



Invasive Alien Species: the Urban Dimension

Strengthening local action in Europe's urban areas

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Speakers' biographies

JULIA MARTON-LEFÈVRE

Julia Marton-Lefèvre is Director General of IUCN. Prior to this position, she was Rector of the University for Peace, Executive Director of LEAD International and Executive Director of The International Council for Science. She is a member of several boards, including the UN Global Compact, the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, and Oxford University's James Martin School. She is a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science and a member of the World Future Council. Ms. Marton-Lefèvre has co-authored numerous books and papers. She is a recipient of the AAAS Award for International Cooperation in Science, Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur (France), Chevalier dans l'Ordre de Saint-Charles (Monaco) and the ProNatura award (Hungary). Born in Hungary, Ms. Marton-Lefèvre studied history, ecology and environmental planning in the US and in France.



IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

GIAN-RETO WALTHER

Dr. Gian-Reto Walther works as a scientific officer of the Species, Ecosystems, Landscapes Division at the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). His field of responsibility at FOEN includes neobiota (alien species) and climate change impacts on biodiversity.



ULRICH WITTE

Ulrich Witte, born January 29, 1954 in Sögel (Germany), rendered his civilian service in Hamburg from 1973-74, subsequent to the German school leaving examination (Abitur) in 1972. Studies at the University of Münster from 1974-79 in the subjects of German philology and social sciences completed he with the First State Examination for teachers at secondary schools. He earned a doctorate in German philology in 1981 in the field of the history of the German language. The following teacher training at the Max-Planck-Gymnasium in Dortmund from 1983-84 was concluded with the Second State Examination. From 1985-91 Ulrich Witte worked as an expert on educational questions at the Catholic Academy Ludwig Windthorst House in Lingen, focusing on environment, school and politics; and in addition he took over the management of the Ludwig Windthorst Foundation in 1987. In 1991, Ulrich Witte joined the newly founded Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (German Federal Environmental Foundation) as head of the unit environmental education. From 1992-2005 he was deputy head of the department of environmental communication and also coordinates the international contacts of the foundation since 1997. Since 2005, Ulrich Witte is head of the department of environmental communication and cultural assets. He represents the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt in numerous advisory boards and committees at national and international levels, including the German National Committee of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.



JONATHAN JESCHKE

Jonathan Jeschke is Assistant Professor at the Technische Universität München, Germany, and Visiting Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, New York, USA. He held research positions at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany; Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, New York, USA; and University of Helsinki, Finland. He has authored over 60 publications and served as editor of ten scientific journals. His research interests focus on biological invasions, other novel organisms (e.g. GMOs), biodiversity, predator-prey interactions, and other basic and applied ecological topics.



RICCARDO SCALERA

Riccardo Scalera is a naturalist with over 16 years of professional experience in the field of conservation biology, wildlife management and vertebrate ecology, and a proficient expertise on European environmental policy and legislation, particularly in the field of nature protection and biodiversity (e.g. Habitats and Birds directives), sustainable exploitation of natural resources (e.g. in relation to the CITES and related Wildlife Trade regulations, etc.) and some relevant financial programmes (LIFE). In relation to invasive alien species, Riccardo has been actively contributing to the development of key policy documents, e.g. by working for several public institutions and private companies, including the European Commission, the EEA, the JRC, the Council of Europe, IUCN International, WWF-European Policy Programme, the University of Auckland. Furthermore, since 2009 he is Programme Officer of the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group and co-editor of Aliens: the Invasive Species Bulletin.



JOHN KELLY

John Kelly has recently joined the Royal Society for Protection of Birds as a Globally Threatened Species Programme Manager. He is part of the International Policy and Species Recovery Department and manages a number of species recovery projects. This work focuses on invasive species eradication projects on islands in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories and elsewhere around the globe. Flagship projects include the restoration of Henderson Island through the eradication of Pacific rats. More information can be found at www.rspb.org.uk/hendersonisland. Before joining the RSPB, John was Project Manager and Principle Investigator for Invasive Species Ireland (ISI). This initiative covers both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and was funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. John worked on ISI for almost seven years and developed a wealth of experience relating to invasive species and their management. Key work programmes from this time include the development of prioritisation and risk assessment methodologies for Ireland and Northern Ireland; an extensive stakeholder engagement programme including education and awareness campaigns; invasive species action plans across taxa and environments; and undertaken desk based research projects relating to invasive species and their management and control.



MYRIAM DUMORTIER

Myriam Dumortier is working for the European Commission on the development of a dedicated legislative instrument on invasive alien species. She is also a visiting professor lecturing Nature and Forest Policy at the University of Ghent. Earlier, she was responsible for the reporting on the state of biodiversity in Flanders at the Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO). During the nineties, she was working in Nepal and Sri Lanka (and shortly in Tunisia), dealing with community forestry and rural development. She holds a PhD in grassland management and a Master degree in forestry from the University of Ghent.



ANGELO SALSÌ

Angelo Salsi was born in Bolzano in the very north of Italy. This is a region known as Südtirol where three different linguistic groups live together in a peaceful and successful way. As Bolzano did not host any university I moved to Bologna to continue my studies. There I majored in agricultural sciences and started my career as agrometeorologist: the guy who tells the farmers which way the wind will blow. It was a great job that I loved and I still miss today, but things must change. In 1992 I succeeded in winning a competition at the European Commission. Two years after I joined "the House" working for the Nature Conservation department of the Directorate General for Environment. It was another love story that lasted almost 10 years. Saving butterflies and birds has a lot to do with the old Native American proverb that says: "We do not inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children". In 2000 I was appointed deputy head of a new department - "The Life Unit". This unit was responsible for the management of the whole Life financial program, financing projects covering all possible environmental aspects. A great opportunity for me to learn and to stay in contact with the territory, something I greatly appreciate. In 2005 it was time to move to a management responsibility as head of a new finance unit. It was a wonderful experience helping me shaping my skills in the challenging world of management. After several years dealing with contracts and invoices I am back to my old love: nature conservation and biodiversity. I am now responsible for the Life Nature unit. Once more on the front line helping member states and all concerned parties to protect Europe's natural heritage and the wider biodiversity of which we are part.



SARAH BRUNEL

After a degree in agronomy, Ms **Sarah Brunel** developed the program on invasive alien plants for the south of France from 2001 to 2005. This program involved setting lists of invasive alien plants, developing management measures with land managers and voluntary initiatives with the nursery industry. Communication actions toward the general public were also undertaken, yielding more than 100 press articles, as well as TV and radio transmissions. For the last 7 years, Ms Sarah Brunel has worked for the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, which provides recommendations on Plant Health to its 50 member countries. Within EPPO, Ms Sarah Brunel is specifically in charge of invasive alien plants, pest risk analysis, environmental issues and modelling.

She is also an expert for the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the European and Food Safety Authority, the European Environment Agency and the Bern Convention. She has taken further qualifications in international affairs and in environment anthropology to broaden her understanding of environmental matters.



KAREN HARPER

Karen Harper is currently responsible for the day to day running of the London Invasive Species Initiative. The principal aim of the project is to promote the prevention, early detection and control/eradication of invasive non-native species across London, with the primary focus on wetland and aquatic species. This entails the development and implementation of the LISI action plan with particular emphasis on the delivery of several control and eradication projects to benefit the Water Framework Directive. Prior to her current position with LISI Karen worked within local government in Australia in natural resource management majoring in invasive species management. Karen completed her Bachelor Degree in Environmental Biology in 2009 and a Diploma of Conservation and Land Management in 2006.



JAN PERGL

The research of **Jan Pergl** focuses on the population biology of invasive plants, with interest in modelling techniques, application of GIS and analysis of large datasets. Currently I am a project coordinator of the research project "Naturalization of garden plants as a result of interplay of species traits, propagule pressure and residence time" and I participate in the COST project - European Information System for Alien Species. In the past I worked as a post-doc at the University of Bern, Switzerland on a project that updated and analysed the DAISIE database (ALIEN; Analysing Large-scale Invasion patterns using European Inventories - Update and Analysis of European Database of Alien Species 2010-2011). Currently, I am employed at Department of Invasion Ecology at the Institute of Botany. I participated in several EU projects (ALARM, PRATIQUE, DAISIE and GIANT ALIEN), where I was involved in data management and handling the Czech plant database, as well as in population biology studies (mainly on giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*). I closely cooperate with the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic in the field of biological invasions and have developed or contributed to 42 ISI publications and 7 book chapters.



BRIAN BOAG

Brian Boag was employed at the Scottish Crop Research Institute as a soil ecologist between 1971-2003 mainly working on free living soil nematodes which are pests of crops and transmitted plant viruses. In 1991-1993 I received a grant from the Scottish Government to survey Scotland for the presence of the New Zealand flatworm and earthworms. In 1998-2002 I received a further grant from The Scottish Government to research the ecology of the New Zealand flatworm and monitor its population



dynamics. Retired in 2003 but still go daily into the institute (which merged with the Macaulay Land Use Institute in Aberdeen in 2011 and is now called the James Hutton Institute). In 2009-2011 I was employed by the institute to repeat the earthworm survey. My reason for continuing my involvement with the James Hutton Institute is that it allows me to continue scientific research without the distraction of meetings or writing grant applications. The potential detrimental impact of the New Zealand flatworm on the above and below ground environment has meant that since 1992 I have continuously collated the New Zealand flatworm records for Scotland since then and I am in contact with Dr. Hugh Jones and Mr Michael Lole who do the same for England and Dr. Archie Murchie who collects the records for Ireland. My records are deposited with Scottish Natural Heritage and the NBN (National Biodiversity Network) which allows anyone to see the flatworms distribution in the United Kingdom. Over the years I have appeared on many TV/radio programmes and written papers and given papers/posters at numerous meetings to try and raise the profile of the New Zealand flatworm and its potential detrimental impact on the environment.

LUC WAUTERS

Luc Wauters was born in Lier (Belgium) on 29 April 1962 obtained his bachelor degree in Biology, direction Zoology at the University of Antwerp in 1984. In 1990 I obtained my Ph.D. at the University of Antwerp with a study entitled "Population and behavioural ecology of the red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris* L.) in different habitats". In 1989-1990, I also worked as a researcher for the Institute for Forestry and Game Management and for the Institute for Forestry and Game Management of the Flemish Region (Hoeilaart, Belgium). I went back to the University of Antwerp as researcher of the Department of Biology, Research Group for Animal Ecology (Prof. Dr. A.A. Dhondt, Prof. Dr. E. Matthysen). From 1996-98 I held a Marie-Curie TMR grant at the School of Biological Sciences, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, UK collaborating with Prof. John Gurnell. After taking residency in Italy, I started collaborating with the Insubria University of Varese, where I obtained a position as technician-researcher in 2006. Actually I am involved in different scientific projects of the Guido Tosi Research Group, Department of Theoretical and Applied Sciences of the Insubria University, Varese. I am coordinator and responsible scientist of the ASPER project (Alpine Squirrel Population Ecology Research), one of the major research activities in the Department, and member of the task force of the Life+ EC-SQUARE project. My other tasks are: statistical analyses, writing scientific papers, collaborating various research projects (ecology and conservation of bats, mountain hare ecology, ecology and distribution of African wildlife).



NEIL MCINTOSH

Neil McIntosh is Deputy Executive Director at ECNC and is responsible for Strategy and Innovation. Neil graduated from Edinburgh University with an MA awarded with merit. Transferring from Scottish Natural Heritage, where he was part of a small team leading the development of project and partnership working approaches, Neil moved to the Netherlands to work for Eurosite in 2005: from Deputy Director, Neil was appointed as Eurosite's Head of Network Services in 2010. He oversaw the Natura 2000 Networking Programme and has led the development of numerous networking events, including those in multi-sector environments. Specific areas of interest and expertise include partnership working, project and programme development, and conflict reconciliation. Over the years, he has worked in the education, health and environment sectors. Neil has extensive experience in supporting the development of people and organisations, through business planning and implementation. He is a member of the Institute of Leadership & Management, a PRINCE2 Project Management practitioner and is qualified as a trainer and assessor of learning and development programmes. For the last 7 years, Neil has actively participated in the European Habitats Forum and, since 2010, in the EC's Expert Group on Natura 2000 Management. More recently, he has participated in the current New Biogeographic Process, including the Boreal and Atlantic Seminars and preparatory workshops for the Atlantic and Alpine regions.



FIONA HARVEY

Fiona Harvey is an award-winning environment journalist for the Guardian. Prior to this, she worked for the Financial Times for more than a decade. She has reported on every major environmental issue, from as far afield as the Arctic and the Amazon, and her wide range of interviewees include Ban Ki-moon, Tony Blair, Al Gore and Jeff Immelt.



LESLEY DICKIE

Dr Lesley Dickie was educated at the universities of Glasgow (BSc Zoology), Cambridge (MPhil Biological Anthropology) and London (PhD). At Queen Mary, University of London, she undertook her PhD work entitled, 'The Behaviour and Reproductive Physiology of the Fossa (*Cryptoprocta ferax*) in Captivity'. She began her career in zoos at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland as a records and zoo keeper at Edinburgh Zoo. After completing field work in Madagascar and finishing her doctorate she began working at the Zoological Society of London, latterly as the Zoo Conservation programme Manager. Lesley is an editor of the book 'Zoos in the 21st Century: Catalysts for Conservation?' (published August 2007). As of 1st August 2008 Lesley took on her current role as Executive Director of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, based in Amsterdam. EAZA has more than 345 members in 41 countries. Since 2008 Lesley has introduced a number of strategic plans to ensure the future vision of the association, enhanced the impact of EAZA within the EU and in 2011 began the 'EAZA Academy', a zoo and aquarium focused training initiative, after successfully raising independent funds for its creation.



PIERO GENOVESI

Piero Genovesi gained a Masters degree in 1989 and a PhD in 1993 in Animal Ecology at the University of Rome, carrying on research on carnivore ecology. Since 1996 he has worked with the INFS (Italian Wildlife Institute - the Italian government research institute for conservation), focusing on carnivore conservation and alien species. He has coordinated several research projects (eradication and management of invasive alien species, patterns of invasions of mammals, economics of biological invasions, etc.) and worked closely with the Italian Ministry of Environment and with several international institutions (such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and the European Environmental Agency) to develop guidelines and policies on the management of alien species (he is a co-author of the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species). In 2000 he was nominated Chair of the European section of IUCN SSC ISSG, and in 2005 appointed Deputy Chair of ISSG. In this capacity he has coordinated many activities on invasive species, providing technical support to States and institutions in the field of invasive alien species management and for the development of policies on the issue. At present Piero is a senior conservation officer with the ISPRA (Institute for Environmental Research and Protection, created by the Italian Government after the suppression of INFS), where he coordinates the activities on alien species management.

