



LIFE Nature & Biodiversity

Priority topics for Standard Actions projects (SAPs)
in the MAWP under the new LIFE Regulation (2021-24)

Frank VASSEN & Daniel Nuijten
DG ENV.D3, Nature Protection Unit

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

- **Two areas of intervention:**
 - “Space for nature”
 - “Safeguarding our species”
- **Two policy priorities:**
 - Support to the implementation of EU legislation : EU Birds and Habitats directives (incl. Natura 2000) and the IAS Regulation
 - Support to the targets under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Trans-European Nature Network & EU Restoration Plan

		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 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
Two areas of intervention that require specific and measurable (SMART) outcome based objectives	Intervention area 1: "Space for nature": area-based conservation and restoration measures	Any proposal that falls into at least one of the two areas of intervention <u>and</u> at least one of the two policy priorities could be financed through a Standard Action Project under LIFE Nature and Biodiversity	
	Intervention area 2: "Safeguarding our species": measures targeting specific species		

Two areas of intervention

“Space for Nature ”

Any project with actions for improving the condition of species or habitats through **area-based conservation or restoration** measures falls within the eligible scope of the intervention area “Space for Nature”. This may include, for example, **projects for restoring or improving natural or semi-natural habitats, or habitats of species, both within and outside existing protected areas**. This may also include **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.

“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 actions other than area-based conservation or restoration measures falls within the scope of the intervention area “Safeguarding our species”. 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 measures, spanning from hard infrastructural works to awareness raising of stakeholders**.

Standard Action Projects (SAPs) should be SMART !

Specific – targets a specific feature for improvement

Measurable – quantify / suggest indicator of progress

Assignable – specify who will do it

Realistic – state what results can be achieved, given available resources

Time-related – specify when the result(s) can be achieved.

SMART targets as a pre-condition for prioritising projects based on their expected outcome

In order to allow for effective comparison of merits of proposals addressing different nature and biodiversity policy priorities the following principles will be applied for the prioritization in terms of outcome-based targets under the two intervention areas:

- 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, 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).**

EU co-funding rates for SAPs under LIFE Nature and Biodiversity (→ indicated in the MAWP):

→ Up to **75%** of total eligible costs for projects that exclusively concern:

- priority habitat or species as listed in the relevant annexes of the EU Habitats Directive Directive;
- bird species considered as “priority for funding” by the Ornithological Committee (EU Birds Directive);
- habitat type or species listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive, **the conservation status of which has been assessed as unfavorable-bad and declining (U2-)** in the most recent available EU- and national-level biogeographical region assessments;
- habitat type or species (other than bird species) the EU-level threat status of which has been **assessed as “endangered” or worse in the most up-to-date European species or habitats Red Lists**
- other habitat or species in territories not covered by the European Red Lists, the threat status of which has been assessed as “endangered” or worse in the most up-to date **global IUCN Red Lists**.

Applicants will need to argue in their proposal that all actions are clearly tailored towards benefiting habitats or species that qualify for 75% co-funding.

→ Up to **67%** EU co-funding for projects targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species, provided priority species/habitats represent a clear focus of the project.

→ Up to **60%** of total eligible costs for all other projects.

Best practice, demonstration, innovation...

Each project will be assessed on the basis of its specific merits, whether as best-practice, innovation or demonstration projects

→ Projects focusing on best-practice are perfectly eligible.

Policy priority areas: EU Nature legislation

Priority is given to proposals for **improving the conservation status or trends of species and habitats of EU importance**, notably where such projects are implementing objectives and measures as outlined in national or regional *Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs)*. In particular:

- “Space for Nature”: projects that focus their actions 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.
- “Protecting our species”: projects that focus their activities on **reducing mortality of these species (e.g. poisoning, illegal killing, by-catch), preventing stakeholder conflicts, improving acceptance and promoting co-existence** with protected species.

In addition to the above, priority will also 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”

Policy priority areas: IAS Regulation

Priority is given to proposals addressing:

- **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 threatened species protected under EU legislation, or listed as threatened species in EU or global red lists (for species groups and/or regions not covered by EU Red lists).

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

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

Some key issues to be considered

- More funding for SNAPs, BEST, national LIFE coordinators, etc.... means there is no budget increase for SAPs → **need to focus SAP funding on outcome**
- **Stronger focus** on species and habitats that are most threatened /in worst conservation status (including those not covered by EU Nature legislation)
- Some of the topic reflect +/- deviations from the above principle (large carnivore focus under “species”, urban greening, “integrating the value of nature”)
- No pure communication/awareness raising SAP projects, nor projects focusing on monitoring or inventories; however certain actions can be funded as part of projects with wider objectives (SAPs, SNAPs, etc.) or possibly even as “Other projects”
- Many strategic and governance issues are mainly to be covered by the SNAPs ! (SNAPs are outside of the scope of the current topics document)



Thank you for your attention !

Annex :

Policy priority areas in detail

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Establishing a coherent network of protected areas

In relation to this target of the EU Biodiversity strategy, priority is given to:

- Proposals focused on **increasing the share of EU land or marine area under protection** (within the definition of “protected areas” in the relevant EU Guidance under the Biodiversity Strategy).
- In this context, priority is also given to the set-up of ecological corridors, such as green and blue infrastructure that reduce land or seascape fragmentation and pressures/ threats, and that directly **contribute to the resilience, effective management, and connectivity of protected areas**.
- Proposals focused on **increasing the share of EU land or marine area under strict protection** (within the definition of “strictly protected areas” in the relevant EU Guidance under the Biodiversity Strategy).

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Implementing EU nature restoration targets for species and habitats

According to the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, “The Commission will request and support Member States to raise the level of implementation of existing legislation within clear deadlines. It will in particular request Member States to ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030. In addition, Member States will have to ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend.”

Therefore, **once Member States have submitted their commitments or pledges** in relation to this target, projects that are focused on implementing any such national commitments or pledges, including through trans-national or trans-boundary approaches are given priority for LIFE support.

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Restoring degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems; prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters

Project proposals with a focus on **restoring degraded and/or carbon-rich ecosystems** are given priority for LIFE support. For forests, this includes proposals aimed at forest restoration to primary forest structure, composition and functioning.

Proposals with a focus on deploying Green and Blue Infrastructure in line with the EU guidance as well as other nature-based solutions and restoration actions **that would help prevent or reduce the impact of natural disasters, including river restoration projects**, are given priority for LIFE support.

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Improving the health and resilience of managed forests

Project proposals for **demonstrating “closer to nature forestry” practices**, meaning practices that try to achieve management objectives with minimum necessary human intervention and combine conservation with productivity objectives, are given priority for LIFE support; these are also defined as continuous cover forestry, reduced impact logging, retention forestry, mimicking natural disturbances. EU guidelines developed pursuant to the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, once available, will be the reference for closer-to-nature forestry.

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Reversing the decline of pollinators

Project proposals for the restoration of habitats where pollination by animals plays an important role, **need to outline how the improvement of their associated pollinator communities is taken into account by the project activities.**

Furthermore, even where proposals do not directly address pollinators, applicants are invited to measure the project's success against, among others, the improvement of pollinator communities. Indicators for improvement could be based, for example, on measuring changes in the diversity or abundance of Apoidea, Syrphidae, Lepidoptera or any other relevant taxonomic groups.

Project proposals that have a positive impact on pollinator communities based on at least one of the above requirements are given priority for LIFE support.

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Bringing nature back to agricultural land

Project proposals that **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, are given priority for LIFE support.

(LIFE funded actions must complement those to be financed under the CAP strategic plans, hence a focus on the demonstration of innovative approaches)

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Greening urban and peri-urban areas

Project proposals for the **restoration of healthy and biodiverse ecosystems in urban green areas**, as well as for the 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, are given priority for LIFE support, especially if they implement biodiversity objectives and measures in urban greening plans.

Policy priority areas: EU Biodiversity Strategy

Measuring and integrating the value of nature

Project proposals that lead to an **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 are given priority for LIFE support.



LIFE Info Day

Nature & Biodiversity - Standard Action Projects (SAP) LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT Call



Anita Fassio

Unit D2 - LIFE Environment (Nature & Circular Economy)

European Climate,
Infrastructure and
Environment
Executive Agency

What is LIFE Nature and Biodiversity?



**LIFE is the main EU
fund for nature
conservation**



**€3 billion funding
spent on 1 800
projects**



**LIFE contributed to
the conservation of
>750 different
species and >6 000
Natura 2000 sites**

Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

There are two topics under this call:

LIFE-2023-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 145 000 000
- ☐ Funding rate: 60%-67%-75%

Deadline: 06/09/2023

LIFE-2023-SAP-NAT-GOV – Nature Governance

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

- ☐ Topic budget: EUR 3 400 000
- ☐ Funding rate: 60%

Deadline: 06/09/2023

Admissibility

1. Submitted through Funding & Tenders Portal
2. Readable, accessible and printable
3. Complete (includes all documents and mandatory annexes, using the forms provided inside the Submission System + compliance with the instructions therein (e.g. **font size limit, no deletion of instructions**, etc.)



Eligibility

1. In scope
2. Eligible participants (legal entities - no natural persons + eligible countries but exceptions)
3. Geographic location (in eligible countries but exceptions)

Award Criteria

There are 4 Award Criteria:

- 1) Relevance
- 2) Quality
- 3) Impact
- 4) Resources

Possible bonus points:

- Synergies between LIFE sub-programmes
- Outermost Regions and areas with specific needs and vulnerabilities
- Up-scaling results of other European Union funded projects
- Exceptional catalytic potential
- Transnational cooperation among Member States

- The award criteria are scored 0-20 and the score of criterion 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1.5.
- Minimum pass score: 55
- The bonuses are based on yes/no criteria. They do not foresee a graduation: either 0 or 2 points are assigned to each proposal



Award criterion 1. Relevance (0-20 points)

a) Relevance of the **contribution to one or several of the specific objectives of the LIFE programme** and the **targeted sub-programme**;



Compliance with the objective of LIFE and of the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity

b) Extent to which the project is in line with the description included in the call for proposals, including, where relevant, its specific priorities;



Compliance with section 1.3 and 2 of Call document:

- ✓ Assessment of type of action as described for SAPs ;
- ✓ Themes and priorities: level of compliance + order of priority



Sub-criterion 1b: Extent to which the proposal is in line with the description included in the call for proposals, including, where relevant, its specific priorities

Pre-condition: fits one intervention area: “space for nature” and/or “safeguarding our species” + has specific outcome-based biodiversity-related objectives

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 Global IUCN red lists for OCTs + other non-EU countries with agreement)

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

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

Award criterion 1. Relevance (0-20 points)

c) Concept and methodology: soundness of the **overall intervention logic**;



- Will the project and its activities solve the challenge addressed? Have they selected the right solution and methodology to solve the problem?
- Is the chain of events planned (starting problem, input, activities, expected outcomes) that should lead to the intended change valid and thorough?

d) Extent to which the project offers **co-benefits and promotes synergies** with **other policy areas relevant for achieving environment and climate policy objectives**.



Beyond LIFE (agriculture, health, civil protection, jobs and growth...)

- Are other policy areas identified?
- Are specific activities identified?
- Are they intentional?



Award criterion 2. Impact (0-20 points) x 1,5

- a) **Ambition and credibility of impacts** expected during and/or after the project due to the proposed activities, **including potential negative impacts** on the other specific objectives of the LIFE programme, including ensuring that no substantial harm is done to those objectives.
- b) **Sustainability** of the project results after the end of the project.
- c) Potential for the project results to be **replicated** in the same or other sectors or places, or to be **up-scaled** by public or private actors or through mobilising larger investments or financial resources (catalytic potential).
- d) Quality of the measures for the **exploitation** of project results.



They must be concrete, realistic and quantified. KPIs (Part C) and consistency with Part A



Realistic strategy in place to ensure that the project results will be maintained from the technical, administrative and financial points of view

Strategy to mobilise a wider uptake of the projects' solutions, beyond the project's direct beneficiaries and beyond the project duration

Actual use of the results, i.e. all output generated by the project during its implementation, also in other contexts /sectors or for other purposes



Award criterion 3. Quality (0-20 points)

- a) Clarity, relevance and feasibility of the work plan; → How, when, where, why, by whom; workplan achievable, properly planned; deliverables, milestones defined; risk assessment; permits; etc.
- b) Identification and mobilisation of the relevant stakeholders; → Involvement of key actors not part of the consortium; guarantee of support/commitment
- c) Appropriate geographic focus of the activities; → implementation sites chosen relevant/adequate/justified?
- d) Quality of the plan to monitor and report impacts;
- e) Appropriateness and quality of the proposed measures to communicate and disseminate the project and its results to different target groups.

Important: consistency between specific sections of application form and WPs



Important

Projects involving **Natura 2000 site designations** or boundaries modifications, **update of Standard Data Forms** or approval by competent authorities of **management plans** or other strategic national/regional documents, must:

1. submit a formal letter of support or commitment from the MS competent authority;
2. include a dedicated milestone in the work-plan and proper follow up;
3. ensure that sufficient time is built in project planning so that the designation/approval is realistically achievable before the end of the project.



Award criterion 4. Resources (0-20 points)

- a) Composition of the project team in terms of expertise, skills and responsibilities and appropriateness of the management structure. → Adequacy of the consortium and of the PM
- b) Appropriateness of the budget and resources and their consistency with the proposed work plan. → Compliant with rules; reasonable; justified
- c) Transparency of the budget, i.e. the cost items should be sufficiently described. → Detailed budget table must be consistent with the total budget provided in part A
- d) Extent to which the project environmental impact is considered and mitigated, including through the use of green procurement. The use of recognised methods for the calculation of the project environmental footprint (e.g. PEF or OEF methods or similar ones) or environmental management systems (e.g. EMAS) would be an asset. → For major cost items, lines should be added to provide a detailed breakdown within one cost category, also indicating the work package to which they belong
- e) Value-for-money of the proposed project. → Project 'Green management'
- Conservation benefit vs resources budgeted
Is the overall indicative investment reasonable in view of the expected impacts and results?



Higher funding rate (default: 60%)

67%

Projects targeting BOTH priority and non-priority habitats and species but with a CLEAR FOCUS on priority hab/sp: most of activities are designed to explicitly and directly target the priority hab/sp, bringing them concrete conservation benefits

75%

Projects targeting EXCLUSIVELY priority habitats and species:

- priority habitat or species as listed in the relevant annexes of the EU Habitats Directive Directive;
- bird species considered as “priority for funding” by the Ornithological Committee (EU Birds Directive);
- habitat type or species listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive, the conservation status of which has been assessed as unfavorable-bad and declining (U2-) in the most recent available EU- and national-level biogeographical region assessments;
- habitat type or species (other than bird species) the EU-level threat status of which has been assessed as “endangered” or worse in the most up-to-date European species or habitats Red Lists
- other habitat or species in territories not covered by the European Red Lists, the threat status of which has been assessed as “endangered” or worse in the most up-to date global IUCN Red Lists.



Important: confirmation of co-financing declarations

In case the proposal includes a non-confirmed co-financing declaration, a 'Co-financing declaration' form with status "Confirmed" needs to be provided during GAP the latest 2.5 months after notification.

No Grant Agreement will be signed without confirmed co-financing!



Bonus 1 Synergies

The proposal offers exceptional synergies and promotes significant co-benefits between LIFE sub-programmes (2 points).

Synergies need to be exceptional, clearly described, well developed, justified in the proposal including in the project tasks. The project needs to bring substantial concrete benefits to those other areas (contribute to the priorities/objectives of the other sub-programmes). These benefits need to be quantified (i.e. through KPI indicators) and their monitoring should be foreseen

Requirements:

- They are clearly described, well developed, justified in the proposal
- The project brings substantial concrete benefits to those other areas (contribute to the priorities/objectives of the other sub-programmes)
- These benefits are quantified (i.e. through indicators) and monitoring is foreseen
- [The data eventually collected is further used to inform...]



Bonus 2 ORs

The proposal is primarily implemented in the Outermost Regions. Where specific regional features are relevant to the needs addressed in the call for proposals, e.g. islands for waste, coal-intensive regions for clean energy, etc., the bonus could be extended to other geographical areas with specific needs and vulnerabilities (2 points).

The European Union (EU) counts nine outermost regions. These are: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain).

‘Primary implementation’ in the described territories



Bonus 3 Uptake

The proposal substantially builds on or up-scales the results of other EU funded projects. (2 points).

The use of the concrete results of other projects needs to be clearly demonstrated in the intervention logic/actions and necessary to achieve project objectives. The proposal must be clear about how the results of other EU projects will be used. The mere transfer of best practices and experiences, while welcomed and encouraged in LIFE projects, is not sufficient to obtain this bonus point.



Bonus 4 Exceptional catalytic potential

The proposal offers an exceptional catalytic potential (2 points).

It is “exceptional” when the strategy in place leads to a significant multiplication of the impact of the project itself. The extent of replication is such that it triggers an effect that amplifies the project outcome on a much wider scale i.e. in other sectors or cities, at regional or country level, in other countries, etc..

The project could include, for example, coordination and cooperation with a substantial number of relevant actors at EU, national, regional and/or local level, develop a business case that triggers opportunities for further financing, etc.



Bonus 5 Transnationality

The proposal envisages a transnational cooperation among Member States essential to guarantee the achievement of the project objectives. (2 points).

Implementation of the project activities in two or more countries is a precondition to receive bonus points. The cooperation must be essential to reach the objectives. In addition, the proposal should convincingly describe the environmental / climate benefit of the activities implemented in each of the countries.



Project Design

Good design

Solid analysis of the problem and baseline

Key stakeholders involved

Robust assessment of impacts. Value for money

Clear strategy on how to maintain and multiply the impacts

Common problems

Insufficient **background information/baseline**

Objectives **too broad, too many**. Research activities not leading to concrete **conservation activities**

Insufficient **support/commitment** from stakeholders and **competent authorities**

Poor partnership

Over-optimistic / unrealistic or lack of quantification of impacts

Replication confused with **networking and dissemination**

Vague plans to sustain the project/results after project end

Thank you and good luck!



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



Drafting an invertebrate LIFE project proposal

Example LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper

Adaptive habitat management, breeding and reintroduction programme

Dr. Gustavo Becerra-Jurado

CINEA, LIFE Invertebrate Coordinator

Dr. Lisbeth Zechner MSc.

Conservatoire d'espaces naturels Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

EU Life Info Days 2023 - 26 April 2023



LIFE20 NAT/FR/000080

Contents

1. Proposal approaches
2. Baseline: knowledge on the target species
3. LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper
4. Partners and stakeholders – international cooperation
5. Tips for a good quality application



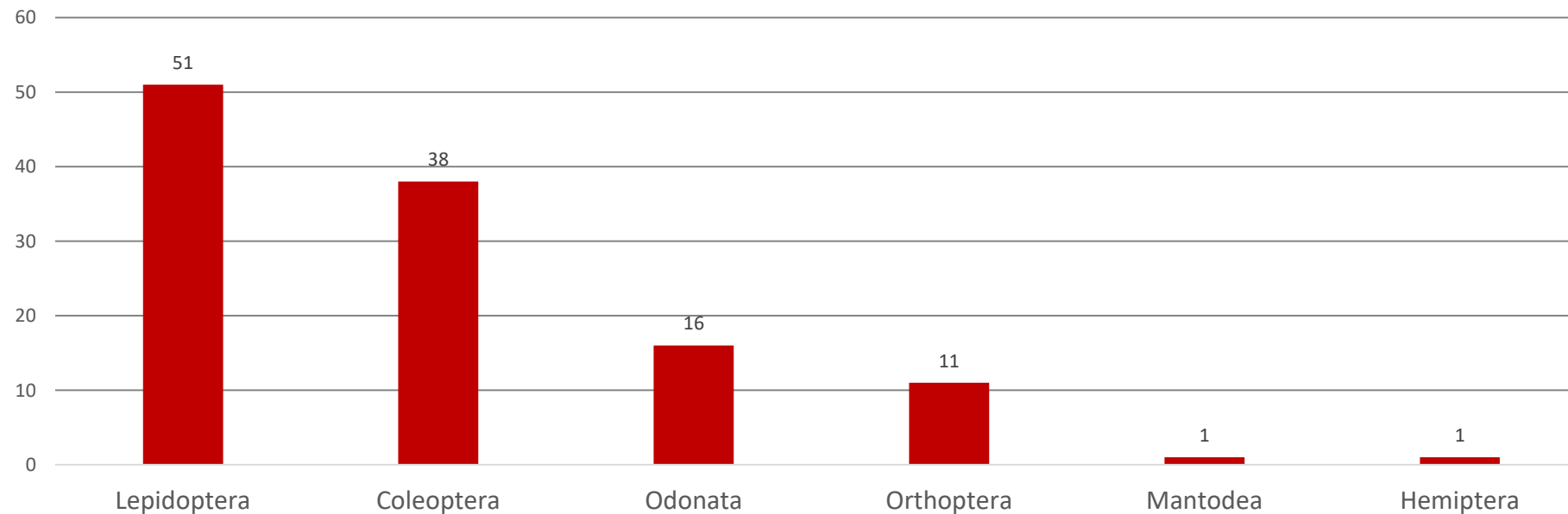
1. Proposal approaches

How to get LIFE funds for insect species? **A) Species approach** **B) Habitat approach**

A) Species approach (including some pollinators e.g. Lepidoptera)

→ EU Habitats Directive: species in unfavourable and declining conservation status (**U1-**), in particular in unfavourable-bad and declining conservation status (**U2-**) both at the EU- and national biogeographical region(s) level, where the project is taking place.

More than **100 potential species of insects**

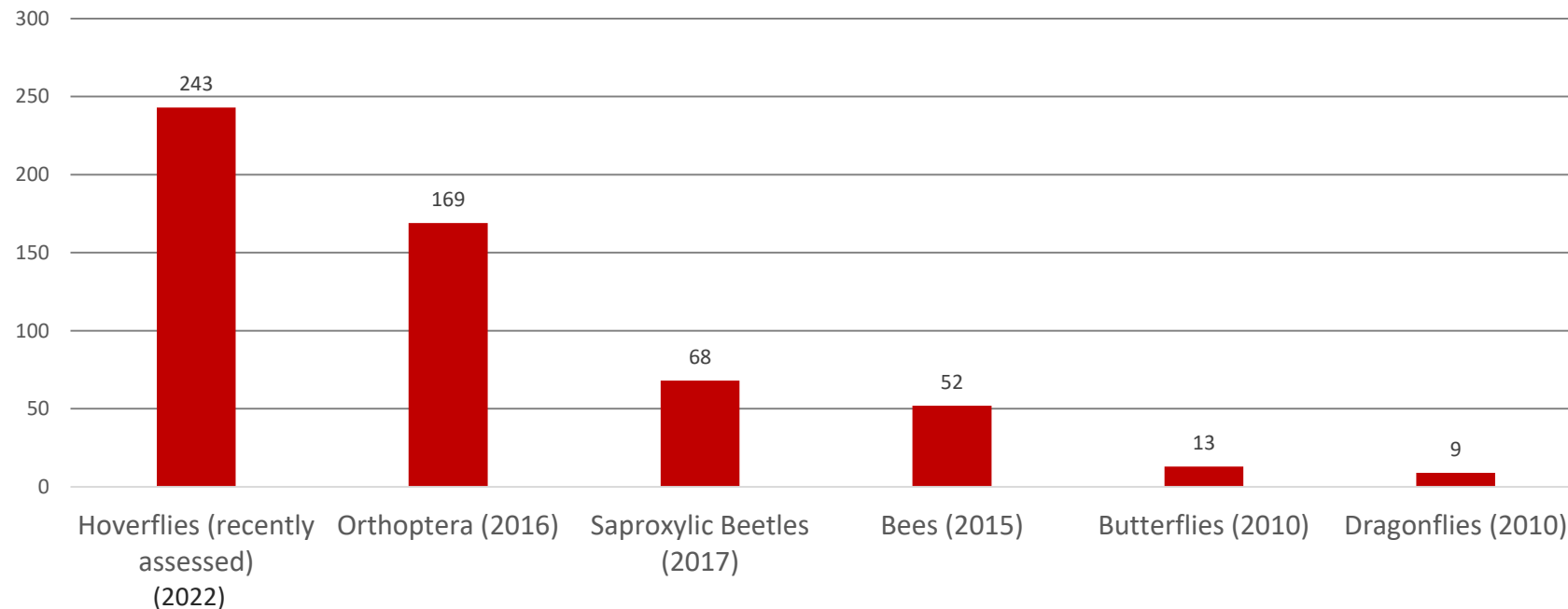


1. Proposal approaches

A) Species approach (including many pollinators): high number of species that can be targeted

➔ **Species NOT covered by the Habitats Directive:** species in higher extinction risk categories (**EN** or **CR**) in EU red lists, or (Pan) European/Global IUCN red lists for Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories, respectively.

More than **500** species of mostly **additional insect species!!!**
Many groups can now be targeted



European Red List of Moths coming soon

1. Proposal approaches

B) Habitat restoration approach + monitoring of insect species

- EU Habitats Directive: habitats in unfavorable and declining conservation status (**U1-**), in particular in unfavorable-bad and declining conservation status (**U2-**) both at the EU- and national biogeographical region(s) level, where the project is taking place.

More than **200 potential** non-marine **habitats for insects**

- European Red List: habitats species in higher extinction risk categories (**EN** or **CR**)

More than **25 potential** non-marine **habitats for insects**



1. Proposal approaches

Habitat approach: LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper

- « **Coussoul** » Unique dry grassland ecosystem in the South of France

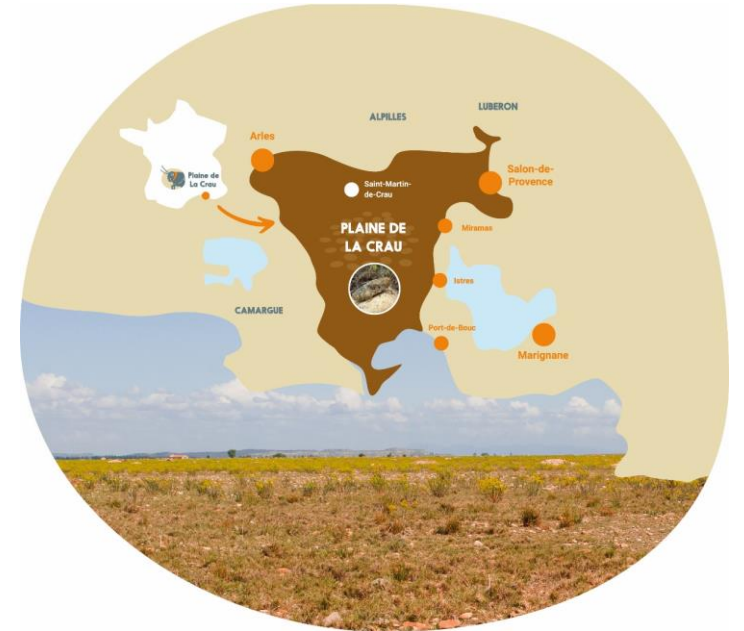
6220* Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea: **U2-**

[EUNIS -Factsheet for Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea \(europa.eu\)](https://eunis.europa.eu/en/natura2000/FR9301595)



National Nature Reserve NNR Coussouls de Crau, managed by CEN PACA and the Chamber of agriculture 13: **7,000 ha**

Natura 2000 SCI/SAC FR9301595 and SPA FR9310064: 43,143 ha



STILL multiples threats: destruction, constructions, pesticides, pollution, change of grazing practices, climate change, etc.

- **1789** : 600 km²

- **1958** : 200 km²

- **2020** : env. 100 km²

2008 - 2020: loss of 1,000 ha!

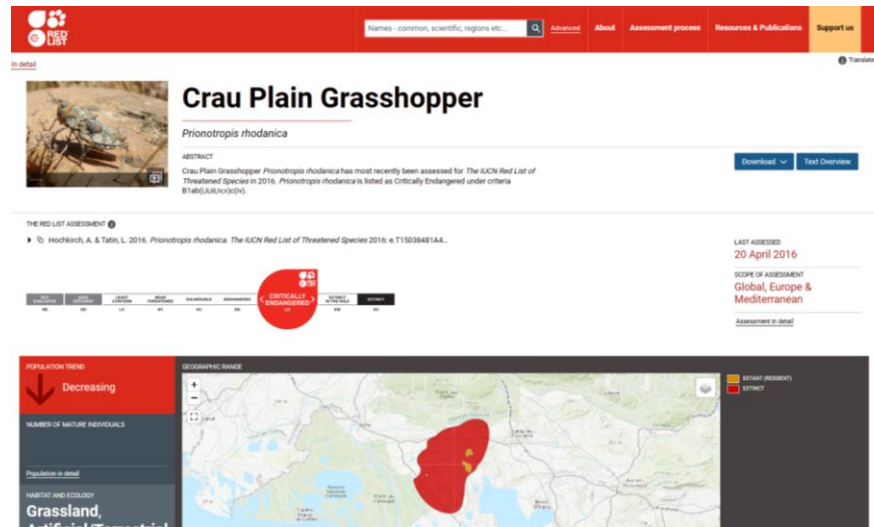


1. Proposal approaches

Species approach (chosen): LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper

- Endemic species in the Crau plain (Southern France)
- Strong decline for the last 20-30 years → **loss of more than 90 % of known distribution**

2016 : European and Global Red Lists (IUCN): CR "critically endangered"



LIFE multiannual work programme for 2018-2020

PROJECT TOPIC :

Targeting threatened species or habitats that are not included in the annexes of the Habitats Directive but have a status of 'endangered' or worse in the European species or habitats Red Lists or, for those species not covered by the European Red Lists, in the IUCN Red List.

2. Baseline: knowledge on target species

Example: LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper

Decline of the species observed since 1990 - further research & conservation activities

- From 1995: first studies on the species (Antoine Foucart, Eric Sardet, Sylvain Piry et al.)
- From 2009 Laurent Tatin (CEN PACA): start of extensive research and international cooperation
- 2014 Workshop & Conservation Strategy - IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Sub-Committee & CEN PACA
- From 2015 Cathy Gibault (Thoiry zoo), Axel Hochkirch, Linda Bröder et al. (Trier University, IUCN)
 - Breeding of Crau Plain Grasshopper (ex situ / in situ)
 - CMR: estimation of population size of the last 3 sub-populations (Bröder et al. 2020)
 - Micro-habitat analysis (Bröder et al. 2019)
 - Survey of potential predation by camera traps (Bröder et al., submitt.)



3. LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper – objectives & actions

1. Increase the area of favourable habitat: habitat restoration and adaptation of grazing practices

Preparatory actions to improve knowledge on the links between grazing, vegetation and habitat of *P. rhodanica* and to prepare concrete actions: **habitat restoration, adaptive grazing**; monitoring the impact of grazing on vegetation

2. Reduce threats such as predation by insectivorous gregarious bird species

Study of insectivorous gregarious birds: *Bubulcus ibis*, corvidae, *Falco naumanni*, **adaptation of breeding facilities**; monitoring of bird species

3. Improve captive breeding of *P. rhodanica* and start reintroduction/translocation programme

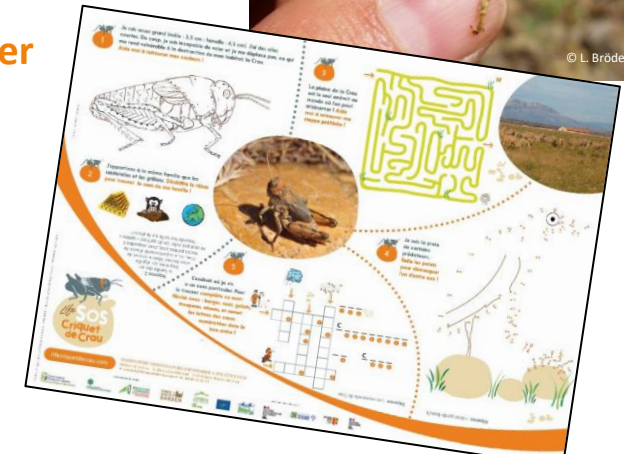
Reintroduction strategy: LIFE & IUCN guidelines

Breeding & reintroduction: 3 ex situ and 2 in situ breeding stations. 2-3 reintroduction sites

Monitoring of breeding programme and population monitoring

4. Communicate, educate and raise awareness – dissemination of results, experience transfer (international cooperation)

➔ Improving the conservation status of the species



3. LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper – beneficiaries & co-financing

Coordinating beneficiary: Conservatoire d'espaces naturels Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur CEN PACA

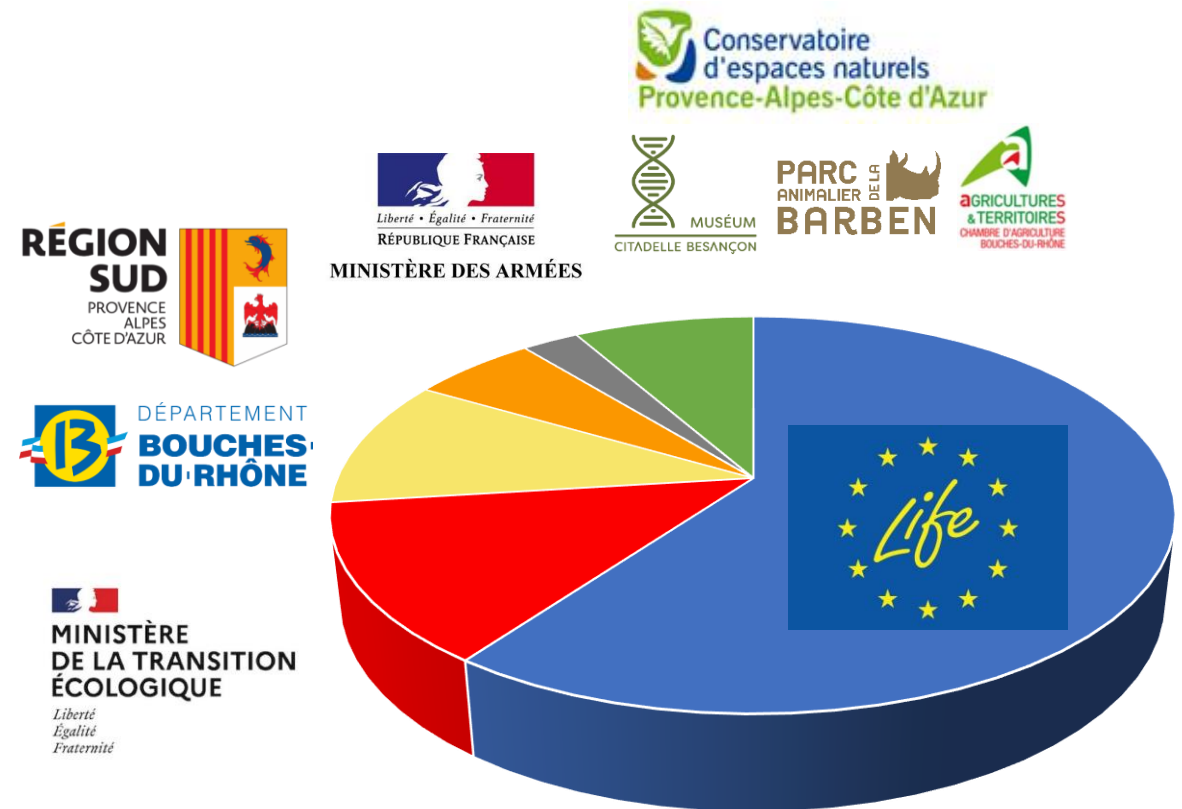
Associated beneficiaries:

- Chamber of agriculture (CA13) → grazing management
- La Barben zoo – grasshopper breeding
- Besançon zoo – grasshopper breeding

Duration: 01/09/2021 – 30/09/2025

Total budget: € 1,919,745

European co-financing: 60 % (now **up to 75 %!**)



4. Partners and stakeholders – international cooperation

Example: LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper

National and local authorities

Local stakeholders:

- Landowner: private (**BMW**), public (MINARM, CD13, CDL)
- Sheep breeders and shepherds
- Manager of protected areas (Natura 2000, nature reserves, etc.)
- NGOs (LPO France, LPO PACA, etc.)

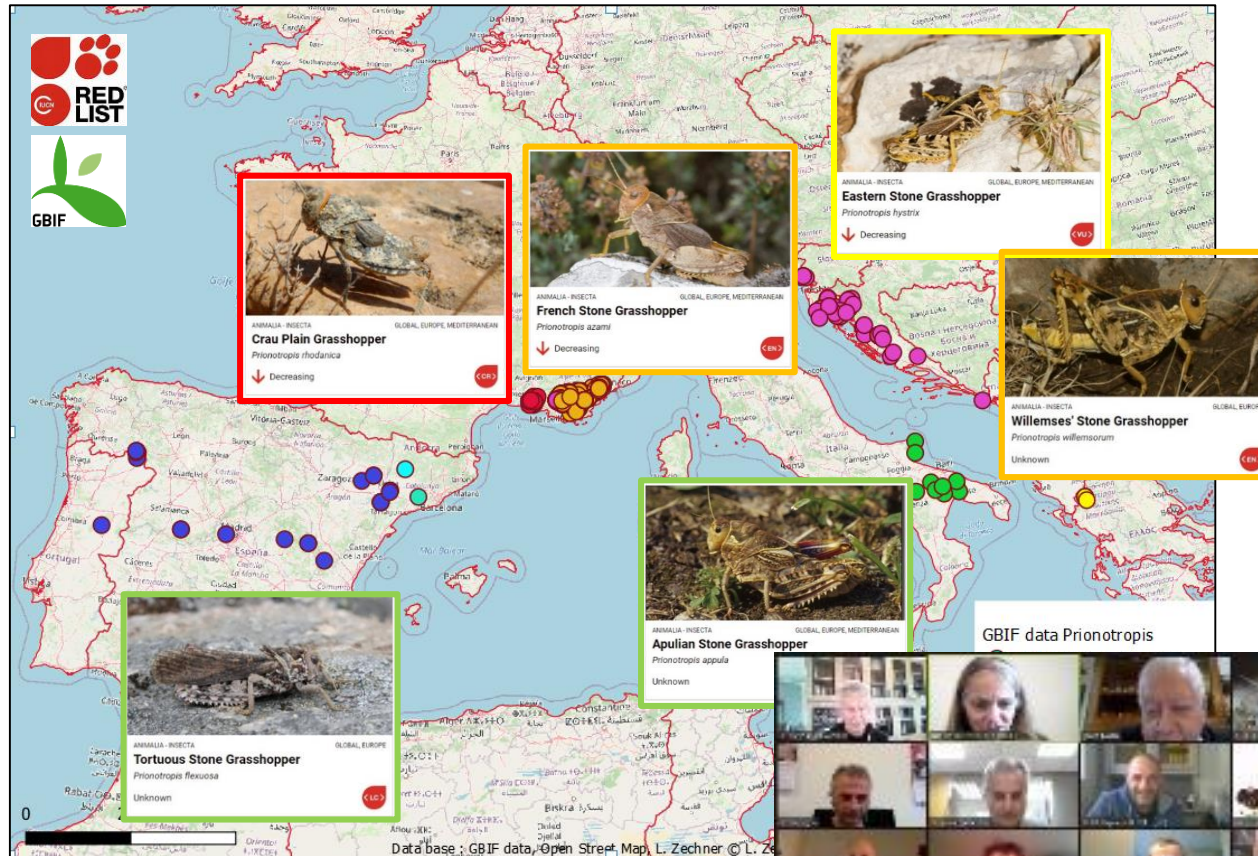
National and international experts (scientific committee)

- National Council for Nature Conservation, CIRAD/CBGP
- Universities: Avignon, Aix-Marseille, Montpellier, Trier
- **IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group** and European grasshoppers specialists (*Prionotropis* expert group), Zoological Society of London
- European Association of Zoos and Aquaria - TAG/TITAG, Bristol Zoo Gardens

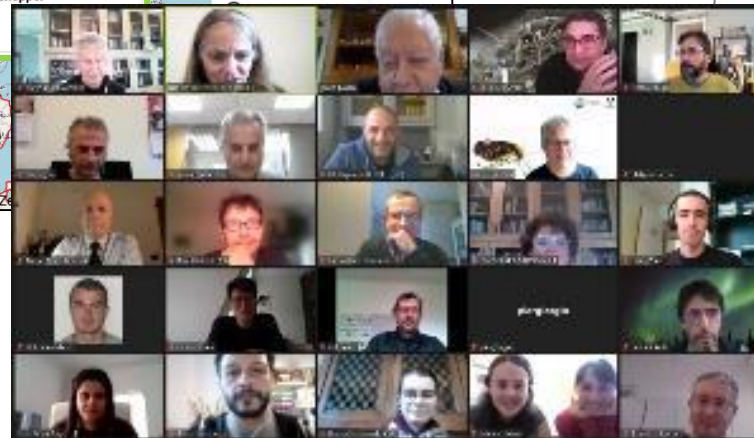


4. Partners and stakeholders – international cooperation

Example: LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper



[IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)



2nd International *Prionotropis* conservation Symposium

Zoom-meeting, 23 March 2023, 4 pm CET
<https://uni-trier.zoom.us/j/81018821029?pwd=SktnOVplOXI4bDE1Uk5lKzV0WExxZWZkZ09>

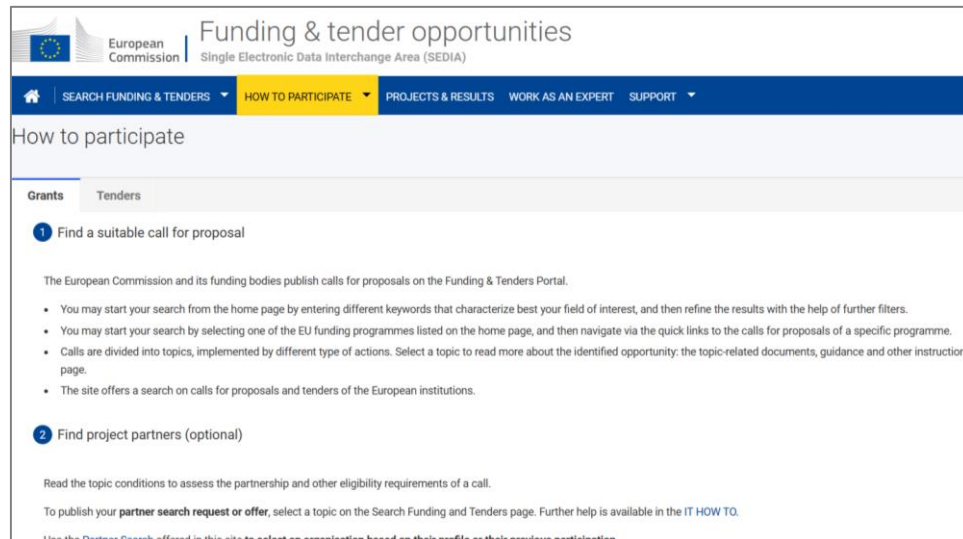
Programme

Axel Hochkirch	Introduction
Beatriz Navarro Domínguez, Francisco Ruiz-Ruano, Ricardo Gómez, María Dolores López-León, Alberto Bellido-Chaves, Josep Maria Olmo-Vidal, Alexander Bugrov, Bruno Massa & Juan Pedro M. Camacho	Molecular phylogenetics of wing sexual dimorphism in the genus <i>Prionotropis</i>
Rocco Labadessa & Leonardo Ancillotto	<i>Prionotropis appula</i> : research perspectives and conservation issues
Maks Deranja, Karmela Adžić, Sebastian Cato, Lisbeth Zechner, Fran Rebrina, Dušan Jelić, Maja Mihaljević, Marko Pavlović & Josip Skejo	Eastern stone grasshopper <i>Prionotropis hystrix</i> – biogeography, history of research, and conservation potential for the genus
Michèle Lemmonier-Darcemont & Christian Darcemont	Occurrence and threats of <i>Prionotropis willemsorum</i> – results of 2021 et 2022
Nikos Filis & Vassiliki Kati	Ecology and conservation of the Endangered Willemses' Stone Grasshopper <i>Prionotropis willemsorum</i> in Greece
Cathy Gibault	Breeding of <i>Prionotropis rhodanica</i> since 2015 – successes and problems
Axel Hochkirch & Lisbeth Zechner	Translocation strategy for <i>Prionotropis rhodanica</i> and ongoing actions within the LIFE-project SOS Crau Grasshopper 2021-2025
Discussion	

Organised within the framework of the LIFE20 NAT/FR/000080 SOS Crau Grasshopper, action E4

5. Tips for a good quality application

- **Baseline – local level → IMPACT *1,5**
- **Consider the approach to be taken**
- **Take a close look at requirements for the 5 types of bonus points** (Synergies, Outmost Regions*, Uptake, Exceptional catalytic potential, transnationality)
- **Have all key stakeholders involved:** authorities, experts, NGOs, local stakeholders
- **Only applied research:** LIFE does NOT finance fundamental research projects. Limited in scope and only essential aspects.
- **Consider adopting an international approach** (e.g. in collaboration with **IUCN SSC Specialist Groups** for invertebrates)
- **Enough time for putting together the proposal:** baseline, cooperations, co-financing, etc...



Submission even if the proposal is not perfect → feedback → possibility to improve and to submit one year later

[How to participate \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eas/eas_en)

Thank you for your
attention!



Gustavo BECERRA-JURADO

LIFE Invertebrate coordinator
CINEA, European Commission

Lisbeth ZECHNER

Project manager "LIFE SOS Crique de Crau"

CEN PACA - Pôle Bouches-du Rhône

Phone : +33 6 31 49 66 21

lisbeth.zechner@cen-paca.org

www.lifecriquedecrau.com

LIFE20 NAT/FR/000080