

An Updated Invasive Species Target Selection Procedure for Hawai'i



PRESENTER:
Springer Kaye
BIISC Manager skaye@hawaii.edu

BACKGROUND

A scarcity of resources requires a triage approach that considers both the importance and feasibility of attempting an island-scale eradication. This process can be challenging when little is known about a new species.

BIISC's new process supplements the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment, which relies on invasion history elsewhere, with a secondary assessment of local invasiveness and impact developed in Australia, and a cost calculator to measure feasibility. We consider available staff time, funding, and stakeholder impacts, explicitly define a management goal, and publish the decision making process to maintain accountability.

METHOD

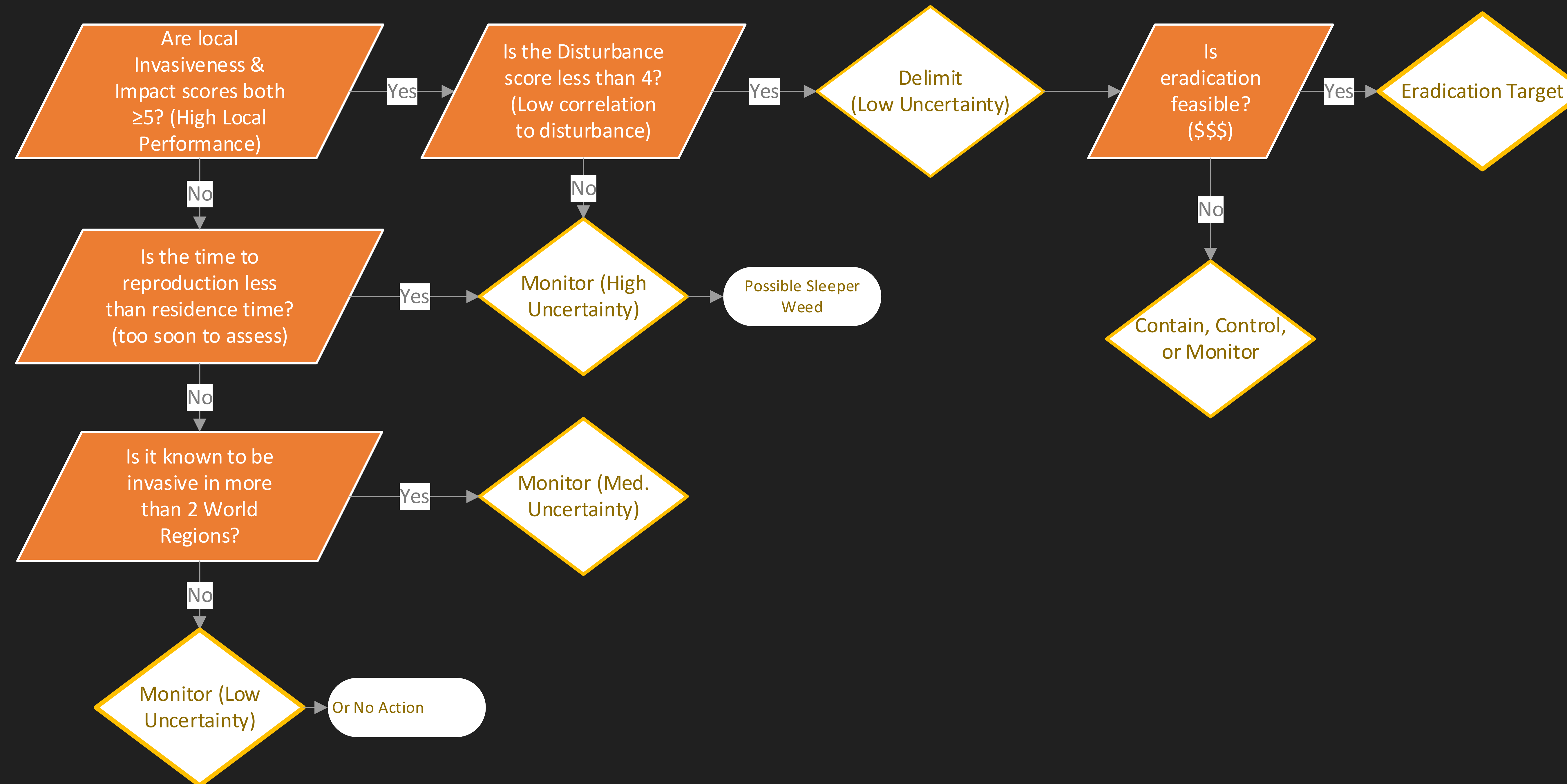
BIISC re-evaluated twelve previously detected species and compared results to previous management decisions. All species with HWRA scores higher than zero underwent secondary assessment.

RESULTS

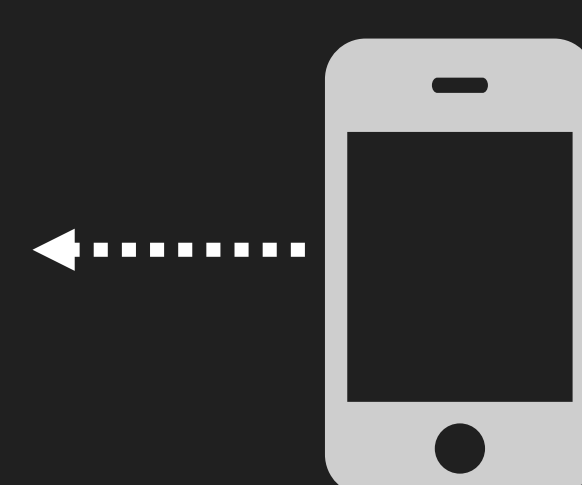
Four of 12 species were elevated to control or eradication, and 3 were downgraded to monitoring or no-action. Local evidence of invasiveness and impact were key to escalating or downgrading the response.

Though "feasible" with typical funding levels, recent cuts to state funding will mean only one of these species can be addressed.

Considering local performance can improve invasive species risk assessment and target selection. Costs matter.



Process adapted from the Victoria Weed Risk Assessment Guide



Take a picture to download the procedure.

Think About:

- Species with little history of invasiveness in the literature can be easily passed over, even when local performance is alarming.
- Decision makers need documented, transparent selection procedures, accountability, and a sober assessment of costs—even and especially when they exceed available funding.
- Better assessment takes time and money, but will avoid future costs.
- Explicitly including stakeholder impacts in the assessment phase may further improve outcomes.
- Feedback welcome!

Springer Kaye, James Parker
Jonathan Price, Charles
Chimera, Robert Parsons, Joel
Brunger, Kris Meehan

