

National Strategy and Action Plan for Invasive Alien Species Control in Sri Lanka

Introduction

The increasing economic and environmental losses caused by non-native invasive species amplify the value of identifying and implementing optimal management options to prevent, detect, and control invasive alien species (IAS). Successful control of invasive species may be the most difficult (and important) part of the ecosystem management. Due to the immensity of the challenge, it is crucial to make the control efforts as efficient and effective as possible.

The “National Invasive Alien Species Policy - NIASP” aiming at preventing the introduction and spread of IAS and their control has been drafted by the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy with the assistance of the GEF/UNDP funded project on “Strengthening Capacity to Control the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species in Sri Lanka”. The strategy and action plan presented in this document for IAS control falls within the framework of the NIASP and refers to the key policy statements already identified.

The document is in the draft form to be forwarded to a broader stakeholder consultation, is intended to provide consistent guidance to the Ministry of Environment (ME), which is the focal point for implementation of the CBD in Sri Lanka, and the stakeholder institutions in line Ministries, non-governmental and private sector organizations, and the citizens of Sri Lanka to develop their own action plans for any activities that could introduce or cause the spread of invasive alien species in the country.

The National Strategies

(aligned with the relevant policy statements identified in the NIASP)

1. General and Cross-cutting

1.1. Policy Statement: Ensure public awareness on pathways of entry, invasiveness, environmental impact and management strategies		
1.1.1. Strategy	Promote awareness campaigns among stakeholders on entry pathways, invasiveness, environmental impact and management strategies	
	1.1.1.1. Actions	Conduct awareness needs assessment on IAS among stakeholder groups.
		Select appropriate modes of conducting awareness campaigns on IAS according to different stakeholder needs
		Identification of organizations capable of conducting awareness building programmes on IAS
		Design and prepare awareness materials on IAS based on the needs assessment
		Conduct regular media briefings, publish newspaper articles and newsletters to create awareness among stakeholders on IAS
		Develop a monitoring framework to measure the effectiveness of the awareness programmes on IAS
		Conduct regular monitoring programs on the effectiveness of the awareness campaign on IAS
1.2. Policy Statement: Ensure an organized risk management process, effective enforcement of regulation and monitoring of IAS entry and control across all sectors, in consistent with national and international levels through an effective institutional coordination mechanism		
1.2.1. Strategy	Strengthen the pre- and post-entry risk assessment process for IAS	
	1.2.1.1. Actions	Develop, implement and regularly update pre- and post-entry risk assessment protocols for IAS
		Identify, list and publish in the public domain, the IAS of national significance, potential IAS and black lists of IAS
		Establish a mechanism to periodically update the lists of IAS of national significance, potential IAS and black lists of IAS
		Develop a monitoring framework to measure the effectiveness of the risk assessment protocols on IAS
		Conduct regular monitoring programs on the effectiveness of the risk assessment protocols on IAS
1.2.2. Strategy	Strengthen the regulatory mechanism for preventing entry and spread of IAS	
	1.2.2.1. Actions	Formulate and enact a National IAS Control Act
		Prepare regulations for effective implementation of the IAS Control Act

		Establish the national focal point to coordinate implementation of the National IAS Act with the participation of the relevant stakeholder organizations.
		Conduct capacity building programmes for relevant stakeholder organizations on the National IAS Act and its implementation mechanism
1.2.3. Strategy	Facilitate the process of monitoring IAS entry	
	1.2.3.1. Actions	Conduct a “capacity needs assessment” of border control officers on identification and detection of IAS
		Design and prepare training manuals and materials and other documents based on the needs assessment on identification and detection of IAS
		Conduct training programs to build technical and physical capacity of border control officers on identification and detection of IAS
		Develop an effective mechanism for detection and prevention of entry of IAS at entry points
		Establish a monitoring mechanism to assess the effectiveness of the detection and prevention process for IAS at entry points
1.2.4. Strategy	Facilitate the process of monitoring IAS control at national level	
	1.2.4.1. Actions	Conduct a “capacity needs assessment” of relevant stakeholder organizations on detection, identification and control of IAS
		Design and prepare training manuals and materials and other documents based on the needs assessment on detection, identification and control of IAS
		Conduct training programs to build technical and physical capacity of stakeholder organizations on detection, identification and control of IAS
		Develop an effective and a coordinated mechanism for detection, identification and control of IAS at national level
		Establish a monitoring mechanism to assess the effectiveness of the detection, identification and control process for IAS at national level
1.2.5. Strategy	Strengthen the institutional coordinated mechanism to prevent entry and control of IAS	
	1.2.5.1. Actions	Identify and establish a national focal point for coordinating detection, identification and control of IAS
		Establish and mandate a National Invasive Species Specialist Group (NISSG) for advising on all of aspects of IAS
		Establish an effective and integrated institutional coordinating mechanism linked through the national focal point on detection, identification and control of IAS through stakeholder consultation

1.3. Policy Statement: Ensure development and maintenance of a national database containing information on identification, risk assessment, invasiveness, impact and management strategies of IAS and that the appropriate information is made available to the general public		
1.3.1. Strategy	Support development and maintenance of national IAS database	
	Actions	Formulate and mandate a National IAS information management Committee
		Develop an interactive National IAS Database through broad-based stakeholder consultation
		Identify hosting and maintenance arrangement for the National IAS Database
		Establish an IAS data entry web portal with an appropriate data entry verification procedure
		Periodically review and update of the National IAS Database
1.3.2. Strategy	Encourage public utilization of the National IAS Database	
	1.3.2.1. Actions	Conduct a propaganda campaign to create awareness among general public on the availability and utility of the National IAS Database
		Establish an appropriate incentive scheme to encourage the use of National IAS Database

2. Prevention

2.1. Recognize the need and ensure the improved capacity building of both human and physical resources among stakeholder institutions for IAS risk assessment and early warning systems.		
2.1.1. Strategy	Support capacity building of human resources in stakeholder institutions for IAS risk assessment and early warning systems	
	2.1.1.1. Actions	Link with 1.2.4.1.
2.1.2. Strategy	Support capacity building of physical resources in stakeholder institutions for IAS risk assessment and early warning systems	
	2.1.2.1. Actions	Link with 1.2.4.1.
2.2. Policy Statement: Strengthen the capacity for inspections and enforcement at Sri Lanka’s entry points for import of commodities, pathways, and vectors to verify and detect introductions		
2.2.1. Strategy	Improve the capacity of stakeholder institutions for inspection of IAS at entry points	
	2.2.1.1. Actions	Review the sectoral policies and update to include IAS inspection, detection, identification and control
		Link with 1.2.2.1., 1.2.3.1 and 1.2.4.1.

2.2.2. Strategy	Improve the capacity of relevant stakeholder institutions for enforcement of IAS regulations and policies at entry points	
	2.2.2.1. Actions	Link with 1.2.2.1.

2.3. Policy statement: Ensure pathways-analysis is conducted and risk assessments are performed for all pathway of introductions of alien species

2.3.1. Strategy	Strengthen development plans and support their implementation for managing high-risk entry pathways, and introductions of IAS	
	2.3.1.1. Actions	Conduct a pathways-analysis for IAS entry to Sri Lanka
		Establish mechanisms/regulations especially focusing on the main pathways of entry identified through pathways-analysis to prevent entry of IAS to Sri Lanka
		Incorporate IAS concerns to national development plans
Link with 1.2.1.1. and 1.2.3.1.		
2.3.2. Strategy	Improve the capacity of stakeholder institutions for enforcement of IAS regulations and policies at entry points	
	2.3.2.1. Actions	Link with 1.2.2.1.

2.4. Policy Statement: Ensure development and implementation of national campaigns and targeted outreach initiatives on IAS control for multi-sectoral stakeholders

2.4.1. Strategy	Promote national campaigns on IAS control	
	2.4.1.1. Actions	Identify resource groups and target groups to conduct national campaigns on IAS control
		Prepare promotional materials on identification and control of IAS at national level
Conducting awareness campaigns using mass-media (Link with 1.1.1.1.)		
2.4.2. Strategy	Promote IAS control initiatives for targeted species and vulnerable localities	
	2.4.2.1. Actions	Identify priority IAS of national importance through the post-entry risk assessment conducted (Link with 1.2.1.1.)
		Select vulnerable localities through properly designed assessment procedure
		Map the priority IAS of national importance and vulnerable localities
		Design and prepare adaptive management plans for priority IAS and vulnerable localities
Implement the IAS management plans through community participation		

		Develop a monitoring framework for assessing the success of IAS management plans implemented
		Monitor the effectiveness of the IAS management initiatives taken

2.5. Policy Statement: Ensure financial and logistical support for research on developing tools to predict the invasiveness of alien species, methods/technologies to limit impacts or risks of introduction of IAS to minimal levels

2.5.1. Strategy	Strengthen financial and logistical support for research and development of technologies to control IAS	
	2.5.1.1. Actions	Prepare a national research agenda for IAS control through a research-gap identification process (NISSG – Link with 1.2.5.1.)
		Identify priority research projects and co-funding opportunities based on the national research agenda
		Award contracted research to stakeholder organizations/ personnel for IAS control
		Review the progress of contracted research projects with the help of the national focal point
		Mainstream recommendations of the outcome/outputs of the contracted research on IAS control

2.6. Policy Statement: Ensure International Cooperation to prevent IAS introduction at their point of origin

2.6.1. Strategy	Strengthen coordination among other countries to prevent entry of IAS to Sri Lanka	
	2.6.1.1. Actions	Identify the possible countries of origin of IAS based on the pathways-analysis (Link with 2.3.1.1.)
		Develop an activity plan on regional trade preventing entry of IAS to Sri Lanka keeping in line with the clauses identified in the CBD
		Develop guidelines specifically to prevent introduction of IAS, for importers of commodities to Sri Lanka

3. Early Detection and Rapid Response

3.1. Policy Statement: Ensure development of education and outreach activities targeting public support for early detection and rapid response measures

3.1.1. Strategy	Enhance the capacity of general public to detect and rapidly respond to IAS	
	3.1.1.1. Actions	Design and prepare awareness materials on IAS
		Conduct regular media briefings, publish newspaper articles and newsletters on IAS
		Design and prepare a reporting mechanism for early response to IAS
		Link with 1.3.2.1.

3.2. Policy Statement: Ensure accurate and rapid identification of IAS		
3.2.1. Strategy	Facilitate the establishment of a national level ‘core team of experts’ supported by research, and appropriate diagnostic tools for taxonomic identification of IAS	
	3.2.1.1. Actions	Establish a national “core team of experts” on taxonomic identification of IAS
		Provide logistical support to the “core team of experts” for taxonomic identification of IAS
		Establish a communication channel to link the focal point with the “core team of experts”
		Link with 2.5.1.1.

3.3. Policy Statement: Strengthen the surveillance activities through a coordinated monitoring network in geographic areas at high risk from IAS to detect and report invasions		
3.3.1. Strategy	Facilitate surveillance of high risk areas for IAS	
	3.3.1.1. Actions	Establish a coordinated monitoring network for continued surveillance of high risk areas for IAS
		Establish a reporting channel between the focal point and the surveillance network.
		Link with 2.4.2.1.

3.4. Policy Statement: Promote the development of networks for rapid decision making, communication and implementation of emergency response plans for IAS invasions		
3.4.1. Strategy	Strengthen the ability for decision making and communication on rapid response to reported IAS	
	3.4.1.1. Actions	Establish networks representing relevant stakeholder groups at provincial levels for formulating emergency response plans, in consultation with the focal point on identified IAS
		Establish a communication link to the grass-root level organizations to implement the emergency response plan for identified IAS
		Link with 3.3.1.1. (for monitoring purposes)

3.5. Policy Statement: Ensure adequate financial support for rapidly responding to identified IAS		
3.5.1. Strategy	Facilitate establishment and accessibility of an emergency fund in order to respond rapidly to invasions upon detection	
	3.5.1.1. Actions	Establish in the focal point, an emergency fund with ‘ready-access’ for rapidly responding to identified IAS
		Establish a fund disbursement mechanism for rapid response to identified IAS

3.5.2. Strategy	Support regular funding for uninterrupted implementation of IAS detection and quick response	
	3.5.2.1. Actions	Prepare budget estimates for IAS detection and rapid response at national and provincial levels
		Identify regular funding for IAS detection and rapid response in the national and provincial budget

3.6. Policy statement: Strengthen international cooperation to develop a network of diagnostic and taxonomic expertise in key areas to respond rapidly to threats from IAS

3.6.1. Strategy	Promote development of diagnostic and taxonomic expertise on IAS through international cooperation	
	3.6.1.1. Actions	Identify bodies/agencies working on IAS at regional and global levels.
		Establish linkages with appropriate regional and international bodies working on IAS.
		Establish a mechanism for sharing expertise on IAS

4. Containment, Control and Eradication

4.1. Policy Statement: Ensure decision making on containment, control and eradication of IAS and identification of integrated management options for IAS based on risk assessment, prioritization and stakeholder consultation

4.1.1. Strategy	Facilitate adaptive management of IAS through objective scientific methodology and/or tools	
	4.1.1.1. Actions	Link with 1.2.1.1. for risk assessment and prioritization of species
		Develop tools to measure environmental impact assessment, socio-economic impact, resources-need, and extended cost:benefit analysis for management of IAS
		Develop a decision making matrix for containment, control and eradication of prioritized IAS
4.1.2. Strategy	Promote integrated management of IAS in priority sites considering the environmental and economic impacts with the assistance of stakeholders	
	4.1.2.1. Actions	Develop guidelines to select priority sites for IAS management (Link with 2.5.2.1.)
		Evaluate integrated management options for priority IAS in priority sites through stakeholder consultation
		Conduct pilot scale testing for the integrated management options selected for IAS control
		Document and demonstrate site specific, cost effective, and best practices for management of prioritized IAS

		Devise and implement long-term integrated management programmes for priority IAS in priority sites based on pilot scale testing, through private-public-community partnerships
		Link with 3.3.1.1. for monitoring of activities

4.2. Policy Statement: Ensure the education and partnership initiatives to generate support for eradication, containment and control plans for IAS

4.2.1. Strategy	Strengthen public-private-community partnerships for IAS management	
	4.2.1.1. Actions	Identify potential partners for IAS control activities in Sri Lanka
		Develop communication tools to educate relevant partners on species specific, site specific eradication, containment and control plans for IAS
		Enter into agreements among public, private and community partners to support eradication, containment and control plans for IAS

4.3. Policy Statement: Encourage research on eradication, containment and control methods/ technologies for priority IAS

4.3.1. Strategy	Promote research on IAS management	
	4.3.1.1. Actions	Identify research areas on IAS and partner organizations
		Develop a mechanism for continuous financial and logistical support for identified research (Link with 2.6.1.1. and 3.5.2.1.)
		Device a mechanism to integrate the outcome of research into IAS management plans

5. Restoration of Biodiversity, Habitats and Ecosystems

5.1. Policy Statement: Ensure development and implementation of restoration plans for vulnerable ecosystems

5.1.1. Strategy	Promote the development and implementation of appropriate restoration plans for ecosystems affected by IAS	
	5.1.1.1. Actions	Review the best practices on ecosystem restoration activities practiced regionally and globally
		Develop best practice guidelines for restoration of ecosystems affected by IAS, to create conditions conducive to native biota
		Develop ecosystem restoration plans based on the guidelines developed, using suitable native species for ecosystems affected by IAS
		Conduct pilot scale testing for restoration plans developed
		Implement long-term restoration plans for ecosystems affected by IAS through private-public-community partnerships