

Dear Sir/Madam;

In a notification (Ref SCBD/STTM/RH/56333) you have asked the focal point in Ethiopia to submit views and experiences for the in-depth review of work on invasive alien species.

Regarding this issue, The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research is running a project titled “Removing Barriers to Invasive Plant Management in Africa.”

The goal of the project is to protect ecosystem, species and genetic diversity from invasive alien species, for global, national and community benefit. The project will contribute to this goal through its purpose of removing the barriers to effective prevention and management of IAS in four pilot countries; Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia. The focus will be on invasive plants, as this group poses the greatest current threat, and because a number of invasive plant species have been identified in the four countries requiring immediate attention. Invasive plants in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems will be addressed.

IAS identified in Ethiopia are:-

- *Eichhornia crassipes* Oromiya, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples, Gambella
- *Lantana camara* Oromiya, Somali
- *Parthenium hysterophorous* Oromiya, Somali, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, Nations Nationalities and Peoples
- *Prosopis juliflora* Oromiya, Tigray, Amhara, Somali, Afar
- *Striga spp.* Oromiya, Tigray, Amhara
- *Acacia spp.* Oromiya, Afar
- *Opuntia spp.* Tigray, Amhara

Four categories of barriers to IAS management have been identified; hence four components addressing each of these barriers have been set.

- Strengthening the enabling policy environment for IAS management
- Provision and exchange of critical information amongst key stakeholders in IAS management
- Implementation of IAS control and prevention programs
- Building capacity for sustainable IAS management

More information on this project can be found from www.eiar.gov.et/partners/ias.htm

Eleni Shiferaw Tessema
Institute of Biodiversity Conservation
P.O.Box 30726

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia