



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity

LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT-GOV — Nature Governance
in the MAWP under the new LIFE Regulation (2021-24)

Anita Fassio and Gustavo Becerra-Jurado
CINEA D3

Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

There are two topics under this call:

LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT-NATURE – Nature and Biodiversity

SMART outcome-based implementation of EU nature legislation or targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- ☐ Topic budget: EUR 132 739 347
- ☐ Funding rate: 60%-67%-75%

LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance **NEW from 2021 call**

EU nature and biodiversity legislation-related compliance assurance, public participation and access to justice

- ☐ Topic budget: EUR 3 000 000
- ☐ Funding rate: 60%

LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT-NATURE – Nature and Biodiversity

In a nutshell the topic remains the same:

➡ Two intervention areas: “space for nature” and “safeguarding our species”

1. Prioritisation:

- EU Habitats Directive: habitats or species in unfavourable and declining conservation status (U1-), in particular in unfavourable-bad and declining conservation status (U2-)
- bird species, and species and habitats not covered by EU Nature legislation: species or habitats in higher extinction risk categories (endangered or worse) in EU red lists (or European/Global IUCN red lists for OCTs)

2. Further prioritisation of the proposals will be based on the policy priorities

- Birds and Habitats Directives
- IAS Regulation
- EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy

See Info-session on LIFE 2021 Call for Proposals: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BU_iihnxE6M 2’50”

LIFE-2022-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance

Opportunity for good quality proposals

FOCUS

- Compliance assurance (promote, monitor and enforce compliance)
- Public participation
- Access to justice

Awareness raising activities are NOT the **main focus** for Nature Governance topic

However, activities with a **clear and direct link** with **governance objectives** can be included

SAP Nature Governance

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- AW1: **RELEVANCE** (0-20 points)
- AW2: **IMPACT** (0-20 points)*1,5
- AW3: **QUALITY** (0-20 points)
- AW4: **RESOURCES** (0-20 points)
- BONUS POINTS: (0-10 points)

Only proposals with activities directly related to Nature and Biodiversity are relevant!

- Bonus 1: The proposal offers **exceptional synergies and promotes significant co-benefits between LIFE sub-programmes** (2 points)
- Bonus 2: The proposal is primarily implemented in the **Outermost Regions** (2 points)
- Bonus 3: The proposal **substantially builds on or up-scales the results of other EU funded projects** (2 points)
- Bonus 4: The proposal offers an **exceptional catalytic potential** (2 points)
- Bonus 5: The proposal envisages a **transnational cooperation among Member States** essential to guarantee the achievement of the project objectives (2 points)

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COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE PRACTITIONERS

- Local, regional, police and customs authorities
- Agencies and inspectorates
- Supreme public audit bodies
- Public prosecutors
- Judiciary
- NGOs
- Academics and researchers

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OBJECTIVES: Implementation of the governance aspects (i.e. compliance assurance, public participation and access to justice) of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, with a focus on EU Nature and Biodiversity legislation by:

- **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
- ✓ Promoting good practices and supporting implementation (e.g. answering information requests, consultation of the public as part of Art. 6 Habitats Directive, etc...)
- ✓ Sharing knowledge about rights of access to justice (e.g. engagement of citizens and stakeholders so acts and decisions can be checked for compliance, information on rights to review procedures and go to court by individuals and NGOs, etc...)

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OBJECTIVES:

- 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, including use of administrative law, criminal law and environmental liability
- ✓ enforcement strategies, including on combating environmental crime (nature and biodiversity)
- ✓ compliance monitoring systems and techniques, including: site inspections, surveillance through satellites and drones, intelligence-gathering, non-compliance risk analysis, police investigation, data analysis, etc...
- ✓ information collection and statistics on compliance assurance activities

SAP Nature Governance

OBJECTIVES:

- establishing **new** or, where in place, **enhancing** existing cross-border, national or regional **networks of compliance assurance practitioners or experts**

Example: LIFE14 GIE/UK/000043 LIFE-ENPE

- ✓ build a self-sustaining network of environmental prosecutors and judges

The project aimed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public bodies charged with tackling environmental crime, by building a **transnational network** of prosecutors and judges to enhance cooperation, share information and develop best practice

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OBJECTIVES:

- establishing or, where in place, improving **professional qualifications and training** to improve compliance assurance, public participation and access to justice
- ✓ preparation of training materials and organizing training activities
- ✓ maximise the potential of information technology, using digital means (e.g. webinars and MOOCs)
- ✓ educational programmes

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OBJECTIVES:

- **improving relevant information systems operated by public authorities**
- **engaging with citizens and others** to promote and monitor compliance, and ensure application of environmental liability in relation to EU nature and biodiversity legislation
- ✓ more harmonized and useable data
- ✓ electronic complaint-handling systems
- ✓ hot lines, citizen observatories and citizen science platforms to facilitate engagement

SAP Nature Governance

LIFE08 NAT/E/000062 VENENO NO
LIFE14 GIE/GR/000026 LIFE Natura Themis
LIFE14 GIE/UK/000043 LIFE-ENPE
LIFE16 GIE/CZ/000791 LIFE-A2J-EARL
LIFE17 GIE/NL/000599 LIFE AGAINST BIRD CRIMES
LIFE17 GIE/ES/000630 Life+ Nature Guardians
LIFE19 GIE/BG/000846 LIFE SWiPE
LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 BalkanDetoxLife



The screenshot shows the 'Basic Search on LIFE Public Database' interface. At the top, there is a header with the European Commission logo and the text 'EUROPEAN COMMISSION LIFE Public Database'. Below this, a navigation bar shows the path 'European Commission > CINEA > LIFE Programme > LIFE Public Database'. The main heading is 'Basic Search on LIFE Public Database'. A search box contains the placeholder text 'Type anything and press enter to search the LIFE projects database...'. Below the search box, there is a dropdown menu for 'Keyword Variants (eg: searching for Europe will return all projects containing the word Europe or derivatives like European)'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'EXPAND ALL', 'COLLAPSE ALL', and 'EXPORT RESULTS'. Below these buttons, there are two tabs: 'Latest Updated Projects' and 'Latest Updated Documents'. The 'Latest Updated Projects' tab is active, showing a table with two columns: 'Project Title' and 'Reference'.

Project Title	Reference
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LIFE NATURE GUARDIANS

Against **ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME**

EU LIFE INFO Day

19th May 2022



GUARDIANES
de la naturaleza
contra el crimen ambiental





Aim of the Project

To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of actions to combat environmental crime in Spain and Portugal. Especially those committed against wildlife.

Who we are?

Project coordinated by:



Beneficiary partners:



Funding by:



Arson fires



Illegal waste management



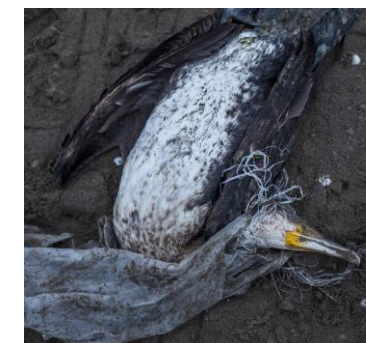
Nest destruction



Illegal killing



Illegal species trafficking



Poisoning

Why are we implementing this Project?

To preserve Nature

Duration

July 2018

December 2022

What are we doing?

- 1) Increase knowledge
- 2) Improve enforcement
- 3) Raise awareness



European Commission



Objectives achieved

Increase the exchange of experiences and best practices.

Ensure and strengthen the proper enforcement and implementation of environmental and criminal law.

Prevent environmental crime, raise public awareness and promote socio-cultural change.

Improving the conservation status of species and habitats.

Reduce impunity and increase the determination of criminal responsibility

To increase knowledge on the dimension of environmental crime and criminal motivation.



Main achievements

- Study on the dissuasiveness, effectiveness and proportionality of criminal sanctions imposed in Spain and Portugal for environmental crime and their compliance with **Directive 2008/99/EC**.
- **European workshop on police investigation** of crimes against priority bird species and habitat destruction.

The EU workshop on environmental crime investigation (WECI) was held on 2-4 March 2020. It brought together environmental police from 27 EU and non-EU countries



- Report on valuation of wildlife species and national and EU regulatory proposal. (EN-March 2020-, ES-March 2020-, PT-November 2021-).





Main achievements

- **Study on the origin and motivations** of environmental criminality.
- Legal actions for a better enforcement of environmental law
- ☐ **Legal reports**
- ☐ **Web portal for environmental complaints**
- ☐ **Court cases**

SPAIN:

- ✓ SEO/BirdLife has applied to appear and take part in a total of **10 criminal proceedings for environmental crimes** (wildlife crimes, illegal traffic, electrocution, corruption, habitat destruction) and **6 administrative proceedings** (renewable energies, species control permits, illegal crops, etc.).
- ✓ Two convictions obtained: *Pardeleo* (fine of 5 moth) and Casa de Hitos (fine of €240,401 and obligation to restore damage).

PORTUGAL

- ✓ SPEA is directly involved in **8 legal actions** (Lisbon airport, poisoning, etc.).

WHICH ARE THE MOTIVATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME?

Environmental crimes can be interlinked. Their motivations are complex and often combine and overlap. It is very important to take this into account in order not to simplify or individualise crimes that are influenced by many other socio-cultural, structural and ideological factors.

PROFIT

Economic motives are behind illegal commercial activities, such as illegal trafficking of waste or endangered species or their parts. They are also found in illegal hunting for meat supplies or in fires to free up pastures –but not as much as it is thought to be for land or timber speculation.

CORRUPTION

Behind the perpetrator of the crime, there is often a network of corruption. It mainly concerns illegal trade in waste, exotic fauna or their parts or rare woods, but also illegal logging and poaching.

CONFLICTS

The financing of insurgent or terrorist movements frequently comes from wildlife trading. Poaching is often the source of food for armed groups. Social and political instability encourages this type of crime.

BELIEFS

Superstition is central to the trade of parts of endangered species (pangolin scales, rhino horn, vulture's brain...). The belief that some types of meat are healthier can motivate illegal hunting, while some forest fires are associated with Satanism and the release of –often invasive– species is part of some religious rites.

TRADITIONS

Tradition itself motivates several types of wildlife crimes, due to their non-selective or massive nature, or catches that are harmful to the species. It also encourages the use of fire as a means of eliminating brushwood.

SOCIAL COHESION

Maintaining social ties is an important factor in illegal logging in a number of countries. Poaching is sometimes justified as a way to keep youth away from drugs or as a family activity.

ELITISM

It takes a lot of purchasing power to consume food products from endangered species (pangolin meat, sturgeon caviar), to possess some of their parts (ivory, leathers, scents) or to keep them as pets (parrots, felines). The search of luxury and social prestige is one of the motives for committing these infringements.

NONCONFORMITY

Disagreeing with rules, regarding them as unfair or perceiving them as restrictive are ideas linked to many types of crime. Releasing animals from fur farms, poaching in a protected area, chasing predators or setting fires in protest are some of these offences.

DETACHMENT

It was identified that the perpetrator is sometimes emotionally or utilitarianly detached from the natural resources that are affected by his or her action. For example, an incendiary may perceive that the vegetation cover means no benefit to him, or an illegal hunter or fisherman has no adherence to the environment if he is not from the area.

Despite all these motivations, the most recurrent factors are **lack of awareness** and **lack of understanding of the real impact** of actions. **Repression alone is not enough.** It must be accompanied by awareness-raising, the search for economic alternatives and, in many cases, the participation of the involved actors in the search for solutions.

#NatureGuardians

SEO/BirdLife & SPEA, 2020. Study of the origin and motivations of environmental crime. More details on www.guardianes.seo.org



Main achievements

- **Manual** on police investigation of administrative offences and infringements against biodiversity.
 - ✓ Analysis and identification of different biodiversity crimes
 - ✓ Investigation procedures and protocols
 - ✓ Forensics and criminalistics
 - ✓ Collaboration and cooperation between entities
- Analysis and implementation of **new techniques, technologies and practices** in law enforcement operations against environmental crime in the EU.
- Creation of an Environmental Intelligence Analysis Unit in SEPRONA: ***Oficina Central Nacional***



Main achievements

- Training of officials responsible for the environment and administrative procedures for environmental infringements.

1) Course on motivation of environmental crime held online on 24 and 25 February 2021. **1835 people registered**, a turnout that shows the great interest and need for this type of training. 77.9% of the participants attended the course from Spain; Portugal; Uruguay, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Argentina, Paraguay, Panama, El Salvador, the United States or the Netherlands.

2) Course on "Legal and technical aspects in proceedings for illegal actions against biodiversity" held on 15 October 2021. **178 attendances**, civil servants in general.



CRIMEN AMBIENTAL: Origen y motivaciones
4300 visualizaciones • Emitido hace 1 año
SEOBirdLife - Sociedad Española de Ornitología
MotivacionesCrimenAmbiental #GuardianesdeLaNaturaleza DÍA 1. DEL

Aspectos legales y técnicos en procedimientos por actuaciones ilegales contra la biodiversidad
2055 visualizaciones • Emitido hace 5 meses
SEOBirdLife - Sociedad Española de Ornitología

- Training and awareness-raising for environmental and wildlife enforcement officers and EU police officers in environmental crime investigation. More than **1000 agents trained**



Main achievements

- Awareness raising campaign





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David de la Bodega Zugasti

ddelabodega@seo.org

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[@David_Bodega](https://twitter.com/David_Bodega)

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THANK YOU!

Keep in touch with us



30 years of bringing green ideas to LIFE



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



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