

THE BIOSECURITY FOR LIFE END OF PROJECT CONFERENCE

21-23 MARCH 2023

-  **EDINBURGH ZOO**
-  **THE SCOTTISH
SEABIRD CENTRE,
NORTH BERWICK**



CONFERENCE AIMS

- 1

TO CELEBRATE TOGETHER
WITH PROJECT PARTNERS
AND STAKEHOLDERS THE
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
BIOSECURITY FOR LIFE
PROJECT
- 2

BRINGING TOGETHER THE
BIOSECURITY COMMUNITY
FOR NETWORKING AND
SHARING OF BEST PRACTICE



TUESDAY 21 MARCH: THE BIOSECURITY FOR LIFE PROJECT IMPACT

THE BUDONGO
LECTURE THEATRE,
EDINBURGH ZOO

10:00 - 12:00	Edinburgh Zoo is open for delegates to visit	
12:00 - 13:00	Registration and lunch (in the Gannet Restaurant, Edinburgh Zoo)	
13:00	Conference opening and keynote speeches	
14:10	Introducing our theme: The Biosecurity for LIFE project impact	
14:20	<p>Meeting the operational challenges of biosecurity on a busy seabird island</p> <p>As a partner in the Biosecurity for LIFE project, the National Trust has developed a demonstration site for biosecurity on the globally important and busy seabird SPA, the Farne Islands. This talk outlines the practical challenges of improving biosecurity measures in the National Trust, a major land owning and public facing organisation, using some of the lessons learnt in achieving in biosecurity with visitors and stakeholders at the National Trust.</p>	<p>Ben McCarthy The National Trust</p>
14:35	<p>Training UK rodent detection dogs – a ground-breaking survey method</p> <p>Biosecurity for LIFE recognised how valuable detection dogs can be in supporting their biosecurity work. Kryus won their tender, having trained detection dogs and handlers for many different scenarios across the world, and will show how they trained dogs and handlers for this project.</p>	<p>Sian Parry & Rachel Cripps Kryus Ltd</p>
14:50	<p>A Bright Future for Biosecurity at the National Trust for Scotland</p> <p>As a partner in the Biosecurity for LIFE project, and custodians of some the UK's most treasured seabird islands, the National Trust for Scotland has a strong mandate to embrace and foster a step-change in preventing invasive non-native predators reaching islands. In this talk we will highlight some of the new actions and activities that we now undertake because of the Biosecurity for LIFE project.</p>	<p>Ellie Owen The National Trust for Scotland</p>
15:05	<p>Kryus Ltd will hold a short conservation detection dog demonstration in the gardens</p>	<p>Sian Parry & Rachel Cripps Kryus Ltd</p>
15:10	A beverage station will be available	
15:35	<p>Successes and challenges of an incursion response on The Lamb</p> <p>Emily Burton (Scottish Seabird Centre), Neil Black and Tim Gibson (local kayakers and volunteers) talk about their work tackling an incursion on Lamb Island in the Firth of Forth. A collaboration of organisations and hard-working volunteers worked closely with each other, guided by the Biosecurity for LIFE team, to respond when signs of a rat were spotted on the remote island in 2020.</p>	<p>Emily Burton, Neil Black & Tim Gibson The Scottish Seabird Centre & Lothian Sea Kayak Club</p>

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15:50	The collaboration between Northern Lighthouse Board and the Biosecurity for LIFE project The Northern Lighthouse Board has worked with the project to review and improve its biosecurity procedures. Key improvements are outlined here.	Anne James The Northern Lighthouse Board
16:00	Collaborating with young people on island biosecurity through co-design The Biosecurity for LIFE project co-designed education resources with young people. The process and impacts are described.	Laura Elliot RSPB Scotland
16:15	Is this it, biosecurity for life? As the project comes to an end this year, we look at what has been done to make sure our internationally important seabird islands remain safe havens free of invasive non-native predators – for life.	Laura Bambini RSPB Scotland
16:30 - 16:45	Closing comments	

EVENING DRINKS RECEPTION

THE GANNET RESTAURANT, EDINBURGH ZOO

19:00	Drinks reception and speeches
19:30	Buffet in the Gannet Restaurant and Bar
20:30 - 22:30	Music, ceilidh, and networking



WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH: SHARING BEST PRACTISE FOR BIOSECURITY

THE BUDONGO LECTURE THEATRE, EDINBURGH ZOO

09:00 - 09:20	Registration and arrival with a beverage station available	
09:20	Introducing our theme: Getting people involved in biosecurity	
09:30	Working with island owners, managers and communities to design and implement biosecurity plans At the start of the project only a handful of islands had adequate biosecurity measures in place. A consultative approach is described to show how 95% of the diverse SPA island groups now have biosecurity plans and surveillance in place.	Tom Churchyard The Biosecurity for LIFE project
09:45	Keeping St Kilda rat free St Kilda is one of the most important sites for breeding seabirds in the north Atlantic, and the archipelago (4 islands and 3 stacs), has so far escaped a rat incursion. Biosecurity measures were in place, and the Biosecurity for LIFE team became involved, to advise and support enhanced surveillance and monitoring. These new measures are outlined in this talk.	Sue Loughran St Kilda, the National Trust for Scotland
10:00	How to Set up an Incursion Hub A key part of biosecurity is making sure you are ready to act if prevention methods fail. Having a well-stocked, accessible, and up-to-date incursion hub is a key part of this. Here we will go through what is in an incursion hub, what it's all used for, and things to consider in the moment if you ever have to use one. We will also have a brief overview of the management of incursion hubs and how they work with a volunteer team in practice, hearing from experiences of the South-West Hub.	Holly Paget-Brown & Paul St Pierre The Biosecurity for LIFE project & the RSPB
10:15	SOS: Save Our Seabirds. Engaging people to help protect seabirds "SOS: Save Our Seabirds" is an eye-catching campaign. The materials produced have been diverse, allowing messaging through different channels to target a wide variety of people. They've given local stakeholders the confidence and resources to start conservations which can help prevent future incursions.	Tessa Coledale The Biosecurity for LIFE project
10:30	Workshop: A community approach for implementing biosecurity An introduction to the LIFE Raft project looking at the difficulties and challenges of biosecurity that will present itself after the completion of the eradication programme. We are posing questions about how we can design, prepare, and give agency to the community for a tailored biosecurity plan which will foster a shared approach. Identifying the legislation challenges and looking at the risks of imposing biosecurity as an external source and as our roles as Community Engagement Officers to mitigate against that risk.	Kirsty Benton & Charlotte Bosanquet The LIFE Raft project

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11:00	Biosecurity training in the UK Biosecurity for LIFE developed out of a growing awareness that UK islands were largely unprotected from invasion by rodents and other non-native mammals. Developing the training materials to address this lack of capacity has been a key feature of the project. This talk covers the evolution of RSPB's biosecurity training work in the UK, building a set of resources to engage with and inform diverse stakeholder groups.	Karen Varnham The RSPB
11:15	Break with beverage station	
11:45	Introducing our theme: Looking to the future: working together	
11:50	Kia ora! Sharing Biosecurity for LIFE learning from Aotearoa/New Zealand New Zealand was the first country in the world to eradicate rats from an island, nearly 60 years ago, and has been leading the way ever since in keeping islands free of mammalian predators. In November 2022, a Biosecurity for LIFE delegation travelled to New Zealand for a week-long study trip to learn about biosecurity implementation and partnerships operating in the Hauraki Gulf, a global hotspot for seabirds. In this talk, we share what we saw and learnt, what inspired us, and what could be applicable here in the UK.	Laura Bambini RSPB Scotland
12:05	Biosecurity on Mediterranean islands: strengthening networks through LIFE The current biosecurity monitoring on Mediterranean islands was reviewed. The number of islands with biosecurity measures are not increasing at the same rate as the number of eradications, and some projects do not maintain biosecurity after project termination. Next steps are suggested.	Martin Austad The LIFE Artina & PanPuffinus! projects
12:20	Workshop: Blue skies thinking for biosecurity Ellie Owen facilitates a discussion with delegates on the innovative tools and technology that are being used to help keep islands predator free. Come prepared to share your innovations.	Ellie Owen The National Trust for Scotland
13:15	Lunch	
13:30-15:00	A closed working group meeting in the Gillespie breakout room	
14:00	Introducing our theme: Biosecurity in the wider context – supporting island restoration efforts	
14:05	Monitoring the success of eradication programmes in inhabited islands in Italy An outline of different techniques implemented to determine whether eradication programmes have been successful. Plus, an overview on biosecurity in recent projects.	Dario Capizzi & Paolo Sposimo Regione Lazio & NEMO Ltd
14:20	The benefits of conservation detection dogs Stoat detection dogs on Orkney: how the Orkney Native Wildlife Project developed a team of certified detection dogs and handlers, and the benefits they have brought to island biosecurity.	Chris Bell Orkney Native Wildlife Project
14:35	Update on biosecurity issues on small islets on Karpaz Peninsula How biosecurity has become an important priority and expanded in this area.	Damla Beton KUSKOR
14:50	Habitat Restoration, Biosecurity and Ecosystem Recovery on South Georgia The UK Overseas Territory of South Georgia is an ecosystem in recovery. Following the eradication of invasive rodents and reindeer, and ongoing work to control invasive plants, native biodiversity is thriving. A robust biosecurity regime has been developed which aims to protect the legacy of habitat restoration projects and engage visitors in ongoing conservation efforts.	Jennifer Black Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

15:05	Break with beverage station	
15:30	Introducing our theme: Future biosecurity strategy	
15:35	Incursion pathways – preventative targeting or targeted prevention? Human-assisted pathways are the main route invasive non-native mammals take to reach the UK's seabird islands. Targeted prevention measures in place along the riskiest pathways offer a cost-effective approach to biosecurity implementation – the biggest bang for our conservation buck – but how do we go about this? This talk explores the topic of assessing, measuring and mitigating incursion risks strategically.	Speaker to be confirmed
15:50	Workshop: Have your say – biosecurity is for everyone! In this session, we invite biosecurity stakeholders to shape the future of island biosecurity in the UK. We want to explore what the new projects can do for biosecurity on your island, how you want to have your voice heard in the national and the local biosecurity conversations, where the opportunities are and where the challenges lie. As we continue to build on the work of Biosecurity for LIFE, come along on the journey and help us make sure biosecurity is for everyone!	Laura Bambini RSPB Scotland
16:30-16:45	Closing comments	

THURSDAY 23 MARCH:

BIOSECURITY FIELD TRIP

TO THE FORTH ISLANDS

THE SCOTTISH SEABIRD CENTRE

09:45	Coach departs from the Holiday Inn Express (Edinburgh Zoo) to North Berwick.
11:00	Arrive and welcome at the Scottish Seabird Centre. Tea and coffee on arrival.
11:30	Talk from Scottish Seabird Centre staff about the charity's conservation projects, biosecurity on the local islands, and avian flu on Bass Rock.
12:00	Lunch. Attendees free to wander around the exhibits, view the live cameras, browse the shop.
13:15-15:00	Boat trip departs to Bass Rock and the Lamb to hear about the biosecurity and incursion work that has occurred there.
15:30-16:45	Coach returns to Edinburgh Zoo, Holiday Inn Express.



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Find out more at biosecurityforlife.org.uk

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