

Please provide to following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	New Zealand
<b>National Focal Point</b>	
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Name and title of contact officer:	Mr David Payton, Director
Mailing address:	Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Private Bag 18 901 Wellington New Zealand
Telephone:	64 4 473 2047
Fax:	64 4 494 8507
E-mail:	david.payton@mfat.govt.nz
<b>Contact officer for national report (if different)</b>	
Name and title of contact officer:	Paula Warren, CHM Focal Point
Mailing address:	Department of Conservation PO Box 10-420 Wellington New Zealand
Telephone:	64 4 471 3135
Fax:	64 4 471 3130
E-mail:	pwarren@doc.govt.nz
<b>Submission</b>	
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*

A draft report was prepared on the basis of information available to the CHM Focal Point. This was submitted to representatives of agencies with a significant implementation role for alien species management. Comments were incorporated.

Other stakeholders were not involved in the preparation of the report. The information available to the officials included the results of consultation processes relating to the national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and also to more specific consultation undertaken regarding alien species management.

*Article 8b Alien species*

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

3. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	
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)	X
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	
c) most alien species have been assessed	X
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	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X

*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	
c) active development of new projects	X

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

**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	
c) 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**

Alien species issues are recognised as a major threat to biodiversity in New Zealand, and New Zealand already has significant problems. The national biodiversity strategy and action plan identifies priority work in this area. The Government has placed a high priority on addressing this threat, including providing additional resources for implementation of priority projects.

New Zealand has in place a comprehensive biosecurity system to control unintended or illegal introductions, and control or manage pests and diseases established in the country. This comprises

three key elements:

- a. an approval process for intended introductions, which assesses all proposals; and
- b. a comprehensive system regulating trade and passenger movements to control unintended or illegal introductions;
- c. a range of processes for controlling those already in the country.

New Zealand operates an integrated biosecurity system to defend against the threat of introduction and establishment of new pests and diseases. This includes 'pre-border' work (risk analysis, development of import health standards, assessment of overseas authorities), functions at the border (inspection, giving clearance), and post-border work (surveillance, diagnostic capability, emergency response capacity).

The components of the biosecurity system include:

- Legislation: develop legislation and policy on applying legislation.
- International agreements: develop and implement policies on applying international agreements.
- International standards: contribute to international standard setting.
- Import conditions: conduct risk analyses and develop import health standards.
- Exporting countries: negotiate assurances to be provided by exporting country, including an assessment of overseas competent authorities.
- Border inspection: establish standards, contract service provider, audit performance of service provider.
- Biosecurity clearance: establish and maintain standards for containment and quarantine, audit compliance of private operators.
- Surveillance: establish standards, contract service providers, audit their performance, obtain and report information on animal and plant health status.
- Exotic pest and disease response: set standards, contract service providers, audit their performance.
- Management and eradication of pests and diseases: prepare national control programmes, assist or coordinate (with industry or regional government) development of pest management strategies.
- Enforcement and education: promote public awareness of biosecurity issues, investigate suspected illegal activities, take prosecutions.

A comprehensive biosecurity strategy for New Zealand is being developed over the next 2-3 years.

The new projects recently funded as part of the Government's NBSAP implementation response are additional to numerous projects already underway. Many problem species are currently being controlled. Many eradications have been undertaken nationally or on islands.

New Zealand has provided input or assistance to a range of regional initiatives. These include work by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme on a strategy for the South Pacific, and bilateral assistance to other Pacific or Southern Ocean countries. New Zealand has also made available to other Parties information on our legislation, as part of our CHM work

In relation to questions 11 and 12: We share some problem species with other countries, but the nature of the problem or of possible solutions is not always identical even where the species is. For example, we have been providing information on deer problems to South Africa, but because New

Zealand does not have any native ungulates and South Africa does, it is likely that the impacts in New Zealand will be different. New Zealand has also provided some alien invasive species to other countries, and is willing to provide ecological information on those species to the recipient country. We are also working with originating countries in exploring solutions to our problems (e.g. with Australia in relation to brush tailed possums). In some cases, a problem species in New Zealand is a rare breed or endangered species in its originating country, and we are addressing those issues in our control work. We are also aware that problems our neighbours have (e.g. Pacific sea-star in Australia) are a serious threat to us.

.In relation to the case studies, New Zealand would like to see exploration of the relationship between the information in case studies and other initiatives such as the data base development by GISP.