



LIFE IAS Free Habitats - **Collaborative management** for conservation of forest and grassland habitats negatively affected by IAS in Bulgaria



Time frame: Oct 2017 – Oct 2022

Beneficiaries:

Coordinating: Information and Nature Conservation Foundation

Associated: Bioselena Foundation and Eco Forum - for the nature

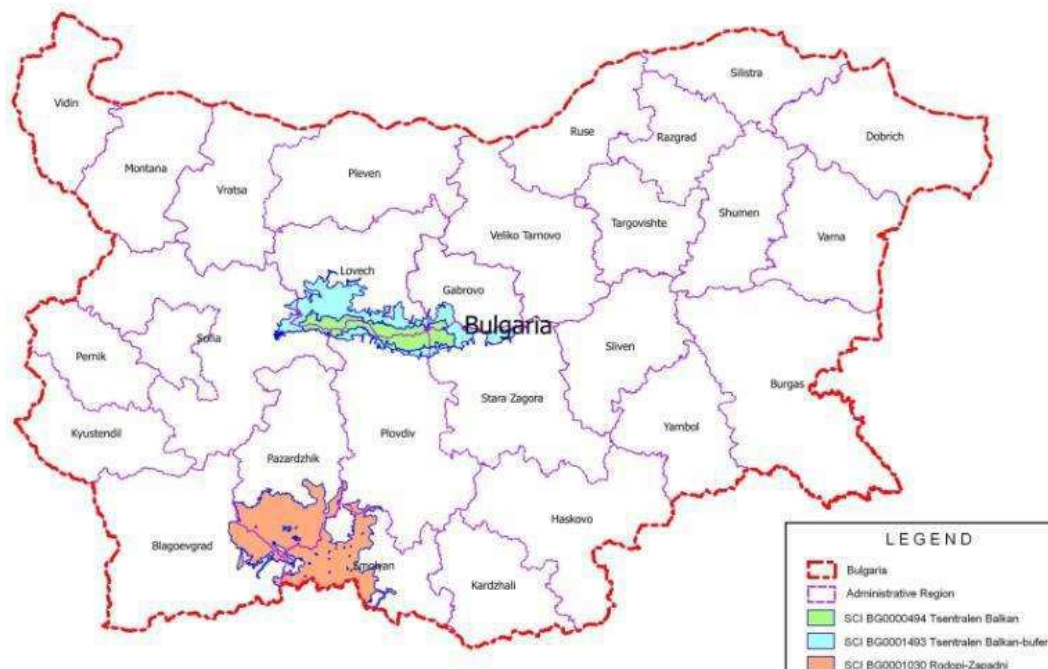


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Objectives

- To improve and maintain the conservation status of 4 of the rare and most vulnerable habitats in 3 Natura 2000 sites in Bulgaria.
- To improve the knowledge and experience of stakeholders and land managers about IAS and their management and control.



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Targeted habitats

- 9180* Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines;
- 9560* Endemic forests with *Juniperus spp.*;
- 6510 Lowland hay meadows and
- 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates

Targeted IAS species

- Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- Indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
- Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)





Challenges

- The problem with the IAS plants is almost unknown in country.
- The national legislation defines the Ministry of Environment and Waters as responsible for the implementation of the EC Regulation 1143/2014. There is no secondary legislation yet.
- There is no clear designation of responsibilities for the IAS control and management - Who is doing What?
- The IAS lists, the obligations of their management, procedures, protocols, instructions are still to be developed.
- The implementation of EC Regulation 1143/2014 progresses much slower than envisaged.





Collaborative management platform for each of the habitats

The Collaborative Management Platform (CMP) is a mechanism that brings all stakeholders together in order to:

- gain experience in improving the conservation status of the habitats
- realize their responsibilities for IAS prevention
- stop bringing IAS in the targeted habitats
- take effective measures for IAS control and eradication.

The Platforms will:

- exist and act in a long term
- transfer the experience to other territories of same habitats.



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Reg. No
1143/2014 IAS
Mngmnt

Ministry of
Environment

MAFF

Municipalities

EEA

18 Regional structures
15 RIEW and 3 NPD

Forests

Agriculture

6 State forest
enterprises

RIEW Plovdiv

CBNPD

State forestry
units

Farmers

Forest habitats
9180*, 9560*

Grassland
habitats
6210, 6510

Scientists



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What do we do in cooperation with the stakeholders?

- Creating good practices at local and regional level
- Sharing information and raising awareness: [FB page](#) and [Web Site](#)
- Initiating joint actions.



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Demonstrations of IAS eradication methods

Public events organized in cooperation with the Plovdiv Municipality and the Municipal Enterprise that maintains the city's green system

Initiating a review of the Municipal Regulation for the green system maintenance and management

Acting in the City, but raising support for the habitats in the wild.





IAS eradication in a State Forest Enterprise

- As a consequence of the training under the project a Forest Station started the creation of four experimental plots to test the methods of the black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) eradication.
- Another Forest Station started inventory of IA plant species and initiated a revision of the Regulation for the tree felling in the forests so that it envisages IAS control and eradication measures.
- The institution requested additional trainings on IAS for their staff.





Collaboration with the Regional Road Management Unit Plovdiv

- Black locust trees were removed by the company contracted for road maintenance and rehabilitation on the borders of the area with h9560* .
- The Project team was invited to discuss the role of the Regional Road Management Unit and develop demonstration activities for IAS removal.





Thank you for
your attention!

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Foundation

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