

## **Biodiversity impacts of invasive animals**

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Invasive animals are a major cause of the loss and decline of native biodiversity in a wide range of ecosystems in many regions of the world. The threats that they pose have proved especially severe on oceanic islands and other isolated ecosystems. Introduced mammalian predators are perhaps the best-known offenders, but there are also some notorious examples of invasive birds, reptiles, fish and invertebrates that threaten native species and can transform natural ecosystems. Invasive herbivores can also cause biodiversity loss and may provide the prey base to support invasive predators. Ecological interactions between invasive animals are sometimes complex and unexpected, which can make their management a challenging process. Nevertheless, the capacity to prevent, detect, control or eradicate such species (especially on islands) has advanced greatly in recent years. Lessons learned from recent experience are summarised and the implications for potential restoration of native biodiversity are considered.