

# Invasive Alien Species: the Urban Dimension

Strengthening local action in Europe's urban areas

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## Speakers' biographies

### JULIA MARTON-LEFÈVRE

**Julia Marton-Lefèvre** is Director General of IUCN. Prior to this position, she was Rector of the University for Peace, Executive Director of LEAD International and Executive Director of The International Council for Science. She is a member of several boards, including the UN Global Compact, the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, and Oxford University's James Martin School. She is a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science and a

## ULRICH WITTE

**Ulrich Witte**, born January 29, 1954 in Sögel (Germany), rendered his civilian service in Hamburg from 1973-74, subsequent to the German school leaving examination (Abitur) in 1972. Studies at the University of Münster from 1974-79 in the subjects of German philology and social sciences completed he with the First State Examination for teachers at secondary schools. He earned a doctorate in German philology in 1981 in the field of the history of the German language. The following teacher training at the Max-Planck-Gymnasium in Dortmund from 1983-84 was concluded with the Second State Examination. From 1985-91 Ulrich Witte worked as an expert on educational questions at the Catholic Academy Ludwig Windthorst House in Lingen, focusing on environment, school and politics; and in addition he took over the management of the Ludwig Windthorst Foundation in 1987. In 1991, Ulrich Witte joined the newly founded Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (German Federal Environmental Foundation) as head of the unit environmental education. From 1992-2005 he was deputy head of the department of environmental communication and also coordinates the international contacts of the foundation since 1997. Since 2005, Ulrich Witte is head of the department of environmental communication and cultural assets. He represents the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt in numerous advisory boards and committees at national and international levels, including the German National Committee of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.



## JONATHAN JESCHKE

**Jonathan Jeschke** is Assistant Professor at the Technische Universität München, Germany, and Visiting Scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, New York, USA. He held research positions at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany; Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, New York, USA; and University of Helsinki, Finland. He has authored over 60 publications and served as editor of ten scientific journals. His research interests focus on biological invasions, other novel organisms (e.g. GMOs), biodiversity, predator-prey interactions, and other basic and applied ecological topics.



## RICCARDO SCALERA

**Riccardo Scalera** is a naturalist with over 16 years of professional experience in the field of conservation biology, wildlife management and vertebrate ecology, and a proficient expertise on European environmental policy and legislation, particularly in the field of nature protection and biodiversity (e.g. Habitats and Birds directives), sustainable exploitation of natural resources (e.g. in relation to the CITES and related Wildlife Trade regulations, etc.) and some relevant financial programmes (LIFE). In relation to invasive alien species, Riccardo has been actively contributing to the development of key policy documents, e.g. by working for several public institutions and private companies, including the European Commission, the EEA, the JRC, the Council of Europe, IUCN International, WWF-European Policy Programme, the University of Auckland. Furthermore, since 2009 he is Programme Officer of the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group and co-editor of *Aliens: the Invasive Species Bulletin*.







## SPEAKERS

dynamics. Retired in 2003 but still go daily into the institute (which merged with the Macaulay Land Use Institute in Aberdeen in 2011 and is now called the James Hutton Institute). In 2009-2011 I was employed by the institute to repeat the earthworm survey. My reason for continuing my involvement with the James Hutton Institute is that it allows me to continue scientific research without the distraction of meetings or writing grant applications. The potential detrimental impact of the New Zealand flatworm on the above and below ground environment has meant that since 1992 I have continuously collated the New Zealand flatworm records for Scotland since then and I am in contact with Dr. Hugh Jones and Mr Michael Lole who do the same for England and Dr. Archie Murchie who collects the records for Ireland. My records are deposited with Scottish Natural Heritage and the NBN (National Biodiversity Network) which allows anyone to see the flatworms distribution in the United Kingdom. Over the years I have appeared on many TV/radio programmes and written papers and given papers/posters at numerous meetings to try and raise the profile of the New Zealand flatworm and its potential detrimental impact on the environment.

## LUC WAUTERS

**Luc Wauters** was born in Lier (Belgium) on 29 April 1962 obtained his bachelor degree in Biology, direction Zoology at the Univers

## FIONA HARVEY

**Fiona Harvey** is an award-winning environment journalist for the Guardian. Prior to this, she worked for the Financial Times for more than a decade. She has reported on every major environmental issue, from as far afield as the Arctic and the Amazon, and her wide range of interviewees include Ban Ki-moon, Tony Blair, Al Gore and Jeff Immelt.

## LESLEY DICKIE

**Dr Lesley Dickie** was educated at the universities of Glasgow (BSc Zoology), Cambridge (MPhil Biological Anthropology) and London (PhD). At Queen Mary, University of London, she undertook her PhD work entitled, 'The Behaviour and Reproductive Physiology of the Fossa (*Cryptoprocta ferax*) in Captivity'. She began her career in zoos at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland as a records and zoo keeper at Edinburgh Zoo. After completing field work in Madagascar and finishing her