

Workshop on Understanding Contingency Planning and Rapid Response.

Chair: Dr Niall Moore (GB Non-Native Species Secretariat)

Rapporteur: Dr Cathy Maguire (Office for Environmental Protection)

Report:

The group concluded that there has not been much progress on rapid reaction to invasive species over the last 20 years.

A question was posed on whether the Data Centre could collate the island-scale rapid responses/contingency responses that have taken place in the last 20 years.

This would include all responses attempted to take out the entire population that had begun to or was likely to breed.

The group listed – Chub (R. Inny); Ludwigia (Kerry); Egyptian geese (Monaghan); Coypu (Cork).

This is a rate of only 1 every 5 years. There may be more that the group are not aware of.

The group looked at barriers and opportunities and these are the **main points grouped by three themes**, with priority species identified for rapid response.

Governance

- Currently have complicated governance and we need clear roles and responsibilities, legally and otherwise
- A change of mindset is needed so invasive species are considered a biosecurity issue not just a biodiversity issue. This would lead to more integrated biosecurity regimes. In plant, animal and invasive species fields, there is a lot of knowledge, but the main difference is that invasive species does not have the same well established systems and processes.
- Need to build a community of actors based on collaboration and learning but with clear leadership from government and those with legal responsibilities

Resources

- More resources are needed but it is also about where they are focused. Currently this tends to be longer-term management and control rather than prevention and rapid response.
- Need to prioritise prevention and surveillance to underpin rapid response actions
- More integrated biosecurity regimes will also be more cost effective

Capacity

- There are skills gaps and a lack of capacity for rapid response. We need to learn from plant and animal health.
- There aren't effective evaluation and learning processes so the same mistakes in relation to rapid response get repeated and this wastes available capacity
- More effective evaluation and learning will also inform better contingency planning which is needed for effective rapid response

Priorities for rapid response

The priority list for rapid response/eradication is: Ring-necked parakeet; muntjac and marsh frog.

Thank you to the funders of the Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Forum

