

Online public consultation 2012 on Invasive Alien Species

Profile of the respondent	
I am responding on behalf of: -single choice reply- (optional)	I reply on behalf of an organisation
If you represent an organisation, what sector do you represent? -single choice reply- (optional)	Hunting and angling
What is the name of your organisation? -open reply- (optional)	The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey
Country -single choice reply- (optional)	Belgium
Prevention	
<u>Could trade and import restrictions be imposed for alien species?</u> -single choice reply- (optional)	Yes, but only for those alien species that are proven by scientific evidence to be harmful (list of restricted species)
<u>If trade and import restrictions were imposed, how should the specimens of those species already in possession be treated?</u> -single choice reply- (optional)	There should be no obligatory removal of specimens, but citizens should be alerted that invasive alien species restricted from trade and import should be prevented from breeding or spreading
<u>Would you buy alien species through internet trade?</u> -single choice reply- (optional)	Yes, but only if I had reliable information on the harmlessness of the species
<u>Should the release of alien species in the environment be restricted?</u> -single choice reply- (optional)	Yes, but only for those alien species that are proven to be harmful by scientific evidence (list of restricted species), but in certain cases (e.g. islands) the release into the environment of all alien species should be restricted unless they are proven to be harmless and allowed based on a list of permitted species or individual permits
<u>Ornamental plants are a major pathway of escape of alien species in the environment. Plants may indeed easily spread through their seeds. What could be done to limit the escapes of ornamental plants from gardens for species that are not restricted from trade?</u> -single choice reply- (optional)	Introduce a voluntary information system to inform the buyers on possible harmfulness of ornamental plants
<u>Escaped or released pets are another important pathway of introduction of alien species in the environment. What could be done to avoid this?</u> -single choice reply- (optional)	Only organise public awareness programmes to educate pet owners on the consequences of releasing or letting escape such species in the environment, together with information on how to minimise the risk of escape.
<u>The Polluters Pay Principle is a guiding principle of</u>	Hold the individual users (if identifiable) of alien species

<u>all EU legislation and it will be enshrined in so far as possible in the IAS dedicated legislative instrument. How could this be done?</u> - Here you have the possibility to check more than one response -multiple choices reply-(optional)	responsible for any damage such species may cause if released or allowed to spread into the environment
<u>Early warning and rapid response</u>	
<u>Surveillance to spot any alien species in the environment will be crucial to the success of any early warning and rapid response mechanism. How can this surveillance be organised?</u> - Here you have the possibility to check more than one response -multiple choices reply-(optional)	Surveillance should be in so far as possible linked to the monitoring already in place to comply with other legislation (e.g. habitats directive) - National research bodies should be involved by their national authorities in contributing to surveillance
<u>If a new alien species is found in the environment, what should be done?</u> - All of the following answers presume that vertebrate animals should be treated in a humane way and that if eradication is not attempted, management will be organised to contain the species and minimise its damage. -single choice reply-(optional)	It should be removed immediately only in case it is a species with trade restrictions
<u>Management and restoration</u>	
<u>If an invasive alien species is spreading in the environment and causing damage, should eradication be attempted?</u> - All of the following answers presume that vertebrate animals should be treated in a humane way and that if eradication is not attempted, management will be organised to contain the species and minimise its damage. -single choice reply-(optional)	Eradication should be based on a cost benefit analysis
<u>Restoration of ecosystem functioning may contribute to the resilience towards invasive alien species. Should resources be spent on ecosystem restoration rather than on the eradication and management of invasive alien species?</u> -single choice reply-(optional)	Resources should be spent on ecosystem restoration rather than on an invasive alien species policy, restored ecosystems will then be more resilient towards invasive alien species
<u>Comments/Suggestions</u>	
<u>Do you have any further comments or</u>	Protected ecosystems can be maintained by IAS (e.g. grazing / forestry), so

suggestions? -open reply-(optional)

HARM must be recognised before action. Legal restrictions must ONLY be imposed on what constitutes DELIBERATE and/or UNCONTAINED alien release: contained access in the natural environment (e.g. pets, farm animals, falconry birds) does not constitute release. If that is not recognised under a new EIAS strategy we must accept, for example, that cat owners will not be permitted to allow their pets out of a cage / building.