

Alien Invasive Species

What are they?

Alien invasive species are species introduced deliberately or unintentionally outside their natural habitats where they have the ability to establish themselves, outcompete native species and take over the new environments.

What do they do?

- Cause extinction of native species
- Change native ecosystems
- Cause habitat loss and biodiversity decline

Alien Invasive Species in Seychelles

Alien invasive species have much greater and more obvious and devastating impacts on the uniquely evolved and fragile ecosystems of oceanic islands, such as Seychelles, than other environments.

Invasive Plants

Most of Seychelles' forests have been altered by introduced and invasive plant species. Many endemic and indigenous plants are threatened by the arrival of these alien species. Out of 850 species of flowering plants in Seychelles, only 250 species are indigenous plants including 75 endemic species (which are found only in Seychelles).

Invasive Animals

Seychelles' islands are recognised as important bird areas by BirdLife International. However, on islands where invasive predators, such as rats and cats, are present, the impacts on bird species, endemic lizards, land crabs, etc. are enormous.

Costs of Controlling Invasive Species

It costs Seychelles millions of rupees every year to combat invasive species. While there are some ways of controlling the invaders, complete eradication is seldom possible. An estimate of the global economic costs of damage from alien species of plants and animals is \$137 billion per year (IUCN)

How Can You Help?

You can help stop the introduction and spread of harmful invaders in Seychelles and conserve biodiversity:

- Don't plant exotic plants. Plant your garden with species native to Seychelles.
- Never smuggle seeds, live plants or animals in or out of Seychelles.
- Spread the word to others about the impacts of invasive species.

Crazy ants are one of the world's most dangerous invasive species. They can expand a super colony at around 3 metres per day, preying on small animals, land crabs, birds and reptiles.

Invasive Bois Jaune *Alstonia macrophylla* is taking over many intermediate forests in Seychelles.

Some of the top plant invaders in Seychelles

Cinnamon *Cinnamomum verum*

Cashew *anacardium occidentale*

Prune de France *Chrysothamnus icaco*

Albizia *Paraserianthes falcataria*

Calice du Pape *Tabernaia pallida*

Agati *Adenanthera pavonina*



Rats threaten many native animals, especially birds



The Ring-necked Parakeet is a potential threat to the Seychelles Black Parrot



Barn Owls were introduced to Seychelles to control rats but they prefer to eat seabirds and other native animals, and has now become a threat to native wildlife



Common Mynah Bird, the most invasive bird species in the world, is highly aggressive and competes for nesting space, destroys eggs and chicks of native species



The crested tree lizard, a voracious predator and a tough survivor, can be a major threat to native insects and birds



Scale insects can be a potential threats to native species by draining sap and killing young plants.



The white fly is a very dangerous pest to horticulture crops, fruits and shade trees, causing loss of production and at times death to the plant.



The wild guava is a very invasive woodland species world wide

