Imposing direct management costs for manual removal, using chemicals or any other means

It has been estimated that a single invasive plant species, the water hyacinth, cost Uganda US$ 112 million in 1999.

According to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) the annual national economic loss to invasive species in 2001 in billions of US dollars was 50 for Brazil, 117 for India, 12 for South Africa, 12 for the United kingdom and 137 for the United States of America.

7. Do invasive plant species have any use at all?

Yes they do, but in most cases their negative impacts far exceed their positive uses

8. Is anything being done to mitigate the effects of invasive plant species in Uganda?

Yes something is being done

- Invasive species are clearly mentioned in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan developed by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), so that environmental managers and planners do not forget about them
- There is a specific project within the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) focusing on Removing Barriers to Invasive Plant Management in Africa, working in collaboration with Ethiopia, Ghana and Zambia.

The barriers have been identified as:

- Weak policies and institutional environment
- Critical information unavailable
- Inadequate implementation of prevention and control
- Capacity is lacking

9. Limitations

The project does not on its own have the mandate or the capacity for controlling invasive plant species in the country. It is simply aiming at removing the identified barriers to enhance management of invasive species in the long term.

10. Remember three key things and conserve Uganda's bio-diversity and environment:

- Dont pack an invasive plant
- Dont plant an invasive plant
- Report an Invasive plant in your vicinity

11. Further information

For further information, please contact the following:

1. The Director General, NARO
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   Tel: 041 320512
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   Email: dgnaro@infocom.co.ug

2. The National Coordinator
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   Fax: 041 321070
   Email: ggumisiriza@naro.go.ug

UNEP

www.cabi.org

NARO

IUCN
The World Conservation

GEF
Global Environment Facility

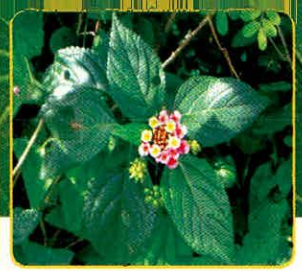
INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

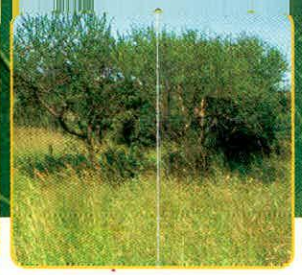
(Removing Barriers to Invasive Plant Management in Africa Project)



INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES


Water Hyacinth


Lantana Camara


Acacia Hockii


Mimosa Pigra


Sema Spectabilis

1. What are Invasive Species?

Invasive Species are species (plant, animal or microorganism), which become established in natural or semi natural ecosystems or habitats, which are agents of change and threaten native biological diversity.

Or

Species which, invade a new area causing negative impacts on biological diversity, agriculture, human development and even human health.

2. Why are they called invasive plant species?

Because when they are established in an area, they take it over completely and exclude or smother out the native species, just like an invading army subdues an invaded population.

3. Are there any invasive plant species in Uganda?

Yes, there are many, but a few of those considered to be most important in terms of the ecosystem affected and the area invaded are the following

Common name	Botanic name	Ecosystem affected
Water hyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes	Water bodies
Omuteete (Runyakore)	Cymbopogon nardus	The cattle corridor
Cassia	Senna spectabilis	Forest reserves
Kapanga (Lusoga)	Lantana camara	Farming and range lands
Paper mulberry	Brussonetia papyrifera	Forest reserves
Orugando (Runyakore)	Acacia hockii	Lake Mburo National Park
	Mimosa pigra	Wetlands


Brussonetia Papyrifera


Cymbopogon Nardus

4. Where do these invasive plant species come from?

Invasive plant species can be alien i.e. introduced from another country or indigenous from one habitat to another habitat

5. If the invasive plant species are from another country, how do they get here?

- By individual human beings intentionally or unintentionally
- Sticking on parts of transport vessels such as ships, aeroplanes, lorries, cars etc.
- As contaminant seed in imported grain and other plant material
- By water along international rivers, lakes etc.

5. How can Invasive plant species be identified?

- By tracing the behaviour and characteristics of the species in other parts of the world
- By comparing their characteristics with those of known invasive plant species e.g being able to out-compete indigenous species and quickly colonise an area.

6. How do invasive plant species affect our lives?

They affect our lives through their impacts on the environment, the economy, human and livestock health e.g

- Habitat alteration by killing native species and increasing soil erosion
- Changing the genetic make up of native species through cross pollination
- Reducing agricultural production by taking over agricultural land or displacement of pastures by unpalatable grasses and woody species
- Loss of fisheries by suffocating fish and blocking fishing vessels
- Damage to infrastructure such as power generation facilities
- Interference with water transport facilities
- Increased incidences of diseases such as malaria and bilharzias