



# Joint Meeting of Bern Convention SFPs and CMS MIKT on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Wild Birds

Simona Bacchereti – CINEA, EC

Funding opportunities:

The LIFE Programme





FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:  
THE LIFE PROGRAMME

# What is the LIFE Programme?

The LIFE Programme is the EU Programme for Environment and Climate Action.

It is structured in two fields and four sub-programmes.

Environment:

- sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity
- sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Climate Action:

- sub-programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- sub-programme Clean Energy Transition.



## Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity

Covers two topics:

### 1) Nature and Biodiversity:

projects that lead to the implementation of the EU nature and biodiversity legislation and the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030.

### 2) Nature Governance and Information:

awareness raising, compliance assurance and access to justice related to nature and biodiversity legislation

Funding rate: 60%

But you can apply for a higher project funding rate (75%) if your project targets exclusively priority habitats/species.



# Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity: Three Priorities stemming from EU nature and biodiversity legislation

Priority is given to proposals for improving the conservation status or trends of species and habitats of EU interest, notably where:

.....

3) . Their activities focus on reducing the deliberate or accidental killing of the targeted species (e.g., poisoning, illegal killing, by-catch), preventing stakeholder conflicts, improving acceptance and promoting co-existence with protected species.



## Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, applicants must:

- Be legal entities;
- Be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
- **EU Member States**
- **non-EU countries associated to the LIFE Programme** (Iceland, Moldova, North Macedonia, Ukraine. Montenegro is currently ongoing negotiations to participate in the LIFE Programme - requested applicability from 01 January 2025).



## Geographic location (target countries)

- Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries
- **Activities outside the eligible countries must be necessary to achieve the EU environmental and climate objectives and ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried within the eligible countries** (e.g. actions aimed at the conservation of migratory birds in wintering areas, actions implemented on a trans boundary river, or projects aimed to address environmental problems that cannot be solved successfully or efficiently unless actions are carried out also in non-eligible countries)



# LIFE16 NAT/BG/000847 - LIFE FOR SAFE FLIGHT

## Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose along the Global Flyway

### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

Bulgaria, Romania, **Ukraine, Russia & Kazakhstan**

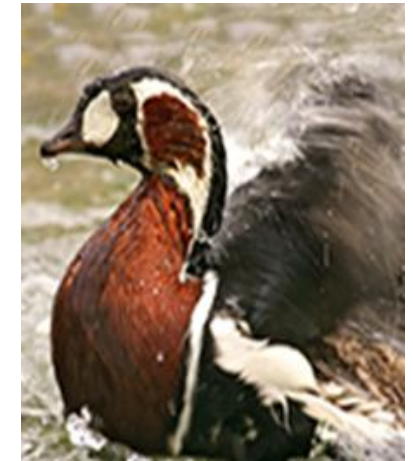
**Total eligible budget:** 2,598,468 €

**EU Contribution:** 1,918,320 €

**DURATION:** 01/09/2017- 31/05/2023

**Coordinating Beneficiary:** Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds

**Associated Beneficiaries:** SOR/BirdLife Romania, MMAP, ROMSILVA, Romanian Hunters Union, Tuzlovski Lymani NP, Vozkresenie, Manych Gudilo Biosphere reserve, Goose, Swans and Ducks Research Group, ACBK/BirdLife Kazakhstan, Zarkol Ltd



# LIFE16 NAT/BG/000847 - LIFE FOR SAFE FLIGHT

## Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose along the Global Flyway

### **Objectives and scope:**

To make a major contribution to the conservation of the red-breasted goose within the EU, and within its global migration flyway.

### **Among the actions:**

The project implementation benefited the migratory geese staging in the Kulykol-Taldykol lake system in Kazakhstan with the assignment of 35% of the crop fields, beside the roosting wetlands for a game resting and feeding area forbidden for hunting by the local hunting estates. Similar management restrictions introduced in the Koybagor Lake in Kazakhstan led to restoration of its importance as staging area for the Red-breasted geese and other migratory geese thanks to the ban on the use of boats on the lake and improved water management.

The project also has banned spring hunting in the area around Manych-Gudilo lake in Russian Federation.



# LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874 - EGYPTIAN VULTURE NEW LIFE

## Urgent Action to Strengthen the Balkan Population of the Egyptian Vulture and Secure Its Flyway

### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

Beneficiaries from Bulgaria, Greece, Germany, United Kingdom, Turkey, Jordan, Kenya and Nigeria.

Activities implemented in 14 countries in the Balkans, Middle East & Africa

**Total eligible budget:** 5,848,458 €

**EU Contribution:** 4,386,343 €

**DURATION:** 01/07/2017- 31/12/2022

**Coordinating Beneficiary:** BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria

**Associated Beneficiaries:** HOS, WWF Greece, RSPB, CMS Raptors MoU, BL Middle East, BL Africa, DD, APLORI, Green Balkans



# LIFE16 NAT/BG/000874 - EGYPTIAN VULTURE NEW LIFE

## Urgent Action to Strengthen the Balkan Population of the Egyptian Vulture and Secure Its Flyway

### **Objectives and scope:**

Extremely ambitious project aiming at reinforcing the population of the globally endangered Egyptian vulture in the EU's easternmost range by delivering urgent conservation measures towards eliminating major known threats in the breeding grounds and along the flyway in the Mediterranean, Africa, and the Middle East, in line with the European Species Action Plan, and in particular with the objectives set in the Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of the Balkan and Central Asian Populations of the Egyptian Vulture.

### **Specific objectives:**

1. Minimise the loss of mature individuals in the breeding grounds by deliberate or accidental poisoning.
2. Ensure that mortality due to electrocution and collisions with the energy infrastructure is reduced.
3. Ensure that food availability is not a limiting factor in the breeding grounds.
4. Mitigate the threats at the bottleneck and congregation sites along the flyway, including but not limited to loss by poisoning, direct persecution, electrocution.
5. Reinforce the Balkan breeding population by deploying a targeted restocking programme aimed to boost population recovery.
6. Increase awareness of and support for Egyptian vulture conservation by engaging relevant stakeholders.



# LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 - BalkanDetoxLife

Strengthen national capacities to fight wildlife poisoning and raise awareness about the problem in the Balkan countries

## **PROJECT LOCATION:**

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.

**Total eligible budget:** 1,832,811 €

**EU Contribution:** 1,004,792 €

**DURATION:** 01/10/2020- 30/09/2025



**Coordinating Beneficiary:** Stichting the Vulture Conservation Foundation

**Associated Beneficiaries:** AOS, PPNEA, BIOM, Nase Ptice, FWFF, HOS, MES and BPSSS



# LIFE19 GIE/NL/001016 - BalkanDetoxLife

Strengthen national capacities to fight wildlife poisoning and raise awareness about the problem in the Balkan countries

## OBJECTIVES & SCOPE

- Increase available information on the scope of wildlife poisoning
- Secure engagement and increase capacities of relevant governmental authorities
- Increasing the number of detected poisoning incidents by 40% and at least 6 successfully prosecuted cases
- Raise awareness among key target audience by introducing preventive measures
- Reduction of wildlife poisoning incidents by 20 %
- Establish a regional network for cooperation (investigation, forensic wildlife pathology and toxicology)

## KEY ACTIONS

- Establishment of national databases containing all incidents of wildlife poisoning
- Establishment of National Anti-Poisoning Working Groups and adoption of National Anti-Poisoning Road Maps
- Development and endorsement of Standard operational protocols for investigation (chain of custody).
- Reinforcement of institutional capacities – Wildlife Crime Academy
- Implementation of a strong awareness raising campaign about the damaging effects of poisoning to wildlife and human health.



# 101148401 - LIFE23-GIE-NL-WildLIFECrimeAcademy

Strengthen national capacities to combat wildlife crime and raise awareness about the problem in Europe and North Africa

## PROJECT LOCATION:

The project will be implemented in three EU Member States (Slovenia, Portugal and Romania) and in six non-EU countries (Egypt, Georgia, Morocco, Montenegro, North Cyprus and Tunisia). The applicant is based in The Netherlands and the core capacity building component will be implemented in Spain.

**Total eligible budget:** 2,020,001 €

**EU Contribution:** 1,212,000 €

**DURATION:** 01/10/2024 - 30/09/2029

**Coordinating Beneficiary:** STICHTING THE VULTURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

**Associated Beneficiaries:** Ministry of Environment Waters and Forests ( RO); DRUSTVO ZA OPAZOVANJE IN PROUCEVANJE PTIC SLOVE (SI); CENTAR ZA ZASTITU I PROUCAVANJE PTICA UDRUZENJE (ME); Taskent Nature Park ( CY)



# 101148401 - LIFE23-GIE-NL-WildLIFECrimeAcademy

Strengthen national capacities to combat wildlife crime and raise awareness about the problem in Europe and North Africa

## Objectives and scope:

To reduce the mortality of threatened wildlife species, by improving the capacity of relevant stakeholders for efficient investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime.

This will be achieved by improving professional qualifications and enhancing existing cross-border networks of compliance assurance practitioners through training activities, establishment of national working groups, development of national road maps, delivery of standard operational protocols, integration of strategic documents into relevant national legislation and support to prosecution of wildlife crime incidents.

**The project is expected to:** improve the capacity of 400-500 law enforcement officers, formally adopt national roadmaps in at least four countries, increase the number of wildlife crime incidents detected and investigated by 20% and 30% respectively, reduce the number of wildlife crime incidents by 10-20%, ensure the successful submission of 10 cases to court, and strengthen international cooperation through the creation of an international network of over 800 actors involved in combating wildlife crime in nine countries.



# 101113618 - LIFE22-NAT-DE-LIFE-Godwit-Flyway

## Conservation of the Black-tailed Godwit along the flyway

### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

Lower Saxony (DE); Lisbon (PT); Gambia (GA)

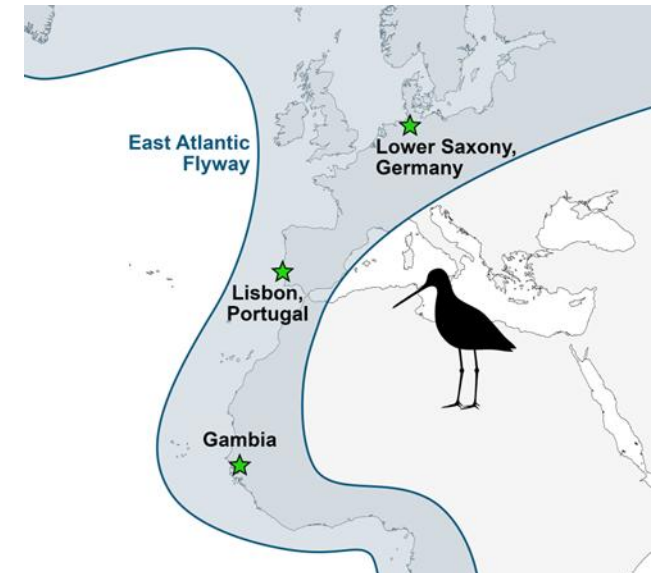
**Total eligible budget:** 15,848,352€

**EU Contribution:** 9,938,840 €

**DURATION:** 01/07/2023 - 30/10/2030

**Coordinating Beneficiary:** Ministry of Environment L. Saxony

**Associated Beneficiaries:** Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (NL), Universidade de Aveiro (PT), Natur- und Umweltschutzvereinigung Dümmer (DE), Companhia das Lezírias (PT), and Associated Partner Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (GA)



# 101113618 - LIFE22-NAT-DE-LIFE-Godwit-Flyway Conservation of the Black-tailed Godwit along the flyway

## **Objectives and scope:**

Increase Black-tailed Godwit population in breeding, staging and wintering sites

## **Concrete actions:**

Restoring breeding habitats in Germany (Dümmer and Unterelbe SPAs)

Restoring staging habitats in Portugal (Rice farms and Saltpans)

Restoring floodplain habitats in Gambia

Support the application to establish an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Gambia



# 101148382 - LIFE23-NAT-NL-LIFE AWOM Aquatic Warblers on the Move

## PROJECT LOCATION:

Netherlands; Belgium; France; Spain; Portugal; **Senegal**

**Total eligible budget:** 10,101,782 €

**EU Contribution:** 7,576,321 €

**DURATION:** 01/01/2025 - 31/12/2029

**Coordinating Beneficiary:** Wetlands International - European Association

**Associated Beneficiaries:** Fundación Global Nature; Natuurpunt Beheer vzw; Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves; Bretagne Vivante - Société pour l'étude et la protection de la nature en Bretagne; ASSOCIATION CONNAISSANCE ET RECHERCHE ORNITHOLOGIQUE LOIRE ET ATLANTIQUE; MAISON DE L'ESTUAIRE; GROUPE ORNITHOLOGIQUE NORMAND; FUNDACION MIGRES; ASSOCIACIO INSTITUT CATALA D'ORNITOLOGIA; UNIVERSIDADE DE AVEIRO; Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas; ASSOCIATION ZONE HUMIDES D'AFRIQUE WIACO; FONDATION TOUR DU VALAT



# 101148382 - LIFE23-NAT-NL-LIFE AWOM Aquatic Warblers on the Move

## **Objectives and scope:**

Support the recovery of the EU and global population of aquatic warblers by tackling habitat loss and degradation and contributing to the policy framework concerning the aquatic warbler

## **Among the concrete actions:**

restore and manage foraging habitats on a 300 hectares wintering area in Senegal

## **Among expected results:**

- 300 ha wintering site restored in Senegal
- 600 ha of wintering and stopover sites in Senegal protected as a community-based conservation area



# Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity: budget and timetables

Estimated available call budget for 2025 is EUR 156 500 000

<b>Timetable and deadlines(indicative)</b>	
Call opening:	24 April 2025
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>23 September 2025 – 17:00:00 CET</u> <u>(Brussels)</u>
Information on evaluation results:	February/March 2026
GA signature:	May/June 2026

[Standard Action Projects \(SAPs\) for nature and biodiversity – Nature](#)

[Standard Action Projects \(SAPs\) for nature and biodiversity – Governance and Information](#)





# #EULife25 INFO DAYS

13 - 15 May 2025



<https://vo-europe.swoogo.com/eu-life-info-days-2025/Home>

## Help in Preparing Applications

- Read the call documents and FAQs on the Funding and Tenders Portal
- You might be inspired by ongoing projects (see <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>) – but beware that requirements may have changed
- For clarifications on the call documents, send an email to [CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CINEA-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu) – your question and answer may be posted in the FAQ list for transparency



THANK YOU!



[simona.bacchereti@ec.europa.eu](mailto:simona.bacchereti@ec.europa.eu)