



# The importance of cross border working in tackling invasive species

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Reducing the Impact of  
Non-native Species in Europe  
[www.rinse-europe.eu](http://www.rinse-europe.eu)

"Investing in your future"

Crossborder cooperation programme 2007-2013 Part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund)

# The Problem



- Invasive non-native species are introduced in to new areas through human activities
- Once established in an area they can spread rapidly, causing a wide range of problems:
  - Considered to be one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide, second only to habitat destruction
  - Cost at least €12 billion every year in Europe

# The Problem



- Invasive species do not respect national boundaries – once released in to the wild in one country they can easily spread to another
- The increasing movement of people and goods within Europe is likely to make the problem worse, as will climate change

# The Problem



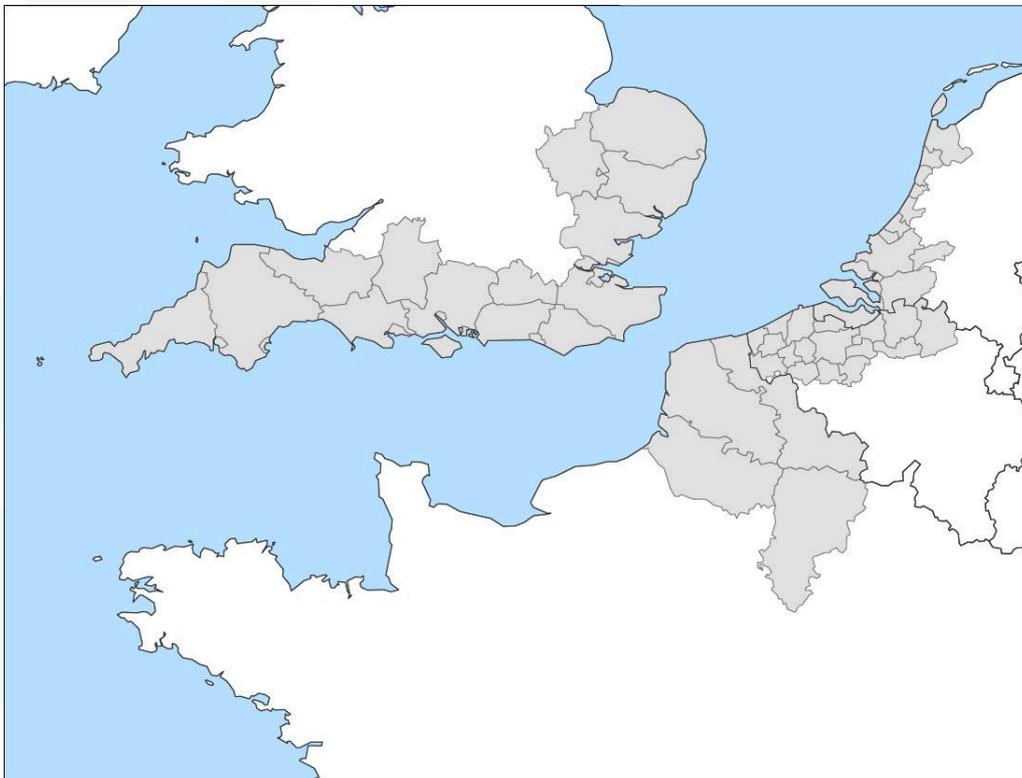
- Invasive species are an issue that **MUST** be tackled at a cross border level if we are to be truly successful
- A number of barriers currently exist that sometimes makes cross border working difficult:
  - differences in legislation
  - differing levels of resource to deal with invasive species
  - different way to record and store data on sightings of invasive species
  - differing cultural perceptions of species (eg. grey squirrel)

# Two Seas Area



- Working on invasive species across the Two Seas area makes sense for a variety of reasons:
  - 1) It contains some of the busiest ports in Europe
  - 2) It encompasses some of the most densely populated areas of Europe (which means IBS are more likely to be introduced)
  - 3) Wildlife across the region is already under pressure from a range of other factors
  - 4) We share similar climatic conditions and habitats

# Two Seas Area



## Benefits of working across borders



- If relevant organisations in different Members States share information and pool resources to work on a shared problem it can be tackled more effectively and efficiently:
  - Avoids duplication
  - Reduces costs
  - Can work more strategically (particularly relevant for invasive species control!)
- We are 'Better Together'!

# Egyptian goose



- The numbers and impacts of this species are increasing across Europe
- A cause of concern in Flanders, but numbers in the UK are currently not high enough to cause significant impacts (although that is likely to change...)



# Egyptian goose



- In the UK we are only just starting to consider how we will manage this species
- RINSE partners in Flanders have been controlling the species for a number of years, and through RINSE have been perfecting control methods
- 'Best Practice' Workshops and other outputs of RINSE have facilitated the sharing of this expertise across borders – preventing mistakes, saving money and reducing the impact of the species across the project area



# The Future



- The upcoming EU Regulation on invasive species means that there is more to be gained by collaborating with relevant organisations in other Member States than ever before
- The benefits of this more outward looking, collaborative approach are clear for all to see