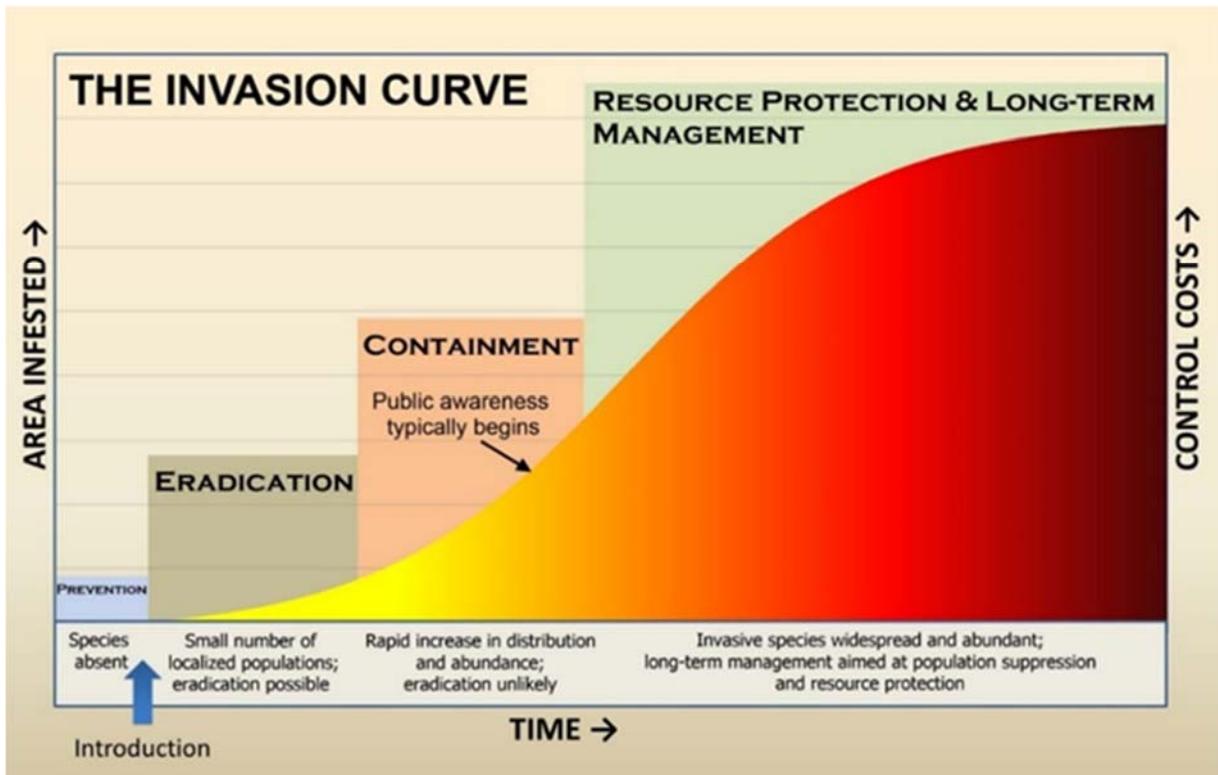


**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework:  
2020 Prioritization Exercise**

The South Florida Ecosystem is one of the most vulnerable regions to the threat of invasive exotic species (IES) in the entire United States. Recognizing the importance of protecting valuable resources by managing the growing threats of invasive exotic species, the Task Force developed an Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework (Framework). The Framework is organized along the four phases of the Invasion Curve: Prevention, Eradication through Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), Containment, and Long-term Management/Resource Protection.



The Framework established goals and strategies for each of these four phases. During the development of the initial Framework in 2014, a prioritization exercise was conducted to highlight a subset of strategic actions needing the most immediate attention. During the Framework update in 2020, this prioritization effort was repeated with the IES experts and partners assisting with the Framework update, as well as with members of the Working Group and Science Coordination Group. This document provides the results of the 2020 prioritization effort.

Priorities for the next 5 years build upon the progress made to date and include expanding many effective programs and tools that were implemented priorities from the 2015 Framework. The 2015 prioritization effort highlighted needs and gaps in EDRR. The 2020 effort echoed some of these strategies and increased the focus on prevention tool development and prevention capacity building.

<b>2020 IES Framework Prioritization Exercise: Priority Strategies and Needs/Gaps</b>	
<b>Goal 1 Priority Strategies</b>	<b>Needs/Gaps</b>
Strategy 1A1: Identify pathways and prioritize potential threats and invasive exotic species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved horizon scanning for emerging species in trade.</li> <li>• Improved coordination between state/federal prevention programs.</li> </ul>
Strategy 1A2: Engage stakeholders and the public to support prevention efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate new and increase existing efforts such as the “Don’t Pack a Pest” program for a greater presence at ports of entry and in social media.</li> </ul>
Strategy 1B1: Enhance and improve the pathway inspection/screening process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand detector dog/staff programs and other tools at ports of entry.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 2 Priority Strategies</b>	<b>Needs/Gaps</b>
Strategy 2A1: Implement a systematic, prioritized, multi-species monitoring and inventory plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance monitoring efforts outside of the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA) footprint to include all areas within the South Florida Ecosystem.</li> </ul>
Strategy 2A4: Engage the public and provide exotic species reporting mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance staff/resources to enable full coverage of the 888-Ive-Got1 hotline and enhance ability to respond to calls.</li> </ul>
Strategy 2A5: Establish rapid assessment and response programs/processes/cooperatives/tools that allow for nimble attempts at eradication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance coordination of rapid response reports, particularly when involving federally protected species.</li> </ul>
Strategy 2B1: Rapidly assess the status and potential threat of newly detected incipient invasive exotic species populations and develop a response/no response plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue refinement of existing tools.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 3 Priority Strategies</b>	<b>Needs/Gaps</b>
Strategy 3A2: Implement control efforts at containment boundaries and known pathways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand existing efforts at containment boundaries.</li> <li>• Establish comprehensive monitoring programs to prevent spread of species beyond boundaries.</li> </ul>
Strategy 3A5: Enforce existing laws regarding transporting and releasing exotic species to prevent spread.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase resources to enhance enforcement capabilities.</li> <li>• Increase penalties for transport and release of invasive exotic species.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 4 Priority Strategies</b>	<b>Needs/Gaps</b>
Strategy 4C3: Develop and improve tools to assist in the long-term control of invasive exotic species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish long-term and consistent funding for the management of invasive species.</li> <li>• Enhance research capabilities through grants/contracts.</li> <li>• Maintain toolbox for invasive plants (e.g., concerns regarding glyphosate restrictions/substitutions).</li> <li>• Increase aquatic weed biocontrol research.</li> <li>• Enhance toolbox for invasive animals (ex. Burmese python detection tools).</li> </ul>