



Book of Abstracts

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P33

The LIFE RIPARIAS project – *Reaching Integrated and Prompt Action in Response to Invasive Alien Species*

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Abstract

There is still a critical need to underpin IAS management with a coherent, replicable and transparent workflow for decision making.

The LIFE RIPARIAS project develops an innovative evidence-based workflow, optimising the management of invasive freshwater crayfish and aquatic and riparian plants within a multiregional pilot area in Belgium.

Specifically, the project:

- Improves data flows from existing early warning and surveillance systems, kept separately by regions, local authorities and NGOs, to IAS managers by ensuring interoperability and enhancing surveillance. Fifteen taxa of emerging aquatic and riparian species listed under the IAS regulation are targeted, as well as a set of taxa not yet of EU concern.
- Develops guidelines and objective criteria for prioritising management actions and apply priority actions in pilot river sub-basins. For emerging species, the objective is early detection and rapid eradication; for widespread species, two distinct management objectives are foreseen depending on species distribution: 1) containment of populations in core areas; 2) maintenance of pest free areas.
- Improves data flows from management actions to policy-makers by monitoring and assessing IAS management efficiency in support of the reporting obligation pursuant to the EU Regulation on IAS.
- Promotes the replication of the evidence-based workflow for IAS management decision making in Europe and improving the transfer of experience and best IAS management practices.

A strong collaboration between the three involved Belgian regions is key to success as IAS establish and spread beyond geographical and administrative borders. The ten project partners include public bodies, academia and associations, and are all committed to work together to tackle the many challenges ahead.

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