



LIFE IAP-RISK

Newsletter 2 – February 2017

Introduction

Welcome to the second 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 progressing well and to-date we have completed eight of the sixteen pest risk assessments for the project, conducted two training workshops and published an updated EPPO prioritization process for EU invasive alien plants. All of these aspects are detailed within the newsletter.

Looking forward, 2017 will be a busy year, we have three Expert Working Groups to arrange where each will risk assess two plant species. As we invite up to eight experts from around the world for each of meetings this involves a lot of work logistically.

This year will also see (hopefully), the first PRAs being approved by the EPPO Council and recommended for Regulation within the EPPO region. In addition, each PRA will be assessed by the scientific bodies of the European Union for potential inclusion on the list of invasive species of Union concern.

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

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Project Manager:

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New publication

A prioritization process for invasive alien plant species incorporating the requirements of EU Regulation no. 1143/2014

In November 2016, EPPO published the paper: A prioritization process for invasive alien plant species incorporating the requirements of EU Regulation no. 1143/2014, in the EPPO Bulletin. This paper, which is a direct result of the project details an updated EPPO prioritization process for invasive plants for the EU.

When faced with a large number of invasive, or potentially invasive alien plant species prioritization is an essential component to focus limited resources on those species which pose the greatest risks. When considering alien plant species for the whole EPPO region or for species under the Plant Health Regulation, the original EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants is the preferred tool to use. However, when considering alien plants under the EU Regulation no. 1143/2014 and within the remit of the LIFE IAP-RISK project, EPPO has adapted the original prioritization process into a stand-alone tool specially designed to incorporate the requirements of the Regulation. Similar to the original, the prioritization process for EU invasive alien plants acts as a first step to determine which species have the highest priority for a pest risk analysis. The prioritization process for EU invasive alien plants has two stages where stage 1 prioritises species into one of four lists (EU List of Invasive Alien Plants, EU Observation List, EU List of Minor Concern and the Residual List). Only those species with a medium to high spread potential coupled with high impacts on native species or ecosystem services are included in the EU List of Invasive Alien Plants and are further evaluated in Stage 2 – the risk management stage. In this second stage, five questions are asked to determine the potential for further spread, establishment, and if preventative or management actions can be applied for the species in a cost-effective manner. The output of Stage 2 is to prioritize those species which have the highest priority for a risk assessment at the EU level compared to those species where national measures should apply.

The publication detailing the prioritization process (together with a flow diagram) for EU invasive alien plants is freely available in the EPPO Bulletin. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/epp.12336/full>



Risk assessments

In 2016, six pest risk analyses (PRA) were conducted against invasive or potentially invasive alien plants for the EPPO region.

These included four aquatic species, *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*, *Hygrophila polysperma*, *Pistia stratiotes* and *Salvinia molesta*. In addition, the tree species *Cinnamomum camphora* and the vine *Cardiospermum grandiflorum* were risk analysed in a combined expert working group in October 2016.

In January 2017, two pest risk analysis were performed on two grass species - *Ehrharta calycina* and *Andropogon virginicus*. Experts from the UK, the Netherlands, the United States, Austria, South Africa and EPPO met for a week-long meeting to evaluate the risks of these species to the EPPO region. In detail, the biology and ecology of both species were assessed, along with an evaluation of pathways for entry and spread potential, along with impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the economy were evaluated. During the meeting species distribution models were produced which provide projections on the current and future distribution of the species within the EPPO region. All of the aforementioned PRAs are currently being peer reviewed.

A further three expert working groups are planned for 2017:

- *Humulus scandens* and *Lygodium japonicum* will be assessed in March
- *Prosopis juliflora* and *Hakea sericea* in May
- *Ambrosia confertiflora* and *Cortaderia jubata* in October.

This will leave one final expert working group in 2018, where the final two species (*Lespedeza cuneata* and *Sapium sebiferum*) will be risk assessed in February.

Training workshops

- Under the LIFE funded project, EPPO has conducted two training workshops on (1) the prioritization of invasive alien plants and (2) pest risk analysis of invasive alien plants.
- Training workshop 1: EPPO Prioritization Process for invasive alien plant species compliant with EU Regulation No 1143/2014 (2016-12-14/17) with the aim of providing participants with an understanding of the process of prioritizing invasive alien plants for risk assessment within the framework of the EU Regulation No 1143/2014.
- Training workshop 2: EPPO Express PRA for invasive alien plant species compliant with the Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014 (2017-02-14/17) with the aim of providing participants with an understanding of the process of pest risk analysis of invasive alien plants within the framework of the EU Regulation No 1143/2014.

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 results to the all at the meeting.



Participants at the PRA workshop