RIO + 20: WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS TWO DECADES MADE TO STATE PRACTICE IN THE REGULATION OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES?
“almost all nations observe almost all principles of international law and almost all of their obligations almost all of the time”
In 1968 the environmental movement still lay in the future.

Proliferation of treaty regimes from latter part of 20th century.
1. STATES’ OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

2. WHETHER, AND HOW, STATES HAVE COMPLIED WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS
Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or other species
Japanese star fish
Zebra mussel
Mongoose
- Prevent the introduction of or control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species

- 15 principles designed to improve and harmonize state practice
  - Cornerstones are the ecosystem approach and precautionary approach.
  - Three-tiered approach that emphasizes preventing introductions, followed by eradication and control measures.
Parties prepare and file reports at intervals determined by the COPs.

To date four National Reports, due:

- First National Report 1997
- Second National Report 2001
- Third National Report 2005
- Fourth National Report 2009
HAS YOUR COUNTRY IDENTIFIED ALIEN SPECIES INTRODUCED? (Q 88)

First National Report

Second National Report

Third National Report

Fourth National Report
MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO IAS (Q90)

First National Report

Second National Report

Third National Report

Fourth National Report
Question 52: Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (Decision VI/23):

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<td>No</td>
<td>No, but review under way.</td>
<td>Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed.</td>
<td>Yes, adjustment and development ongoing.</td>
<td>Yes, some adjustment and development completed.</td>
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WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS RIO + 20 MADE?

- Most states complying to some extent.
- By 4th National Report only 7 states had comprehensive measures.

CONSTRAINED BY:
- RESOURCING
- POLITICAL WILL
ADEQUACY OF RESOURCING

First National Report

Second National Report

Third National Report

Fourth National Report
Resourcing is:
(a) Good  
(b) Adequate  
(c) Limiting  
(d) Severely Limiting

HDI = Human Development Index
Robyn Eckersley

‘The Big Chill: The WTO and Multilateral Environmental Agreements’
MORE STATES ARE WORKING TOWARDS COMPLIANCE THAN STATES THAT ARE NOT.

GREATER EFFORT, HOWEVER, IS REQUIRED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF IAS REGIMES.
CONCLUSION

- IAS is a global issue
- Regime only as strong as weakest link
- Without stronger regulation the mistakes of today may not materialize for several generations, laying the foundation for ever-increasing future problems.