

Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework

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Vision

The South Florida Ecosystem, including America's Everglades, its environmental, economic, and cultural values and human health, is protected from the harmful effects of invasive exotic species.

Key Principles

The Framework, including the strategic goals in Section IV, is guided by a set of key principles. These principles are core, shared values that help outline the best route(s) for success.

- Combating invasive species is central to the sustainability of the South Florida Ecosystem.
- Success will require interagency cooperation, innovative partnerships, and an informed, involved public.
- Prevention is the most cost effective strategy.
- EDRR will not be successful if it is implemented in an informal and ad hoc way.
- Adequate and consistent funding is necessary.
- Research should be integrated across goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species.**Objective 1A: IDENTIFY: Develop systematic ecological risk analyses/assessment process.**

- Strategic Action 1A1: Develop and maintain a prioritized list of species and taxonomic groups likely to cause the most damage in the South Florida Ecosystem.
- Strategic Action 1A2: Build on existing resources including the Florida Invasive Animal Task Team (FIATT) criteria, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) template, and the IFAS on-line weed risk assessment.

Objective 1B: SECURE: Improve security of existing pathways and identify potential new pathways.

- Strategic Action 1B1: Enhance import/export screening.
- Strategic Action 1B2: Maximize use of existing authorities.
- Strategic Action 1B3: Seek new authorities.
- Strategic Action 1B4: Enhance domestic bio-security.

Objective 1C: EDUCATE/ENGAGE: Engage the public and broaden the partnership actively working to prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species.

- Strategic Action 1C1:

Goal 2: Implement Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).**Objective 2A: DETECT: Ensure early reporting of new invasions.**

- Strategic Action 2A1: Design and implement an integrated monitoring plan.
- Strategic Action 2A2: Establish a centralized reporting system.
- Strategic Action 2A3: Develop an outreach and communication strategy.
- Strategic Action 2A4: Compile an on-call expert list.

Objective 2B: ERADICATE: Eradicate newly introduced invasive exotic species.

- Strategic Action 2B1: Develop and implement ECISMA response protocol.
- Strategic Action 2B2: Establish an EDRR fund.
- Strategic Action 2B3: Develop and provide access to EDRR guidelines, model response plans, and other resources.
- Strategic Action 2AB4: Develop and conduct training for rapid responders.

Objective 2C: INTERCEPT: Intercept and eradicate new incipient populations with limited distribution.

- Strategic Action 2C1:

Goal 3: Prevent the spread of invasive exotic species to new areas.**Objective 3A: PRIORITIZE: Prioritize landscapes and invasive exotic species for control.**

- Strategic Action 3A1: Identify invasive exotic species impacting South Florida Ecosystem restoration.
- Strategic Action 3A2: Identify Florida-wide invasive exotic species.
- Strategic Action 3A3: Identify best candidate species with high likelihood of success with classical biological control agents.
- Strategic Action 3A4: Identify highest priority natural areas for first-action of removal and control.

Objective 3B: CONTAIN: Utilize existing control tools to contain invasive exotic species.

- Strategic Action 3B1:

Objective 3C: INNOVATE: Develop new methods for invasive exotic species where controls may be unknown or inadequate.

- Strategic Action 3C1: Support research to increase array of control tools for invasive exotic species.

Goal 4: Reduce the population of widely established invasive exotic species to lowest feasible levels.**Objective 4A: COMBAT: Reduce population of established invasive exotic species through new controls or increased utilization of existing control tools.**

- Strategic Action 4A1:

Objective 4B: RESTORE: Reduce impacts of invasive exotic species through restoration of native habitats and species.

- Strategic Action 4B1: Identify priority landscapes for restoration.

Case Studies

Prevention:

- South African Python (Lacey Act)
- Ticks (Heart Water Disease)

Eradication:

- Sacred Ibis
- Giant African Snail (Outreach, CDC/FDACS, Counties, Tribes)

Containment:

- Tegus
- Gambian Pouched Rats

Management:

- Lionfish
- Melaleuca (bio-control success story)
- Burmese Python
- Ambrosia Beetle/Laurel Wilt

Suggested Format

Case Study (1,000 words)

Intro (max 100 words)

Brief species description and unique challenges

Desired outcomes of management (objectives)

Case Presentation (Max 300 words)

Management Actions and Outcome (Max 500 words)

Describe management actions

What worked, what didn't?

What were the facilitating factors leading to success?

How were challenges overcome?

What factors contributed to failure?

Key Recommendations/Issues (Max 100 words)

Most important points (lessons learned)

Authorities Matrix

Invasive Species Function	Authorities	Agencies	Responsibilities
Prevention			
EDRR			
Containment			
Management			