

Online public consultation on Invasive Alien Species

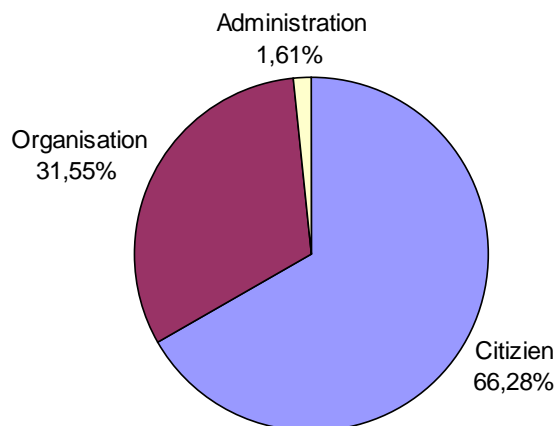
In preparation of a dedicated legislative instrument on Invasive Alien Species, the Commission has been seeking views on the specific choices to be made when establishing this instrument. The consultation remained open from 27 January 2012 to 12 April 2012. It attracted 5101 answers in total.

The majority of replies came from citizens, followed by organisations, with a small percentage of replies coming from public administrations. A wide range of sectors were represented, with particularly high interest from associations of hobbyists interested in exotic species, with several submissions from associations of breeders and keepers of exotic birds. In terms of geographical representation, the majority of replies came from the UK, which may reflect the linguistic bias due to the fact that the questionnaire was available only in English; this possible linguistic bias will be duly taken into account. Interestingly, however, the majority of replies tended to come from Member States which are actively involved in the IAS debate: beside the UK, large part of the answers came from Spain, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and France. These countries were also consistently and actively involved in the Working Groups that were held between 2010 and 2011. The number of answers may therefore reflect the level of involvement and the level of concern caused by invasive alien species in these countries, where the debate at national level might be somewhat more active than in other countries. The questionnaire comprised 11 questions focusing on specific aspects of possible policy options to tackle IAS and grouped according to the three-step hierarchical approach: prevention, early warning and rapid response and management of established species.

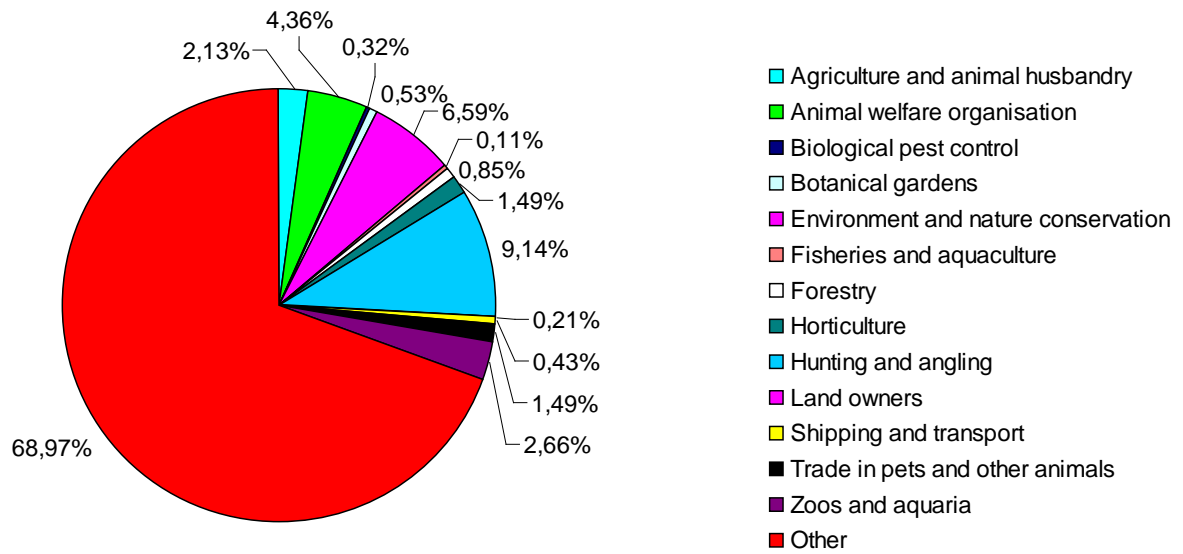
The specific results are provided in the form of statistics.

A. Respondent's Profile

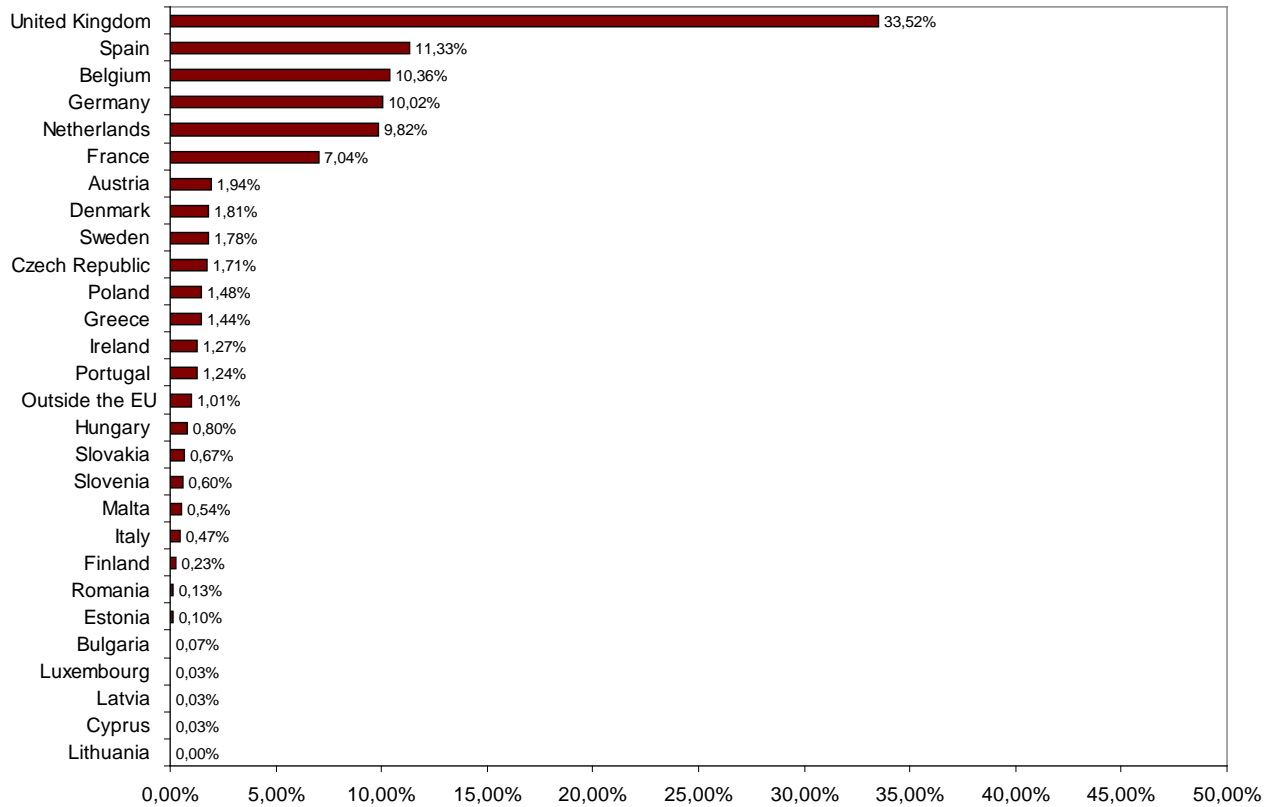
Respondent's affiliation



Type of Organisation

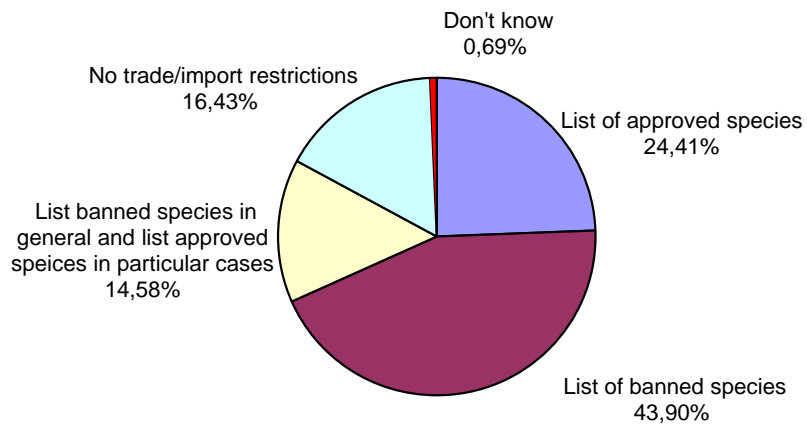


Repondent's country

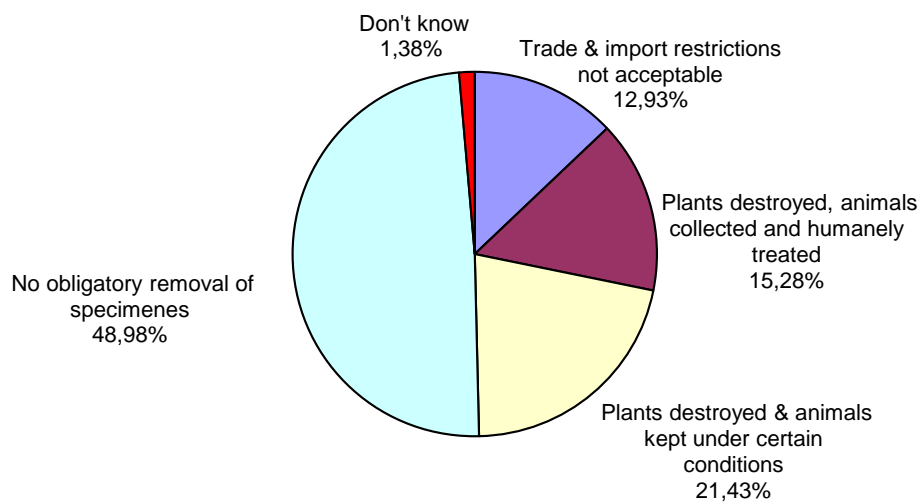


B. Prevention

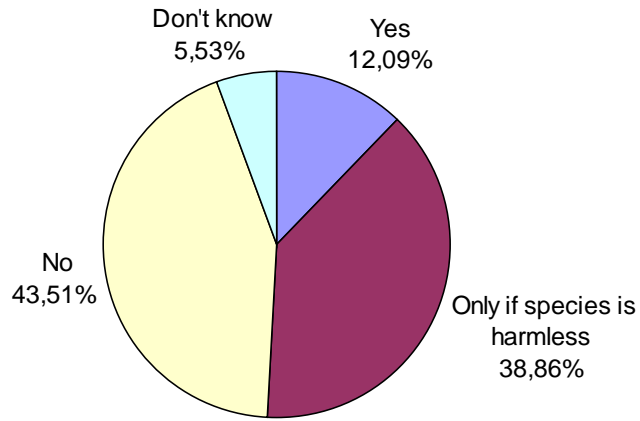
Could trade and import restrictions be imposed for alien species?



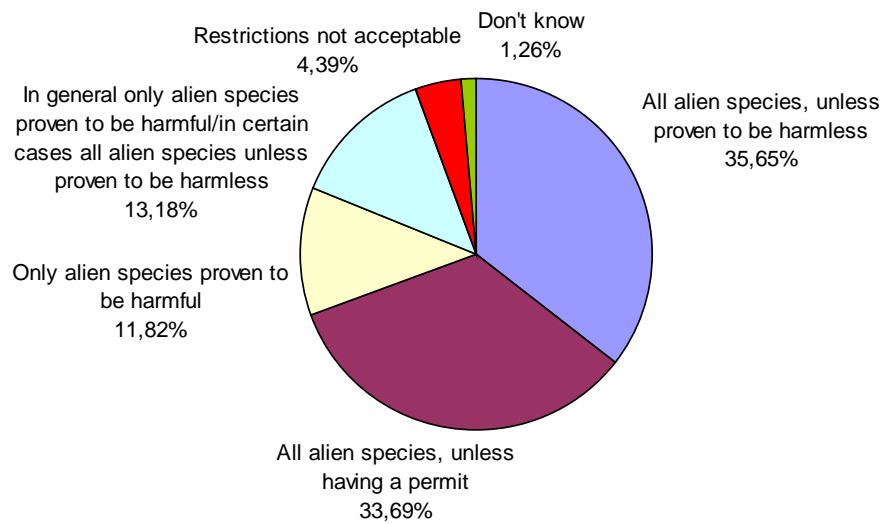
If trade and import restrictions were imposed, how should the specimens of those species already in possession be treated?



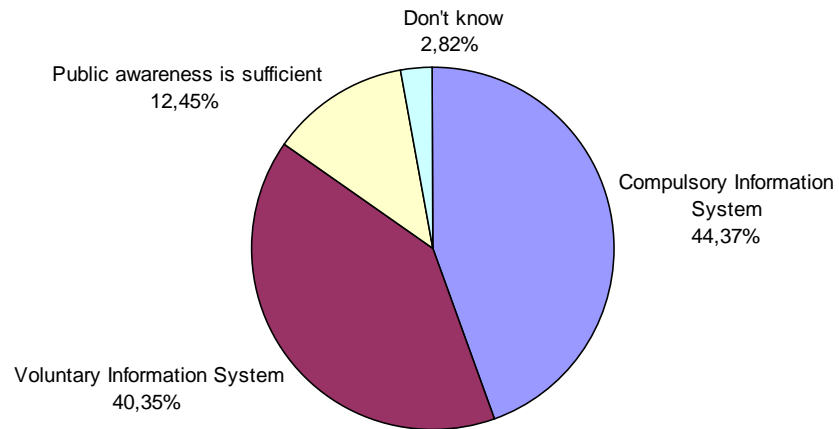
Would you buy alien species through internet trade?



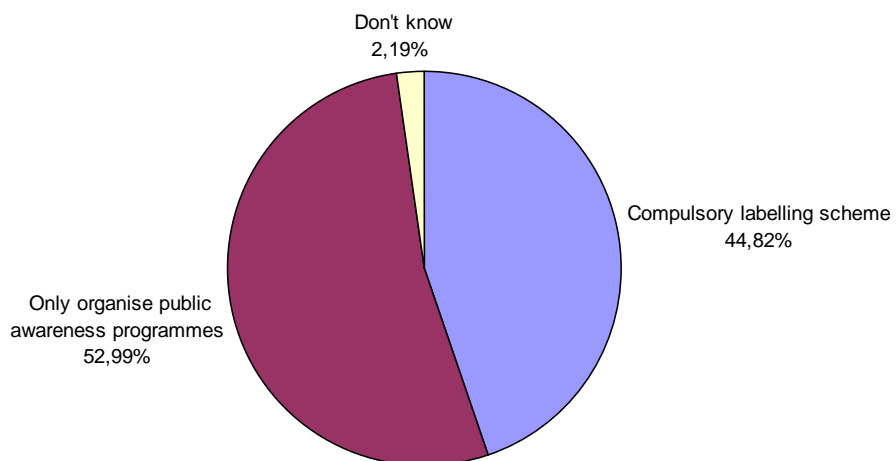
Should the release of alien species in the environment be restricted?



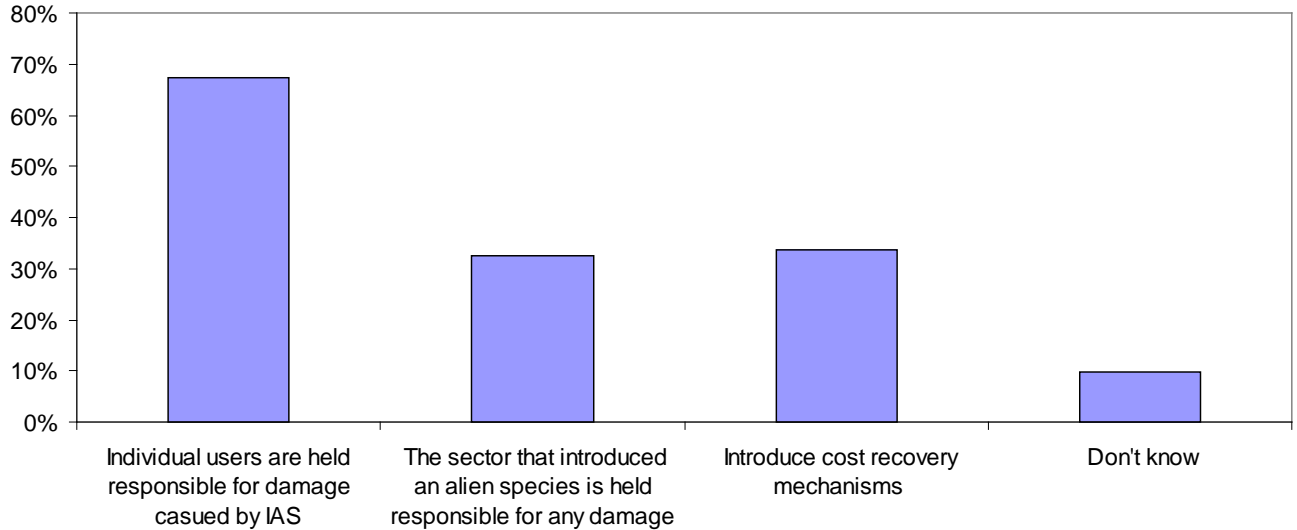
What could be done to limit the escapes of ornamental plants from gardens for species that are not restricted from trade?



What could be done to avoid the release or escape of pets?

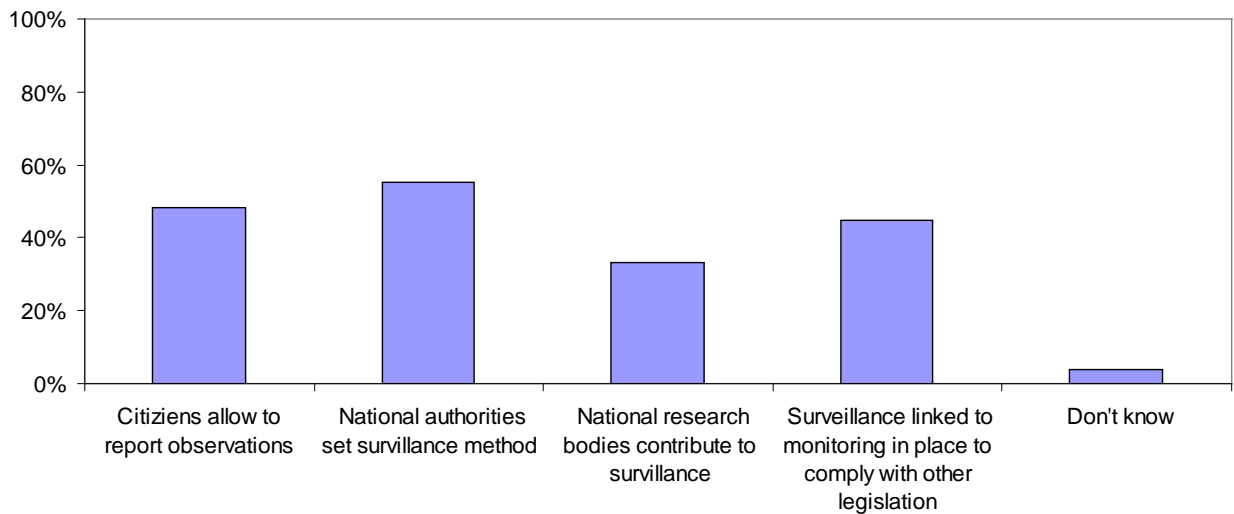


The Polluters Pay Principle is a guiding principle of all EU legislation and it will be enshrined in so far as possible in the IAS dedicated legislative instrument. How could this be done?

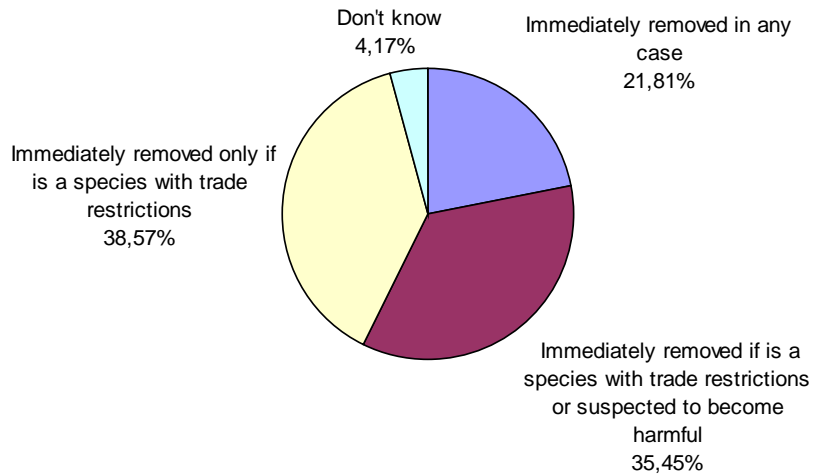


C. Early warning and rapid response

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?

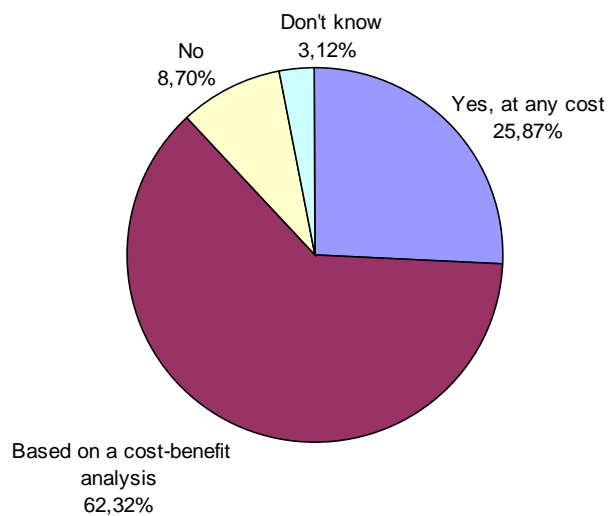


If a new alien species is found in the environment, what should be done?



D. Management and Restoration

If an invasive alien species is spreading in the environment and causing damage, should eradication be attempted?



Should resources be spent on ecosystem restoration rather than on the eradication and management of invasive alien species?

