

"Building Consensus to Combat the Threat of Invasive Alien species"



First National Conference on Invasive Alien Species Management in Nepal



Date: 26 & 27 Mangsir, 2082 (12th & 13th December, 2025)



Venue: NTNC Auditorium Hall, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal



Organized by

Ministry of Forests and Environment, Forest Research and Training Centre

In Collaboration With: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Department of Forests and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, REDD-IC, Forests for Prosperity Project, Central Department of Botany/Tribhuvan University, Institute of Forestry/Tribhuvan University, National Trust for Nature conservation, NAST, UNDP-BIOFIN, FAO- Nepal, WWF-Nepal, Forest Action, Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Zoological Society of London(ZSL).



Background

Nepal faces growing threats from Invasive Alien Species (IAS), which continue to degrade ecosystems, impact biodiversity, reduce agriculture productions, and affect the livelihoods of communities. Despite these impacts, national efforts to manage IAS remain weak and fragmented. Given this paradoxical situation, there is an urgent need to bring together diverse stakeholders, including government and academic institutions, conservation and development partners, private sectors including non-government organizations, and community representatives to build a shared understanding of the IAS issue and agree on collective and complementary actions. In this context, the *First National Conference on Invasive Alien Species Management in Nepal* will serve as a platform to share knowledge, assess the national status of IAS, discuss effective management approaches, and formulate evidence-based, policy-relevant recommendations. It will also help align national efforts with international commitments such as the United Nation Sustainable Development Goal 15.8 and the Target 6 of the Global Biodiversity Framework 2030 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. At national level, the Conference will also help to meet the objectives of the National Invasive Alien Species

Management Strategy and Implementation Plan endorsed by the Ministry of Forest and Environment in 2025.

🔍 Conference Objectives

1. To review the current national status of IAS, including their diversity, distribution, impacts, policy frameworks, and ongoing management interventions.
2. To raise awareness among diverse stakeholders on the global and national dimensions of the IAS problem.
3. To build national consensus and foster synergy among stakeholders for effective policy and programmatic responses to prevent and control IAS.

✂️ Conference Themes

Thematic area- I: Introduction and Spread

1. **Biosecurity** (plant and animal quarantine) and biological invasions
2. Exotic species for **forestry and agroforestry plantations**
3. **Fishery, aquaculture and aquarium** as pathways for exotic species introduction
4. **Floriculture** and invasive plant introduction
5. Introduction and spread of invasive species through **trade, travel and tourism**
6. **Infrastructure development** and biological invasions

Thematic area- II: Impacts and Control

1. Threats of invasive species to **agriculture and food security**
2. Impacts of invasive alien species on **indigenous people and local communities**
3. Integration of invasive species control in **participatory forest management**
4. Invasive species management in **protected areas and Ramsar sites**

Thematic area- III: Coordination, Collaboration and Policy

1. Integrating invasive species management in **urban planning and urban biodiversity** conservation
2. Roles of **various actors and stakeholders**, conservation and development partners as well as government entities, in the introduction, spread and control of invasive alien species

3. Biological invasions in **school and university curricula**
4. Roles of the **local governments** in invasive species management

X Conference Highlights

This national conference will bring together about 200 participants from diverse sectors, including policymakers, government officials, researchers, academicians, representative of international and nation non-government organizations, professional and community-based organizations, private sector stakeholders, and other individuals/institutions engaged in IAS management.

The National Conference will feature:

- **Keynote speech** by Dr. K. V Sankaran
- **Invited oral presentation** on diverse thematic topics
- **Interactive panel discussions**
- **Poster exhibitions** showcasing research and innovations
- **Experience and lesson sharing** by practitioners, managers and community members

Participants

- Government officials and policy makers
- Researchers and academicians
- Representatives from NGOs/INGOs
- Forest user groups
- Private sectors (Horticulturist, Nurseries, building/construction sectors)
- Farmers and members of indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs)

Expected outputs

-  Enhanced **stakeholder** awareness on IAS threats and responses
-  National consensus on IAS prevention and control strategies
-  Coordinated Implementation of IAS Control Measures across all agencies
-  Scientific articles for a special issue of Banko Janakari

Organizing committees

A. Advisory Committee

1. Dr. Rajendra Kumar Mishra – Secretary, MOFE (Chair)
2. Dr. Januka Pandit– MoALD, Joint Secretary (Member)
3. Dr. Rajendra K.C – Director General, FRTC (Member)
4. Dr. Buddhi Sagar Poudel– Director General,DNPWC (Member)
5. Mr. Dharendra Kumar Pradhan – Director General,DoFSC (Member)
6. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Rai – Director General, DPR (Member)
7. Mr. Nabaraj Pudasaini – Chief, REDD IC (Member)
8. Department of Agriculture – Director General (Member)
9. Dr. Rajesh Malla – DDG, FRTC (Member-Secretary)
10. Invited members

B. Technical Committee

1. Dr. Rajesh Malla – Chair, DDG(*Coordinator*)
2. Mr. Hari Bhadra Acharya – DNPWC, US (*Member*)
3. Mr. Meghraj Poudel – DOFSC, US (*Member*)
4. Mr. Dipak Lamichhane – DPR, US(*Member*)
5. Ms. Yam Kumari Shrestha– DOA, US (*Member*)
6. Dr. Sandesh Bhattarai – NAST (*Member*)
7. Mr. Rajendra Kumar Bhattarai - NARC (*Member*)
8. Mr. Madhav Bhatta – PQPMC, US (*Member*)
9. Ms. Rachana Shaha - NTNC (*Member*)
10. Dr. Bharat Babu Shrestha –Professor, CDB,TU (*Expert*)
11. Dr. Rajesh Rai – Professor, IOF, TU (*Expert*)
12. Dr. Lila Nath Sharma- Forest action (*Member*)
13. Ms. Sunita Ulak – FRTC, US(*Member-Secretary*)
14. Invited members

C. Secretariat

- Forest Research and Training Centre – Under Secretary
- Forest Research and Training Centre – Two Officers
- Department of Forests and Soil Conservation – Officer

Contact Person

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🔔 Call for Posters, Papers and Experience Sharing

🖋️ Poster Presentations and Experience Sharing

The conference encourages wide participation through poster presentations and experience-sharing sessions. -Interested people are invited to submit abstracts (maximum length: 250 word) highlighting innovative research findings, case studies, or practical experiences relevant to the conference theme. We encourage early career researchers to showcase their research (master and PhD researches) as poster presentation. There will be no financial support for any poster and paper presentation.

🗣️ Oral Presentations

The oral presentations will be primarily by invitation. Only a limited number of additional papers, of exceptional relevance and quality, will be accepted for oral presentation upon review.

Deadline for Abstract Submission:

15 November 2025

✉️ Please submit your abstract and poster to: secretariat.iaswsnepal@gmail.com

🌿 Your Contribution Matters

We look forward to your valuable contributions that will enrich the discussions and exchange of knowledge during the event.

