

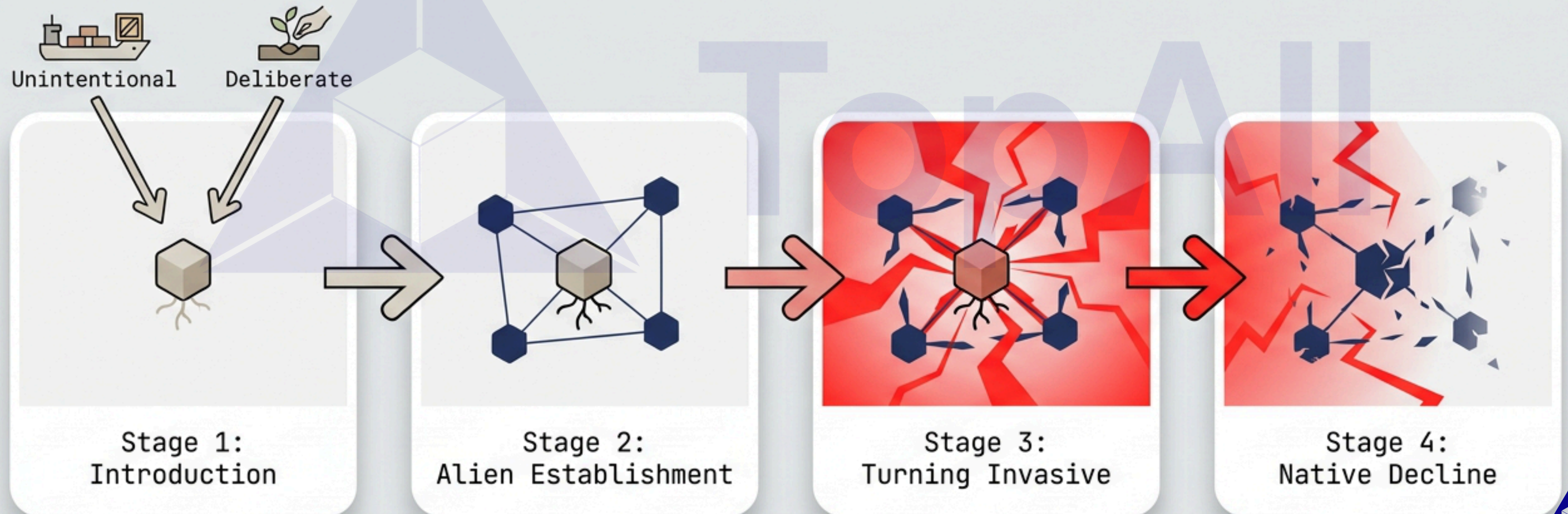
When Newcomers Become Threats

Alien Species Invasions and the
Accelerated Loss of Global Biodiversity



When alien species are introduced unintentionally or **deliberately** for whatever purpose, some of them turn **invasive**, and cause decline or extinction of indigenous species.

The Invasion Funnel



The Evil Quartet

1. Habitat loss and fragmentation

2. Over-exploitation

3. Alien species invasions

4. Co-extinctions

Ecological Vulnerability

Native ecosystems lack natural predators or evolved defenses against these sudden alien introductions, making the biological network highly fragile.





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$$E=mc^2$$



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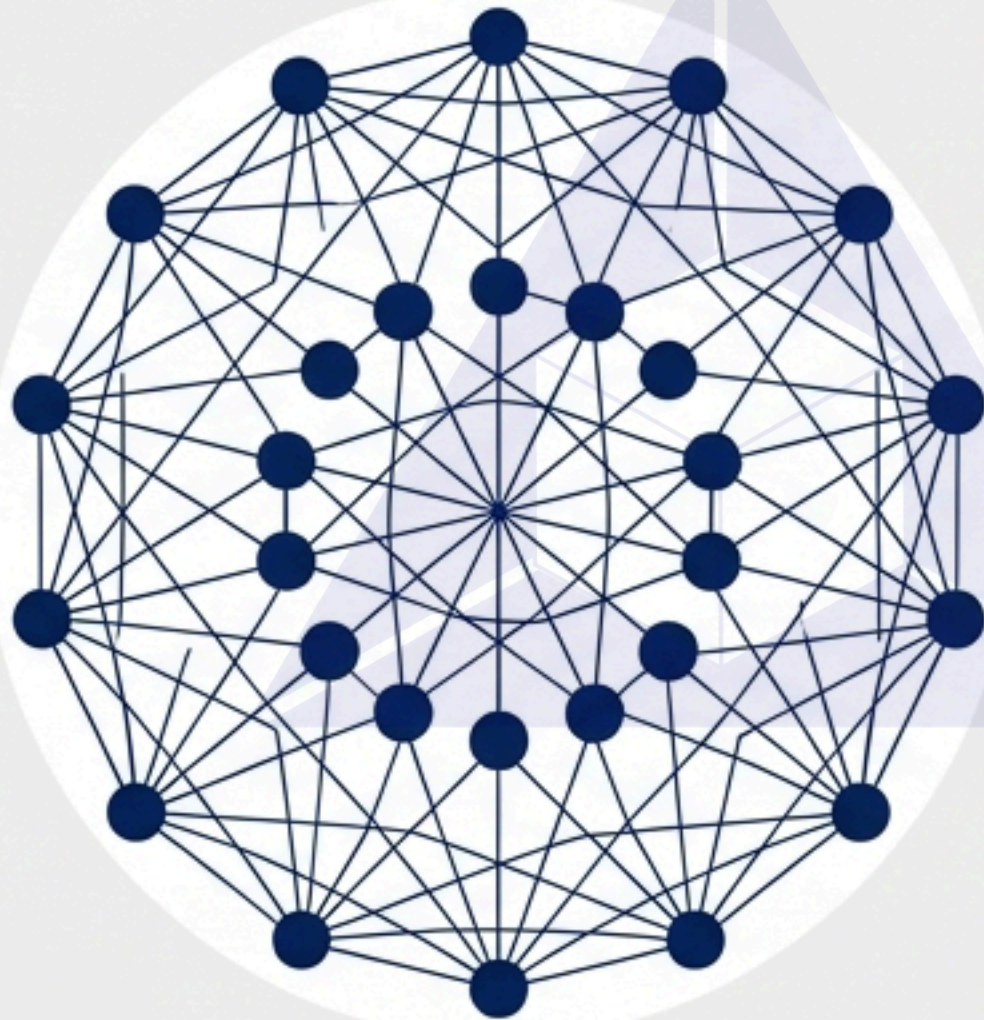
Key Highlights

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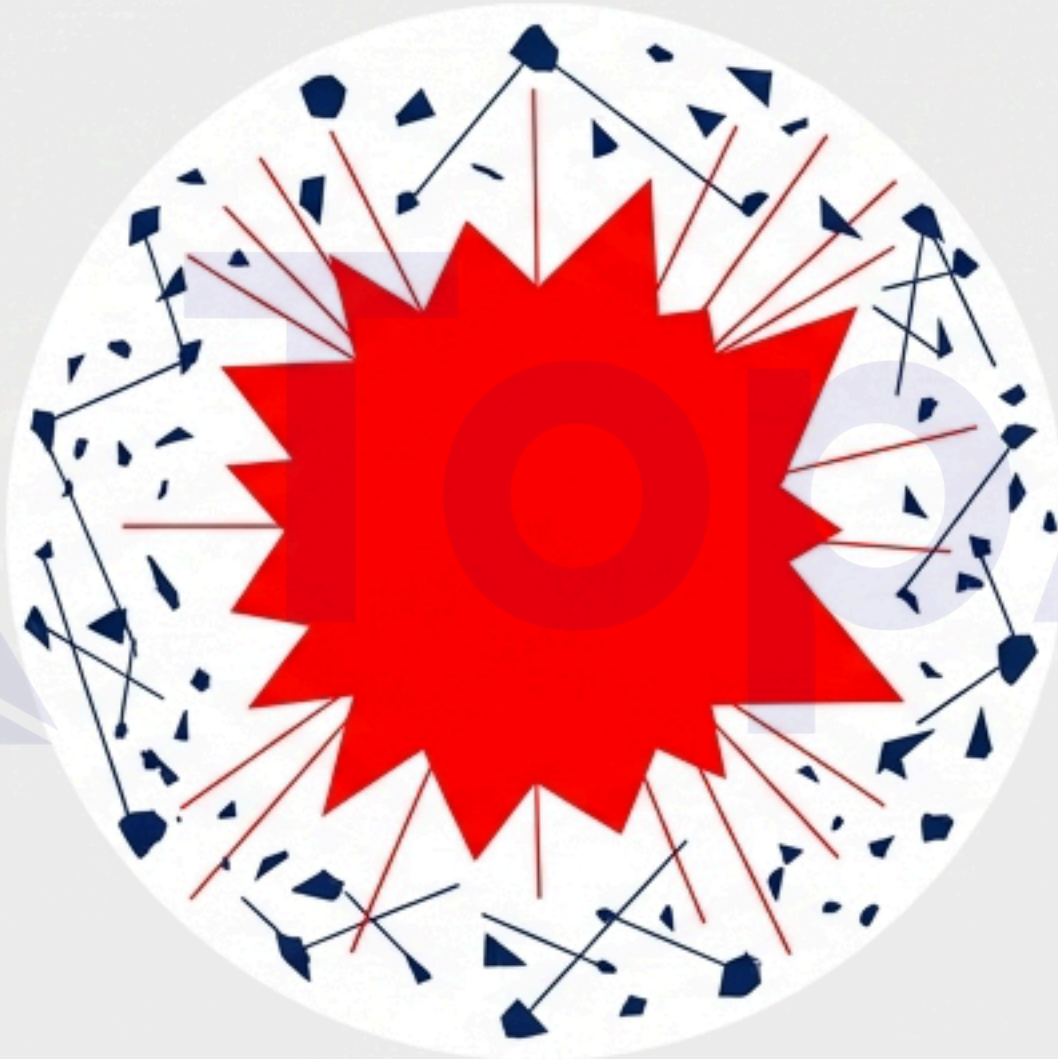


Threat Profile: Aquatic Predator

Before



After



Location:

Lake Victoria,
East Africa

Introduced:

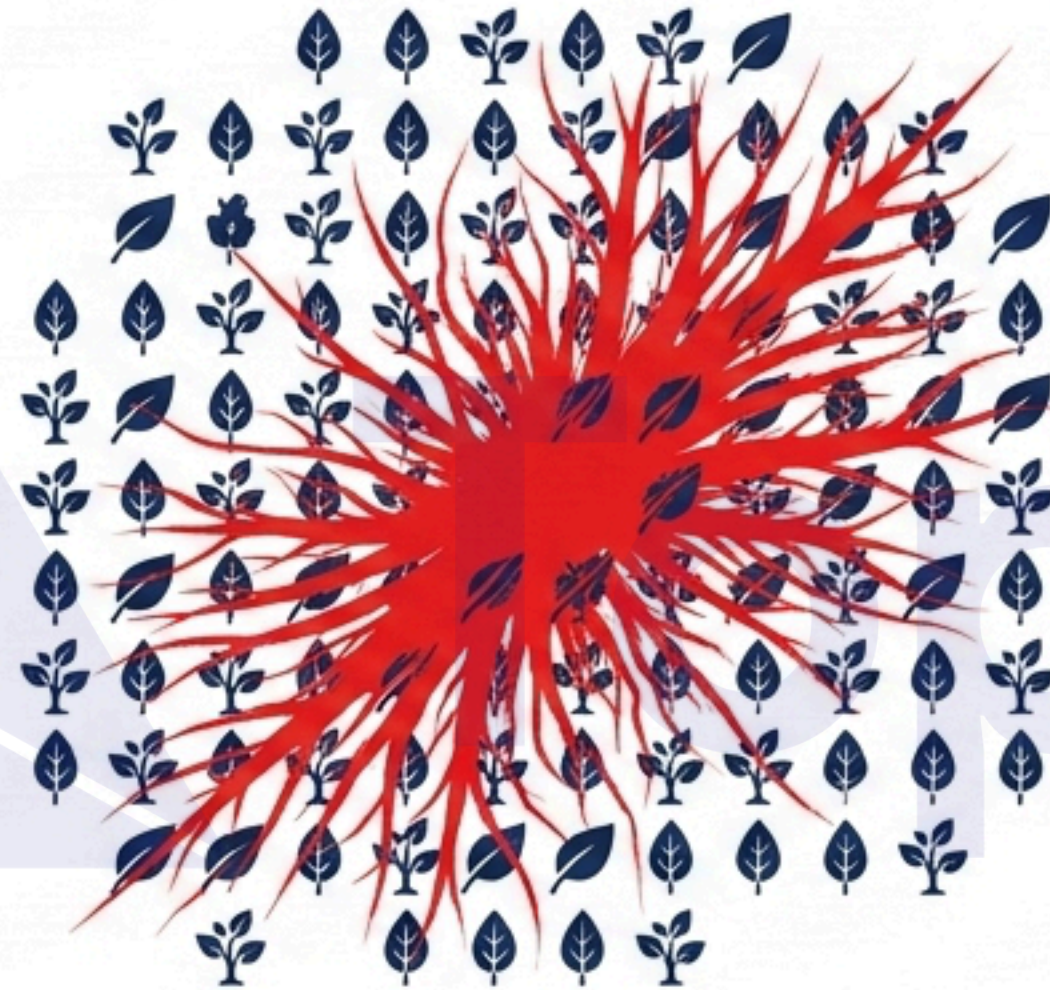
1 Alien Predator
(Nile Perch)

Extinct: >200

**Indigenous
Species (Cichlid
Fish)**

Threat Profile: Terrestrial Weed

Common Name: Carrot Grass
Scientific Name: *Parthenium hysterophorus*



Pervasive Hazard

An invasive weed species causing severe environmental damage and posing a direct threat to native plant life through rapid, unchecked spread.

Plant Invader Diagnostic Matrix

Terrestrial Threat

Lantana

Biome: Forest / Scrub

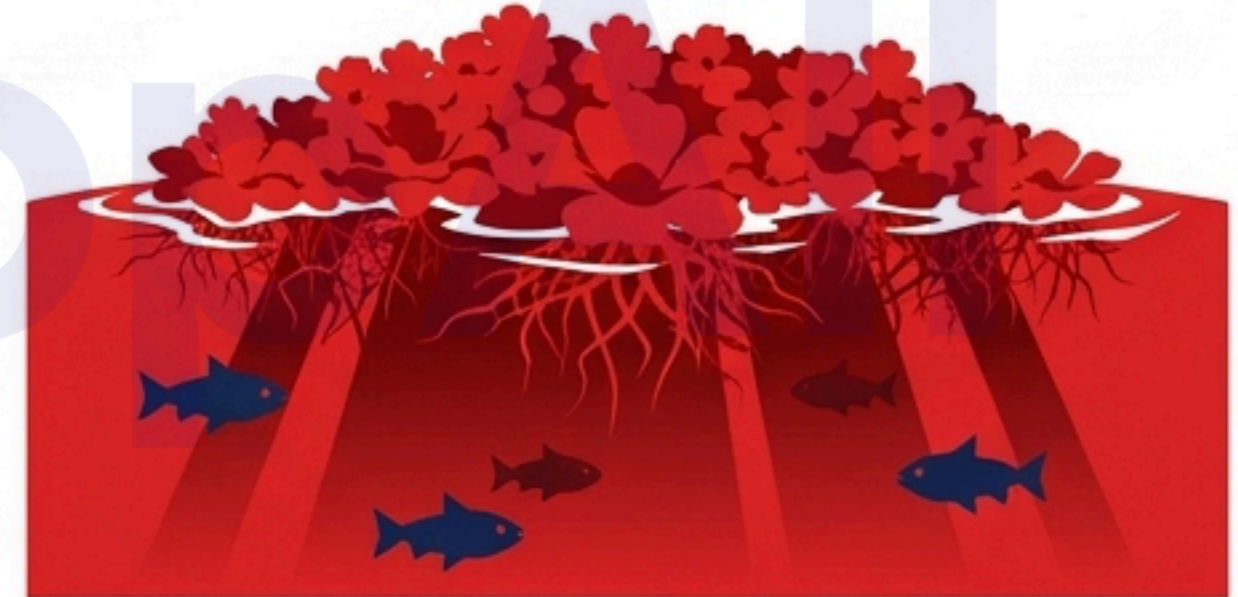


Impact: Aggressive weed species that outcompetes native flora for nutrients and sunlight.

Aquatic Threat

Eichhornia (Water hyacinth)

Biome: Freshwater Lakes / Rivers



Impact: Chokes waterways, alters aquatic ecosystems, and severely damages native aquatic life.

Threat Profile: Illegal Aquaculture

Alien Species: *Clarias gariepinus*
(African Catfish)
Target Ecosystem: Indigenous Rivers



This recent illegal introduction for aquaculture specifically threatens the survival of local indigenous catfish populations.

The Fabric of Ecosystems

Ecosystems are tightly woven tapestries built over millions of years. Introducing even a single alien thread—whether a predator, a weed, or a farmed fish—can unravel the entire system.

Protecting global biodiversity requires strict ecological biosecurity to prevent newcomers from becoming tomorrow's threats.



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