

Title: INVASPEC – Invasive Tier- und Pflanzenarten aus
völkerrechtlicher Perspektive
*INVASPEC – Invasive animal and plant species from the
perspective of international law*

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Brief description:

Introduced species – or so-called invasive species – are becoming an ever more serious problem around the world. They are a danger to native biodiversity, can cause damage to health and cause substantial economic costs. Invasive species invade sensitive ecosystems in a variety of different ways. With one thing in common, however: they all involve either direct or indirect human action. At present there is no international law in force that sets out binding regulations for invasive species. As part of the German-South African Year of Science, an interdisciplinary colloquium entitled "INVASPEC – Invasive animal and plant species from the perspective of international law" took place in Berlin between 4 and 6 November 2012. The event was hosted by Professor Thilo Marauhn, an expert on international law from Justus Liebig University Giessen, and Professor Louis Kotzé from North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa. The two universities collaborate on issues relating to cross-border biodiversity protection. The event brought together 27 renowned South African and German experts from the fields of law, environmental management and biology, who were given the opportunity to exchange information on an interdisciplinary basis about the current actual and normative circumstances, taking South Africa and Germany as examples, and to determine the need for regulations. In addition to international standards and the implementation of the relevant conventions of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in South Africa, national regulation strategies, regulation models, animal and plant protection provisions, import and export bans, quarantine provisions, biosafety protocols and environmental protection regulations such as blacklists were discussed. The initial starting point was the focus on marine invasive species, as there is considerable experience with regulations here. Loretta Feris, a legal expert from the University of Cape Town, and Tamara Robinson, a zoologist from the University of

Stellenbosch, reported on the spread of invasive marine species in South Africa through the import of oysters to breed in aquacultures.

The experience with regulations relating to the introduction of invasive species over land is a different story. The relationship between climate change and invasive species – and therefore ultimately the complexity of the climate change adaptation law relating to invasive species – is yet to be examined in depth. Using the example of "ambrosia artemisiifolia" (common ragweed), which was introduced from North America to Germany, Dr Beate Alberternst, a biologist at the Friedberg Biodiversity Research Group, highlighted the challenges faced by science when it comes to regulating invasive species.

Ausgangspunkt war zunächst der Fokus auf marineinvasiven Spezies, da es hier schon eine beachtliche Regulierungserfahrung gibt. Die Rechtswissenschaftlerin Loretta Feris von der Universität Kapstadt und die Zoologin Tamara Robinson von der Universität Stellenbosch referierten über die Verbreitung invasiver mariner Arten in Südafrika durch den Import von Austern zur Züchtung in Aquakulturen.

Völlig anders gelagerte Regulierungserfahrungen gibt es im Hinblick auf die Einschleppung invasiver Arten auf erdgebundenem Wege. Die Zusammenhänge zwischen Klimawandel und invasiven Spezies – und damit letztlich der Komplex des auf invasive Spezies bezogenen Klimawandelanpassungsrechts – sind bislang noch nicht eingehend beleuchtet worden. Am Beispiel der aus Nordamerika nach Deutschland eingeschleppten „Ambrosia artemisiifolia“ (Beifußblättriges Traubenkraut) verdeutlichte Dr. Beate Alberternst, Biologin der Forschungsgruppe Biodiversität Friedberg, vor welchen Herausforderungen die Wissenschaft zur Regulierung der invasiven Arten steht.