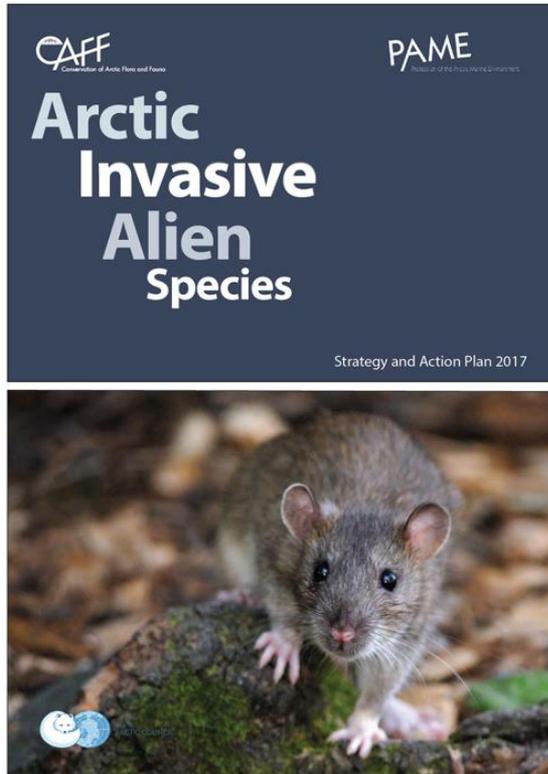


Arctic Invasive Alien Species – Strategy and Action Plan

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ARIAS: Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan



The Fairbanks Declaration (Arctic Council, 2017) reaffirm to «Recognize that rapid change in the Arctic is increasing the region’s **vulnerability to invasive alien species**, adopt the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan, and encourage their implementation with the aim to **prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species**»



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Arctic Council

- ***Foreign Ministers of 8 Arctic countries***: Russia, USA, Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland
- ***+ 6 international organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples***

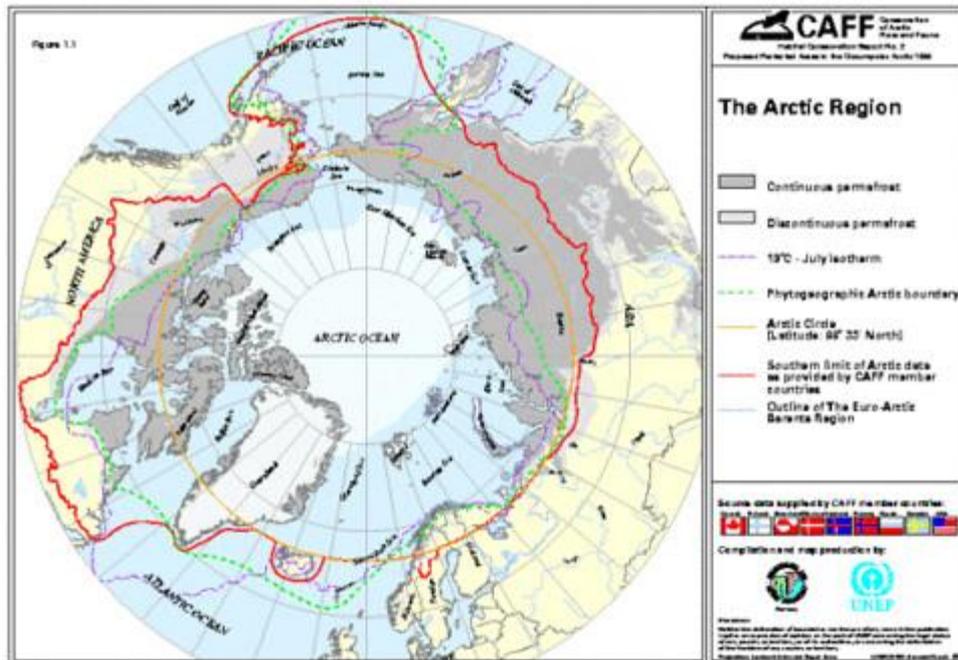
Arctic Council Working Groups

- CAFF – Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
- PAME - Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

ARIAS Steering Committee

- USA & Norway (leads), Canada, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
- *"Cooperation and Urgent Action"*

Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS)



- The Arctic is particularly vulnerable to biological invasion, due to
- relatively low diversity of native species
 - warming climatic patterns
 - increasing human activity

ARIAS Priority Actions:



1. Inspire urgent and effective action

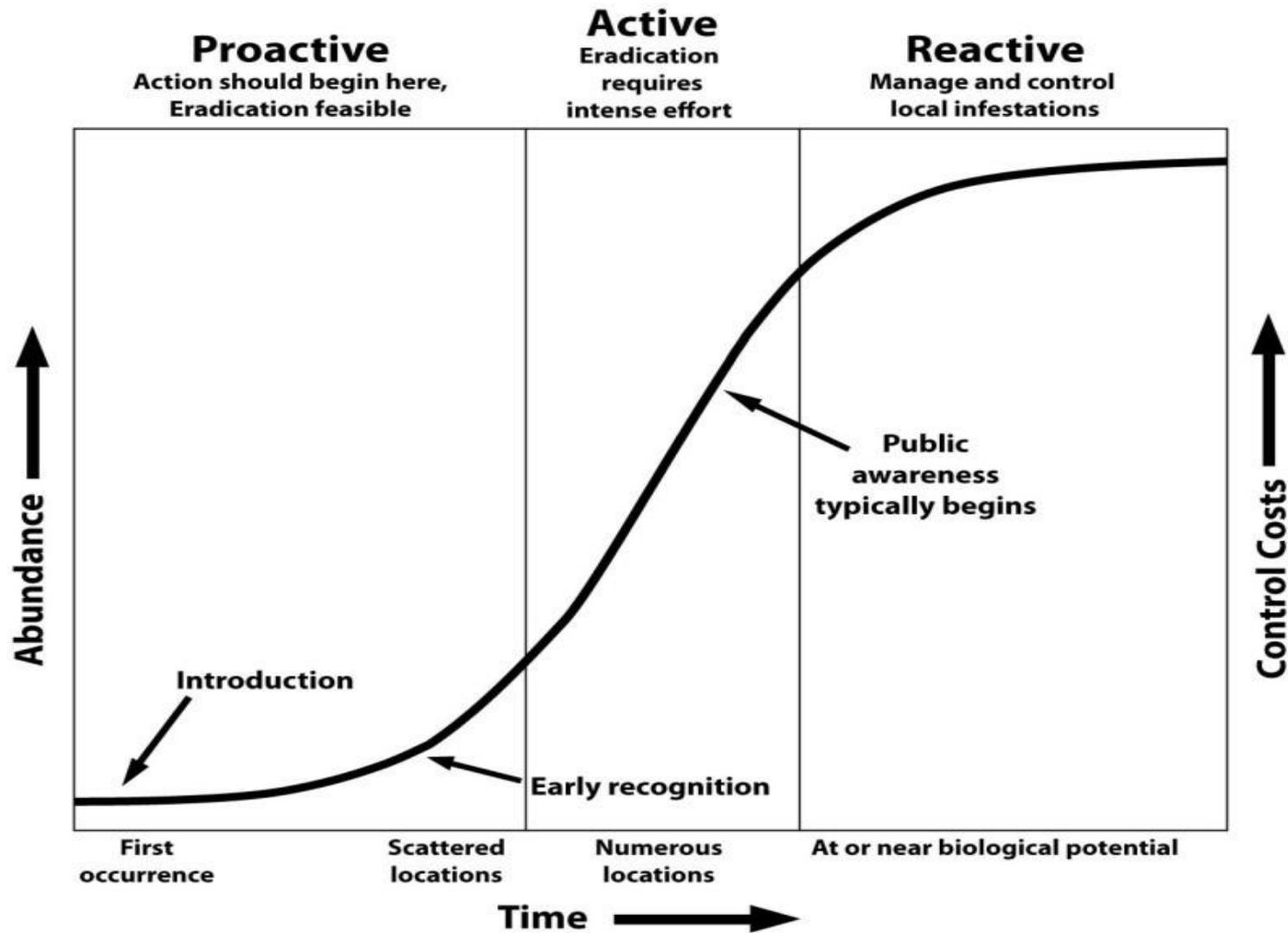
Goal: Raise awareness

2. Improve the knowledge base for well-informed decision making

Goal: Improve the capacity to make well-informed decisions

3. Undertake prevention and early detection/rapid response initiatives

Goal: Protect Arctic ecosystems and human well-being by instituting prevention and early detection/rapid response programs for invasive alien species as a matter of priority



Phases of Invasive Species Invasion and Control



ARIAS' first priority action

1. Inspire Urgent and Effective action

1.1 Promote targeted communication and outreach initiatives

1.2 Implement programs for preventing introduction and spread of IAS through domestic actions & international agreements and guidelines

1.3 Promote and coordinate the Arctic Council's work on IAS with scientific, technical and policy-making bodies

1.4 Encourage integration of Arctic Council's IAS work into international efforts and legal and institutional frameworks.

Increase awareness – How to do it?

NINA (Norway), the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Sweden) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Finland) made a joint application to Nordic Council of Ministers (Nordregio), the Governor of Svalbard and the Norwegian Environment Agency.

This financed the ***Brush, hoover and wash*** film and information campaign that aims to increase awareness about the unintentional spread of species



The target group for the campaign is travelers and tourists to the (high) Arctic, but also permanent residents, researchers and students in the Arctic region.

The campaign is now extended to north-west Russia, Iceland and Greenland, funded by the Ministry of Climate and Environment in Norway and Nordregio



Take home message

We have a unique opportunity in the Arctic. We can act now—decisively—to prevent and mitigate the adverse impacts of invasive alien species that plague much of the rest of the world;

- loss of native flora and fauna
- threats to cultural survival and human well-being
- economic hardship
- reduced natural capital

In general, we know what needs to be done

What we need to do is join together and do it