



Addendum Guidelines for applicants 2020

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

Dear applicants, taking into account the adoption of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and an associated Action Plan, we have decided to change elements of the LIFE call for proposals published on 2/4/2020 in order to fully accommodate the possibilities for the implementation of the Strategy with the support of LIFE. The changes agreed are the following (more details are given in the following paragraphs):

- Additional exception is allowed to the rule stipulating that at least 25% of the total eligible costs will be dedicated to the concrete conservation actions

1. Background

On 20/05/2020 the European Commission has adopted the new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and an associated Action Plan. The Strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 and to build resilience to future threats such as climate change impacts, forest fires, food insecurity or disease outbreaks, including by protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.

LIFE can finance a wide range of projects that support achievement of these objectives and applicants are strongly encouraged to take EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 into account when preparing their applications.

2. Additional exception to the concrete conservation actions requirement (“25% rule”)

To ensure that LIFE programme can support the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, one additional exception is now permitted to the “25% rule”, in addition to the two exceptions already listed in the Application Guidelines.

Projects allocating less than 25% of their budget to concrete conservation actions are eligible for LIFE co-financing if they are:

- Projects aimed at identifying and mapping areas and landscape features that are needed to ensure the ecological coherence of NATURA 2000 (e.g. buffer zones, stepping stones, ecological corridors, etc.). These projects shall also identify the most suitable mechanisms required to ensure the conservation needs of those areas. This could range from legal or contractual protection mechanisms (therefore contributing to the objective of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to increase the surface of protected areas to 30% of the land in the EU), to land use planning and development policies. Any such proposal must include the direct participation of the Competent Authority or a clear support letter indicating they will use the results of the project and actively collaborate during its implementation.