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Article title: *Invasive alien species stakeholder survey in Danube Delta – Romania*

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Abstract: This paper presents the conclusions drawn from the study that concerned the survey of stakeholders carried out within the framework of the Project - "Invasive Alien Species Observatory and Network Development for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts in Black Sea Deltaic Protected Areas" – IASON, for Danube Delta (Romania). The predetermined target groups of the project were: national authorities, Local Public Authorities, Higher education & Research organizations, Education / training centers, Interest groups including NGOs and the general public.

Key words: Invasive Alien Species – IAS, Danube Delta, Stakeholder, IASON Project

Introduction: This survey is part of the activities regarding collection and management of information on IAS from stakeholder, in the framework of IASON Project. It is related to project's specific objective - Improve cooperation on IAS monitoring through the involvement of the public at various levels of the project and to the main result aiming at a cross-border collaboration and exchange of information from developing and implementing information and communication activities, at all levels of society (education, managers, policy makers, local community).

Survey of stakeholders involved the pre-determined target groups of the project, national authorities, Local Public Authorities (LPAs), Higher education & Research organizations, Education / training centers, Interest groups including NGOs and the General public as they were specifically identified during the stakeholder's identification and networking stage of the project.

Conclusions: The survey is part of the activities regarding collection and management of information on IAS from stakeholder, in the framework of IASON Project. Survey of stakeholders involved the pre-determined target groups of the project, national authorities, Local Public Authorities (LPAs), Higher education & Research organizations, Education / training centers, Interest groups including NGOs and the General public as they were specifically identified during the stakeholder's identification and networking stage of the project.

A set of questionnaires was developed and distributed in order to evaluate the impact of IAS. The core part of each questionnaire consists of questions regarding the presence of IAS in the area according to the questioned person knowledge and the assessment each person makes upon the impact of those species. Intensity of impact was measured on a 1 to 5 scale where 1 is the lowest impact and 5 is significant



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impact. Respondents were asked to assign such a value to each element of flora and fauna they know as existing in their area.

The sub-target categories were: the professionals, the local authorities and local NGOs (activating in other fields than environment) and the general public. The professionals involved Environmental National / Regional Agencies and Ministries, bodies with monitoring and management tasks regarding areas of the project (such as protected areas), research and education bodies (Universities, Research Institutes) and NGOs active in the field of environment.

From total number of 100 questionnaires sent, 58 questionnaires were received with the following structure of respondents: 26 professionals, 3 LPAs and other local stakeholders and 29 members of the general public. A number of 42 questionnaires were sent but the respondents did not answer, showing disinterest for the subject.

The differences between the questionnaires depending on the category of respondents try to cover as faithfully as possible the type of information to which they have access, the level of professional training or the type of activity carried out.

The answers given by the respondents to the questionnaires represent the stakeholders' perception regarding the IAS and the effects of their presence in the Danube Delta (Romania).

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