

## **Bioinvasion and Global Environmental Governance: The Transnational Policy Network on Invasive Alien Species**

### Greece's Actions on IAS

#### **Description<sup>6</sup>**

Greece, officially the Hellenic Republic, is a country in southeastern Europe, situated on the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula. It has borders with Albania, the Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north, and Turkey to the east. The Aegean Sea lies to the east and south of mainland Greece, while the Ionian Sea lies to the west. The climate of Greece can be categorised into three types (the Mediterranean, the Alpine and the Temperate) that influence well-defined regions of its territory.

Greece achieved independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1829. During the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, it gradually added neighboring islands and territories, most with Greek-speaking populations. Greece's current population is about 10 million. The 1974 democratic elections and a referendum created a parliamentary republic and abolished the monarchy. Greece is a member of the European Union (since 1981), NATO, and the OECD.

#### **Overview of Biodiversity**

As a result of complex geographical relief and, until recently, mild human activities, Greece possesses great biological diversity, both at the species and ecosystem levels. There are twenty-five habitat types, the most important of which are maquis, phrygana, wetlands, and forest habitats. With the longest coastline in the Mediterranean, marine and coastal habitats are also very important to Greece.

- [CBD Country Profile](#)
- [Earth Trends Country Profile on Biodiversity and Protected Areas](#)
- [Zoological Museum of the University of Athens's Biodiversity Web Page](#)

#### **Legislation relating to IAS**

- [Presidential Order No. 33 laying down measures for the control of avian influenza, in compliance with Council Directive 2005/94/EC](#) (31 March 2008)
- See table below

#### **Government Agencies/Programs/Ministries dealing with IAS**

- [The Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works](#)
- [The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research \(HCMR\)](#)
- [The Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food](#)
- The National Parks and Game Management
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Greece in the World](#)

### Major Invasive Alien Species<sup>1</sup>

<a href="#"><i>Aedes albopictus</i></a> (insect)	<a href="#"><i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i></a> (vine, climber)
<a href="#"><i>Aphanomyces astaci</i></a> (fungus)	<a href="#"><i>Mnemiopsis leidyi</i></a> (comb jelly)
<a href="#"><i>Carassius auratus</i></a> (fish)	<a href="#"><i>Myocastor coypus</i></a> (mammal)
<a href="#"><i>Codium fragile spp tomentosoides</i></a> (algae)	<a href="#"><i>Rattus rattus</i></a> (mammal)
<a href="#"><i>Crassostrea gigas</i></a> (mollusc)	<a href="#"><i>Schizoporella unicornis</i></a> (bryozoan)

### Native Species Exported/Introduced to Non-Native Environments<sup>1</sup>

<a href="#"><i>Brassica tournefortii</i></a> (herb)	<a href="#"><i>Sabella spallanzanii</i></a> (annelid)
<a href="#"><i>Butomus umbellatus</i></a> (aquatic plant)	<a href="#"><i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i></a> (aquatic plant)
<a href="#"><i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i></a> (herb)	<a href="#"><i>Salix cinerea</i></a> (tree, shrub)
<a href="#"><i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i></a> (mollusc)	<a href="#"><i>Trapa natans</i></a> (aquatic plant)
<a href="#"><i>Onopordum acanthium</i></a> (herb)	<a href="#"><i>Typha latifolia</i></a> (aquatic plant)
<a href="#"><i>Rhamnus alaternus</i></a> (tree)	

### Table 1 Actions to prevent, detect and manage IAS categorized into three themes: biodiversity, human health, and economic

Note: Actions (such as projects, publications and programs) are classified according to the most obvious theme but may also fit into the dimensions of another.

Theme	Action
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greece has adopted several EU regulations and directives:<sup>2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 11 of the Directive 79/409/EEC on invasive alien bird species</li> <li>Article 22 of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC on invasive alien species</li> </ul> </li> <li><a href="#">The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research</a> (HCMR) has conducted research on marine invasive species and has published an update of marine IAS in Hellenic waters.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>ELNAIS has been established, which is a network of marine researchers working on IAS; the group includes 34 scientists and 9 research institutes/ Universities; ELNAIS also includes a database of marine IAS in Greece.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Presidential Decree 365/2002 concerns plant health control and plant diseases; this national legislation transposes the Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the European Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>About 167 nature sites have been proposed by the Ministry for the Environment and are being examined for inclusion in the NATURA 2000 network of the EU; if included this will represent approximately 80% of the nations habitat types and most of the endemic species.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>Awareness raising and information campaigns on issues of</li> </ul>

	<p>sustainable management of natural resources for local authorities and NGOs has been conducted by the Biotope Wetland Centre of the <a href="#">Ministry for the Environment</a>.<sup>5</sup></p>
Human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-lateral collaboration is established in control of plant and animal pests by <a href="#">the Ministry of Rural Development and Food</a>.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• For animal health, the relevant authority in Greece is the Infectious Diseases Department of the Directorate General of Veterinary Services under <a href="#">the Ministry of Rural Development and Food</a>.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greece has adopted several EU regulations and directives:<sup>2</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Articles 4(6)(d) and 9(6) of the wildlife trade regulation 338/97/EEC</li> <li>- Four IAS species are subject to an import ban under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1497/2003 of 18 August 2003 amending Council Regulation 338/97/EC: Red-eared slider <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>; <i>Chrysemys picta</i>; American Bullfrog <i>Rana catesbeiana</i>; and the Ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Greece has assessed the risks posed by IAS mainly with regards to aquaculture; assessments are conducted by a national Committee ‘that has been established for the control of all requests for introducing such species for aquaculture’. A National Committee has been established to oversee the approval procedures for requests of aquaculture using alien species.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• National legislation is in place for border controls through Customs House to regulate intended and unintended introductions of IAS.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• The International Conventions Department is mandated with the implementation of CITES, carrying out all necessary checks, and the issuing of certificates/permits at the national level.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Ministerial Decision No 113440/5227 (Ministry of Rural Development and Food) ‘Designation of Members of the Scientific Authority’ Government Gazette No 1662/B’/10-11-2004:<sup>3</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for the creation of a Scientific Committee on Trade in Species of wild fauna and flora in the General Directorate for the Development and the Protection of Forests and Natural Environment.</li> <li>- Committee members are to consist of appointed specialists in the management and protection of wildlife.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Table 2 Actions on IAS in cooperation with other countries**

<b>Agreement/ Organization</b>	<b>Countries/ Member</b>	<b>Action</b>
Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the field of environmental protection between the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works of the Hellenic Republic and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Albania (Athens, 3/4/2003) Law 3368 (Gov.Gaz 170/06.07.2005). <sup>7</sup>	Greece and Albania	Nothing specific for IAS
Agreement between the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works of the Hellenic Republic and the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on cooperation in the field of environmental protection (Athens, 1/11/2002) Law 3367 (Gov.Gaz 169/06.07.2005). <sup>7</sup>	Greece and Bulgaria	Nothing specific for IAS

**References**

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4. World Organization for Animal Health. “OIE Members.” Retrieved 13 November 2008, from [http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/PM/en\\_PM.htm?e1d1](http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/PM/en_PM.htm?e1d1)
5. United Nations. “Agenda 21 – Natural Resource Aspects of Sustainable Development in Greece.” Retrieved 13 November 2008, from <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natinfo/countr/greece/natur.htm#biodiv>
6. Country descriptions are compiled from the Central Intelligence Agency’s World FactBook, available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>, and Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopaedia, available at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page).

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