Abstract

Awareness and Prevention of Aquatic Invasive Alien Species in the Iberian Peninsula by LIFE INVASAQUA: Midterm Outcomes †

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Abstract: The Iberian society has a limited understanding of the threats posed by invasive alien species (IAS) in aquatic ecosystems. This lack of knowledge and awareness about IAS problems hampers any management policy proposed by public administration and stakeholders, contributing to missing an IAS management strategy. We present the midterm outcomes of the Environmental Governance and Information LIFE project—LIFE INVASAQUA—that will run between 2018 and 2023 in the Iberian Peninsula. The main goal of INVASQUA is to increase the Iberian public and stakeholders’ awareness of aquatic IAS problems and to develop tools that will improve an efficient early warning and rapid response (EWRR) framework for new IAS in freshwater and estuarine habitats in the Iberian Peninsula. We focus on new challenges and outcomes of the project to explore some of the problems and solutions encountered in the project implementation.

Keywords: invasive; exotic species; LIFE projects; prevention

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