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Nature and Biodiversity

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LIFE Call 2021 Info Day



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ΤΜΗΜΑ
ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ

LIFE Programme 2021-2024



Sub-programme “Nature and Biodiversity” 2021-2024

- ❖ Aims to protect and restore Europe's nature and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss
- ❖ Will continue to fund nature conservation projects, in particular in the areas of biodiversity, habitats and species
- ❖ It will support projects that contribute to the implementation of the Nature Directives ([Birds Dir](#) & [Habitats Dir](#)) and in particular the development and management of the [Natura 2000 Network](#) and the Invasive alien species Regulation ([IAS Regulation](#)), and will support the achievement of the objectives of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), which is part of the [European Green Deal](#)

Types of activities funded under LIFE 2021-2024

- Grants (**Action grants** & Operating grants) + Other forms of Funding
- Action grants
 - ✓ **Standard action projects (SAPs)**
 - ✓ Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)
 - ✓ Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs)
 - ✓ Technical Assistance (TA)
 - ✓ Other actions (OA)

2 Topics under the 2021 call

1. Nature and
Biodiversity

2. Nature
Governance

- 1. LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE – Nature and Biodiversity SMART OUTCOME-BASED projects** based on Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound objectives for the implementation of EU Nature and Biodiversity legislation or Targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- 2. LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance** Projects addressing EU Nature and Biodiversity legislation compliance assurance and access to justice

The available call budget is 135 470 000 €

Topic	Topic budget	Indicative range of project budgets	Estimated number of projects to be funded	Funding rate
1 — Nature and Biodiversity	132 470 000 €	2-13 Mln €	35 projects	Max 60% - 67% - 75%
2 — Nature Governance	3 000 000 €	0,7-2 Mln €	2 projects	Max 60%

1st TOPIC “Nature and Biodiversity”

2 Areas of Intervention

1. Smart outcome-based implementation of the EU Nature & Biodiversity Legislation or Targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

1. Space for Nature

2. Safeguarding our species

1st Intervention area: Space for Nature

Area-based conservation and restoration measures



Any project aimed at improving the condition of species or habitats through **area-based conservation or restoration measures**:

i.e. projects for restoring or improving natural or semi-natural habitats, or habitats of species, both within and outside existing protected areas, projects for creating additional protected areas or improving the biodiversity focus and contribution of existing protected areas, ecological corridors or other green infrastructure, projects testing or demonstrating new site management approaches, projects acting on pressures, etc.

2nd Intervention Area: Safeguarding our species

Additional specific measures targeting species and ecosystems/habitats with measures other than area-based ones

Safeguarding
our species

Any project **aimed at improving the condition of species** (or, in the case of invasive alien species, reducing their impact) through any relevant activities other than area-based conservation or restoration measures.

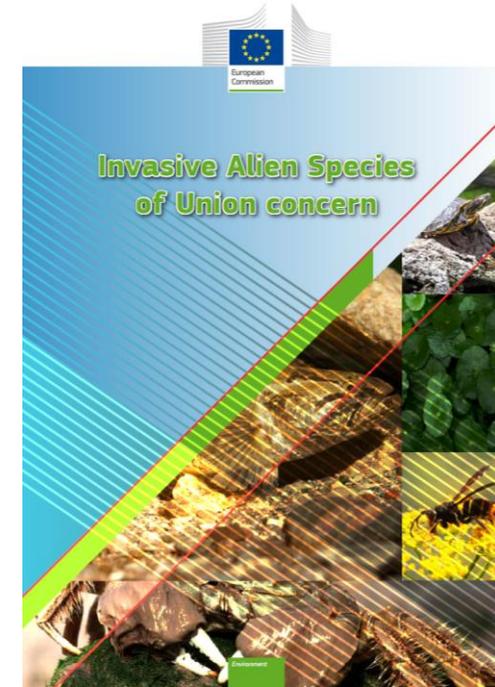
Considering the broad range of threats that may act on species in addition to the degradation of their habitats, such projects may apply to a wide range of relevant measures, spanning from hard infrastructural works to awareness raising of stakeholders.

Clearly defined specific outcome-based biodiversity-related objectives for projects and their activities is a precondition for an objective prioritization of proposals!!!

- For proposals targeting species and habitats covered by the EU Habitats Directive, **priority is given to those that are clearly targeting habitats or species in unfavourable and declining conservation status** based on the latest [Article 17 reports assessments](#), in particular when their status is unfavourable bad and declining (U2-) both in the EU and at national biogeographical region(s) level, where the project is taking place.
- For bird species, and for species and habitats not covered by EU Nature legislation, **priority is given to proposals clearly targeting species or habitats that are in higher extinction risk categories** (in particular: endangered or worse) in the relevant **EU red lists** of habitats or species (or, for EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories, in the **Global IUCN red lists**).

Further prioritisation of “Nature and Biodiversity” proposals will be based on the policy priorities below:

- EU [Birds](#) and [Habitats](#) Directives
- Invasive Alien Species Regulation [Regulation \(EU\) 1143/2014](#)
- [Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#)



Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

1. EU Birds and Habitats Directives

- ❑ In relation to the intervention area "**Space for Nature**", priority is given to projects that focus their activities on the implementation of conservation objectives for existing Natura 2000 sites, notably where such conservation objectives are clearly established, improving the condition of species and habitats for which the sites are designated.
- ❑ In relation to the intervention area "**Safeguarding our species**", priority is given to projects that focus their activities on reducing the mortality of these species (e.g. poisoning, illegal killing, by-catch), preventing stakeholder conflicts, improving acceptance and promoting co-existence with protected species.

Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

2. Habitats and Species in Unfavourable conservation status

- Priority will be given to certain habitats and species in unfavourable conservation status (including certain species listed in annex IV and V of the Habitats Directive), under the Biodiversity Strategy-related policy priority for “Implementing EU nature restoration targets for species and habitats”.

Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

3. Invasive Alien Species Regulation

Priority will be given to:

- invasive alien species included on the **list of invasive alien species of Union concern** pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014, and/or invasive alien species **of Member State or regional concern** pursuant to Articles 12 and 11 of the Regulation respectively; or
- other invasive alien species that negatively affect the conservation status or trends of species and habitats of EU importance**, other species **protected** under EU legislation, or listed as **threatened species** in EU or global red lists (the latter for species groups and/or regions not covered by EU red lists).

Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

4. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- a) Establishing a coherent network of **protected areas**
- b) Implementing EU nature **restoration targets** for species and habitats
- c) Restoring degraded and **carbon-rich ecosystems**; prevent and **reduce the impact of natural disasters**
- d) Improving the health and resilience of **managed forests**
- e) Reversing the decline of **pollinators**
- f) Bringing nature back to **agricultural land**
- g) **Greening urban** and peri-urban areas
- h) Measuring and integrating the **value of nature**

Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

4. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- a) **Establishing a coherent network of protected areas (Trans-European Nature Network TEN-N covering at least 30% of EU land and sea areas)**
- ✓ increasing the share of EU land or marine area **under protection** (additional designations or enlargements of Natura 2000 sites or nationally protected areas, "Private land conservation" approaches, set-up of ecological corridors, such as green and blue infrastructure)
 - ✓ increasing the share of EU land or marine area **under strict protection** (e.g. remaining EU primary and old-growth forests)

Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

4. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- b) Implementing EU nature restoration targets for species and habitats** – projects focused on implementing national commitments or pledges to restore species and habitats, ensuring no deterioration of conservation trends or status of all protected species and habitats by 2030, and also ensuring that at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in FAV status are in that category or show a strong positive trend.
- c) Restoring degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems** (e.g. forest restoration to primary forest structure, composition and functioning) **and preventing and reducing the impact of natural disasters** (Green and Blue Infrastructure, nature-based solutions and restoration actions e.g. river restoration projects).

Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

4. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- d) **Improving the health and resilience of managed forests** (demonstrating "closer to nature forestry" practices, e.g. reduced impact logging, retention forestry etc.)

- e) **Reversing the decline of pollinators** - restoration of habitats where pollination by animals plays an important role, and improvement of their associated pollinator communities. (<https://www.iucn.org/content/european-red-list-bees>)

Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

4. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- f) **Bringing nature back to agricultural land** - demonstrate innovative approaches to restoring high-biodiversity landscape features in agroecosystems that also bring benefits for farmers and communities (such as preventing soil erosion and depletion, filtering air and water, and supporting climate adaptation) and communicate such approaches.

Further prioritisation of 'SMART-outcome based projects' based on policy priorities

4. EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- g) Greening urban and peri-urban areas** - restoration of healthy and biodiverse ecosystems in urban green areas, development of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions that bring about significant benefits for biodiversity while providing solutions to urban challenges and increasing access to nature, proposals that implement biodiversity objectives and measures in urban greening plans.

- h) Measuring and integrating the value of nature** - effective accounting, measurement and integration of biodiversity values into public and private decision-making applying the guidance, methods, criteria and standards developed by the Commission.

Nature and Biodiversity

Two areas of intervention that require specific and measurable (SMART) outcome based objectives

1: "Space for nature": area-based conservation and restoration measures

2: "Safeguarding our species": measures targeting specific species

EU policy priorities for Nature and Biodiversity

Priority 1: The extent to which the proposal contributes to the objectives of EU Nature and Biodiversity legislation in particular under the EU Birds and Habitats Directive (incl. Natura 2000) and the Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species

Priority 2: The extent to which the proposal contributes to the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 for a Trans-European Nature Network and the EU Restoration Plan

Highest priority will be given to proposals that fall into at least one of the two areas of intervention and at least one of the two policy priorities.

SAPs “Nature and Biodiversity”

- SAPs under the 1st Topic (LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-NATURE — Nature and Biodiversity) represent the traditional LIFE NAT/BIO projects (✓ best-practice, ✓ demo, ✓ innovation)
- Maximum **10 year duration**
- **Co-financing 60%**. Exceptionally and only if the project is designed to bring concrete direct benefits for priority species/habitats you can apply for a higher funding rate:
 - ✓ **67%** for projects targeting priority and non-priority habitats/species
 - ✓ **75%** for projects targeting exclusively priority species/habitats

75% funding rate for “Nature and Biodiversity” SAPs

That target exclusively:



1. a **priority habitat or species** for the implementation of the **Habitats Directive**, as listed in the relevant annexes of this Directive
2. a **bird species** considered as “**priority for funding**” agreed by the Ornis Committee set up pursuant to Article 16 of the Birds Directive
3. a **habitat type or species** listed in the annexes of the **Habitats Directive**, the conservation status of which has been assessed as **unfavourable-bad and with a declining trend (U2-)** in the most recent available EU- and national-level biogeographical region assessments

75% funding rate for “Nature and Biodiversity” SAPs

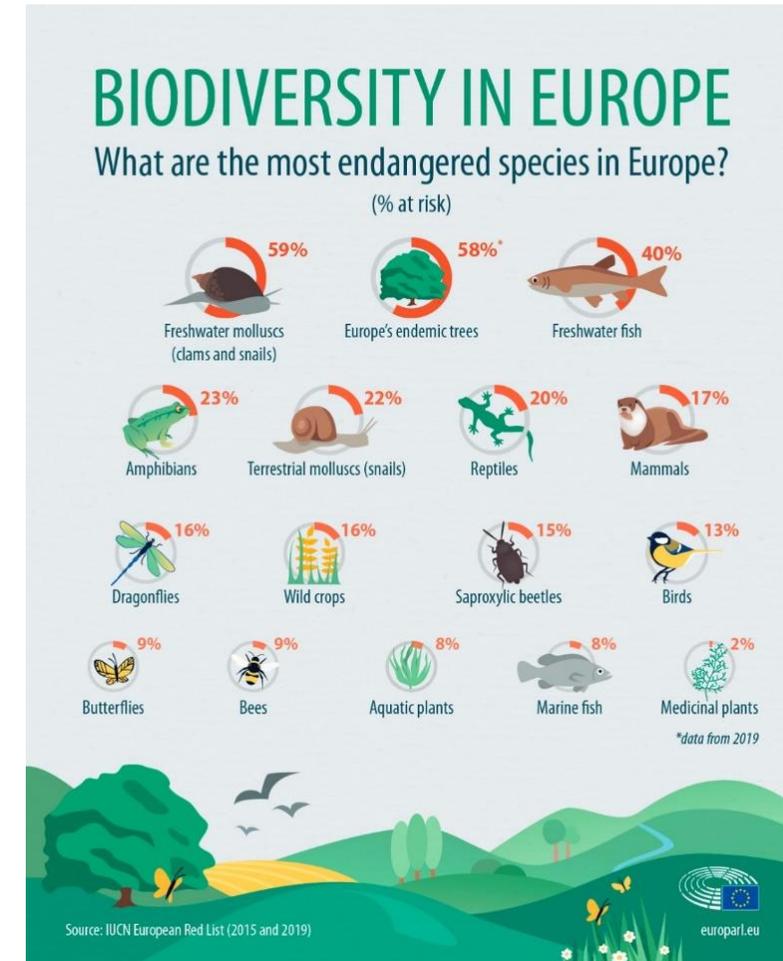
That target exclusively:

4. a **habitat type or species** (other than birds) the EU-level threat status of which has been assessed as **“endangered” or worse** in the most up-to-date published version of a **European [species red list](#) or [habitats red list](#)**, including in territories not covered by these lists
5. any other **habitat or species** in territories not covered by the European species or habitats red lists, the threat status of which has been assessed as **“endangered” or worse** in the most up-to-date published version of **global IUCN red lists** of species or habitats.



LIFE Nature and Biodiversity – 1st TOPIC

- ✓ **Clearly defined specific outcome based biodiversity-related objectives** for projects and their activities is a **precondition** for an objective prioritization of proposals based on their expected impact and benefits for those species and habitats in most need
- ✓ **Higher funding rates.** Nothing is excluded (e.g. species of lower extinction risk) but priority is given towards the protection and restoration of species and habitats in unfavourable conservation status including those not covered by EU Nature legislation
- ✓ **Actions within and outside Natura 2000 & More species eligible**



2nd TOPIC: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-GOV — Nature Governance

2. Nature Governance

Proposals under this topic must address EU Nature and Biodiversity legislation compliance assurance and access to justice by:

- a) **establishing new or enhancing** existing cross-border, national or regional **networks of compliance assurance practitioners or experts**; and/or establishing or improving **professional qualifications and training** to improve compliance with binding EU legal instruments on nature and biodiversity, through promoting, checking and enforcing compliance, or
- b) **applying the polluter pays principle**, using a mix of administrative law, criminal law and environmental liability; and/or

2nd TOPIC: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance

2. Nature Governance

- c) developing and implementing **strategies and policies** and/or developing and using **innovative tools and actions** to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with binding EU instruments on nature and biodiversity, or ensure application of the polluter pays principles through environmental liability; and/or
- d) **improving relevant information systems operated by public authorities;** and/or
- e) **engaging with citizens** and others to promote and monitor compliance, and ensure application of environmental liability in relation to EU nature and biodiversity legislation

2nd TOPIC: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance

2. Nature Governance

Scope – Activities that can be funded:

- Environmental compliance assurance practitioners can include those working for authorities and bodies with compliance assurance responsibilities such as local, regional, police and customs authorities, agencies and inspectorates, supreme public audit bodies and the judiciary, non-governmental organisations and academics and researchers specialised in one or more aspects of compliance assurance.
- With regard to professional qualifications and training, projects should ensure academic credentials and maximise the potential of information technology through means such as webinars and massive open online courses (MOOCs) to allow distance learning to reach as many practitioners as cost-effectively as possible.

2nd TOPIC: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance

2. Nature Governance

Scope – Activities that can be funded:

- Promotion systems and techniques could involve the use of guidance, advisory services, awareness-raising campaigns, partnership agreements, or self-monitoring systems that assist duty-holders to comply.
- Monitoring systems and techniques could relate to site inspections, surveillance (including through use of satellites and drones), spot checks, intelligence-gathering, industry analysis, police investigation, data analysis and environmental audits.
- Follow-up and enforcement techniques can have a similarly wide coverage.

2nd TOPIC: LIFE-2021-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance

2. Nature Governance

Scope – Activities that can be funded:

- Electronic complaint-handling systems, hot lines, citizen observatories and other **citizen science platforms** can all facilitate citizen engagement, allowing competent national, regional and local authorities to engage citizens in state-of-the-environment and other forms of monitoring, while also generating more harmonized and useable data.
- **Promoting effective public participation and access to justice in nature and biodiversity policy and legislation-related matters** amongst the public, NGOs, lawyers, the judiciary, public administrations or other stakeholders, with a particular focus on protecting nature and biodiversity via the nature, biodiversity, water and environmental liability instruments.

Essential Information

LIFE Programme: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

LIFE projects database: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>

LIFE Publications: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-publications_en

Natura 2000: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm

Natura2000Viewer: <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>

Natura2000database: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm

Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>

Birds Directive (2009/147/EC): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147>

LIFE Priority birds (agreed by Ornithologists Committee): https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/life_priority/index_en.htm

Article17'Viewer: <https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/>

Article12'Viewer: <https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/>

European Red List of Habitats: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/redlist_en.htm

IUCN Red List of Species: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

IAS Regulation: [Regulation \(EU\) 1143/2014 on invasive alien species](#)

Environmental Compliance Assurance: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/compliance_en.htm



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Thank you for your attention!



Contact me!

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