Invasive alien species (IAS) and their impacts represent a growing concern for the managers of natural areas. That is particularly true for aquatic environments where an array of stakeholders are now taking action. Public policies on the French and European levels are also coming into play.

What is the status of current knowledge on biological invasions? What is the applicable legal framework and what recommendations should be made? In the field, which species are managers attempting to address? Which techniques are used, where and how, and what are the objectives and the results achieved?

For these two volumes of the Knowledge for action series, almost 100 experts collected the information required to clearly present the situation and propose a scientifically based approach to assist water managers in setting up management projects.

This first volume, titled Practical information, presents the current situation concerning the management of invasive alien species in aquatic environments. Though no "cure-alls" currently exist, this volume offers highly useful information while attempting to address the specific aspects of each situation.

The second volume, titled Management insights, illustrates the situation discussed in the first volume with feedback from management projects in continental France and Europe.

Emmanuelle Sarat, a scientific officer for invasive alien species at the IUCN French committee, has managed the Biological invasions in aquatic environments (IBMA) work group since 2014.

Emilie Mazaubert, a research engineer at Irstea from 2009 to 2013, participated extensively in the work at IBMA over the period, drafting a large number of research reports and promoting the work, while managing the work group and acting as group secretary.

Alain Dutartre, an independent hydrobiologist (formerly at Irstea), has worked for almost 40 years on aquatic plants (native and alien) and their management. As a founding member of the IBMA work group, he has contributed to research work and efforts to assist water managers in improving the management of invasive alien species.

Nicolas Poulet, a scientific officer at the Onema Research and development department, has worked to establish research and management projects on both invasive and patrimonial species and participated in managing the IBMA work group.

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