



RAPID LIFE - RAPID LIFE - holistic management of Invasive Alien Species in freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal ecosystems

LIFE16 NAT/UK/000582

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#### Project description:

##### Background

Globally, invasive alien species (IAS) are considered to be one of the most significant causes of biodiversity loss, second only to habitat destruction. Target 5 (combat invasive alien species) of the EU Biodiversity Strategy recognises the severe impact that IAS have on biodiversity within Europe and the need for them to be managed more effectively. They represent a major threat to native plants and animals in Europe, causing damage worth billions of euros to the European economy every year. The Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species entered into force on 1 January 2015. It provides for a set of measures to be taken across the EU in relation to invasive alien species included on a list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern.

##### Objectives

RAPID (Reducing and Preventing IAS Dispersal) LIFE will deliver a package of measures to reduce the impact and spread of IAS in freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal environments across England. It will help to conserve species protected under the Birds and Habitats directives whilst assisting in compliance with the EU Regulation on IAS, Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Water Framework Directive. The conservation status of Natura 2000 sites will also be enhanced and protected.

Specific project objectives are to:

- Establish a regionally-based framework across England to deliver more effective IAS management, facilitating the production of regional IAS management plans;
- Prevent the introduction of new IAS to the project's target environments by increasing biosecurity awareness amongst target audiences, through a

- coordinated programme of engagement at England-wide and regional levels;
- Increase awareness and efficacy of UK-level early warning and rapid response systems within England and establish localised rapid response protocols;
  - Eradicate and control established IAS in high-priority areas whilst demonstrating strategic and best practice approaches; and
  - Disseminate the exemplar approach throughout European and international networks.

Expected results: RAPID LIFE will enhance management of IAS in target environments across England. It will give a strategic underpinning to IAS management at a local level and increase the efficacy of biosecurity campaigns. The conservation actions delivered will prevent the introduction of novel IAS, facilitate rapid responses to new IAS and better manage widespread IAS. RAPID LIFE's programme will benefit some of the Natura 2000 sites identified through the EU LIFE+ IPENS (LIFE11 NAT/UK/000384) project as having IAS related threats or issues. RAPID LIFE will also help to protect the 14 native species for which IAS were identified as a pressure and/or threat as part of the UK's third Habitats Directive reporting (2013).

Specific expected results are:

- 12.5% increase in the number of white-clawed crayfish within the South West region;
- 58.5% reduction in the distribution of Himalayan balsam in the Bristol Avon and River Wensum catchments;
- 55% reduction in the distribution of Japanese knotweed in the Bristol Avon and River Wensum catchments; and
- 75% reduction of signal crayfish within the South West region.

Results

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Environmental issues addressed:

Themes

Biodiversity issues - Invasive species

Risk management - Risk assessment and monitoring

Keywords

early warning system, aquatic ecosystem, monitoring, biodiversity, preventive measure

## Target EU Legislation

- Nature protection and Biodiversity
- COM(2011) 244 final “Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 ...
- Regulation 1143/2014 - Prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien ...
- Water
- Directive 2000/60 - Framework for Community action in the field of water policy (23.10.2000)

Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	Animal and Plant Health Agency
Type of organisation	Public enterprise
Description	<p>The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is the lead government agency in England for biosecurity, including issues related to invasive alien species (IAS). It also houses the British Non-native Species Secretariat which coordinates activities to manage IAS across Great Britain. APHA provides research, services and advice to the UK government on IAS management. In particular, it has experience in wildlife population and disease modelling, contingency planning and practical management of invasive invertebrates. APHA’s National Wildlife Management Centre has previously been involved in two LIFE projects focused on IAS management. The first, led by Scottish Natural Heritage, aimed to eradicate American mink from the Western Isles of Scotland. APHA was the lead partner for the second project, which aimed to eradicate the ruddy duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>) from Great Britain.</p>
Partners	Natural England, United Kingdom Bristol Clifton West of England Zoological Society, United Kingdom

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE16 NAT/UK/000582
Duration	01-JUL-2017 to 31-DEC -2020
Total budget	1,136,663.00 €
EU contribution	681,698.00 €
Project location	North(United Kingdom) Yorkshire and Humberside(United Kingdom) East Midlands(United Kingdom) East Anglia(United Kingdom) South East (UK)(United Kingdom) South West (UK)(United Kingdom) West Midlands(United Kingdom) North West (UK)(United Kingdom)

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Read more:

Leaflet	Title: "Rapid: Holistic, innovative management of Invasive Alien Species in freshwater aquatic riparian & coastal English ecosystems" (1.28 MB) Editor: RAPID No of pages: 2
Newsletter	Title: "RAPID: Reducing and Preventing Invasive Alien Species Dispersal: RAPID Newsletter: October 2018" (871 KB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 5
Newsletter	Title: "Rapid: Reducing and Preventing Invasive Alien Species Dispersal" (819 KB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 4
Project web site	<a href="#">Project's website</a>
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: New Zealand Pygmyweed (Crassula helmsii)" (796 KB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 19
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: Pacific oyster (Crassostrea gigas)" (900 KB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 9
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good Practice management: American Mink (Neovison vison)" (593 KB) Editor: RAPID No of pages: 10
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: American Skunk Cabbage (Lysichiton americanus)" (706 KB) Editor: RAPID No of pages: 11
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: Carpet Sea Squirt (Didemnum vexillum)" (896 KB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 8

Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: Japanese Knotweed (Fallopia japonica)" (1.23 MB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 36
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: Himalayan Balsam (Impatiens glandulifera)" (1.83 MB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 24
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)" (1.73 MB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 31
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: Curly Waterweed (Lagarosiphon major)" (928 KB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 13
Publication: Guidelines-Manual	Title: "Good practice management: Floating Pennywort (Hydrocotyle ranunculoides)" (1.23 MB) Year: 2018 Editor: RAPID No of pages: 12
Slides Presentation	Title: "Vertebrates: Ecology and Impacts" (1.44 MB) Editor: RAPID No of pages: 17
Slides Presentation	Title: "Shrimps, Bivalves and Fish: ID and Impacts" (2.16 MB) Editor: RAPID No of pages: 38
Slides Presentation	Title: "Freshwater invasive non-native species: Impacts on Event Managers and Practical Biosecurity Steps" (3.12 MB) Editor: RAPID No of pages: 27
Slides Presentation	Title: "Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species: Impacts on Marina and Boat Club Managers and Practical Biosecurity Steps" (3.11 MB) Editor: RAPID No of pages: 23
Slides Presentation	Title: "Aquatic Plants: ID and Impacts" (1.78 MB) Editor: RAPID No of pages: 18
Video link	<a href="#">"Creating a Biosecurity Plan" [EN - 3'39]</a>

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