The development and refinement of frameworks and their conversion to standards is an important sign that invasion science is maturing as a discipline. However, despite a plethora of frameworks that classify and conceptualise different aspects of the biological invasions phenomenon, few frameworks have been widely tested. This issue was critically evaluated at a workshop hosted by the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in November 2019 that led to the Stellenbosch Challenge for Invasion Science.

Can invasion science develop and improve frameworks that are useful for research, policy or management, and that are clear as to the contexts in which the frameworks do and do not apply?

The 24 papers in this special issue do much to meet this challenge. They apply existing frameworks to new data and contexts, assess how frameworks have been adopted and used, develop useable protocols and guidelines for applying frameworks to different contexts, refine the frameworks in light of experience, integrate frameworks for new purposes, identify gaps, and develop new frameworks to address issues that are currently not adequately dealt with.

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