

# Horizon scanning for future issues affecting invasive species management: The first phase of the Alien Futures project

Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, Helen Bayliss, Thomas Boivin, Franz Essl, Laura Harrison, Julia Touza

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### Horizon scanning for future issues affecting invasive species management: Results from the first phase of the Alien Futures project

<u>Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz</u><sup>1</sup>, Helen Bayliss<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Boivin<sup>3</sup>, Franz Essl<sup>4</sup>, Laura Harrison<sup>5</sup>, Julia Touza<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University, United Kingdom, Coventry, United Kingdom

Horizon scanning, the systematic examination of future potential threats and opportunities, provides a tool to identify key issues that are beginning to emerge as well as developments that might be important for invasive species management in the future.

The Alien Futures project is a horizon scanning activity looking to identify issues (environmental, social or technological) that may affect invasive species management into the next 20 to 50 years. The project consists of three phases: (1) a global online survey to collect topics submitted by practitioners, researchers, and policy makers, (2) a process of ranking submitted topics through online voting by participants of the first phase and additional stakeholders, and (3) the sharing and exploring of topics through the project webpage (www.alienfutures.org), workshops and publications. The survey and voting processes are conducted in English, Spanish and French to allow for a wide participation. The project distinguishes topics at the global and working level of participants. Here, we present the results of the first phase, which started in November 2015, and call for participants to vote on the topics collected. Further project outcomes presented include information on participants' professional background, location and taxonomic expertise as well as habitats and land-use systems they are working with.



Figure 1: A wordle created from the list of global issues submitted by the first 132 participants in the Alien Futures Survey

Keywords: horizon scanning, invasive species management, global survey

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>to be confirmed, Town, United Kingdom

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>INRA, Avignon, France

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Umweltbundesamt, Vienna, Austria

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>University of York, York, United Kingdom