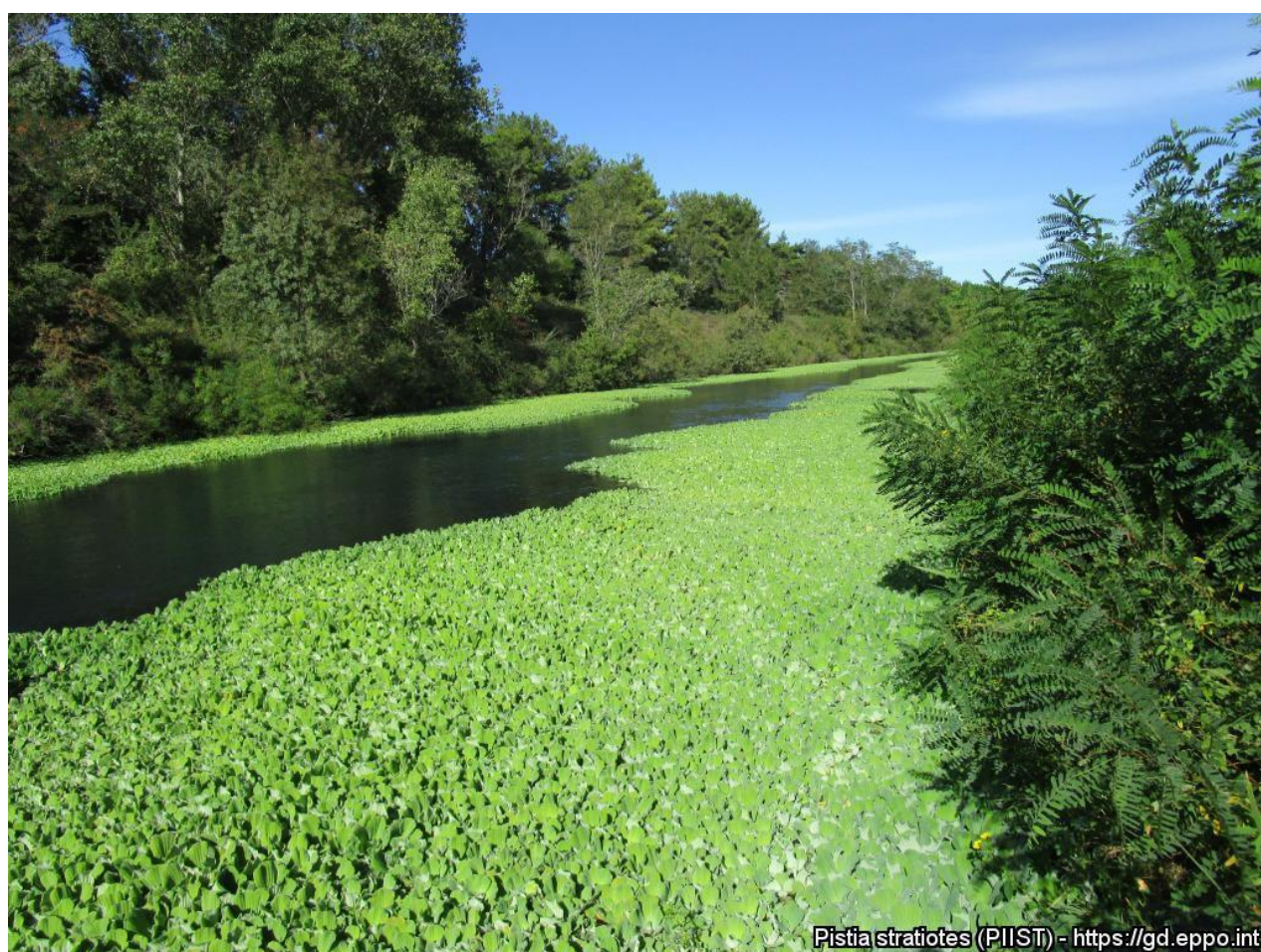


LIFE IAP-RISK

2016 - 2018

Mitigating the Threat of Invasive Alien Plants in the EU
Through Pest Risk Analysis to Support the EU Regulation
1143/2014



Newsletter 4
May 2018



Newsletter 4 – May 2018

Introduction

Welcome to the fourth and final Newsletter of the LIFE funded project mitigating the threat of **Invasive Alien Plants** in the EU through pest **RISK** analysis to support the EU Regulation 1143/2014 – better known as LIFE IAP-RISK,

IAP-RISK aims to mitigate the threat of invasive alien plants to the EU by producing high quality pest risk assessments that meet the requirements of the EU Regulation 1143/2014.

The project is now concluding, and in the first quarter of 2018 all of the pest risk assessments have been sent to the European Commission for review by the Scientific Forum.

Leaflets and posters have been produced for each of the invasive alien plant species which received a moderate or high-risk score in the risk assessment and these will be available for download on the project website in June 2018.

We have also been working on an AFTER – LIFE Communication plan to ensure the continuation of the projects actions following the completion of the project at the end of June, 2018.

Additionally, a Layman's report has been produced and this will be posted on the projects website at the end of June 2018.

View our website for more details on the project www.IAP-RISK.eu

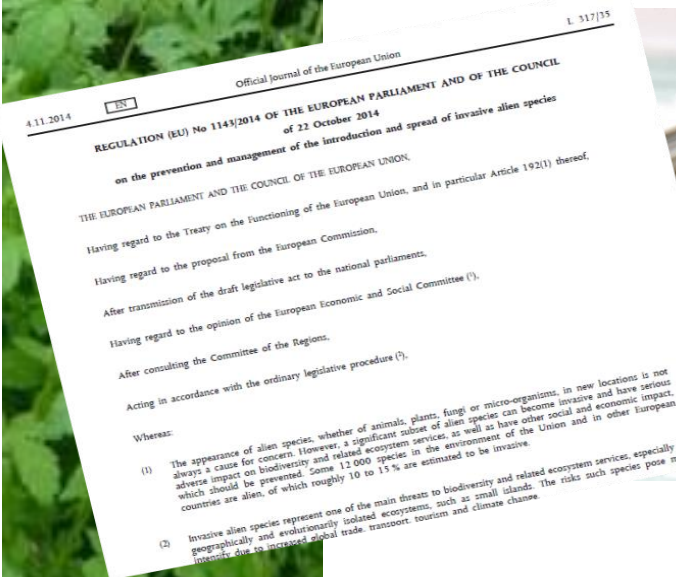
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Introduction

Trade liberalisation and rapid globalisation has led to the increased spread of invasive alien species (IAS) around the world. IAS (plants, animals, fungi or micro-organisms) are recognised as one of the greatest threats to biological diversity inflicting irreversible damage to the ecosystems they invade. There are an estimated 12 000 alien species present within Europe of which 10-15 % are considered invasive, and it is these species that cost the EU around €12 - billion per year.

Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014

The Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 entered into force on 1 January 2015 and provides a set of measures to be taken across the EU in relation to invasive species including a List of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of Union concern. For a species to be included in this, a risk assessment is required to technically and objectively evaluate scientific and economic evidence to determine the level of risk associated with a species. Importantly, a risk assessment should demonstrate a species meets the criteria in Article 4 of the IAS Regulation where, in short, a species is non-native to the whole of the European Union (excluding the outermost territories), has the potential to establish and spread in the natural environment of one biogeographical region shared by two Member States, and has a demonstrable negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Pest risk analysis

A pest risk analysis (PRA) includes risk assessment and risk management and is the technical and objective process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine the level of invasion risk associated with a species or pathway. Robust risk analysis methods are required to provide the foundation on which to base measures that may affect imports into the EU and future agreements with trade partners without infringing the rules and disciplines of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements.

LIFE IAP-RISK is a preparatory project funded by the LIFE programme. Preparatory projects are funded by the sub-programme for Environment. Such projects address specific needs for developing and implementing EU environmental or climate policy and legislation. Areas are identified by the Commission in cooperation with Member States on an annual basis.

Main objectives of IAP-RISK were:

- To determine which species from the EPP0 List of Invasive Alien Plants and the horizon scanning exercise (ENV.B.2/ETU/2014/0016) have the highest priority for a risk analysis,
- To assess 16 invasive alien plants by performing a risk analysis which is fully compliant with the Regulation (EU) no. 1143/2014,
- To facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building in pest risk analysis within the EU.

IAP-RISK: a three staged project:

IAP-RISK was divided into three distinct stages:

Stage 1: Selecting species for risk assessment (preparatory work).

Stage 1 produced a risk-based list of invasive alien plants prioritised in compliance with the Regulation from which the top 16 will undergo risk analysis.

Stage 2: Risk assessment of 16 invasive alien plant species.

Stage 2 produced 16 PRAs compiled by leading experts which are fully compliant with the Regulation (EU) no. 1143/2014. Each PRA produced in stage 2 will undergo the peer review process in stage 3.

Stage three: Peer review process

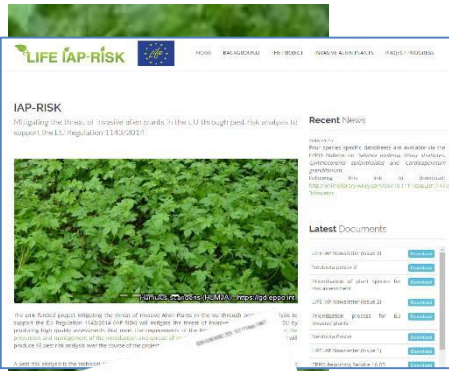
This stage produced the main output of the IAP-RISK project – a scientifically sound, robust, fully peer-reviewed risk assessment for each of the 16 species.

Results and deliverables of the IAP-RISK project

The results of the IAP-RISK project are as follows:

- A project dedicated website (www.iap-risk.eu),
- A EU prioritization process which was used to prioritize 37 invasive alien plants for PRA,
- The incorporation of the EU prioritization process and the Express PRA [scheme for invasive alien plants into the capra software \(www.iap-risk.eu/capra\)](http://www.iap-risk.eu/capra),
- A list of 16 invasive alien plants for risk analysis: *Andropogon virginicus*, *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*, *Cinnamomum camphora*, *Cortaderia jubata*, *Ehrharta calycina*, *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*, *Hakea sericea*, *Humulus scandens*, *Hygrophila polysperma*, *Lespedeza cuneata*, *Lygodium japonicum*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Sapium sebiferum*, *Pistia stratiotes* and *Salvinia molesta*,
- The completion of eight expert working groups where international experts risk analysed 16 invasive alien plants,
- The production of 16 species distribution maps which were included in the PRA documents,
- The completion and submission to the European Commission of 16 peer reviewed PRA documents,
- The delivery of two training workshops on (1) the prioritization of invasive alien plants and (2) pest risk analysis of invasive alien plants where 13 participants attended each course,
- The drafting of 14 datasheets to be published in the EPPO Bulletin,
- The production of 14 species specific leaflets for stakeholder use,
- The production of 14 species specific posters for stakeholder use,
- A mid-stage report,
- A Layman's report,
- An After LIFE Communication Plan,

Communication actions



IAP-RISK website

The IAP-Risk website (www.iap-risk.eu) went live shortly after the start of the project. All key documents produced from the project are included on the site for download.

Datasheets

When each species is recommended for regulation a datasheet is produced on the species which included important information on the species. The datasheets are an output of the PRA document by present the information in a more reader friendly format. These datasheets can be used by numerous stakeholders and they are freely available via the project website.

Posters and leaflets

14 posters and 14 leaflets have been produced, one for each of the species risk assessed as having a high or moderate phytosanitary risk. These information tools are designed to provide key information on the species and can be amended by individuals and institutions to highlight the species and request new sightings. All leaflets and posters are available via the project website.

Training workshops

IAP-RISK has conducted two training workshops on (1) the prioritization of invasive alien plants and (2) pest risk analysis of invasive alien plants. In total 13 participants attended each training workshop where combined with introductory lectures and practical exercises participants learnt to prioritize and risk assess invasive plant species. In the prioritization workshop participants came prepared with a list of invasive species they wanted to assess for priority for risk assessment. During the second workshop participants divided into three small groups where each group risk assessed on plant species. At the end of each training workshop the participants presented their findings.



Overview

Even though IAP-RISK is a preparatory project addressing specific needs for the Regulation 1143/2014, the actions and deliverables produced by the project will continue to be developed and utilised after the project finishes in June 2018. An After LIFE Communication Plan has been prepared to ensure the continuation of some of the actions of the project and is available via the project website.

This After LIFE plan is focused on five main actions: (1) development of documents and tools produced as part of the project, (2) development of PM 9 Standards (3) information dissemination, (4) collaboration between partners and stakeholders and (5) maintenance of the project website.

Development of documents and tools

Following the completion of the project some key documents will continue to be developed including:

- Following a recommendation of regulation in 2018 for *Ambrosia confertiflora*, *Andropogon virginicus*, *Cortaderia jubata*, *Ehrharta calycina*, *Hakea sericea*, *Humulus scandens*, *Lespedeza cuneata*, *Lygodium japonicum*, *Prosopis juliflora* and *Sapium sebiferum*, detailed datasheets will be published in the EPP0 Bulletin in December 2018.
- The PRAs for the 14 species identified as having a moderate or high phytosanitary risk (see table on page 8), will be considered for listing on the List of invasive alien species of Union concern and the EPP0 A1 or A2 lists.
- Scientific publications will be produced detailing key aspects of the risk assessments.

Development of PM 9 Standards

As part of the IAP-RISK project some key tools were developed and these. When a PRA has been produced and recommended for regulation in the EPP0 region it is common practice for EPP0 to produce a PM 9 National regulatory control system Standard for the species. These Standards provide procedures for official control with the aim of containing and eradicating pests.

This action will see PM 9 Standard produced for *Andropogon virginicus*, *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*, *Cortaderia jubata*, *Ehrharta calycina*, *Hakea sericea*, *Humulus scandens*, *Lespedeza cuneata*, *Lygodium japonicum*, *Prosopis juliflora* and *Sapium sebiferum*.

Information dissemination

Each of the 16 PRA documents contain detailed information on the biology and ecology of the species. In addition, detailed information is included on the occurrence of the species in the EPPO region, the pathways of entry and spread, the habitats where the species occurs and those at risk in the future, the ecological and economic impact of the species along with detailed modelling of the species under current and future climatic conditions. Following the completion of the LIFE IAP-RISK project, this detailed information will be imported into the EPPO Global Database.

Collaboration

The IAP-RISK project forged a new collaboration between EPPO and CEH and this collaboration will continue following the end of the project. Both CEH and EPPO will continue to explore other collaborative opportunities as and when they arise.

The IAP-RISK partners will continue to explore new networking activities and as an example, EPPO will attend the 2018 LIFE Information Day in Brussels in May 2018. Here we will explore links with other organisations and the potential of new information – communications projects.

Maintenance of project website

The LIFE IAP-RISK website is key to the dissemination of key information and documents produced by the project. As the PRAs are officially approved, either by EPPO and/or the European Commission (and potentially included on the list of Union concern), the website will be updated to include this information and the PRA documents themselves.



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More information is available on the IAP-RISK website:
<http://www.iap-risk.eu/>



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