

How to fund the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N)

LIFE Programme



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LIFE Programme

The LIFE Programme is the EU's dedicated funding instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects. EU LIFE funding for the 2021-2027 period is €5.4 billion. Each project must be matched or topped up by co-funding from national or other funding sources.

The LIFE programme offers opportunities to contribute to a coherent TEN-N as it **encourages investment in designation of additional Natura 2000 sites, increasing connectivity and cross-border cooperation in green and blue infrastructure projects**. It provides opportunities for jointly funded projects with non-EU countries, which can support cross-border green infrastructure projects, for example where a Natura 2000 site lies alongside a nationally protected area in a non-EU state. It also provides funding opportunities for cross-border marine protected areas.

For the funding period 2021-2027, the LIFE Programme consists of four sub-programmes: Nature and Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and Clean Energy Transition.

This factsheet **focuses solely on the Nature and Biodiversity and the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation sub-programmes** as they are the main LIFE funding opportunities which contribute to the TEN-N

Assessment of LIFE Programme subsidies

Who can apply for LIFE funding?

- ✓ Public or private bodies, legal actors or institutions registered in the EU, or EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories
- ✓ Public or private bodies, actors or institutions registered in a third country associated to the LIFE programme (Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova, North Macedonia)
- ✓ A legal entity created under Union law or any international organisation
- ✓ Natural persons (individuals) are not eligible to apply.

How is the LIFE environment programme relevant to TEN-N?

- ✓ Funds **best practice, pilot and demonstration projects** at the local, regional and/or national scales.
- ✓ Funds projects that contribute to the **implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the management and extension of the Natura 2000 network, the Invasive Alien Species Regulation and the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** (in the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme).
- ✓ Funds projects in the areas of **resilience to water scarcity, droughts, forest fires or floods, adaptive technologies for economic sectors, and safeguarding natural resources** (in the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation sub-programme).

LIFE funding is relevant for your TEN-N project if it:

- ✓ Aims to protect species and habitats of conservation concern and expand ecological networks.
- ✓ Has either nature conservation and ecological connectivity as core objectives or has a climate mitigation and adaptation perspective with ecological connectivity components; nature-based solutions approach is considered particularly relevant.
- ✓ Is a regional, national, or cross-boundary project.
- ✓ Has co-funding from one or more partners and a total project budget of more than €500 000 (including co-funding).



LIFE - Types of funding relevant to TEN-N projects

LIFE Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs)

SNAPs under the subprogramme nature and biodiversity are projects that support the achievement of EU nature and biodiversity objectives by **implementing coherent programmes of action in the Member States** to mainstream these objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments. SNAPs aim to fund coordinated implementation of the national or regional **Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 and green infrastructure (PAF)**, and other plans or strategies that implement EU nature and/or biodiversity policy or legislation. The up-to-date PAF must be available when the final SNAP proposal is submitted. SNAP proposals are led by the **competent authorities for nature and biodiversity and responsible for PAF implementation** (or, in duly justified cases, led by associated beneficiaries). It is highly recommended that the stakeholders important for project implementation are also involved. Measures in a SNAP should include the following (adapted to the needs identified in the PAF or in other nature and biodiversity plans):

- Institutional support and capacity building actions.
- Mobilisation and coordination of additional funding from other EU funding instruments and programmes and from other sources.

SNAPs may also fund concrete conservation measures, especially if these measures cannot be supported through other EU funding programmes.

LIFE Standard Action Projects (SAPs)

Standard Action Projects (previously known as “traditional projects”), fund best practice, pilot and demonstration projects. Action projects under the subprogramme nature and biodiversity must contribute to the implementation of the EU Nature Directives, the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030, and the development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network. Action projects under the subprogramme for climate must increase resilience to climate change or contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the implementation and development of EU policy and legislation, best practices and solutions.

- SAPs are available to entities from all sectors(public, non-governmental and private).
- SAPs generally have a budget from €2 to €13 million for a period of up to 10 years.

Maximum 60% EU funding rate (or higher for certain types of projects).

LIFE Integrated Projects (IPs)

IPs under the subprogramme climate mitigation and adaptation are projects that implement EU policy and strategy on climate change adaptation or implement climate change mitigation strategies and action plans at regional or national level.

- IPs are implemented at national or regional scales, involving relevant authorities and very significant budgets from several EU and national sources, lasting for 6 to 10 years on average.

What TEN-N activities can the LIFE Programme fund?

This section assesses the opportunities for using LIFE to fund the types of measures needed to build the Trans-European Nature Network. The table below matches the different types of costs with the available sources of funding. The full list of types of costs is in the Annex to this factsheet.

LIFE funding can be used to cover most costs but cannot be used for ongoing activities.

Types of measures needed to build the TEN-N		LIFE Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs) and Integrated Projects (IPs)	LIFE Standard Action Projects (SAPs)
Network planning costs	Administrative	✗	✗
	Spatial planning	✓	✓
	Biogeographical network planning	✓	✓
	Monitoring and reporting of the protected area network	✓	✓
Protected area establishment costs	Site/corridor designation and management planning	✓	✓
	Administrative	✗	✗
	Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs	✓	✓
	One-off establishment actions	✓	✓
	Compensation	✓	✓
	Land purchase	✓	✓
Management costs	Site (cluster) administration	✗	✗
	Compliance checking and enforcement	✓	✓
	Monitoring and reporting	✓	✓
	Maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats	✓	✓
	Additional green infrastructure measures (outside protected areas)	✓	✓
	Protected area infrastructure maintenance	✓	✓
Communication and awareness raising costs	Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	✓	✓
	Best practice exchange	✓	✓

What TEN-N activities can the LIFE Programme fund?

1. Network planning and site and corridor designation and protection



LIFE SNAPs and SAPs can fund projects which focus on **increasing the share of EU terrestrial and marine protected areas**, in particular Natura 2000, including strictly protected areas, through:

- **Additional designations or enlargements** of Natura 2000 sites or nationally protected areas.
- **Improving the biodiversity focus** of existing protected areas through better management.
- **Alternative approaches** such as conservation of private land and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).
- **Setting-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.
- **Improving the level of protection** of existing areas or additional designations or enlargement of Natura 2000 sites or nationally protected areas.

It is a condition of LIFE SAP funding that acquired land and restored habitat areas should receive the most appropriate legal protection (nationally protected area, Natura 2000 etc.) with the view to contribute to the establishment of the Trans European Nature Network (TEN-N).

2. Restoration and maintenance of habitats and species in protected area(s)



LIFE SNAP and SAP projects fund the implementation of **nature restoration targets** for species and habitats, with a priority for projects which aim to:

- **Restore degraded and carbon-rich ecosystems and prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters** with a focus on deploying green and blue infrastructure as well as other nature-based solutions and restoration actions that would help preventor and reduce the impact of natural disasters, including river restoration projects.
- **Implement Member States' commitments** under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the EU nature restoration regulation.
- **Improve the health and resilience of managed forests.**
- **Reverse the decline of pollinators** – supporting the objective of the revised EU Pollinators Initiative to prepare a blueprint for a network of ecological corridors for pollinators.

- **Restore nature to agricultural land** – reinstate high-biodiversity landscape features in agroecosystems that also bring benefits for farmers and communities and improve ecosystem health.
- **Green urban and peri-urban areas and developing green infrastructure** and nature-based solutions that bring benefits for biodiversity while providing solutions to urban challenges and increasing access to nature, especially if they implement biodiversity objectives and urban greening plans.

3. Creation of new connecting landscape elements and corridors



LIFE nature and biodiversity investments must contribute to an improvement of the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in terms of preventing genetic isolation, allowing for species migration, and maintaining and enhancing healthy ecosystems.

SNAPs are key opportunities to scale up action at the regional and national levels, therefore allowing a strategic approach to building green infrastructure networks around Natura 2000. SNAPs may include green infrastructure measures if such measures are defined in the PAF, to improve the structural and functional connectivity of the Natura 2000 sites or the condition of ecosystems and the services they provide.

SNAPs can mainstream biodiversity objectives into sectoral programmes so that they create and maintain green infrastructure alongside the other objectives of the policy, for example by changing the management of open spaces under and around the high voltage power grid, inland waterways, road or railway networks to increase their value for biodiversity.

SNAPs provide opportunities to systematically plan and create, enhance and restore green and blue infrastructure that form corridors, buffers and stepping stones to maintain ecological processes and allow species to move around freely.

SAPs are also key opportunities to enhance connectivity, as priority is given to projects which aim to set up ecological corridors such as green and blue infrastructure, that reduce fragmentation and pressures and threats on Natura 2000 sites.

Projects that aim to improve the connectivity and coherence of the TEN-N may apply area-based activities that target protected species and habitats under the EU Nature Directives outside Natura 2000 sites, provided that the investments contribute to an improvement of the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and that the long-term continuation of these investments is provided in the form of a minimum 30-year long contractual agreement.

Where the funded actions involve land acquisition and habitat restoration, the area should receive the most appropriate legal protection with the view to contribute to the establishment and coherence of the TEN-N (as mentioned in point 1). For other investments that involve reducing pressures and threats (e.g. blocking of ditches or reducing nitrogen run off from agricultural land) on land which does not in itself have high natural value to justify designation but acts as a buffer zone around Natura 2000 sites and/or protected areas, a long-term contractual agreement (at least 30 years) should be established. This is to ensure that the pressures and threats to the Natura 2000 sites are reduced. When this is not possible, the investment must be backed by an appropriate land use planning at the most relevant administrative level, which can include private land conservation initiatives.

New or refurbished infrastructure should normally be located inside a Natura 2000 site. LIFE can fund infrastructure located outside a site if it acts as a migration corridor (such as an eco-duct or a fish pass) and if evidence is provided that it is indispensable to ensure connectivity and movement of species.

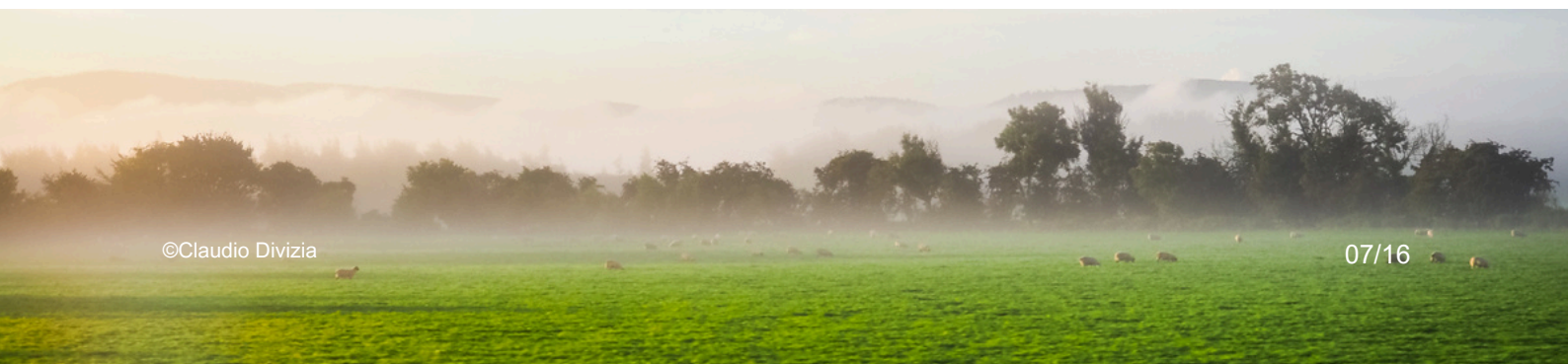
4. Maintenance and management of the area in a sustainable way by defining and implementing targeted conservation measures



SAPs can fund projects which focus on **implementing 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.

SAPs can also fund projects which aim to improve the health and resilience of managed forests, reverse the decline of pollinators, restore nature to agricultural land, green and blue urban and peri-urban areas and measure and integrate the value of nature.

SNAPs are also relevant as they are expected to significantly contribute to the favourable conservation status of natural habitats and species of EU importance. They should support the further development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network, in particular through the development, testing, demonstration and application of conservation methods and practices. They may include green infrastructure actions if referred to in the PAF with the aim to improve the structural and functional connectivity of the sites and/or the condition of the ecosystems and the services they provide.



5. Financial and technical support to the development of the network



Technical Assistance Projects (TAPs) support the development of capacity to:

- **Participate in SAPs and in the preparation of strategic integrated projects (TA-PP).** Projects may include:
 - Recruitment of new personnel and training for writing a SNAP proposal.
 - Contracting external assistance.
 - Information collection, networking, consultation and coordination work, etc.
- **Prepare for upscaling or replication of results** of projects funded by LIFE or other programmes and for accessing other EU financial instruments (TA-R).
- **Capacity-building of Member State authorities with low effective participation** to the LIFE programme, with a view to improving the NCP services across the EU (TA-CAP). LIFE can fund:
 - Communication campaigns on the LIFE programme addressed to relevant public national and local authorities.
 - Workshops on writing solid proposals and actions supporting the replication and transfer of LIFE projects results.
 - Screening of national environmental and climate action priorities to support, through LIFE projects, the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of relevant Union legislations.

Important considerations for TEN-N

- Project proposals for less than €500 000 are not appropriate for the LIFE programme.
- The proposal should demonstrate the availability of co-funding at the required rate, usually 40 to 50% of the total budget. Co-funding can include own funds of the participating partners, e.g. staff time.
- LIFE projects must not be co-funded using funding from other EU programmes.
- Transnational cooperation can be rewarded in the selection process: proposals for standard action projects (SAPs) can get extra points if there is sufficient evidence that transnational cooperation will contribute to environmental, nature or climate protection.
- Preparing and submitting a good proposal is a long and time-consuming process and requires adequate resources.
- All projects must have SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) objectives and results and demonstrate impacts using LIFE Key Performance indicators (KPIs).
- Proposals should be able to explain how they will contribute to the successful continuation, replication and/or transfer of project results. When designing their project, applicants need to plan for the obligation to maintain the ecological effect of the project activities for at least 30 years after the project end.
- Research is not the focus of the programme, but it can be carried out as part of a LIFE project.
- Ongoing activities cannot be included in the project proposal.

Strengths for TEN-N

- Environmental protection is the programme's core objective – it supports implementation of EU legislation.
- It has dedicated grants and good coverage of all costs associated with ecological networks.
- All Member States are eligible. It can cover third countries and therefore contribute to strengthening transboundary ecological networks with non-EU countries.
- Application criteria for LIFE are relatively flexible, any entity in the EU can apply for funding: public bodies, private commercial organisations and private not-for-profit organisations, with partners from your own country or from another.
- The programme is regarded as highly effective, with excellent contributions to the safeguarding of species and habitats. All LIFE projects must measure and demonstrate impacts.
- It uses a bottom-up approach, making it possible to fund local and community-driven projects.
- LIFE provides a testing ground for innovative projects and novel approaches to support conservation and restoration works with a history of developing and progressing many approaches and techniques. Through their innovative and inclusive character, LIFE projects promote evidence-based policy making.

Limitations for TEN-N

- LIFE projects require a significant amount of co-financing. This can come from foundations, private and commercial sources, but the largest sources are usually provided by national or regional governments. Public co-funding is available or facilitated by national or regional governments in some countries, but not others.
- Projects require strong management and administrative capacity to lead and manage the reporting and administration required by the EU. The reporting obligations pose a significant burden on beneficiaries and require a lot of capacity.
- The programme is oversubscribed in most Member States, with more proposals submitted than there is funding available [1]. In the 2014-2020 period, the success rate of proposals was 20%.
- Proposals require detailed and careful preparation, including details of how impacts will be measured and assessed.
- The average project lifespan is five years which is a short period of time to ensure the impacts are not lost after the project ends. A condition of LIFE funding is that impacts are sustained, and the After-LIFE conservation plan must specify how the LIFE funding was used to mobilise or access a longer-term sustainable source of funding. LIFE can fund longer projects of 10 years or more.
- LIFE is not a flexible or fast option for responding quickly to opportunities for restoration or site protection – e.g. through opportunistic land purchase opportunities – because of the length of time and effort needed to access funds.
- Smaller beneficiaries have experienced liquidity problems as payments are usually made only in periods of several years.

[1] Proposals that were not approved can be resubmitted in the next programming period.

Annex I: LIFE Project that have helped expand the protected area network and strengthen protection

Conservation of the Montseny brook newt (*Calotriton arnoldi*) in the Montseny Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain)

Calotriton arnoldi is an aquatic newt described in 2005 as endemic in the Montseny Natural Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain) (Guinart et al 2022). This new species is adapted to mountain streams and requires a pristine habitat. The isolated newt populations are endangered through the pressures of over-use of water from the catchments for irrigation, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and drought, poorly treated wastewater from isolated houses and public amenities, forestry plantations, logging activities and logging roads. Although the species habitat lies within a natural park and the Natura 2000 site Massís del Montseny, only 20% of the surface area of the natural park and biosphere reserve is under public ownership. The distribution area of the newt takes up 3,039 ha, of which 63% is under private ownership.

Project goals:

- Protection: to establish proper legal coverage and define long-term strategic planning.
- Conservation: to ensure its genetic conservation and expand its geographic distribution.
- Habitat management: to eliminate or minimise threats that exist in the riparian habitat.
- Research: to increase scientific and technical knowledge about *C. arnoldi* conservation status and its habitat management.
- Education and dissemination: to involve and engage stakeholders and local residents in the conservation of the newt's riparian habitats.

Budget: EU contribution from LIFE: €1 782 764 (60% of total budget of €2 971 276).

Achievements for area and habitat protection:

The project established protection measures on 220 ha of the privately owned newt habitat area through:

- Three land stewardship agreements with forest owners to apply good environmental practices and protect the riparian habitat (65 ha).
- Purchase of two estates of high ecological value for the protection of the Montseny newt (90 ha).
- Establishment of supervised management areas along river courses to preserve the riparian habitat (65 ha).

Sources: LIFE project LIFE15 NAT/ES/000757 in the European Commission LIFE Public Database
Guinart, Daniel, Sònia Solórzano, Fèlix Amat, Jordina Grau, Daniel Fernández-Guiberteau, and Albert Montori. (2022). "Habitat Management of the Endemic and Critical Endangered Montseny Brook Newt (*Calotriton arnoldi*)" Land 11, no. 3: 449.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/land11030449>

Meetings were arranged with forest owners to reach agreements between both parties. The involvement of landowners was achieved through group meetings, and the mechanisms to involve landowners resulted in the signing of land stewardship and the purchase or exchange of land contracts and agreements.

The project also carried out stream restoration, removed invasive alien trees and fish and replanted native species, actions to increase irrigation water use efficiency, rainwater collection and storage, and established tertiary wastewater treatment. The project established a captive breeding programme and carried out many educational and awareness raising activities in the area.

LIFE projects that have benefited ecological connectivity

T.E.N. Trentino Ecological Network (2012-2017) – A focal point for a Pan-Alpine Ecological Network (Italy)

The Italian region of Trentino contains 155 Natura 2000 network sites, 75 nature reserves and 223 local reserves, and is home to the only autochthonous population of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in the Alps. The Trentino Ecological Network is made up of 11 Reserve Networks recognised under provincial law. These networks aim to decentralise biodiversity management and involve local communities.

Project goals:

- Create an integrated long-term management system and restoration programme for the Trentino Ecological Network and the Natura 2000 sites in Trentino.
- Enhance the management of Natura 2000 sites in Reserve Networks by local municipalities and communities.
- Integrate local conservation policies into agriculture, tourism and other economic sectors.
- Increase local participation of authorities and stakeholders from different sectors.
- Establish programmes that ensure an ecological connection within the Natura 2000 network.
- Promote networking among neighbouring regional authorities, and identify priorities at the regional level and financial instruments for achieving conservation objectives.

Budget:

€1.7 million. 50% EU LIFE funding, 40% co-funding from the Autonomous Province of Trento, 10% co-funding from the Trento science museum.

Achievements for ecological connectivity:

- **Planning and designation:** defined 14 clusters of reserves with similar ecological and administrative requirements to organise the management of the network. Designated ten Networks of Reserves under provincial law, with the participation of institutions and local communities, both in the conservation process and in the planning of sustainable development in the area. This should ensure the effective decentralised management of the Trentino Province Multifunctional Ecological Network, thanks to the participation of institutions and local communities.
- **Biodiversity data, tools and guidance:** created an operational management tool containing data (315,000 data items from site surveys and analysis of existing datasets) and guidelines for the conservation of the species and habitats protected by the EU nature directives in the province. Each homogenous area environment has an overview of actions for the restoration of habitats and ecological connectivity.
- **Creation of ecological corridors:** created bands of woodland in an area of the valley representing the only true “natural corridor” along the valley between Trento and Bolzano to encourage the passage of animals, offering them stop-off and resting areas, as well as reducing the anthropogenic disturbance from urban areas. Restored semi-natural dry grasslands and hay meadows, humid woodlands in wetlands, and Molinia humid grasslands and peat bogs. Made electric power lines safer for bird species. Improved habitat for rock partridge through sheep and donkey grazing.
- **Integration into economic policies:** created Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy in the Protected Areas of Trentino (TURNAT). Implemented five new operations in the 2014-2020 Rural Development Plan under the Common Agricultural Policy in the province.
- **Awareness raising:** disseminated information by involving local operators, institutions, tourists and the general public, with 64 meetings, involving 1500 people from 88 municipalities.
- **Monitoring:** monitored the efficacy of interventions and their socioeconomic impact. Validated the monitoring plans for large carnivores and birds. Conducted a genetic study of crayfish populations and a vegetation survey of the species-rich grasslands.

TIB - Trans Insubria Bionet (2011-2015) – Habitat connection and improvement along the Insubria ecological corridor between the Alps and the Ticino valley (Italy)

The province of Varese is one of the main ecological corridors linking the Alpine and Continental bioregions in the area between the Ticino River Valley and the Varese Prealps; in particular the area between the Campo dei Fiori and Ticino River regional parks is a functional link between the Alps and the Apennines through the Po Plain.

Project goals:

- Strengthen the ecological network by identifying and protecting the ecological corridors that allow animal and plant species to move between the Ticino River and Campo dei Fiori natural areas.
- Defragment the landscape by protecting and strengthening road and river crossings for animal species.
- Fight invasive alien species and facilitate the recovery of the ecological balance.
- Facilitate the restoration of certain typical elements of traditional rural habitats.

Budget:

€3 million. 50% EU LIFE funding, with co-funding from the Fondazione Cariplo (private funding, €0.5M) and the rest from the participants: Province of Varese, Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (Italian League for the Protection of Birds).

Achievements for ecological connectivity:

- **Designation and protection:** the Lombardy regional government strengthened the Regional Ecological Network (Rete Ecologica Regionale – RER) by including it in 2008 among its priority regional infrastructure (through its Regional Zoning Plan - PTR) in 2008, and by making its transposition into municipal zoning plans (PGT) mandatory in 2011 (through Regional Law n. 12 of 2011).
- **Planning and governance:** the province of Varese, together with the project partners, set up a voluntary agreement between the administrative bodies of the Insubria ecological corridor (municipal, provincial, and regional administrations; the Ticino River and the Campo dei Fiori Parks) in order to protect these areas from planning decisions and interventions that conflict with the conservation goals of the ecological network. The contract was signed on 12/05/2014. The contract specifies Incidence Assessment (Italian acronym VIncA) according to the EU Habitats Directive Article 6.3 as the tool for the protection of the corridor, to be applied in simplified form to certain types of interventions and to municipal planning tools. The provincial administration has set up specific amicable agreements with over 300 local landowners establishing perpetual easements with an explicit ban on altering or tampering with the restoration work.
- **Creation of ecological corridors:** Restoration to improve the ecological functionality of the corridor by restoring pools and wetlands, creating and restoring dry stone walls, removing invasive alien species, planting new trees and creating nest boxes and habitat piles.
- **Defragmentation of barriers:** constructed or improved underpasses and culverts for dispersing amphibian species, small to medium sized mammals, and other wild fauna.
- **Communication:** dissemination of information at regional, national and EU levels.
- **Monitoring:** set up and continue monitoring of the target amphibians, reptiles and other species.

Annex II: What are the financial costs associated with the TEN-N?

The creation and management of a coherent TEN-N in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 requires the following actions from the national and regional authorities:

- **Designate the relevant areas as protected**, in order to contribute to the 30% protected areas and the 10% strict protection targets.
- **Restore the relevant areas to contribute to the 20% restoration target of EU's land and sea by 2030**, in order to improve the habitat condition and delivery of ecosystem services.
- **Create new connecting landscape elements** to physically or functionally connect existing elements.
- **Maintain and manage the protected areas in a sustainable way by defining and implementing targeted conservation measures**, which may allow various types of low-impact land uses.
- **Financial and technical support** to the development of the network.

Meeting these objectives involves the following costs:

Network Planning Costs

One time or recurring costs associated with planning for or updating a comprehensive and well-connected network of protected areas.

- **Spatial mapping and planning**: mapping and modelling to identify priority areas (GIS mapping of habitat and species occurrences, land use, mapping of barriers and corridors), site identification information, IT infrastructure, training and capacity building.
- **Habitat and species surveys**: surveys to map habitat condition and species distribution, identify restoration priority areas and potential habitat recreation areas.
- **Biogeographical network planning**: exchange and joint planning (e.g. meetings, travel to neighbouring countries, information sharing).
- **Administrative**: staff, overheads, training, as part of the network planning exercise.
- **Stakeholder engagement**: costs associated with organising meetings with landowners and other potentially affected stakeholders.
- **Monitoring and reporting of the protected area network**.

Protected Area Establishment Costs

One-time or recurring costs associated with planning for placement, levels of protection and designation of additional protected areas and corridors.

- **Site/corridor designation and management planning**: definition of sites (habitat surveys, precise boundary definition, land parcel data, species and habitat data), designation, legal protection, management planning, impact assessment and permit issuing.
- **Administrative**: staff and salaries, trainings, overheads or office acquisitions, planning and coordination with other management teams in cross-border protected areas.
- **Remaining knowledge gaps and research needs**: additional surveys and research, engaging external expertise, modelling of ecological changes under climate scenarios, social impacts, capacity building.

- **One-off establishment actions: time and tools (incl. machinery) for:**
- **Defragmentation measures:** removing roads, river barriers, building green bridges.
- **Infrastructure:** Water management infrastructure, fire management infrastructure, construction of infrastructure necessary for management and visitors.
- **Landscape restoration:** e.g., fencing, removing or moving dykes, engineering works, earth moving, removing non-native trees, replanting, recreating floodplains.
- **Creation of corridors and connectivity/defragmentation features:** infrastructure or restoration actions e.g., green bridges, creation of green infrastructure features along water courses or transport networks for biodiversity.
- **Compensation:** establishment of alternative income-generating activities, short-term compensation, stewardship contracts with landowners.
- **Land purchase:** e.g. buy outs, land swaps.

Management Costs

Fixed and variable, recurring annual or one-off costs of site management and day-to-day activities.

- **Site (-cluster) administration:** staff and salaries, trainings, overheads, coordination with other management teams in cross-border protected areas, renewal of stewardship contracts with landowners.
- **Compliance checking and enforcement:** equipment, data, staff.
- **Impact assessment and permits:** assessments of development projects, control and issue of permits or licenses for activities or developments.
- **Surveillance, monitoring and reporting:** at scale of site and surroundings e.g. corridors. Species and habitat monitoring. Surveillance of invasive species, animal and plant diseases or pests, etc. Wildfire surveillance.
- **Maintenance and ongoing restoration measures for species and habitats,** incl. tools and machinery.
- **Additional green infrastructure measures outside the protected area:** maintenance and ongoing restoration measures for species and habitats in corridors, buffer zones, stepping-stone habitat patches etc.
- **Protected area infrastructure maintenance:** access (roads, paths), visitor facilities – observation hides, visitor centres, parking and other facilities, wildfire prevention and management.

Communication and Awareness Raising Costs

- **Protected area-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access:** general communication and awareness-raising measures, education, access to visitors, etc.
- **Best practice exchange** between protected area managers and between land managers of ecological corridors.

Annex III: Useful resources

Resources

- EU CINEA LIFE programme web pages: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en
- European Commission Funding & tender opportunities web portal:
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>
Recent LIFE calls under each sub-programme
- National contact points are available for each country and can help LIFE applicants through the process. https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life/life-european-countries_en
- European Commission LIFE public database:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>
Profiles every LIFE project and provides access to final project report, after-LIFE report, and other information

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How to fund the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N)

LIFE Programme

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