



LIFE and Invasive Alien Species

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Why LIFE?

- 1. It is the only EU financial instrument fully dedicated to the environment**
- 2. LIFE is a catalyst: it provides a platform for the development and exchange of best practices and knowledge thereby improving, catalysing and accelerating changes**
- 3. LIFE has been successfully providing environmental solutions since 1992 (some 200 projects per year; 4,100 projects totalling € 3.4 billion)**
- 4. LIFE is a policy tool, for delivering concrete impact on the state of environment**





Invasive Alien Species

- **12,000 alien species in the European environment**
- **10-15% are invasive**
- **Cost at least €12 billion per year to the European economy**
- **Threat to biodiversity and related ecosystems, human health or the economy**
- **Expanding problem**





IAS - Why LIFE?

- **Between 1992 and 2013, 265 LIFE projects investing around € 70 million included measures dealing with IAS**
- **52% of these either exclusively targeted IAS, or included actions to tackle IAS that were relevant to achieving the main objective**
- **Steady increase of the number of projects targeting IAS over the years**
- **The overwhelming majority of LIFE projects focused on eradication and management, with much less emphasis on prevention, early detection and rapid eradication**





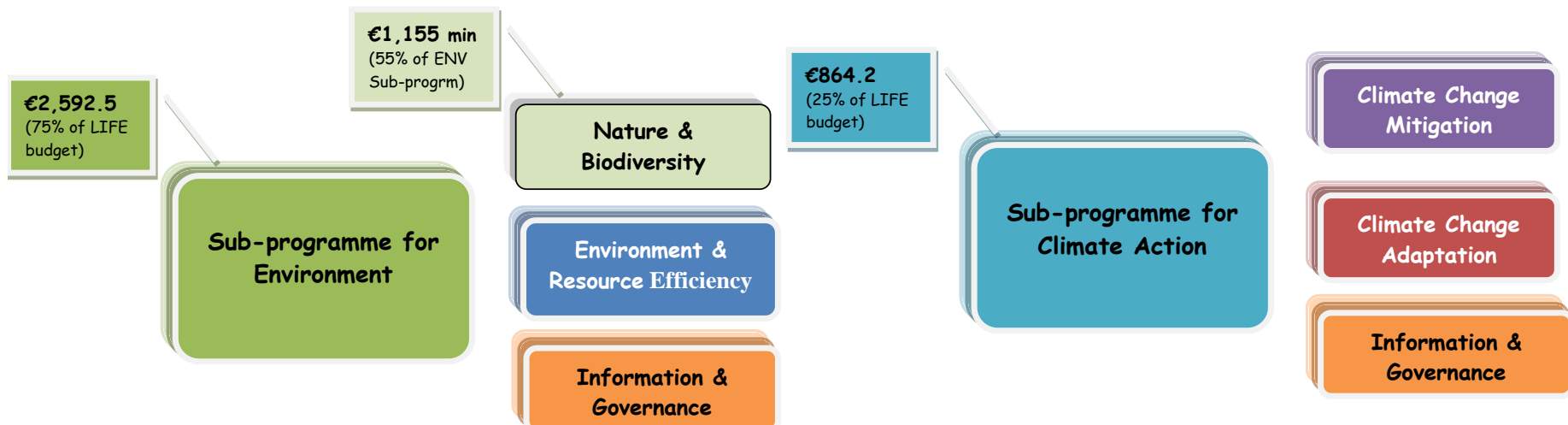
LIFE 2014-2020 – Objectives

- **Contribution towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy; protecting and improving the environment; maintaining and improving biodiversity, ecosystems and, in particular, the Natura 2000 network**
- **Improving the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation**
- **Integrating and mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies**
- **Improving environmental and climate governance**
- **Implementing of the 7th Environment Action Programme**



LIFE 2014-2020 Structure and Budget

LIFE Programme
€3,456.7 (2014-2020)





LIFE 2014-2020

New Priorities & Focus

New priority areas:

→ Climate change mitigation and adaptation;

→ Governance component => from INF to GIE/GIC

Focus:

→ project topics for traditional projects under the sub-programme for environment

→ Projects Types: integrated, technical assistance, capacity building, preparatory projects

Funding rate:

→ in general 60% of eligible costs (75% for priority species/habitats) in the first 4 years

National allocations for traditional projects:

→ 4-year envelope to 2017 (only for Environment sub-programme)



LIFE Multiannual Work Programmes

From a purely bottom-up approach to more top-down: Frameworks for 4 years (2014-2017) and 3 years (2018-2020) for implementing the LIFE Regulation:

- **budget,**
- **project topics for "traditional" projects under the sub-programme environment,**
- **selection methodology and criteria,**
- **Output and impact indicators**



IAS and Project topics

Project topics (MAWP 2014-2017)

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity and

LIFE Environmental Governance and Information

- **All elements have to be clearly fully complied with (0 or 10 points)**

LIFE Nature – project topic 6

Projects targeting invasive alien species, where these are likely to deteriorate the conservation status of species (including birds) or habitat types of Community Interest in support of the *Natura 2000* network.



IAS and Project topics (continued)

LIFE Biodiversity – project topic 2

Projects implementing actions targeting Invasive Alien Species (under Target 5 of the Biodiversity Strategy or in view of contributing to reaching the level of protection set out in descriptor 2 - Non-indigenous species of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive) through actions testing and applying approaches aimed at:

- a. preventing the introduction of invasive alien species, in particular by tackling pathways of unintentional introduction,**
- b. establishing an early warning and rapid response system, and**
- c. eradicating or controlling established invasive alien species on an appropriate spatial scale.**



IAS and Project topics (continued)

LIFE Biodiversity – project topic 2 (continued)

These projects shall address with their actions the three steps (prevention; early warning and rapid response; eradication/control) in a comprehensive framework, or, where one of the steps has already been addressed, their actions shall at least be clearly situated in a broader framework that links all three steps. They should be set up to improve existing – or introduce new – technical, administrative or legal frameworks on the relevant level; they should aim at preventing the broader establishment of IAS within the EU.



IAS and Project topics (continued)

**LIFE Environmental Governance and Information –
project topic 4 under section Nature & Biodiversity**

**National and transnational awareness raising campaigns on
invasive alien species (IAS) targeting the general public and
key stakeholders including policy makers, businesses, and local,
regional or national authorities.**



New Regulation on IAS

Regulation (EU) no 1143/2014 of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, entered into force on 1 January 2015

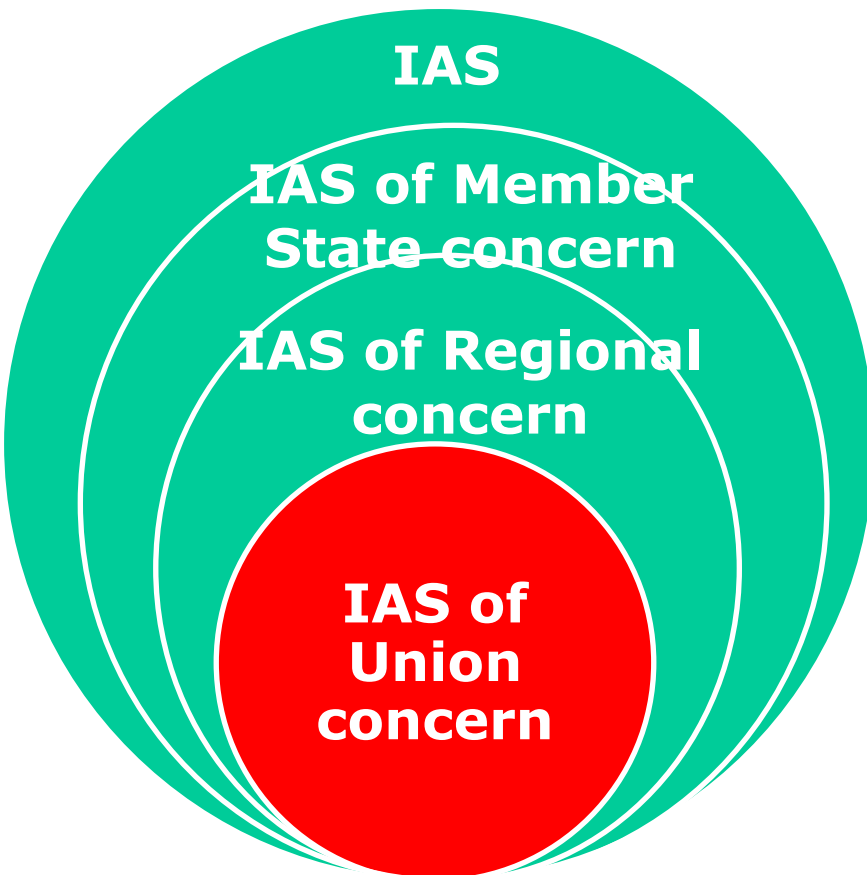


- comprehensive legal framework
- previously, the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (adopted in 2011) includes as one of the 6 main targets a stricter control of IAS



Prioritisation on **list of IAS of Union concern**

- Prioritise on worst species
- Selection based on criteria, including risk assessment
 - **Voting in Committee (with Member States)**
 - **Consultation of Scientific Forum**
- By 2 January 2016
 - **Draft implementing act including the first list of IAS of Union concern**





Prevent intentional introductions

IAS of EU concern shall not be intentionally:

- Brought into or transited through the Union
- Kept or bred, including in contained holding
- Transported, except in context of eradication
- Placed on the market
- Used or exchanged
- Permitted to reproduce
- Released into the environment

Rationale

- EU-wide action
- Derogations for research, ex-situ conservation and medicinal use
 - MS permits
- Derogations for other activities
 - in exceptional cases, after Commission authorisation and MS permit

Prevent unintentional introductions

Measures

- Within 18 months after adoption of list
 - MS analyse pathways and identify priority pathways**
- Within 3 years after adoption of list
 - National action plan for priority pathways**

Rationale

- Flexibility allowing know-how build up

Early detection of new populations

Measures

Surveillance

- Within 18 months after adoption of list
 - MS to set up surveillance systems – detect IAS of Union concern in their territory, including marine territorial waters**

Border control

- By 2 January 2016
 - MS to put in place border control structures – prevent intentional introductions of IAS of Union concern**

Rationale

- Maximising the use of existing surveillance
- Citizens' science

- Maximising the use of existing controls



Rapid eradication of new populations

Measures

Early detection

- MS to immediately notify Commission and other MS of new detection of IAS of Union concern

Rapid eradication

- Within 3 months after notification
 - MS to proceed with rapid eradication**
- Due regard to human health, environment and animal welfare

Rationale

- Notifications are key for rapid eradication
- Rapid eradication = best chance to avoid escalation of problem
- Limited derogations under specific conditions



Management of widely spread IAS of Union concern

Measures

- Within 18 months after inclusion in list
 - **Obligation for MS to manage IAS of Union concern widely spread in their territory**
- Management = eradication, control or containment
- Due regard to human health, environment and animal welfare
- Proportionate restoration measures for ecosystems damaged by IAS

Rationale

- Widely spread IAS of Union concern
- Management to mitigate the damage and avoid further spread
- Flexible and proportionate approach



Action beyond IAS of Union concern

Emergency measures:

- Preliminary evidence – species likely to meet criteria
- Within 2 yrs – full risk assessment needed
- Possible extension EU level

IAS of regional concern:

- Regional cooperation, facilitated by the Commission
- Incl. IAS native within the EU

IAS of Member State concern:

- Measures at MS level

Compatible with Treaty and notified to Commission

Rationale

- Possibility to act quickly on potentially very damaging IAS
- Ante-chamber of EU list

- MS prerogative to identify IAS problematic for their region or territory

- Fully WTO and SPS compliant + in line with other EU laws



More information

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index.htm>

**LIFE publication:
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