

Invasive alien species (IAS) are alien species whose introduction and/or spread threatens biological diversity (UNEP 2002).

Twenty-two headline indicators were adopted to measure progress towards the goals and sub-targets of the 2010 biodiversity target (UNEP 2005).

Trends in invasive alien species

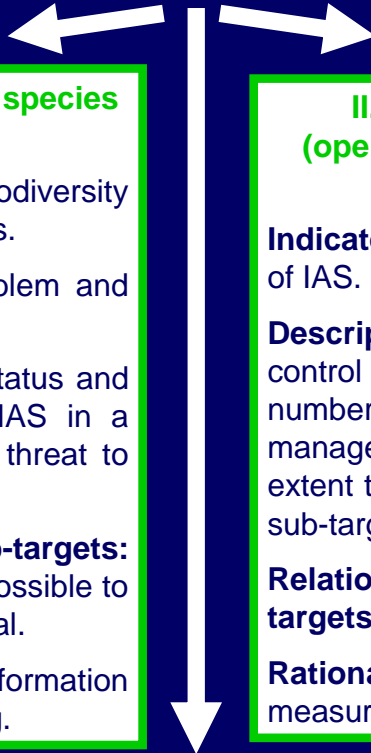
is the only headline indicator relevant to **Goal 6** of the 2010 biodiversity target.

Goal 6: Control threats from invasive alien species.

Sub-target 6.1: Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled.

Sub-target 6.2: Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

The invasive alien species (IAS) indicator currently being developed includes three measures:



I. Number (and identity) of invasive alien species per country.

Directly indicates: Potential threat to biodiversity from IAS, and the identity of problem species.

Indirectly indicates: Size of the IAS problem and the lack of control of introduction pathways.

Description: This is a measure of threat status and assumes that the larger the number of IAS in a country the greater the actual or potential threat to biodiversity posed by IAS in that country.

Relationship to goals and sub-targets: Fundamental to **Goal 6**; without it, it is not possible to measure progress towards achieving the goal.

Rationale for inclusion: Provides an information rich, sustainable baseline for future reporting.

II. Number of species with (operational) management plans (activity or systems).

Indicates: The extent of management of IAS.

Description: This is a measure of IAS control and assumes that the larger the number of IAS with operational management plans the greater the extent to which countries are achieving sub-target 6.2.

Relationship to goals and sub-targets: Relevant to sub-target 6.2.

Rationale for inclusion: Direct measure of IAS management.

III. Number of countries party to IAS-relevant international agreements.

Indicates: The extent to which countries are committed to controlling threats to biodiversity from IAS.

Description: This is a control measure and assumes that the more IAS-relevant international agreements a country is party to, and the longer the period of time that country has been party to those agreements, the more committed the country is to preventing introductions and controlling IAS.

Relationship to goals and sub-targets: This measure is directly related to **Goal 6**. Countries signatory to particular agreements are expected to meet sub-targets 6.1 and 6.2.

Rationale for inclusion: Provides trend data and is policy relevant.

For further information see: <http://www.sun.ac.za/cib/IASI>.

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