

What are some things that Guyana is doing in relation to Invasive Alien Species?

- Monitoring at Ports-of-entry by Customs and Trade Administration;
- Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture - conduct inspection for pests and diseases on imported, introduced, and exportation of animals, animal products, plants, and plant products; and
- Establishment of an Invasive Alien Species Task Force, Environmental Protection Agency - set up to produce an inventory of Invasive Alien Species in Guyana and to develop a programme for the long-term monitoring of Invasive Alien Species.

Examples of Invasive Alien Species in Guyana

- *Adenanthera pavonina* (Redbead tree or Red Sandalwood tree);
- *Herpestes javanicus* (Indian mongoose);
- *Psidium guajava* (Guava);
- *Columba livia* (Pigeon);
- *Leucaena leucocephala* (Jumbie bean); and
- *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Mozambique tilapia)

Did you Know? Fact 3



Invasive Alien Species is the second greatest threat to biodiversity.

Exercise 1: Match them.

IAS	Native To	Introduce To
Indian Mongoose	Region between the Mediterranean & China.	Most of the rest of the World.
House Mouse	Europe	Most tropical and sub-tropical locations around the world.
Pigeon	Southeast Asia	West Indies, South America, Japan, Europe, and a few Pacific Islands.
Guava	Central America from Mexico to northern South America.	Worldwide.

Visit <http://www.issg.org/database/species/search.asp?st=100ss> to find out if your answers are correct.



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Invasive Alien Species and the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)



**International Biodiversity Day
May 22, 2009**



What is the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) about?

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an agreement among several countries to sustain the rich diversity of life on Earth.

The three main objectives of the Convention are:

1. Conservation of Biological Diversity.
2. Sustainable use of its components.
3. Fair and equitable sharing arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The Convention was signed by 150 countries, including Guyana, at the Rio Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in December 1992. Guyana later ratified the Convention on August 29, 1994. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the National Focal Point for the Convention.

There are now 190 Parties to the Convention who are committed towards achieving the objectives of the Convention and the 2010 Biodiversity Target (to reduce significantly by 2010 the loss of biodiversity).

To enable more focused actions on specific aspects of biodiversity, the CBD operates through seven thematic programmes of work. These are:

1. Forest Biodiversity.
2. Agricultural Biodiversity.
3. Inland Waters Biodiversity.
4. Marine and Coastal Resources Biodiversity.
5. Mountain Biodiversity.
6. Island Biodiversity.
7. Dry and Sub-Humid lands Biodiversity.

There are also several "cross-cutting issues", which include: Traditional knowledge, Innovations and Practices, **Invasive Alien Species**, Ecosystem Approach, Protected Areas, etc.

This brochure provides information on Invasive Alien Species, as it is the theme for this year's International Day of Biological Diversity being observed on May 22, 2009.

What are Invasive Alien Species?

Invasive alien species are plants, animals, pathogens, and other organisms that are non-native to an ecosystem, and which may cause economic or environmental harm or adversely affect human health. In particular, they impact adversely upon biodiversity, including decline or elimination of native species - through competition, predation, or transmission of pathogens - and the disruption of local ecosystems and ecosystem functions.

Why are they a Problem?

The problem continues to grow at great socio-economic, health and ecological cost around the world. Invasive alien species exacerbate poverty and threaten development through their impact on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and natural systems, which are an important basis of peoples' livelihoods in developing countries. This damage is aggravated by climate change, pollution, habitat loss and human-induced disturbance.

Did you Know? Fact 1



Since the 17th century, invasive alien species have contributed to nearly 40% of all animal extinctions for which the cause is known.

What are the Causes and Impacts of Invasive Alien Species?

Globalization has resulted in greater trade, transport, travel and tourism, all of which can facilitate the introduction and spread of species that are not native to an area. If a new habitat is similar enough to a species' native habitat, it may survive and reproduce. For a species to become invasive, it must successfully out-compete native organisms for food and habitat, spread through its new environment, increase its population and harm ecosystems in its introduced range.

Did you Know? Fact 2



The annual environmental losses caused by introduced pests in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, India and Brazil have been calculated at over US\$ 100 billion.

Tackling the Problem

Prevention is the most cost-efficient and effective method against invasive alien species. Halting the establishment of potentially invasive species in the first place is the first line of defense.

Governments: Conduct Customs checks; Inspect shipments; Conduct Risk assessments; and Set quarantine regulations to try to limit the entry of invasive species.

It is also important to educate the general public and raise awareness so that informed decisions can be made. Invasive alien species are a global issue that requires collaboration among governments, economic sectors and non-governmental and international organizations, and individuals including policymakers, consumers, horticulturalists, landowners, educators, youth and recreationists.

The CBD and Invasive Alien Species

The CBD and its members recognize that there is an urgent need to address the impact of invasive alien species. Article 8(h) of the CBD states that, "Each contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species". The CBD has adopted guidance on prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, which can be accessed on the CBD website, www.cbd.int (Decision VI 23).