

# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey regarding how you manage non-native species on TNC properties.

For more information, please read below.

If you have any comments or questions about this survey, or this issue, or if you would like us to inform you about the survey results and/or publication of this work, please contact Sara Kuebbing by email at skuebbin [at] utk [dot] edu.

Sincerely,  
Sara Kuebbing & Daniel Simberloff  
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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## Survey Details:

Recent high-profile popular and academic articles motivate this survey. Prominent ecologists and conservationists are questioning the following prevalent perceptions:

- 1) non-native species are more likely to cause ecological harm than native species; and
- 2) managing for non-native species is a productive task

You may have read about this debate in a "Cool Green Science" blog posting by the Conservancy's Chief Scientist, Peter Kareiva (June 7, 2011), or in a "Science Chronicles" Forum entitled "Is Fighting Non-Natives Worth the Costs? Forum with Mark Davis, Daniel Simberloff, and Peter Kareiva" (September 21, 2011).

We are conducting this survey to better understand how TNC staff perceive this debate and whether this discourse has affected the amount of resources or the ability of TNC staff to manage for non-native species.

We will pool all results from this survey and plan to publish our findings in an academic, peer-reviewed journal. However, all individual survey responses are anonymous and we will not ask for your name, title, work location or TNC office, or other specific details that might identify specific respondents.

# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

## *Ecological Impacts of Non-native Species*



We define a "non-native species" as a species whose presence in a region is a result of human actions that enabled the species to overcome fundamental biogeographic barriers.

**\* 1. For each reported impact, please estimate the proportion of non-native species that you believe cause . . .**

NO (0%)      SOME (<25%)      HALF (~50%)      MOST (>75%)      ALL (100%)  
non-native species non-native species non-native species non-native species non-native species

... declines or extinctions of native species populations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... changes in ecosystem processes or functions (i.e., fire regimes, hydrology, nutrient cycling, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... degradation of ecosystem services for humans (i.e., clean water, clean air etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... loss of aesthetic or historical values	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

## *Management of Non-native Species*



We define a "non-native species" as a species whose presence in a region is a result of human actions that enabled the species to overcome fundamental biogeographic barriers.

### **\* 2. Do you manage non-native species on TNC properties?**

YES

NO

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

## *Management of Non-native Species*



We define a "non-native species" as a species whose presence in a region is a result of human actions that enabled the species to overcome fundamental biogeographic barriers.

### \* 3. Have you ever managed non-native species on TNC properties?

YES

NO

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

## Management of Non-native Species



We define a "non-native species" as a species whose presence in a region is a result of human actions that enabled the species to overcome fundamental biogeographic barriers.

**\* 4. Why have you never managed for non-native species on TNC properties (check all that apply)?**

- I would manage for at least some non-native species, but I lack the resources (time, funding, etc)
- I would manage for at least some non-native species, but there are other management goals with higher priority
- I would manage for at least some non-native species but we do not have non-native species on our properties
- I do not manage for non-native species because I have never thought that any non-native species on properties I manage have substantial negative ecological impacts
- I do not manage for non-native species because I have never thought it is feasible to reduce their impacts substantially on the properties I manage, at least with available resources.

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

## Management of Non-native Species

We define a "non-native species" as a species whose presence in a region is a result of human actions that enabled the species to overcome fundamental biogeographic barriers.

**\* 3. Listed below are some reported ecological impacts of non-native species. For each reported impact, please check whether this is a reason you manage for non-native species (check all that apply).**

- Loss of aesthetic or historical values
- Degradation of ecosystem services for humans (i.e., clean water, clean air etc)
- Changes in ecosystem processes or functions (i.e., fire regimes, hydrology, nutrient cycling, etc.)
- Declines or extinctions of native species populations

Other (please specify)

**\* 4. Roughly what proportion of your resources (time, budget, labor, etc) goes to non-native species management?**

- < 5%
- 6 – 25%
- 26 – 50%
- 51 – 75%
- 76 – 100%

**\* 5. How has the amount of resources (time, budget, labor, etc.) spent on non-native species management on TNC properties changed in the past 5-10 years?**

- Increased substantially (doubled)
- Increased minimally
- Stayed the same
- Decreased minimally
- Decreased substantially (halved)

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

## *Selection of Non-native Species for Management*



For the following questions we would like to know more about how you determine what species you manage on TNC properties.

We provide the following definitions for answering these questions:

**Non-native species:**

A species whose presence in a region is a result of human actions that enabled the species to overcome fundamental biogeographic barriers.

**Native species:**

A species that has evolved in a given area or that arrived there by natural means.

**Non-native, invasive species:**

A non-native species that sustains self-replacing populations and has spread from where it was first introduced.

**Weedy species:**

A native or non-native species that grows in sites where they are not wanted and that have detectable economic or environmental impacts

### **\* 6. Do you manage the following types of species on TNC properties?**

	YES	NO
non-native, invasive species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
non-native species that are not invasive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
native weedy species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### **\* 7. Based on the definitions provided above, please rank the management priorities for the three species types at the sites you manage. (please select each priority once)**

	Highest Priority	Middle Priority	Lowest Priority
non-native, invasive species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
non-native species that are not invasive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Highest Priority

Middle Priority

Lowest Priority

native, weedy species



**\* 8. If you had more resources (time, money, labor, etc), how would your non-native species management program change?**

- increase a lot (more than double)
- increase a little
- stay the same
- decrease in size (reduce by half or more)

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

*TNC Global Invasive Species Team*



**\* 9. Were you working for TNC when its Global Invasive Species Team (GIST) was operating?**

- YES
- NO
- I don't know.

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

*TNC Global Invasive Species Team*

## \* 10. How did you interact with the GIST? (check all that apply)

- Interacted directly with GIST member(s)
- Downloaded photographs of non-native species
- Referenced the Element Stewardship Abstracts (ESAs)
- Used the Weeds Information Management System (WIMS)
- Used the information on non-native planning strategies (e.g., non-native species management plan templates, remote sensing tutorials, volunteer coordination and outreach presentations)

Other (please specify)

## \* 11. How often were interactions with the GIST helpful in your non-native species management activities?

- Almost ALL (100%) of my interactions with GIST were helpful
- MOST (>75%) of my interactions with GIST were helpful
- HALF (~50%) of my interactions with GIST
- SOME (<25%) of my interactions with GIST
- NONE (0%) of my interactions with GIST

## \* 12. Where do you currently find information on non-native species management and control? (check all that apply)

- Other non-native species websites (e.g., Global Invasive Species Database, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, Center for Invasive Species Management, Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe [DAISE], etc.)
- Primary literature (i.e., peer-reviewed journal publications)
- Colleagues or other contacts that manage non-native species.
- I don't.

Other (please specify)

## \* 13. Would it be helpful for informing your non-native species management activities if TNC revived the GIST?

- YES
- NO
- NOT SURE

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

## *Debate on the Impacts of Non-native Species*



Some academics and conservationists suggest that we should stop managing for non-native species on conservation properties.

For the following questions, we would like to know your opinions about the ideas below.

**\* 14. Please respond to each phrase by marking how strongly you agree or disagree with the statement:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Uncertain
People who think non-native species are often a problem are xenophobic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-native species often cause ecological problems and should be of conservation concern	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I used to think that non-native species often caused ecological problems and should have be of conservation concern, but now I don't	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have never thought non-native species caused ecological problems or should be of conservation concern	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native weedy species cause ecological problem as much as non-native invasive species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**\* 15. With respect to your responses to the previous question, what influences your**

## opinions about non-native species?

	Highly influential	Moderately influential	Not influential	NA
Academic research and journal publications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal knowledge and first-hand experiences with managing non-native species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer knowledge and discussions with others with first-hand experience managing non-native species.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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# TNC Non-native Species Management Survey

## Background Questions



### 16. How many years have you worked at TNC?

- < 1
- 1 - 3
- 4 - 5
- 6 - 10
- > 10

### 17. Which of the following best describes your educational background?

- high school
- college or university - bachelor's level
- college or university - master's level
- college or university - doctoral level

### 18. In your position, how involved are you in decisions about managing for non-native species?

**By decisions we mean whether to manage for non-native species, which species to manage, how to manage species, how to allocate funding for management, etc.**

- I make all the decisions
- I share the decision-making with colleagues
- I make some of the decisions
- I have no substantial input into decisions

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Done