

ONE ELEUTHERA FOUNDATION

Invasive Species Fact Sheet

What is an “Invasive Species”?

An invasive species is a plant or animal that is not native to an ecosystem, and when introduced, intentionally or accidentally, becomes able to spread aggressively, outcompeting or displacing native species. In The Bahamas, and around the world, these species often cause serious ecological imbalance, loss of biodiversity, habitat destruction, and threats to native wildlife and ecosystems.

How Invasive Species Impact Bahamian Forests like The Bird’s Eye View Trail

Invasive plants can shade out or suppress native vegetation, reducing plant diversity, and therefore reducing food and habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife. They can also change soil chemistry, water availability, and fire or flood dynamics. Invasive animals can prey on, compete with, or bring disease to native species; or disturb ecological balances which native species depend on.

Common Invasive Species in The Bahamas



Cane Toad

A prolific toad that competes with native amphibians and reptiles and poses risks due to its toxic skin and eggs.



Northern Raccoon

Land mammal that preys on native birds, reptiles, and eggs, destabilizing delicate island wildlife communities.



Casuarina/ Australian Pine

Fast-growing hardwood tree that forms dense thickets, suppressing native plants and altering dune and forest habitats.



Brazilian Pepper

Aggressive shrub/tree that forms dense thickets, choking out native vegetation and reducing biodiversity.



Melaleuca / Paperbark

Invader especially in moist areas forms dense monotypic stands, drying wetlands or forest understory and displacing native species.



What You Can Do: Be Part of the Solution

- Learn to recognize invasive species. The first step is awareness, knowledge allows protection.
- If you spot invasives, report sightings. Use citizen-science platforms (eBird, iNaturalist, local invasive-species reporting portals) so experts can track spread and plan management.
- Support removal and restoration projects. Volunteer for or donate to reputable conservation or restoration efforts working to remove invasives and restore native habitats.
- Don't attempt to remove or kill invasive species without proper guidance or authorization. Removing or harming animals/plants without understanding local regulations or ecological consequences can cause more harm than good. Always work with or consult environmental organizations or authorities.
- Promote native-plant landscaping and bird/wildlife-friendly gardens. Planting native species encourages local biodiversity and helps resist invasive takeover.
- Educate others. Spread awareness among friends, family, and community, especially about the threats invasives pose to ecosystems, native wildlife, and cultural heritage.

Why It Matters

Every invasive species removed or managed is a small but important step toward protecting the biodiversity, resilience, and cultural-natural heritage of The Bahamas, ensuring that native plants, birds, and ecosystems like the coppice forest along this trail can thrive for generations to come.

