

2010 Everglades Invasive Species Summit



Everglades Cooperative Invasive
Species Management Area

EVERGLADES CISMA

Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

- Year Formed: **2006**
- How Were Our Geographic Boundaries Determined?

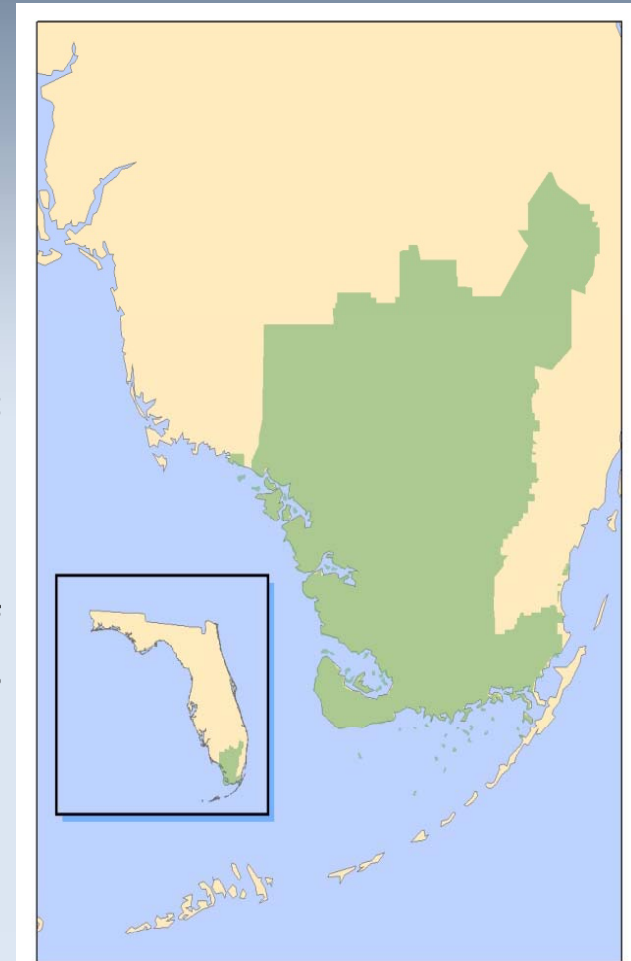
The Everglades Protection Area plus Big Cypress National Preserve, HoleyLand/Rotenberger WMA's, Miccosukee ,Seminole Tribal Lands and South Dade Wetlands

- Who are our Partners?

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Power and Light, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Seminole Tribe of Florida, South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Park Service, the Nature Conservancy, Everglades Foundation, Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

- What Is Our Mission?

To improve the effectiveness of invasive species control by sharing information, innovation and technology across borders



How We Function:

Coordination & Integration

- Annual Everglades Invasive Species Summit
- Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings
- Sub Committee Meetings (EDRR, Operations, Outreach etc.)
- Contractor Standard Operating Procedures
- Digital Aerial Sketch Mapping (DASM)
- Engineering Prevention
- Prioritize Biocontrol Release Sites

Early Detection Rapid Response

- Priority Plant/Animal List
- EDDMapS
- EDRR Plan
- EDRR Network

How We Function:

Reporting

- Annual Work Plan
- Annual Report
- Newsletter
- WEEDAR

Outreach

- Don't Let it Loose (Billboard Campaign)
- EvergladesCISMA.org
- Invasive Reptile ID Deck
- Online Large Reptile Observer Training
- ECISMA Newsletter

Early Detection Rapid Response Strategies

1. Grant Funded Contracts:

- Sacred Ibis EDRR (Everglades Foundation/USDA-Wildlife Services)
- *Lumnitzera racemosa* (FFWCC Invasive Plant Management Section)

2. Volunteer:

- Nile Monitor
- Tegus Lizards
- African Pythons
- *Lumnitzera racemosa*

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An Example of an Everglades CISMA Success Story

The Rapid Response to *Lumnitzera racemosa* an Austral-Asian Mangrove Species

- *Lumnitzera racemosa* escaped cultivation from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and spread into Matheson Hammock County park. ECISMA initiated a coordinated rapid response and organized six volunteer workdays to treat, delimit and map the infestation
- ECISMA members participated in the early detection and rapid response to this new invasive plant infestation and created a new partnership between ECISMA and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.
- Participating member organizations of ECISMA and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden provided the tools and materials for surveys and treatment.
- FWC Invasive Plant Management Section has contracted Habitat Restoration Resources to carry out the chemical treatment of the remaining *Lumnitzera* on Fairchild and Matheson Hammock and is ACTIVE.

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Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)

Sacred Ibis: a new invasive species in Europe

Pierre Yésou and Philippe Clergeau

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* is closely related to both Black-headed Ibis *T. melanocephalus* (from the Indian subcontinent) and Australian White Ibis *T. meliorea* (which breeds in Australia, New Guinea and some nearby islands) - to the point that they are sometimes treated as one species, *T. aethiopicus*. However, they are generally regarded as three distinct species forming a superspecies (eg del Hoyo et al. 1992).

The nominate form of Sacred Ibis (*T. a. aethiopicus*) is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa, while different subspecies breed on Madagascar (*T. a. burnieri*) and Aldabra (*T. a. albicollis*), although this is considered by some as inseparable from *burnieri*. The species is common to very common within its main African range, where its population is considered to be stable at an estimated 200,000 to 450,000 individuals (Delany & Scott 2002). North of its present range, the species was common in Egypt until the beginning of the 19th century, when it died out for unknown reasons (del Hoyo et al. 1992). Also, a very small and declining population occurs in the marshes of southern Iraq (Delany & Scott 2002).

There is no evidence that the species ever

occurred in the wild in Europe - eg no fossil remains have ever been found in Europe (Maurel-Chauviré 1993). Sacred Ibises have, however, escaped from captivity and been seen in the wild in Europe since the 19th century, eg in Italy (Andreotti et al. 2001), but this remained a rare event until about the 1970s when it became fashionable to breed free-flying groups of Ibises in zoological gardens. This led to a regular flow of escapes, which in turn led to the establishment of breeding pairs in the wild, and breeding populations have now become established in Spain, Italy and France, as well as on the Canary Islands. Stray birds have also been reported in other countries.

This addition to the European avifauna has been welcomed by some, due to the tameness and attractiveness of the birds, as well as the aura surrounding the species, which has been venerated since the time of the Pharaohs (and is also the emblem of the BOU). Its feeding habits, however, are cause for real concern. In some areas, it is proving to be a serious predator of other bird species of conservation concern. Here we report on the current European status of Sacred Ibis and on its potential conflicts with conservation interests.



Plate 1. Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* colony, Loire Estuary, Loire-Atlantique, France, June 2005 (Pierre Yésou).

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Plate 8. Adult Sacred Ibises *Threskiornis aethiopicus*, Reserve Naturelle des Marais de Müllembourg, Noirmoutier, Vendée, France, July 2004 (Matthieu Vasilin). These two Sacred Ibises visited the colony of Sandwich Terns on Noirmoutier on one July day in 2004 and, in the space of just four hours, devoured the eggs of all 30 pairs and caused the colony to desert for the rest of the season. A similar event occurred in a Black Tern colony on the Brière Marshes, c.40km to the north.

In top one hundred of European Invasive Species
DAISIE (*Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe*)

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An Example of an Everglades CISMA Success Story

The Rapid Response to Sacred Ibis

- This species appears perfectly suited to Everglades-type habitats including the WCAs and surrounding agricultural lands. It is believed (unconfirmed) that populations now established in South Florida came from a breeding population that escaped Miami Metro Zoo following Hurricane Andrew in August 1992.
- State and federal agencies view this non-native introduced species as a potential threat to native water bird populations. This species could have deleterious effects on native wading and water bird populations due to the opportunistic feeding nature of this species. In addition, this species may compete with native wading birds for food and nesting space.
- Plan Developed, Grant obtained from the Everglades Foundation (\$25,000)
- USDA Wildlife Services contracted for removal efforts.

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