Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report

Policy officials known to be involved in public policy with regard to alien species were consulted. In addition, on basis of our own as well as the information and network of the officials, other relevant actors, including relevant research and nature management institutes related to our ministries, were consulted too. This resulted in the following stakeholders having been actively consulted (arranged by type of stakeholder):

Ministries:

- Ministery of Agriculture Nature Management and Fisheries (Department of Nature Management and Department of Agriculture)
- Ministery of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (North Sea Directorate)

Research and nature management institutes related to the ministries:

- Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA)
- National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
- Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research (RIVO)
- National Reference Centre for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries (EC-LNV)
- Plant Protection Service (PD)
- CITES management authority for the Netherlands

Other public institutes:

- the Association of Water Boards

Universities:

- Leiden University: National Research School `Biodiversity'
- University of Groningen: Department of Marine Biology
- University of Nijmegen: Department of Animal Ecology and Ecophysiology

Other types of research organizations:

- Dutch Bryological and Lichenological Society
- Dutch Butterfly Conservation
- Dutch Foundation for Applied Water Research (STOWA)
- European Invertebrate Survey the Netherlands
- FLORON Foundation
- Foundation for Reptile, Amphibian and Fish Research in the Netherlands (RAVON)
- Netherlands Mycological Society

- Organization for the Improvement of Inland Fisheries (OVB)
- VOFF (the umbrella organization of Dutch species survey NGOs)

Nature conservation NGOs:

- Netherlands Committee for IUCN

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Article 8h Alien species

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	X	c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	

3. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	X (see below)
c) a comprehensive system tracks introductions	X (see below)
4. Has your country developed national policies for addressing issues related to alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes – as part of a national biodiversity strategy (please give details below)	
c) yes – as a separate strategy (please give details below)	X (see below)
5. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	X (see below)
c) most alien species have been assessed	
6. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X (see below)
c) potential measures under review	X (see below)
d) comprehensive measures in place	X (see below)

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7. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential projects under way	X (see below)
c) active development of new projects	X (see below)

8. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X (see below)
c) yes – significant extent	

Case-studies

9. Has your country submitted case-studies on the prevention of introduction, control, and eradication of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, in response to the call by the fourth meeting of SBSTTA?	
a) no – please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	
b) yes – please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	X (see below)
10. How many case-studies are available that could be used to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding alien species in your country?	
a) none	
b) 1-2 – limited understanding	
c) >2 – significant information available	X (see below)

Transboundary issues

11. Are known alien invasive species in your country also a problem in neighbouring or biogeographically-similar countries?	
a) not known	
b) none	
c) a few – but in general alien invasive species problems are specific	
d) more than a few - in general we share common problems with other countries	X (see below)
12. Is your country collaborating in the development of policies and programmes at regional, sub-regional or international levels to harmonise measures for prevention and control of alien invasive species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential collaboration underway	
c) development of collaborative approaches for a limited number of species	X (see below)
d) consistent approach and strategy used for all common problems	X (see below)

Further comments

Ad 3) (Has your country identified alien species introduced?)

In 1981, the Netherlands Plant Protection Service carried out a study to determine the number of non-native plant species in the Netherlands and to estimate their invasiveness. A total of 1171 non-native plant species was identified. Only one species was considered `invasive' (Rotteveel 1981).

Based on a survey amongst experts conducted by the National Museum of Natural History, a comprehensive assessment has been published of the numbers of wild animal species, including aliens, occurring in the Netherlands in the 1900-1995 period. Of the 25,215 animal species, approximately 772 were alien animal species, including 178 bird species considered `alien' as their presence had been rare or irregular (Koomen *et al.* 1995).

Based on a survey amongst experts conducted by the Department of Marine Biology of the University of Groningen, an assessment has been made of the number of alien marine species occurring in the Dutch territorial waters in the period from 1750 to present. Approximately 100 species were labelled `alien' (W.J. Wolff, personal communication 2001).

The Department of Animal Ecology and Ecophysiology of the University of Nijmegen has identified and is still surveying the alien macroinvertebrate species of the river Rhine (G. van der Velde, personal communication 2001).

In the program `Network Ecological Monitoring', in which several ministries and public institutes participate, the alien bird species *Oxyura jamaicensis* is systematically surveyed.

The Dutch Foundation for Applied Water Research (STOWA) reports that several alien fresh water plant species have caused problems in the Netherlands, including *Elodea nuttallii* (from 1948) and *Lemna minuta* (from 1988) (see <www.waterland.net/stowa/swg/ws/waternavel/exoten.htm>). STOWA also systematically follows the reported distribution of the alien fresh water plant *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*. (see <www.waterland.net/stowa/swg/ws/waternavel/wn_p6.htm>).

The Wageningen University and the National Herbarium of the Netherlands (NHN) study the recent invasion of the alien fresh water plant *Ludwigia grandiflora* (see <www.slm.wau.nl/wkao/projects/info_waterteunisbloem.html>).

For pests of plants, the Plant Protection Service comprehensively tracks introductions of aliens. If required, the system is also applicable to pests of wild plants.

Further, in a monitoring program, the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA) systematically surveys the macroinvertebrate species, including aliens, of the fresh Dutch national waters.

The Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research (RIVO) systematically surveys fish species, if found present, including aliens, in fresh and marine Dutch national waters. RIVO also surveys benthic species, if found present, including aliens, in marine Dutch national waters.

In ad hoc projects, the Organisation for the Improvement of Inland Fisheries (OVB) surveys fish species, if found present, including aliens, in various inland waters. All results are incorporated in the integral fish species data bank of the OVB.

In a monitoring program from 1999, the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) systematically surveys the following groups of soil species, if found present, including aliens, in various soil habitats: bacteria, nematodes, earthworms, enchytraeids, mites, and springtails.

13 NGOs united in the VOFF, the umbrella organization of Dutch species survey NGOs, have scheduled extensive field surveys in the Netherlands with regard to the following species groups, generally, if found present, including aliens:

- mosses, lichens, macrofungi, higher plants,
- mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fresh water fishes,
- butterflies, moths, micro moths, dragonflies, crickets and grasshoppers, hover flies, carabid beetles, bees,
- soil fauna (woodlice, centipedes and millipedes),
- fresh water molluscs (gastropods and bivalves),
- marine organisms (> 0.5 cm), i.e.: sponges, cnidarians (scyphozoans hydrozoans), ctenophores, sea anemones, various groups of worms, molluscs (gastropods, bivalves, cephalopods), crustaceans (crabs, lobsters, heremit crabs, shrimps, ghost crabs, cirripedes), echinoderms (asteroids, ophiuroids, echinoids), bryozoans, sea squirts, fishes.

Ad 4). (Has your country developed national policies for addressing issues related to alien invasive species?)

With regard to marine alien species, a separate policy for the prevention of their introduction has been outlined in the National Policy for Shipping and Environment.

With regard to pests of plants, an agricultural quarantine policy has been developed within the framework of EU policy and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its standards for phytosanitary measures.

Ad 5). (Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?)

For pests of plants, risks have been assessed for those pests which entail risks for plant species.

For alien macroevertebrate species in the river Rhine, the effects of aliens on ecosystems, including on other species, are investigated.

Ad 6). (Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?)

Already from 1875, the Netherlands have developed several species-specific legal regulations to control alien animal species (Knegtering *et al.* 2000). However, most of the regulations concerned species which were a threat to agricultural interests.

With regard to aliens which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, the following relevant regulations are in force today:

- A Hunting Act 1954 regulation of 1995 which provides extra possibilities for control of the following alien mammals and birds, including species which may threaten ecosystems, habitats or species: *Mustela vison, Procyon lotor, Myocastor coypus, Nyctereutes procyonoides, Ondatra zibethicus, Alopochen aegyptiacus, Oxyura jamaicensis, Tamias sibericus*.
- Because their introduction in natural environments is considered a threat to indigenous wild species, in accordance with the CITES-related EU councel regulation 338/97 (L 61) and

commission regulation 1988/2000 (L 237), it is not allowed to import the amphibian species *Rana catesbeiana* and the reptile species *Trachemys scripta elegans* in the Netherlands.

The following relevant regulations are not in force yet:

- the Flora and Fauna Act 1998 which prohibits releasing animal species in nature,
- a Flora and Fauna Act 1998 regulation of 2000 which prohibits the possession, import, export, selling, transport, etc. of the alien fresh water plant *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* and the alien mammal *Muntiacus reevesi*. For the former species, the regulation also prohibits putting out plants in nature.

With regard to marine alien species, potential measures are under review, i.e. in line with international regulation under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the prevention of species introductions through ballast water, the Netherlands will adopt measures. Within the IMO, a regulation is being made to prevent the introduction of unwanted aquatic organisms by ballast water. The regulation is still under development, has been scheduled for signing in 2003, and will mainly concern the prevention of the introduction of alien species in marine ecosystems.

With regard to pests of plants, the Plant Diseases Act 1951 and the EU Phytosanitary Regulations (2000/29/EC) provide a sound set of phytosanitary regulations which, if required, are also applicable to pests of wild plants.

Ad 7). (Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?)

With regard to marine alien species, discussion on potential projects is under way, i.e., within the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic ("OSPAR Convention"), the prevention of the introduction of aliens through ballast water will be discussed (regional approach).

With regard to marine alien species, several projects assess the situation of the introduction of alien species through ballast water and develop solutions for this problem (national approach).

With regard to pests of plants, there is an active development of new projects.

Ad 8). (Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?)

In the Dutch national plan of 2000 for nature, forests and landscape in the 21st century, which includes biodiversity conservation policy, the issue of alien species is not explicitly addressed. However, the plan does state that "the obligations resulting from the Convention on Biological Diversity will be fully implemented" in the Netherlands.

For marine species, the issue is significantly addressed in the National Policy for Shipping and Environment.

Ad 9). (Has your country submitted case-studies on the prevention of introduction, control, and eradication of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, in response to the call by the fourth meeting of SBSTTA?)

For pests of plants, case studies have been submitted. Based on the case studies, it is argued that defining those pests, which have an indirect injurious effect on plants, is needed to ensure synergy for the implementation of the IPPC and the CBD and is instrumental for reviewing the

International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures. As a contracting party to the IPPC, the Netherlands are obliged to take into account, as appropriate, international standards when undertaking activities related to the IPPC.

Ad 10). (How many case-studies are available that could be used to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding alien species in your country?)

For the general issue of alien species, proceedings of a Dutch seminar on invasive species are in preparation (Bergmans & Blom 2001).

For alien marine species, a report on risks of introductions through ballast water is available (AquaSense 1998).

For alien macroevertebrate species in fresh Dutch national waters, including in the river Rhine, comprehensive scientific publication lists are available (A. bij de Vaate, personal communication 2001; G. van der Velde, personal communication 2001).

Ad 11). (Are known alien invasive species in your country also a problem in neighbouring or biogeographically-similar countries?)

The Chinese Mitten Crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) is also invasive in Germany.

The fresh water plant *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* is also invasive in several other EU Countries.

For pests of plants (agricultural plants), we share common problems with several other countries.

Ad 12). (Is your country collaborating in the development of policies and programmes at regional, sub-regional or international levels to harmonise measures for prevention and control of alien invasive species?)

The Netherlands participate in the Expert Group on Legal Aspects of the Introduction and Reintroduction of Wildlife Species. This expert group has been set up by the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Council of Europe/ Bern Convention). The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention has adopted Recommendation no. 57 (adopted on 5 December 1997) on the introduction of organisms belonging to non-native species into the environment, Recommendation no. 58 (adopted on 5 December 1997) on the reintroduction of organisms in the environment, and Recommendation no. 77 (adopted on 3 December 1999) on the eradication of non-native terrestrial vertebrates.

With regard to marine alien species, within OSPAR, a discussion on potential collaboration is underway (see also Ad. 7).

For pests of plants, collaborative approaches are developed for a limited number of species.

Further, with other European Water Board organizations, the Association of Water Boards is seeking to develop a joint strategy for the control of the invasive fresh water plant *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides.*

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