

Summary of the Invasive Alien Species Act

I. Objectives

The objectives of this act are to regulate various actions such as raising, planting, storing, carrying and importing invasive alien species (IAS) in addition to mitigating IAS that are already existing in Japan, and thus to contribute to preventing damages against biodiversity, human safety, or agriculture in Japan. IAS do not include living modified organisms in this Act.

II. Official Announcement of the Basic Policy

The Japanese Cabinet shall announce the basic policy for implementation of relevant measures to prevent various damages caused by IAS.

III. Ban of Raising, Planting, storing, or carrying IAS

Actions of raising, planting, storing, or carrying IAS, which will be designated in the Cabinet Ordinance of the Act, are to be prohibited in Japan without permission from the competent ministers, except for the actions being categorized in specific occasions that will publicly be announced by the ordinance of this Act.

IV. Ban of Importation, Transfer, or Other Actions with Regard to IAS

Various actions such as importing or transferring IAS are to be prohibited without the permission described in the section III above. Discarding IAS is prohibited under any condition.

V. Mitigation of IAS in Japan

Competent ministers and other interest groups such as local governments shall take some measures for the mitigation of IAS that already exist in Japan in accordance with the procedure of this Act.

VI. Uncategorized Alien Species

Uncategorized Alien Species (UAS), which have the possibility to be categorized as IAS through detailed investigation, need the detailed investigation in order to be allowed to be imported into Japan. The period for deciding the categorization shall be within six months from requests by importers or exporters of UAS into Japan.

VII. Indication of Species' names

As part of an importation procedure, any species that cannot be clearly distinguished from IAS or UAS must be attached with labels or documentation issued by the foreign government or others in order to show their types of species.

VIII. Others

The competent ministers can require relevant information about those who have obtained the permission for import and about other persons concerned, inspect the site where IAS are being used, and order qualified persons to take appropriate measures, where necessary. There are also provisions for penalties, interim measures, and so forth.

IX. Enforcement of This Act

This Act shall be enforced within a year from the promulgation of this Act.