

Abstract

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. In parallel, public policies are coming into play on the national level and the European Union now has a regulation in this field.

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?

These three volumes in the *Knowledge for action* series clearly present the situation and propose a scientifically based approach to assist environmental managers in setting up management projects. Though no “cure alls” currently exist, these volumes offer highly useful information while attempting to address the specific aspects of each situation, including the site, the species to be managed and the necessary technical and financial resources.

Vol. 1 Practical information

The first volume presents the current situation concerning invasive alien species in aquatic environments in continental France.

Six chapters provide a detailed outline on:

- current scientific knowledge on IASs, including definitions, colonisation processes, impacts and topics for future research;
- current legislation and regulations addressing IASs on the international, European and national levels;
- IAS strategies and action plans, including the main participants and existing projects;
- the general approach to IAS management, i.e. prerequisite knowledge, prevention, monitoring and action taken;
- IAS management, including a presentation on the overall situation for interventions, a panorama of existing techniques, the management of waste and assessments of management work;
- the existing tools available to managers, e.g. coordination of projects, lists of species, databases, platforms for information exchange and collections of feedback from management projects.

Vol. 2 and 3 Management insights

These two volumes are a collection of fact sheets on invasive alien species and reports on management projects carried out in continental France, the French overseas territories and Europe.

A total of 38 species (fauna and flora) are examined in 87 management reports drafted in direct collaboration with the concerned managers. The second volume, published in 2015, contains 52 reports and the third volume (2018) contains a further 35 reports.

The fact sheet for each species includes descriptive information on species identification, biology and ecology.

The management reports include:

- the organisation managing the project;
- a description of the project site with maps;
- the problems on the site and the issues at hand;
- the intervention techniques, e.g. the selected method, each operational step, schedules, technical constraints;
- project results and budget;
- the outlook at the end of each project;
- efforts to promote the project and its results;
- available documentation and the contact person for more information.

