



**EUROPEAN  
RIVERS  
SUMMIT**

**FUNDING AND  
SUPPORT FOR RIVER  
RESTORATION AND  
PROTECTION**





# The LIFE programme

## How LIFE supports River Restoration and Protection

European Rivers Summit - Brussels, 30/09/2022

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Environment  
Executive Agency



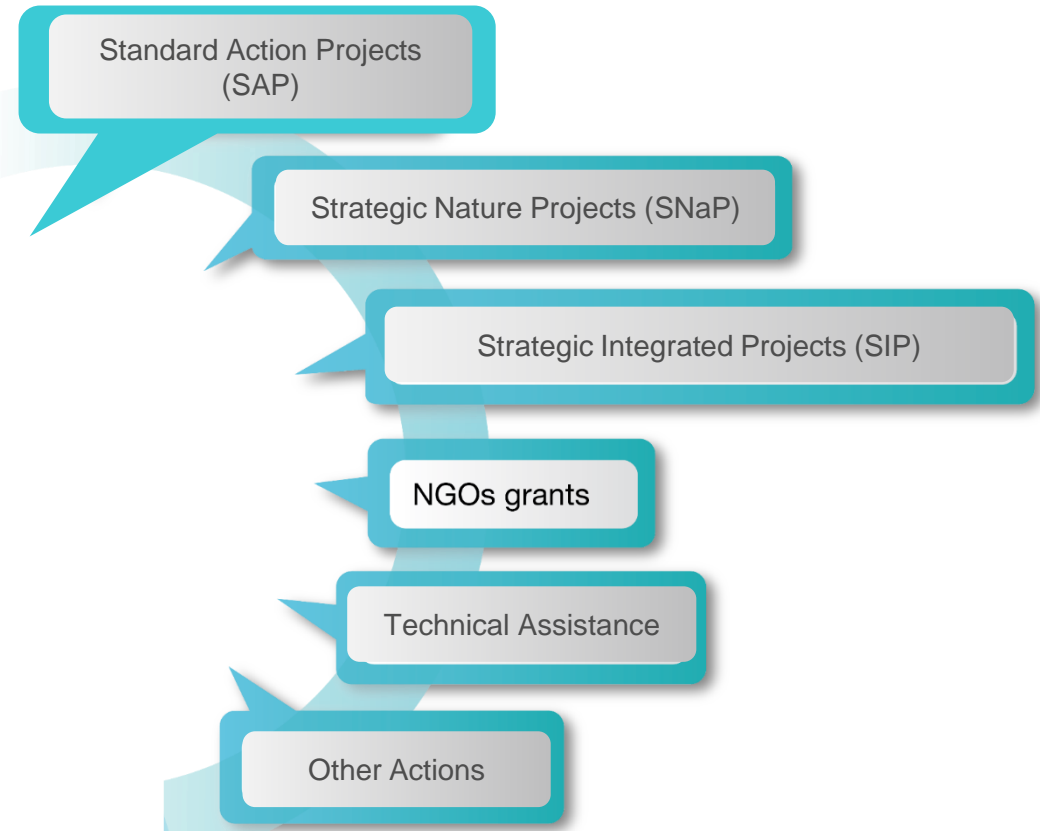


# The LIFE Programme 2021-2027: 5.400 M€

## 4 Sub-programmes



## Types of grants



# Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of life



Circular Economy  
and Quality of Life

**Contribution in  
the areas of:**

- circular economy, noise, air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment.



**Typical actions**

Support to public authorities and other stakeholders to implement EU environment legislation.

Support to technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in close-to-market conditions, at industrial or commercial scale, during the project duration.

Integrated projects beyond air, water, waste to other areas such as circular economy.

Promote upscale and access to finance.



# Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity



Nature and  
Biodiversity

## Contribution to:

- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss.
- Supporting Natura 2000 network and Prioritised Action Frameworks.
- Mainstreaming nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes.

## Typical actions

Projects supporting nature conservation and restoration in the Natura 2000 network.

Species protection.

Invasive Alien Species

Ecosystem restoration and much more ...

Integrated implementation of PAF and Biodiversity Strategy

Financing of small-scale grants, particularly in Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions



# Standard action projects (SAPs)

- **‘Traditional’ LIFE projects aimed to:**
  - develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches;
  - contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practices;
  - support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
  - catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance
- **Co-financing rate of 60% maximum except:**
  - 67% for project targeting both priority and non-priority habitats and/or species
  - 75% for projects targeting exclusively priority habitats and/or species
- **Maximum 10-year duration**



# SAPs Environment

Intervention area: Water (quality & quantity)

Topic	Topic budget	Indicative range of project budgets	Estimated number of projects to be funded
LIFE-2022-SAP-ENV-ENVIRONMENT — Circular Economy, resources from Waste, Air, Water, Soil, Noise, Chemicals, Bauhaus	EUR 92,320,656	EUR 2-10 Mln	38 projects
LIFE-2022-SAP-ENV-GOV — Environment governance	EUR 6,000,000	EUR 0.7 - 2 Mln	6 projects

## Specific priorities:

- Innovative projects addressing hydro morphological pressures
- Improvement of water quality
- Implementation of flood and/or drought risk management actions
- Implementation of innovative water saving measures in order to reduce the quantitative and qualitative pressures on water bodies/resources.

# SAPs ENV - GOV

## Intervention areas

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Activities in support of public administrations' decision-making and voluntary approaches

- **Specific priorities:**

Improving the capacity of public administration to implement a holistic vision of the environment, including managing, monitoring, assessing environmental plans, programmes and initiatives, by involving responsible authorities....

- Programmes of measures, analyses and reviews associated with the River Basin Management Plans



# SAP Environment - Example

## LIFE Isobel



The project aimed at mitigating the impact of barrages on river habitats, especially by

- working on bed load management
- establishing suitable **near-natural varied water structures** and **create missing habitats** for the flora and fauna (e.g. spawning and nursery grounds) by replacing existing rock mountings by flat riverside structures;
- **connecting river**, river banks and alluvial zones



# SAPs Nature

Topic	Topic budget	Indicative range of project budgets	Estimated number of projects to be funded
1 — Nature and Biodiversity	EUR 132 739 347	EUR 2-13 Mln	35 projects
2 — Nature Governance	EUR 3 000 000	EUR 1-2 Mln	2 projects

## Intervention areas

“Space for Nature” (areas based conservation or restoration measures)

“Safeguarding our species” (improving the condition of the species)

- **SCOPE:**

Habitats Directive: particularly habitats and species U2- conservation status

Biodiversity Strategy to 2030: ecological corridors and blue-infrastructure

Nature-based solutions and restoration actions (e.g. river restoration projects)

# SAPs Nature - example

## LIFE Connects



The project aims to improve ecosystem functions and ecosystem services in **seven southern Swedish rivers** and in the long term also the Baltic Sea

Ecosystem features will be enhanced by creating free migration paths, passage opportunities at obstacles, and by adding a more varied bottom structure

**Four hydropower plants** will be **removed** and at **two fish passages** will be **created**. Additional, around **thirteen dams** not connected to hydropower will be **removed** and **eight fish passages created**.

It will improve fish migration opportunities and habitats for fish and mussels for better water quality and more natural rivers.

# Strategic Projects (SNAP/SIP)

➤ Strategic Nature Action Projects

➤ Strategic Integrated Projects

... to implement certain plans and strategies → led by / with competent authority

... at a large territorial scale

... with full engagement of all the concerned stakeholders

... to mobilise & coordinate significant additional sources of funding

... in phases of 3 y each approx

- Co-financing rate 60% max
- Indicative LIFE grant: 10 – 30 M€
- Maximum 14 y duration (proposals typically 6 -10 y)

Topic	Topic budget	Indicative range of project budgets	Indicative number of projects to be funded	Indicative expected project duration
LIFE-2022-STRAT-NAT-SNaP-two-stage - Strategic Nature Projects (this is a combined two year (2022-2023) call, for more information please see the MAWP)	EUR 145 million	EUR 15 – 50 million	4 - 14 projects	60 - 120 months
LIFE-2022-STRAT-ENV-SIP-two-stage - Strategic Integrated Projects – Environment	EUR 52.8 million	EUR 10-30 million	3 - 6 projects	60 - 120 months
LIFE-2022-STRAT-CLIMA-SIP-two-stage - Strategic Integrated Projects - Climate Action	EUR 30 million	EUR 10-30 million	2 - 3 projects	60 - 120 months



# Strategic Projects eligible target plans

## SNAPs

1. **Prioritised Action Frameworks** under the Habitats Directive
2. other **plans or strategies** adopted at international, national, multiregional or regional level by nature and biodiversity authorities, that **implement EU nature and/or biodiversity policy or legislation**

## SIPs – Environment

1. **Circular Economy SIPs** - National or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar
2. **Water** – River Basin Management Plans under the Water FD & **Flood Risk Management Plans & Marine Strategies**
3. **Waste** – Waste Management Plans and/or Waste Prevention Programmes under the Waste FD
4. **Air** - Local and regional Air Quality Plans, and National Air Pollution Control Programmes

## SIPs – Climate Action

1. **National or regional adaptation strategies or action plans;**
  2. **Urban or community-based action plans** pioneering the transition to a climate neutral and/or climate resilient society;
  3. **National Energy and Climate Plans;**
  4. **National Energy Efficiency Action Plans;**
  5. **National, regional or industry-/sector-specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies or economy roadmaps** contributing to climate neutrality.
- CCA
- Urban
- CCM

**\*\*In green text: newly added objectives compared to 2014-2020\*\***



# SIP Environment

## LIFE IP RICH WATERS



- Early deliverable: Free migration routes for fish — dividing lines and common understanding (in Swedish...)
- Fauna passages at four barriers with high impact on fish populations constructed

## LIFE IP CleanEST



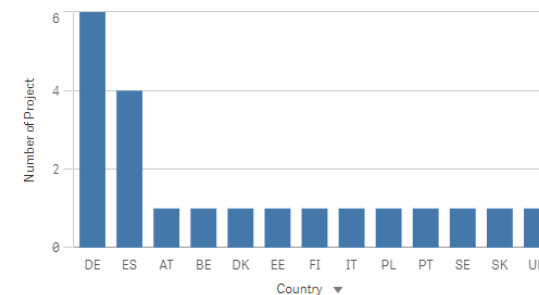
- Technical solutions for migration barriers (at least 10) will be developed
- River connectivity will be restored, and 6 fish passes will be constructed

# The impact of LIFE Projects

Biodiversity Strategy 2030 target of 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers by 2030

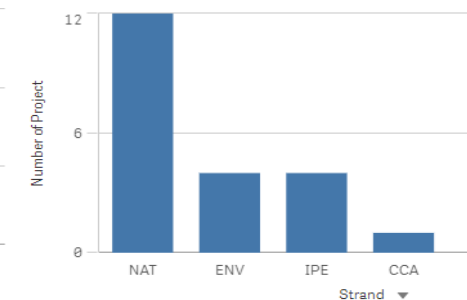
Nr of Projects by Strand and Country.

Select dimension on X axis

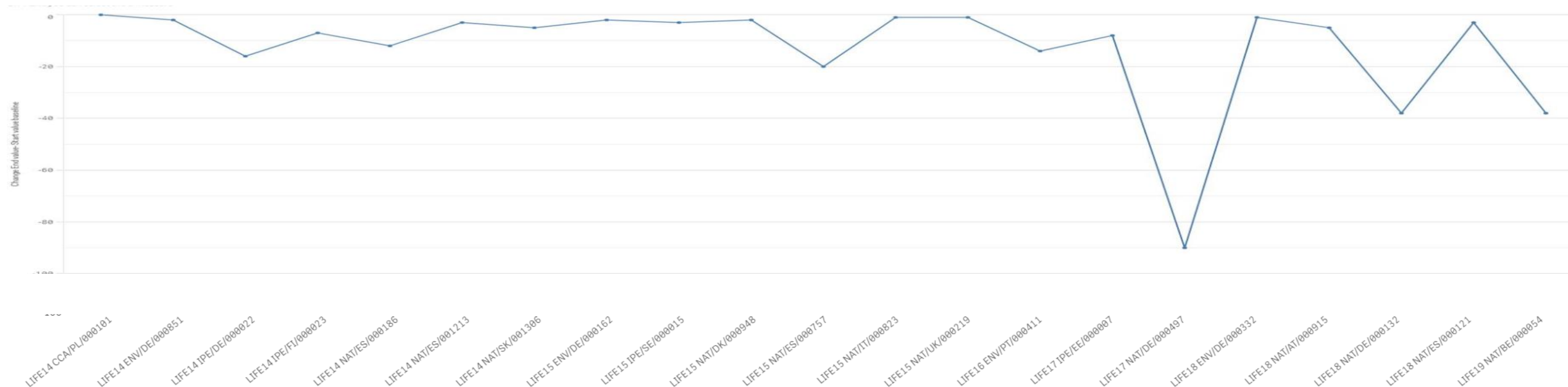


Nr of Projects by Strand and Country.

Select dimension on X axis



KPI Number	KPI Name	Unit	Nr of Projects	Maximum estimates	Minimum estimates	Minimum estimates per M€ EC Contribution	Achieved (finished projects)	Finished projects
2.3.2	Dams, barriers, locks	Km (rivers with improved connectivity)	24	-2.963,30	-831,30	-8,17	-87,80	3
		Number of barriers removed or altered	21	-271,00	-61,00	-0,74	-19,00	4
		Number of bypasses built	11	-36,00	-36,00	-0,64	0,00	0



# Further guidance and opportunities

## Barrier Removal for River Restoration

guidance document - 2021



# Basic info about LIFE

- All info in [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en) , section “[Calls for Proposals](#)”
  - EU Info Days (virtual info sessions): Presentations + recordings available
- LIFE so far....[the LIFE Project Database](#)
- Further info/support: [LIFE National Contact Point](#)
- Portal for applications: [Funding & tender opportunities portal](#)



# Keep an eye on....

- LIFE 2023 Calls
  - Planned opening - Spring 2023
- Danube river basin lighthouse – Protection and restoration of wetlands, flood plains, coastal wetlands and salt marshes and their biodiversity
  - TOPIC ID: HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-02 -> Just closed! check call 2023
- Open rivers programme
  - Call opening on 21<sup>st</sup> October





# More Info



[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)



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[Cinea-life-enquiries@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Cinea-life-enquiries@ec.europa.eu)

- Project Database: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>



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**THANK YOU**

And have a nice summit!