

**Joint ESENIAS and DIAS Scientific Conference 2022 and
11th ESENIAS Workshop**

Invasive alien species under conditions of global crisis

13 – 15 November 2022

Opening Speech

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Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen from different countries and regions who are attending the meeting face-to-face or online!

I am very sorry I couldn't be there with you, because of the unexpected urgent Ministry related issues. I would like to thank you for your participation in the conference, as the Chair of the Organising Committee, on behalf of the Organising Committee and our Ministry, and extend my greetings and respects. Our team will be with you. If you need something, please don't hesitate to contact them.

This Conference has been organised by our Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, ESENIAS and DIAS, with the cooperation of institutions from our country and Bulgaria. The last year conference was held by the same team only in virtual format because of the pandemic conditions. This time it will be carried out during three days, with the theme of "Invasive alien species under conditions of global crisis" both face to face and virtual. It is a great pleasure to have you

both at the International Scientific Conference and the 11th ESENIAS Workshop!

As it is known, the effects of global warming and climate change, which are among the biggest environmental problems that threaten the world, have started to emerge in the last few years. These negative effects have become more and more visible. Unfortunately, they started to pose a threat to the sustainability of agriculture, forests, water resources, energy, human health and biological diversity. These emerging dangers are also an important challenge in food supply and food security.

Some living organisms, which could only be found in certain regions in the past, have become widespread today, due to the increasing ease of transportation, the pet industry, and the impact of global climate change, depending on the developing technology. Moreover, they become able to establish populations wherever they reach. Species settling in new geographic areas put pressure on native species, invade their habitats, or damage the native species, causing the ecosystem balance to deteriorate.

According to the evaluations made in the last 50 years, at the global level, the economic value of the damages caused by the invasive alien species in the period has been estimated at least 1.3 trillion dollars. While it is calculated as approximately 27 billion dollars on an annual basis, it is assumed that the annual bill actually triples every ten years, and this amount reached 163 billion dollars just in 2017, reaching 20 times the total budget of the World Health Organization and the UN Secretariat.

In Türkiye, as a Ministry, we follow an active policy with all our institutions in the fight against invaders that cause such great damages. We update our legal legislation according to the current conditions, we try to do all kinds of work,

including prohibition, restrictive legislative arrangements for the transportation of invasive species in order to reduce / prevent their spread, and hunting regulations to put pressure on these species. Financial incitement has been given to the fishers for eradication of invasive species. We increase our institutional capacity and raise public awareness with awareness activities.

We believe that a more consistent, integrated and science-based approach should be applied by all countries, scientists and non-governmental organisations for the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity on earth, and that cooperation and information sharing are essential in this regard.

In this context, in this scientific meeting where 51 oral presentations and 24 poster presentations from 23 countries will be presented in partnership with ESENIAS and DIAS, I appreciate the fact that the knowledge created by very valuable scientists by making great efforts is presented to the benefit of humanity, and I thank the Organising and Scientific committees and everyone who contributed!

I wish a successful workshop that contributes to the world's biodiversity and the outputs of which will be utilised effectively, and I present my greetings and respects!

Thank you for your attention!