

INNS INFORMATION PORTAL

ISSUE NO 2 | DECEMBER 2023 | You are receiving this as a member of the Darwin Plus project



RECENT ACTIVITIES

The latest UKOT team that we visited was the British Antarctic Territory in Cambridge. The British Antarctic Territory is a fascinating area that includes all the lands and islands within a 'wedge' that extends from the South Pole to 60oS latitude, and from 20 to 80oW longitude. The entirety of Antarctica is designated as a natural reserve under the Antarctic Treaty's Protocol on Environmental Protection in part due to the endemism of species in this area.

Experts from a range of interests attended the workshop: terrestrial, marine and environmental research and monitoring. It was clear that the implementation of complex biosecurity protocols on Antarctic operations is integral in minimizing the introduction and spread of non-native species (NNS) and conforming to legal obligations.

The discussions we had revolved around the lack of historic baseline NNS data and the difficulties with

collecting data on terrestrial and marine NNS within this territory. This is in combination with the challenges involved in determining NNS impacts on the native and endemic fauna and flora as outline in the IPBES Invasive Alien Species report (link provided in MAY BE OF INTEREST section).

Collaborating with other experts and the public is extremely important in ensuring adherence to practices that reduce NNS from being introduced to the British Antarctic Territory via human pathways. The potential benefits of adapting existing UK rapid risk assessments for NNS and utilizing assessment and summary documents from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) were outlined as a way of highlighting the importance of biosecurity within the Treaty area. We express our deep gratitude for the time and expertise contributed thus far, particularly to Kevin Hughes, and we eagerly anticipate continued collaboration.

DATABASE UPDATE

We have added 854 non-native species to the Montserrat and Falkland islands databases.

RESOURCES UPDATE

We are currently in the process of co-developing non-native species postcards for Gibraltar and the British Antarctic Territory.



MAY BE OF INTEREST:

Videos

[Invasive Species | Polar Alien Hunters](#): Polar Alien Hunters is a new public education and science communication initiative that will highlight the risks of transporting alien species to Antarctica and the polar regions.

Recent papers

[IPBES Invasive Alien Species Assessment: Summary for Policymakers](#): the aim of this summary is to provide the best available scientific knowledge to help countries and stakeholders understand and address the growing threat of non-native species. This document advises on tools and policy measures for identifying and regulating pathways of introduction and for eliminating or controlling invasive species that have already been established.

[Decision support tools for invasive alien species management should better consider principles of robust decision making](#): reviews decision support tools for invasive alien species management and provides guidance on the tools applicability and practical use.

[Contribution of Indigenous Peoples' understandings and relational frameworks to invasive alien species management](#): investigates how to integrate current invasive alien species management frameworks with Indigenous management frameworks to allow for relational and biocultural factors to be incorporated into invasive alien species assessments.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- In-person workshop with experts on St Helena (St Helena 15th-19th January 2024)
- In-person workshop with experts on Anguilla (Anguilla 26th February-1st March 2024)
- In-person workshop with experts on Montserrat (Montserrat 19th to 22nd March 2024)



Picture provided by Kevin Hughes (BAS)

UKCEH website:

For more information on the work we are currently doing as part of the UK Overseas Territories Darwin-Plus Project please visit [Enhancing monitoring and prevention of invasive non-native species across UKOTs | UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology \(ceh.ac.uk\)](#)

Call for information:

Contact Meg Williams (UKCEH): megwil@ceh.ac.uk

We are always looking for further data and resources to help with the compilation of each UK Overseas Territory non-native species database. If you have any data or resources that you think would be of relevance please get in touch.