

**FPT Invasive Alien Species Task Force
Recommendations to Improve Invasive
Alien Species Prevention and
Management in Canada**

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National Invasive Species Forum
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What are Invasive Alien Species*?

- **Alien species** - plants, animals and micro-organisms introduced by human action outside their natural past, or present distribution
- **Invasive alien species** – Harmful alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society including human health

* From: An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada, 2004



Impacts to Canada's Biodiversity, Economy and Society

Biodiversity Impacts

- Next to habitat loss, invasive species are the leading cause of species becoming at risk of extinction

Economic Impacts

- Economic impact of just 16 species found in Canada ranges from \$13.3 to \$34.5 billion annually
- Control costs for Emerald Ash Borer in City of Toronto estimated at \$37 million
- Significant economic impacts to trade as a result of controls and quarantine

Societal Impacts

- Media focus on invasive species is growing. High profile species such as Asian Carp dominate headlines
- Public awareness and expectations increasing
- Outdoor and recreational experiences negatively impacted (zebra mussels on beaches)



BIODIVERSITY



ECONOMY



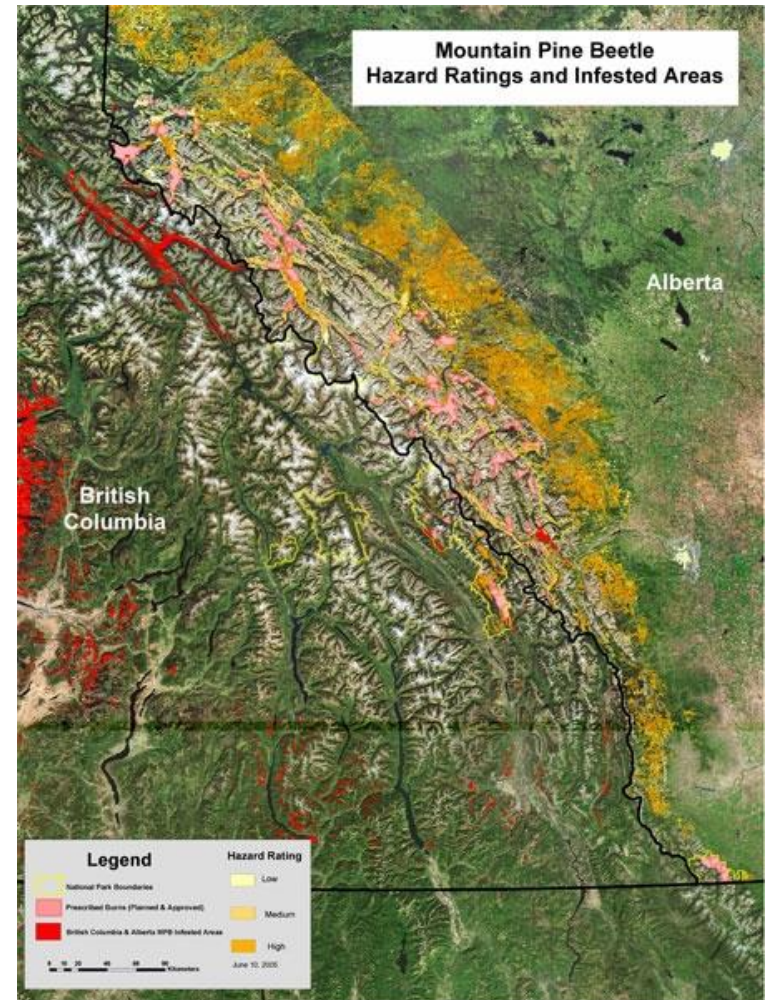
SOCIETY



IMPACTS

The Threat of Invasive Alien Species in Canada

- Globalization, demand for trade, travel and transport puts Canada at high risk to new introductions
- Climate change, reduced ecosystem resilience and habitat degradation increasingly enables survival and spread of invaders
- Invasive species will continue to significantly impact Canada's economy, environment and society



Key Pathways of Concern



TRADE

Hitchhikers on goods and packaging

(e.g. Brown Spruce Long-Horned Beetle on wood pallets)

Direct Trade in Alien Species

Horticulture
Internet Trade
Aquarium/Pet Trade (e.g. Northern Snakehead)

TRANSPORTATION

Hitchhikers on vehicles, vessels, trains, planes

Examples:

Transoceanic ships (ballast and hull foulants)
Fire fighting aircraft (water tanks)
Trucks and all-terrain vehicles distribute invasive plant seeds
Recreational boats and trailers

TOURISM/ RECREATION

Movement of Firewood
Movement of live bait
Garden "escapes"
Unauthorized fish introductions
International travel



Much good work to date

- *An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada (2004)*; a strong foundation, still relevant today
- Development of sub-national action plans, strategies, legislation, and supporting partnerships
- New coordination mechanisms to encourage collaboration and information sharing
 - Regional examples
 - Pacific North West Economic Region Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Group
 - Inter-Provincial-Territorial Agreement for Coordinated Regional Defense Against Invasive Species
 - Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers' AIS Task Force
 - FPT Committees (examples)
 - Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers' National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee; Council of Canadian Forest Ministers' Forest Pest Working Group.



Difficult to keep pace with this rapidly changing threat

- Provincial and federal approaches and tools to address threats are increasingly challenged to keep pace and evolve as understanding of the threat grows
- To be effective, the fight against IAS needs to move beyond sectoral and jurisdictional approaches
- **Growing consensus that there is a need for an ongoing national, over-arching, inter-jurisdictional coordination mechanism for IAS issues**



Identifying a Path Forward



CWB Ministers' Call to Action

- Renewed commitment to the goals of the National Strategy
- FPT IAS Task Force* established to identify key actions to support progress

Feb 2015



Work of the IAS Task Force

- Compiled evidence and sought advice from agencies, partners and stakeholders
- Jurisdictional interviews
- National Workshop in Ottawa in collaboration with CCIS

Jun 2015- Jan 2017



FPT IAS Task Force Recommendations Report

- Approved by the Conservation Wildlife Biodiversity Ministers
- Report reflects the extensive consultation conducted

February 2017



* Membership of Task Force : AB, BC, MB, NB, NWT, NT, ON, QC, SK, YK , ECCC, CFIA, DFO, NRCan

Three Recommendations to Advance FPT work on IAS

- The FPT IAS Task Force identified **three strategic recommendations** to support and advance FPT work on IAS
- **Broad national consensus** reflecting support from federal and provincial agencies, stakeholders, and other partners
- Emphasis on **adding value to existing work**:
 - Prevention
 - Pathway prioritization and management
 - Coordination and information sharing

Recommendations to Improve
INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
Prevention and Management in Canada

Prepared by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Invasive Alien Species Task Force
Approved by the Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity Steering Group on January 27, 2017
For consideration by the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity Ministers



Recommendation 1: Improve National Leadership and Coordination of IAS Actions

- *Formalize the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Invasive Alien Species Task Force*
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Strengthen policy frameworks to address IAS
Example Priority Task: Addressing key pathways of introduction not currently addressed (e.g. pet trade) or emerging issues
 - Coordinate national studies and analysis
Example Priority Task: Develop a national report on the status of IAS by 2020 and track progress toward achievement of Target 11 of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada
 - Encourage collaboration and partnerships
Example Priority Task: Work with national, U.S. and international partners in delivery of IAS programs



Recommendation 2: Improve Emergency Response to IAS Incursions

- *Develop a National Framework for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Initiatives*
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Provide guidance on how to respond to new invasive species

Example Priority Tasks: Ensure linkages to existing frameworks within Canada, and the U.S. , describe agency roles, notification processes, approvals and permitting requirements
 - Encourage development of EDRR Plans (e.g. for high risk species/taxonomic groups)

Example Priority Task: Explore the feasibility of establishing a National IAS Emergency Response Fund with clear mechanisms to build, sustain and allocate resources for EDRR
 - Share EDRR experiences and build on lessons learned



Recommendation 3: Enable Actions by Canadians

- *Join Forces to Combat IAS*

Strengthening collaboration with external partners, empowering others to take action improves outcomes for everyone.

- **Focus Areas:**

- **Build strategic partnerships**

Example Priority Task: Work with Canadian Council on Invasive Species and other national partners, and provincial/territorial invasive species councils

- **Communicate and educate**

Example Priority Task: Strengthen connections to existing outreach and education approaches and programs

- **Build capacity**

Example Priority Task: Conduct joint risk assessments and develop clearinghouse

- **Share information and data**

Example Priority Task: Facilitate public access to federal/provincial territorial reporting networks by providing easy access to contact information.

- **Strengthen funding**

Example Priority Task: Improve existing and establish new FPT partnership funding programs to support priority actions



Implementation

- Recommendations were approved by the Conservation, Wildlife and Biodiversity Ministers on February 22nd. The next steps being to;
 - Review and amend IAS Task Force Terms of Reference and confirm membership
 - Develop a 5-year work plan, prioritizing key actions – to be approved by the Conservation Wildlife and Biodiversity ADM Steering Group
 - Continue ECCC secretariat support for the National IAS



Conclusion

- This proposal builds on the priority actions identified in the 2004 Strategy
- Offers a framework for continued coordination and increased efficiency of the many efforts underway across Canada on invasive alien species.
- Its recommendations, focus areas, and proposed priority actions reflect a decade of experience across Canada, and strong consensus among IAS Task Force members, partners, and stakeholders.

