

## 1. Content of the 'Topic Description' document

### 1.1. Topic area

Diagnostics, field detection, surveillance.

### 1.2. Topic title

Identification protocols for analysis of aquatic plants imports.

### 1.3. Description of the problem the research should solve

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. Import and customs papers meeting the IPPC requirements are not sufficiently detailed and tools to identify the species at points of entry are inadequate.

We envisage a five-step approach

1) We intend to analyse present day imports by obtaining phytosanitary certificates of recent aquatic plants imports from all partners to compare the present day situation with a previous survey to detect new trends in trade and to put the problem in a wider context (Brunel, S. 2009. Pathway analysis: aquatic plants imported in 10 EPPO countries. Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin 39: 201–213).

2) Based on the results of the first step we shall analyse the potentially invasive species in trade using present knowledge of invasive behaviour of aquatic species using published sources and on line databases, while taking into account the EPPO Prioritization Process on invasive alien plants.

3) A limited number of shipments shall be inspected (in all countries) to look for hitchhiker plant species.

4) Identification tools to identify any of the (inter-)nationally regulated aquatic plants and their look-alikes shall be developed.

5) The genera *Myriophyllum* and *Hydrocotyle* are both widely traded and represent several invasive species, while posing serious problems of identification. We shall develop user friendly identification tools to assist both identification of commercial shipments as well as early detection of these species in field situations.

Step 4 and 5 shall be developed in close consultation with the inspection services and test versions shall be further developed in consultation with the inspectors/surveyors.

### 1.4. Description of the expected results

1) An analysis of recent trends in aquatic plant trade and accuracy of names of plants in trade

2) A report and priority list on potentially invasive aquatic plant species in international trade

3) Identification tools for *Myriophyllum* and *Hydrocotyle* species in trade and in the field

4) A set of identification tools for regulated aquatic plants and their look-alikes.

### 1.5. Beneficiaries of this research product

- Inspection services of all participating countries and possibly the wider Euphresco community
- Companies trading aquatic plants
- Scientists, surveyors with a keen interest in (invasive) aquatic plants

### 1.6. Euphresco members with proposal for content contribution/ distribution

Member	Proposed research component
1. Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, the Netherlands  Martijn Schenk <a href="mailto:M.Schenk1@nvwa.nl">M.Schenk1@nvwa.nl</a>	-The organisation will participate in the activities 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (see section 1.3)  Contact person: Johan van Valkenburg <a href="mailto:j.l.c.h.vanvalkenburg@nvwa.nl">j.l.c.h.vanvalkenburg@nvwa.nl</a>
2. Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canada  Cheryl Dollard <a href="mailto:Cheryl.Dollard@inspection.gc.ca">Cheryl.Dollard@inspection.gc.ca</a>	-The organisation will participate in the activities 1, 2, (3), 4, 5 (see section 1.3)  Contact person: Andrea Sissons <a href="mailto:Andrea.Sissons@inspection.gc.ca">Andrea.Sissons@inspection.gc.ca</a>
3. Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail, France  Geraldine Anthoine <a href="mailto:geraldine.anthoine@anses.fr">geraldine.anthoine@anses.fr</a>	-The organisation will participate in the activities 1, 2, (3), 4, 5 (see section 1.3)  Contact person: Guillaume Fried <a href="mailto:guillaume.fried@anses.fr">guillaume.fried@anses.fr</a>
4. UK Animal and Plant Health Agency, Great Britain  Mike Sutton-Croft <a href="mailto:Mike.Sutton-Croft@apha.gsi.gov.uk">Mike.Sutton-Croft@apha.gsi.gov.uk</a>	-Contribution to be detailed  Contact person: Mike Sutton-Croft <a href="mailto:Mike.Sutton-Croft@apha.gsi.gov.uk">Mike.Sutton-Croft@apha.gsi.gov.uk</a>

### 1.7. Research project partnership outside Euphresco

Euphresco funding ensures a certain level of transnational collaboration among Euphresco member countries. It is possible, if the funding consortium is interested, to contact funding organisations or research groups outside the geographical area covered by Euphresco members. The Euphresco coordinator could advertise the research topic in order to have an enlarged collaboration. If funders are interested in this possibility, please check the case below:

☐ The funding consortium of the topic mentioned in section 1.2 requires to advertise the topic outside the Euphresco network

Information to sharpen the profile of sought partners could be useful (but not mandatory): country/region (if there are preferences), skills/expertise required, etc.

### 1.8. Any other relevant information on content

As all results will be achieved by use of public funds, the results will be made publicly available. An example of user friendly tools and for general reference on (potentially) invasive aquatic plants please have a look at

<http://www.q-bank.eu/Plants/>

And more specifically for aquatic plants identification [http://www.q-bank.eu/Plants/DefaultInfo.aspx?Page=opening\\_aquatic\\_plants](http://www.q-bank.eu/Plants/DefaultInfo.aspx?Page=opening_aquatic_plants)

For comparative tables that may serve as a starting point: <http://www.q-bank.eu/Plants/lookalikes/Myriophyllum/Myriophyllum.HTML>

For general information sheets:

[http://www.q-bank.eu/Plants/Factsheets/Myriophyllum\\_aquaticum\\_FR.pdf](http://www.q-bank.eu/Plants/Factsheets/Myriophyllum_aquaticum_FR.pdf)

[http://www.q-bank.eu/Plants/Factsheets/Hydrocotyle\\_ranunculoides\\_EN.pdf](http://www.q-bank.eu/Plants/Factsheets/Hydrocotyle_ranunculoides_EN.pdf)

## 2. *Euphresco management aspects of the project*

### 2.1. Indication of the topic budget

Member <sup>a</sup>	Mechanism <sup>b</sup>	Total Budget <sup>c</sup>
1. NVWA (NL)	NC	€ 55 000
2. CFIA (CA)	NC	€ 4 000
3. ANSES (FR)	NC	€ 12 200
4. APHA (GB)	NC	€ 5 166
total		€ 76 366

### 2.2. Expected duration of the project (only for non-competitive topics)

24 months.

### 2.3. Any other relevant information on topic organisation and management

Analysis of imports (point 1) could be possible in France, with the help of Astredhor (technical institute for horticulture) to have also an overview of aquatic species that are sold in nurseries and garden centers (an ongoing project of Astredhor).

<sup>a</sup> First member is project coordinator. A minimum of two partners are necessary for each proposal. Add lines as needed.

<sup>b</sup> Please indicate the preferred mechanism (e.g. real pot RP; virtual pot VP; non-competitive NC), or several mechanisms if there is flexibility.

<sup>c</sup> Optional, as this amount can still change in the next phase. In-kind contribution should also be indicated in this column.