



Reference lists of Aquatic Alien Species in the Iberian Peninsula: preliminar result of LIFE INVASAQUA

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LIFE INVASAQUA

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

Abstract

LIFE INVASAQUA aims to reduce the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive alien species (IAS) by increasing public and stakeholder awareness, and by developing tools that will improve the management and Early Warning and Rapid Response (EWRR) framework in freshwater and estuarine habitats in the Iberian Peninsula. We have updated the established list and alert list (potential taxa) of Aquatic Alien Species of the Iberian Peninsula as an INVASAQUA's action with the collaboration of 60 experts. These *Reference lists* will improve the Iberian framework for management of invasive species and could be a diagnosis tool for raising awareness on biological invasions.



Governance Action

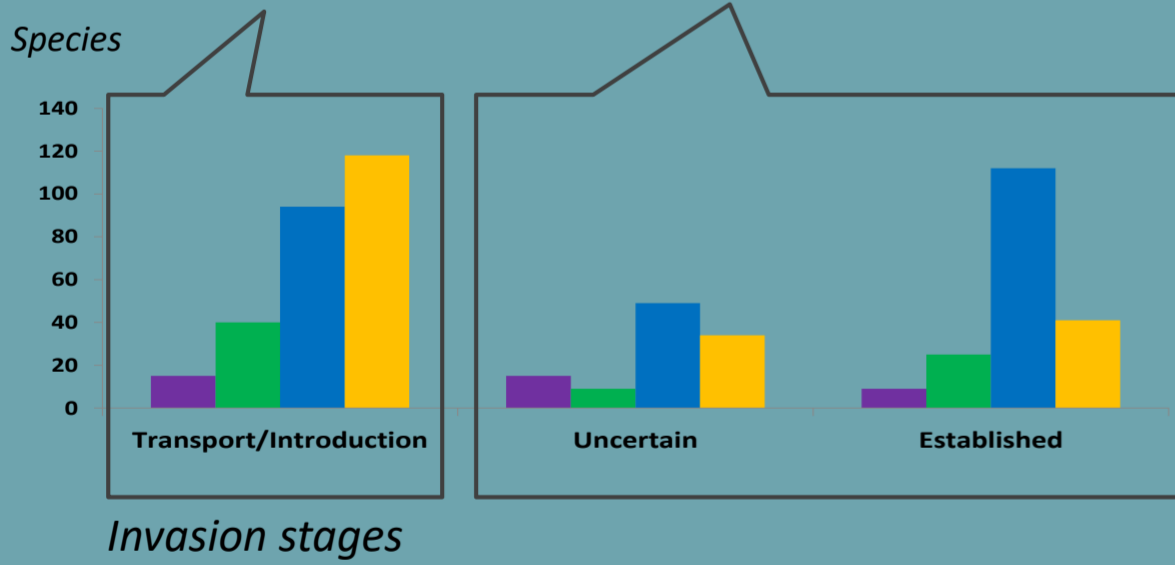
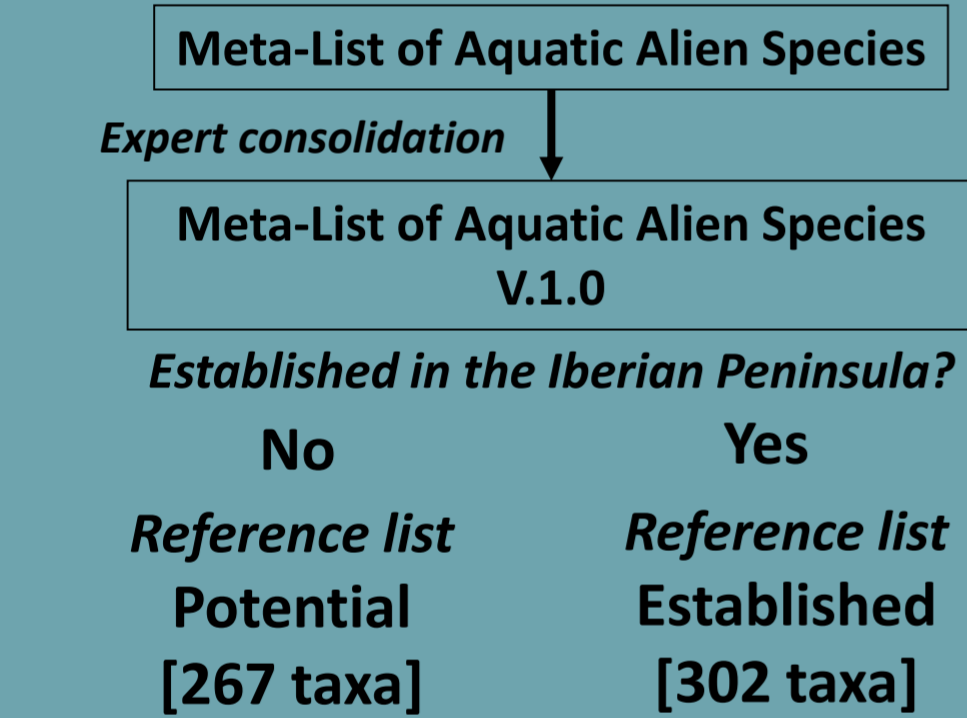


60 experts involved

Aims

- Updating the Iberian Aquatic Alien Species reference list.
- To horizon-scan emerging aquatic IAS risk in order to provide a trans-national list that may pose a threat to aquatic ecosystems and socio-economic sectors.

Assessment methodology & Results



Step 1

Systematic review of potential (non-established) and established Alien Species; only aquatic biota.

Step 2

Initial meta-list compiled by expert consolidation.

Step 3

Discrimination into a **Potential Alien Species List** (Alert list) (taxa in the transport or introduction invasion stage) and an **Established Alien Species List** (taxa in the establishment or spread invasion stage).

Step 4

Expert consensus.

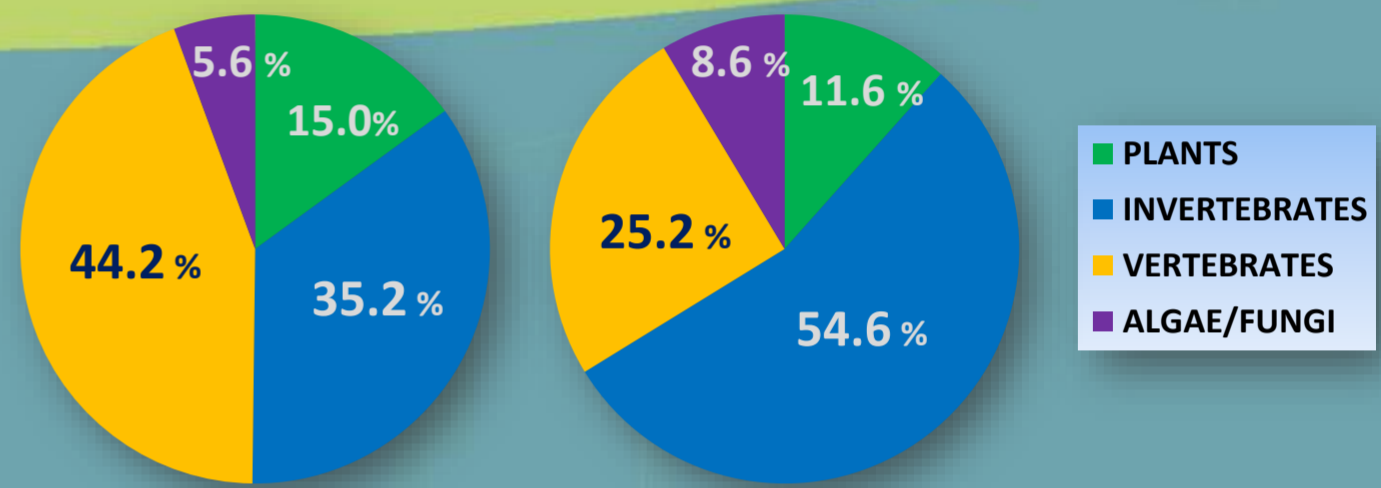
No microorganism, No marine taxa (exception of those which commonly colonize estuaries) **No translocated Iberian native taxa** are included. **Several cryptogenic organisms** could be included.

Method - Structured step-approach combining IAS knowledge with a collaborative expert identification and consolidation.

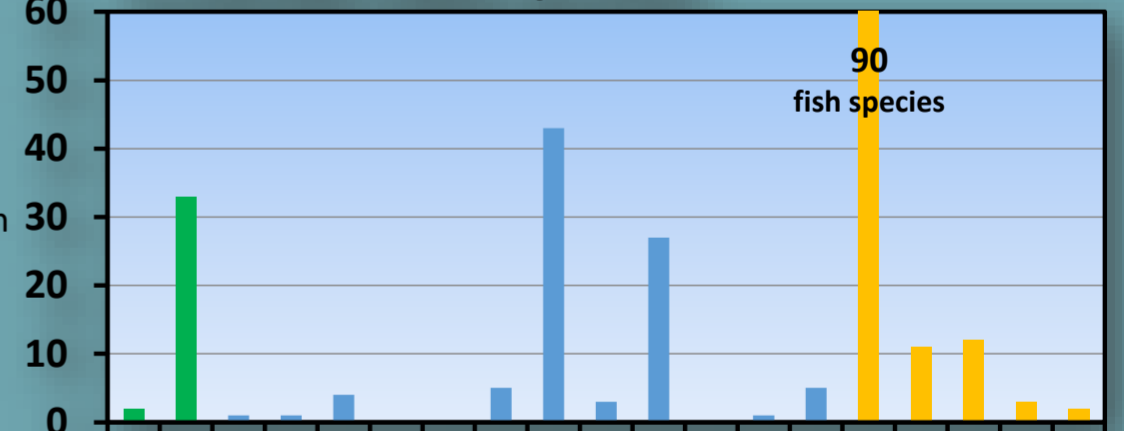
Estuarine and Freshwater aquatic habitats (Target systems): Aquatic bodies in natural or semi-natural environment.

Aquatic biota (Target taxa): Collective term describing the organisms living in or depending on the aquatic environments (expert consensus).

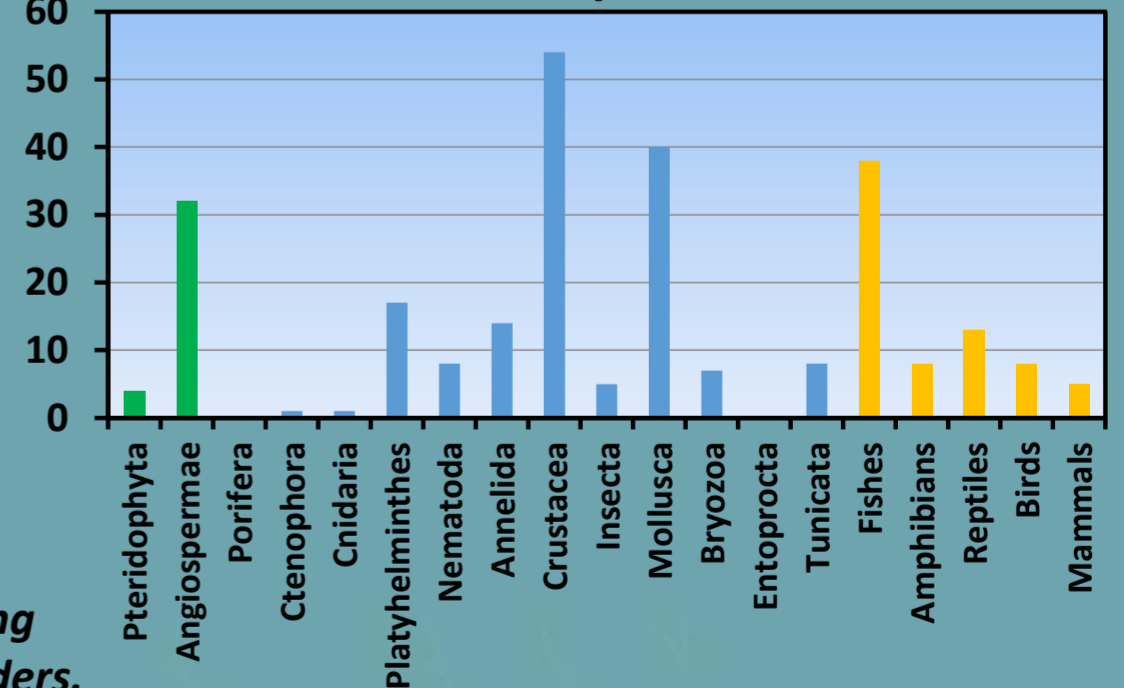
Aquatic Alien Species Potential Established



Potential Alien Species



Established Alien Species



Added value to the framework for management

LIFE INVASAQUA project has...

- ...identified 288 Alien Species introduced in the Iberian estuarine and island waters, all of them could be considered as invasive species because by definition an alien taxon in a new environment has a nonzero impact.
- ...established a preliminary Alert List of 275 potential invaders.
- ...supported the Spain, Portugal and EU Reg. implementation on IAS by engaging and creating synergies between knowledge building and management stakeholders.

Coordination



This publication is a technical report by the LIFE INVASAQUA (LIFE17 GIE/ES/000515). It aims to provide evidence-based scientific support to the European policymaking process. The output expressed does not imply a policy position of the European Commission.

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Beneficiaries



Collaboration



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