



Number 10  
May 2004

*Happy Anniversary!*



*The Geneva  
Botanical  
Garden is 100!*

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Swiss Agency for  
the Environment,  
Forests and  
Landscape SAEFL

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A periodic update on the Geneva Environment Network and the International Environment House, Geneva

## Invaders of the Geneva basin

Didier Roguet

To celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Botanical garden and herbarium of Geneva (CJBG) will hold a series of public events, one of which is an exhibition entitled "Envahisseurs!" (Invasive species!).

The exhibition, to be held from 20 May to 26 September 2004 in and around the Mediterranean greenhouse, will feature live examples of animals and plants considered invasive in the Geneva basin.

Organized in cooperation with the Lake Geneva Museum in Nyon (see *Environment House News* no. 8) and the Forestry, Nature Conservancy and Countryside Protection Service of the Canton of Geneva (SFPNP), the exhibition will feature introduced invasive species that have an important ecological, socio-economic and/or health impact on our society.

The Geneva Botanical Garden is home to a multidisciplinary study and action group that aims to combat these plant invasive species. Together with the conservation department of the Botanical Garden and the SFPNP, this group is pursuing an active policy of research, documentation, information on and eradication of invasive plants in the Canton of Geneva.

Contrary to popular belief, the introduction of new species does not increase local biodiversity. Often the new arrivals have a negative effect on local species which can result in the disappearance of indigenous animals and plants. The ecosystem is thrown off balance and the long-term outcome is often a net *loss* of natural diversity.

### Some examples

There are numerous examples of such biological invasions in our region.

- Ragweed is widespread in Geneva and on the northern lake shore. This species causes allergies in 100,000 people every year in the Lyon area, where it is the target of a public eradication campaign.



- Of the 30 species of fish found in Lake Geneva, 16 were introduced more or less deliberately, and some of them have jeopardized the native fish populations.
- The plant *Heracleum mantegazzianum* is spreading fast on our plains and mountains to the detriment of local plant diversity. It is also responsible for causing second-degree burns every year in unwary rambblers who come into direct contact with it.
- Two American and one Australian species of crayfish have practically wiped out our five indigenous crayfish species.
- Cape groundsel, whose yellow flowers brighten our motorway verges, has now become a curse for many European farmers. Owing to its toxicity for cattle, it greatly reduces the stock feeding value of the pasture lands where it grows.



- ▶ *Buddleja davidii*, sold at all garden centres as an ornamental shrub, is a voracious invasive species of open land when it escapes from gardens.
- ▶ Japanese knotweed occupies a large part of the lakeshore at the Geneva end, where it competes strongly with – and sometimes eliminates – some species of our regional riparian flora. Its impact on the local landscape and local flora is undeniable.

## Social Impacts

The above examples illustrate how the introduction of new species can have serious implications for various sectors of our society:

- ▶ **Public health:** ragweed, for example (see box), produces huge amounts of pollen which can trigger allergies. The leaves of *Heracleum mantegazzianum* are a potent photosensitizing agent for our skins that causes contact allergies and burns.
- ▶ **Socioeconomic:** Cape groundsel is toxic, so meadows where it grows can become unusable for stock-raising. The striped mussel clings to water delivery pipes and this can interfere with water supply or electricity production.
- ▶ **Environmental:** the invasion of a pond by water primrose completely changes the quality of the water and subsequently the ecosystem as a whole. Many plant and animal species may disappear. The introduction of exotic crayfish has almost wiped out the indigenous species.

## Alerting the public

The forthcoming exhibition at the Geneva Botanical Garden aims to inform the general public, academic circles and professionals concerned with the environment (foresters, farmers, nurserymen and horticulturalists) and with the actual and potential harm attributable to these invasive species.

This exhibition will also provide those social groups with educational tools such as teaching kits, scientific documentation and information, technical data sheets, etc., aimed at combating these invasive species. It will offer possible approaches to mitigating the annoyances and

damage caused by these introduced and invasive organisms, particularly plants.

The objectives of this large scale initiative on invasive species are 'to recognize, to estimate and to eradicate, if needs be, invasive species with the competent services of the canton and group of specialists.' For certain species, according to the specialists, it is critical to act *now* to combat their harmful effects and to safeguard our natural and cultural biodiversity.

Didier Roguet, Curator, Botanical garden and herbarium of Geneva  
(from material supplied by J.-F. Rubin and D. Jeanmonod)

## Anniversary events

The main exhibition will be held at the Botanical Garden of Geneva, in and around the Mediterranean Greenhouse, 20 May – 26 September 2004, **ADMITTANCE FREE**. How to get there: TPG terminus no.1 "Jardin botanique".

The inauguration of this exhibition and the presentation of related documents will take place at the Botanical Garden (Mediterranean Greenhouse) at 5.30 p.m. on 11 June 2004, in the presence of competent authorities. Those proceedings will be integrated into the programme of the Sustainable Development Days for 2004 (11-13 June).

Under the heading "Measures and overmeasures", the 'Invasive species!' theme will be presented during the *Nuit de la Science 2004* exhibition (3-4 July), held at the Botanical Garden and around the Science History Museum.

The grand finale of the exhibition will take place in conjunction with the public celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the CJBG, from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on 25 and 26 September 2004. The programme for that festive occasion, on the theme "Botany Yesterday and Today", will include: displays, presentations, workshops, tastings, demonstrations, guided tours, open house, plus catering services. **ADMITTANCE FREE**.

## NatureNotes

### Ragweed invasion: *nothing to sneeze at!*

*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, commonly known as artemisia-leaved ambrosia or ragweed, is one of our local invaders. In August, its flowers emit clouds of yellow pollen which provoke allergic reactions in many people. A single plant can produce several million grains per day. In Canada, the public health costs associated with ragweed allergy amount to CHF 50 million per year.

Native to North America, ragweed has conquered the five continents. Present in Europe since at least 1863, it has been gaining ground markedly since the 1950s, and in Switzerland since 2000. Its seeds are usually scattered unintentionally, often in packets of birdseed or in animal feeds. As it prefers bare ground, it grows by waysides, in fields, and on fallow land in both the countryside and in towns.

In Geneva, a working group is carefully monitoring ragweed at five sampling stations in the Canton, and trying to determine if a recent increase in pollen concentrations originates in the Lyon region or locally. Eradication requires uprooting the plants or treating them chemically, but prevention (by not leaving ground bare) is the better cure.

Daniel Jeanmonod, Curator, CJBG



GENEVA BOTANICAL GARDEN



## GEN roundtables: rights and disasters

Sofie H. Flensburg

Since its early days, the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) has organized roundtables on a variety of topical and cross-cutting issues. These range from sustainable tourism and biosafety to illegal environmental trade and the precautionary principle.

Recently GEN organized two expert roundtables on (1) human rights and the environment and (2) the role of climate change in recent natural disasters.

### 1. Human rights and the environment

The link between human rights and the environment has been recognized ever since the 1972 Stockholm Declaration asserted that "*Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being...*"

Subsequent declarations, such as the World Charter on Nature (1982), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) and that of the more recent 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development have more-or-less explicitly recognized the link. The 2003 session of the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on "Human Rights and the Environment as part of Sustainable Development".

There is a clear political consensus that human rights and the environment are closely related, but how have 30 years of high-level declarations been translated from wishful thinking into reality?

The GEN roundtable on 12 March 2004 examined progress to date on human environmental rights and the legal, political and practical results of this debate. Moderated by Mr Franz Perrez of the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape, it included presentations on human environmental rights as they relate to procedural rights; the international courts; the South Asia context; and the human rights bodies of the United Nations.

It was clear from the presentations that the environment-human rights link has been recognized within the judicial system but not through the political system; in fact, since 1972 it

would appear that political declarations have become even weaker.

There seems to be more willingness to address the issue of environmental procedural rights, such as access to information, public participation, and access to justice. An example is the UNECE Aarhus Convention on that topic. This could be because it has proven easier to reach a consensus on procedural rights, which have proven effective to protect substantial rights.

At the national level, most recent constitutions include a reference to citizens' right to a clean environment, although this is expressed only in the most general terms.

The roundtable also addressed the link to sustainable development, and suggested that a rights-based approach could be used to conceptualize the difficult balance between economic and environmental interests. Participants questioned the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in this context.

### 2. Natural disasters and climate change

The global impact of water-related hazards such as floods, hurricanes, landslides and droughts is staggering, with average economic losses from extreme weather events increasing six-fold since the 1960s. Developing countries suffer most of all, often experiencing losses that exceed years of hard-won and desperately needed development.

Floods in Asia and the extreme summer heat wave across Europe brought

extensive losses in 2003, contributing to the year's overall cost of weather-related catastrophes of over \$60 billion. Many are predicting the trend will continue its steady rise.

Could the increase be a result of what many people now accept as fact: a changing climate? On the occasion of World Water Day (22 March 2004) a roundtable organized by GEN and the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) addressed these and other issues.

There seemed to be no doubt in the minds of the experts present that climate change is to some extent responsible for the increase in natural disasters, that the current trend will continue and that we can expect an increase in frequency and intensity of related hazards in the future.

Disaster managers, policy-makers, politicians, private businesses (such as the insurance sector) can only tackle the problem of disasters and mitigate their impacts if they know the cause. This means that scientists and climate experts have a responsibility to communicate their findings, even when they are still tentative. Several panelists pointed out that action had been delayed for years because scientists were waiting for more certainty before sounding the alarm. They encouraged scientists to be more forthcoming, even at the risk of exaggeration or error, because the message is too important to withhold.

Sofie H. Flensburg is Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network.

### Future roundtables

19 May 2004: Biotechnology, trade and the environment

4 June 2004: Geneva celebrations of the World Environment Day: Global Water Crisis – causes and remedies (Integrated Water Resources Management)

In the autumn of 2004, GEN expects to continue the series of roundtables with one on the role of the GEF in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and one on environment and armed conflicts. For the dates and agenda, and for more information on previous roundtables: See: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch/roundtables.htm>.





## Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea

By Danica Valnicek, UNEP Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE)

### A historical event

In early November 2003, the five States bordering the Caspian Sea – Azerbaijan, I.R. of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan – signed a treaty to protect the fragile and endangered environment of the Caspian Sea.

The signing of the “Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea” marked the culmination of an eight-year negotiation process under the auspices of UNEP and within the framework of the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP). Born out of the regional desire for cooperation on safeguarding the Caspian Sea environment, the CEP was launched by the Caspian States in 1998 as a comprehensive long-term regional umbrella programme supported by the international community including the Global Environment Facility (GEF); UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank as implementing agencies; the EU as well as the private sector, *i.e.*, oil and gas industry.

The Caspian basin is the largest land-locked body of water on Earth. Its isolation has created a unique ecosystem with some 400 species endemic to its waters. Today many Caspian species such as the sturgeon are threatened by over-exploitation, habitat destruction and pollution. The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) developed during the first phase of the Caspian Environment Pro-

### NatureNotes

#### Giant hogweed

The Caucasian cow-parsnip or giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* can reach nearly four metres in height. When introduced as a garden ornamental, it readily escapes to become a serious pest, outcompeting native plants. It exudes a clear watery sap which sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet radiation, resulting in severe burns.



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gramme enlists a number of environmental problems requiring immediate action. As most of them are transboundary in nature, they can only be addressed through an appropriate regional cooperation regime such as the Caspian Framework Convention.

### Pollution control and protection of the marine environment

As the first agreement signed by all five Caspian littoral states, the Framework Convention will serve as an overarching legal instrument laying down the general requirements and the institutional mechanism for environmental protection in the region. It is based on a number of underlying principles including the precautionary

principle, the polluter pays principle and the principle of access to and exchange of information. The two major areas of concern are (1) prevention, reduction and control of pollution, and (2) protection, preservation and restoration of the marine environment. The Convention also includes provisions on environmental impact assessment, as well as general obligations on environmental monitoring, research and development.

Further to the wishes of the Caspian Governments, the Convention includes an article stating that the Convention should be seen without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations on the legal status of the Caspian Sea. The question of the legal status of the Caspian Sea has been a matter of tense negotiation among the five littoral states since the collapse of the Soviet regime and remains still unresolved.

### Further international support

The signing of the Caspian Framework Convention allowed the Caspian Governments to signal their readiness to take environmental action, thereby encouraging the international community to provide further financial and technical assistance to the region. Shortly after the signing ceremony, the

### NatureNotes

#### Japanese honeysuckle

A common invasive vine, *Lonicera japonica* is a familiar sight along forest margins where it creates dense, overwhelming infestations.

A native of Japan, it was – and still is – introduced as an ornamental plant, as food for wildlife, and to control erosion.



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GEF Secretariat approved a second phase of support to the CEP for \$6 million. The GEF project "Towards a Convention and Action Programme for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Environment" will focus on the preliminary implementation of the CEP Strategic Action Programme (SAP) in the priority areas of Biodiversity, Invasive Species and Persistent Toxic Substances, and the continuance of the Convention process. The EU is also extending its support to the CEP with particular attention to fisheries issues and coastal zone management. Further EU support to the Convention process is under consideration.

Within the framework of the GEF project, and further to the request of the Caspian Governments, UNEP/ROE will continue servicing the Convention process pending the Convention's entry into force.

### Protocols needed

The signing of the Framework Convention is only the first step in tackling the environmental problems. Key areas of concern will need to be addressed in separate protocols, a focus of UNEP's further assistance. The Convention itself envisages seven protocols linked to the general provisions of its articles. Four of these are related to the prevention, reduction and control of pollution: (1) from land-based sources; (2) from seabed activities; (3) from vessels; and (4) caused by dumping. The other three protocols are related to (5) the protection, preservation, restoration and rational use of marine living resources; (6) sea-level fluctuations; and (7) environmental impact assessment.

The detailed scope of these protocols is not yet defined, but it is envisaged that they will encompass priority areas identified in the SAP and related National Action Plans. UNEP's assistance will also include raising awareness and supporting the implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Caspian region.

Decisions on priority protocol areas and other activities relevant to the further development of the Caspian Framework Convention will be taken by the Caspian Governments at a forthcoming meeting of signatories back-to-back with a GEF project Inception Meeting. The implementation of the GEF project is expected to run over the next three years.

## Sustainable Development Fair

Plaine de Plainpalais, Geneva, 12-13 June 2004

How would you like to:

- ▶ participate in the construction of an enormous tower in recycled materials?
- ▶ drink Bio-Beer to the sound of gigantic instruments?
- ▶ discover how to reduce your energy consumption in a simple manner?

All of this and more will be possible on 12-13 June 2004 at the Plaine de Plainpalais in Geneva, where the Sustainable Development Fair will be held for the third time. Its purpose is to show how, by our daily choices and actions, each of us can contribute to improving the quality of life for today and the future.

The weekend will feature presentations by citizens, families, businesses, organizations and local communities of concrete examples, best practices and ideas for action to be taken in our daily lives. There will be interactive expositions, discussion forums, theatre performances, games, music and food to enjoy while learning about the future of the planet.

Others have already begun to act – have you?

The Fair is organized by the City of Geneva (Agenda 21), the Canton of Geneva (Sustainable Development Service), the United Nations Environment Programme and the Geneva Environment Network. The programme of the Fair will be available in May on [www.ville-ge.ch/agenda21](http://www.ville-ge.ch/agenda21).

On Friday 11 June, the same partners are hosting a number of workshops in the International Environment House (MIE I and II) to debate successes and failures of implementing sustainable development. The workshops will be in French only. For more information, please contact [gen.secretary@unep.ch](mailto:gen.secretary@unep.ch)

### NatureNotes



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#### Black locust

Introduced for its durable wood, pendulous white flowers and many useful qualities, *Robinia pseudoacacia* can become invasive if not properly managed. A native of the USA, it grows and spreads rapidly, displacing natural vegetation.

### World Environment Day 2004

The World Environment Day theme selected for 2004 is **Wanted! Seas and Oceans – Dead or Alive?** The theme asks that we make a choice as to how we want to treat the Earth's seas and oceans. It also calls on each and every one of us to act.

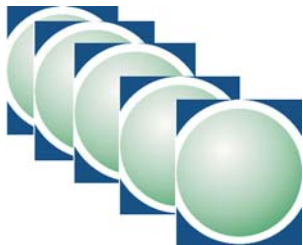
The main international celebrations of the World Environment Day 2004 will be held in Barcelona, Spain in close collaboration with the Universal Forum of Cultures.

The Geneva celebrations of World Environment Day 2004 will take place on Friday 4 June in International Environment House and will feature a round table on the Global Water Crisis as well as an inauguration reception.





## Expanding the MIE family



The official inauguration of the second building of the International Environment House (MIE 2) will take place on 4 June 2004, to coincide with the Geneva celebrations of World Environment Day on 5 June.

A number of organizations have already moved into their newly-finished quarters. As we welcomed them into the MIE family, we invited them to send us a few words about their organizations and activities. The first three are featured below, and others will follow as the building becomes inhabited.

### **International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)**

Peter Illig

Founded in 1990, ISDE is a global NGO of over 15,000 medical, scientific and health professionals in more than 20 countries. As a trusted and objective member of civil society, ISDE highlights the scientific and medical links between human health and the environment by providing technical training, education, awareness-raising and research. We emphasize prevention and train physicians, policy-makers and the community on the health impacts of environmental degradation and the need for a sustainable way of life.

Possessing official consultative status with the World Health Organization and the United Nations, ISDE applies our global environment and health experience for greater impact:

**Children's health and the environment.** Dedicated to eliminating health risks, we provide training that addresses the unique vulnerabilities and developmental needs of children.

**Capacity building.** We undertake workshops and technical training for primary care physicians and government decision-makers on the linkages between human health and environmental factors.

**Corporate social responsibility (CSR).** In partnership with the private sector, we work across the global supply chain bridging the occupational setting to ensure that environment and health are addressed in local communities.

**Toxic chemical safety.** Advocating the precautionary principle, we produce position papers that emphasize the uncertainties associated with involuntary exposure and

chemicals implicated with neurodevelopment and endocrine disruption.

**Water and sanitation.** For the millions of people affected by waterborne infections, we undertake projects on safe drinking water and hygiene, and provide health data to justify investing in, and protecting, water resources.

**Health impacts of global climate change.** We promote human health through action to mitigate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions through rational transport, energy, air quality and economic policy, and the implementation of international agreements.

ISDE seeks partners across the globe to develop and deliver effective health and environmental solutions. We invite you to join us.

Peter Illig is Executive Director, International Society of Doctors for the Environment.  
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### **New Synergies in Development**

New Synergies in Development (NSD) was founded in 2000 in the wake of the World Social Summit in Geneva. The Summit's major achievement was yet another declaration about what has to be done to reverse the deterioration of social and environmental conditions in the world.

This event attracted more than 15,000 people. Afterwards some participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the outcome by launching an informal discussion group among themselves. They included employees of international organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and academics, mainly based in Geneva.

There is a need, they concluded, for creative development alternatives that go beyond empty declarations to make a real difference in peoples' lives. They decided that a more formal platform was needed for such discussions, and NSD was borne.

Subsequent to the founding of NSD, an 'alter-globalization movement' has grown up which centres on the World Social Forums organized each January. It attracts tens of thousands to debate and organize campaigns around development alternatives, based on the belief that "another world is possible!"

NSD was launched with an initiative called "Beyond Geneva 2000" that called for strategic, multi-stakeholder debates to bring together policy-makers in Geneva-based

### **NatureNotes**

#### **Canada goldenrod**

Common in its native North America, Canada goldenrod *Solidago canadensis* was introduced to European gardens as an ornamental plant, soon escaping to colonize roadsides, degraded grasslands and abandoned fields. It grows to well over a metre. Its extensive root system makes it hard to control.



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agencies and organizations with people who have been developing coherent alternatives to current policies and practices. A second thrust of our work relates to **bottom-up projects** that demonstrate what needs to be done from the perspective of people suffering directly from declining social conditions.

NSD began this part of its work by focusing on Colombia and organizing multi-stakeholder debates with Colombian and other interested participants. Once these debates reach a consensus on a structured rethinking of the development process, the next step is to launch a planning process to identify the most pressing local problems, followed by development of strategies, programmes and projects. As many parties as possible are engaged in the process, from the most underprivileged and marginalized members of society to the most powerful officials and resource owners. Eventually national governments and international agencies are brought into the process.

The call for such initiatives is growing, but the voices are fragmented. More 'debates at the centre' are needed, and NSD's goal is to provide a forum for them.

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## The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)

The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance IRHA is a membership-based collective open to all parties interested in the field of rainwater harvesting (RWH). It was created during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. IRHA's vision is safe freshwater for sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem conservation in all regions of the world. Our mission is to promote RWH within the context of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), linking local social and economic development with the protection of vital ecosystems.

Throughout history, civilizations have developed RWH practices as a simple but effective way of obtaining water for drinking and other purposes.

The realization that all sources of fresh water – rivers, lakes, wetlands and groundwater reserves – face the twin challenge of overexploitation and pollution, introduces a growing need to harvest and conserve rainwater where it falls. Rainwater as a public good is accessible to all and is a key resource in reducing poverty and improving livelihoods in many regions of the developing world.

Many regions with water scarcity, rapid population growth and lowering water tables, are facing food insecurity and water-borne diseases. Rainwater harvesting becomes a major development option in semi-arid lands, dry lands and small islands – even in areas subject to flooding. It is a complementary option in other regions where water resources are insufficient or poorly managed. Mainstreaming RWH in development agendas should permit the concrete implementation of the principles and declarations adopted at

## NatureNotes

### Butterfly bush

The orange eye butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii*, a large shrub native to China, is used in gardens throughout the world to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. It spreads aggressively from gardens to colonize disturbed ground, outcompeting native vegetation.



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major global events in Rio, Dublin, Bonn, Johannesburg, Kyoto, Jeju and CSD 12, as in many regional and local water and sanitation events. IRHA is thus engaged in putting into practice this political will to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals. As an essential component of IWRM, RWH should improve cross-sector planning, facilitate better institutional coordination and preserve traditional water-saving knowledge. IRHA is deeply involved in building the Social Life Cycle of Rainwater in pilot projects with a view to mainstreaming this option in development agendas and to implementing a successful capacity building strategy in selected countries in the South. To accomplish its mission, IRHA collaborates with many different partners in the South and NGOs in Geneva and worldwide. IRHA invites bilateral donor agencies, UN agencies, international NGOs, small private sector businesses and committed individuals to support and join its efforts.

More information:  
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E-mail: [marga@irha-h2o.org](mailto:marga@irha-h2o.org); [www.irha-h2o.org](http://www.irha-h2o.org)

## NatureNotes

### Documenting invasives

In 2001, the Swiss Commission for Wild Plant Conservation (CPS/SKEW) set up a working group to collect and disseminate information on Switzerland's invasive plants. The group established a "Black List", "Grey List" and "Watch List". The invasives described in these NatureNotes are all 'black listed'.

[http://www.cps-skew.ch/english/info\\_invasive\\_plants.htm](http://www.cps-skew.ch/english/info_invasive_plants.htm)

For more on Geneva's invasive species, see NatureNotes in *Environment House News* 8.



**Upcoming environment-related events in the Geneva area – 2004**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event (Organizer/contact)</b>
19 May	GEN Roundtable: Biotechnology, Trade and the Environment. Tel: +41 22 917 8310, gen.secretary@unep.ch – www.environmenthouse.ch
25-27 May	WTO: DOHA Development Agenda: Symposium: Multilateralism at a crossroads, Tel: + 41 22 739 5676 or 739 5254, symposium2004@wto.org – www.wto.org
1-4 June	UNECE: Inland Transport Committee: Working Party on Pollution and Energy. Tel: +41 22 917 4444, info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org
4 June	World Environment Day. Roundtable on the Global Water Crisis and inauguration of MIE II, International Environment House, Tel: +41 22 917 8310, gen.secretary@unep.ch – www.environmenthouse.ch
9-10 June	Consultations on PCB Management and Disposal under the Stockholm Convention. Tel: +41 22 917 8487, PCBconsultation@chemicals.unep.ch – www.chem.unep.ch/pops/
11-13 June	GEN: Journées du développement durable. International Environment House and Plaine de Plainpalais, Geneva. Tel: +41 22 917 8310, gen.secretary@unep.ch – www.environmenthouse.ch
17 June	GEN: Missions Briefing on United Nations Environmental Management Group. Tel: +41 22 917 8310, gen.secretary@unep.ch – www.environmenthouse.ch
5-16 July	ECOSOC: Sub-Committees of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org
6-7 July	WTO: Committee on Trade and Environment. Tel: +41 22 739 5111, Enquiries@wto.org – www.wto.org
12-16 July	24th Session of the open-ended working group to the Montreal Protocol. Tel: +254 2 62 38 50, ozoneinfo@unep.org – www.unep.org/ozone
15-16 July	UNECE: Second Regional Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development. Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org/env
1-3 Sept	UNECE: Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution: Working Group on Effects. Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org/env
6-8 Sept	UNECE: Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution: Steering Body to EMEP. Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org/env
13-15 Sept	UNECE: Committee on Environmental Policy: Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews. Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org/env
14-17 Sept	UNECE: Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution: Working Group on Strategies and Review. Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org/env
18 Sept	Rotterdam Convention: 11th Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-11). Tel: +41 22 917 8183, pic@unep.ch – www.pic.int
20-24 Sept	First Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (COP-1). Tel: +41 22 917 8183, pic@unep.ch – www.pic.int
20-22 Sept	UNECE: Human Settlements Committee. Tel: + 41 22 917 4444, Info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org/env/hs
23-24 Sept	UNECE: 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention. Tel: +41 22 917 4444, Info.ece@unece.org – www.unece.org/env/pp

**Environment  
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