

Environmental Action Plan (EAP) for Managing Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

Project: Living Seawalls

1. Objective

To minimise and manage the risk of spread and establishment of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) during and after the installation of living seawalls, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and guidelines, including the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

2. Scope

This plan applies to all activities related to the living seawalls project within a 7-meter radius of any identified INNS. It outlines actions for monitoring, controlling, and mitigating the potential spread of INNS.

3. Responsibilities

- **Project Manager:** Ensure all personnel are aware of and comply with the EAP requirements.
- **Site Supervisor:** During Construction ensure that there are daily inspections and ensure that INNS control measures are in place.
- **Staff and Monitoring groups:** Adhere to the EAP protocols and report any sightings of INNS.

4. Identification and Monitoring

- **Baseline Survey:** Conduct a baseline survey to identify existing INNS within 7 meters of the project site for all sites.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** Establish a routine monitoring schedule with monitoring groups to detect new occurrences of INNS.
- **Documentation:** Maintain detailed records of all monitoring activities, including dates, species identified, locations, and any actions taken.

5. Mitigation Measures

- **Avoidance:** No construction or maintenance work should be undertaken within 7 meters of any identified INNS where possible.
- **Containment:** Use physical barriers, such as silt curtains or fencing, to prevent the spread of INNS during any necessary works within the 7-meter zone.
- **Cleaning Protocols:** All equipment and materials must be cleaned and disinfected before and after use on-site to prevent the transfer of INNS.

6. Management Procedures

- **Eradication:** If INNS are identified within the 7-meter zone and work cannot be avoided, follow eradication procedures. This may involve physical removal, chemical treatment, or other approved methods.
- **Disposal:** All removed INNS materials must be disposed of in accordance with local regulations to prevent further spread.

7. Training and Awareness

- **Staff Training:** Ensure staff involved in the project are trained on INNS identification, monitoring protocols, and response actions.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Engage with local stakeholders and community members to raise awareness about the risks of INNS and promote best practices.

8. Reporting and Review

- **Incident Reporting:** Any sightings or incidents related to INNS must be reported immediately to a staff member.
- **Annual Review:** The EAP will be reviewed annually or following any significant incident to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with regulations.

9. Emergency Response Plan

- **Trigger Actions:** If a significant INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species) infestation is detected. Mitigation measures must be promptly implemented, including containment, removal, or management of the INNS. The project team should assess the infestation's severity and adapt operations to minimize environmental impact while maintaining progress. Continuous monitoring should be conducted to ensure that the presence of INNS does not escalate or spread beyond manageable levels.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Provide a list of contacts for local environmental agencies.

10. Compliance and Legal Requirements

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensure all actions comply with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and any other applicable laws or regulations.