

## PROJECT INFORMATION

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**Project title:** Alien Plants in managed forests across European forest types and management intensities under Climate Change

**Project ID:** 240

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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The occurrence of alien plant species in European forests was increasingly reported. Few of them are well known as invasive alien plant species, threatening biodiversity, and the sustainable functioning of forest ecosystems. Yet little is known about the regional differences in the alien plant composition and abundance across European forest types, environmental site conditions and the impact of management intensities. Many alien plant species remain without characteristics of invasiveness, such as outcompeting native species, or changing the chemical and physical site conditions. For the success of early detection measures, however, it is important to observe the behaviour of alien plant species under various site conditions and ecosystems. The ICP Forests monitoring data offers a unique opportunity to investigate the development of alien plants abundance over time, which could help to build a model to project the spread of alien plants and their impact on native species composition under climate change. The overall aim of this project is to provide a better understanding of the driving factors for the occurrence, establishment and spread of alien plants in forests.

The objective of this request for access to data would be to allow:

1. to investigate the spread of alien plants across European forest types, management intensities and environmental conditions.
2. to assess the environmental impact of alien plant composition and abundance on the native plant communities
3. to project the spread of alien plants under climate change scenarios (RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5)

Ultimately, the analysis will support the decision-making process for forest managers across Europe regarding biological invasions and provide information on the changes in the plant species composition of managed forests.

### Keywords

biological invasion, exotic plants, ground vegetation, invasive alien species management, neophytes, Europe