

PHOTO CONTEST LIFE RIPARIAS SILENT SPREADERS

CONTEST RULES



The RIPARIAS project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union



Reaching Integrated and Prompt Action
in Response to Invasive Alien Species

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever heard the three letters **IAS**? They stand for **Invasive Alien Species**. But what are those species?

IAS are species that are accidentally or intentionally introduced outside their natural range, and which may cause many issues due to their rapid spread. In Europe, they pose a growing threat to ecosystems and biodiversity. Their presence can also have socio-economic consequences and even impact human health. **LIFE RIPARIAS** is a Belgian initiative that unites the country's three regions around a common goal: improving the management of IAS along riverbanks and in ponds to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

Despite being one of the five major drivers of biodiversity loss worldwide, IAS are still not well known to the general public. That is why capturing and documenting them through powerful photography is essential to raising awareness and tackling this issue.

To contribute to this effort, **LIFE RIPARIAS is organising a photography contest**, open to all photographers. Amateur photographers are especially encouraged to participate!

PHOTO CONTEST RULES

THEMES AND SCOPE

For this photo contest, the focus is on **invasive alien plant species** found in Belgium.

Participants can explore the following categories and themes, though submissions are not limited to these:

- **Impacts of Invasive Alien Plant Species:**

Illustrate the presence and spread of these species in the natural environments. Show how these plants disrupt their new habitats and contribute to biodiversity loss. Use your images to raise awareness about their role in ecosystem/species extinction/decline and inspire action to protect native ecosystems.

- **Human Interaction with invasive alien plant species**

Illustrate how invasive alien plant species can disrupt human activities—blocking waterways, hindering recreation, and affecting businesses, infrastructure, and daily life.

- **Unveiling the Hidden Impacts and side of Invasive Alien Plant Species**

Go beyond the surface and expose the hidden side of invasive aquatic plants. Infestations can remain unseen from above—dive deeper to reveal their true extent beneath the water. Capture how these species silently disrupt underwater ecosystems, threaten biodiversity, and alter aquatic environments in ways that often go unnoticed.

CALENDAR

Contest starting date: 15th of May 2025

Contest deadline: 1st of September 2025

Contest results release to Awarded participants: 15th of September 2025

Exhibition date: November 2025

CAUTION

Participants must ensure that their actions have in no way contributed to the spread of invasive alien species. They must fully comply with the European Regulation on invasive species¹, which prohibits the transport, release, possession, and related activities involving these species. By submitting their entry, participants confirm that they have respected all applicable regulations.

Participants certify that their actions have in no way harmed the preservation of species or the protection of habitats, in accordance with applicable regulations.

ENTRY FEES

Participation is entirely free

PARTICIPATION AND PHOTOS SUBMISSION:

Photos must be submitted by email to riparias@uliege.be no later than September 1st. Submission automatically registers participants for the LIFE RIPARIAS Photo Contest and signifies their acceptance of all contest rules and conditions, including those related to copyright and usage rights (below).

Photos must be in JPG file format, sRGB or Adobe RGB color profile.

1. **For submission:** The file size should not exceed 2MB per image if possible. Photo dimensions must not exceed 2400 pixels on the longest side, with a maximum resolution of 300 dpi. The aspect ratio should be 3:2 or 2:3.
2. **For exhibition selection:** for the photos selected for the exhibition, a high-resolution version must be resubmitted in JPEG HD format with its original dimensions. ULIEGE will handle printing, and the final file must be suitable for A2 (or equivalent) or A1 (or equivalent) printing.

Works entirely created by computer, AI, photomontages, photos with signatures or watermarks are not allowed.

Each participant may submit **up to 10 photos**.

Minors: a signed permission from a parent is required. Please send it to riparias@uliege.be.

EMAIL SUBJECT AND FILE NAME

When submitting your photo by email:

- **Email Subject:** Photo Submission LIFE RIPARIAS photo contest 2025
- **Photo File Name:** Contest RIPARIASPHOTO_Last Name_First Name_Photo number

COPYRIGHT AND USAGE RIGHTS

1. **Ownership of Photos:**

By submitting an entry, participants confirm that they are the copyright holders of the photos and have the full rights to submit them to the contest. Photographers grant the following license to the LIFE RIPARIAS project.

2. **License:**

¹ EU Regulation: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/invasive-alien-species_en

By entering the contest, participants grant the LIFE RIPARIAS project and its partnersⁱ a free, non-exclusive, royalty-free, and perpetual license to use the submitted images for communication and awareness purposes related to the LIFE RIPARIAS project and its partners' objectives. These images may be used across various printed and digital communication materials.

Permitted uses include, but are not limited to:

- The LIFE RIPARIAS and partners' website and social media channels.
- The communication channels of the project's 10 partner organizations.
- Educational and awareness materials such as PowerPoint presentations, brochures, identification guides, roll-ups, information panels, and other non-commercial tools.

The participant grants permission for the images to be resized if necessary, while ensuring that no other modifications or alterations will be made.

Photographs submitted to the contest will not be used for commercial purposes.

No photographs submitted to the LIFE RIPARIAS photo contest will ever be sold or offered for sale.

3. **Attribution:**

Whenever a photo is used, the photographer will be credited, by including their name in the publication, online post, etc.

4. **Third-Party Rights:**

Participants must ensure that the photos do not infringe on any third-party rights, including individuals, private property, or other copyright-protected material. It is the responsibility of the participant to obtain any necessary permissions before submitting the photo.

5. **Revocation of License:**

The granted license cannot be revoked after submission, even if the participant withdraws from the contest.

6. **Commercial Use Beyond Stated Purposes:**

If the photo is to be used for any commercial purposes beyond the scope outlined above, the photographer will be contacted to discuss additional terms.

REJECTION

An entry may be rejected by the organizers if it does not comply with the contest rules and conditions. Additionally, photos that do not meet the required dimensions will also be disqualified.

Members of the jury panel cannot participate in the LIFE RIPARIAS photo contest.

JURY PANEL RULES

Entries will be evaluated by a jury panel consisting of members from the LIFE RIPARIAS partners and ULIEGE. The jury includes both naturalist photographers and scientific advisors.

Images will be judged anonymously, ensuring that the judges have no knowledge of the participants' names or personal details. The jury will evaluate each image based on the following criteria: **visual impact, composition,**

originality, creativity, adherence to the contest theme, accuracy in relation to the LIFE RIPARIAS project's objectives, and the ability to convey a message, emotion, or feeling.

SELECTION AND PRIZES

The top 4 photos selected by the jury will be awarded prizes.

Each of the 4 contest winners will receive a gift voucher worth 250 euros at [Boutique Nature](#).

Additionally, the top 25 photos will be selected to be featured in the photo contest exhibition, which will take place in November.

The first 20 participants to register for the photo contest will receive a LIFE RIPARIAS T-shirt.

Prizes may be collected in person at the University of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, 27 Avenue du Maréchal Juin, at a time that is convenient for the participants, provided they are available, or alternatively, during the exhibition day.

EXHIBITION AND OPENING RECEPTION

The top 25 photos selected for the exhibition will be printed by ULIEGE in A2 (or equivalent) or A1 (or equivalent) format. To ensure high-quality printing, photographers selected will have to resubmit their images in high-resolution JPEG HD format with their original dimensions.

The selected photographers will be personally contacted via email around mid-September to provide the required file format.

The photos will be printed on a self-supporting alu-dibond panel.

Each of the 25 selected photos will be printed twice by LIFE RIPARIAS. One copy will be displayed during the exhibition, after which photographers can take their prints home. The second copy will then be showcased at the Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech site for an additional week following the exhibition.

The opening reception will take place in November 2025, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, at the University of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Avenue de la Faculté d'Agronomie, 5030 Gembloux.

The exact date and detailed information will be communicated later to all contest participants and published on the [riparias.be](#) website.

The photos will then remain on display for one week in the buildings of the University of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech.

PRIVACY LEGAL INFORMATION

By completing the entry form, participants consent to the use of their personal data by LIFE RIPARIAS for contest-related purposes or legal requirements. LIFE RIPARIAS may use this data to share contest results and contact authors when necessary, such as for approval in case of reprinting or specific use of the photo.

LIFE RIPARIAS

For more information on LIFE RIPARIAS, please visit the **project's website**: <https://www.riparias.be/>

You can also **follow us on Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070536190780>

You can **contact us** at: riparias@uliege.be

REGULATIONS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

For details on **applicable regulations**, please visit the following websites:

- **Wallonia:** <https://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/legislation.html?IDC=6002>
- **Flanders :** <https://natuurenbos.vlaanderen.be/schade-en-overlast/schade-overlast-door-invasieve-exoten>
- **Brussels:** <https://environnement.brussels/citoyen/reglementation/textes-de-loi/la-reglementation-europeenne-et-bruxelloise-pour-lutter-contre-les-especes-exotiques-envahissantes>
- **EU Regulation:** https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/invasive-alien-species_en

ⁱ Brussels Environment, Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos, Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij, Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek, Contrat de Rivière Senne, Contrat Rivière Dendre asbl, Contrat de rivière Dyle-Gette asbl, Service Public de Wallonie- Agriculture, Ressources naturelles et Environnement (SPW), Liège University - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech and Belgian Science Policy Office - Belgian Biodiversity Platform.