

Cyprus National Legislation on IAS

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Implementation of Regulation 1143/2014

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Presence of first IAS of Union concern in Cyprus

<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	A
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	A
<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	A
<i>Corvus splendens</i>	A
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	A
<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>	A
<i>Heracleum persicum</i>	A
<i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i>	A
<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>	A
<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	A
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	A
<i>Lithobates (Rana) catesbeianus</i>	A
<i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i>	A
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	A
<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	A
<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	A
<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	A

<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	A
<i>Nasua nasua</i>	PC
<i>Orconectes limosus</i>	A
<i>Orconectes virilis</i>	A
<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	A
<i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	A
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	A
<i>Perccottus glenii</i>	A
<i>Persicaria perfoliata (Polygonum perfoliatum L.)</i>	A
<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>	P
<i>Procambarus fallax</i>	A
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	PC*
<i>Pseudorasbora parva</i>	A
<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata (Pueraria lobata)</i>	A
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	A
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	A
<i>Tamias sibiricus</i>	*
<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	PC
<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	P
<i>Vespa velutina nigrithorax</i>	A

Present (P), Present only in contained conditions eg zoos (PC), Absent (A), Absent from nature but has been traded via pet shops, possibly held by non-commercial owners (*)

Distribution of widely spread IAS of Union concern in Cyprus



IAS of Union concern in Cyprus

- ✓ In contained conditions (eg zoos)
- ✓ Held by pet shop owners or citizens



South American coati



Siberian chipmunk



Sacred ibis



Raccoon

Proposed IAS for first update of Union List

- *Pennisetum setaceum*

(Crimson fountaingrass)

- Escaped from private gardens and spreading



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- *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

(Egyptian goose)

-Accidental visitor, also kept as an ornamental / in zoos

-Not established in the wild & no signs of invasiveness over a 10-year period of observations in wetlands (Game & Fauna Service)



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Proposed IAS for second update of Union List

- *Lepomis gibbosus* (sunfish)

- Initially recorded in water reservoirs in 2009, likely introduced by amateur fishermen – established in almost all reservoirs & lakes (incl. Natura 2000 sites)



- *Channa sp.* (snakeheads)

- Introduced in Cyprus as an ornamental fish / no data for its presence in water reservoirs



- *Ailanthus altissima* (tree of heaven)

- Widespread, expanding range towards mountains



Draft

National Law on the Prevention and
Management of the Introduction and
Spread of Invasive Alien Species

(Implementation of Regulation 1143/2014)

Provisions that require regulation at national level

- Designation of competent authorities
- Permit system (for permits and authorizations of Art. 8 &9)
- Inspections system (for establishments with permit/ for compliance checks)
- Penalties (fines, seizures of IAS of union concern, suspension or withdrawal of permits)

➤ *Establishment of a Scientific IAS Committee*


Competent authorities

- Department of Environment (Director) - **National Competent Authority**
- Department of Fisheries & Marine Research (Director)
- Department of Agriculture (Director)
- Department of Forests (Director)
- Game & Fauna Service (Head)

Responsibilities of C.A. defined in Action Plans

Other authorities involved

- Department of Agriculture
- Veterinary Services
- Customs & Excise Department



Official controls at entry points (Article 15)

Scientific Committee

- Role: advisory to the NCA for scientific issues (e.g. IAS proposals for Union and National lists, risk assessments, action plans on pathways, eradication and management measures)

Members:

All Competent Authorities, plus experts from Research Institutions, Universities and NGOs

Action Plans on IAS of Union Concern

- Include: action plans on pathways, eradication and management measures, restoration measures for damaged ecosystems (art. 13, 17, 19, 20)
- The role of each competent authority will be clearly defined
- Committee will advise / public consultations will follow
- Published as Decrees by the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development & Environment

IAS of National Concern

- IAS examined/ proposed by Sc. Committee
- Risk assessment/management or cost-benefit analysis → N.C.A to compile national list
- Action plans developed for each IAS/ public and stakeholder participation
- National IAS List adopted and published as a Decision by the Council of Ministers, restrictions for each species defined

Surveillance system (Art. 14)

- Based on existing surveillance systems designed to monitor Natura 2000 sites, rivers and marine ecosystems and further elaborated

Permit system (Articles 8 & 9)

- For research, ex-situ conservation, scientific production and subsequent medicinal use, on IAS of Union Concern
- For other uses (art. 9), after authorization by the Commission
- Issued by National Competent Authority
- To include conditions set out in Regulation, others as decided by Sc. Committee
- Info about permits published on the internet

Inspection system

- I. Establishments with permit → checks for compliance with permit conditions – suspension or withdrawal of permit
 - II. Commercial owners (pet shops, nurseries, aquaria etc.) → checks for compliance with art. 7 (restrictions)
 - III. Right to issue fines or seize non-compliant IAS (exceptions: under permit, transitional provisions)
- May inspect and accompany the transport of IAS

Costs recovery

- “*Polluter Pays*” national legislation on environmental liability (189(I)/2007)

→ Responsibility of the N.C.A

Public Participation (Law on public participation in respect plans and programmes relating to the environment - Aarhus Convention) 119(I)/2004

- Action Plans published on the internet/ newspapers for public participation
- Ability to express opinion within 35 days
- Final Action Plans published as Minister's Decrees

Penalties

- I. Criminal → Fines/ imprisonment for violations of art. 7 (restrictions) or other infringements
- II. Criminal → Fines/ imprisonment for interference with inspections
- III. Extra-judicial fines on site may be issued by inspectors for minor violations
- IV. Seizures of IAS/ withdrawal of permits

State of IAS legislation procedure

- Public consultations completed
- Under revision / impact assessment
- To Law Office for legal drafting, to the Council of Ministers and the Cyprus Parliament for voting

Challenges with implementation for Cyprus

- Increase public awareness / education and involvement of all stakeholders & interested parties
- Efficient/ effective collaboration and coordination with all competent authorities
- Promotion of scientific research on IAS and collaboration between research institutions/ academia and government bodies
- Identification of most problematic IAS for Cyprus and their introduction pathways → rank those to be proposed for Union or National lists
- Collaboration with neighboring member states with similar biogeographic conditions for management of common IAS and their pathways