university of groningen

Bèta Science Shop

Sarah Bedolfe
Karin Ree
Karin de Boer

Freshwater Life

Preventing extinctions by eradicating freshwater invasive species

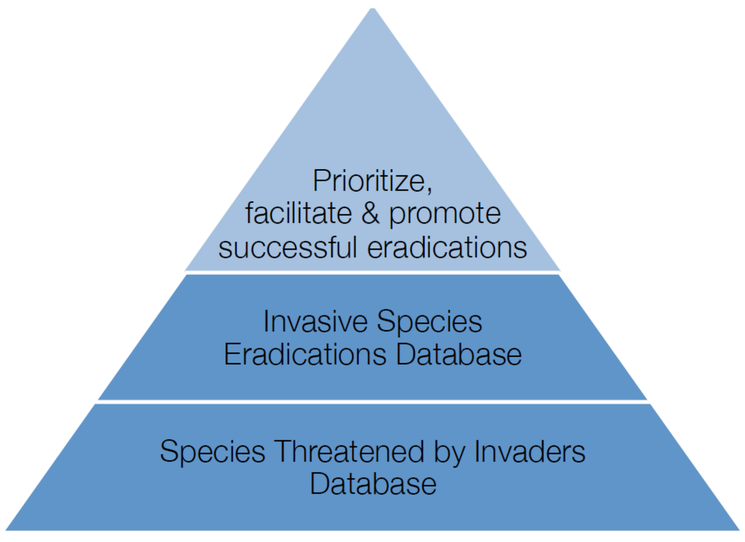
Freshwater species threatened

Freshwater life is in danger as a result of human activities. Nearly 30% of recently extinct species are freshwater species. Another 30% is currently endangered. Invasive species are one of the top threats to biodiversity, next to habitat loss, overexploitation and pollution (IUCN Red List data). Eradication of invasive species is by far the most cost-effective solution. By identifying, prioritizing and carrying out eradications, we can protect freshwater habitats. This strategy can also preserve their ability to feed and sustain the millions of people that depend upon them.

Possibilities of effective eradication

Invasive species control policy is currently a patchwork of strategies across national boundaries. Management is hindered by lack of funding, inadequate communication and collaboration, and low awareness.
Sarah Bedolfe, MSc student Marine Biology, examined the possibilities to develop a new organization. The international NGO Island Conservation provided her an internship in the Science Business and Policy program. Inspired by their Island model, Sarah elaborated a guideline to promote effective eradications of invasive species in freshwater habitats.

Freshwater Life



Exploring a strategy

Sarah Bedolfe's study presents a plan for an international non-governmental organization dedicated to eradicate freshwater invasive species: Freshwater Life. The organization will assemble databases on threatened freshwater species and experiences in eradication of invasive species. Freshwater Life will facilitate low-cost high-impact eradications by bringing together stakeholders, experts, policymakers, and funders. Implementing and promoting successful eradications will stimulate development of eradication techniques, leading to further improvements, and increased awareness.

university of groningen & ISLAND CONSERVATION Preventing Extinctions

Contact: Bèta Science Shop
WWW: www.rug.nl/society-business/science-shops/
Email: science-shop-fse@rug.nl