Output Factsheet

Output title: O 5.1 Pilot implementation of IAS management measures

Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)

The aim of Output 5.1:

Activities in this work package (WP) were focused on pilot actions implementing different measures and approaches for management, control or eradication of invasive alien plant species, in seven protected areas managed by the PPs.

Pilot Implementation plans (D.5.1.2) have been developed following a template for the pilot actions, tailored to guide the PPs in phases of planning and implementation, monitoring of the effects and reporting. Among others, the plans are giving a systematic overview of target invasive species which was controlled, infested habitat types, eradication methods, indicators of effectiveness, time plan with milestones and other attributes necessary for risk management and successful implementation.

Review of best practices in IAS management, control and eradication (D.5.1.1) was developed to assist the PPs in selecting eradication methods and techniques.

The Reports on Pilot Implementation (D.5.2.1) gives overviews of results and key challenges from both environmental and policy circumstances.

Together the reports are giving insight in cost-efficiency and applicability of different methods in eradication or control for several most challenging invasive species in the Sava River Basin. The collected local experience will be further shared with other protected area managers, facing similar challenges in the IAS control.

Joint Pilot Report and Transferability Plan (D.5.2.2) is a synthesis of key results and findings from the implemented pilot actions, making conclusions and sharing the lessons learned from the implemented eradication/control methods. The Transferability Plan gives suggestions for time-wise planning in IAS eradication, identifying and clearing trade-offs, addressing also financial and public support.

List of deliverables within the output:

D.5.1.1 Review of best practices in IAS management, control and eradication
D.5.1.2 Pilot Implementation Plans
D.5.2.1 Reports on Pilot Implementation
D.5.2.2 Joint Report on implemented pilot actions and Transferability Plan

The results and conclusion from the above deliverables are integrated in the Strategic Framework (Output 4.1), and some examples and cases also in the training programme for target groups (output 6.1).

Contribution to the project and Programme objectives (max. 1500 characters)

Output 5.1 contributes to the main project objective by building capacities of the protected area managers for control and eradication of invasive species.

The seven pilot measures implemented in the four Sava River Basin countries have provided useful information about efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the applied methods in IAS control.
The specific local knowledge and learned lessons , given in the above-listed output deliverables, are contributing to achievement of integrated transnational management of IAS and habitat restoration. In doing so, these are improving the connectivity of the ecological corridors of Sava River with tributaries, and thus contribute to the program Programme specific objective "Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors".

Transnational impact (max. 1500 characters)

The seven pilot measures in the four countries have tested eradication/control methods against invasive plants recognized to be the worst "invaders" in the Sava River Basin. By testing the methods against these species, the project provides useful knowledge, and the actions can be replicated in other protected areas and corridors in the region.

The ASPs are mainly the organisations which create or contribute in development of IAS-relevant policy. Their involvement will foster and increase the impact.

The effective control of IAS has baseline in transnational cooperation and sharing the experince. The SavaParks network with more than 20 member-organisations from the four countries further promotes the effective methods in IAS management. Also ICPDR and DANUBEPARKS will further share the output findings along other ecological corridors of European importance.

Contribution to EUSDR actions and/or targets (max. 1500 characters)

Output 5.1 contributes to PA4, PA5 and PA6 of EUSDR. It contributes in particular to target 3 of PA6:

"Encourage achieving significant progress in identification and prioritization of Invasive Alien Species and their pathways in order to control or eradicate priority species, to manage pathways and to prevent the introduction and establishment of new Invasive Alien Species in the Danube Region by 2020"

The pilot actions have focused on several key invasive species in Sava River Basin and typical habitat types, which are both present in other parts of the Danube region.

The local experience and close collaboration among the pilot areas have increased the common knowledge about the invasive species eradication, particularly skills in identifying priorities and best methods in IAS management along the ecological corridors.

Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)

The seven pilot measures have tested different IAS eradication/control methods against selected

invasive plants in four countries.

Not only the methods have been tested in the local environmental conditions, but also policy frameworks have shown some limitations when eradication is applied in protected areas.

The implemented actions revealed some policy gaps and needs for further development of the transnational collaboration in IAS control between EU and non-EU countries within the same river basin.

Integration and use of the output by the target group (max. 2000 characters)

The findings presented in the output deliverables are useful to all project partners, associated partners and other managers of protected areas and ecologically important sites along the river corridors.

The Review of Best Practices in IAS management, the Pilot Implementation Plans, the Joint Pilot Report and Transferability Plan, are tailored to give clear results and conclusions which are shared in the Sava Parks network of protected areas.

The key stakeholder groups have been involved in development of this output. **Implementation of the pilot actions demanded close cooperation with different sectors, public and private land users.**

Project partner from Bosnia and Herzegovina (IPA PP2) provide integration of the tested IAS control methods in management plan of the protected area where the pilot action was implemented.

Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)

Output 5.1 covers the Sava River Basin countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Serbia. The pilot measures were implemented on IAS and habitats which are common for the Sava River Basin. By implementing the pilot actions , the activities reflects on the whole Sava River Basin.

The transferability plan is making a sound base for replicating the pilot actions and sharing the collected local experince with other stakeholders in the region.

The Sava Parks network gathers different groups of stakeholders which will promote the methods and approaches which proved to be effective and cost-efficient in IAS control. Thus, the deliverables and the knowledge will be transferred to any such habitats not only in the Danube region, but also beyond.

Further outreach will be achieved by project partners through different networks of collaborating organisations (ISRBC, ICPDR), by sharing the deliverables with stakeholders other in other regions, facing the same challenges in IAS management on Euroepan level.

Durability (max. 1500 characters)

The durability of eradication measures that proved to be cost-effective and efficient is ensured by the implementing organizations and the Sava Parks Network as the beneficiary and supporter of the IAS management in the Sava River Basin. The project partners now have their own experience and have increased capacities to continue in planning and implementing IAS control activities.

Project partner from Bosnia and Herzegovina (IPA PP2) issued integration of the tested IAS control method in management plan of the protected area where the pilot action was implemented (Protected Habitat Tišina).

The Transferability Plan gives conclusions and suggestions on how to select, make plan and implement the IAS eradicaoin methods. Other protectes areas in Sava River Basin will use the collected local experience in their activities.

The pilot activities were presented to policy makers within WP 6, where policy impact actions (activity 6.3) enables sharing and transferability to other protected aeas and sites within ecological networks.

All of the deliverables are publicly available, and will be shared with collaborating organizations.

Synergies with other projects/ initiatives and / or alignment with current EU policies/ directives/ regulations, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)

Output 5.1 is in line with all EU IAS related regulations and strategic documents:

- EU Strategy on invasive alien species.
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in particular to Goal E: Enhance

implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Output integration in the current political/ economic/ social/ technological/ environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework (max. 2000 characters)

The EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species requires development of national capacities in IAS management which is also important for establishing NATURA 2000 ecological network (Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) and its later management (already implemented in Croatia and Slovenia).

The bottom-up approach implemented in this output provided useful information about policy gaps and necessary horizontal harmonisations.

Both EU and non-EU countries in the SRB have to further develop capacities and improve regional cooperation for efficient invasive species management, in the process of implementing the EU regulations and further EU integration. The deliverables in this output support the above process.

The output contributes to readiness of the protected area managers for early detection and rapid response in IAS eradication.