

Supplementary material 1

1. PRE-LECTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

Definition of 'Invasive Alien Species' (IAS): Species that are non-native to a particular ecosystem and whose introduction and spread cause, or are likely to cause, socio-cultural, economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health (FAO, 2007).

1. Did you know what an invasive alien species is before reading the definition above?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

2. If yes, from which source did you learn about the existence of invasive alien species?

- TV
- Radio
- School
- Family/friends
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, YouTube, etc.)

3. Can you name any IAS occurring in Italy? You can write the common or scientific name. If you do not know the name of any species, answer: 'None'; if you do not remember the name, answer: 'I don't remember'.

4. In your opinion, is an alien species, i.e. a species non-native to the ecosystem/area into which it is introduced, always 'invasive', i.e. able to adapt, reproduce quickly, spread widely and cause some kind of damage to the new ecosystem/area?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

5. Do you think that alien species are present in Italy?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

6. Do you think that IAS are present in Italy?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

7. In your opinion, how many IAS are present in Italy?

- less than 10
- a few dozen
- more than 100, but less than 500
- more than 500
- more than a thousand
- I don't know

8. Do you think that a species naturally occurring in the Italian territory could be defined as 'IAS' when introduced into the ecosystems /areas of other countries?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

9. Which of the reasons listed below would motivate you to read or listen to information about IAS? (Please rate the reasons listed, on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least likely and 5 being the most likely)

- If the species is present in the particular area where I live
- If the species is able to limit my hobbies or activities
- If the species causes harm to the environment
- If the species causes harm to economies
- If the species causes harm to human or animal health

10. How would you prefer to receive information about IAS? (Please rate the sources listed below, on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being your least favourite and 5 being your most favourite)

- TV
- Radio
- School
- Family / Friends
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, YouTube, etc.)

2. POST-LECTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. In your opinion, is an alien species, i.e., a species non-native to the ecosystem/area into which it is introduced, always 'invasive'?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- Yes, if it causes some kind of damage
- Yes, if it finds suitable conditions for survival and reproduction
- Yes, if it finds suitable conditions for survival and reproduction and it causes some kind of damage

2. Do you think that a species naturally occurring in the Italian territory could be defined as 'IAS' when introduced into the ecosystems/areas of other countries?

- Yes, always
- No, never
- Yes, if the species finds favorable ecological conditions
- Yes, if the species finds favorable ecological conditions and availability of food
- Yes, if the species finds favorable ecological conditions, availability of food and absence of natural enemies able to limit it

3. In recent decades, what is the main cause of the increase in introductions of IAS?

- Wind
- Increase in international trade, tourism and transport
- Active insect flight
- Atmospheric turbulence
- Explorations

4. What is in nature the main limiting factor to population growth of harmful insect species?

- Temperature
- Presence of natural enemies
- Rain
- Availability of food
- Humidity
- Wind

5. Do you remember what are the main natural enemies of insects?

- Man
- Mammals
- Other insects
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Fish
- Birds
- Viruses

6. When man uses natural enemies to limit plant damage caused by an insect, what is the type of control that is implemented called?

- Natural control
- Biological control
- Biotechnology
- Monitoring
- Prevention
- Eradication

7. Biological control and classical biological control: is there a difference between them?

- Yes
- No

Which of the two methods can affect the balance of the ecosystems?

- Biological control
- Classical biological control

Are you able to explain why?

8. In the management of IAS, do you think it is important to properly inform the general public?

- Yes
- No

Why?

9. Do you think that Citizen Science can be a useful tool for the management of harmful species?

- Yes
- No

Why?

10. Does the lecture on native and alien harmful species help you better understand the problems they can cause and the difficulties in managing them?

- Yes
- No

Are there points, in your opinion, that should be further developed or explained?