



RAPID

Reducing and Preventing
Invasive Alien Species Dispersal

RAPID Newsletter: March 2020



A holistic approach to Invasive Alien Species management in freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal ecosystems



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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Bristol Zoological
Society
Saving Wildlife Together

If you would like to be added to the RAPID LIFE distribution list, to receive a bi-annual eNewsletter and other relevant project outputs such as the Project's Technical Report, please provide contact details.

Please circulate this to any relevant technical stakeholders to whom you think it may be of interest.

Regarding any queries or feedback please email: alexia.fish@apha.gov.uk

For more information, visit our website at www.nonnativespecies.org/rapid

RAPID LIFE Newsletters are produced twice a year. If you have any items that you would like to include in the next issue, please contact alexia.fish@apha.gov.uk



Exchanging Experience on IAS Management in Europe

A joint event was carried out between RAPID LIFE (Reducing and Preventing IAS Dispersal) and the Belgian Forum on Invasive Species (BFIS) in Brussels on 18th December 2019.

Objectives of the Event

- To explore how the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species is being interpreted and implemented in different EU member states; to encourage discussion, information exchange, and collaboration on this.
- To showcase some of the many different EU-Funded Life projects that are currently working on INNS management and prevention in Europe and to explore some of the problems and solutions encountered by these projects, in the hope that this may prove useful to other such projects.
- To bring together EU Life Projects working on INNS in Europe, and other stakeholders working on INNS management and prevention in Europe in order to facilitate information exchange and promote collaboration.



Andy Sheppard taking questions after his keynote presentation.

Outcomes of the Event

The event was a huge success and, despite rail strikes in Belgium and France, was attended by nearly **200 people from 17 countries**. There were a considerable number of people who were interested in attending but were unable to - we are including these people in the outcomes we send out to attendees. Taken all together, this means that the event has reached over **300 people from 20 countries**.



A presentation on INNS management from a Solvenien LIFE project

For the morning session, we were lucky enough to have full presentations from 4 EU member states (Belgium, The Netherlands, France, and The United Kingdom), with further information provided from another 2 (Germany and Spain). The morning's discussion was open to all the attendees, and was extremely interesting, featuring insights from many different countries and from people working in many different areas and with different species.

Andy Sheppard, a leading world expert on invasive species management, gave an inspiring talk about the role of new technologies in the surveillance and control of INNS. It was also very useful to have an Australian perspective during the discussion. The afternoon session then featured presentations on 6 different IAS Life Projects and initiatives, involving 9 countries. We were extremely lucky to have Myriam Dumortier from the European Commission present the closing remarks, which included a great many inspiring ideas for the future.



Andy Sheppard taking questions after his key note presentation.

It is hoped that this event has provided an opportunity for those working with INNS in different capacities and in different countries to meet and exchange information and ideas, and perhaps to help form new networks and collaborations for the future.



An interactive discussion with some of the speakers.

All of the presentations given are available to view and download from the RAPID LIFE webpages. The entire event was filmed, and the film can be viewed (in two parts) [here](#) (part 1: the morning session) and [here](#) (part 2: the afternoon session).

A full transcript (include the full discussion and the closing remarks) is in preparation and will be made available soon. In this way, we hope to reach even more people with the information and ideas that were shared during this eve



Delivered workshops in biosecurity, priority species and biocontrol

As you may know, in the last few months, through various sub-contractors, RAPID LIFE has been delivering a series of workshops to engage people in training as well as awareness-raising. There have been biosecurity training workshops targeted at water asset managers in high risk areas. The aim is that these training workshops will encourage water asset managers to write biosecurity plans for their site and embed biosecurity and invasive species management into their organisation.



Andrea Griffiths delivering a presentation at a biocontrol workshop in the South East region.

We have also had a series of priority species workshops, aimed at a range of stakeholders, to raise awareness of species to “look out for” both nationally and regionally and how to report these species. Finally, due to being unable to carry out some of our planned activities in the South West and South East regions, due to biocontrol agent incompatibilities, we carried out two biocontrol workshops with outstanding funds.

Several of these workshops were combined with each other and/or other events. Most of the workshops have now been completed, but details on the last ones can be found on the RAPID LIFE webpages. Also, all of the resources used for these events are freely available to download from our webpages:

www.nonnativespecies.org/rapid

In parallel with the biosecurity workshops, we are installing Check Clean Dry signage across England and identifying distribution points where we can provide INNS and biosecurity awareness-raising materials. These distribution points can be anywhere from local chandleries, to visitor centres at large waterbodies. The materials are specific to different user groups, such as boaters, anglers, canal boat etc. If you think that you know an area in your region that would benefit from signage or distribution points, please get in touch with: alexia.fish@apha.gov.uk



An example of the style of signage (also available in poster format) available for installation. This is the freshwater boating version

What have you helped to achieve so far?

With RAPID LIFE coming to an end at the end of June 2020, it is a nice to look back and how much we've all achieved together so far since the project started in 2017.

Biosecurity and Awareness-raising

- Provided financial support to update and revise Check, Clean, Dry campaign
- Border biosecurity awareness raising posters in place at two ports
- One short animation produced, covers INNS issues and biosecurity
- Supported production of three biosecurity videos by The Green Blue
- Biosecurity resources (marine and freshwater) available online, tailored for range of different stakeholders



Photo credit: CABI

One of our biocontrol contractors applying rust fungus to some Himalayan balsam.

INNS Management

- INNS Management toolkit completed and available online
- Resources on alert species & how to ID and report available online
- 5 Regional IAS Management Plans (RIMPs) published
- INNS Mapper expanded through RAPID funding

Demonstration Projects – Practical INNS Management

- 2 catchment level projects controlling Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam completed
- 3 sub-catchment level projects working on other IAS competed (American skunk cabbage, floating pennywort and giant hogweed)

Demonstration Projects – Biocontrol

- 13 sites with ongoing Japanese knotweed biocontrol
- 15 sites have ongoing Himalayan balsam biocontrol

Biosecurity and Awareness-raising

- Border biosecurity awareness raising at 2 ports in 2018 and 2019
- 1 workshop on INNS and biosecurity held in Paris in 2018
- 1 international conference held on INNS and biosecurity in Concarneau, France in May 2019
- 1 international workshop on INNS management in Brussels, Belgium in December 2019

Demonstration Projects - Crayfish

- 2,330+ signal crayfish plus 12,500+ hatchlings and eggs have been removed and humanely killed.
- 2 new ark sites for white clawed crayfish and supplementation of a 3rd
- Approx. 650+ white-clawed crayfish bred and reared at Bristol Zoo
- 500+ white-clawed crayfish released so far

4th – 5th June 2020 - Save the date!

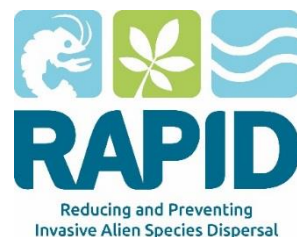
“RAPID Revelations!” End of Project Conference

The RAPID team are organising an end of project conference that will take place at Bristol Zoo on 4th June 2020, with an optional field trip on 5th June. The conference will be made up of talks from two keynote speakers, talks from a variety of stakeholders who have been involved with the RAPID LIFE Project, as well as a discussions and tours of the native white-clawed crayfish hatchery from our project partners BZS. Formal invites will be going out soon, but put the date in your diaries!

For more info please contact alexia.fish@apha.gov.uk

Other news

If you want more information on other activities going on with RAPID such as biocontrol or crayfish work visit the news section of our webpages <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=616>



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