Invasive Alien Species in Canada: A Coordinated Approach

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An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada was approved by federal, provincial and territorial resource Ministers in 2004. The Strategy provides a framework for actions to minimize the risks of IAS to the environment, economy and society through four, prioritized goals:

- Prevention
- Early detection
- Rapid response
- Management

Recognizing that prevention of new introductions is the most cost-effective way to address threats posed by invasive species, the Strategy has a strong focus on pathways of introduction.
10 Years Later:

• The Strategy is still relevant:
  – key goals, principles, implementation strategies, priority actions.

+ Sectoral and sub-national action plans and strategies:
  – e.g.: Canadian Action Plan to Address the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species, Invasive Species Strategy for British Columbia

+ Improvement of the Policy Framework:
  – e.g.: Invasive Plants Policy and Directive, Proposed Ontario Invasive Species Act, Proposed Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations under the Fisheries Act.

+ International, National and Sub-national Partnerships/Fora:
  – National FPT committees, invasive species councils, national invasive species forum, Invasive Species Center, etc.
  – CBD, NAPPO, WAB, NAISN, etc.
Collaboration and Coordination

• **Stakeholders**
  - Federal responsibility for regulating international trade
  - Provinces / Territories, Aboriginal Governments and Municipalities generally lead actions on the management of established IAS
  - Other key stakeholders: Industry, NGOs, Academia, General public, Landowners, etc.

• **All levels** to collaborate in the fight against invasive species, e.g. education and outreach, science and monitoring, rapid response, eradication and containment, etc.
FPT: Forest Pest Working Group

• Reports to the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers
  - Contributors include P/T forest management agencies, NRCan and CFIA.

• National forum for inter-jurisdictional dialogue on risk management of native and exotic forest pests of economic importance to the sector, focused on insects and pathogens.

• Advances the National Forest Pest Strategy, and promotes a risk-based approach to forest pest management decision making.

Recent accomplishments and ongoing activities:
  – Forest pest risk analysis framework and a series of case studies;
  – Decision Support Tool for Forest IAS to support collaborative pest risk management;
  – National portrait of forest pest monitoring practices in Canada;
  – National forest pest information system.
FPT: National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee

- Under the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers
- Provide a forum for:
  - Efficient and strategic coordination of aquatic invasive species management and control activities
  - Advancement of best practices in the management of aquatic invasive species
  - Coordination of regulatory initiatives, including supporting policy and guidelines
- Recent work focused on the development of the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations. Focus is now on the implementation of the proposed regulations.
Invasive Species Councils

• Back in 2004:
  – Invasive Plant Council of BC

• Today:
  – Invasive Species Councils are established in most provinces and territories
  – Creation of the Canadian Council on Invasive Species (2012)

• CCIS National Initiatives:
  – National Spotters Network
  – National Horticulture Outreach Network
  – Weeds Across Borders 2014
Invasive Species Increasing Globally

Potential number of invasive alien species predicted to find suitable conditions in 2014-2060

Source: Global Biodiversity Outlook 4
Invasive Alien Species Remain a Threat in Canada

Status and Trends – 2010:
• “Invasive non-native species are a significant stressor on ecosystem functions, processes, and structure…”
• “This impact is increasing as numbers [of IAS] continue to rise and their distributions continue to expand”
Invasive Species Target

• In October 2010, Canada and other Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed on the Convention’s Strategic Plan for 2011-2020

International (Aichi)

• Target 9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
Progress toward Aichi Target (GBO4)

- Invasive alien species identified and prioritized
  - Pathways identified and prioritized
  - Priority species controlled or eradicated
  - Introduction and establishment of IAS prevented
Tracking Progress to 2020 - Canada

• **Proposed Target 11.** By 2020, pathways of invasive alien species introductions are identified, and risk-based intervention or management plans are in place for priority pathways and species.

• **Indicators**
  - Number of known new invasive alien species in Canada
  - Percent of federally regulated foreign invasive alien species not established in Canada
  - Number of intervention or management plans in place
Recent Policy Developments (examples)

• **Federal**
  - Proposed Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations (*Fisheries Act*)
  - $17.5 million to protect Great Lakes from the threat of Asian carp (2012)
  - National Conservation Plan (2014): Funding opportunities for IAS projects

• **Sub-national**
  - Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan (2012)
  - Proposed *Ontario Invasive Species Act*
  - Proposed Manitoba legislation for aquatic invasive species
  - A Provincial Prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response Strategy for Invasive Species in Saskatchewan's Agriculture Sector (2013)
  - Invasive Species Strategy for British Columbia (2012)
Key Strategic Direction

Shared Responsibilities, Risks and Resources:

Maximize coordination-collaboration-cooperation to work on highest priority issues, guided by the *Invasive Aline Species Strategy for Canada*
Thank you

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