SANBI Team Member: John Wilson  
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Region: Pretoria  
Level of project: PhD  
Working title: Defining, determining, and reporting on the potential consequences of moving native biodiversity within South Africa in terms of biological invasions

Background

Biological invasions are one of the leading causes of biodiversity loss globally. By definition, they result from the human-mediated dispersal of organisms across biogeographical borders (Wilson et al., 2009). Most of the monitoring, reporting, and management of biological invasions happens at national or larger administrative levels, however, taxa can be moved from one part of a country and introduced to another where they are not native (Measey et al., 2017; Spear and Chown, 2009). Organisms can, therefore, be both native and alien within the same country (so-called extra-limitals) and although there can be benefits (Maciejewski and Kerley, 2014), these species can also pose a significant problem (Measey et al., 2016; but see Spear and Chown, 2009).

The project will review the instances of extra-limital introductions, assess current and historical within-country pathways of dispersal (CBD, 2014; Hulme et al., 2008) and, through the use of case-studies, develop practical guidelines as to how to detect, monitor, and respond to such instances. This issue also has the potential to provide insights into climate mitigation methods (assisted colonisation in particular).

Key contacts

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Further Reading


