

European project to tackle alien invaders!

25 June 2012

A new European project will bring tremendous gains to the region by helping to stem the rise of invasive plants and animals. The RINSE project (Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe), which has a total budget of over 2.5 million Euros, will look at ways of managing invasive non-native species across a large project area, spanning much of southern England, northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands.



The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is delighted to be a key player in the RINSE project. The Wildlife Trust together with partner organisations, is already tackling the spread of invasive non-native plants in the New Forest area, to protect our native wildlife along rivers and in wetland habitats.

Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer at the Wildlife Trust, says: “We are looking forward to learning how other organisations in northern Europe are already tackling some of the problem species that we’re facing here in the New Forest. We’ll be able to share experiences and find out how to control invaders like creeping water primrose more effectively.”

Amongst other activities, RINSE will develop new methods to record invasive non-natives, including an “App”, which

will allow anyone with a Smartphone to record these problem species.

The RINSE project will audit the distribution of invasive non-native species as well as making predictions about species that could become a threat in the future. It will also carry out field trials of new methods to control some of the most concerning species found in the area. Results from field trials will be made widely available to help with future control efforts.

The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project is investigating new ways of controlling the notoriously invasive plant called New Zealand pygmyweed which has invaded New Forest ponds. “We started trials involving organic hot foam and aquatic dye last year and will be continuing these experiments in 2012.” explained Catherine. “Using funding from the RINSE project, we’ll be able to translate the results of these trials into French, Flemish and Dutch to inform other people who are struggling to control this vigorous invader.” says Catherine.

If anyone would like to help the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project with the battle against Himalayan balsam which is invading river banks in the New Forest area, please contact Catherine Chatters or Jo Gore for details of volunteer work parties this summer at CatherineC@hwt.org.uk or JoanneG@hwt.org.uk or on 023 8042 4205.

Photo opportunity

The attached photo shows the fight against New Zealand pygmyweed in the New Forest

For additional images or to arrange photography, please contact:

Catherine Chatters, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, CatherineC@hwt.org.uk or on 023 8042 4205.

Notes to Editors

RINSE (Reducing the Impacts of Non-native Species in Europe) has been funded by the European Union's Interreg 4a Two Seas programme (www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/programme/key-information/en) and has a total of nine partners from France, England, Belgium and the Netherlands:

Norfolk County Council

Bournemouth University

CAB International (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International)

CPIE Authie Valley (Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement (CPIE) Val D'Authie)

Dutch Plant Protection Service (Nederlandse Voedsel- en Warenautoriteit, Divisie Landbouw & Natuur)

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

INBO (Instituut voor Natuur – en Bosonderzoek)

Inagro (Onderzoek and Advies in Land - & Tuinbouw)

RATO (Rattenbestrijding Oost-Vlaanderen vzw)

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Read more about RINSE at the temporary website : <http://www.rinse-europe.eu>

For images on INS, please go to the gallery at the GB non-native species secretariat website: www.nonnativespecies.org. Instructions on use of the images is provided.

Invasive non-native species (often referred to as 'aliens') pose a tremendous threat to native biodiversity, causing ecological and economic damage. Globally they are thought to cost £1.4 trillion per year.

For further information please contact:

Catherine Chatters, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, CatherineC@hwt.org.uk or on 023 8042 4205.

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust strives to create a better future for wildlife and wild places in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. It is the leading wildlife charity in the counties of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and is part of a nationwide network of 47 local charities. We work together to create a better future for wildlife and wild places in the UK. With the support of our 28,000 members, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is taking effective action to protect our natural heritage, helping it to flourish again. Find out more at www.hwt.org.uk

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