SUMMARY AND TIMELINE OF RAPID LIFE PROJECT

Alexia Fish and Dave Parrott
Background

• RAPID LIFE – holistic management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal ecosystems

• 3 year project led by APHA with Natural England and Bristol Zoological Society

• Funding secured - project began July 2017

• Innovative approach to IAS management in freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal environments across England
RAPID LIFE Project Goal

Protect freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal biodiversity

by embedding a coordinated, strategic and evidence-based approach to managing IAS across England

whilst demonstrating the efficacy of this approach for replication across Europe
Objectives of RAPID LIFE Project

1) Establish regionally-based framework to deliver more effective IAS management

2) Prevent introduction of novel IAS to project’s target environments – biosecurity awareness

3) Increase awareness and efficacy of GB-level early warning and rapid response systems
Objectives of RAPID LIFE Project

4) Eradicate and control established IAS in high-priority areas whilst demonstrating strategic and best practice approaches

5) Share the exemplar approach throughout European and international networks
Aim of RAPID LIFE Project

• Bridge the gap between high-level strategies (e.g. GB IAS strategy) and local stakeholders actions

• Provide strategic under-pinning to stakeholder actions
LAGs are essential to the success of the RAPID LIFE Project
RAPID LIFE Project - Phases

1) Preparatory Phase

2) Delivery Phase

As well as the “AfterLIFE”!
Preparatory Phase

1) Biosecurity: review key audiences and current materials and develop/improve materials where needed

2) Produce RIMPS

3) Create IAS Management Toolkit
IAS Management Toolkit

1) Biosecurity planning packages for water asset managers - freshwater and coastal

2) Biosecurity training packages for high risk water users – freshwater and coastal

3) ‘Alert’ species – training package to increase awareness and response protocols

4) Best practice management guidance for priority IAS

Toolkit will support the RIMPs
Delivery Phase

Conservation actions

• Biosecurity workshops/new signage/distribution points - facilitate behavioural change

• ‘Alert’ species/reporting workshops

• Practical IAS management demonstration projects
  • Large-scale (catchment) projects (2 areas)
  • Small-scale (sub-catchment) (3 areas)
  • Crayfish management – novel approaches

• Demonstrate use of biocontrol agents: HB and JK
After-LIFE

1) Long-term improvement to condition of freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal environments in England

2) Empower local stakeholders and help them to deliver strategic, shared regional plans to better manage IAS into the future

3) APHA oversee After-LIFE plan for at least 5 years afterwards – safeguard project legacy and build on it
Timeline for RAPID LIFE Project

- Review existing biosecurity messaging / materials
- Review key audiences for freshwater and biosecurity campaigns
- Review existing IAS management
- Begin producing Regional IAS Management Plans (RIMPs)
- Monitoring impact of project actions
- Begin producing IAS Management Toolkit
- RIMPS sub-contracts available Feb 2018
- Increase awareness of reporting systems
- Positive behaviour change programme
- Demonstrate and monitor use of biocontrol
- Establish rapid response system and black lists
- Carry out best practice management projects
- Small-scale demonstrative IAS management projects sub-contracts available July 2018 (North, Midlands and South East regions only)
- Monitoring impact of project actions
- Workshop and dissemination activities sub-contracts available Aug 2018
Timeline for RAPID LIFE Project

**2019**
- Continue previous actions
- End of biocontrol project
- Assessing results of project and disseminating findings
- Workshops on GB alert species and reporting, sub-contracts available Aug 2019

**2020**
- Monitoring impact of project actions
- Finishing last projects and assessing results
- Writing end of project report and last awareness raising campaigns
- Ensure legacy and future work stemming from RAPID LIFE with the After-LIFE project
Brexit and the RAPID LIFE Project

- Result of the EU referendum shouldn’t have an impact on this project.

- The Treasury has confirmed that any project with funding **agreed** prior to the UK leaving the EU will have this underwritten by the Treasury even where the project continues beyond the UK’s departure from the EU.
Other Support for The RAPID LIFE Project

Thank you for listening, any questions?

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Regional IAS Management Plans (RIMPs)

Alexia Fish and Dave Parrott
What are RIMPs?

- Regional IAS Management Plans
- Integral part of the RAPID LIFE Project
- Aim of RIMPs and RAPID LIFE Project in general

- Bridge the gap between high-level strategies (e.g. GB IAS strategy) and local stakeholders actions.
- Provide strategic underpinning to stakeholder actions.
What are RIMPs?

- RAPID splits England into 5 regions

- Sub-contract local experts in each region to produce a RIMP

- Based on guidance and templates that we provide to help you

RIMPs will deliver consistent (but regionally tailored) prevention, early warning, rapid response, eradication and control of IAS throughout England
RIMP should incorporate 3 key elements for IAS management:

1. Building partnerships and collaborations
2. Education and awareness-raising
3. Control and management
What goes into each RIMP?

- Identify key regional stakeholders for partnerships/collaboration
- Identify IAS pathways and associated stakeholders
- Identify regional ‘hotspots’ for IAS introduction
- Identify sites of high conservation value
- IAS management prioritisation
What goes into each RIMP?

• Biosecurity guidance targeting all IAS, but with an emphasis on high risk
  - national ‘alert’ species
  - regional ‘black list’ species

• Early detection (development and surveying of new IAS)
• Rapid response mechanisms for when these are discovered
• Long-term management
IAS Prioritisation

• IAS in each region should be allocated priority categories for management
• This should be based on risk and relative occurrence in the region
• Priority categories may vary between region

**Black** – PREVENTION
**Red** – ERADICATE
**Amber - Green** – LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT
Details of sub-contracts

• Deadline for tender submission: **12th February 2018**

• Application form, guidance and other supplementary material on Contracts Finder government website

• Search for RAPID LIFE Project

• Instructions how to find correct webpage sent over email

• Include as much relevant detail as possible in your application to make your bid competitive
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