



**Activities on Alien Invasive Species in Germany
at the International Day for Biological Diversity,
22. May 2009**

The German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety organised an exhibition in Bonn on Invasive Alien Species (IAS), together with the Botanical Gardens Bonn. Several common but non-native species of flora and fauna were displayed and additional information presented to the public. The programme was extended by excursions to the “aliens next door”, where interested individuals and groups were guided by an IAS-expert. The main aim of these activities was to create awareness on IAS affecting the whole society. It was evaluated to be a great success by the participants’ feedback, but the need for further awareness raising also became clear.

Additional expert meetings were run in the Ministry the same day. One major topic during these strategic discussions was how to implement the new legislative instruments of “monitoring” and “combating” IAS in the federal states of Germany. Others were the German position for an EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species. One outcome worth mentioning was formulations for the EU Council on Environment meeting on the EU Biodiversity Action Plan in June 2009.

On this day a probably high but unknown number of Biological Stations run several public related activities on IAS. Excursions and walks with the focus on discovering alien species and their impacts to e.g. Natural Parks were most prominent on this occasion. The German Friends of the Earth Germany used the days’ inspiration to extend and update their Internet Information on IAS.