

Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative

Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning

A five-year role funded by the Shared Island Initiative, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service

1. Monitoring and Surveillance

- Data Collection
- Citizen Science
- Sentinel Monitoring
- Communications
- Education and Awareness

2. Pathway Prioritisation and Management

- Horizon Scanning
- Species Risk Assessment
- Pathway Analysis
- Pathway Prioritisation
- Pathway Action Plans

3. Risk Assessments

Assessing the risk of invasive species is a critical component to managing their potential impact and ensuring appropriate prioritisation.

In Ireland, there are three types of Risk Assessment;

- Rapid Risk Assessment
- Prioritisation Risk Assessment
- NAPRA Risk Assessment



4. Contingency Planning

Preparedness ahead of any incursion of invasive species to a jurisdiction is essential. Contingency planning provides a robust framework to put an effective response in place in the event of a pest, pathogen or high impact invasive species arriving. This allows a response to be quickly mobilised by public bodies to eradicate, control or contain the species and, if needed, ensure long term management plans are in place.

Contingency Plan Structure

Readiness: Anticipate

- Collating and appraising sources of information and intelligence about the invasive species.

Readiness: Assess

- Identifying concerns and preparing contingency plans.
- Setting objectives in the event of an incursion.

Readiness: Education and Awareness

- Ensuring staff and stakeholders are familiar with the species targeted by the contingency plan.

Response

- Working to either contain or eradicate, including work to determine level of success.

Response: Review

- Assessing the outbreak response to ensure that the plan remains to be the best option, and it is on track to deliver the agreed objectives.

Recovery

- Establishing business as usual, either when the response strategy has been effective or when the response is not considered to be feasible, cost efficient or beneficial.

Priority work for this role

- The Risk Assessment protocols currently in place in Ireland reflect the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization and UK Non-Native Species pest risk assessment approaches. This methodology is being reviewed for Ireland and is a key deliverable in the Shared Island programme.
- Additional Risk Assessments will subsequently be delivered under this improved methodology before 2029.
- Contingency Plans will be developed under the Shared Island programme, starting with Asian Hornet.

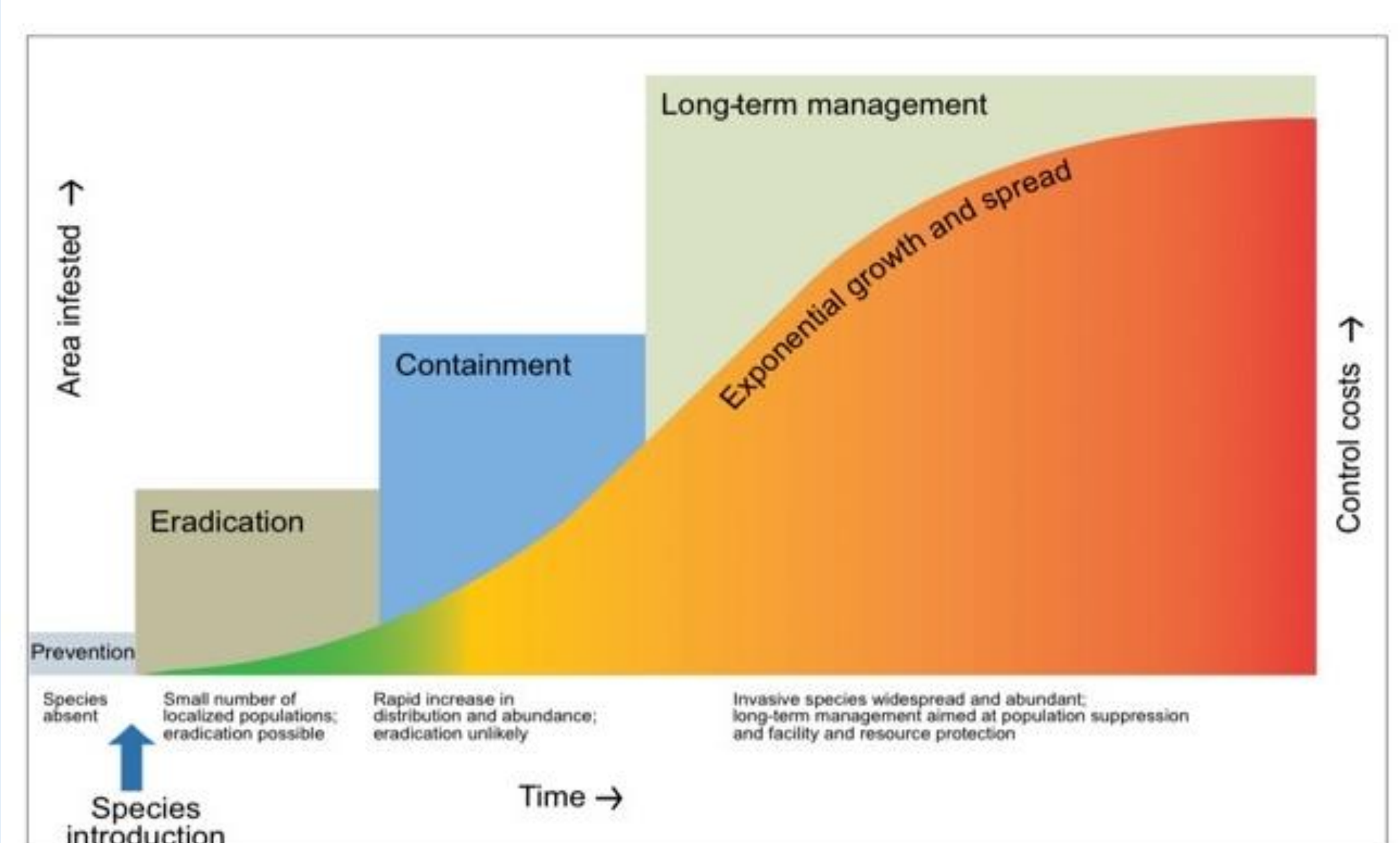


Figure 1, Phases of the Invasion Curve; Asset Based Protection & Long-Term Management, Rodgers (2010)

For more information or suggestions on Risk Assessments or contingency planning, please contact Berni Moloughney, Risk and Contingency Officer at the National Biodiversity Data Centre, at bmoloughney@biodiversityireland.ie