



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
COURT OF AUDIT

# AUDIT REPORT

## Efficiency of protection against invasive alien species

**Performance audit**

Audited period: 1 January 2016 to 1 June 2018

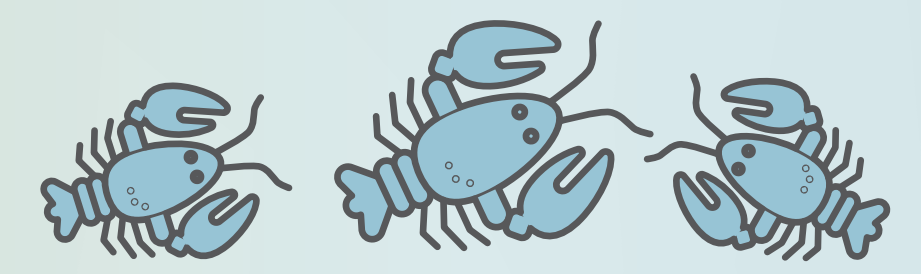


# Biodiversity is threatened by **invasive alien species**.



**16** **invasive alien species** included in the European list were detected to date **on the territory of Slovenia**

**People are responsible for introducing species**



Coypu, Muskrat, Raccoon, Raccoon dog, Stone moroko, Signal crayfish, Red swamp crayfish, Spinycheek crayfish, Pond slider, American bullfrog, Indian balsam, Common milkweed, Kudzu vine, Giant hogweed, Nuttall's waterweed, Egyptian goose

**Biodiversity of Slovenia is the 2nd highest within Europe.**

- EXTINCTION OF LOCAL SPECIES
- EFFECTS ON HEALTH
- DAMAGE TO INFRASTRUCTURE
- DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURE
- VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES
- DAMAGE TO FORESTRY
- DAMAGE TO FISHERY

**Responsible for the protection** against invasive alien species are mainly **Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning** and **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.**

# How is the system for invasive alien species protection designed?

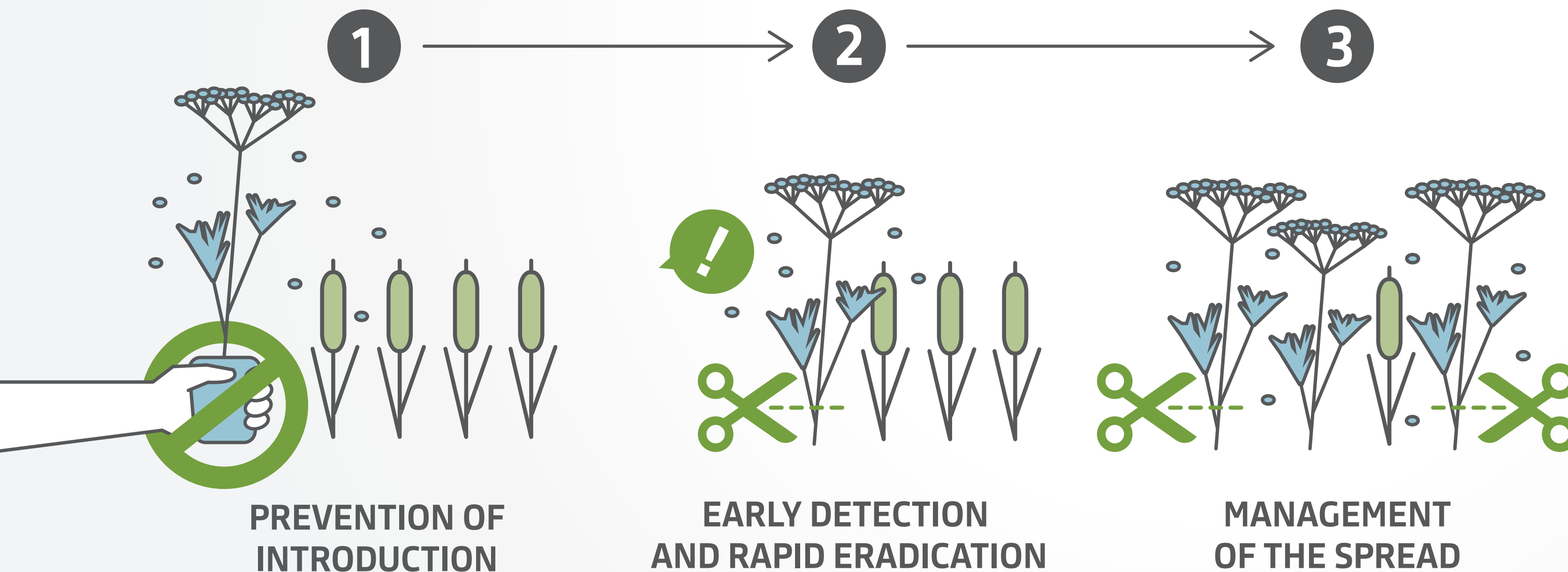


In 2015, the regulation at the EU level entered into force, laying down measures for preventing introduction of certain invasive alien species and measures for limiting the spread of those invasive alien species already present in nature.



## EUROPEAN LIST

49 invasive alien species



In 2019, Slovenia still has no powers and responsibilities defined for the implementation of the system.





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# Prevention of introduction

- Despite the absence of legal bases, **pathways of introduction and spread** of invasive alien species are **partially defined**.
- ⊖ The **risk** exists that the **action plan** addressing priority pathways will **not be timely adopted**.
- **Penalties** are only **partially defined**.



Prevention of introduction is for the state and nature **the cheapest and most efficient solution.**



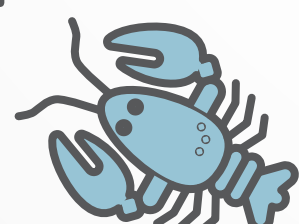
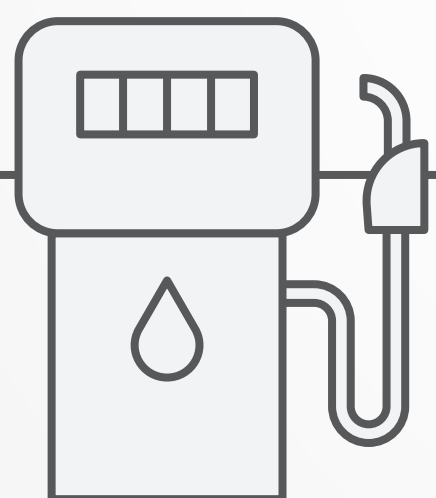
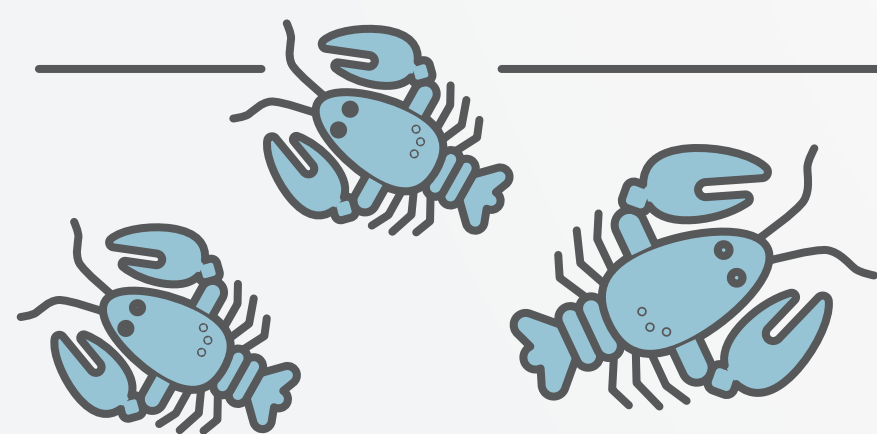


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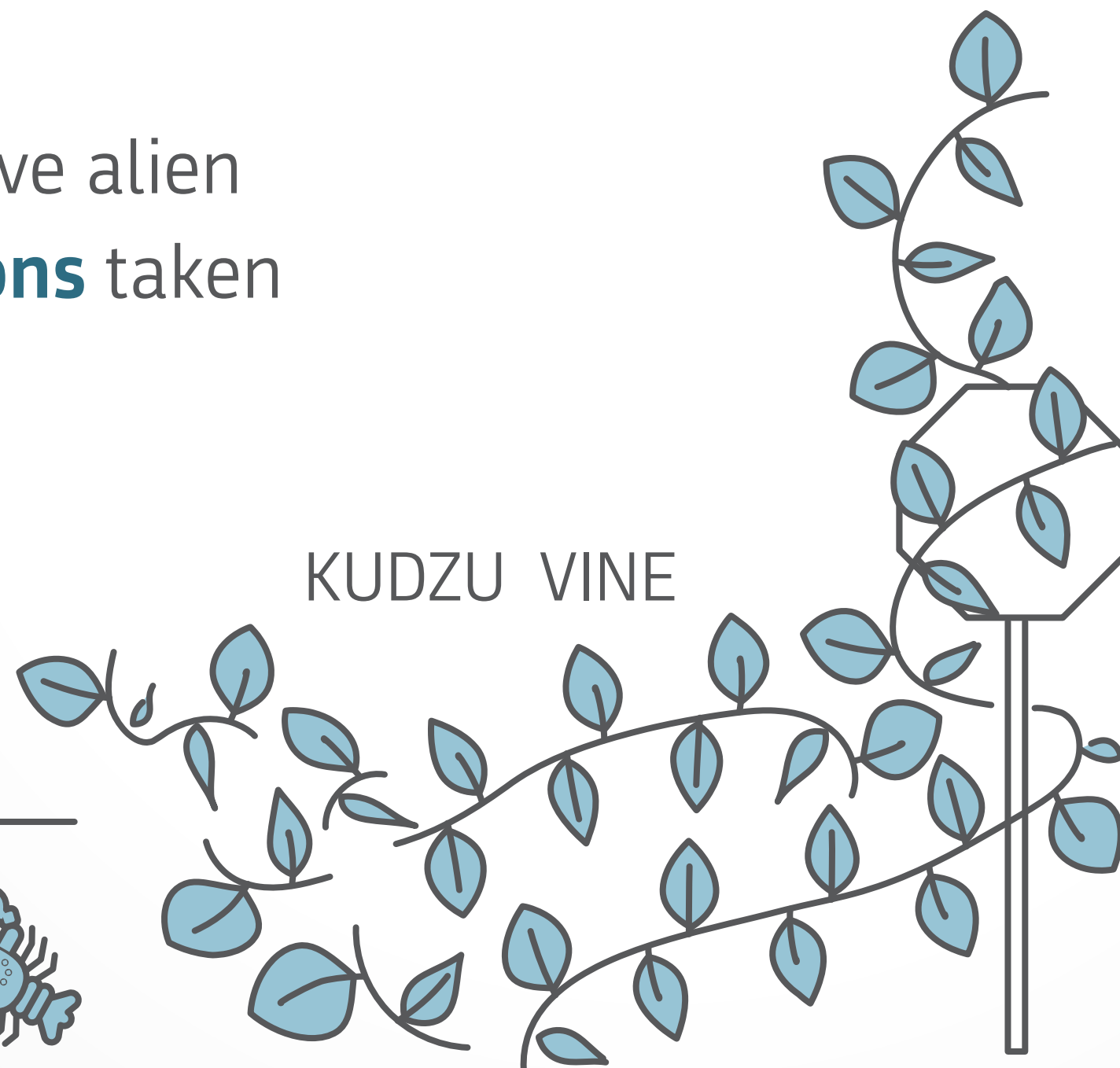
## Early detection and rapid eradication

- During the audit, **2 new** invasive alien species **were detected** – **actions** taken **could be more efficient.**

RED SWAMP CRAYFISH



KUDZU VINE



- Data** on invasive alien species **are gathered** but are **scattered.**
- Despite the absence of legal bases,** rapid **eradication is carried out.**
- The existing system** is still not unified and **only partially efficient.**

### PENDING ISSUES

Coordination from the central point of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning?

Rapid implementation of public procurement? Immediate action 24/7?

Who should bear the costs of removal? Who is responsible for removal?

### 3 Management of the spread

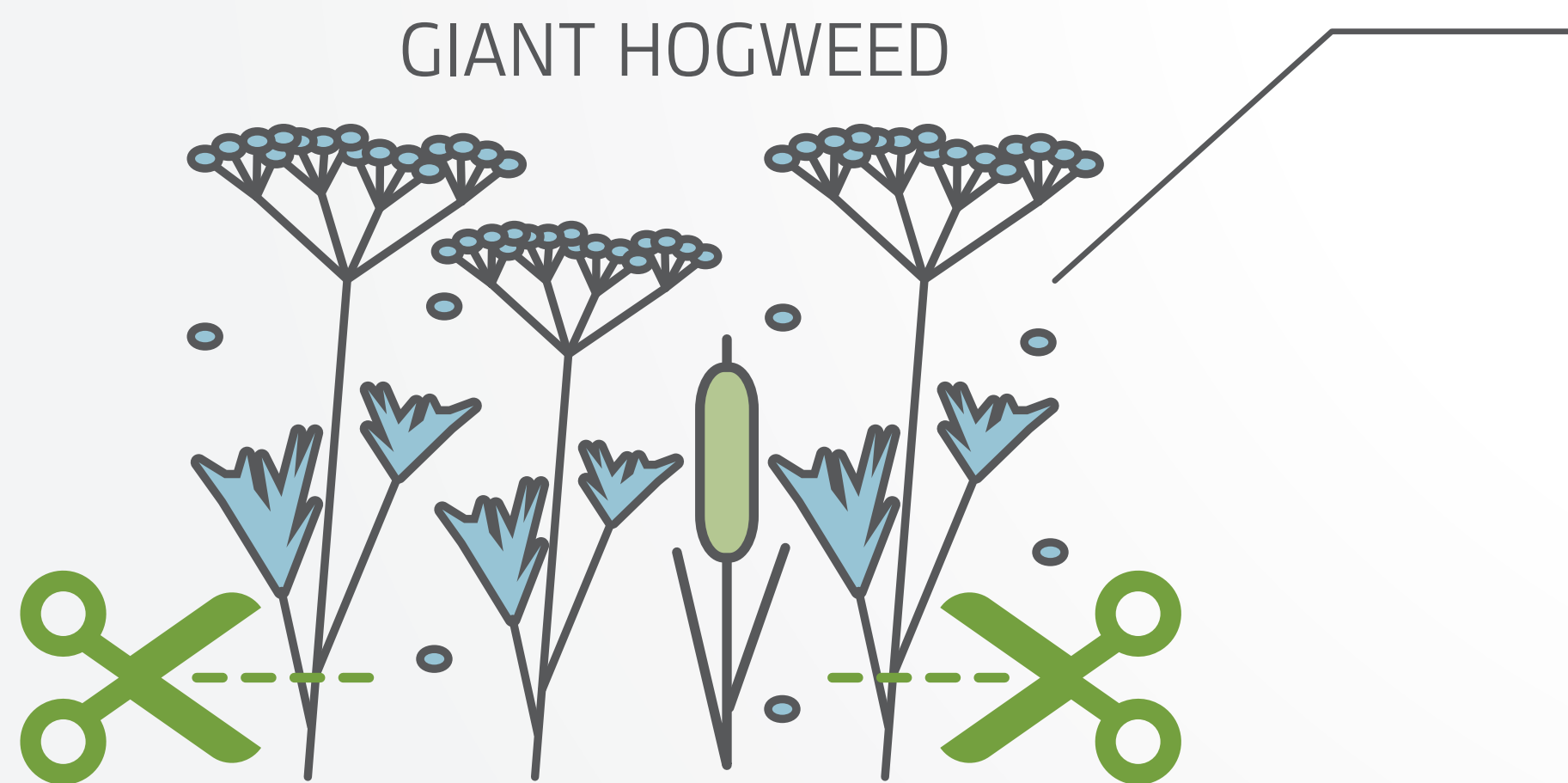
- Management measures are being **implemented** (protected areas, wildlife and fish management, and different projects etc.) but **unsystematically** and are only partially efficient.



To manage the spread, **active participation** of all stakeholders is key.

**Example of managing only one species in 2011–2018:**

**€ 17,500**  
**estimated cost of managing the spread** of giant hogweed in Slovenia

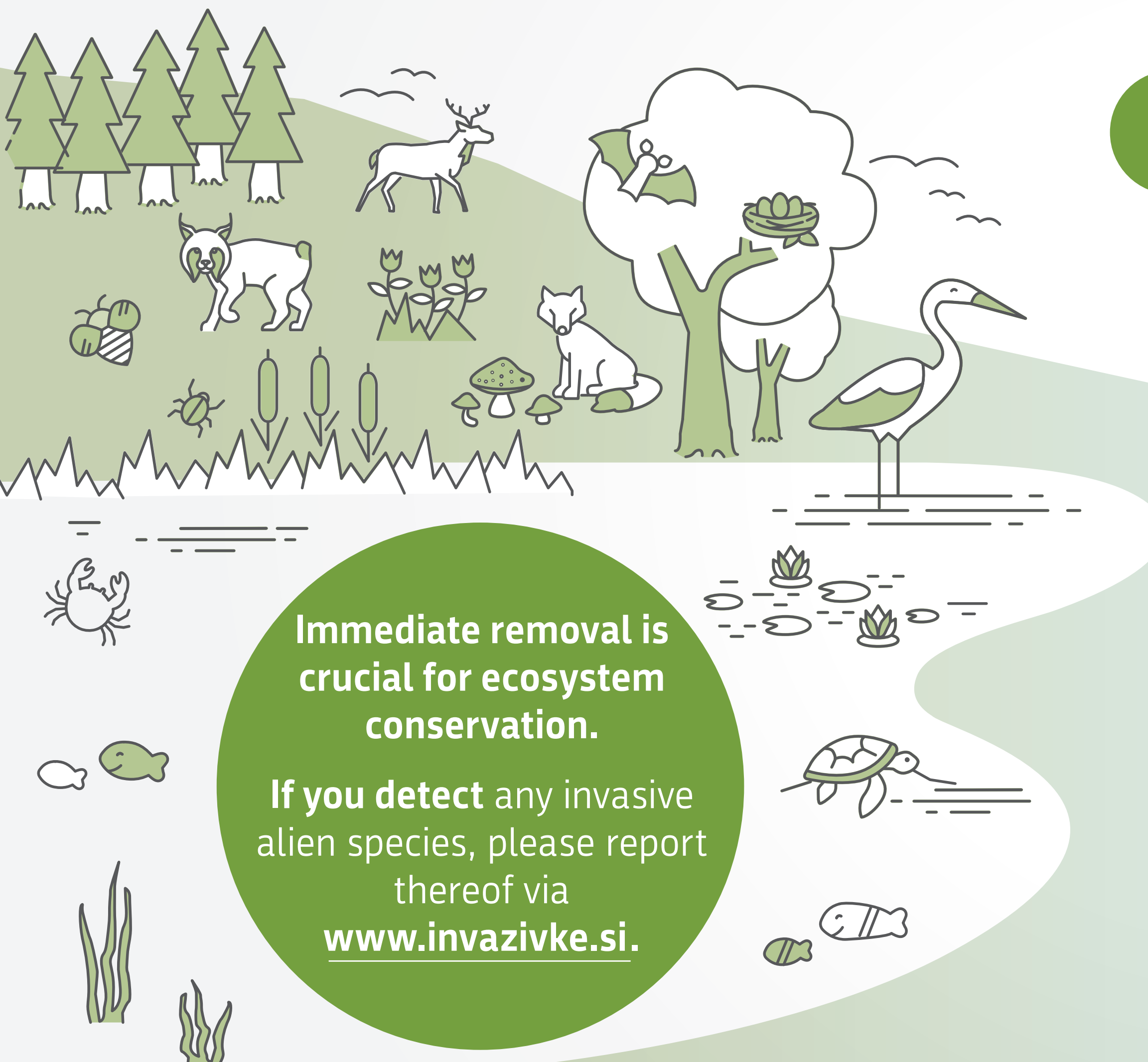


**€ 400,000**  
**estimated cost** solely of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and managers of protected areas in the last 3 years.

**€ 1.85 million**

**estimated cost of managing the spread** of giant hogweed in **Hessen** (Germany), where rapid growth has been detected; land area of Hessen is comparable to Slovenia

# OPINION OF THE COURT OF AUDIT



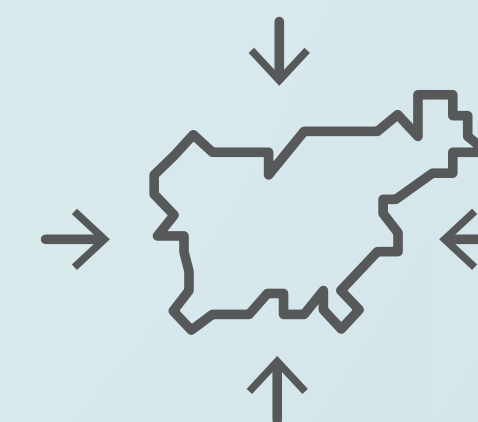
**Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning** and **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food** were **partially efficient** in providing protection against invasive alien species.

**Based on the demands of the Court of Audit**, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning already prior to the issue of the audit report **planned the activities** for:

**Immediate removal is crucial for ecosystem conservation.**  
If you detect any invasive alien species, please report thereof via [www.invazivke.si](http://www.invazivke.si).



completing the bases for the adoption of legislation



completing the pathways of introduction and spread analysis



setting up a comprehensive surveillance system