



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Pathway Factsheet

Training course for Pacific small island developing States on
invasive alien species
15-17 July, Apia, Samoa



Transport – Stowaway: Tourism

Species unintentionally introduced a stowaway on
people, their luggage or personal equipment

The movement of people and their luggage / equipment between locations (at either local, national, regional or international scale) for purposes of leisure, recreation, research, tourism etc. is a potential risk pathway for species that can stowaway and be transported to new locations outside their native range. Although tourists are the primary focus, this pathway also includes researchers, recreational users and anyone travelling between regions.

Similar or related pathways

- Stowaway - angling
- Stowaway - container and bulk
- Hitchhikers – airplane, ship/boat
- Hitchhikers – machinery/equipment



Species example

Poa annua, annual meadow grass, has been shown to have arrived to the South Shetlands Islands through personal outdoor equipment and bags, outdoor clothing and items (particularly pockets, seams, cuffs, boots and the hooks of fasteners). © Rasbak CC 3.0

How can we manage this pathway?

National level

- ✓ Enact legislation that prohibits the import of high-risk goods by travellers.
- ✓ Provide clear messaging/campaigns to incoming tourists prior to their arrival on what is not allowed to be brought in, and the need for clean equipment, clothes, and footwear, etc.
- ✓ Build customs capacity to check for goods being brought in by tourists, including use of sniffer dogs.
- ✓ Provide awareness-raising materials and signage at tourist hotspots, especially those that are sensitive to biological invasions, e.g., islands, freshwater systems, and protected areas.
- ✓ Provide designated facilities for cleaning equipment and footwear prior to entry to sensitive sites, such as boot-brush stations, gear-cleaning areas, and disposal bins for organic material at park entrances.
- ✓ Strengthen inspection and quarantine capacity across customs and port authorities.
- ✓ Undertake risk-based assessment to focus inspection effort on high-risk travellers.
- ✓ Partner with tourist operators to raise awareness

Regional level

- ✓ Collaborate on awareness-raising campaigns targeting countries where many tourists come from.
- ✓ Engage with international tour operators, including cruise companies, to raise awareness and adhere to biosecurity standards
- ✓ Harmonise biosecurity standards to support consistent messaging and approaches for tourists and tour operators
- ✓ Sharing data among countries and collaborate on regional training programmes

Data source: IUCN. 2018. Guidance for interpretation of the CBD categories of pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species.

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European Code of Conduct on International Travel and Invasive Alien Species:

