

LIFE + Environment Policy & Governance

ANNEX A.3.2

Deliverable A.3: Report of the public impacts and costs caused by the 'IMS problem'

December 2014

Deadline of deliverables: 31/12/2014

LIFE CONOPS (LIFE12 ENV / GR / 000466)

Development & demonstration of management plans against - the climate change enhanced - Invasive Mosquitoes in S. Europe



The LIFE CONOPS project "Development & demonstration of management plans against - the climate change enhanced - invasive mosquitoes in S. Europe" (LIFE12 ENV/GR/000466) is co-funded by the EU Environmental Funding Programme LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance.

Implementation period: 1.7.2013 until 31.12.2017

Project budget: 2,989,314 €

EU financial contribution: 1,480,656 €

LIFE CONOPS' Participating Beneficiaries:

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SUMMARY

BACKGROUND: The 'Invasive Mosquito Species problem' generates variable socioeconomic impacts. The "IMS problem" can affect the economy and society in various
ways, through their impact on human and animal health and various services. These
impacts generate certain economic costs related to prevention measures, control
strategies, public health measures, health treatments, productivity losses, information
and awareness campaigns etc. The objective of the present report is to evaluate the
socio-economic cost imposed by the IMS problem in selected areas of Greece and Italy
and to identify the crucial parameters of the economic burden associated with the
problem of Invasive Mosquito species. It should be noted that beyond the initial
planning of the present report an additional separate cost of illness approach was
conducted for the estimation of medical costs and productivity losses and for the
calculation of averted health impacts in relation to two other mosquito related diseases
(West Nile Virus, Malaria). The averted mosquito nuisance costs to households were
estimated on the basis of a contingent valuation study.

RESULTS: The total estimated cost of mosquito control programmes in Greece in the years 2011, 2012, and 2013 reaches 21.2 million €. The average annual cost for mosquito control and management programmes is estimated to be approximately 8 million €. The total expenditure for the implementation of the Regional Plan for Mosquito Control in the Region of Emilia Romagna varied between 7.6 million € in 2008 and 3.2 million € in 2013. The Regional contribution to this expenditure fell from about 2 million € in 2008 to approximately 1 million € in 2013. Based on these findings, as well as the figures of the Cost of Illness and averted mosquito nuisance costs, a Cost Benefit Analysis and a Cost Effectiveness Analysis were employed in order to evaluate the economic efficiency of these strategies in Greece for the years 2010-2013. Results indicate that nuisance costs capture the biggest percentage among all cost categories. A clear net socioeconomic benefit emerges when nuisance costs are included within the CBA and CEA tests, as nuisance costs appear four times higher than the average prevention costs, indicating a margin for increased benefit from implementation of enhanced mosquito control programmes.

CONCLUSION: The evaluation of the socioeconomic costs of the IMS problem consists of a highly challenging task. This report actually sets the basis for the categorization of the various socioeconomic implications of the IMS problem and the costs that they induce in the public and private level. Lastly, it should be mentioned that the difficulty of separation of costs incurred by invasive and other mosquito species requires the implementation of more specialized methodological tools. A magnitude of these costs is expected to be estimated in Action C.3, with the "elicitation" of the benefit levels that certain management plans may have on households, through the careful design of specialized questionnaires (based on the stated preferences method).