

# Platform meeting on Invasive Alien Species (IAS)



**LIFE14 NAT/ES/000699**

**Green Belt of Bay of Santander: connecting nature and city**

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Project co-founded by  
the European Union  
within the LIFE Program



Coordinating  
beneficiary



Associated  
beneficiary



With the support of



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## Working area

The project acts in those municipalities of the Bay of Santander that have degraded habitats that need action and in which the City Councils, Neighborhood Boards or private owners show willingness to collaborate in the project.



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## Green Belt of Bay of Santander: connecting nature and city

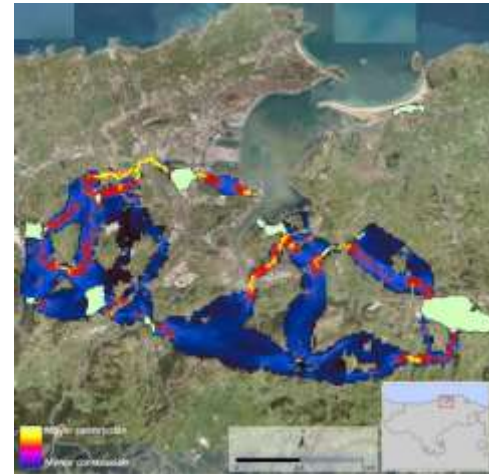


## OUR GOAL?

Creation of a green infrastructure consisting of a network of well-preserved natural spaces, in a region with huge human influence, improving ecological connectivity between them, and providing ecosystem services to society.



Life Green Belt Reserves



Ecological connectivity  
between the Reserves



# Objectives of the Project

## Overall Objective:

Halting loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services in the Bay of Santander and restore them insofar as possible (restoring green and blue infrastructure) "Green Belt Bay of Santander" which will provide ecosystem services society in general and, specifically, people of the Bay of Santander. Objective related to the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2020 halting goal and objective 2 and 5) is related to the objectives of Regulation EU N°1303/2013 concerning the LIFE Programme to support better environmental governance (Article 3, point c) and contribute to development of the EU Strategy on Biodiversity (Article 11, point a).

## Specific Objectives:

1. Designing the Green Belt Bay of Santander, meant to be permanent and long-term sustainability, developing appropriate management tools and funding.

2. Restoring characteristic ecosystems of the Bay of Santander, including removal of invasive alien species.  
3. Improving the connectivity of natural areas of Bay of Santander, from ecological point of view and sustainable mobility, allowing unite areas make the GI&BI "Green Belt Bay of Santander" among themselves and between natural areas and cities.  
4. Restoring public green spaces in urban and rural areas of the Bay of Santander through the "Green Belt Bay of Santander", placing value on the territory as a sustainable tourist destination.  
5. Foster expansion of the Green Belt Bay of Santander searching for land stewardship agreements with owners of public and private land.

**"An invasive alien species (IAS) is a species that is established outside of its natural past or present distribution, whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity"**  
Convention on Biological Diversity.

The impacts of invasive alien species (IAS) are well known.

They reproduce rapidly, out-competing native species for food, water and space

## Tremendous Impacts and Ecological Costs

Unrecoverable loss of native species and ecosystems  
Homogenization of communities  
**IAS is considered one of the main causes of global biodiversity loss**

Hundreds of extinctions have been caused by IAS

Impacts on the health of plants, animals and even humans  
**This issue has major effects on human well-being.**

**But also create huge economic costs!!**

# IAS in Green Belt of Bay of santander

Invasive alien species are a major driver of biodiversity loss, so one of the highlights of the actions of the project is the eradication of them



*Acacia dealbata*

*Ailanthus altissima*

*Asparagopsis armata*

*Azolla filiculoides*

*Baccharis halimifolia*

*Bidens aurea*

*Carpobrotus edulis*

*Codium fragile*

*Conyza bonariensis*

*Conyza canadiensis*

*Conyza sumatrensis*

*Cortaderia selloana*

*Cotula coronopifolia*

*Cyperus eragrostis*

*Dreissena polymorpha*

*Eucalyptus globulus*

*Fallopia japonica*

*Grateloupia turuturu*

*Linepithema humile*

*Lonicera japonica*

*Ludwigia peploides*

*Micropterus salmoides*

*Neovison vison*

*Oenothera glazioviana*

*Paspalum dilatatum*

*Paspalum vaginatum*

*Procambarus clarkii*

*Procyon lotor*

*Robinia pseudoacacia*

*Sargassum muticum*

*Sorghum halepense*

*Trachemys scripta*

*Vespa velutina*

## WHAT WE DO?

**Prevention** is always the best answer

Increase the sensitivity and awareness about IAS

Environmental Education Programme

Ecological gardening: Let's use native species and forget about the conventional gardens, with alien species, with more costs of resources and money, and that are one of the main sources of IAS



## WHAT WE DO?

The correct control of IAS implies the need of **early warning and rapid response**, based on an early detection of their populations.

Thus, we are working on:

- Monitoring & Tracking
- Developing an early warning network for the involvement of the local population in the detection of IAS

## WHAT WE DO?

Different techniques and methodologies for the control and eradication of IAS



With small plants and in not too big areas:

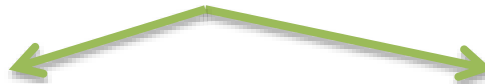
Removal of individuals manually or mechanically

## WHAT WE DO?

Different techniques and methodologies for the control and eradication of IAS

Big plants and large areas:

Application of selective herbicides





## Example of our works



## Example of our works





## Example of our works



## Example of our works





## Example of our works



## Example of our works

Removal of individual manually. The case of *Ludwigia peploides*





# IAS in Green Belt of Bay of Santander

## Example of our works





## CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

“Green Infrastructures”, “Ecosystem services” are fairly new terms, that can help to make people aware about the importance of preserving the biodiversity.

Also can help to improve policies and collaborations among all the agents involved (citizens, conservationists, administration,...)

**WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO FIGHT THIS HUGE PROBLEM  
FOR THE BIODIVERSITY AND THEREFORE, THE SOCIETY**

## A LAST REFLECTION

There are trends by different environmentalists, questioning if it's worthwhile to spend so many efforts and money in fighting IAS, or if we should let the nature developing by itself.

We think that this is not nature by itself.

We have been the cause, the origin, the source of this issue, so we have the responsibility of fighting them.

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Thanks very much  
for your attention



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