy used for all common problems | |

Further comments

Question 4:

DIRECT AND INDIRECT LEGAL ASPECTS CONCERNING ALIEN SPECIES

Act No. LIII of 1995 on the General Regulations Concerning Environmental Protection

- Section 23 (1), (2), and (3) – general measures concerning protection of biodiversity
- Section 67 and 68 (EIA)
- Section 69 and 70 (Preliminary Environmental Study)
- Section 71 (In-depth Environmental Impact Study)

Act No. LV of 1996 on the Protection of Game, Game Management and Hunting

- Article 33 (2) – introduction of non-indigenous game species for hunting purposes *has to be* authorized by the Minister of Agriculture with the consent of the minister responsible for the conservation of nature.

Act No. LIV of 1996 on Forests and the Protection of Forests

- Article 2 (1) – forests should be used, exploited in a manner so that the forests preserve their biological diversity and naturalness, ...
- Article 25 (2) a) – In the course of preparing the district forestry plan a priority should be given to the restoration of natural (indigenous) and close to natural forest biocoenoses when determining the tasks of afforestation.
- Article 35 (2) – Where the conditions of the habitat permit the creation of close to natural forest biocoenosis shall be given preference in the preparation of the plantation-implementation plan by applying indigenous tree species.
- Article 38 (2) – The liquidation of the plantation can be ordered by the forest authority in case the growing stock planted without permission or not in compliance with the permission would be harmful to the habitat or the neighbouring forest-lands.
- Article 41 (3) – Where the conditions are provided for the natural afforestation from seed of indigenous tree species suiting the habitat, this shall be applied.

Act No. LIII of 1996 on Nature Conservation in Hungary

- Article 8 (4) – definition of ‘harmful introduced species’ provided
- Article 9 (4) – The introduction of any new organism (new to Hungary from a phytogeographical or zoogeographical aspect) may only be authorised if this colonisation does not harm natural processes within Hungary’s communities for the disadvantage of native species.
- Article 12 (2) - ... in order to liquidate non-native or non-naturalised species (which are alien to the Hungarian fauna) the Directorate may initiate, at the authorities responsible for hunting (fishing), an order of population control or liquidation.
- Article 13 (2) – In order to introduce a non-native wild animal species which is not by declaration a game species or to re-introduce a wild animal species it is necessary to hold an authorisation of the Minister (which is granted with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture).
- Article 13 (3) – The authority responsible for hunting may oblige game-licence holders to reduce or liquidate the populations of harmful introduced wild animals by hunting techniques.
- Article 14 – It shall be prohibited to introduce non-native fish species into natural or semi-natural waters, or to transfer such species from fish farms into any other wetland.

- Article 16 (3) – wherever the habitat conditions make it possible, afforestation shall be exercised primarily with native tree species, in a natural species composition and using nature-friendly techniques (cf. Article 25 (2) a) of Act No. LIV of 1996 on Forests and the Protection of Forests).
- Article 33 (3) b) – In forests situated in protected natural areas ... reforestation shall be carried out only with indigenous tree species with natural occurrence on the given site.

Act No. XLI of 1997 on Fishery and Sport Fishery

- This Act regulates or binds to permission, the release of reared and non-indigenous animals into nature.

Act No. CLIV of 1997 on Public Health

- Article 35,36, 56, 73.

Act No. 35 of 2000 on Plant Protection (DRAFT-English version)

This Law was accepted by the Hungarian Parliament on 2 May 2000, published on 18 May 2000

Article 1 – aim is to protect plants, especially crops and plant products from any pests and to prevent and avoid risks to nature conservation.

- Article 4 (1) – plant protection activities should aim at preventing introduction or spread of pests [paraphrased]
- Article 5 (1) a) – The land user and producer are required to destroy the quarantine and the regulated non-quarantine pests, to prevent their introduction, establishment, spread, ...
- Article 6 (1) – Official treatment can be provided for if a non-quarantine pest has been recorded in the country
- Article 7 (1) Appeal against the decision ordering treatment of public interest has no postponing effect on the execution.
- Article 8 – *details provided on phytosanitary inspections*
- Article 19 (3) – studies with a plant protection product containing a viable organism not native in Hungary can be conducted even for laboratory purposes only with the permission of the Ministry [of Agriculture and Regional Development], issued observing the statement of the body designated by the Ministry of Health and of the Ministry of Environment.

QUESTION 9:

This is due to both the lack of available completed case-studies based on the format suggested by the SBSTTA, and limiting resources.