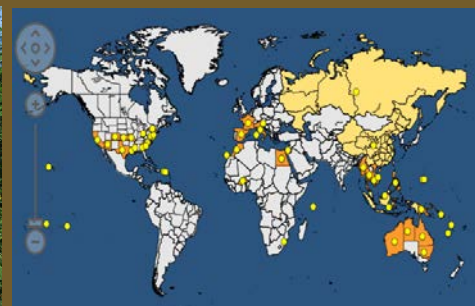


Identification protocols for analysis of aquatic plants imports (IPAAPI)



Funding

Non-competitive funding mechanism. Each funder only pays for the participation of their own national researchers. Total funding €77 000

Research consortium

NVWA (NL), CFIA (CA), ANSES (FR), APHA (GB)

Contact information

Project coordinator: Johan van Valkenburg
j.l.c.h.vanvalkenburg@nvwa.nl

Goals

Large volumes of aquatic plants representing hundreds of species are traded internationally while their proper identity is poorly documented. This represents a serious risk for the introduction of potentially invasive plants species. The aim of IPAAPI is to support the identification of potentially invasive aquatic plants. The consortium will provide an update of potentially invasive aquatic plants that are currently traded and will provide tools that assist in identification of those species.

Objectives and key results

The consortium will collect information on recent import volumes and species in trade. This information will be collected for all four participating countries. This information will be used to compare the current situation with a previously performed survey to detect new trends in trade and to put the problem in a wider context. A limited number of shipments shall be inspected (ideally in all countries) to verify the correct use of names and to look for hitchhiker plant species.

Based on the results of the first step the consortium shall identify potentially invasive species in trade using present knowledge of invasive behaviour of aquatic species and taking into account the EPPO Prioritization Process on invasive alien plants.

Based on the list of species currently in trade and those species which are already regulated user-friendly identification tools for inspections services will be developed. Tools for regulated species and their look-alikes will be developed in close consultation with the inspections services.

More detailed identification tools will be developed for *Myriophyllum* and *Hydrocotyle* species. Both genera are well known to harbour a range of invasive species, while it is notoriously difficult to identify the correct species names in trade or field situations.