

# THE LIFE INVASAQUA PROJECT

An Iberian example on how to cooperate regarding aquatic IAS with regional concern



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Invasive alien species in the Danube  
Region – IAS of regional concern  
March 4, 2026.



# What is LIFE INVASAQUA?



LIFE17 GIE/ES/000515

**Aquatic Invasive Alien Species of Freshwater and Estuarine Systems: Awareness and Prevention in the Iberian Peninsula**

- LIFE Environmental Governance & Information (GIE)
- Nov 2018 – Oct 2023 (5 years)
- Budget: 3,075,139 €



## Coordination



## Partners



UMU- University of Murcia  
 SIBIC - Iberian Society of Ichthyology  
 IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature  
 ASPEA - Associação Portuguesa Educação Ambiental  
 EFE – EFE Agency  
 USC – University of Santiago de Compostela  
 UNAV – University of Navarra  
 UEV – University of Évora  
 MNCN (CSIC) – Spanish National Museum of Natural Sciences & National Research Council

## Cofinancier



## Objectives:

**1. Support the EU Reg. implementation on IAS by creating synergies between knowledge building and management stakeholders.**

Decision-makers, scientists, NGOs & consultancies

**2. Improve the Iberian capacity for EWRR (Early Warning and Rapid Response) by increasing awareness and training target groups.**

Surveillance agents, river & estuary users, knowledge multipliers, education sector and commercial sector

**3. Raise general public awareness about the threats caused by aquatic IAS.**

General public



# What actions?

## – Governance

Diagnosis & Management tools

## – Communication, training & awareness

Campaigns addressed to key target groups;  
Campaign for general public; Citizen science

## – Replicability & Transferability

Sessions, Workshops and Networking on IAS topics





## ***Governance***

**Diagnosis & management tools and updated information addressed to experts:  
decision makers in administrations, scientists & technicians in NGOs and consultancies.**



# Governance actions

## Diagnosis & management tools and updated information: technical reports



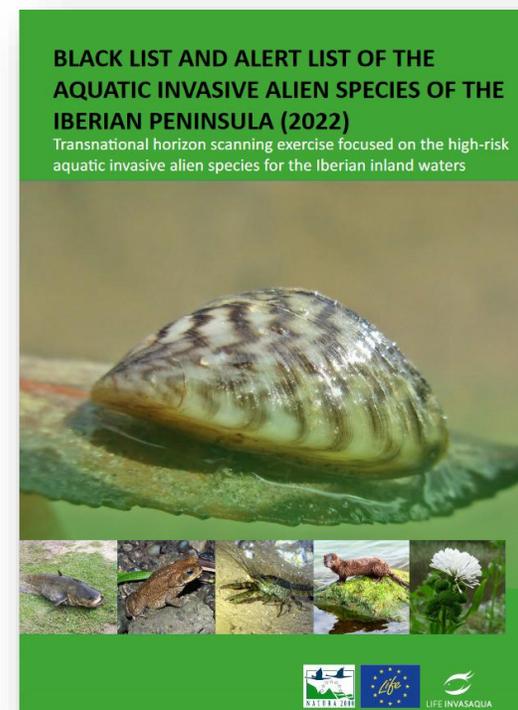
**+60 IAS experts  
of ES & PT**



**Alien species  
(present)  
326**



**Alien species  
(invasive potential)  
272**



**HS exercise:  
Black list :126 IAS  
Alert list: 89 IAS**



# Governance actions

## Diagnosis & management tools and updated information: technical reports

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TRANSNATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE ALIEN FISH IN IBERIAN INLAND WATERS



STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TRANSNATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE ALIEN CRAYFISH AND CRABS IN IBERIAN INLAND WATERS



1. STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION.
2. UPDATING, EXCHANGE AND TRANSFER OF INFORMATION.
3. PREVENTION, MONITORING, EARLY WARNING AND RAPID RESPONSE.
4. MONITORING, CONTAINMENT, CONTROL AND ERADICATION.
5. ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT.
6. APPLIED RESEARCH TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY.
7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS.

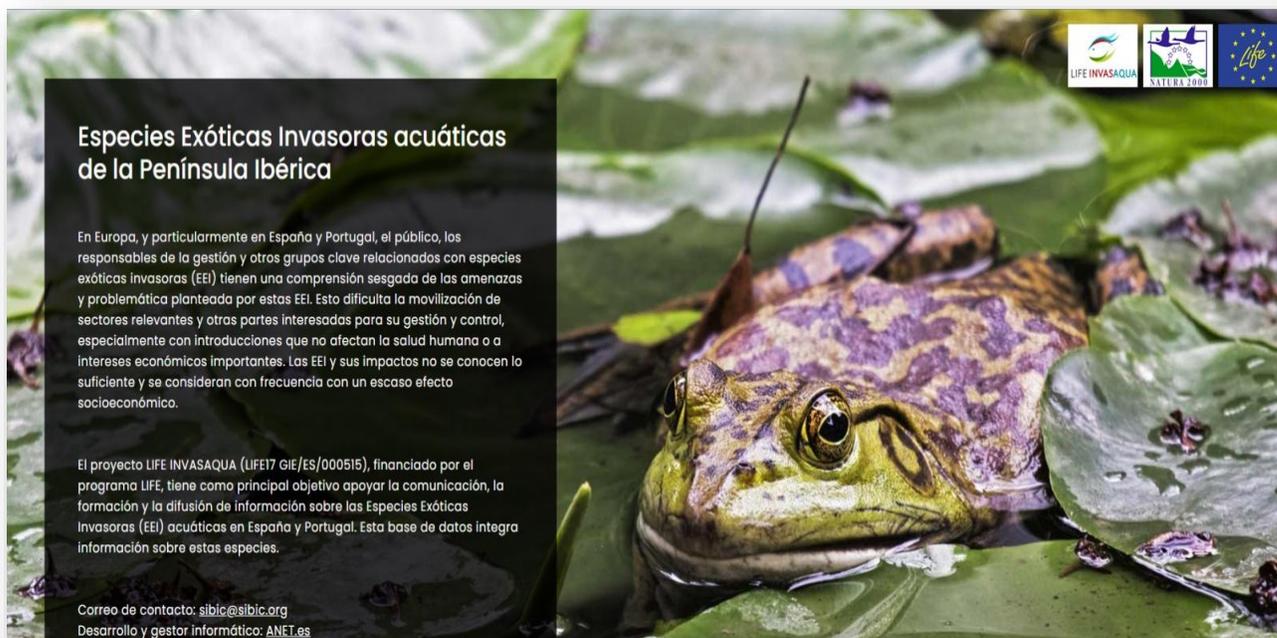
50

47



# Governance actions

- ▶ **DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT TOOLS: Iberian IAS Database-Carta de Invasoras**  
General information on **+200 aquatic IAS taxa** and **+16,000 geo-referenced records** on the presence of IAS together with the bibliographic references.



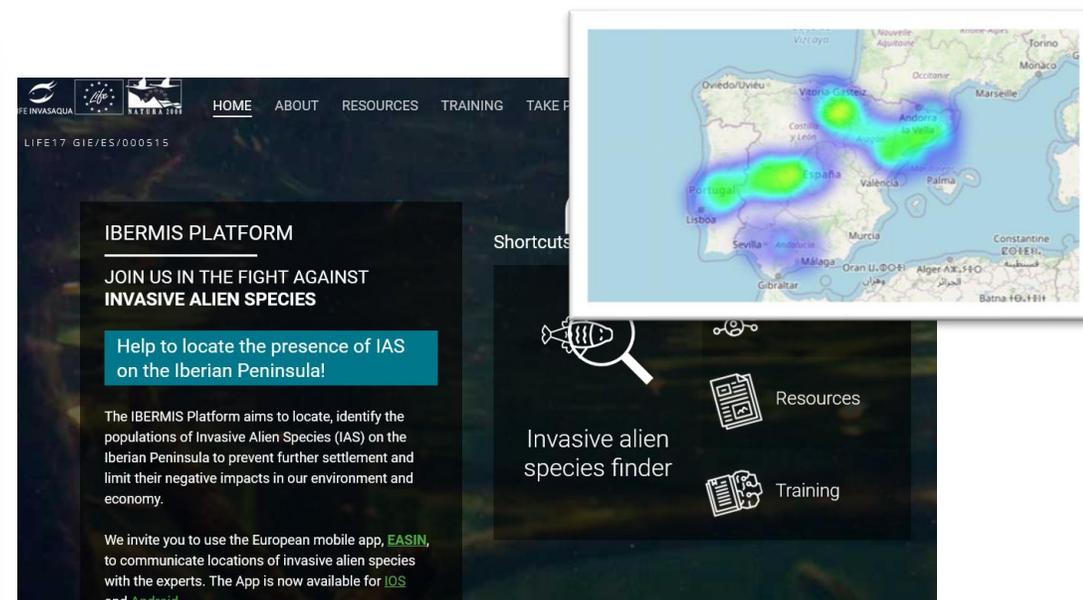
**Especies Exóticas Invasoras acuáticas de la Península Ibérica**

En Europa, y particularmente en España y Portugal, el público, los responsables de la gestión y otros grupos clave relacionados con especies exóticas invasoras (EEI) tienen una comprensión sesgada de las amenazas y problemática planteada por estas EEI. Esto dificulta la movilización de sectores relevantes y otras partes interesadas para su gestión y control, especialmente con introducciones que no afectan la salud humana o a intereses económicos importantes. Las EEI y sus impactos no se conocen lo suficiente y se consideran con frecuencia con un escaso efecto socioeconómico.

El proyecto LIFE INVASAQUA (LIFE17 GIE/ES/000515), financiado por el programa LIFE, tiene como principal objetivo apoyar la comunicación, la formación y la difusión de información sobre las Especies Exóticas Invasoras (EEI) acuáticas en España y Portugal. Esta base de datos integra información sobre estas especies.

Correo de contacto: [sibic@sibic.org](mailto:sibic@sibic.org)  
Desarrollo y gestor informático: ANET.es

<https://eei.sibic.org>



**IBERMIS PLATFORM**

**JOIN US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

Help to locate the presence of IAS on the Iberian Peninsula!

The IBERMIS Platform aims to locate, identify the populations of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) on the Iberian Peninsula to prevent further settlement and limit their negative impacts in our environment and economy.

We invite you to use the European mobile app, **EASIN**, to communicate locations of invasive alien species with the experts. The App is now available for **iOS** and **Android**.

Shortcuts:  
Invasive alien species finder  
Resources  
Training

**IBERMIS platform:  
Carta de Invasoras + EASIN + Citizen Science**



# Governance actions

## ► Events

Synergies between experts: knowledge transfer and cooperation

+ 40 conferences and workshops  
+ 2,300 experts  
Participation in +40 events  
addressed to experts



Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Madrid (May 2023)



II INVASAQUA FORUM  
CSIC-MNCN, Madrid (May 2023)





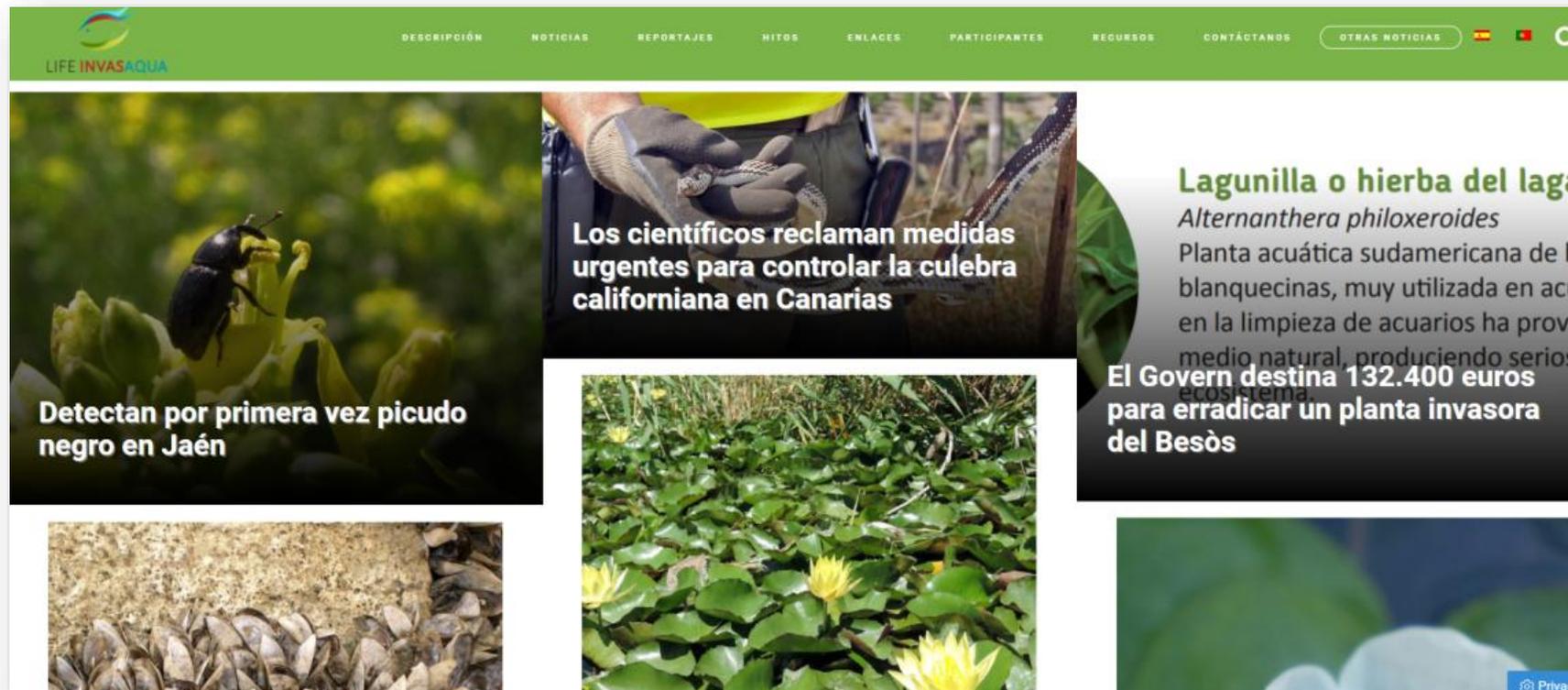
## ***Communication, training & awareness***

- (1) Campaigns addressed to key target groups**
- (2) Campaigns addressed to the public**
- (3) Citizen Science**





# Communication, training & awareness



**Your opinion matters!  
Study of stakeholders' perceptions (UEV)**

[www.lifeinvasaqua.com](http://www.lifeinvasaqua.com)



@LifeInvasaqua



# Communication, training & awareness

## (2) Campaigns addressed to the public

### ITINERANT EXHIBITION

+ 18 locations in Spain and Portugal

+ 100,000 visitors

8 train stations

**Cangrejo azul**  
Siri-azul  
Callinectes sapidus

**Yabby común**  
Yabby-comum  
Cherax destructor

**Cangrejo americano**  
Lagostim-vermelha-da-Luisiana  
Procambarus clarkii

**Cangrejo señal**  
Lagostim-sinal  
Pacifastacus leniusculus

**AMENAZAS**  
THREATS

Contaminación del agua  
Extracción de especies nativas  
Extracción de especies nativas  
Competencia con especies nativas

**EL IRRECUPERABLE PRECIO DE NUESTRO PALADAR**

Crustáceos altamente rios e nocivos para Originarios de Nortear (cangrejo azul). Introdu alimentación humana, dispersión por consum canales de riego.

**O PREÇO IRRECUPERÁVEL DO NOSSO PALADAR**

Crustáceos altamente rios e nocivos para Originarios da América Austrália (Siri-azul). In alimentação humana, por consumo local, tra irrigação.

**¡Cuidado!**  
**INVASORAS ACUÁTICAS**

GUÍA DE LAS ESPECIES EXÓTICAS E INVASORAS DE LOS RÍOS, LAGOS Y ESTUARIOS DE LA PENÍNSULA IBÉRICA

sibic



*Dia Mundial dos Rios*

BENAVENTE - SANTO ESTÊVÃO  
25 DE SETEMBRO | 10H00 - 13H00

**JUNTA-TE A NÓS!**

Vem participar na preservação e recuperação do rio e aprender sobre as Espécies Exóticas Invasoras

inspeção ambiental | Invasoras.pt | STOP | LIFE INVASAQUA | GEIB

inspeção ambiental | Invasoras.pt | STOP | LIFE INVASAQUA | GEIB

inspeção ambiental | Invasoras.pt | STOP | LIFE INVASAQUA | GEIB

SEMANA SOBRE ESPECIES INVASORAS  
PORTUGAL & ESPAÑA

**SEI 2023**

#SEI2023 13-21 MAIO  
MAYO

**SAVE THE DATE!**

InECO | Invasoras.pt | STOP | LIFE INVASAQUA | GEIB

250 events  
251 entities  
+2,000 participants



# Communication, training & awareness

## (3) Citizen Science

Iberian module of the  
“IAS in Europe” JRC app

IBERMIS Platform

Events and training on  
IAS data collection



**+118 species**



[www.ibermis.org](http://www.ibermis.org)



**+10 events to engage  
people in collecting  
IAS data**





# *Replicability & Transferability*



# Transferability & replicability



**EEI 2025**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
VII Congreso Nacional sobre Especies Exóticas Invasoras  
II Congreso Ibérico sobre Especies Exóticas Invasoras

**28-30**  
MAYO / MAIO

**¡En Murcia!  
Em Múrcia!**

ORGANIZADOR: GIEB  
COLABORAN: 



**IV Congreso Ibérico Restauración Fluvial**

**RESTAURARÍOS**  
Horizonte 2030  
7 años para impulsar la estrategia de restauración fluvial  
21, 22 y 23 de junio  
Toledo 2023





**IUCN** **sibic**

**Addressing Invasive Alien Species in Europe:**  
the relevance of transnational cooperation and stakeholder engagement

7 September 2023  
Museum of Natural Sciences Brussels (Belgium)

Online participation OPEN!  






**EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES PROJECTS**  
MAY 25 A...

REGISTRATION: 





**SIBIC 2022**  
IX Iberian Congress of Ichthyology  
20TH TO 23RD JUNE, PORTO, PORTUGAL





# Results so far

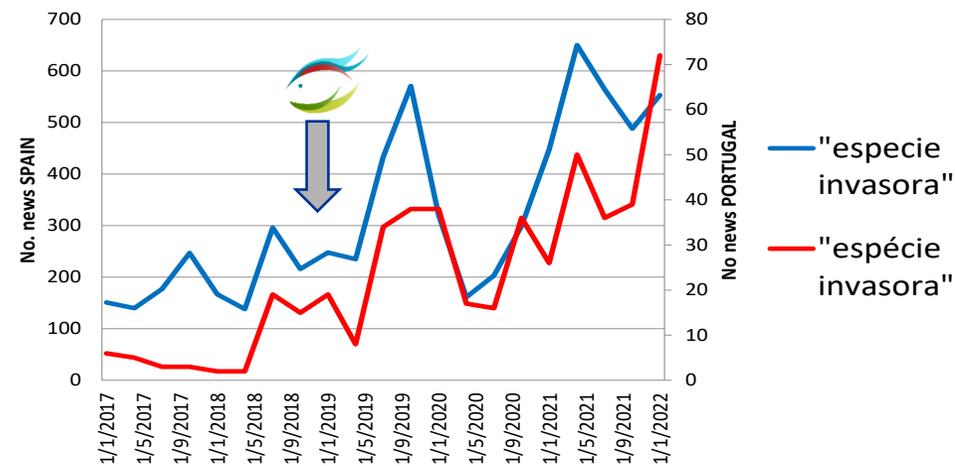
Up to 09/2023:

- More than **560** dissemination and communication events (+**400** organized)
- More than **127,370** participants reached related to **11** key sectors (+100,000 expo visitors)
- More than **620** publications (technical reports, scientific and non-scientific publications, participation in conferences, press releases etc)
- More than **170** collaborations in radio and tv (interviews, reports, videos etc)



@LifeInvasaqua 5,763 followers

### Key-words (Google trends)





## Main achievements

### 1) Improvement of the management efficiency through knowledge building

- Updated priority lists, pathways, etc.
- Definition of strategic lines of action
- Identification of synergies between scientists and managers
- Complementary databases to fill knowledge gaps on IAS distribution

### 2) Improve the EWRR capacity of key sectors

- Dedicated training (surveillance agents, teachers, information points etc)
- Campaigns to improve awareness (Clean-Check-Dry, Stop Comercio Invasoras)
- Creation of tools and materials (codes of conducts, website, didactic guides etc.)

### 3) Increase public awareness about IAS impacts

- Touring exhibition
- Citizen science
- International events (SEI 2021-2026, etc)
- Study of public perceptions through questionnaires



<https://neobiota.pensoft.net/article/148744/>

A peer-reviewed open-access journal

 NeoBiota

Advancing research on alien species and biological invasions

NeoBiota 102: 377–397 (2025)

DOI: 10.3897/neobiota.102.148744

### Project Description

## Outcomes of the LIFE INVASAQUA project: An integrated approach for the prevention and awareness of aquatic invasive species in the Iberian Peninsula

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<https://www.speco.pt/sei>



SEMANA SOBRE ESPECIES INVASORAS  
PORTUGAL & ESPAÑA  
**#SEI26**  
21-31 Mayo/Mayo

Save the  
**DATE**  
23-31 MAYO

PORTUGAL Y ESPAÑA

**LA SEI VUELVE EN 2026**  
Únete a esta iniciativa y organiza actividades sobre especies invasoras en España o Portugal.

*Carpobrotus sp.*

 [invasoras.pt](http://invasoras.pt)   





# THANK YOU!



LIFE INVASAQUA

**Celia López-Cañizares**

LIFE INVASAQUA Coordination team



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