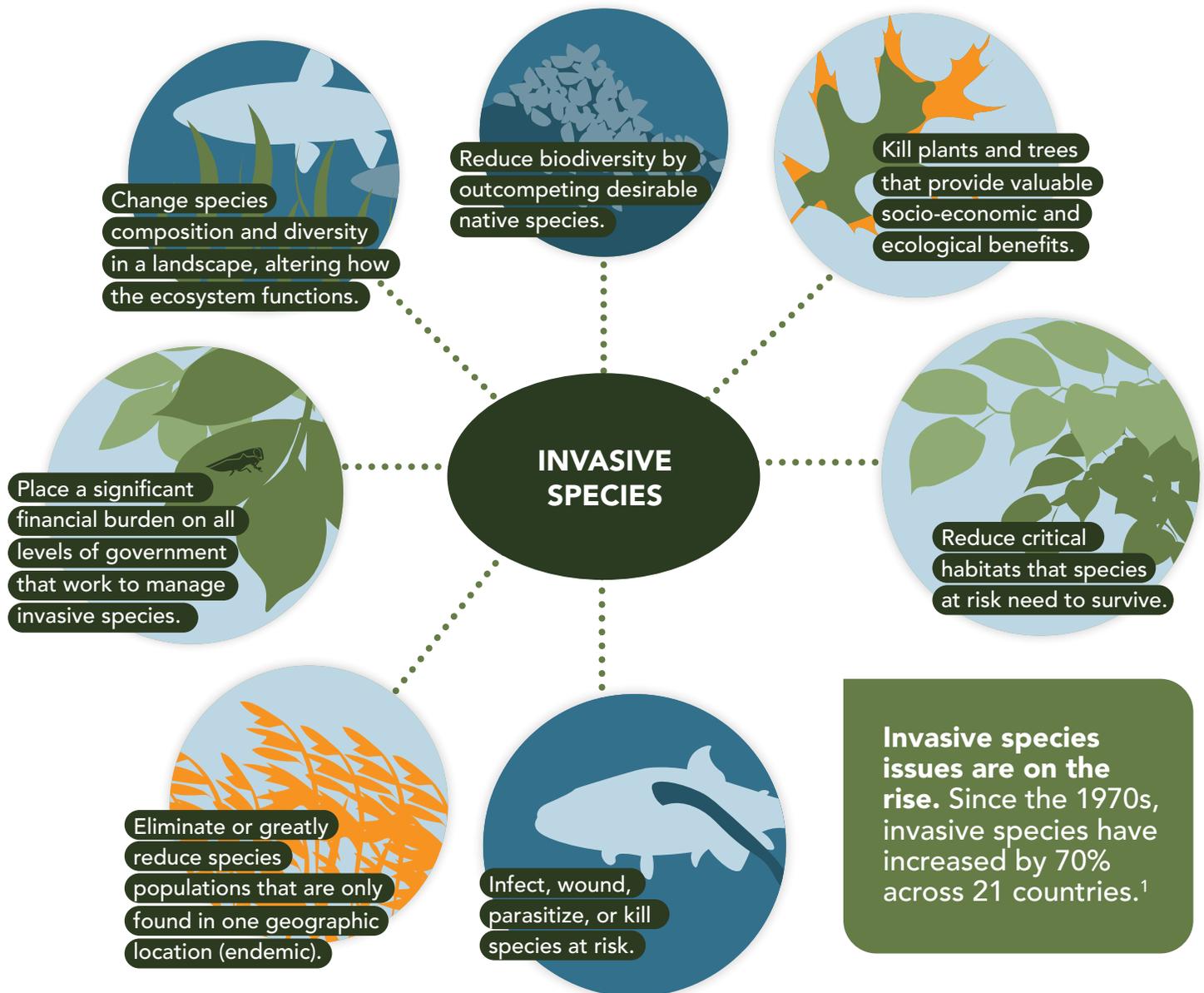


Invasive Species and Species at Risk CONSERVING CRITICAL HABITAT

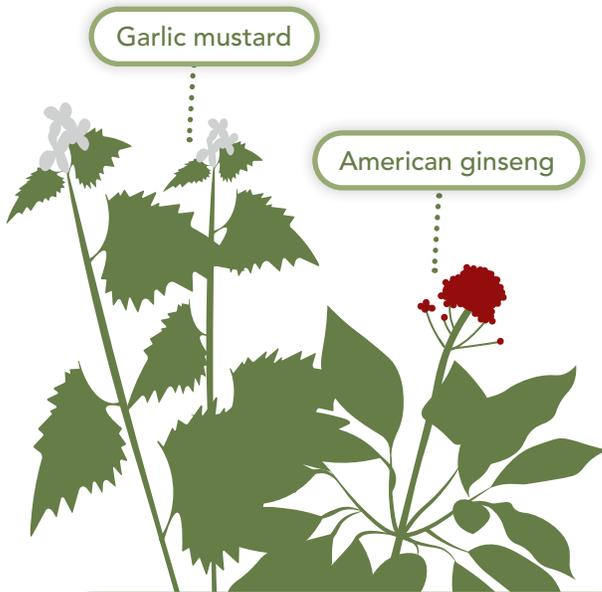


Protecting ecosystems from degradation caused by invasive species can help protect species at risk and critical habitats. In 2019, the United Nations reported invasive alien species as a top-5 driver of species decline.¹



Species at risk are vulnerable to changes in their habitat. It is important to consider invasive species pathways, impacts, and risks when developing policy or implementing management plans to protect species at risk.

As of 2020, there are 622 wildlife species at risk in Canada.² Many of these species, including lake sturgeon (threatened by sea lamprey) and monarch butterflies (threatened by dog-strangling vine), are impacted by invasive species.



WHAT'S AT RISK: American Ginseng vs. Garlic Mustard

American ginseng is a culturally and ecologically important plant species in Canada. On the species at risk list since 2008, American ginseng is important for biodiversity and has long been used in traditional medicine by Indigenous peoples.

American ginseng is threatened by garlic mustard, an aggressive invasive plant that competes for resources, changes soil chemistry, produces up to 60,000 seeds annually, and has populations that can double in size every four years.

By removing and preventing the spread of garlic mustard, land managers can support the protection and recovery of American ginseng.

WHAT'S BEING DONE: Species Protection in Progress



Lake Erie

Point Pelee National Park is working to protect multiple species at risk, including yellow-breasted chat, American water-willow, Blanding's turtle, and five-lined skink.

Key actions include:

- ◆ Managing invasive species, such as purple loosestrife and phragmites, which threaten the park's large freshwater marsh
- ◆ Protecting breeding grounds of species at risk birds and turtles from being degraded by invasive species
- ◆ Reducing the threat of habitat disturbance via invasive species to critical areas through legal protection, public awareness, and stewardship

¹ UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating'. (2019) Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>.

² Species at Risk Public Registry (2020). Retrieved January 30, 2020 from <https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/species?sortBy=commonNameSort&sortDirection=asc&pageSize=10>.



Invasive
Species
Centre

The **INVASIVE SPECIES CENTRE** is a non-profit organization that connects stakeholders, knowledge and technology to prevent and reduce the spread of invasive species that harm Canada's environment, economy, and society.

For more information and to sign up for invasive species news, visit www.invasivespeciescentre.ca. [t](#) [f](#) [in](#)