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# **European Guidelines on Protected Areas and invasive alien species: A web survey to support the development of the guidelines**

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# 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 **adopted by the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats** (Dec 2013)



EUROPEAN GUIDELINES  
ON PROTECTED AREAS AND  
INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES



The Guidelines should be considered **as an implementation of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species** and a contribution to the ongoing development of the EU strategy on IAS

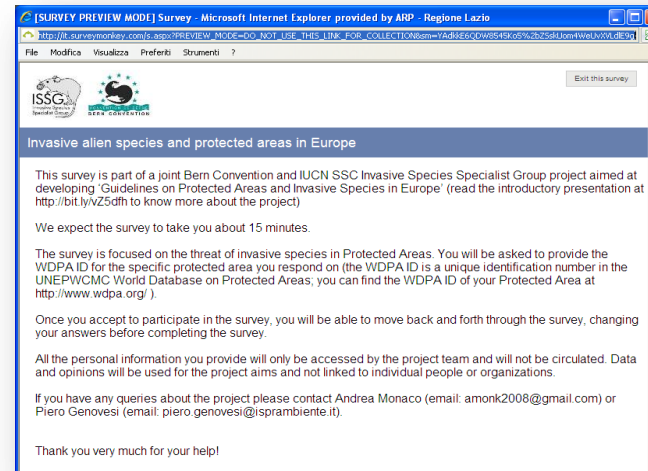
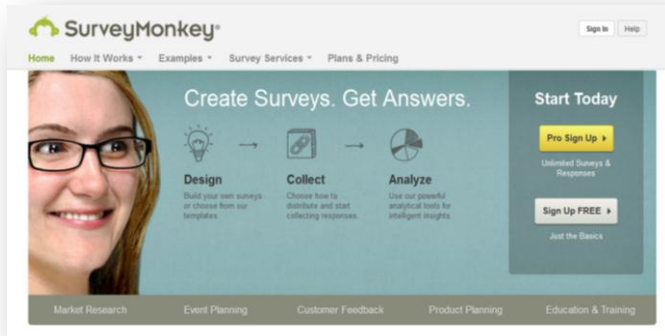
**Present a set of key principles** that should be adopted for protected areas, in order to prevent and manage the threat of IAS at all scales.

Aimed mainly to **PAs managers and staff, practitioners, decision makers and local communities** in the mainstreaming of the IAS issue into all aspects of protected area management



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# A web survey on IAS and PAs



## TO COLLECT RELEVANT INFORMATION AND OPINIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES

### TOPICS

- threats
- impacts
- management options
- key impediments in dealing with IAS
- top invasive species (animals and plants)



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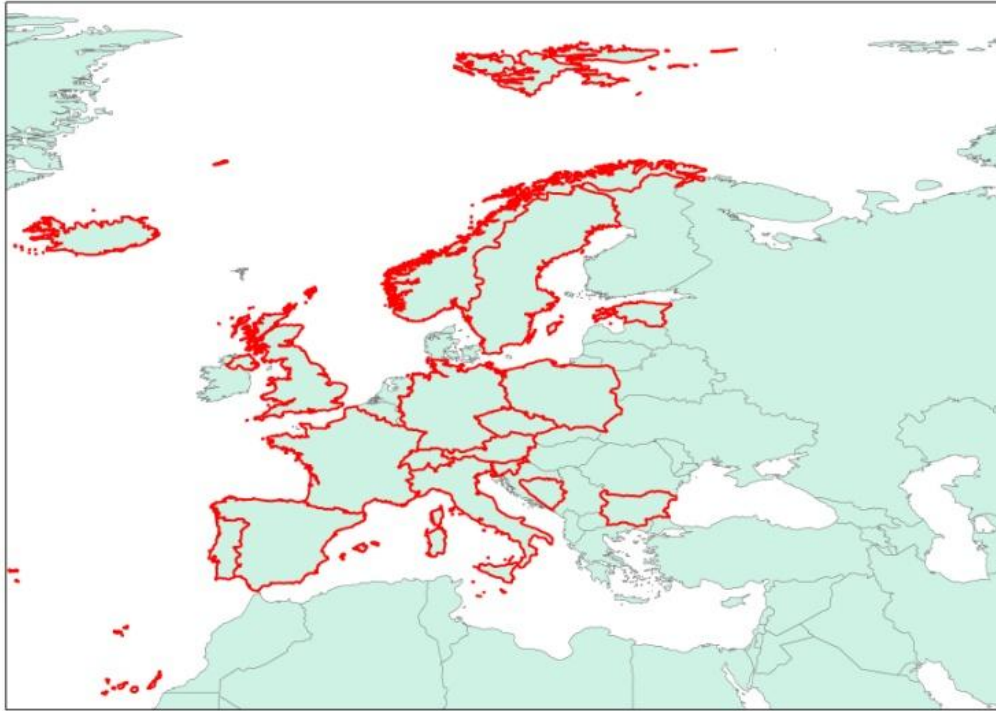
# Protected areas in Europe: a brief overview

- The term “Protected Area” covers a wide variety of designations and management regimes
- Mean level of human presence is higher than in other continents
- PAs in EU cover about 15% of the total surface (higher if we consider also sites designed in Natura 2000 network and Emerald Network)<sup>1</sup>
- European PAs are, on average, very small in size (90% smaller than 1,000 ha and 65% smaller than 100 ha)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>European Environment Agency (2012) “Protected areas in Europe: an overview”. EEA Report 5/2012



# A web survey on IAS and PAs



**138 responses from 21 countries**  
**alpine to marine PAs**



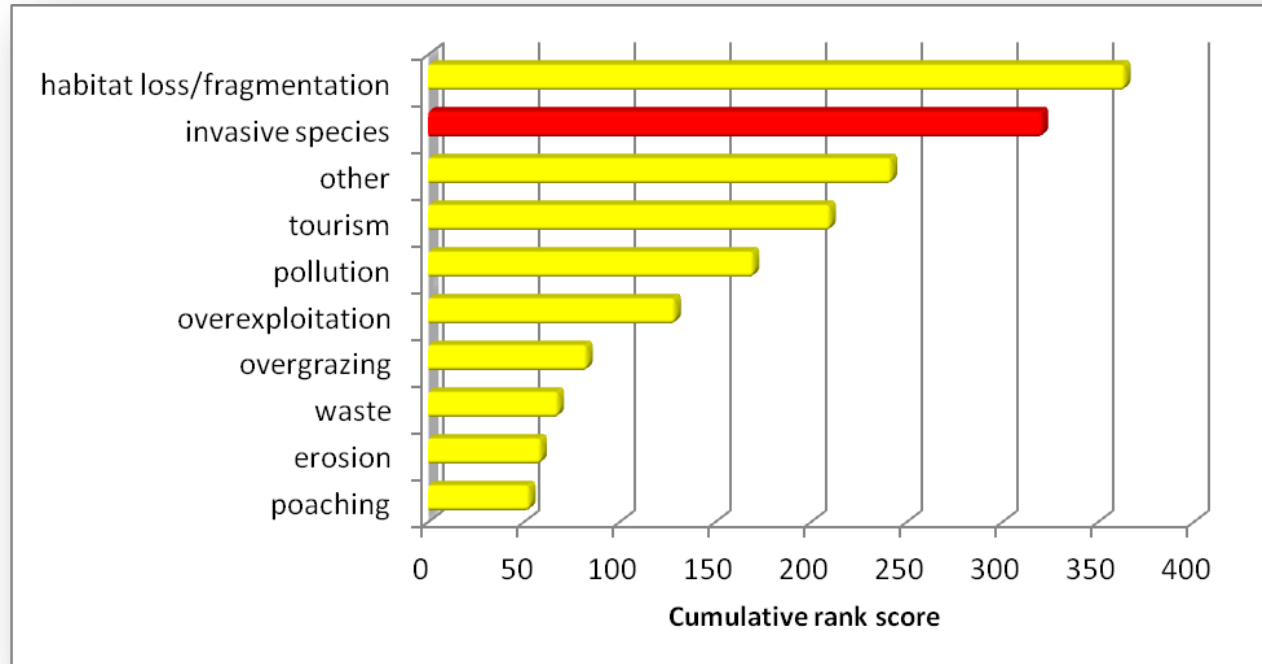
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# A web survey on IAS and PAs

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

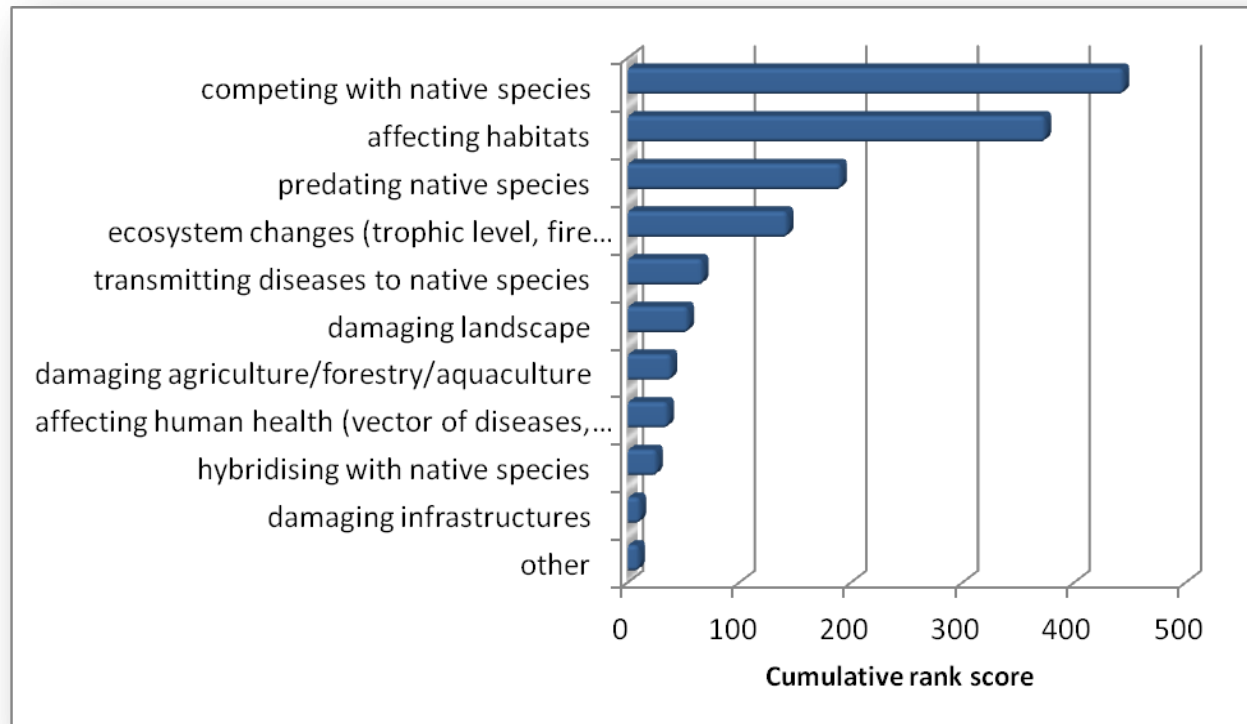


high concern about the threats posed by IAS



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE WORST IMPACTS CAUSED BY INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR PA?

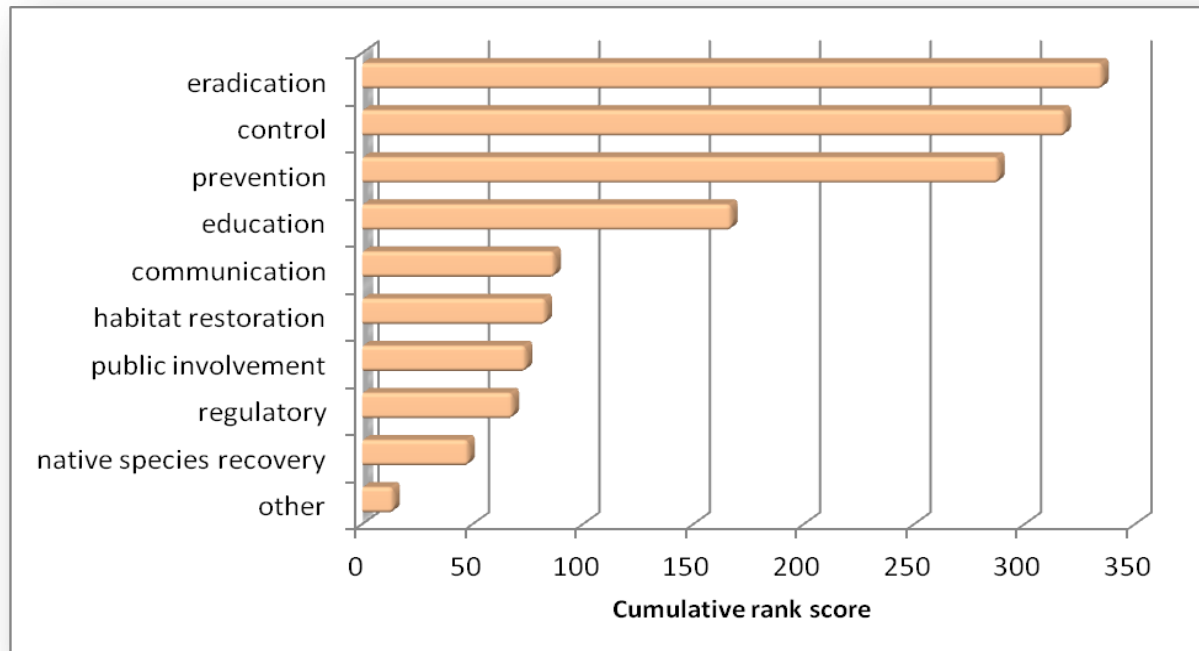


merging both plants and animals, competition with native species and changes on habitats and ecosystem functioning



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS TO DEAL WITH THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR PROTECTED AREA?



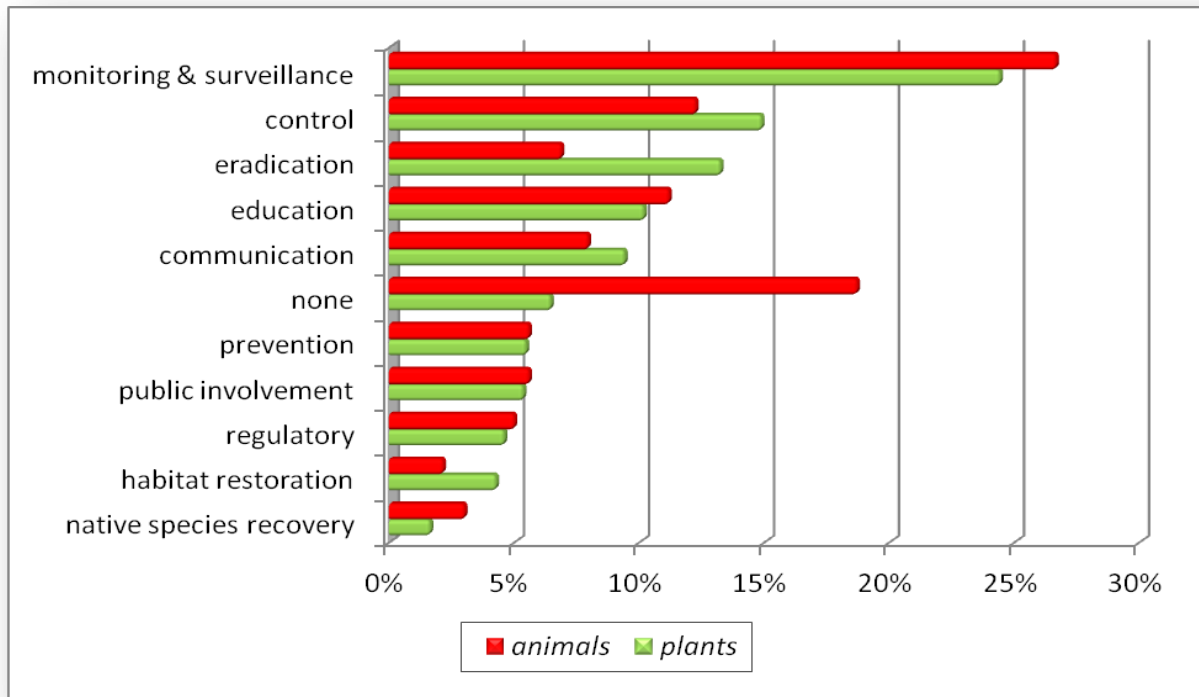
PAs tend to focus more on responding to invasions  
than working on prevention





# A web survey on IAS and PAs

WHAT ARE THE KIND OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE TOP INVASIVE SPECIES BEING IMPLEMENTED IN YOUR PROTECTED AREA?

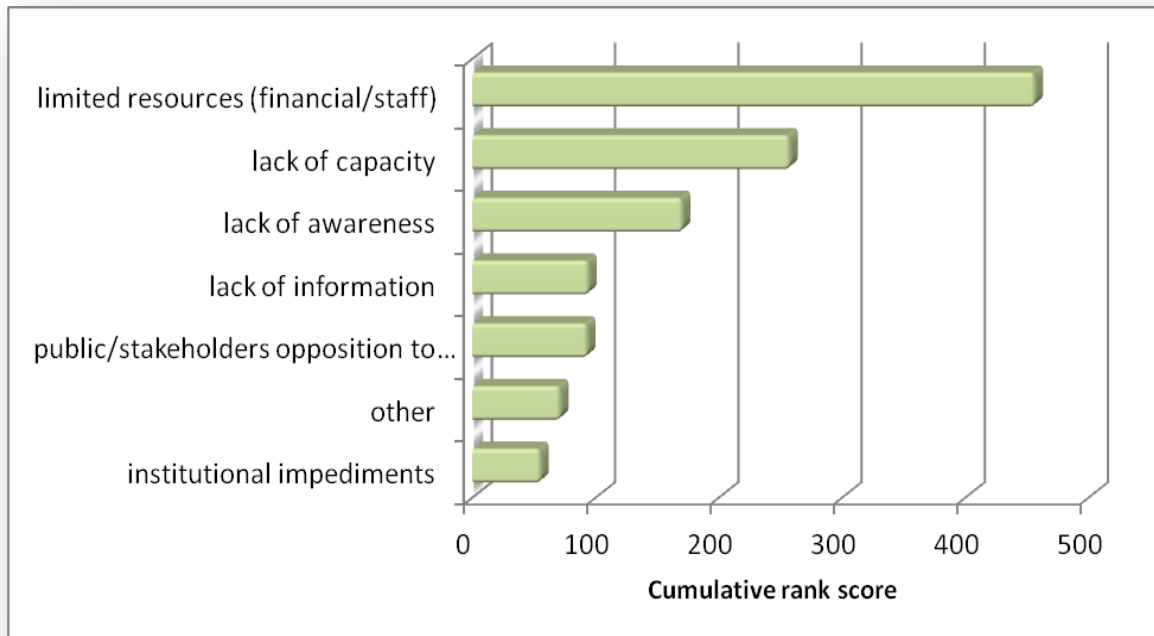


active management options are under-represented compared with how frequently they are suggested as being the best strategy.



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

**WHAT IN YOUR OPINION ARE THE KEY IMPEDIMENTS IN DEALING WITH THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR PROTECTED AREA?**



**Limited resources, lack of capacity and lack of awareness are the most indicated key impediments**



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

TAXON	NUMBER OF PAs
Neovison vison	27
Myocastor coypus	18
Procambarus clarkii	15
Trachemys scripta	11
Orconectes limosus	10
Sciurus carolinensis	10

Top 5 invasive animals as indicated by European PAs managers  
(tot.= 89 species)



# A web survey on IAS and PAs

TAXON	NUMBER OF PAs
<b>Fallopia japonica et sp.</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Impatiens glandulifera</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Robinia pseudoacacia</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Ailanthus altissima</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Heracleum mantegazzianum</b>	<b>11</b>

Top 5 invasive plants as indicated by European PAs managers  
(tot.= 125 species)



# THM about the web survey on IAS and PAs

- IAS are perceived as the second major threat after habitat loss
- Competition with native species is considered as the worst impact caused by IAS
- Eradication and control are considered as the most effective management options to deal with IAS
- Monitoring is the most implemented activity on IAS
- Limited resources is considered as the key impediment to more effective IAS management





**The survey on invasive species in European Pas was made possible by the support of the Council of Europe, and by the help of many experts, protected areas staff, and organizations, including in particular Europarc, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN Regional Office for Europe, IUCN Med Office, the Group of Experts of the Bern Convention on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks. A special thank to Iva Obretenova and Federico Minozzi for their invaluable help to disseminate the survey.**

**Complete results of the web survey are reported into the Annexe 2 of the European Guidelines on Protected Areas and invasive alien species**

**Thanks for your attention**



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