

INVITING INPUTS ON THE POLICY DRAFT

TITLE : Policy on Invasive Alien Plant Species in Tamil Nadu and their Control, Removal, and Ecological Restoration of Habitats

Biological invasions are known to pose serious threat to natural ecosystems. In the due process, the innate character and diversity of the invaded environment gets modified thereby jeopardizing the natural processes and ecological interactions. Of late, tackling invasive alien plant species has become a tough conservation challenge for managers across landscapes and jurisdictions in the wake of climate change.

Recognizing the serious and pertinent need to evolve a comprehensive policy and practical strategy, the state of Tamil Nadu has been pro active in announcing the formulation of a *Policy on removal of alien species in forest areas of Tamil Nadu for eco-restoration of forest areas infested with invasive weed species* on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on 3rd September 2021.

Subsequently, the State Government constituted a 3-member committee on 1st November 2021 tasked with drafting the Policy. During the meetings and deliberations of the committee and consultations with subject experts, it was highlighted that the scope of the policy has to extend beyond the forest borders. The control and removal of alien species requires similar efforts in the wider landscapes and in the areas around from where such species can continue to colonize and spread into new horizons.

The first draft of the policy has been prepared and it is desired that garnering inputs, comments and suggestions from the scientific institutions, subject experts, Field Foresters and public may enhance its feasibility and effectiveness. This policy will have a large and long standing influence on the agricultural lands and forests covering extensive landscapes and livelihood. Comments/ inputs are hereby invited to improve and value-add the policy (draft) to bring out a pragmatic policy for effective invasive alien species management, customized for the terrestrial landscape of Tamil Nadu so as to enable hassle-free implementation in the field.

Please ensure that your valuable inputs ^{may be sent} through email (tnforest@nic.in) latest by 10th March 2022.


For Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act)