

Tackling invasive species in the UK Overseas Territories

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GB Non-native Species Secretariat



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



The Scottish
Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Non-native Species Secretariat

- Established 2006
- Small
 - 4.1 staff
- Coordinates action across government in GB



The OTs biosecurity project

- £1 million over 4 years (2016 - 2020)
- Aim is to improve the biosecurity of the OTs
 - through access to UK government expertise
- Biosecurity - the measures put in place to reduce the risk of introduction of new invasive non-native species.
- <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=619>

Priority species for Cyprus & CSBAs

	Marine	Verts	Inverts	Plants
Biodiversity	4	12	2	2
Economy				
Health	2	3	10	5

Some generalities

- Biodiversity impact
 - A lot of vertebrate species
- Health impact
 - Mosquitoes
 - Mixed range of taxa
- Economic impact

Next steps after horizon scanning

- Ideally, risk assessment of each priority species
 - 20 to 60 for each OT
- Result is a set of big documents and take a lot of time
- The OTs need something NOW and need it simple and practical

Pragmatic pathway action planning

- Take a simple approach:
 - what can you do to stop the priority species arriving?
- Tackling the **pathways of entry** is the most cost-effective approach
- Target top priority species – and others will get stopped as well

“Work smarter, not harder”



How do they arrive?

Invasive species are introduced in a number of ways
(pathways):

- Contaminate goods

- Smuggled pets and plants

- Pests in food

- Hitchhikers in shipping containers

- Stowaways in ships and on planes

- Hiding in luggage

- Stuck to boots, clothes etc

Once in, they can be really hard to control



Pathways of arrival in Cyprus

Accidental:

- Containers & packaging – fire ants
- Vessels – crows, rats + marine species in ballast and on hulls

Intentional (including smuggled):

- Pets, zoos, aviary - parakeets, turtles, etc
- Ornamental - plants

Natural spread:

- Birds, Asian hornet, marine species



Biosecurity is key

Biosecurity is the measures put in place to prevent the introduction of a new invasive species to an area

You can do this:

Pre-border (don't let them near). The best!

At the border (spot them on arrival). Difficult.

Or react to new pests and weeds once you've spotted them post-border. Hardest.



Pathway planning considerations

- What are the main pathways?
- How important is each pathway?
- Does legislation exist?
- What are the mitigation options?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- Is it for immediate or long-term action?
- Do the actions require more resources?
- How will you know if it's working?



Pre-border

- Move as much as possible off-shore
- Possible actions -
 - Ban it!
 - Define import health standards
 - Import licencing system
 - Fumigation or treatment before loading
- Useful for -
 - Sand, gravel, aggregate
 - Live animals and plants



At the border

- Focus on high risk pathways at the border
- Possible actions –
 - Inspection
 - Treatment
 - Quarantine
 - Destruction
- Useful for –
 - Fresh produce
 - Luggage



Post-border

- Some things won't/can't be picked up at the border
- Possible actions -
 - Surveillance and rapid response
 - Codes of practice
- Useful for -
 - Plants
 - Diseases(note species, not pathways)



Pet pathway actions example - BVI

Species	Mitigation options		Legislation, where present	Actions / issues / priorities
	Pre-border	border		
Knight anole <i>Anolis equestris</i>	Licence required for importation of live animals; do not issue for these species.	Inspect shipping containers from source countries (Cayman Islands, US Florida, Cuba, Spain).	Surveillance for smuggled pets Public awareness on the threat imposed	Immediate implementation: 1.Licencing system already in operation. 2.Inspection of shipping containers to commence 3.Write 1-page protocol and train staff. 4.Train / alert customs for border checks.
Rose ringed parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>		Look out for smuggled specimens with passengers.		

Next step for Cyprus and SBAs

- What are the main pathways of entry for the priority species?
- What is being done already?
- What is the best way to tackle the priority species:
 - Pre-border
 - Border
 - Post-border
- Where are the gaps?
- What can you improve NOW?
- What do you need extra resources to do?



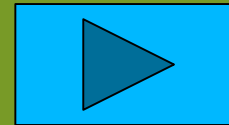
Thank you for your attention

Any questions?



Biosecurity training

- Elearning module “Better Biosecurity for the UK Overseas Territories”



- Second module being developed on “Inspections”, complemented by a set of standardised import health standards and inspection protocols for a range of commodities

