

Invasive species are one of the top drivers of global biodiversity loss

An invasive species is an introduced, non-native organism able to spread in the natural environment.

Invasive species

What is the problem?

Climate Change and increased mobility make cold habitats more susceptible to invasive species from warmer areas.

Invasive species may:

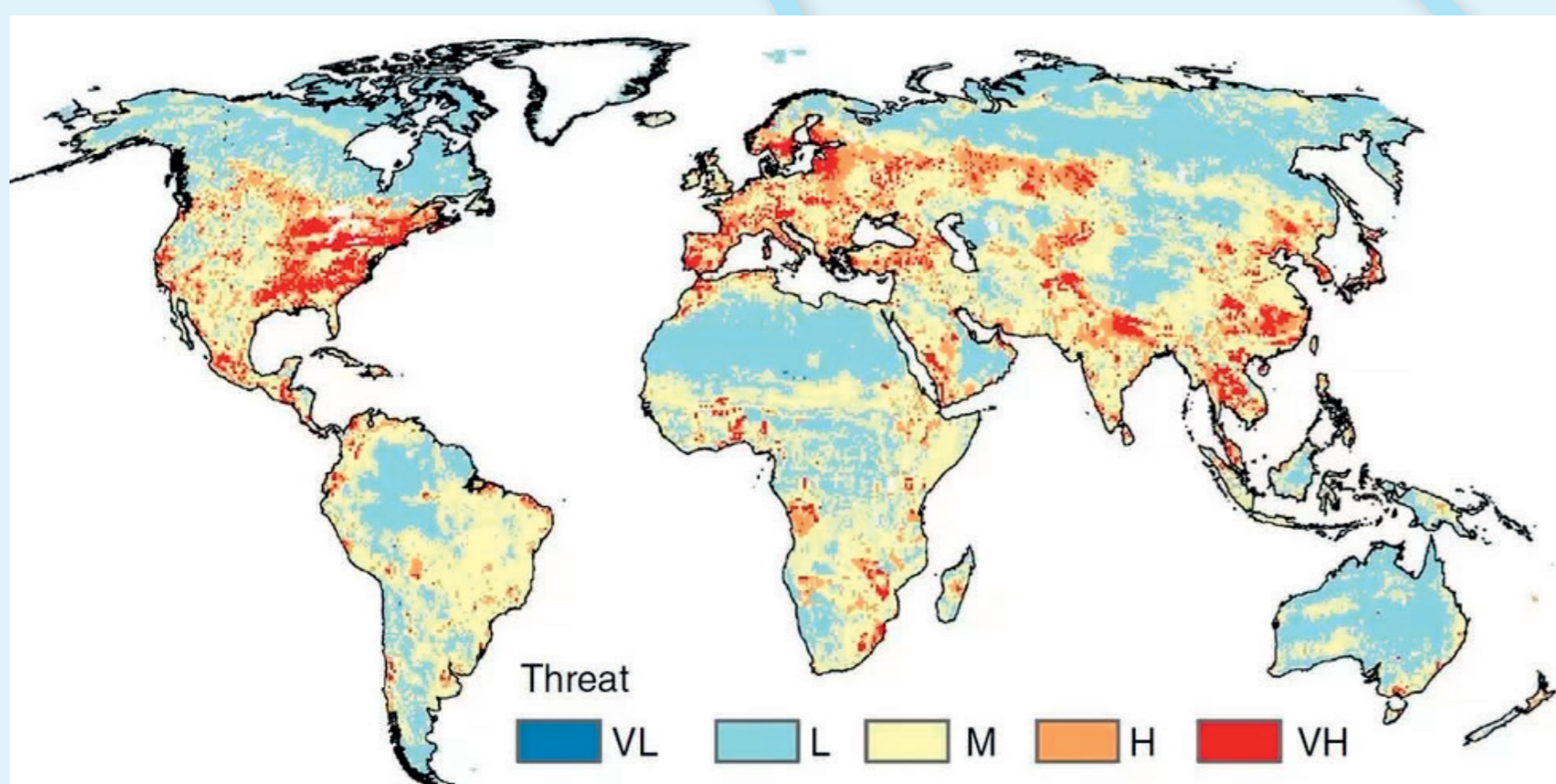
- Spread in their new environment and potentially become a threat to the local biodiversity.
- Affect local natural resource availability and crop production with implications for local livelihoods and economies.
- Directly affect human health through introduction of diseases and parasites, or indirectly by altering the availability of traditionally utilised natural resources.

How do they get here?

Spreading of invasive species can happen due to an intentional or unintentional escape, release or placement of species into the natural environment by people.

The globalisation of trade, travel and transport is greatly increasing the number and types of species moving around the World – intended or unintended.

Organisms become “hitchhikers”, when goods, equipment or people relocate - in ballast water, on ships’ hulls, on drifting marine plastic/waste, seeds in a tourist’s shoes or insects in soils of imported plants.



Invasion risk is often associated with populated areas with frequent transport of goods and people (Blue VL = Very low risk to Red VH = Very high risk). Early et al. 2016.

What can you do?

Cold remote areas are among the least affected and there is an opportunity to build resilience to the risks posed by invasive species. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has called on governments to take action to minimize the spread of invasive species.

You can help by:

1. **Preventing the spread of invasive species by ‘traveling alone’, i.e. brush, hoover and wash.**
 - Make sure that you bring clean shoes, clothes and equipment, when traveling.
2. **Help governments detect invasive species.**
 - Early detection increases likelihood of eradicating unwanted species or prevent spread.
3. **Help eradicate or control the spread of invasive species.**
 - Collect, pluck, catch, harvest or hunt invasive species (but be aware not to violate local legislation).



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Originally a North American species, the Nootka lupine (*Lupinus nootkatensis*), has been introduced to northeast Atlantic countries as an ornamental plant and to control erosion. It is now spreading – here in Qaqortoq, Greenland. Seeds of *Lupinus* can survive in the soils for up to 30 years (photo: Katrine Raundrup).



Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) is native to the north Pacific. Introduced to Russian rivers on the Kola peninsula in the 1950's, the species has spread into the north Atlantic threatening traditional Atlantic salmon fisheries (photo E. R. Keeley).

The Pacific Red king crab (*Paralithodes camtschaticus*), was introduced to the Barents Sea in the 1960's to boost local fishery. It is now spreading into Norwegian and northern Russian waters reaching as far as to the south as the British islands (photo: Sasha Isachenko, CC BY-SA 3.0).

