

# ESTABLISHING AN INVASION-ASSESSMENT AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (IAS) IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

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## Background

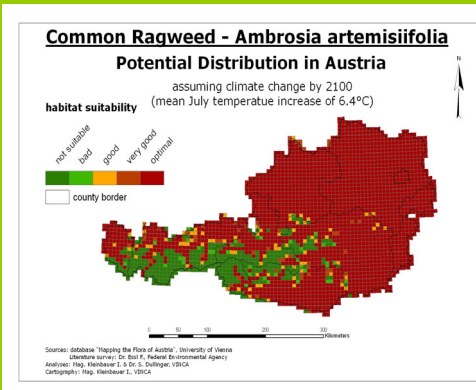
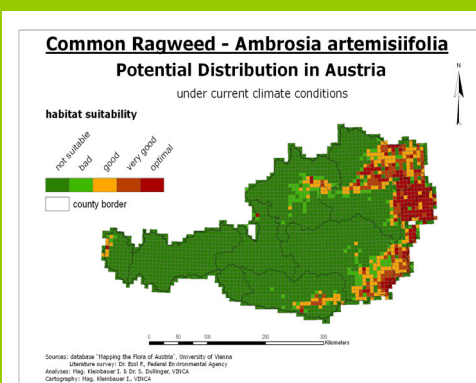
- I. Controlling IAS once they are established is often extremely difficult and costly, while prevention and early intervention have more chances to be successful and cost-effective
- II. Climate change will foster invasions in the future (MEA 2005)

## Project aims

- I. Creating an invasion-assessment scheme for IAS
- II. Assessing climate change impacts on IAS
- III. Establishing an expert-based early warning system on IAS



Black locust (*Robinia pseudacacia*): an attractive plant, but one of the most detrimental IAS in Central Europe



Distribution of the highly allergenic ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) in Austria under current climate conditions and under a climate change scenario

## Conclusion & Outlook

→ This project serves as a model for the establishment of an early warning system on IAS in the EU (EC 2006)

→ This project applies the precautionary approach of the CBD

## References

- EC 2006. *Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond*. Commission of the European Communities, Brussels, 16 pp. +
- MEA 2005. *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis*. World Resources Institute, Washington, DC, 100 pp.

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