



Invasive Alien Species Policy

Version 3

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Document Control

The Genetic Resources Unit Manager will be responsible for the periodic review of this document.

Document Responsibility

Title	Invasive Alien Species Policy
Directorate	Research
Unit	Genetic Resources Unit
Manager	Genetic Resources Unit Manager
Applicable to	All staff

Document Revision History

Version	Endorsed by	Meeting Reference	Date Endorsed	Approved by	Meeting Reference	Date Approved	Effective Date	Sections Modified
1	Senior Leadership Team	n/a	Jun-04	Board of Trustees	n/a	Jun-04	Jun-04	New Guideline
2	Senior Leadership Team	SLT-SI-06-14	29-May-14	Board of Trustees	BOT60-D31	27-Nov-14	28-Nov-14	All sections reviewed.
3	Senior Leadership Team	SLT-FIN-06-18	31-Oct-18	Board of Trustees	BOT68-D17	30-Nov-18	1-Dec-18	All sections reviewed.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1. This policy is intended to guide ICRAF and its partners on how to prevent and mitigate the negative effects to biodiversity, ecosystems and human enterprise that could result from the introduction, both intentional and unintentional, of invasive alien tree species.
- 1.2. The policy aims to ensure ICRAF's compliance with international legislations such as [International Plant Protection Convention](#) (IPPC), [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), [WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](#) (SPS Agreement), and any other [FAO's Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests](#), [FAO's Requirements for Phytosanitary Certificates](#), and any other specific host country regulations regarding invasive alien species.
- 1.3. The policy will guide the ICRAF researchers to make informed choices in pursuit of ICRAF's goal that aims to promote ecosystem resilience through use of wide intra-and inter-specific tree diversity.
- 1.4. This document is an update of the 2014 Alien Invasive Species Policy.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This is a Centre-wide Policy and is applicable to all ICRAF staff, including students, research fellows and consultants, located in all countries where the Centre operates, including ICRAF-mediated germplasm dispatch from those countries to parties in countries where ICRAF does not operate.
- 2.2. Partners and their staff collaborating with ICRAF are required to comply with this policy as it affects their activities on ICRAF-led projects.
- 2.3. ICRAF will not engage in partner-led projects which do not adhere to international legislations (section 1.2 above) and other country specific policies or legislations for dealing with invasive alien species.

3. Definitions

The following definitions are used for terms included in this policy¹.

- 3.1. *Alien species*: (synonyms: non-native, non-indigenous, foreign, exotic) a species, subspecies, or lower taxon introduced outside its present or recent historical natural distribution; includes any plant, part, gamete, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such taxa that might survive and subsequently reproduce.
- 3.2. *Casual alien species*: Alien species that may flourish and even reproduce occasionally in an area, but which do not form self-replacing populations, and which rely on repeated introductions for their persistence.
- 3.3. *Environmental weeds*: Alien plant taxa that invade natural vegetation and, adversely affect native biodiversity and/or ecosystem functioning.
- 3.4. *Invasive alien species*: Plants, animals, pathogens and other organisms that are exotic, non-indigenous or non-native to an ecosystem, and which may cause economic or environmental harm

¹ Adopted from: Richardson et al (2000) Naturalization and invasion of alien plants: concepts and definitions. *Diversity and Distributions* 6, 93-107

or adversely affect human health. They spread aggressively, and which threaten indigenous ecosystem functioning and biodiversity. They may include naturalized species.

- 3.5. *Naturalized species*: Alien species that reproduce consistently (c.f. casual alien species) and sustain populations over more than one life cycle without direct intervention by humans; they often reproduce freely, and do not necessarily invade natural, semi-natural or human-made ecosystems.
- 3.6. *Phytosanitary measures*: Any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of pest plants (c.f. alien invasive plants) [see FAO, 1995; revised IPPC, 1997; ISPM, 2002]
- 3.7. *Plant introduction*: The purposeful or unintentional movement by humans of tree and shrub species propagules outside its natural range and dispersal potential. This movement can be either within a country, or between countries. Such introduction should not be construed as applying only to initial introductions but applies also to any purposeful or unintentional movement of said propagules.
- 3.8. *Pre-cautionary measures*: Considerations and activities to be undertaken when dealing with a tree species suspected to be potentially invasive. This may include consultation experts on invasive tree species specialist, review of information on species behaviour elsewhere, risk assessment, contained screening or field testing.
- 3.9. *Weeds*: Plants (not necessarily alien) that grow in sites where they are not wanted, and which usually have detectable economic or environmental effects (Synonyms: pest plant, harmful species).

4. Policy Statement

- 4.1. ICRAF is committed to operating in conformity with all international legislation relating to plant genetic resources, including on their transfer to different locations.

4.2. Principles

ICRAF activities and response to issues on invasive alien tree species shall be guided by the following principles:

- 4.1.1 ICRAF supports the four major options available for dealing with alien invasive species, namely: prevention, early detection, control and eradication.
- 4.1.2 Prevention shall mainly be addressed through compliance with phytosanitary best practices and authenticating the species status from recognized database².
- 4.1.3 ICRAF shall support and collaborate with partners in research in both anthropogenic and natural ecosystems to detect potential plant invaders and facilitate early detection of invasive tree and shrub species.
- 4.1.4 ICRAF recognizes that some useful alien tree species may be potentially invasive, especially in changing socio-economic and land use situations that can turn a beneficial plant into a

² Global Invasive Species Database (<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/>); CABI Database (<http://www.cabi.org/isc>); Global Register (<http://www.griis.org/>)

problem, pre-cautionary measures are therefore required during such tree species introductions.

- 4.1.5 ICRAF recognizes that in many developing countries (where it operates and in others where it seeks to promote agroforestry), national regulations and authorities are not fully developed or adequately supported. Considering that between 0.5% and 0.7% of the world's tree and shrub species are currently invasive outside their natural range, ICRAF seeks to follow best international practice for invasive alien species, rather than minimum legal or regulatory compliance.
- 4.1.6 This policy should not be interpreted to imply that ICRAF is against the introduction of exotic tree and shrub species within or between countries. However, ICRAF acknowledges that it has a responsibility to undertake activities that minimize unintended negative impacts.
- 4.1.7 Where necessary, ICRAF shall engage the expertise of specialists in invasive tree species field or relevant institutions to undertake risk assessment before the introduction of a suspected potentially invasive tree species.
- 4.1.8 Where accidental introductions of the alien invasive tree species may have occurred, ICRAF shall support and collaborate with partners to develop suitable control and eradication measures.
- 4.1.9 ICRAF recognizes the significance of increasing awareness about invasive alien species to facilitate their effective management. When disseminating tree information through its [Agroforestree \(AFT\) Database](#), [Agroforestry Species Switchboard](#) and other related germplasm information resources, ICRAF shall provide comprehensive biosafety information on the tree species covered in these resources through links to globally recognized databases³
- 4.1.10 Movement of germplasm between countries under ICRAF facilitated projects, shall comply with the host country's phytosanitary requirements and germplasm recipients shall sign the Material Transfer Agreements as outlined in the [ICRAF Genetic Resources Policy](#)

4.3. Invasive species categories

The following categories of invasive species are generally recognized:

- Category 1: Invasive species which must be combatted and eradicated. Any form of trade or planting is strictly prohibited.
- Category 2: Species deemed to be potentially invasive, for which precautionary measures is required to carry out a restricted activity.
- Category 3: Invasive species which may remain in prescribed areas or geopolitical units, e.g. provinces, districts, countries, etc. Further planting, propagation or trade, is however prohibited.

³ Global Invasive Species Database (<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/>); CABI Database (<http://www.cabi.org/isc>); Global Register (<http://www.griis.org/>); Global Register (<http://www.griis.org/>) for country specific categories

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Individuals involved in overseeing the implementation and compliance of the policy include:

- 5.1. ICRAF Proposal Review Committee shall ensure compliance with the GRU Proposal Checklist during proposal development, project start up and project close out.
- 5.2. ICRAF Genebank Manager shall ensure genebank adherence to the ICRAF Genetic Resources Policy and relevant Genebank standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- 5.3. Regional coordinators and regional genebank focal persons shall ensure adherence to the ICRAF Genetic Resources Policy and relevant Genebank standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the regions.
- 5.4. ICRAF Monitoring, Evaluation, Impact and Acceleration (MEIA) Unit shall contribute to monitoring the impact of tree species introduced through ICRAF projects

6. Review

- 6.1. This policy will be reviewed every three years or more frequently if required by the Genetic Resources Unit.
- 6.2. Any changes made to the Policy will be presented to the Senior Leadership Team for endorsement and thereafter submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

7. Related Documentation

The following documents will assist policy users and readers in understanding or implementing this policy:

- 7.1 [ICRAF Genetic Resources Policy](#)
- 7.2 [Global Invasive Species Programme](#)
- 7.3 [Invasive Species Compendium - CABI](#)
- 7.4 [Invasive Species Specialist Group](#)
- 7.5 [International Plant Protection Convention](#) (IPPC)
- 7.6 [FAO's Requirements for Phytosanitary Certificates](#)
- 7.7 [FAO's Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests](#)
- 7.8 [WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures](#) (SPS Agreement)
- 7.9 [The Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)