

Draft Invasive Alien Species Strategy Objectives

The overarching aim of the Strategy will be to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the Strategy are to:

- • Minimise the risk of invasive alien species entering and becoming established in Northern Ireland and reduce the risks associated with the movement of species outside their natural range within Northern Ireland.
- • Develop an effective mechanism for detection, surveillance and responding to threats posed by both new and established invasive alien species through the establishment of an early warning and rapid response system.
- • Develop an effective mechanism for monitoring, reporting and recording invasive alien species to inform the response to threats posed by new and established invasive alien species.
- • Put in place an integrated management framework that prevents further spread of invasive alien species and prioritises species for eradication in a timely manner.
- • Minimise and mitigate the negative impacts of established invasive alien species in a cost effective manner.
- • Maximise organisational effectiveness and collaboration on invasive alien species issues among Government Departments and Agencies, Local Government, non-governmental organisations, industry and individuals.
- • Raise awareness of invasive alien species among the general public and capacity for action amongst key stakeholders to reduce the risks that invasive alien species can pose to our native wildlife, economy, environment and society.
- • Ensure that the legislative framework in Northern Ireland for addressing invasive alien species issues is coherent, comprehensive, fit for purpose and 'proportionate'.
- • Encourage a more strategic and coherent research stream to underpin Northern Ireland invasive alien species policy and to make the research available to inform management and the implementation of policy objectives.
- • Contribute towards the target of halting the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services by 2020 and beyond and in particular to tackle the adverse effects of invasive alien species in relation to native biodiversity.

The Strategy has placed an emphasis on preventing new invasions. Early detection and rapid response will enable us to make better use of existing resources in order to reduce future ecological, economic and financial pressures caused by invasive alien species.