



## CPIE Val d'Authie Host Final Best Practice Workshop

With the support of project partners, CPIE Val d'Authie organised and hosted an exchange of best practice approaches to catchment level strategies for the management of invasive non-native species on 24 and 25 April at Montreuil sur Mer, France.

The day of April 24 was devoted to the presentation of strategies implemented in different catchments, with examples from France, Belgium and England. Eight speakers in all shared their experiences and lessons learned both in having success, but also highlighting the difficulties or efforts required. The presentations made are available at <http://www.rinse-europe.eu/best-practice-workshops-52>.

The workshop also offered the opportunity for discussion between the 50 participants on topics such as practical management techniques (chemical, biological or mechanical). It also highlighted the variances in regulations between different countries and therefore the practicalities of implementing certain management arrangements.

The morning of April 25 saw 15 people participate in a site visit colonised by Giant Hogweed and the implementation of a participatory site to both understand the specific

management issues and also to continue exchanges between participants.

The two days' workshop was made possible, first, by the RINSE partnership ensuring a diverse and rich set of contributions, and secondly, by the CPIE's team and volunteers who managed the logistics required to organize such events. A big thank you to those who contributed to its success. **For further information please contact [celine.fontaine@cpie-authie.org](mailto:celine.fontaine@cpie-authie.org)**



**SAVE THE DATE!  
RINSE CLOSING  
CONFERENCE  
23 SEPTEMBER 2014  
NORWICH, UK**



**"Investing in your future"**  
Crossborder cooperation programme  
2007-2013 Part-financed by the European Union  
(European Regional Development Fund)

## Awareness Raising Session held for Horticulturists at Exbury Gardens, UK

To highlight the problems which can be caused by invasive non-native garden plants, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust organised an awareness-raising session at Exbury Gardens in the New Forest on 11 September 2013. Head Gardener John Anderson led a group of 36 professional horticulturalists, garden centre managers and keen amateur gardeners on a tour of the Gardens to emphasise the need to be careful when choosing plants for our gardens or disposing of garden waste.

Exbury Gardens were created by Lionel de Rothschild who was a keen plant collector. One of the plants he introduced to Exbury is American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*. It thrives in wet areas and in springtime it looks magnificent when the sun shines through the yellow 'spathes' or hoods which surround its flowers. John explained that elsewhere in the New Forest American skunk cabbage has invaded areas of wet woodland where its leaves grow to an enormous size, blocking out the light and

smothering native wildflowers. John warned of the need to be vigilant and keep an eye on potentially invasive plants to ensure they do not spread beyond a garden's boundaries.

Other non-native plants such as Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* have extensive underground rhizomes which enable them to colonise areas rapidly. Japanese knotweed is notorious for its ability to grow through buildings and cause structural damage and John emphasised the need to be extremely careful when controlling or disposing of Japanese knotweed. He warned that flailing it is unwise, as fragments can break off and start a new colony.

Exbury Gardens contain a number of ornamental lakes and John stressed the need to take care so we don't unwittingly allow invasive non-native pond plants such as New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii* to 'escape' and cause havoc in the wild. **For further information contact [catherine.chatters@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:catherine.chatters@hiwwt.org.uk)**

## Introducing SEFINS...

SEFINS (Safeguarding the Environment From Invasive Non-Native Species) is a new European 'Cluster' Project working to protect, manage and increase awareness of invasive non-native species in the Two Seas Programme Area.

The project will build upon the techniques and results of two earlier Two Seas Projects – **RINSE** and **MEMO** (*Mnemiopsis* Ecology and Modelling: Observation of an invasive comb jelly in the North Sea) which is led by the Flemish Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research ILVO.

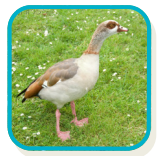
SEFINS will also draw on experiences from the Interreg IVA grensregio Vlaanderen - Nederland project **INVEXO** in communicating information, raising awareness of the impacts of invasive species on native biodiversity and the management strategies required.

By bringing these two projects together, SEFINS will create a valuable network of expertise across the 'TwoSeas', encompassing all of the habitats found within the coastal zone.

**For more information on the SEFINS Cluster visit: [www.sefins.eu](http://www.sefins.eu)**







## Volunteering & Citizen Science—Best Practice Sharing Success

On the 19 March 2014 in Brockenhurst, UK, RINSE partner Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust hosted the ‘sell-out’ event “Best Practice Approach to Encouraging Community Engagement, Volunteering & Citizen Science in the control of Non-native Species”. Volunteers play a very important role in the control of invasive non-native species by recording their distribution, undertaking practical

management and monitoring the success of measures taken to stop their spread. This one day workshop, attended by over fifty delegates, was an opportunity to find out how volunteers are helping Local Action Groups including the New Forest Non-Native Species Initiative, to discover what motivates volunteers and to hear how volunteers can get involved in ‘citizen science’ projects. **For further information contact [catherine.chatters@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:catherine.chatters@hiwwt.org.uk)**



## Smartphone App ‘That’s Invasive’ available for Android and iPhone

Our Smartphone app – ‘That’s Invasive!’ – is now available to download for iPhone and Android devices. Visit our website for more information and download links.

## Urban Invaders Survey Launched

Urban areas are a hotspot for invasive non-native plants. Introduced as ornamental features, many non-native plants have escaped gardens and established in the wild. Here they out-compete our native flora, choke waterways and costs our economy thousands.

RINSE has launched a new survey - **Urban Invaders** - which aims to help improve the quality of our data on some of the most damaging invasive plants including Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed. We’re looking for records of six invasive plants which were imported as ornamental species for gardens and parks and have since escaped, established and started causing damage to the local environment. The six **Urban Invaders** are: Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed, New Zealand pigmyweed, floating pennywort and the Tree of Heaven.



To find out more and join in the survey visit: [www.rinse-europe.eu/urban-invaders](http://www.rinse-europe.eu/urban-invaders)

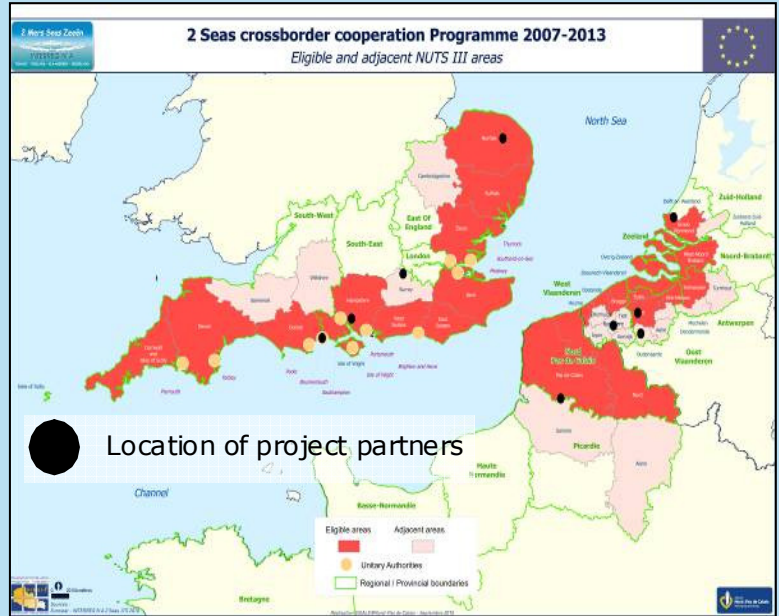
## About RINSE

Our project has been funded by the European Union - Interreg IVA 2 Seas programme and has a total of nine partners from France, England, Belgium and the Netherlands.

RINSE will look at ways of managing invasive non-native species (INS) across the project area. It will also seek to improve awareness of the threats posed by INS, and the methods to address them.

For more about projects approved by the 2 Seas Programme, see the Project Directory (RINSE features on page 53)

[http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/admin/page\\_ext\\_attachments/753](http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/admin/page_ext_attachments/753)

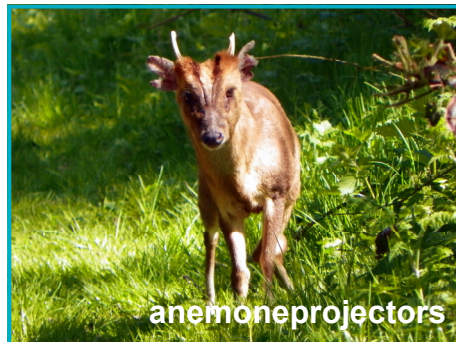


## Cross-Border Exchange

Muntjac deer are a well-established invasive species in the UK, however they have only recently been found in Belgium. In order to share management experiences and strategies, RINSE partners facilitated an exchange inviting a group of Belgian stakeholders to the UK to meet experts in deer management and control.

The first day of the exchange was hosted by the Forestry Commission at Santon Downham, where presentations were given by three experts in this field: Trevor Banham (Head Wildlife Ranger at Thetford Forest), David Hooton (Deer Initiative) and Dr Kirstin Weber. This was followed by an evening of deer stalking in Swanton Morley.

The following day the visitors were taken out on site to learn how to recognise the presence of muntjac deer. This concluded the exchange visit, leaving our visitors with the knowledge and tools to tackle muntjac effectively on their own turf, and hopefully avoid the establishment of large populations such as those in Thetford Forest.



## Dates for your Diary

23 September 2014 'RINSE Closing Conference' OPEN Youth Centre, Norwich, UK.

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