

12/11/2024

Workshop 2: Coordinating Action on Invasives: Working better together to manage invasive species at a catchment level.

Chair and rapporteur: Kate Moore

As part of the Forum, a workshop was held to recharge the conversation on invasive species action within catchments. Participants were given three prompts to discuss and engage with, the first as individuals, and latter two as sub groups where a rapporteur was nominated to feedback the key points to the main group. The prompts and key discussion points are summarised below.

1: What action on invasives is currently happening on catchments that you are aware of?

Participants were asked to write examples of actions on post-it notes and place them under the most relevant heading; monitoring, management, policy/plans, outreach and education, and coordinating local action.

- Lots of **management** and **monitoring** of invasives species on catchments taking place across the island by state bodies and local groups.
- There were few **plans or policies** associated with catchments identified by participants.
- Regarding **outreach and education**, biosecurity awareness campaigns, ID workshops and publications were named by participants.

2: What are the priorities for coordinating catchment-level action?

- **Data** – needs to be robust, valid, up-to date, available and accessible. The need to share data was highlighted several times throughout the workshop.
- Need more **skilled personnel** in agencies and local authorities – ecologists, invasives species officers and enforcement officers.
- Clarity is needed on who is **responsible** for managing invasive species
- Improved **communication and connectivity** between all groups, organisations, agencies and government is needed.

3: If we are sitting in this room in five years' time, what changes would you like to have seen?

- There will be an integrated all Ireland action plan led by government with realistic timelines and progress will be tracked.

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- There will be a centralised hub for data and actions – agencies will have to upload data.
- Data will be accessible to the public and community groups.
- There will be communication and connectivity between organisations and government departments.
- There will be more coordination on a catchment basis.
- There will be clear guidance for landowners on their responsibility with regard to invasive species.
- Invasive species will be integrated into Agri schemes.
- There will be more funding available for managing invasive species.
- There will be invasive species officer(s) in every local authority.
- Ecologists will be available to agencies to survey for invasives.
- There will be cross border action on rapid response.

Thank you to the funders of the Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Forum

