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**A4.1 b Guidelines to assist project partners in field testing and evaluating the risk assessment framework.**

Project **INVALIS**

Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species

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# Summary

This deliverable presents the practical methodology to assist project partners in field testing and evaluating the risk assessment framework. This is the second sub-task of INVALIS task A1.3. Providing working examples, it aims to assist project partners to test and exchange insights on the practicalities of using the risk assessment framework proposed to evaluate and monitor the vulnerability status of natural ecosystems to invasive alien species. The analysis of the data collected will enable ICETA to understand the challenges and limitations associated with using the proposed risk assessment framework. Partners’ perceptions will be used to improve the framework.

1. **Example 1: Relevant environmental values to preserve and satisfactory IAS management**

| **Component** | **Question** | **Instructions** | **Partial scores** | **Support material** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Regarding the assessed area, please state:** |
| **Environmental** | 1. How many protected habitats (Habitats Directive, Annex I) are present in your area? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected habitats listed in Habitats Directive Annex I (click respective link in the Support Material colummn), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 5 | <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701> |
| 2. How many protected species (Habitats Directive, Annex II) does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected species listed in Habitats Directive Annex II (click respective link in the Support Material colummn), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 3 | <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701> |
| 3. How many protected bird species (Birds Directive) does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected bird species listed in Birds Directive, present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 4 | <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/threatened/index_en.htm> |
| 4. How many invasive alien species of union concern does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of invasive alien species of union concern (click respective link in the Support Material colummn), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 5 | <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/docs/R_2016_1141_Union-list-2019-consolidation.pdf> |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Socioeconomic** | 5. Please state how many of the following activities occur in your assessment area: | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed socioeconomic activities present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 3 |        |
| Tourism |
| Agriculture |
| Fishing |
| Hunting |
| Urban development |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Regarding the organization managing the assessed area, please state:** |
| **IAS Management** | 6. The design and implementation of IAS-related measures is a high priority for the organization.  | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 3 |   |
| 7. Please state in how many of the following areas of IAS management is your organization active. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed options implemented in the ecosystem under assessment   | 5  |             |
| Early detection |
| Eradication |
| Population control |
| Containment |
| Restoration of damaged ecosystems |
| Risk assessment |
| Authorizing/regulators for permits & authorizations |
| Data collection for national/regional surveillance system |
| Communication campaigns/raising awareness  |
|   |
| 8. Managing organization is involved in policy-making of IAS management in EU, national, regional as well as local level. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 3 |   |
| 9. Managing organization has strong leadership providing goals and priorities to the staff regarding IAS management. | 3 |   |
| 10. Managing organization has the ability to develop and refine a strategic plan towards IAS. | 3 |   |
| 11. Managing organization has sustainability plans for IAS projects & programmes. | 3 |   |
| 12. Managing organization has the ability to assign specific roles to different persons and departments, according to their educational background and field of expertise. | 3 |    |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
| 13. Does your organization evaluate ongoing and previous IAS activities to (state how many are applicable): | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed options present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 5 |   |
| To improve current program activities |
| To highlight successful practices |
| To fulfil current funding requirements |
| To obtain new grants or contracts |
| To inform decision-makers outside of the organization |
| To advocate for policy change |
| To monitor program progress |
| Have not used the data yet |
| My organization does not evaluate previous IAS activities |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
| 14. Managing organization employs staff who know how to develop data collection tools and collect data. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 3 |   |
| 15. Managing organization employs staff who knows how to analyze interpret evaluation findings. | 3 |
| 16. Managing organization has adequate electronic database and management reporting systems. | 3 |
| 17. Managing organization identified internal and external indicators to measure the impact of the organization’s work. | 3 |
| 18. Managing organization has adequate personnel to carry out its designated mission. | 3 |
| 19. Managing organization regularly analyses HR skill needs to support the implementation of IAS measures. | 3 |
| 20. Managing organization has a communication plan/guidelines in place, to define the overall communication strategy. | 3 |
| 21. Managing organization implements awareness-raising campaigns on IAS related issues. | 3 |
| 22. Managing organization effectively communicates with potential funders. | 3 |
| 23. Managing organization uses various communication channels, including digital and print media. | 3 |
| 24. Managing organization applies regularly for IAS funding (private/non-governmental/governmental/EU). | 3 |
| **TOTAL RISK SCORE** | 1,6 |   |
| **TOTAL RISK SCORE (ROUND)** | 2 |

In this example, despite the fact that the evaluated ecosystem possesses relevant environmental values to preserve, the satisfactory management policies implemented show that its priority for immediate action is low, and ongoing efforts should be maintained.

1. **Example 2: Relevant environmental values to preserve but unsatisfactory IAS management**

| **Component** | **Question** | **Instructions** | **Partial scores** | **Support material** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Regarding the assessed area, please state:** |
| **Environmental** | 1. How many protected habitats (Habitats Directive, Annex I) are present in your area? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected habitats listed in Habitats Directive Annex I (click respective link in the Support Material colummn), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 6 | <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701> |
| 2. How many protected species (Habitats Directive, Annex II) does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected species listed in Habitats Directive Annex II (click respective link in the Support Material colummn), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 4 | <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701> |
| 3. How many protected bird species (Birds Directive) does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected bird species listed in Birds Directive, present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 4 | <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/threatened/index_en.htm> |
| 4. How many invasive alien species of union concern does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of invasive alien species of union concern (click respective link in the Support Material column), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 5 | <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/docs/R_2016_1141_Union-list-2019-consolidation.pdf> |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Socioeconomic** | 5. Please state how many of the following activities occur in your assessment area: | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed socioeconomic activities present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 4 |   |
| Tourism |   |
| Agriculture |   |
| Fishing |   |
| Hunting |   |
| Urban development |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| **Regarding the organization managing the assessed area, please state:** |
| **IAS Management** | 6. The design and implementation of IAS-related measures is a high priority for the organization.  | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 1 |   |
| 7. Please state in how many of the following areas of IAS management is your organization active. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed options implemented in the ecosystem under assessment  | 2 |   |
| Early detection |   |
| Eradication |   |
| Population control |   |
| Containment |   |
| Restoration of damaged ecosystems |   |
| Risk assessment |   |
| Authorizing/regulators for permits & authorizations |   |
| Data collection for national/regional surveillance system |   |
| Communication campaigns/raising awareness |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |
| 8. Managing organization is involved in policy-making of IAS management in EU, national, regional as well as local level. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 2 |   |
| 9. Managing organization has strong leadership providing goals and priorities to the staff regarding IAS management. | 2 |   |
| 10. Managing organization has the ability to develop and refine a strategic plan towards IAS. | 2 |   |
| 11. Managing organization has sustainability plans for IAS projects & programs. | 2 |   |
| 12. Managing organization has the ability to assign specific roles to different persons and departments, according to their educational background and field of expertise. | 2 |   |
|   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
| 13. Does your organization evaluate ongoing and previous IAS activities to (state how many are applicable): | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed options present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 2 |   |
| To improve current program activities |
| To highlight successful practices |
| To fulfil current funding requirements |
| To obtain new grants or contracts |
| To inform decision-makers outside of the organization |
| To advocate for policy change |
| To monitor program progress |
| Have not used the data yet |
| My organization does not evaluate previous IAS activities |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
| 14. Managing organization employs staff who know how to develop data collection tools and collect data. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 2 |   |
| 15. Managing organization employs staff who knows how to analyze interpret evaluation findings. | 2 |
| 16. Managing organisation has adequate electronic database and management reporting systems. | 2 |
| 17. Managing organisation identified internal and external indicators to measure the impact of the organization’s work. | 2 |
| 18. Managing organisation has adequate personnel to carry out its designated mission. | 2 |
| 19. Managing organisation regularly analyses HR skill needs to support the implementation of IAS measures. | 2 |
| 20. Managing organisation has a communication plan/guidelines in place, to define the overall communication strategy. | 2 |
| 21. Managing organisation implements awareness-raising campaigns on IAS related issues. | 2 |
| 22. Managing organisation effectively communicates with potential funders. | 2 |
| 23. Managing organisation uses various communication channels, including digital and print media. | 2 |
| 24. Managing organisation applies regularly for IAS funding (private/non-governmental/governmental/EU). | 2 |
| **Total Risk Score** | 2,9 |   |
| **Total Risk Score (round)** | 3 |

In this example, despite the fact that the evaluated ecosystem possesses relevant environmental values to preserve, the unsatisfactory management policies implemented show that its priority for immediate action is higher.

1. **Example 3: Not many relevant environmental values to preserve and unsatisfactory IAS management**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Question** | **Instructions** | **Partial scores** | **Support material** |
| **Regarding the assessed area, please state:** |
| **Environmental** | 1. How many protected habitats (Habitats Directive, Annex I) are present in your area? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected habitats listed in Habitats Directive Annex I (click respective link in the Support Material column), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 0 | <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701> |
| 2. How many protected species (Habitats Directive, Annex II) does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected species listed in Habitats Directive Annex II (click respective link in the Support Material column), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 0 | <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701> |
| 3. How many protected bird species (Birds Directive) does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of protected bird species listed in Birds Directive, present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 0 | <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/threatened/index_en.htm> |
| 4. How many invasive alien species of union concern does your area host? | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of invasive alien species of union concern (click respective link in the Support Material column), present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 5 | <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/docs/R_2016_1141_Union-list-2019-consolidation.pdf> |
|   |
| **Socioeconomic** | 5. Please state how many of the following activities occur in your assessment area: | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed socioeconomic activities present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 4 |   |
| Tourism |   |
| Agriculture |   |
| Fishing |   |
| Hunting |   |
| Urban development |   |
|   |   |
| **Regarding the organization managing the assessed area, please state:** |
| **IAS Management** | 6. The design and implementation of IAS-related measures is a high priority for the organization.  | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 1 |   |
| 7. Please state in how many of the following areas of IAS management is your organization active. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed options implemented in the ecosystem under assessment  | 0 |   |
| Early detection |
| Eradication |
| Population control |
| Containment |
| Restoration of damaged ecosystems |
| Risk assessment |
| Authorising/regulators for permits & authorisations |
| Data collection for national/regional surveillance system |
| Communication campaigns/raising awareness |
|   |
| 8. Managing organization is involved in policy-making of IAS management in EU, national, regional as well as local level. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 1 |   |
| 9. Managing organization has strong leadership providing goals and priorities to the staff regarding IAS management. | 1 |
| 10. Managing organization has the ability to develop and refine a strategic plan towards IAS. | 1 |
| 11. Managing organization has sustainability plans for IAS projects & programmes. | 1 |
| 12. Managing organization has the ability to assign specific roles to different persons and departments, according to their educational background and field of expertise. | 1 |
|   |
|
| 13. Does your organization evaluate ongoing and previous IAS activities to (state how many are applicable): | Please, use the adjacent cell to type the number of listed options present in the ecosystem under assessment  | 1 |   |
| To improve current program activities |   |
| To highlight successful practices |   |
| To fulfil current funding requirements |   |
| To obtain new grants or contracts |   |
| To inform decision-makers outside of the organization |   |
| To advocate for policy change |   |
| To monitor program progress |   |
| Have not used the data yet |   |
| My organization does not evaluate previous IAS activities |   |
|   |
|
| 14. Managing organization employs staff who know how to develop data collection tools and collect data. | Please, use the adjacent cell to type a number from 1 to 5 that better describes your opinion of the presented statement:  (1) Strongly disagrees (2) Somewhat disagrees (3) Neutral (4) Somewhat agrees (5) Strongly agrees | 1 |   |
| 15. Managing organization employs staff who knows how to analyze interpret evaluation findings. | 1 |
| 16. Managing organization has adequate electronic database and management reporting systems. | 1 |
| 17. Managing organization identified internal and external indicators to measure the impact of the organization’s work. | 1 |
| 18. Managing organization has adequate personnel to carry out its designated mission. | 1 |
| 19. Managing organization regularly analyses HR skill needs to support the implementation of IAS measures. | 1 |
| 20. Managing organization has a communication plan/guidelines in place, to define the overall communication strategy. | 1 |
| 21. Managing organization implements awareness-raising campaigns on IAS related issues. | 1 |
| 22. Managing organization effectively communicates with potential funders. | 1 |
| 23. Managing organization uses various communication channels, including digital and print media. | 1 |
| 24. Managing organization applies regularly for IAS funding (private/non-governmental/governmental/EU). | 1 |
| **Total Risk Score** | -6,525 |  |
| **Total Risk Score (round)** | -7 |

In this example, as the evaluated ecosystem does not possess many relevant environmental values to preserve, the unsatisfactory management policies implemented are not serious, and its priority for immediate action is very low.