

Impacts of biotic invasions in terrestrial ecosystems: spatial assessment, base rates and consequences

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This workshop has been sponsored by the European Science Foundation, and will directly contribute to the activity dealing with the role of biological invasions in the Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems (GCTE) project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP), and to the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) assessment of the changing distributions and abundances of alien species. This workshop is also an activity organized by the LEA between CNRS-CEFE, CREAM and UB. In addition, the results are a contribution to the International Observation Year 2001 (IBOY).

The tasks for the workshop are:

1. To estimate the current areal extent and abundance of biotic invaders across the earth's surface.
2. To estimate the differing rates at which invaders succeed in becoming established in different regions. In turn, we will attempt to determine whether there are patterns among these rates that would allow us to rank ecosystems in terms of their comparative vulnerability to invasion.
3. To quantify the effect of these invaders at the ecosystem level. Specially we would like to focus on the experimental approaches to study the role that invaders have on ecosystem processes.