

## WHICH SPECIES AND WHY?

Since 2015, a **European Regulation** on invasive alien species (No 1143/2014) has compelled Member States to **take measures for several dozen species**. This Regulation provides rules to prevent and reduce the detrimental effects of IAS introduction and spread on biodiversity across the EU.

Among those species, **12 invasive plants and 3 crayfish** species are targeted by the LIFE RIPARIAS project as they represent a major threat to aquatic and riparian habitats which are of great conservation value.



*Invasive alien aquatic plants such as the floating pennywort can fully cover water surfaces, creating unsuitable environments for many native animal and plant species.*



*Invasive alien crayfish are vector of the crayfish plague, a disease threatening the survival of our unique indigenous crayfish species.*

## AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT

With the LIFE RIPARIAS project, Belgian authorities pool their resources together to develop innovative approaches that will **optimise the management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)** by setting priorities regarding where and how to manage them **across regional borders**. LIFE RIPARIAS tests its approach in the Dijle, Mark and Zenne river basins of the Scheldt river basin district. This project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union.

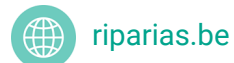
Pilot area



### COORDINATOR

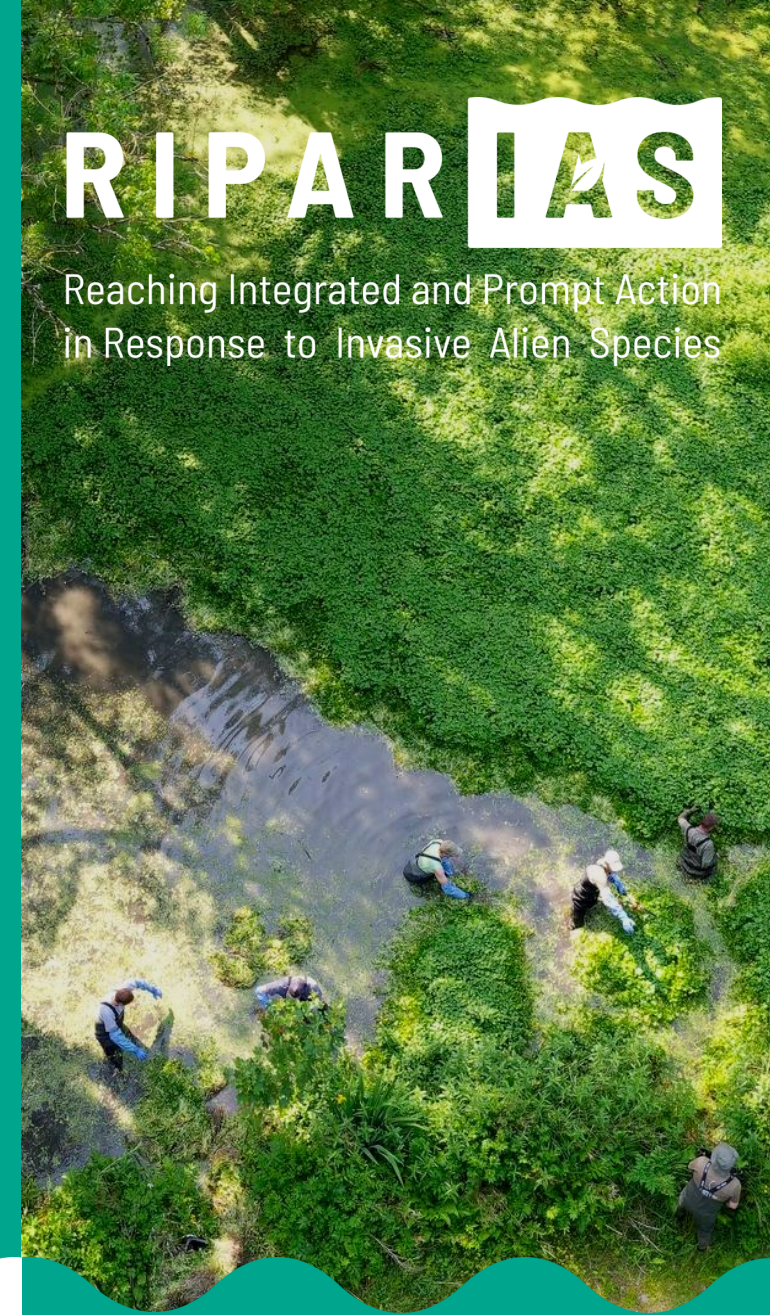


### PARTNERS



# RIPARIAS

Reaching Integrated and Prompt Action  
in Response to Invasive Alien Species



riparias.be



LIFE19 NAT/BE/000953  
01/01/2021 – 31/12/2026

Photo credits : Adrien Latil, Etienne Branquart and Marie Patinet. Drawing: Arnaud Monty  
Resp. ed. : F. Fontaine & B. Dewulf - Brussels Environment- Avenue du Port 86C/3000 - B-1000 Bruxelles - Printed with vegetable ink on recycled paper  
This brochure only reflects the views of the LIFE RIPARIAS consortium. CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.



## YOU CAN HELP!

The LIFE RIPARIAS project is notably devoted to active **surveillance** of invasive alien aquatic plants, riparian plants and crayfish species. The aim of this surveillance is to record and map the geographical distribution of all these species. This will help to **prioritise management measures** and to develop IAS management strategies at river basin level.

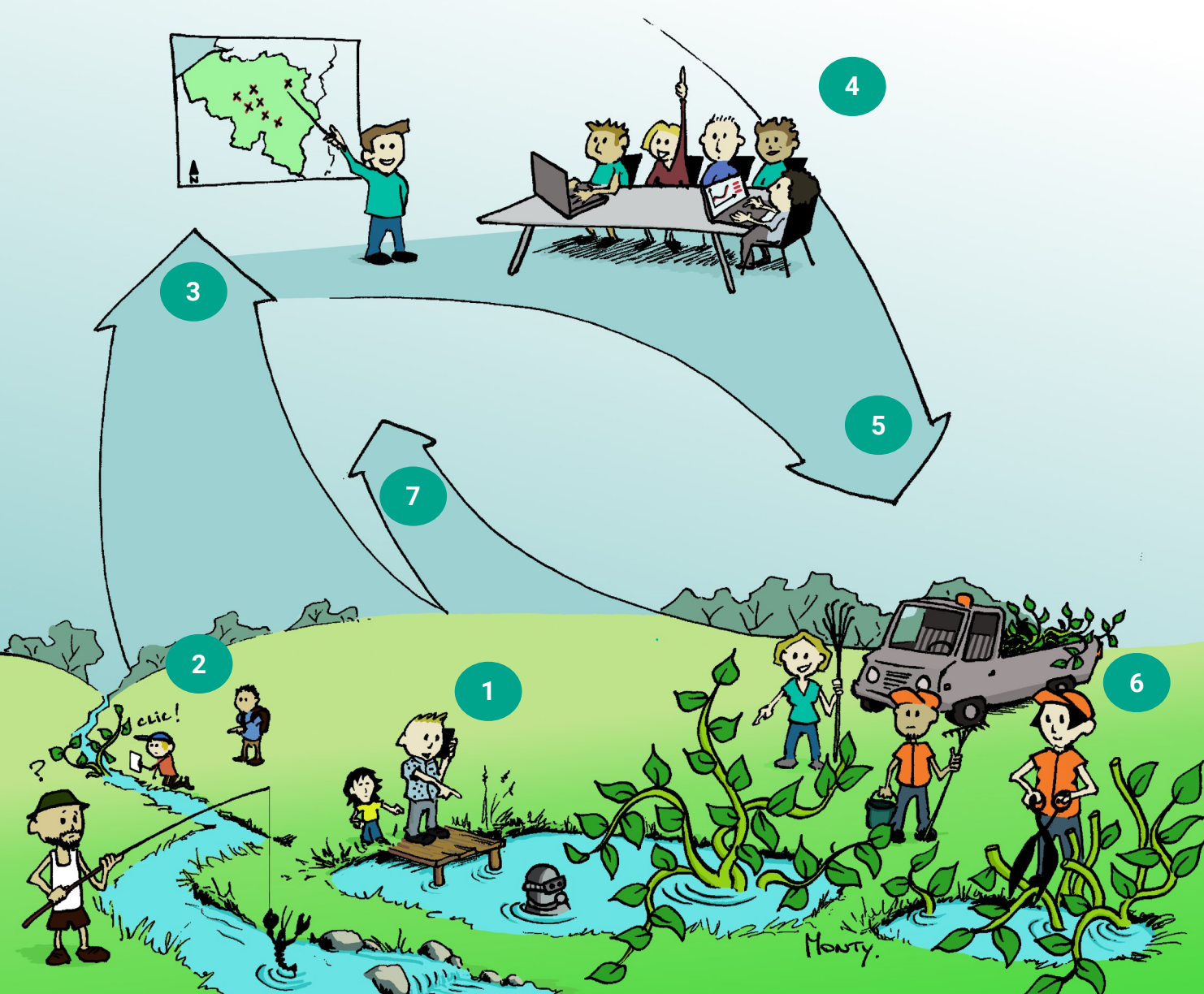
There are apps you can use to share biodiversity information. If you find an IAS in your pond, garden or in the field, **take a photo** and **share your observations** on the portals iNaturalist or Observations.be. By setting them as open data, you will help us and researchers worldwide to **protect biodiversity**. More information on our website.



## PREVENTION IS KEY

- Do not buy, grow or introduce IAS in your pond or garden
- Favour indigenous plants
- Compost with care

More information on indigenous alternatives, IAS management guides and training sessions available on riparias.be



1. **Pond owners** are encouraged to inform LIFE RIPARIAS partners if they find invasive alien species (IAS) in their property.

2. **Naturalists, divers, anglers and other volunteers** are key to record information and inform about aquatic animal and plant invasions.

3. **Citizen-science based data** are made available for the LIFE RIPARIAS project.

4. Using a dedicated **decision-support tool**, LIFE RIPARIAS partners and representatives of the different stakeholders agree on **priorities for action**, based on the available data.

5. **River basin management strategies** are agreed upon. These documents inform about where to act in priority, how, and on which species.

6. Based on the river basin management strategies, field practitioners, helped by the LIFE RIPARIAS team and volunteers, implement **control actions on the field**.

7. In turn, the **management actions are recorded** as data to **improve decision-making**.