

PROGRAM FOR THE FINAL CONFERENCE

LIFE DUNIAS PROJECT

27-28-29 may 2026
Location: Koksijde – Flanders – Belgium



Day	Program	Speaker	Organisation	Time
Wednesday 27th of May	Registration and welcome with coffee			8u30-9u25
	Welcome to the Municipality of Koksijde	Sander Loones	Major of Koksijde	9u30
	Welcome to the LIFE DUNIAS conference	Gert Vanhoydonck Reinhardt Strubbe, Maarten Lycke, Maxime Christiaen, Sander Carael	Policy advisor at the Cabinet of the Flemish Minister for Environment and Agriculture	9u35
	LIFE DUNIAS: project achievements and lessons learned		Project team LIFE DUNIAS	9u40
	Tackling IAS in the municipality of Koksijde: a LIFE DUNIAS partnership story	Ritchie Gobin	Municipality of Koksijde (BE)	10u10
	Measuring the impact of IAS control on pollinators in coastal dunes	Maarten Wielandts	Natuurpunt Studie (BE)	10u20
	Life RIPARIAS: from data to management	Muriel Thiron	Bruxelles Environnement (BE)	10u40
	Break			11u-11u30
	Restoring insular habitats in Natura 2000: confronting invasive alien species and senescent trees in the Galician Atlantic Islands	Javier Ferreiro	University of Santiago (ES)	11u30
	Tackling invasive ornamentals in coastal ecosystems: experiences from LIFE medCLIFFS	Sonia Garcia and Maria Guirado	Botanical Institute of Barcelona; Girona province (ES)	11u50
	The ecosystem resilience approach (ERA) of widespread invasive tree species (WITS)	Bart Nyssen	University of Leuven (BE)	12u10
	Lunch + networking			12u30
	Practical workshop moderated by INBO	Bram Dhondt/Tim Adriaens	Research Institute for Nature and Forest (BE)	13u30
	Tackling Invasive Alien Species in Danish dunes: practical experiences, reflections from LIFE projects and future plans	Maria Vera Ulrich Michelsen	The Danish Nature Agency (DK) Retired dune manager and retired University lecturer (UK)	14u30
	Dunes of the British Isles: concerns and questions regarding invasive plant species	John Houston and Phill Smith		14u50
	Estron Twyni Cymru	Graham Williams	Natural Resources Wales	15u10
	Break			15u30
	How to deal with invasive non-native plant species in dry coastal dunes in North Holland, the Netherlands	Dick Groenendijk	PWN - Water supply company in North Holland	15u50
	Unwanted guests: Removing Invasive Alien Species in a flooded nature and recreation paradise	Martijn van Schaik & Koen Mathot	PWN - Water supply company in North Holland Waternet (NL) & Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Authority (DE)	16u10
	Dune networks and the view of two dune dinosaurs	Luc Geelen & Maike Isermann		16u30
	Introduction to the excursion	Reinhardt Strubbe	Agency for Nature and Forest (BE)	16u50
	Reception offered by the municipality of Koksijde			17u-18u
	Free time, own transport to the restaurant			18u-19u
Dinner offered by LIFE DUNIAS			19u-20u30	
Thursday 28th of May	LIFE DUNIAS excursion in Plaatsduinen and Witte burg: IAS management	Reinhardt Strubbe, Miguel Demeulemeester, Guy Vileyn, Maarten Lycke, Sander Carael, Jean-Louis Herrier, Sam Provoost, Ritchie Gobin	ANB, Natuurpunt, INBO, Municipality of Koksijde	9u30
	Lunch at witte burg			12u
	Excursion in Ter yde: dune habitats, species, issues and management			13u-16u30
	Dinner offered by LIFE DUNIAS			19u

Friday 29th of May

Registration and welcome with coffee			8u30
Nipped in the bud: biodiversity and natural processes on sandy beaches and foredunes.	Jean-Louis Herrier	Agency for Nature and Forest (BE)	9u
The willow <i>Salix acutifolia</i> as an undesirable component of coastal dune habitats – a challenging problem on the southern Baltic coast.	Magdalena Lazarus	University of Gdańsk (PL)	9u30
The status of coastal dune habitats in Lithuania and prospects for their management under the “LIFE for Dunes PL” project.	Zigmantas Gudžinskas	Nature Research Centre (LT)	9u50
25 years of restoration in Belgian coastal dunes: can we master the natural processes?	Sam Provoost	Research Institute for Nature and Forest (BE)	10u10
Break			10u30
Invasive plants in coastal dunes: associations with urbanization and impact on dune dynamics	Dries Bonte	University of Ghent (BE)	11u
All these brilliant initiatives in Denmark... Now, where's the glue?	Jeppe Pilgaard	Thy national park (DK)	11u20
LIFE terrAmare: communities for the integrated management of coastal habitats in Italy and Greece	Ilaria De Vita	D.R.E.Am. Italia	11u40
What's up next: After LIFE DUNIAS and closing remarks	Reinhardt Strubbe	LIFE DUNIAS project coordinator	12u
Lunch offered by LIFE DUNIAS			12u20
End of the conference			13u30