

IUCN Union strategy to scale up action on IAS

An enabling framework to scale the Union's global action on invasive alien species to 2030

Draft Version 0.3 July 2026 [FOR CONSULTATION ONLY](#)



Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* © Birdsish CC BY-NC iNaturalist

7	Foreword	
8	xxx	
9	Acronyms and abbreviations	
10	xxx	
11	Contents	
12	Acronyms and abbreviations.....	2
13	Background.....	3
14	What are Invasive Alien Species?	3
15	A cross-sectoral threat.....	3
16	Prevention is key.....	4
17	A whole-of-society solution	5
18	IUCN and IAS – the challenge	5
19	The need for an IUCN strategy on IAS	6
20	Consultation process	7
21	IUCN Strategy to scale up action on IAS.....	9
22	Problem statement.....	9
23	Purpose of the strategy	9
24	Vision	9
25	Mission.....	9
26	Values	9
27	Outcomes.....	10
28	Alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6 on IAS	11
29	Actions	12
30	Key performance indicators	20
31	IUCN Programme Outcome Core Indicator	20
32	IUCN Programme Accountability Framework Indicators.....	20
33	Theory of change.....	22
34		
35		
36		

Background

What are Invasive Alien Species?

Alien species (non-native, non-indigenous, foreign, exotic) are species, subspecies, or lower taxon occurring outside of their natural range (past or present). **Invasive alien species (IAS)** are those alien species which become established in natural or semi-natural ecosystems or habitats, and threaten native biological diversity.

An **alien species** is an animal, plant, fungi, or pathogen that is introduced outside its natural distribution. Some of these alien species manage to survive and establish in their new environment, often spreading and resulting in negative impacts on nature. It is these species that are called **invasive alien species** (abbreviated as 'IAS').

Alien species are introduced to new areas by human activities. This can be intentional, for example, as pets or horticultural plants, or unintentional, such as a stowaway in a shipping container or as a contaminant on imported goods. These different mechanisms and routes of introduction are termed **pathways**.

The [IPBES Thematic Assessment Report on IAS and their Control](#) found that there are currently more than 37,000 established alien species worldwide, of which more than 3,500 are invasive alien species with documented impacts. Alarming, the rate of introduction of alien species is unprecedented and showing no signs of slowing down, and under a 'business as usual' scenario by 2050 the number of alien species will have increased by a third.

A cross-sectoral threat

Invasive alien species (IAS) impacts are increasing across all regions of the world. They threaten nature in many ways, including through competition, predation, hybridisation, and disease transmission. According to the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#), they are one of the major drivers of biodiversity loss, contributing to over 60% of global extinctions. IAS can also trigger dramatic, and in many cases irreversible, changes to ecosystems.

Yet the consequences extend well beyond the natural world. IAS impose significant costs on local and national economies, particularly in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, through both direct production losses and the expense of managing invasions. Infrastructure, industry, urban environments, and tourism are equally vulnerable.

At the human level, IAS erode food and water security and can lead to the loss of culturally significant species and landscapes. They also present a serious 'One Health' challenge: by introducing novel pathogens and parasites, or acting as hosts and vectors of disease, they simultaneously endanger human health, livestock, crops, and wildlife.

The impacts from IAS are amplified through interactions with other drivers of change in nature. For example, invasive alien plants can compound climate change by altering and intensifying natural fire regimes. In addition, pollution can reduce the natural resilience of ecosystems to invasions, facilitating the spread and impacts from IAS.

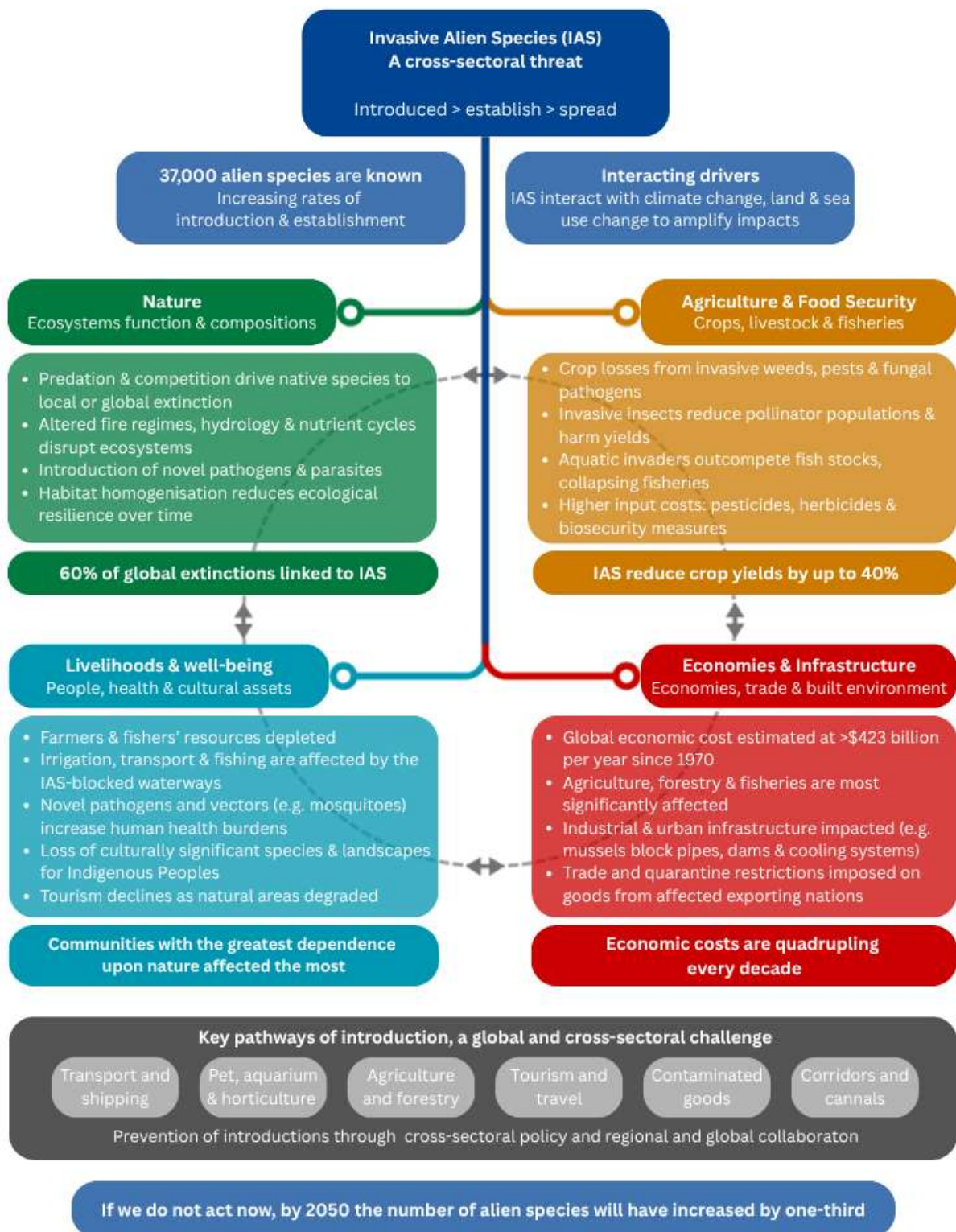


Figure 1. Cross-sector impacts from invasive alien species. The circular dashed line represents how the impacts in one area lead to indirect impacts in another, for example, a decline in a harvested wild species due to competition from an IAS can affect food security for local communities.

Prevention is key

Often, management responses to address IAS are only taken when their impacts are realised. However, by this time the IAS may have become widespread and abundant throughout its potential

range, meaning that taking actions to remove or mitigate its impacts is costly or worse, unfeasible. The most cost-effective way to address impacts from IAS is to prevent their introduction in the first place through managing the pathways of introduction, e.g. applying biosecurity protocols, implementing quarantine procedures, or regulating trade (Figure 2). In addition, it is critical to have surveillance in place to allow for the early detection of new IAS before they have a chance to establish and spread, which increases the chance that full eradication can be achieved. Once eradication is no longer feasible, the only response left is permanent management, including containment (stopping the IAS from spreading further), asset protection (focusing efforts on important sites such as protected and conserved areas, or Key Biodiversity Areas), and population control (reducing the IAS population to a desired level that results in benefits).

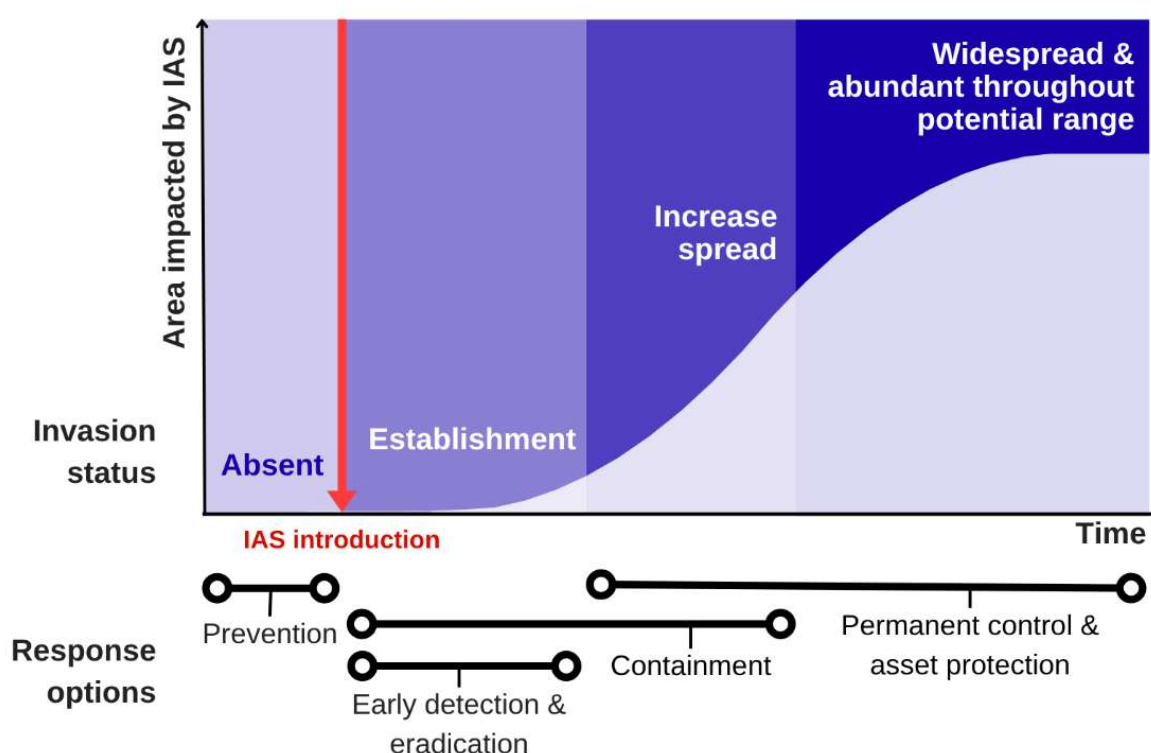


Figure 2. Invasion curve with management response options. Adapted from IPBES 2023.

A whole-of-society solution

Addressing IAS cannot be achieved by government environment ministries alone. The 2023 IPBES IAS assessment report emphasised that IAS impacts can be effectively prevented and mitigated, but it will require commitment to coordinated and sustained strategic actions, integrated governance approaches, and closer collaboration across sectors and countries, as well as effective education and awareness campaigns. This ‘whole-of-government’ and ‘whole-of-society’ approach requires the active, meaningful participation across government ministries, and with communities, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector, civil society, educational institutions, and the public, each contributing knowledge, resources, and action across the full chain of the invasion process.

IUCN and IAS – the challenge

IUCN has been working on invasive alien species (IAS) for many decades, with its first focused resolution adopted in 1988 ([GA 1988 RES 051](#)), which recommended the prohibition of the introduction of carnivorous snails, in particular *Euglandia rosea* for biological control in habitats with

endemic land snail species. Since then, 18 Resolutions related to IAS have been adopted. In 1994 the Species Survival Commission (SSC) Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) was formed, and it has provided guidance and data on IAS in collaboration with the Secretariat. Key data resources developed by the ISSG include the [IUCN Global Invasive Species Database \(GISD\)](#), [Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa \(EICAT\)](#), [100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species](#), and the [Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species \(GRIIS\)](#). IUCN members have also undertaken extensive work throughout the world to address threats from IAS, from eradications to the development and implementation of IAS-specific policies and legislation.

IUCN was one of the member organisations of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), which aimed to coordinate and support global efforts on IAS. It was through GISP that a [Global Strategy on IAS](#) was published in 2001. However, GISP ended in 2010 and the Strategy was never fully implemented nor updated. The IUCN took over some of the work started by GISP including GISD, GRIIS (previously GRIS) and the Aliens-L listserver. Since the end of GISP, there have been no efforts at the global scale to strategically coordinate action to address IAS, apart from the [Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species](#), and the [Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership \(GIASIP\)](#), both established under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with only the former still active. In the meantime, nations have set ambitious globally agreed targets on IAS under the CBD, including Aichi Target 9 under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). IUCN have continued to work on IAS, primarily to support progress towards these globally agreed targets, including through the provision of data, and technical and scientific support and guidance, most recently alongside CBD with the production of the [IAS Toolkit for Target 6](#).

In 2025, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, IUCN adopted a 20-year strategic vision [Unite for Nature on the path to 2045](#), which sets out the key contributions IUCN need to deliver to make the key transformational changes that are urgently needed for the planet. **Responding to IAS is one of IUCN's core existing conservation actions that needs scaling up for resilient and sustainable conservation action.** The Vision states that "over the next 20 years, IUCN will continue to use its world-leading data, knowledge and guidance to support policies, plans and their implementation to prevent the introduction and manage the impacts of invasive alien species. The Union will also convene key stakeholders, including the private sector, at all geographical levels to advance integrated governance processes, improve policy coherence, and share data and best practices." However, due to their clear cross-sectoral impacts (Figure 1), addressing IAS will also support other key contributions set out in the IUCN Vision, from ecosystem assessment, management, and restoration, climate change mitigation, to engaging the private sector and strengthening One Health approaches.

The 2026-2029 IUCN Programme [Nature 2030: One nature, one future](#) was also adopted at the 2025 IUCN Congress. For the first time, addressing IAS has a specific contribution in an IUCN Programme, which states that the IUCN Secretariat and Commissions will help governments, Members, partners and civil society organisations to plan and implement comprehensive programmes, to achieve the KMGBF Target 6 on IAS (see Box 1).

[The need for an IUCN strategy on IAS](#)

IUCN, as the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, with members representing governments, NGOs, and Indigenous Peoples Organisations, has an opportunity and responsibility to play a key role in supporting global efforts through a 'whole-of-society' approach to scale up action on IAS. To do this, IUCN as a Union will need to take a strategic and collaborative approach, with partnerships across its constituents and beyond.

Box 1. Text from the 2026-2029 IUCN Programme Nature 2030: One nature, one future

Nature 2030 Programme contribution: Preventing and reducing the spread and impact of invasive alien species

Output: Governments, companies and civil society have taken measures to reduce the introduction, establishment and spread of IAS, and implemented actions to eliminate, reduce or mitigate their impacts in priority sites. A priority for the implementation of Target 6 of the KMGBF is to catalyse action across the whole of society to identify and manage pathways to prevent the introduction and establishment of priority IAS, halve the rates of invasions for all IAS and eradicate or control IAS, in particular in priority sites. Such measures will support the effective conservation and restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine key biodiversity areas, ecosystems and species, and the implementation of One Health policies and actions.

IUCN will deploy its Commission and Secretariat expertise to support such efforts through the provision of knowledge and data, guidance and tools, and capacity building activities that will help governments, Members, partners and CSOs to plan and implement comprehensive programmes, individually and collectively, to achieve this Target, and to contribute towards the achievement of many other targets that depend on the removal of this key driver of biodiversity loss. IUCN is well placed to support actions undertaken for this Output due to its global leadership on the issue, mandates received from global policy instruments such as the CBD, and its standards and datasets.

This Output will be delivered through:

- Updating the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species national checklists, and expanding the register with sub-national checklists including for islands and protected areas, and data on evidence of impacts and pathways of introduction;
- Increasing the number of IUCN Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa assessments, and of species accounts on the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database, focusing on IAS identified by the IPBES IAS Assessment;
- Supporting governments, the private sector and others in the development of measures in line with Target 6 of the KMGBF. This will include use of the CBD IAS Toolkit developed by IUCN, including for National Invasive Species Strategies and Action Plans;
- Continuing provision of scientific and technical support to the European Commission and facilitating action on the ground in line with the implementation of the European Union's Invasive Alien Species Regulation and pursuit of targets for IAS in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

Consultation process

[to be finalised once consultation process finished] This strategy is the result of an IUCN Union-wide consultation and engagement process that began soon after the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2025. Firstly, a Union-wide online consultation took place between October and December 2025, which focused on the need for an IUCN Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Strategy, potential priority actions, and partnerships required to scale up action on IAS in line with the draft IUCN Vision and Programme, and the KM GBF Target 6. Almost 400 responses were received, representing 91 countries and territories, across all IUCN regions and constituencies, and non-IUCN affiliated organisations. The consultation demonstrated a strong and unambiguous mandate for the development of a Union-wide IAS Strategy, and identified it as both necessary and overdue, given the accelerating scale, complexity, and impacts of IAS globally. Respondents also emphasised that it needs to go beyond high-level vision

167 to enable action, that it must facilitate resource mobilisation, respect regional and contextual
168 diversity, and set out clear roles for IUCN Members, Commissions, Secretariat, and other partners.
169 Following the 1st consultation, a draft strategy was developed which was then

170

171

DRAFT

IUCN Strategy to scale up action on IAS

Problem statement

Invasive alien species (IAS) are a major and growing driver of biodiversity loss and have major impacts on ecosystems and human wellbeing. Despite existing knowledge and tools, global action remains fragmented, under-resourced, and uneven across regions and sectors. IUCN has unique advantages (standards, data, expert networks, diverse membership, convening power, and policy influence) that can be used to **catalyse and coordinate** scaled action across the Union and partners.

Purpose of the strategy

The IUCN Invasive Alien Species Strategy aims to be an enabling framework to support IUCN Members, Commissions, and Secretariat in collaborating to focus efforts and resource mobilisation on priority areas to maximise impacts. The strategy should also support non-IUCN entities, such as the private sector, donors and other governments, civil society organisations, and the academic and research sector, in finding entry points to work with IUCN on this topic and to support the implementation of actions on IAS.

Vision

A world where the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species are prevented, and their impacts are reduced, safeguarding biodiversity, ecosystems, and human wellbeing.

Mission

To catalyse Union-wide action to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species and reduce their impacts. This will be achieved by mobilising and convening IUCN's expertise and networks, facilitating resource mobilisation, supporting governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society, and the private sector to deliver effective, equitable, and lasting solutions that contribute towards global biodiversity commitments.

Values

The implementation of the strategy is guided by the following set of values:

- **Prevention first** – Prevention of IAS introductions and establishments through pathway management, early detection and rapid response are in general, more feasible and cost-effective than the control and eradication of IAS populations after they have established. However, eradication and control are still essential management objectives, especially where prevention has failed or is not feasible.
- **From knowledge to action** – Science, data, and knowledge must enable global, regional, national and local implementation.
- **One Union approach** – Secretariat, Commissions, and Members act in synergy, having complementary, clearly defined roles.
- **Equity, rights and inclusion** – Indigenous Peoples and local communities must be recognised as equal partners in the design, implementation and governance of actions to address impacts from IAS, with their knowledge, priorities, and leadership respected and integrated.
- **Global responsibility with regional differentiation** – Coordinated global action is needed to address IAS, with poorly-resourced regions prioritised.
- **One Health approach** – The interconnected impacts of IAS on biodiversity, domesticated animals and plants, and human health are recognised and integrated responses such as One-biosecurity approach promoted.

Outcomes

The strategy aims to achieve four interrelated outcomes by 2030: data, capacity, action, and finance. While the outcomes are not dependent upon each other, achieving one will result in benefits towards the others, as improved knowledge and data will support capacity building and guide action on the ground, increased capacity will lead to the scaling up of management actions on the ground, which in turn will generate new knowledge and data, and increased and sustained finance will support all of the other outcomes (Figure 3).

To achieve these outcomes, IUCN will need to take a One Union approach, working collaboratively across Commissions, Members, and Secretariat. However, IUCN cannot achieve these alone, and will need to form effective partnerships with other organisations, sectors, and donors.

Outcome 1 — DATA - Decision-ready data, science and tools are generated, maintained and widely used to drive IAS action

IUCN-mobilised data, science, standards, and tools are generated, accessible, up-to-date and decision-ready, and are routinely used by governments, educational institutions, the private sector and other practitioners to prioritise actions, develop policy, strengthen public awareness, monitor progress, and guide investment.

Outcome 2 — CAPACITY - Governments and other actors have improved capacity, awareness, and enabling conditions to develop and implement cost-effective IAS measures.

Countries, the private sector and other key actors have the capacity and awareness to develop and implement national strategies, legislation, prevention measures, and on-the-ground action, especially in poorly-resourced regions.

Outcome 3 — ACTION - Effective IAS prevention, surveillance, early detection and rapid response, and control are scaled through collaborative action.

Whole-of-government and whole-of-society collaboration, including at the regional level, results in the long-term removal or reduction of existing and future impacts from IAS through effective management actions, especially in sites that are most vulnerable to this threat such as islands, freshwater systems, protected and conserved areas, or Key Biodiversity Areas.

Outcome 4 — FINANCE - Sustained and adequate financing enables coordinated action.

Sustained and adequate financial flows are established to allow implementation of the strategy actions, including knowledge generation, capacity building and action on the ground.

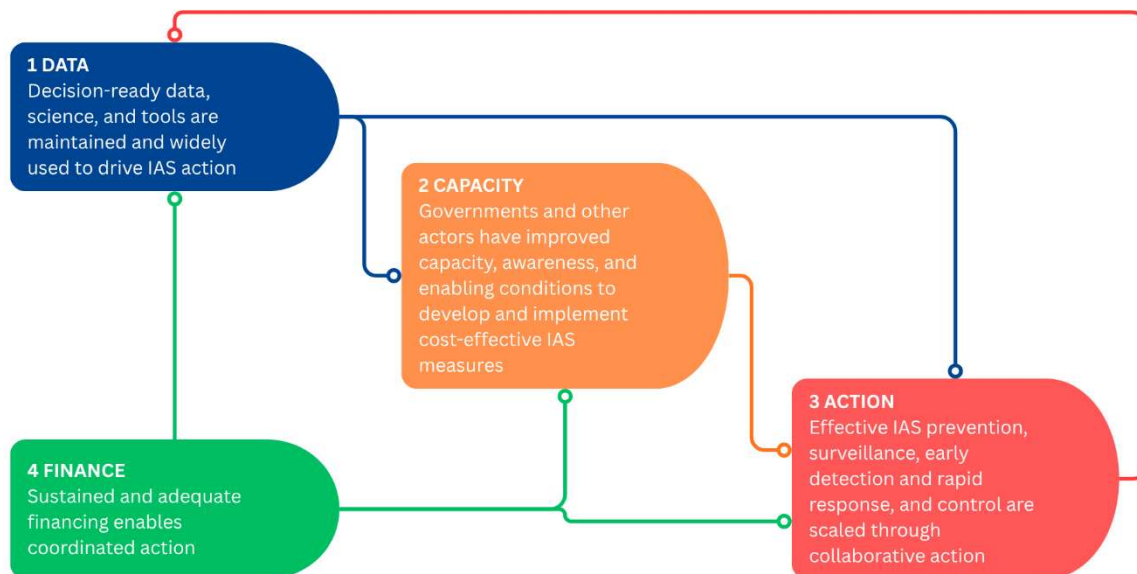


Figure 3. IUCN IAS Strategy interrelated outcomes.

Alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6 on IAS

The IUCN IAS Strategy explicitly aims to support global action towards meeting Target 6 of the KMGBF (Box 2), in particular by:

- Providing authoritative data, tools, standards and guidance
- Strengthening prevention and pathway management
- Supporting early detection and rapid response
- Enabling effective management of IAS and the removal or reduction of their impacts
- Driving behaviour change
- Mobilising capacity, finance, collaboration, and partnerships

Box 2. Target 6 of the KMGBF

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by:

- i. identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species,
- ii. preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent, by 2030,
- iii. eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

Actions

1. Authoritative data, standards and tools expanded

Key challenge and opportunity

Despite IUCN's recognised global provision of IAS data and standards (e.g., GRIIS, GISD, EICAT), **IUCN data coverage is uneven, some content is outdated or incomplete**, subnational and management-effectiveness data are limited, and global resources often do not reach practitioners in an easily usable form, particularly outside Europe and in freshwater and marine contexts. The IPBES assessment identified key data gaps, for example, with incomplete geographic coverage and taxonomic bias, many of which are reflected in IUCN's data provision. In addition, integration between IUCN's IAS datasets and other biodiversity related datasets built on IUCN Standards is limited (e.g. [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#), [Key Biodiversity Areas](#), [Protected Areas](#), and [IUCN Red List of Ecosystems](#)). A further gap is the limited evidence base on the impacts, pathways, and management of IAS in urban environments, despite cities being important sites of introduction, establishment, and response.

A second challenge is that **data and guidance must be action-enabling** (decision-ready), not just informative, i.e., they need to be better connected to indicators, prioritisation processes, investment decisions, and implementation support. There is also an explicit need to ensure IUCN IAS data are **FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable)**.

In addition, **many other non-IUCN organisations also provide access to IAS data**. However, these data are fragmented and dispersed across many national, regional, and global platforms, are often in incompatible formats, and have inconsistent use of standards.

There is an opportunity for IUCN as a Union to address many of these challenges. This includes through promoting the use of IUCN standards, data, and tools, along with strengthening its own data and knowledge provision to make it more comprehensive, interoperable, accessible, and decision-ready. However, IUCN also needs to collaborate with other global, regional and national data providers to make sure that the key data and knowledge needs to achieve Target 6 are met.

Actions to be taken

1.1. Expand and strengthen core global IAS datasets for Target 6 and beyond

- **Scale EICAT assessments**, with an explicit long-term ambition to assess all known IAS identified by the IPBES assessment (~3,500 known IAS) while prioritising the most decision-relevant taxa and regions.
- **Update and increase the number of GISD species accounts** with a focus on IAS highlighted by the IPBES assessment and other syntheses; ensure accounts support practitioner needs (management options, impacts, pathways).
- **Update and expand GRIIS validated national checklists**, including moving beyond national to sub-national checklists (e.g., islands, protected and conserved areas) and adding additional information where possible, such as on impacts. Noting that GRIIS data is a key source of baseline information for the Target 6 headline indicator.
- **Finalise and publish a pathway compendium** (assigning pathways of introduction to all known alien species in GRIIS) to feed **horizon scanning** and pathway prioritisation processes.
- **Support the implementation of indicators for tracking progress towards global targets on IAS**. IUCN is the formal custodian for the [Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 15.8.1](#) on the adoption of legislation and resourcing measures relevant to IAS, and its data is fundamental for implementing the [GBF Target 6 headline indicator](#) on the rate of establishment of IAS.
- **Implement a FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) workplan**: shared identifiers/metadata; APIs; establish interoperable links between IUCN IAS datasets and other

global systems (e.g. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Conservation Evidence); and plain-language summaries for end users.
1.2. Develop management resources to support the implementation of effective measures to eradicate and control IAS, and prevent their introduction and establishment.
○ Build/curate a pathway management resource that collates management best practices, policies and standards aligned to the CBD pathway categories to support government, civil society, and the private sector in pathway management decision-making. ○ Build/curate a management actions effectiveness resource that provides access to information on IAS management measures implemented at a global level, and their costs and effectiveness.
1.3. Establish SSC Centre for Species Survival on IAS data provision and communications
Establishment and operation of an SSC Centre for Species Survival hosted by zoo of Zoo of Rome “Bioparco” focused on supporting the implementation of Actions 1.1 above, and on improving the communication across the ISSG and beyond on the general issue of biological invasions.
1.4. Expand practical guidance provision focused on “knowledge-to-action”
○ Update/expand formal IUCN guidance so that they are practical and easily applied. New guidance is needed, including on: • Management of key pathways of introduction • Role of incentive mechanisms in managing IAS • Protected area management of IAS • Management of IAS with positive impacts (incl. charismatic IAS)

Union roles

Secretariat: Steward the overarching roadmap for data products (GRIIS/GISD/EICAT) and facilitate data generation. Lead on the coordination and delivery of guidance, standards and other knowledge materials, and outreach to ensure knowledge is used in decision-making.

Commissions (esp. SSC/ISSG and relevant expert groups): Ensure scientific integrity of IUCN’s data, standards, guidance and other knowledge materials. Lead the development and maintenance of GRIIS, GISD, and EICAT datasets and platforms, ensuring accessibility, interoperability, and dissemination.

Members: Provide and share national and sub-national datasets and management experiences, ensuring that datasets are interoperable. Validate GRIIS checklists and apply IUCN and other global standards where appropriate.

Financing

○ Needed:

- Long-term funding needs to be secured for the maintenance and expansion of existing core datasets (GRIIS/GISD/EICAT), for improving their accessibility, and increasing the interoperability with other IUCN and non-IUCN mobilised data platforms.
- For the curation and maintenance of new datasets and information on effective management actions for pathways, and IAS management measures.
- To support the production and delivery of practical guidance resources.

○ Secured:

- From Rome Zoo “Bioparco”, funds secured to recruit a full-time expert to support the activities of the **SSC Centre for Species Survival on IAS data provision and communications**; additional funds are needed to support its work on, including for operational aspects, basic equipment, and travel.

- For the provision of technical and scientific support to the EC for the implementation of the EU IAS Regulation.

Partnerships (incl. opportunities)

A global data partnership is needed that includes key IUCN entities and additional data providers to deliver a cohesive, interoperable, and comprehensive data system that meets the needs of governments, civil society organisations, academic and research institutes, and the private sector to inform the implementation of actions towards Target 6 of the GBF. Regionally focused data partnerships could also be established to support the mobilising and sharing of data and management experiences focused on regional priorities.

Links to outcomes

These activities primarily link to **Outcome 1 KNOWLEDGE**, as they will provide improved IUCN mobilised data and knowledge that is more comprehensive, interoperable, accessible, and decision-ready. However, Outcomes 2 CAPACITY and 3 ACTION will also benefit, as improved data and knowledge will be fundamental to informing capacity building activities, for example, on prioritisation of IAS or pathways, and to help guide action on the ground, for example, which management measures are the most cost-effective.

2. Capacity building with governments, the private sector, and civil society

Key challenge and opportunity

Lack of capacity is a primary barrier towards implementing effective measures on the management of IAS and pathways of introduction. Constraints include shortages of trained personnel, weak institutional capacity and policies, low awareness, and limited follow-through, especially in under-resourced regions, meaning access to knowledge alone does not translate into impact.

There is a need for fit-for-purpose **capacity building and awareness raising** targeted at national and subnational levels (relevant languages, contexts) especially for countries with limited resources in the global south, to catalyse the implementation of measures, and deeper engagement with key sectoral actors (trade/transport/customs, agriculture/forestry), Indigenous Peoples and local communities who are often the front line of detecting and managing IAS and have considerable knowledge to support actions, and with civil society at large.

IUCN is uniquely placed to deliver capacity building across the ‘whole-of-society’, with its members coming from government agencies, sub-national governments, non-governmental organisations, and Indigenous Peoples organisations.

Actions to be taken

2.1. Scale capacity within governments built on IUCN tools and guidance

- Implement capacity building activities, building on the CBD/IUCN IAS Toolkit for Target 6, and other relevant materials.
 - Run regionally focused capacity building workshops for government agencies on measures needed for Target 6, targeting countries and regions with the lowest existing capacity
 - Support governments and other actors in the prioritisation of IAS, pathways of introduction and management measures,
- Support governments with the development of IAS Strategies and Action Plans, policies and legislation.

2.2. Build awareness and capacity within the private sector

- Through the Fauna & Flora and [IUCN IAS Collaborative Initiative](#), work with companies to:
 - Raise awareness on IAS and build capacity within companies to implement measures to prevent the introduction and spread of IAS through their operations.
 - Support companies in taking a collaborative approach across landscapes and supply chains.
 - Support companies to adopt the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) aligned IAS indicators and metrics
- Develop sector-specific guidance and toolkits for pathway-linked sectors and operations.

2.3. Provide technical and scientific support on IAS to the European Commission

Provide EC with technical and scientific support on IAS **for the implementation of the EU IAS Regulation and EU Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.**

2.4. Provision of capacity development materials to facilitate action

- Establish an e-learning hub, through the IUCN Academy, focused on IUCN’s IAS standards, data, knowledge, and tools to provide access to training resources that can be reused and repurposed according to end user needs.
- Establish regional ‘IAS support nodes’ (through IUCN Regional Offices supported by Commissions and Members) to localise materials, convene practitioners, and provide contextual support based on IUCN global guidance, data, and tools. This could include:
 - Convening relevant IUCN members and beyond around IAS
 - Development of capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes targeting governments and competent authorities (incl. protected area managers) in regions where there is more need.
 - Development of awareness-raising programmes targeting civil society

• Strengthening IPLC engagement within decision-making processes • Improving the role of citizen science programmes • Translating and contextualising existing IUCN IAS guidance and tools
2.5. Establish an SSC Centre for Species Survival focused on 'Global Biosecurity'
○ Establish an SSC Centre for Species Survival focused on 'Global Biosecurity' hosted by Invasives International. This centre will • provide high-level policy advice and technical expertise to international regulatory bodies such as the WTO, IMO and IPPC. • Strengthen management of high-risk global pathways by advocating for the application of biosecurity standards for shipping containers, e-commerce and other high-risk pathways.
2.6. Build diverse and representative global expert networks
○ Build and connect IUCN Commissions' expertise on IAS, strengthening regional and cross-thematic representation. ○ Support establishment of regional IAS expert networks supported by the IUCN Commissions (e.g. under the Species Survival Commission's Invasive Species Specialist Group, ISSG) and IUCN Regional Offices
2.7. Ensuring IAS are integrated across global and regional policy instruments
○ Provision of structured science-policy support for implementation of and coherence across global policy frameworks such as CBD, SDGs, CMS, Ramsar, CITES ○ Strengthen regional policy frameworks through the provision of technical support and convening across IUCN membership. Facilitate sharing of knowledge, tools and best practices between regions. ○ Strengthening cross-sectoral engagement on IAS, including within a One Health agenda, with relevant international standard-setting bodies, including through the CBD Inter-Agency Liaison Group.

Union roles

Secretariat: Design and coordinate the capacity-building architecture and globally relevant guidance, and lead on awareness-raising, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange activities targeting regional and national governments, and international organisations. Host 'IAS support nodes' across IUCN Regional Offices to lead on convening actors across the whole of society and broker cross-sector engagement, and on the localisation and contextualisation of IUCN data, tools and knowledge. Coordinating resource mobilisation to deliver on capacity-building actions from global to local.

Commissions: Provision of expertise and trainers, ensuring scientific robustness of capacity-building outputs, and building inclusive and regionally representative expert networks.

Members: Support the localisation and contextualisation of guidance, data, and tools, and lead on their application within countries to ensure increased capacity results in action. Collaborate at global, national and sub-national levels to support capacity-building activities, including hosting training events, and provide on-the-ground practitioner leadership and knowledge sharing.

Financing

○ Needed:

- To support engagement activities that aim to strengthen the capacity of government agencies, for example, through national or regionally focused training workshops.
- To support engagement with global policy instruments and in strengthening cross-sectoral engagement with other global organisations.
- To support the development of an e-learning hub on the IUCN Academy, and for the localisation of IUCN guidance, data and tools so they are relevant to national contexts.
- For convening relevant actors to ensure IUCN mobilised knowledge leads to action.

- Private sector finance is needed to support the IAS Collaborative Initiative with engagement activities to build awareness and capacity across companies to develop and implement actions on IAS, and adopt the TNFD IAS metric.
- Secured:
 - For the initial establishment of an **SSC Centre for Species Survival on Global Biosecurity**, however, additional funds are needed to implement the full program for the Centre.

External IUCN partnerships

Collaboration with cross-sectoral institutions and other organisations and associations working on IAS will strengthen IUCN capacity-building activities and help ensure that IAS measures are developed through an integrated governance approach and within a One Health framework. Such partnerships need to be developed at a national, regional and global level. Existing partnerships, such as the Inter-Agency Liaison Group established under the CBD is one example.

Links to outcomes

These actions primarily support achieving **Outcome 2 CAPACITY**, as they will result in increased awareness, capacity, and enabling conditions to support governments and other actors in decision-making processes and taking actions, ensuring that knowledge translates to effective action and enforcement. The actions also support Outcome 3 ACTION, as increased capacity and awareness across society will result in more effective actions being taken on the ground.

3. Scaling up action on the ground for early detection and rapid response, and management of IAS

Key challenge and opportunity

Action on the ground targeting IAS is often poorly resourced with short-term and fragmented funding. Resources are often allocated reactively, addressing IAS only after they have resulted in widespread impacts. There is an urgent need to prioritise more cost-effective measures, especially in priority areas focusing on preventing future impacts through early detection and rapid response, and to scale up effective eradication and control measures across landscapes, which often stop at pilot testing. While these challenges are acute in many under-capacity counties, it is often the situation in places where knowledge, strategies and policies on IAS exist.

IUCN has a unique opportunity to address this challenge, especially through its diverse membership that includes governments, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, research institutions, and practitioners. If fully resourced, IUCN members can lead a transformation of IAS management from fragmented, reactive efforts into a proactive, systemic global response aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework. They can also strengthen IAS measures, including on prevention, within existing restoration and conservation projects.

Actions to be taken

3.1. Support rapid response to early-stage invasions

- Establish a global rapid response and eradication facility. This would be a granting mechanism, run through the IUCN Save Our Species initiative, that would provide quick access to funds and expertise for the eradication of early-stage invasions.
 - Global rapid response/eradication fund – possibly targeted for island ecosystems (aligned to GBF Target 6 focus on 'priority areas').
 - Regionally focused Rapid Response Funds
 - Europe (funded)
 - Other regionally focused response mechanisms

3.2. Scaling up national and regional large-scale collaborative projects through a Union approach to deliver action on the ground

- Resource and implement a portfolio of large national or regional projects that take a whole-of-society approach and bring together cross-sectoral actors to strengthen prevention and early detection of IAS introductions and establishments, and eradication and control of IAS in priority areas. Projects will be designed explicitly to generate replicable models and evidence of effectiveness and costs to support scaling of actions post-2030. These projects should bring together IUCN Members, Commissions and Secretariat in complementary roles where feasible.

3.3. Channel finance flows to support IAS collaborative management across landscapes

- Establish an IAS Investment Fund through the Fauna & Flora and IUCN **IAS Collaborative Initiative**,
 - Establishment of an IAS Investment Fund, which will be a solutions-focused mechanism designed to invest in companies that develop technologies and tools that result in positive impacts on IAS management across sectors. In addition, the fund will generate resources to support the IAS Collaborative Initiative to fund landscape-scale projects that prevent, detect and manage IAS through collaborative approaches.

Union roles

Secretariat: Secure financing and resource mobilisation in collaboration with Members; manage rapid-response and eradication facility; coordinate global technical inputs and ensure links to Commission expertise; oversight of IUCN-implemented projects (e.g. as IUCN GEF Agency); provide enabling technical support to projects (standards, capacity building, toolkits).

Commissions: Provision of scientific and technical expertise for projects, and proposal reviews, and ensuring practice is science-based and context-sensitive.

Members: Primary delivery partners for on-the-ground action (government agencies, NGOs, IPOs), hosting projects, implementing eradication and control measures, pathway management, and integrating results into national systems.

Financing

- Needed:
 - To establish a global rapid response fund for islands
 - For implementing large collaborative national or regional scale projects
 - For investment in the IAS Solutions Investment Fund
- Secured:
 - For a Rapid Response Fund focusing on the European Union, with grants given for eradication of early-stage invasions, running until late 2027.

Partnerships (incl. opportunities)

Partnerships between IUCN Secretariat, Members, and other organisations, including the private sector, to ensure a whole-of-society approach is taken will be fundamental. For example, partnerships between national customs authorities, protected area agencies, local governments, NGOs, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples and local community organisations will be needed for delivering action on the ground; and collaboration with regional bodies and private sector entities for transboundary coordination.

Links to outcomes

The primary link is to **Outcome 3 on Action**, as all of the actions will deliver collaborative cross-sectoral action on the ground, including prevention measures, early detection and eradication, and long-term control. In addition, the results will contribute towards Outcome 4 on Finance, in particular through the resources that will be needed to establish the rapid eradication fund, and implement the nation and regional scale projects, in addition the investment fund will channel finance into IAS solutions. Lastly, scaled actions on the ground will also generate new knowledge, data, and tools that will contribute to Outcome 1 on Knowledge.

Key performance indicators

To track progress towards the outcomes of the strategy, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) established through the accountability framework for the IUCN Programme will be adopted. KPIs from the list below will be selected for each key action implemented through the Strategy where relevant.

Table 1. Summary of KPIs against Outcomes they support the monitoring of

Indicators	Outcome			
	Knowledge	Capacity	Action	Finance
Number of Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICTA) assessments.	X			
Number of knowledge & science products delivered	X	X		
Number of deliverables provided to private sector		X		
Number of communication products delivered		X		
Knowledge product uptake		X	X	
Policy influence			X	
Number of influence products delivered	X	X		
Public and private finance mobilised				X
Public and private finance catalysed				X
Number of policies created or improved			X	
Number of policies with enhanced implementation			X	
Number of plans or strategies developed or enhanced			X	
Area conserved, protected, or managed due to direct site-level interventions (ha).			X	
Area conserved, protected or managed due to enabling measures			X	
Area under restoration due to direct site-level interventions			X	

IUCN Programme Outcome Core Indicator

- **Number of Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICTA) assessments.** Expressed as a percentage towards the 3,500 target.

IUCN Programme Accountability Framework Indicators

These indicators have been developed to support IUCN in monitoring progress towards the delivery of the Programme, and can be adopted by projects and other activities where relevant. Therefore, some of these indicators have been slightly adapted to suit the activities within the Strategy.

- **Number of knowledge & science products delivered.** This indicator counts the number of knowledge, science and data products that have been delivered through the strategy.
- **Number of education products or services delivered.** This indicator counts educational products or services that have been delivered in the context of academic settings or programmes.
- **Number of deliverables provided to private sector.** This indicator is a count of products and services intended to set, implement, change, influence or provide input into voluntary standards and professional codes that govern private sector practice.
- **Number of communication products delivered.** This indicator counts the number of communication and outreach products or activities that have been delivered through the project intervention.

- **Knowledge product uptake.** This indicator provides a qualitative measure of IUCN's intended outcome of providing science and knowledge for use and uptake to inform action and policy. It provides an indication of the uptake of knowledge products (e.g. IAS Toolkit for Target 6, guidance on TNFD metrics). Qualitative scale = in use/adoption/awareness/no uptake).
- **Policy influence.** This indicator tracks progress along a generic sequence of steps in the policy cycle. Qualitative scale = Policy implementation monitored / Policy implementation enhanced / Policy adopted / Policy text revised or enhanced / Policy agenda or process influenced / Policy capacity increased / Policy knowledge or training delivered / Policy gap identified). Can be applied for national, regional, global and private sector policy engagement.
- **Number of influence products delivered.** This indicator counts the number of policy influence products that have been delivered through the intervention. Delivered refers to the successful dissemination and active transmission of the output to its intended audience or stakeholders.
- **Public and private finance mobilised.** This indicator tracks resources channelled through IUCN Secretariat, for the purposes of implementing actions within the strategy.
- **Public and private finance catalysed.** This indicator tracks resources obtained by stakeholders across the Union (e.g. IUCN Members or Commissions), and not channelled through IUCN Secretariat, for the purposes of implementing actions within the strategy.
- **Number of policies created or improved.** This indicator tracks the number of policies or policy processes influenced by the Strategy actions, including laws, conventions, treaties, regulations, governance systems, tribal law, formal customs, and cross-sectoral policies. Created or improved can mean adoption, revision or enhanced text, or that the policy process has been influenced.
- **Number of policies with enhanced implementation.** This indicator tracks the number of policies with enhanced implementation (including the monitoring of implementation using IUCN standards or technical assistance) due to contributions made through Strategy actions. This includes laws, conventions, treaties, regulations, governance systems, tribal law, formal customs, and cross-sectoral policies.
- **Number of plans or strategies developed or enhanced.** This indicator counts the number of plans or strategies (e.g. National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan) that have been delivered or enhanced through the project intervention.
- **Area conserved, protected, or managed due to direct site-level interventions (ha).** This indicator captures any terrestrial, freshwater or marine area with improved conservation outcomes due to direct, site interventions on IAS eradication, or control measures (excluding restoration) or surveillance for early detection to prevent introduction and establishment.
- **Area conserved, protected or managed due to enabling measures (ha).** This indicator captures any terrestrial, freshwater or marine area with improved conservation outcomes related to preventing or reducing impacts from IAS due to enabling measures (knowledge generation, education and awareness raising, capacity strengthening, policy advocacy etc.).
- **Area under restoration due to direct site-level interventions (ha).** This indicator tracks area in any biome or ecosystem that is undergoing ecological restoration [following IAS removal or control] through direct site-level interventions.

Theory of change

