
The new IUCN Guidelines for invasive species planning and management on islands

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Abstract

Activities to avoid or mitigate negative impacts of invasive species are seen as high priority on islands. A new IUCN publication provides guidelines for such activities. It is available in three languages: English, French, and Spanish. The talk will focus on and provide examples for the aims of the guidelines which are designed to assist anyone planning and programming invasive species management on islands. These aims are, i.a., to provide a comprehensive framework for invasive species management on islands, address all problem areas and facilitate prioritisation, increase action and improve implementation, increase efficiency and cooperation and reduce duplication, guide the work of international and regional agencies incl. donors, guide the development of country and island programs, including National Invasive Species Strategies and Action Plans and individual agency plans, and guide strategic and local fundraising. The two sections of the guidelines will also be presented: a ‘Checklist’ section and a ‘How to’ section. The ‘Checklist’ section presents essential components of a comprehensive and effective invasive species management program, arranged in ten Thematic Areas, and grouped into three overall Themes (Foundations; Information and Prioritization; Management Action). All 10 Thematic Areas need to be considered when planning an invasive species programme for an island or islands. The ‘How to’ section, provides supplementary guidance on the planning and implementation process, mainly on how to engage, build momentum and support, make decisions, prioritise, and translate plans into action. The Guidelines may be used at a local, national or regional level. Best practice example for the utilization of the Guidelines are shown, because not every country or agency needs to do everything. The Guidelines facilitate prioritisation by country, territory, island or agency, and help to ensure that key aspects relevant to any given situation or programme are not forgotten. As objectives are not prioritised, each stakeholder can select those objectives that it considers important for its own programme. Based on a "user-focussed" presentation, the utilization of the Guidelines for the mitigation of negative impacts of invasive species on islands in-situ and ex-situ shall be encouraged.

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