



Invasive Alien Species



INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Invasive alien species are non-native organisms introduced outside their natural habitat, posing economic, environmental, and health risks.

↳ Definition as per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

- Species which is not native to India, and whose introduction or spread may threaten or adversely impact wildlife or its habitat
- Includes animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms

↳ Characteristics

- Introduction via natural or human intervention
- Survive on native food resources
- Reproduce at a fast rate
- Edge out native species in the competition over resources

↳ Invasive Species Worldwide

“1 in 10 species on the IUCN Red List are threatened by invasive species”

- **Water Hyacinth:** Top global land invasive species
- **Lantana & Black Rat:** 2nd and 3rd most widespread invaders

African catfish, Nile tilapia, red-bellied piranha, and alligator gar dominate the list of invasive wildlife in India

- ## ↳ Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) 2023 Report: 37,000 established alien species worldwide, 200 new species introduced annually

| Invasive Species | Impact |
|--|--|
| African Catfish (<i>Clarias gariepinus</i>) | Preys on waterfowl and migratory birds in Keoladeo Park, Rajasthan, a UNESCO site |
| Rough Cocklebur (<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>) | Severe threat to agriculture field crops such as soybeans, cotton, maize, etc. |
| Cotton Mealy Bug (<i>Phenacoccus solenopsis</i>) | Causes severe yield losses in Deccan cotton crops |
| Vilayati Kikar (<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>) | Mexican invasive species, dominates Delhi Ridge, posing severe harm as sole thriving vegetation |
| Eucalyptus | Tipu Sultan introduced Australian Eucalyptus to India, is non-invasive but allelopathic, hindering native species growth |
| Subabul (<i>River tamarind</i>) | Introduced for fuel and fodder, responsible for depleting groundwater level |

INITIATIVES RELATED TO MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

↳ Global

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1975)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)

↳ India

- Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order (2003)
- National Biodiversity Action Plan (2008) (Target 4)
- National Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species (NAPINVAS) (2021-25)



Drishti IAS

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