

Harmonia⁺ : a risk-screening procedure for alien species

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Introduction

The sooner invasive alien species become tackled during invasion, the more cost-effective measures against them will be. But before such prevention or early eradication measures can take place, it is essential to first identify those species that pose the highest risks.

Harmonia⁺

We constructed *Harmonia⁺*, which essentially is a **questionnaire** presenting 30 key questions on invasion risk components of a focal organism (Figs. 1-2).

Answers provided by an expert or expert panel can be processed textually or numerically. Numeric output allows for a ranking of species risks –and thus- a **prioritization** of measures against them.

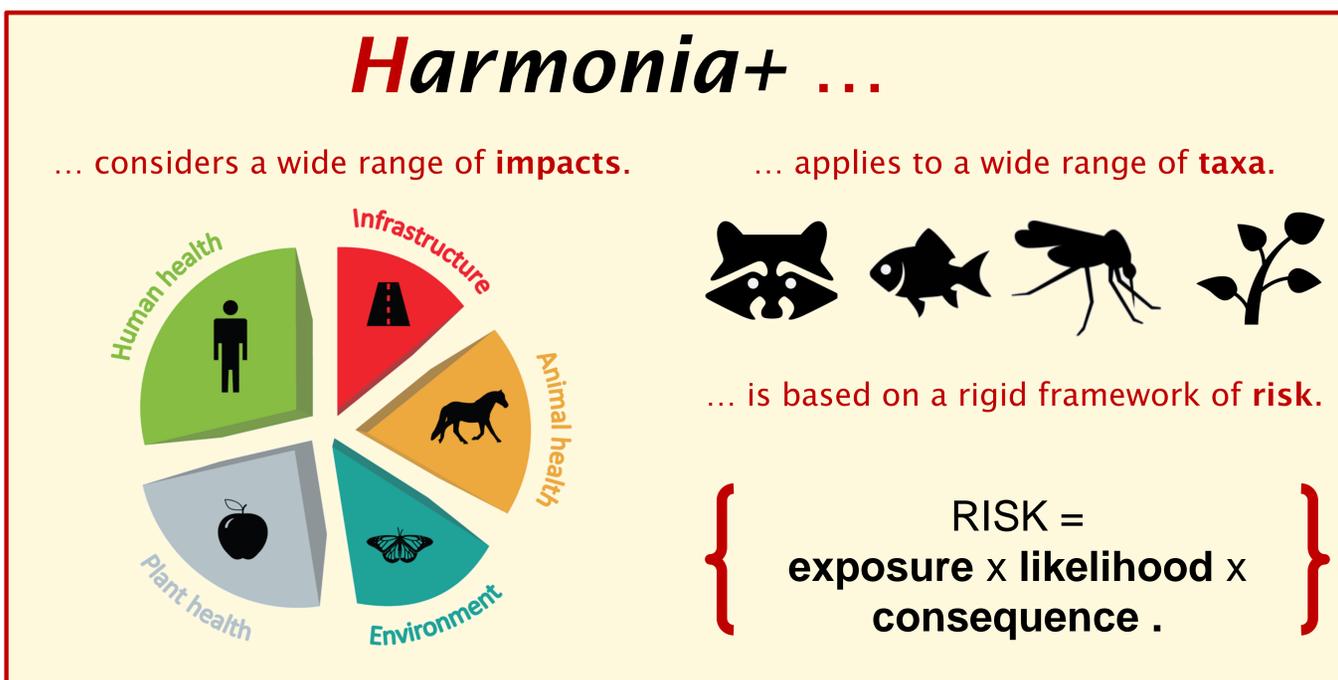


Figure 1 : three key features of *Harmonia⁺* .

Realization

Harmonia⁺ has come about through the **collaboration** of eight Belgian scientific institutes, each providing expertise on different components of the protocol.

An external panel of testing experts deemed the protocol to be **clear, complete, consistent and useful**.

Harmonia⁺ could therefore prove a worthy successor of the current Belgian scoring system for invasive alien species (ISEIA), and inform the construction of **black lists**.

Access the full *Harmonia⁺* and the online questionnaire through <http://ias.biodiversity.be>.

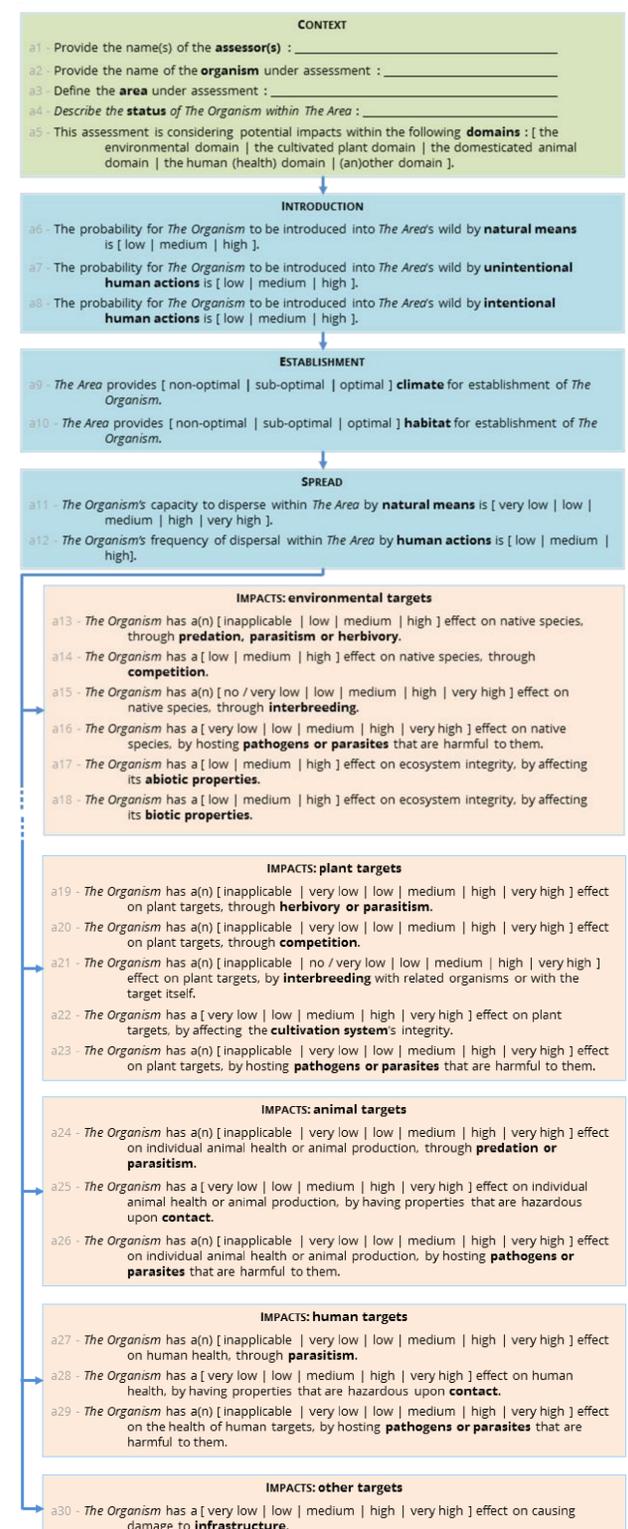


Figure 2 : an overview of all questions within the *Harmonia⁺* questionnaire. (Note: all guidance, subsidiary questions and examples are omitted.)



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