



WORK PROGRAMME OF THE WORKING GROUP INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (WGIAS)

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment has set up the Working group on Invasive Alien Species (WGIAS) within the Informal Commission Expert Group "Co-ordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature".

The working group ensures the coordination of the activities of the European Commission and of the EU Member States to support the implementation of the EU Regulation No 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (the IAS Regulation).

The group's tasks are to:

- a) assist the European Commission by providing high-level expertise in relation to the implementation of the EU Regulation on IAS;
- b) co-ordinate activities, exploit links between the different activities and discuss cross-cutting issues;
- c) facilitate the cooperation and exchange of good practices between the Commission, the Member States and stakeholders.

As appropriate, the group may assist in the preparation of meetings of the Committee on IAS (cf. Art. 27 of the EU Regulation on IAS).

The issues on which WGIAS will be asked to work upon are:

1. Awareness raising on IAS within particular sectors and also the wider public, particularly in relation to the restrictions on the IAS of Union concern under Article 7 of the IAS Regulation, as well as the transitional provisions under Articles 31 and 32.
2. Experiences with prioritisation of pathways of unintentional introduction and the development of action plans on pathways (Article 13).
3. Experiences with management of widely spread IAS (e.g. population control, containment, restoration of the damaged ecosystems – Articles 19 and 20). Animal welfare and environmental considerations (e.g. selective trapping methods, reducing impact on non-targeted species, human health etc.) in applying rapid eradication and management measures (Articles 17 and 19 respectively).
4. Surveillance systems (Article 14), including citizen science.

5. Identification and sharing of information on the existing national information systems with data on IAS (online / off-line databases, citizen science projects etc.) that could be linked to the information support system (article 25 - <http://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu>), in order to further improve the available information on IAS on a European level.
6. Development of guidelines and training material for facilitating the identification and detection of IAS of Union concern for the use of the competent authorities, particularly in the framework of the surveillance system and the official controls (Articles 14 and 15 respectively), as well as for informing the concerned sectors and the wider public.

For all the above issues the focus will be on identification of good practices, knowledge transfer and the development of cooperation and cooperation between all concerned stakeholders. Priority will be given also in relation to the IAS of Union, regional or Member State concern.

INPUT REQUESTED FOR THE 1ST MEETING WGIAS

The participants are kindly requested to prepare a brief power-point presentation (to last up to 7 minutes) including the following points:

- where applicable the authority/organisation they represent;
- their experience in the field of IAS and the particular aspects of interest in relation to the implementation of the IAS (e.g. policy, research, field work, taxonomic groups etc.);
- identify the area(s) of work that can contribute to (as identified above 1-6);
- other proposals for issues to work upon.

In order to better organise the meeting of 12 June, please send your presentations by e-mail to ENV-IAS@ec.europa.eu by 9 June the latest. The proposed draft agenda may be adjusted accordingly.