

Islamic Republic of Iran

Thematic Report on
Alien Species

for the

Convention on Biological Diversity

Prepared by: NBSAP Secretariat
June 2001

In the name of God

Prepared by:

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Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	June 2001

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

The present document is the Thematic Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Alien species to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was drawn up with the support from the "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)" Project Secretariat, under the supervision of a Steering Committee, including representatives of Department of Administration and Planning, the Department of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Jihad-e-Keshavarzi, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Biodiversity sub-committee of the National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD), University of Tehran and Environmentalists Association(NGO).

Article 8h Alien species

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

Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	√
c) a comprehensive system tracks introductions	
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)	
c) yes - as a separate strategy (please give details below)	
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	
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	

Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA

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	

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

Case-studies

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.	
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	

Transboundary issues

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	√
d) more than a few - in general we share common problems with other countries	
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	√
d) consistent approach and strategy used for all common problems	

Further comments

The issue of alien species and especially invasive alien species is a very sensitive one, because of its potential threats to rich biological diversity throughout the country, hence There needs to be an increase in expertise in addressing strategic questions and better analysis of the information, leading to management orientated outcomes for this issue. Some initial activities have been planned by the universities and research centres for further development.

Some activities which held by relevant organization, afforded to prevention and control of alien invasive specious in the country are as follow:

- **Global Ballast Water Management Programme:**

Marine species are being carried around the world in ships' ballast water. When discharged into new environments, they may become invasive and severely disrupt the native ecology, impact economic activities such as fisheries and cause disease and even death in humans. The introduction of invasive marine specious into new environments by ships' ballast water, attached to ships' hulls and via other vectors has been identified as one of the four greatest threats to the world's oceans. To response to this global threat, the International Marine Organization (IMO) has developed voluntary guidelines for the control and management of ship's ballast water to minimise the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens. In addition to the initiatives above, IMO has collaborated with the GEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), shipping industry to assist countries to tackle the ballast water problem. This project is carry out in khark island, Persian Gulf by shipping organization with collaborating of GEF/UNDP/IMO. The major ballast water sources are from ships which discharge ballast water whilst loading of crude oil. In the year 2000 the average number of ships visited the area was approximately 65 per month.

- **Establishing Botanic Gardens:**

The National Botanic garden running by the Ministry of Jihad-e-Keshavarzi, and consists of a botanic garden illustrating the various biomes of Iran and the world, together with a herbarium with more than 100,000 specimens. Provincial research centres and universities have also established smaller scale herbaria and botanic gardens. Botanic gardens could act as monitoring centres in the country for identification and introducing the alien species for preventing and controlling them.

- The National Museum for Natural History was founded in 1973 and is now a part of the Department of Environment. The mission of the Museum and its affiliated branches in all provinces is to become a major source of public information and a centre for scientific studies and research activities. Besides the museum prepare several meetings and lectures for introducing the importance of Alien species issue for country and conservation of its biodiversity.
- Some case studies carried out by DoE and other organizations on alien species. One example is the introduction of Azolla from the Southeast Asia into the Anzali wetland. Although this aquatic plant was meant to be quarantined in a small pool, it escaped and found its way into the natural environment where it flourished. Now this species (which is quite useful in southeast Asia) has become a pest, competing with the other native species for vital resources such as light and nutrients. Similarly, introduction of Grass Carp ***Hypopharyngodon idella*** to the Hamoun Wetland, one of the most natural and unpolluted aquatic ecosystems, yielded disastrous results, destroying the natural integrity of this ecosystem.
- Crops Protecting Organization, Deputy of Guarantee office and Veterinary organization, which are affiliated to Ministry of Jahad-e-Keshavarzi, established Customhouses in all country borderlines to control both imports and exports of Flora and Fauna.

GUIDELINES FOR DETAILED THEMATIC REPORTS ON ALIEN SPECIES

The following format for preparation of a thematic report on alien species is a series of relatively simple questions based on those elements of article 8(h) of the Convention, decision IV/1 of the Conference of the Parties and Recommendations IV/4 and V/4 of SBSTTA which are addressed to Contracting Parties. Responses to these questions will help Contracting Parties to review the extent to which they are successfully implementing the provisions of the Convention and will assist the Conference of the Parties to assess the overall status of implementation of the Convention. The wording of questions follows the wording of the Articles and decisions as closely as possible.

The questions are simple in nature in order to facilitate completion of the review. In most cases they require only a tick in one or more boxes.^{1/} Following the questions there is a box for further comments. Contracting Parties are invited to provide a more detailed response to the preceding questions at this point.^{2/} This is an opportunity to identify particular successes or constraints. In particular this box could be used to identify cases where the reporting of no action or of a partial fulfillment of the obligation is the result of inadequate resources or a need for assistance, rather than a decision not to take action on a particular obligation.

The information provided by Contracting Parties will not be used to rank performance or to otherwise compare implementation between individual Contracting Parties.

In order to assist with the review and synthesis of the information in the reports, respondents are asked to ensure that the further information provided in this box is closely related to the preceding questions and is as succinct as possible. There is no set limit on length, but it is anticipated that Parties will be able to provide adequate and useful information in a few pages.

Contracting Parties are also invited to communicate any issues relevant to implementation of these provisions of the Convention that have not been addressed by the

^{1/} If you feel that, in order to properly reflect the circumstances, it is necessary to tick more than one box, please do so. In this case, you are encouraged to provide further information in the box at the end of the set of questions.

^{2/} Please feel free to append to the report further information on any of the questions.

questions below. The Executive Secretary would also welcome any comments on the adequacy of the questions, and difficulties in completing the questions, and any further recommendations on how these reporting guidelines could be improved.

It is recommended that Contracting Parties involve a wide range of stakeholders in the preparation of the report, in order to ensure a participatory and transparent approach to its development. A box is provided in which to identify those groups who have been involved.

Contracting Parties are requested to submit their thematic report on alien species in this format to the Executive Secretary by 30 September 2000. Parties are requested to submit an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy on diskette or by electronic mail. An electronic version of this document will be sent to all national focal points and this will also be available from the Convention's website at:

<http://www.biodiv.org>

Completed national reports and any comments should be sent to:

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