



Photo: GBNNSS

Collaborative *Crassula helmsii* training in The New Forest, UK

Five RINSE partner organisations from the UK, Belgium and The Netherlands shared their experience of controlling the highly invasive New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii* on 20 March 2013 at a one-day conference hosted by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT).

The conference was attended by nearly seventy delegates including staff from conservation charities, landowners, botanists, academics, students, researchers and conservationists from government agencies.

Catherine Chatters, the New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer at HIWWT, briefly outlined the trials being undertaken by the Wildlife Trust involving organic hot foam, aquatic dye and herbicide. The aim of the trials is to find a way to effectively and efficiently eradicate the *Crassula helmsii* without causing long-term harm to non-target species (native plants and invertebrates).

Dr Naomi Ewald gave a presentation on the interim results of the monitoring she is undertaking on behalf of HIWWT to

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INBO and RATO to host first of three RINSE Best Practice Workshops

On 3 and 4 July 2013, INBO and RATO shall host the first of three Best Practice workshops planned by RINSE. This first workshop, entitled 'Managing Invasive Mammals and Birds' will provide a platform for experts across the Two Seas area to share their experiences in management of various invasive non-native birds and mammals including case studies on successful eradication programmes. Speakers include Jan Stuyck of INBO who will share a case study on eradicating Pallas squirrel and Alastair Ward of AHVLA who will present his experience in managing Reeve's muntjac in the UK. The workshop will take place in Gent and places are limited.

The next workshop, to be held later in the year, share experiences with aquatic plants. **To find out more or book a place visit** www.rinse-europe.eu/training-awareness or contact sofie.standaert@oost-vlaanderen.be



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2007-2013 Part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund)

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assess the effectiveness of these trials.

Michael Sutton-Croft from Norfolk County Council shared experience from Norfolk which involved excavating *Crassula helmsii* and successfully burying it nearby. Johan van Valkenburg from The Netherlands Plant Protection Service and Luc Denys from Instituut voor Natuur – en Bosonderzoek (INBO) gave an insight into action being taken in The Netherlands and Flanders, Belgium.

Delegates were fascinated to hear from Sonal Varia of CABI who shared the results of current research into finding a suitable biological control for *Crassula helmsii*.

Catherine Chatters who organised the event, said “*Crassula helmsii* has proved notoriously difficult to eradicate and this event was an ideal opportunity for us all to learn from each other”

For further information contact catherinec@hwt.org.uk

Photo below: Speakers from the RINSE partnership. From left to right: Sonal Varia (CABI), Luc Denys (INBO), Johan van Valkenburg (The Netherlands Plant Protection Service), Michael Sutton Croft (Norfolk County Council), Naomi Ewald (HIWWT), Catherine Chatters (HIWWT)



CPIE Val d’Authie take RINSE to the ‘Party of Plants’ in northern France

For the past 25 years, the festival of plants, or ‘fête des plantes’, has been held in May at the site of the ‘citadel of Doullens’ in France. This event brings together those passionate about plants. They come to discover, and buy, new species and varieties. The plants are scattered around the site and so therefore create many opportunities for the spread of invasive non-native species (INS).

Following an awareness raising exercise with the ‘communauté de communes du Doullennais’ just over a year ago, which resulted in the implementation of joint management of INS (mainly giant hogweed along the Gézaincourtoise), CPIE Val d’Authie were asked to participate in this festival of plants. This allowed them the opportunity to be able to raise awareness amongst the some 70 professionals in attendance, plus all the home gardeners who came during the two day event.

Thus, during the weekend and with more favourable weather conditions than of recent days, the CPIE Val d’Authie could inform and

raise the awareness of 400 to 500 people through the explanation of the issue of INS. This was achieved by presenting the RINSE project, dissemination of posters encouraging individuals to report their INS observations and dissemination of posters with highlighting exotic species present in the area. **To find out more contact celine.fontaine@cpie-authie.org**





Smartphone App 'That's Invasive' set for release

The 'That's Invasive' app will be launched very soon, with the final stages of development and testing underway. The app, developed by Nature Locator team at University of Bristol, UK, is hoped to radically improve the accuracy and speed at

which sightings of invasive non-native plants and animals can be recorded in the Two Seas area and beyond. The app will be available to download from www.rinse-europe.eu.

Alternatively to find out more contact michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk

Dutch-Belgian Collaboration in the management of *Crassula helmsii* at Huis ter Heide, NL

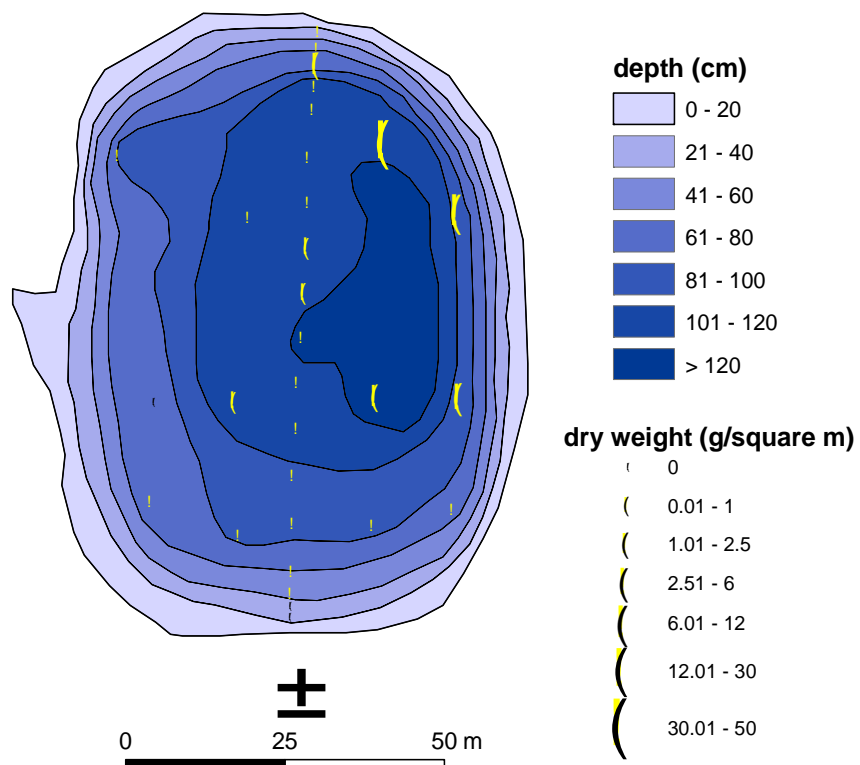
Soon after Natuurmonumenten completed large-scale conversion works on former arable land as part of the heathland and moorland pool restoration project 'Plan Lobelia' in the Huis ter Heide nature reserve

(www.natuurmonumenten.nl/huis-ter-heide), arrival of the highly invasive amphibious succulent *Crassula helmsii* compromised initial success.

Within two years after creation of a 1.2 ha pond in 2010, it occurred from the center of the pond, at more than 1 m depth, up to its periodically inundated banks, as well as on c. 2 ha of adjacent wet grounds where pioneer heath was developing.

In an attempt to contain the species and prevent it from spreading to other and highly valued parts of the reserve, drastic measures were immediately taken in collaboration with the National Plant Protection Organization. Flooded parts were drained to improve access and substantial amounts of top soil removed. Alongside, various measures were necessary to avoid any dispersal of plant fragments. **For further information contact luc.denys@inbo.be**

Top Right: Burying of top soil removed from areas with *Crassula helmsii* at Huis ter Heide as the first control works neared completion in August 2012 (van Valkenburg). Right: Amount of *Crassula helmsii* in the refilled pond a month later (INBO)



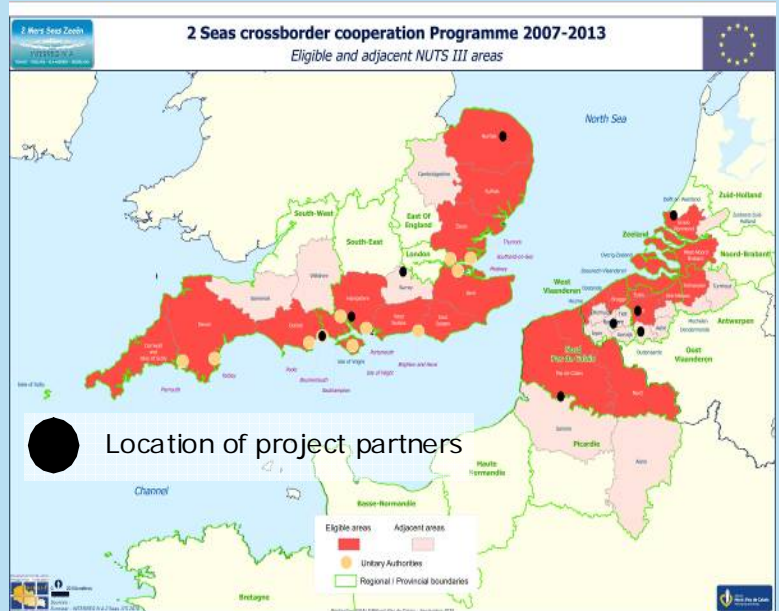
About RINSE

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



Weevils steal the show in Rotterdam

On the 14 and 15 March RINSE was one of 50+ Projects to showcase their work at the annual Two Seas Forum. This year the event was held in Rotterdam and Norfolk County Council were invited to present the actions of the RINSE partnership to date to an audience with a wide range of interests.

The Forum was an excellent opportunity to spread the message of RINSE and our aims, demonstrating the outputs we have and hope to achieve, including the chance for participants to view weevils at work eating their way through *Azolla* samples (see right).

Thanks to Corin at CABI for arranging the safe and secure delivery of the Dutch weevils and *Azolla* and Johan at the Netherlands Plant Protection Service for providing some extra people –power on the stand.

To find out more contact melanie.gillings@norfolk.gov.uk



Dates for your Diary

- ◆ July 3 & 4 - 'Managing Invasive Mammals and Birds' Best Practice Workshop, Gent
- ◆ October 17—Aquatic Plants Best Practice Workshop, Norwich
- ◆

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