**NORTHERN AFRICAN PYTHON**

### Ecological Risk Factors:
- Introduced to Multiple Locations
- Apex Predator with Large Body Size
- High Reproductive Potential
- In Areas Connected to Other Natural Habitats
- High Climate Suitability
- Able to Spread to New Locations
- Competes with Native Species
- Present in Areas with Protected Species

### Overall Risk to Florida: **VERY HIGH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Type</th>
<th>Risk Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecological Risks</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Risks</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Health &amp; Safety Risks</td>
<td>High</td>
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### Key Facts
- First introduced to the wild in Florida via the pet trade as early as 2002.
- Now established in Miami-Dade County.
- More than 70 Northern African pythons have been removed from Florida by the FWC and partners as of October 2020.
- High reproductive potential, with females laying up to 100 eggs every 2-3 years.
- Well camouflaged and difficult to detect in the wild.

### Management Costs
Management costs for this species continue to increase. The FWC spends more than $3 million annually managing invasive fish and wildlife, including Northern African pythons.
**Impacts in Florida**

Northern African pythons are apex predators with broad diets that cause adverse impacts to the ecology of Florida through competition with and consumption of native wildlife. Northern African pythons feed on mammals, birds, reptiles and fish, and kill their prey by constriction. In their native range, adults prey on large animals such as crocodiles and antelopes. In Florida, Northern African pythons can prey on a variety of native species including white-tailed deer, alligators, crocodiles, and other birds, mammals and reptiles.

The species may also pose a threat to human health and safety due to their large size. Northern African pythons’ average length is about 10 feet, but they can grow to 20 feet. A wild Northern African python in Florida was documented killing a large pet husky, making the species a threat to livestock and pets.

**Control and Management**

Minimizing adverse impacts from Northern African pythons continues to be a high priority for the FWC and partners. FWC staff continue to control Northern African pythons in Florida through:

- Responding to reports of Northern African pythons in their known range, to attempt to eradicate them from the area.
- Conducting rapid responses to remove pythons observed outside of their established range.
- Establishing a python detector dog program.
- Removing regulatory barriers for the public to humanely kill pythons on public lands.

**Management Focus:**

- Eradicate Established Population.
- Prevent New Populations from Establishing.
- Early Detection/Rapid Response for New Reports.
- Limit Possession of Live Pythons through Regulation.