



“MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: Initiatives and Opportunities”

Golden Sands, Malta 31 May 2017



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# Invasive alien species and protected areas in Europe: The European management guidelines

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# Protected Areas and IAS

Protected areas often preserve hotspots of biological diversity and ecosystem services, so **impact of biological invasions on PAs can be worse than in other areas**

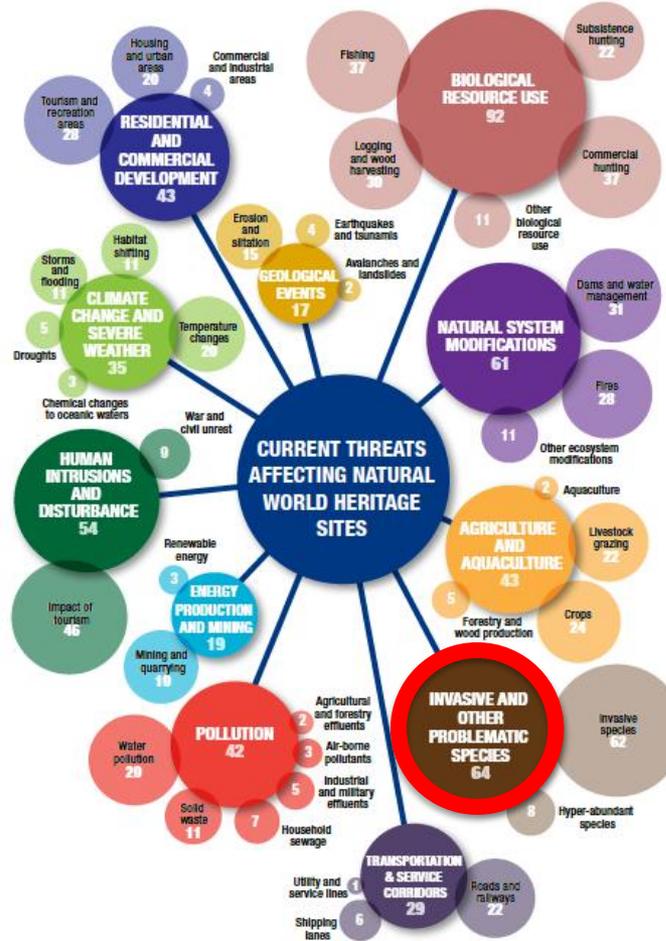
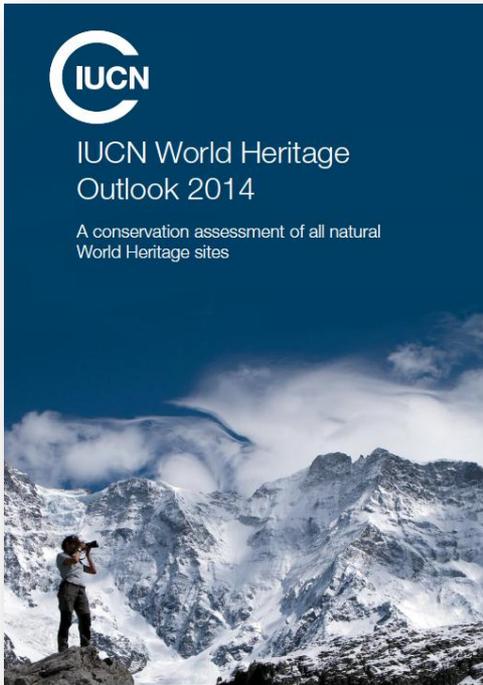


“Let the nature take its course” is not a strategy that can be used for IAS and **active management is fundamental**

**Without management to prevent and address IAS**, protected areas values, including ecosystem services and biodiversity, will be **inevitably eroded**



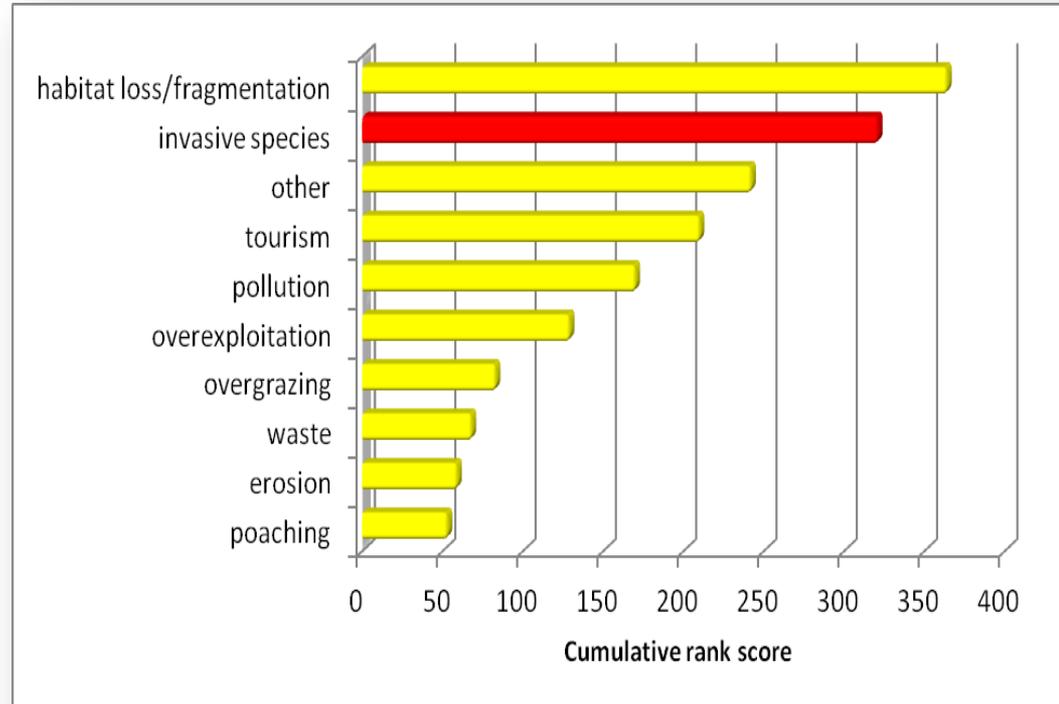
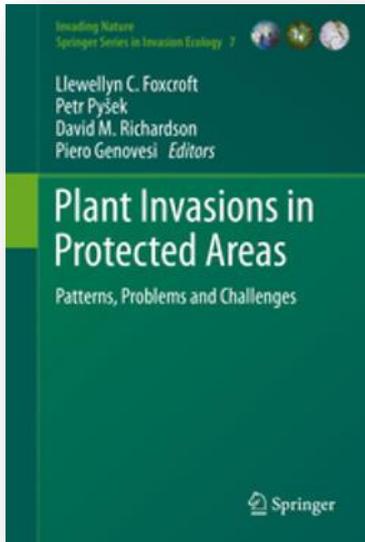
# Protected Areas and IAS



Current threats affecting WH sites (number of sites)

# Protected Areas and IAS

WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THREATS TO YOUR PROTECTED AREA?



Results of a web survey on IAS and 138 European PA (from alpine to marine)



# Marine Protected Areas and IAS

Prevention of IAS establishment is the top priority in Marine PAs

**Regulations, awareness raising and monitoring,**  
not only within MPAs but also in their surrounding areas,  
are the 3 main pillars for addressing IAS in Marine PAs

**STOP THE SPREAD**  
**INVASIVE MARINE SPECIES**  
**CHECK-CLEAN-DRY**

Invasive marine plants and animals harm our native wildlife and cause economic damage to boating, fishing and aquaculture, fouling hard surfaces such as hulls, and pontoons. They clog up boat engines and props and restrict water flow and navigation. Please help to stop them by following the Check, Clean, Dry code.

**CHECK** Check your boat, equipment and clothing for living plants and animals. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

**CLEAN** Clean and wash all equipment with freshwater and anti-foul boats annually. Remove visible fouling and put in the bin, not back in the water. Wash off your anchor and chain before leaving an anchorage. Use your boat to prevent fouling.

**DRY** Drain water from every part that can hold water, including any that collects in the bilges. Clothing and equipment should be thoroughly dried for as long as possible before it is used elsewhere.

Most of the invasive species that are a problem on the coast are introduced from other countries.

Remember to check and clean these places

[www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)

Logos: DEF, natural scotland, NINSS, RYA, Marine Pathways, Environment Agency, BRITISH BIRDS, IUCN, QR code

## Taming The Lionfish:

7 Easy (and Awesome) Ways You Can Help Save Our Reefs

Illustration of a lionfish swimming in the ocean.

## Monitoring Marine Invasive Species in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

A strategy and practical guide for managers

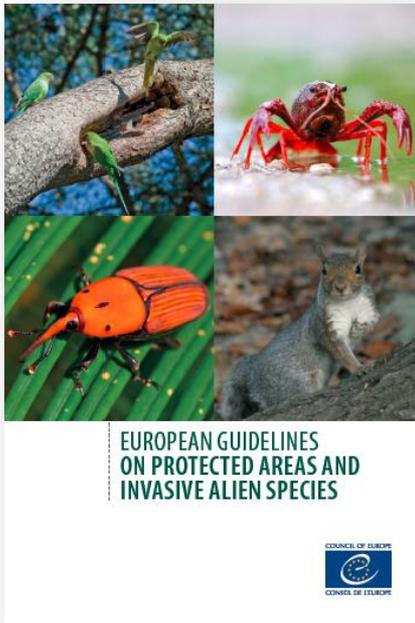
MEDITERRANEAN COLLECTION

Logos: IUCN, funded by: Ed, MAVA, etc.



# European Guidelines on Protected areas and invasive alien species

The Guidelines has been developed with the technical support of the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group and **formally adopted at the meeting of the Standing Committee of Bern Convention** (3 December 2013 - Recommendation No.167)



- Implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species
- Present a set of key principles
- Aimed to PAs managers and staff, practitioners, decision makers

The European Guidelines are now the **starting point for the World Guidelines**, a joint release by the IUCN WCPA and the IUCN ISSG, presented at the last World Park Congress (Sydney 2014)



## The general principle of the European Guidelines

Protected areas cannot stop invasions, but can and should play a major role in the struggle against invasions, preventing and mitigating the global effects of this threat by being **reservoirs** of the heritage of native species and ecosystems, **sentinels** of incursions to speed up response at all levels, **champions** for increasing awareness within the different sectors of the society, and **catalysts** for action also beyond their boundaries





# EU LIFE Programme to face IAS in PAs

The main source of EU funding for actions aimed at tackling IAS  
More than 300 projects since 1992, most of them in PAs

## Information and communication



## Involvement of the public



## Active management

