

# Finnish Biodiversity Information Facility FinBIF and invasive alien species

September 28th, 2017

**Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**

Ministerial Adviser,  
Johanna Niemivuo-Lahti



- Invasive Alien Species IAS;  
**WHAT** is the link between FinBIF and IAS?  
**WHY** do we need information on IAS? And **WHY** even more information is needed – worldwide and in Finland?
- **WHAT** is the role of the FinBIF for us? **WHY** does the Governmental authority need FinBIF?
- **WHAT** are our core needs and demands? **HOW** and **WHEN** do we use FinBIF?



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Photo: Terhi Rytteri











Photo: Timo Mikkonen













Photo: Terhi Rytteri





Reed sweetgrass. Photo: Terhi Rytteri





**Photos: Seppo Hellsten**







Photo: Lauri Mäenpää

Photo: Evira







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# It's all about the information!

1. We have enough information to know **why** to react!
  - IAS challenge worldwide and Finland - IAS is an enormous worldwide "economic-ecological problem";
    - Worldwide IAS constitute the second threat to biodiversity.
    - The costs of combating measures worldwide exceed USD 1,400 billion (EUR 1,054 billion), equivalent to about 2% to 3% of the combined GDP of the world.

2. Because of the information we have to decide **how** to react! –  
There is a need for tools!

➤ **Need for a national policy on IAS in Finland!**





# The core of Finland's IAS policy – Tools to react

EU Regulation  
on IAS



National Act on  
IAS

**EU IAS  
list**

*49 species*

Finland's National Strategy on IAS  
National Advisory Board on IAS

**National  
IAS list**  
*Government  
Decree*



Photo: Terhi Rytteri



Photo: Luis García (Zaqarbal)



Photo: Christian Fischer, Christian Fischer / Wikimedia commons



# Our numerous demands and needs... 1/3

1. Need for even more and all kinds of **information** on IAS;  
we need information on

- IAS observations
- impacts of IAS (environmental, social, economy)
- ...



2. Need for an **information channel**

- for stakeholders and citizens to report on their IAS observations





# Our numerous demands and needs... 2/3

3. Need for a site / location / **home** for information where to

- store and maintain the collected information and data

4. Need for a **noticeboard** to

- share information as well as guidance and instructions
- raise awareness



Photo: Carl D. Howe, Stow, MA USA,  
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5. Need for an "**alarm bell**" to

- detect and report rapidly the appearance of any invasive alien species, whose presence was previously unknown
- share early warning information





# Our numerous demands and needs... 3/3

6. Need for a **system** to collect and record **new updated** information; need for a **surveillance system** for IAS for

- monitoring and surveying of IAS occurrences (presence and distribution of new as well as already established IAS)
- recording management measures of eradications
- recording effectiveness of measures



7. Need for a **storage** of information for **reporting**

- for [us, the Governmental authority] to compile and report to the EU





# National IAS portal online – the specific part of FinBIF

Vieraslajit.fi



[Etusivu](#) >

[Etusivu](#)

[Främmande arter i Finland](#)

[Invasive Alien Species in Finland](#)

[Report your observations](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Background information](#)

[Terms and definitions](#)

## Welcome to Invasive Alien Species Portal!

### Welcome to the Finnish Invasive Alien Species Portal

Here you can find help for identification and also report observations of invasive alien species. The pages contain information, images and distribution maps of invasive species **in Finland**. There are also instructions on how to safely dispose invasive species, if you happen to encounter any on your premises. All species of the national invasives check-list are not represented here yet, but information will be completed soon.

### What is an alien species?

Alien species are species that have been introduced to the country from outside.

## Ilmoita havaintosi



[Ilmoita vieraslajihavaintosi!](#)

## Uusia vieraita

*Seuraavien Suomessa  
tavattujen uusien  
vieraslajien havainnoista*



# Information channel and home <sup>1/4</sup>

## National IAS portal online – The specific part of FinBIF

- We can receive information and we have the home
- **Information** easily **received** - the information channel for observations is online
  - Stakeholders and citizens can easily use reporting forms to report their IAS observations
- Relevant and up-to-date information **stored**
  - Fact sheets on individual species, general information (species, impacts), links, legislation, publications,...

Vieraslajit.fi





# Noticeboard <sup>2/4</sup>

## National IAS portal online – The specific part of FinBIF

➤ We can share information and raise awareness

- Information easily **distributed**
  - News, events, notices and notifications, ...

Vieraslajit.fi

Kasvit

Eläimet

Nisäkkäät ja linnut

Sisätilojen tuholaiset

Itämeren lajit

Sisävesien lajit

Metsätalouden tuholaiset

Maatalouden tuholaiset

Haitalliset vieraslajit (EU)

Haitalliset vieraslajit (Kansallinen luettelo)

Kaikki vieraslajit

Etsi

Etusivu

Främmande arter i Finland

Tervetuloa vieraslajiportaaliin!

Tämän kansallisen vieraslajiportaalin avulla voit tunnistaa ja ilmoittaa vieraslajeja. Sivuiltä löydät tietoa ja kuvia vieraslajeista, karttoja vieraslajien levinneisyydestä sekä

Ilmoita havaintosi



# Early warning – "Alarm bell" <sup>3/4</sup>

## Alarm bell for IAS - Included in FinBIF

- We can bring notice and receive notice rapidly
- Appearances of new IAS **detected** and **confirmations** rapidly **received** and **sent** through the system to/from the other EU Member States.

ETA

LAJI.FI Lajit Havainnot Vihko Lajitietokeskus Foorumi

**LAJI.FI**  
SUOMEN LAJITIETOKESKUS  
FINLANDS ARTDATACENTER  
FINNISH BIODIVERSITY INFO FACILITY

27 227 lajia

26 945 025 havaintoa

145 aineistoa

Hae

**Suomen Lajitietokeskus**

Suomen Lajitietokeskus kerää ja yhdistää suomalaisen lajitiedon yhtenäiseksi ja avoimeksi kokonaisuudeksi. Laji.fi:ssä voit tutustua lajeihin ja niiden esiintymiseen, selata havaintoja suomalaisista lajitietokannoista sekä pitää kirjaa omista luontohavainnoistasi.

**Ajankohtaista**

Pesukarhu ja punakorvakilpikonna ovat laittomia maahantulijoita

vieraalaji.fi

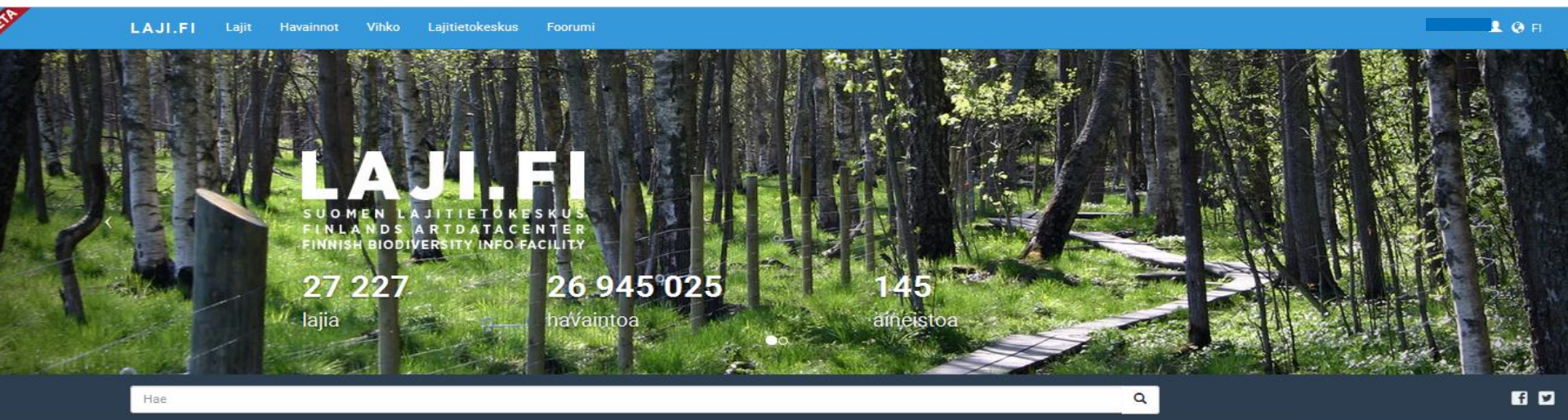
12.05.2017



# System to monitor <sup>4/4</sup>

## Surveillance system for IAS - Included in FinBIF

- We can record updated new information, monitor and report the results
- **Information** on management measures of eradications and effectiveness of measures easily **recorded and updated**
- **Information** for reporting to the EU easily **compiled**





# FinBIF - The increasing role

**Need for more efficient information and communication activities on IAS:**

- Increased information activities are the **most efficient and least costly way** to prevent damages caused by IAS in advance
- To satisfy the increasing needs, **the role and value of FinBIF is increasing**







**More information:  
Finnish  
IAS portal**

**[www.vieraslaajit.fi](http://www.vieraslaajit.fi)**



**Finnish Biodiversity  
Information  
Facility**



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