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Alien species are species that have been introduced by human action, accidentally or intentionally, outside their natural distribution.

Invasive alien species are species whose introduction and/or spread by human action, accidentally or intentionally, outside their natural distribution threatens biological diversity, food security, and human health and well-being.

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Common borders. Common solutions.



IASON

Invasive Alien Species Observatory and Network Development for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts in Black Sea Deltaic Protected Areas



The overall objective of the project is to establish and perform joint monitoring actions on IAS in Black Sea deltaic ecosystems of five countries (Georgia, Greece, Ukraine, Romania and Turkey) and assess their response under current and predicted climatic conditions.

The multifaceted character of the project area - deltaic ecosystems of different biogeographical zones, different protection status & management, cross-border or one-country owned - creates major challenges in regard to IAS management in a climate changing future in the Black Sea region. Under this assumption, IASON project is structured in a way that all challenges are approached in an integrated and cross-border manner.

In particular, the project's approach will consist of the following characteristics:

- Literature and historical data review to support the actions of the programme.
- Collection of information from stakeholders on the presence and problems caused by IAS.
- Compilation of the list of IAS.
- Development of common monitoring protocols and IAS risk assessment methodology.
- Recording and monitoring of IAS populations (two periods).
- IAS risk assessment based on current and future climatic conditions.
- Observatory establishment.
- Dissemination of knowledge - information.



The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Develop and implement the joint monitoring and risk assessment procedures on IAS in the project's nature protected areas and motivate and assist countries in creating their IAS inventories.
- Improve long-term cross-border collaboration, dissemination of information and research capacity through the use of innovative IAS monitoring technologies.
- Improve cooperation on IAS monitoring through public involvement at various levels of the project.

The main project outcomes will be:

- Gain baseline data on IAS in the project deltaic areas, under current and predicted climatic conditions, through the implementation of joint cross-border monitoring and evaluation.
- The establishment of an organizational structure (Observatory) through which ICT services will be provided not only on IAS monitoring and assessment (information & research capacity), but also on networking with/and engaging citizens towards improving and updating results of the project (institutional capacity).
- Cross-border collaboration and exchange of information, by developing and implementing information and communication activities, at all levels of society (education, managers, policy makers, local community).

