

Legal status

House Crows are a Category 1a listed invasive species in terms of National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act Regulations. In terms of this legislation House Crows **MUST** be combatted or eradicated wherever they occur.

It is illegal to import, posses, breed, transport or trade in house crows. **Landowners and organs of state MUST:**

- Take immediate steps to combat or eradicate house crows occurring on their land
- Notify the relevant competent authority of the presence of house crows
- Allow officials to enter their properties to monitor or assist with control of house crows

Where can I report a sighting?

Please report and upload any sightings of house crows to the following platforms. This will assist authorities with management interventions.

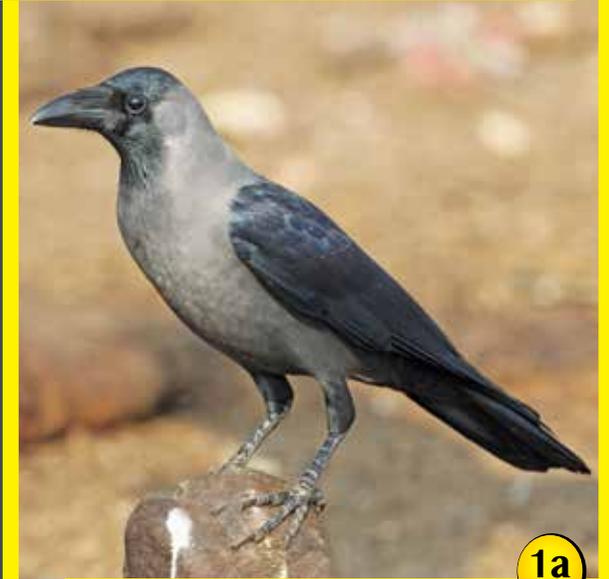
Cape Town – use the online reporting tool:
<https://www.capetowninvasives.org.za/house-crows>

Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and elsewhere:
Download the iNaturalist app on your smart phone or visit the iNaturalist web site www.inaturalist.org

- Register and login
- Upload digital photos, date and locality of your observation of House Crow(s)
- Scientists will confirm the identification and use the information to track spread and plan control

Invasive species compliance

House crows and the law



House crow
(*Corvus splendens*)

1a



Why are House crows a problem?

- Highly invasive along coastal cities in Africa
- Noisy and disruptive in urban areas
- Known vectors of disease which can pass on to people
- Hygienic threat to street vendors
- Mob children and steal food
- Compete against indigenous birds
- Preys on eggs and nestlings of indigenous birds

House crows originate from Asia. They are highly adaptable and intelligent. They disperse from port to port by hitchhiking on cargo and passenger ships, therefore a new population can easily establish if not constantly monitored.



Identification

- There are three indigenous crows or ravens in South Africa – the white-necked raven has a white nape, and the pied crow has a white collar and chest – both features lacking in the house crow.
- The Cape crow is uniformly black and most likely to be mistaken for a house crow.
- The invasive house crow has a notable grey breast, nape and mantle.
- House crow bill is slightly broader and shorter than that of the Cape crow.
- House crows measure 34–38 cm in length and are the smallest of the crows in the region.

Nests and eggs

- Nests built high up in exotic trees such as bluegums, occasionally on tall buildings and structures.
- Lays 3 – 5 bluish eggs.



Controlling invasive species

Invasive species are controlled under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act no. 10 of 2004) Alien and Invasive Species (AIS) Regulations.

The National List includes 567 invasive species in four categories.

1a Category 1a

- These species are not welcome in South Africa
- Control and remove species in the country
- Species may not be owned, gifted or kept
- Trade in these species is strictly prohibited

1b Category 1b

- Species must be controlled
- Trade in these species is prohibited
- Submit control plans for long-term management

2 Category 2

- Species require a permit issued by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
- Species must remain in permitted demarcated land
- Unpermitted Category 2 species revert to Category 1b

3 Category 3

- Breeding and trade in these species is prohibited
- Species may remain in prescribed areas or provinces.

For more information

www.dffe.gov.za | www.invasives.org.za

Call Centre: 086 111 2468

Info: callcentre@environment.gov.za

Permits: AIScompliance@environment.gov.za

Environmental Crimes Hotline: 0800 205 005

