

ESPÈCES EXOTIQUES **ENVAHISSANTES**

floristiques

2027 EXOTIC INVASIVE PLANTS PREVENTION AND DETECTION CAMPAIGN

Information document*

**The original french version of this document was translated using Mistral AI and re-read by RNCREQ employees*

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1. Introduction

1.1. Mandate overview

The *Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec* (RNCREQ) is coordinating a unique consultation project to **develop regional strategies for combating invasive plant species**. The project relies on **regional roundtables and a national table** to assess the unique challenges of each region and foster a coherent collective response. This Quebec-wide initiative is funded by the Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks (MELCCFP) to the amount of \$9.75 million. Built on existing local initiatives, this project falls under the 2030 Nature Plan and aims at **harmonizing biodiversity conservation practices**.

The project, spanning from **2025 to 2028**, is divided into five components:

- 1) Establishment of **regional roundtables** to identify priorities;
- 2) Development of **regional strategies** including a situation analysis and local priorities;
- 3) Establishment of a **national roundtable** to coordinate efforts;
- 4) **Monitoring and sharing of strategies** via a virtual platform;
- 5) **Funding and implementation** of regional prevention and early detection actions.

Each Regional Environmental Council (*Conseil Régional de l'Environnement*) (CRE) of Québec plays a crucial role in implementing this project in their respective administrative region. They coordinate regional stakeholder consultation, the development of regional strategies, and the funding of prevention and early detection actions.

1.2. Regional consultation table (RCT)

Component 1 of the mandate calls for each CRE to establish a regional consultation table (RCT) in their administrative region¹. The RCT are composed of key stakeholders in combating invasive plant species. Their members are tasked with identifying and prioritizing the issues, challenges, needs, and strategic directions for combating invasive plant species. These elements will guide the drafting of a *Regional Strategy to Combat Invasive Plant Species* (Component 2) in each region.

Each RCT will review the Prevention and Detection Campaign (PDC) projects submitted in their region under, to ensure that they align with regional priorities².

¹ Except for the region of Nord-du-Québec, where there is no CRE.

² For the Nord-du-Québec region, projects must be submitted for evaluation directly to RNCREQ.

2. The Prevention and Detection Campaign

2.1. Objectives of the Prevention and Detection Campaign (PDC)

The primary objective of the PDC is to address the priorities for combating invasive plant species identified by the regional consultation tables. The campaign will fund priority actions as identified within each region, and address information, education, awareness, and early detection needs. Actions will be supported across all regions in Quebec based on risk levels and situations identified as priorities.

PDC projects will be implemented before the final publication of the regional strategies to combat invasive plant species, scheduled for spring 2028. These projects will help guide the regional consultation tables' discussions and support them in identifying regional priorities. The PDC thus informs the discussions around developing the action plan.

Exotic invasive plant species :

A harmful exotic invasive plant species is a plant introduced outside its natural range that can establish itself and reproduce successfully in this new environment, with the potential to cause significant environmental, economic, and social impacts. The presence of exotic invasive plant species is an increasingly concerning environmental issue, particularly in the context of climate change. These species establish themselves and spread across aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial environments, where they have—or are likely to have—significant negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functions. While exotic invasive plant species can be introduced into a new environment and spread through natural phenomena, human activities are primarily responsible. The main anthropogenic vectors include horticulture, commercial and recreational boating, ornamental aquatics trade, as well as seeds or plant residues carried on equipment and machinery. Additionally, any disturbance to vegetation or soil can create favorable conditions for the establishment and spread of exotic invasive plant species colonies.³

For more information on exotic invasive plant species:

[Ministère de l'environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs website](#)
[Sentinelle - exotic invasive species detection tool](#)

³ Source : The Quebec Foundation for Biodiversity and Wildlife

2.2. Prevention and Detection: guidelines

The campaign supports two types of actions: prevention and early detection. Thus, eligible projects must follow the following guidelines:

➤ Prevention

Prevention projects encompass local or regional actions aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of exotic invasive plant species. This can include actions that inform, raise awareness, and educate land users, as well as more engaging actions that promote behavioral change. Here are some examples:

Information, awareness, and education actions:

- Training program
- Kiosks, patrols, or green brigades
- Knowledge and expertise transfer

Engaging actions:

- Cleaning stations for hiking boots and other hiking material
- Support for implementing regulatory tools

➤ Detection

Detection projects are those that monitor new species' arrival and track their spread across the territory. Under this campaign, **only early detection is eligible**. Early detection involves confirming or refuting the recent arrival of a species in a designated area.

Early detection does not involve characterizing the distribution and abundance of the observed species.

2.3. Types of eligible organizations

Any legally established private or public organization (e.g., non-profits, municipalities, RCMs, etc.) can submit a project. **Individuals are not eligible.**

Project applicants must collaborate with their regional CRE to ensure that the proposed actions align with regional priorities as identified by the RCT.⁴

⁴ Except for the Nord-du-Québec region, for which RNCREQ will handle this verification.

2.4. Past campaigns

You can view projects from previous campaigns on the project's web page:

<https://rncreq.org/projets/especes-exotiques-envahissantes-cpd/>

3. Eligibility criteria for projects

3.1. Available budget

A total of \$1.5 million is available over the project duration. The budget will be allocated on an average basis across the 17 CREs, as follows:

	Summer 2026	Summer 2027	Total
Prevention	\$9,700	\$19,700	\$29,400
Detection	\$19,400	\$39,400	\$58,800
Total	\$29,100	\$59,100	\$88,200

The same amounts apply to the Nord-du-Québec region.

3.2. Funding details and eligible costs

Funding can cover up to **100%** of eligible project costs. However, as available funds for this campaign are limited, it is strongly recommended to supplement funding with other sources. During the selection process, projects with complementary funding will receive special attention.

To be deemed eligible, expenses must have been incurred after the date of the signing of the funding agreement ([see section 6](#)).

Eligible expenses :

- Personnel salaries, including benefits;
- Professional fees for specific project-related tasks or services;
- Rental of corporate premises or equipment for project activities;
- Travel, meal, and accommodation expenses within Quebec, when necessary for project implementation;
- Materials directly related to project activities;
- Trainings for skill development and meetings for knowledge transfers related to the project;

- Administrative costs, up to 10% of the total funding awarded.

Ineligible expenses :

- Quebec Sales Tax (QST) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) portions for which the project proponent can claim a credit or refund;
- In-kind contributions (volunteer work);
- Costs related to the purchase of computer equipment;
- Workforce training;
- Capital expenditures or acquisition of land and buildings;
- Costs for recurring activities related to the organization's mission.

3.3. Eligibility Conditions for Funding:

The eligibility conditions for funding are as follows:

- Target [exotic invasive plant species harmful to Quebec's biodiversity and environment](#), paying particular attention to priority species. Special cases may be considered if accompanied by reasonable justification;
- Target territories identified as priorities by the TCRs. Project applicants must collaborate with their regional CRE to ensure compliance;
- Activities must be carried out between April and October 2027.

➤ Prevention

Prevention projects must also meet the following conditions:

- Require **direct public intervention**;
- **Complement** efforts deployed by the province, region, and local organizations, notably by referring to the [list of actions funded in previous campaigns](#).

➤ Detection

Detection projects must meet the following conditions:

- Target intervention territories identified as priorities in regional strategies and presenting high ecological value. These include:
 - Natural areas designated for conservation, specifically: natural reserves, voluntary conservation areas, provincial parks listed in the Quebec Register of Protected Areas, as well as properties belonging to a conservation organization or a social utility trust;

- Natural environments where the presence of threatened or vulnerable wildlife or plant species has been confirmed (e.g., presence of a viable occurrence of a threatened species);
 - Exceptional forest ecosystems for which conservation is ensured;
 - Aquatic environments identified as priorities for biodiversity in regional planning exercises.
- Enable confirmation of the presence or absence of an exotic invasive plant species (**early detection**);
- **Complement** efforts deployed by the province, region, and local organizations by referring to the inventory of detection actions carried out within the territorial context of regional strategies;
- Take place during the **optimal observation period** for the targeted species and their distinctive traits;
- Take place on sites where no detection efforts have been made in the past five years.

The early detection methodology presented in the funding application will be subject to in-depth analysis and must be detailed precisely.

The PDC for exotic invasive plant species is complementary to the Program for the control of exotic invasive plants, managed by the **Foundation for Biodiversity and Wildlife of Quebec**. This program supports organizations in developing territory-specific intervention plans, pre-project studies for specific natural environments, and in conserving biodiversity by combating harmful exotic invasive plant species in high ecological value environments. [Learn more about the Program for the control of exotic invasive plants.](#)

If the project you wish to submit does not meet the above criteria, you may be eligible for the Foundation for Biodiversity and Wildlife of Quebec's program.

4. Ineligible activities

The following projects are not eligible for funding:

- Environmental impact studies or any evaluation required to obtain a permit;
- Exotic invasive plant control work;
- Compensatory work resulting from legal obligations following habitat destruction or deterioration (compensation measures);
- Recurring activities related to an organization's mission (e.g., conducting consultation exercises on environmental issues);

- Development of a property management plan.
- **Prevention :**
- Production of awareness tools or materials (educational materials, interpretation panels, websites, newsletters, brochures, etc.);
 - Installation or refurbishment of a boat cleaning station, as these projects can already be funded by the MELCCFP through the [Programme Stations de nettoyage d'embarcations](#);
- **Detection :**
- Complete inventory of plant species or preliminary plans/specifications (pre-project) used to prepare field control work;
 - Projects proposing eDNA or water chestnut remote sensing techniques, due to ongoing development of specific methodologies in these areas funded by MELCCFP.

5. Funding application submission

5.1. Procedure

All funding applications must be submitted using the provided form. The form and all attachments must be sent by email to the CRE of the administrative region where the prevention and detection activities are planned.⁵

Documents, information, and contact details for the CREs and RNCREQ are available on the [campaign's web page](#).

Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible.

5.2. Timeline

Dates	Steps
June 15 - October 9 2026	Submission of projects to the CREs ⁶
October 9 2026	Project submission deadline
October 9 2026 - March 1st 2027	Project evaluation

⁵ For Nord-du-Québec, the application must be sent to RNCREQ.

⁶ Ibid

Dates	Steps
March 1st - March 15th 2027	Reception of eligibility decisions by project applicants and signing of funding agreements
April - October 2027	Project execution by funding recipients
No later than November 15, 2027	Submission of the accountability report to the CRE ⁷

6. Project Applicant Obligations

6.1 Conditions for Obtaining Full Funding

To obtain full funding, the project applicant must:

- Implement the project within the campaign deadline, while complying with the criteria of this document and the funding agreement;
- Comply with visibility requirements: any visual or document produced through a project under the PDC must be validated by MELCCFP before publication (via the project's trustee CRE⁸). Government of Quebec funding recognition must also be included. The terms of this obligation will be outlined in the funding agreement for selected project applicants.
- Freely share intellectual property rights with MELCCFP and RNCREQ, without territorial or time limitations. The terms of this obligation will be outlined in the funding agreement for selected project applicants.
- Submit all deliverables and accountability reporting elements at the end of the project, including:
 - Final report including a financial statement with supporting documents, using templates provided by the CRE⁹;
 - **For prevention projects:** Digital copy of the final version, previously validated by the CRE¹⁰, of the material produced;
 - **For detection projects:** [Inventory data following a template provided on the project web page](#), indicating the presence or absence of exotic invasive plant species in the studied area.

⁷ For Nord-du-Québec, the accountability report must be sent to RNCREQ.

⁸ For Nord-du-Québec, this will be RNCREQ.

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ Ibid

6.2 Funding Terms

Validated projects will be funded as follows:

- 70% after signing the funding agreement and accepting the associated conditions;
- 30% after receiving and validating the accountability reporting elements.

Project applicants must sign a funding agreement and accept the conditions mentioned in the previous section. Penalties will be applied to project applicants who:

- Modify the project (deliverables, deadlines) without prior authorization;
- Abandon the project;
- Do not comply with the funding conditions.

RNCREQ reserves the right to reclaim unused funds at the end of the project.

7. Information

For more information on project development or submission, or to validate eligibility and relevance, interested organizations should **contact their regional CRE**.¹¹

To find CRE or RNCREQ contact details: <https://rncreq.org/especes-exotiques-envahissantes/>.

For more general inquiries about the project, you can also contact:

Alicia Alves, Biodiversity Project Coordinator - Invasive Species at RNCREQ

info@especes-envahissantes.ca

514 861-7022 Ext. 3521

For questions about the Program for the control of invasive exotic plants of the Foundation for Biodiversity and Wildlife of Quebec, contact Raphaël Dubé, Program Manager

raphael.dube@fbfq.ca

418 644-7926, Ext.127

This project is funded by the Government of Quebec as part of the [2030 Nature Plan](#).

This is not a program.

¹¹ For the Nord-du-Québec region, please contact RNCREQ directly.