

## POSITION STATEMENT



Masai men with *Opuntia stricta* cactus in Laikipia

# Invasive Species

**CABI** envisions a world in which invasive species have minimal impact on agriculture and the environment. In such a world, invasion risks are determined and managed, and established invasives are controlled through economically, socially and environmentally sustainable approaches.

## Background

Invasive species are species that, with human assistance, arrive in a new area and cause damage to crops, livestock production and other economic activities; human health; and the environment. They include microbes, weeds, insects, vertebrates and other organisms. A recent example of an invasive species is the fall armyworm in Africa. Only a small proportion of non-native species become invasive, but those that do cause major direct and indirect losses (including the substantial costs of managing them), totalling an estimated US\$1.4 trillion worldwide. Climate change and increased trade and travel increase the risks, while the impacts are disproportionately borne by the poor and vulnerable.

Many international agreements recognise the threat from invasive species, but two are of particular relevance to CABI's mission of solving problems in agriculture and the environment. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), effective since 1952 and with 183 parties, aims to secure "common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control". Parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), of which there are currently 196, agree in Article 8 (h) to "prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species".

CABI recognises the guiding principles on invasive species adopted by the 6th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, which include the three-tiered approach to management: (i) preventing the unintentional or intentional introduction of invasive species; (ii) early detection, rapid response and eradication of new invasions (where possible); and (iii) the control and mitigation of species where eradication or containment is not feasible.

## CABI's contribution

- CABI's new "Action on Invasives" ([www.cabi.org/action-on-invasives](http://www.cabi.org/action-on-invasives)) programme aims to protect and improve the livelihoods of over 50 million poor rural households impacted by invasive species
- CABI has been working on invasive species and pest management since it was established over 100 years ago, and its 49 Member Countries have repeatedly identified invasive species as a priority area for the organisation. This supports the implementation of national development plans, the meeting of obligations under regional and international agreements (such as the IPPC and CBD) and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Target 15.8: "By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species"
- CABI has particular expertise in the biological control of invasive species, a cost effective and sustainable approach. CABI supports the use of biological control in both developed and developing countries, and, in line with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, ensures due diligence and best practice is followed when genetic resources are used for biological control
- CABI undertakes collaborative applied research in many aspects of the prevention and management of invasive species, particularly insects, plant diseases and weeds. This research forms the core of CABI's science strategy
- CABI's expertise and resources in knowledge creation, management and dissemination underpin the prevention and management of invasives species. The open access Invasive Species Compendium is extensively used by practitioners, researchers and others worldwide



Biocontrol agent *A. bifasciatus*

- CABI works to strengthen the capacities of national stakeholders involved in all aspects of invasive species (policy-makers, regulators, extension, research, education). Part of such capacity is the ability of different organisations to work together, and recognise that invasive species is a cross-sectoral issue. CABI uses its convening capability to facilitate co-operation and collaboration amongst stakeholder groups
- CABI partners with many regional and international organisations in addressing the problem of invasive species. It is a member of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Species ([www.cbd.int/invasive/lg](http://www.cbd.int/invasive/lg)) and was a founder member of the Global Invasive Species Programme

## CABI's goals and activities

### GOAL 1

#### Increased awareness of the risks and costs of invasive species

CABI will:

- Develop, implement and evaluate communication campaigns targeting stakeholders affected by invasives and stakeholders with a role to play in their prevention and management
- Develop and apply methods for assessing and communicating the risks and costs of invasive species, including high quality publications
- Strengthen the areas of monitoring and evaluation, gender and diversity, and the management and analysis of big data sets in assessing and communicating the risks and costs of invasive species

### GOAL 2

#### Enhanced capacities of countries to respond to the threat of invasive species

CABI will:

- Facilitate national and regional cross-sectoral co-operation on invasive species, building on the achievements of the Plantwise programme
- Maintain and further develop knowledge and information resources and tools to support decision-making
- Provide training to national agricultural and environment organisations in best management practices for biological invasions



Fall armyworm damage to maize crop



## GOAL 3

### Strengthened policies and plans for invasive species management

CABI will:

- Assist countries to develop and implement national invasive species strategies and action plans, ecosystem management plans and biosecurity plans
- Assist countries to strengthen regulatory frameworks for prevention and management of invasive species

## GOAL 4

### Effective prevention and management of invasive species for invasive species management

CABI will:

- Support national and regional prioritisation of risks and threats from invasive species in agriculture and the environment
- Undertake collaborative research on improved methods for the prevention and management of prioritised species
- Provide the information needed by stakeholders (particularly the men and women most impacted) to take action against invasive species
- Promote the implementation of biological control and other low-risk methods for integrated management of invasive species

[www.cabi.org](http://www.cabi.org)



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