



# EU LIFE programme and Wildlife Crime

LIFE programme's contribution to the implementation of EU nature and biodiversity law

**19th International Wildlife Law Conference**  
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[ec.europa.eu/life](http://ec.europa.eu/life)

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- LIFE's contribution to prevent and fight wildlife crime in the EU (and outside)



*“Every bird of an endangered species strangled in a net is a major loss, so we keep working on it.”*





# What is LIFE programme?

**EU's financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects**



- Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed more than 4600 projects;
- For the 2014-2020 funding period, LIFE will contribute approximately €3.4 billion to the protection of the environment and climate.





# LIFE's overall objective

To contribute to the implementation, update and development of the EU environmental and climate policy and legislation



# LIFE Call for proposals 2019



## INDICATIVE TIMETABLE : APPLICATION ENVIRONMENT SUB-PROGRAMME



### Timeline

### Phases

17-19 June 2019



Submission of concept note  
*Max 10 pages + high-level budget*

June-September 2019



Evaluation of concept note

October 2019



Invitation for full proposal

February 2020



Submission of full e-proposal

June 2020



Signature of grants



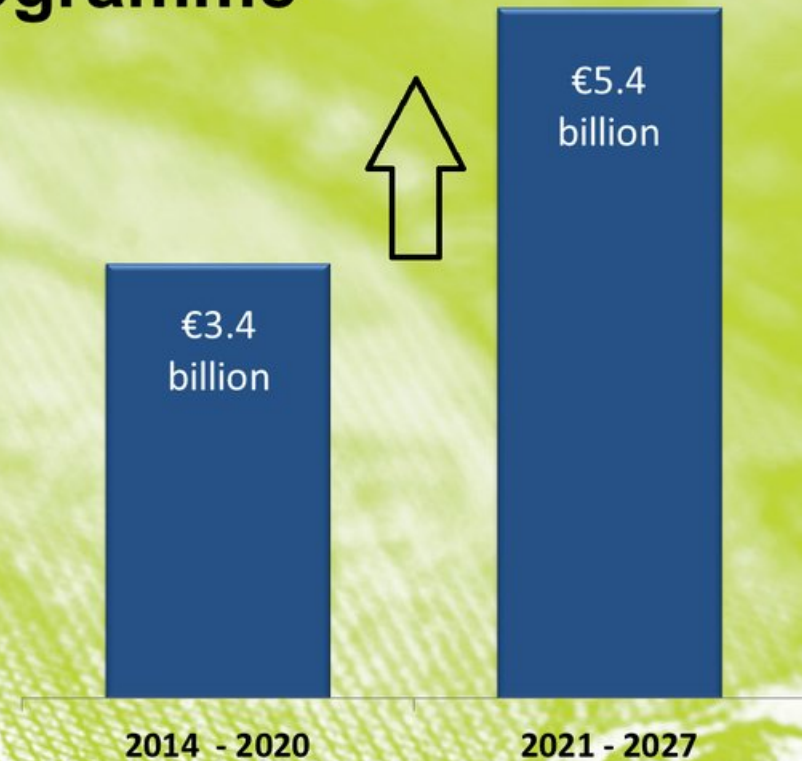




# LIFE after 2020 ?

the European Commission proposed on 1 June 2018 a regulation establishing a new LIFE programme for 2021-2027

## Almost 60% more budget for the next LIFE Programme



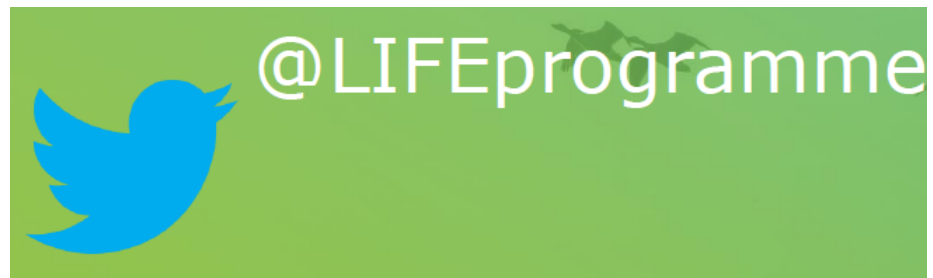
#EUBudget



## Want to learn more?

LIFE programme website:

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life>



# LIFE and wildlife crime



## LIFE MWAP priorities (2018-2020)

### Environmental compliance and access to justice

Project actions that include:

- Development and/or implement existing cross-border, national or regional risk-based strategies to promote, check and enforce compliance through use of a mix of administrative law, criminal law and environmental liability regarding one or more of the following:
  - waste crime and offending;
  - wildlife trafficking;
  - wildlife and nature crime and offending, including illegal logging.

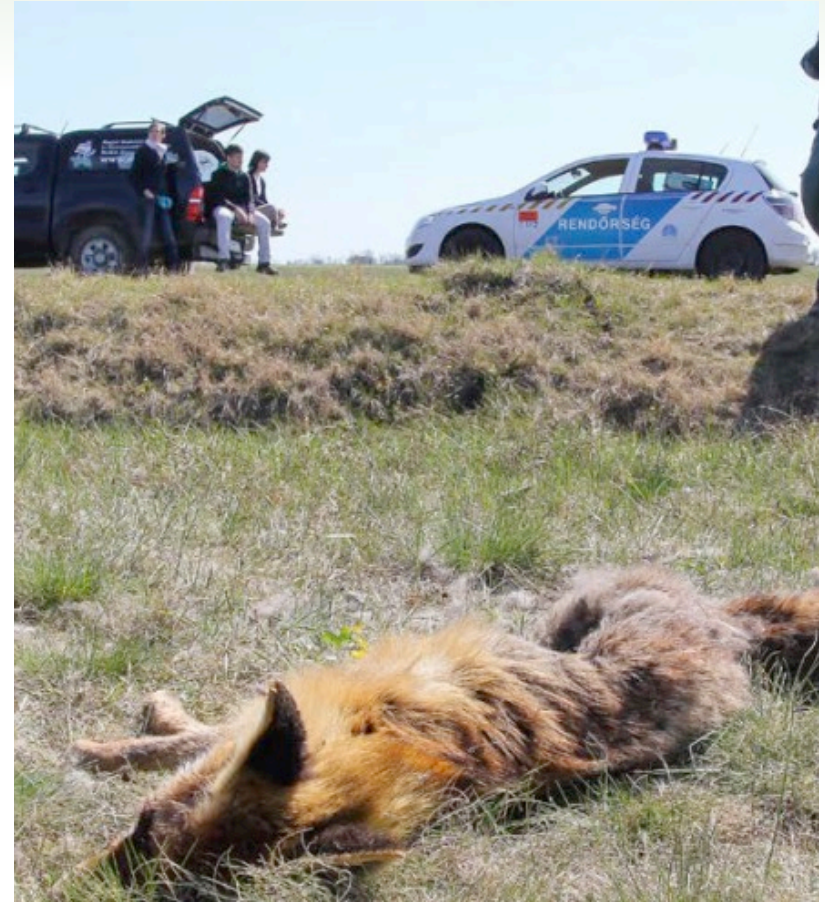




# Wildlife crime in the EU



- Illegal trapping and poaching for food
- Illegal predator/pest control
- Illegal killing for sport of protected species
- Illegal egg collection and taxidermy
- Illegal poisoning
- Illegal trade of protected species
- Illegal destruction of protected habitat



# Wildlife crime EU Law



- Habitats Directive
- Birds Directive
- CITES
- Environmental Crime Directive

**Wildlife crime (under the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive or CITES Regulations) is notoriously difficult to prosecute because the law in this area is complex and because criminal circles are small, highly organised, closed and hard to penetrate.**



# EU Roadmap towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds



The Roadmap identifies five main domains where the European Commission can act to support Member States:

- **Raising awareness of the competent authorities and civil society**
- **Funding projects**
- **Co-ordinating efforts at EU level**
- **Processing data provided by Member States in the context of their reporting obligations or Commission enquiries**
- **Initiating legal procedure**

Possible actions for the Commission and other concerned parties under four categories:

- **Monitoring and data collection**
- **Information exchange, training and awareness-raising**
- **Enforcement and legal aspects**
- **Prevention**

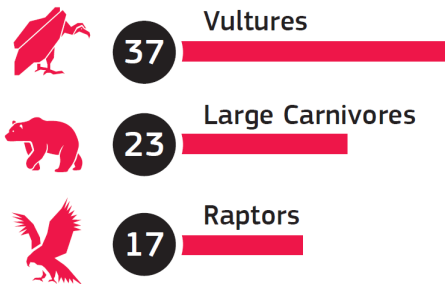


# LIFE programme has invested more than 70 million euros in over 40 LIFE projects

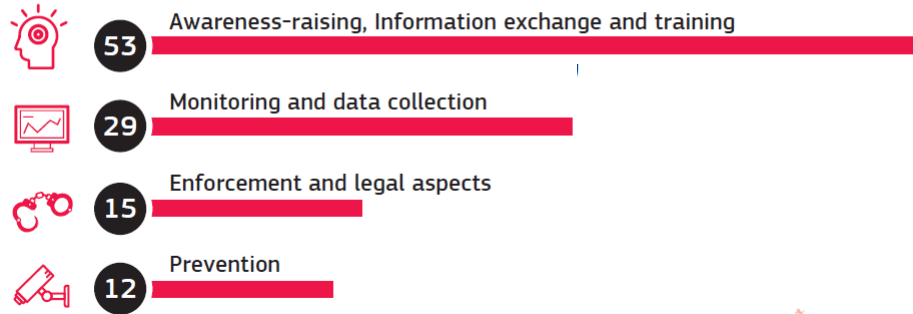


that have targeted **illegal activities connected to wildlife.**

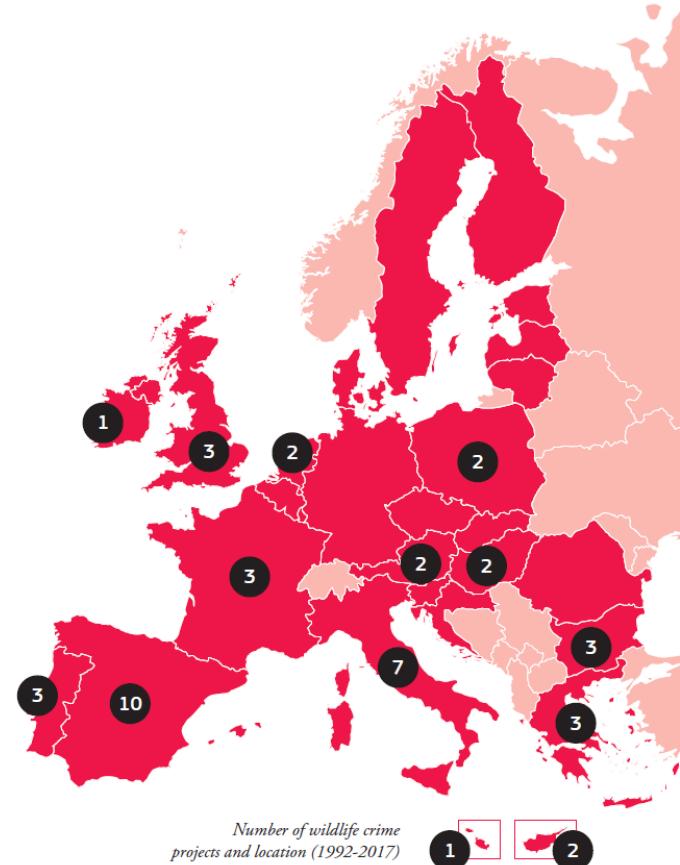
*Number of projects per  
annex species (Habitats  
and Birds Directives)*



*Number of LIFE project actions carried out in line with the Roadmap  
towards eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds:*



*Wildlife crimes adressed  
by LIFE projects*



# Examples of LIFE project actions



## Monitoring and data collection:

- Collection of cases (database) and reporting of wildlife crimes
- Identifying which species are targeted and types of illegal activities and location

## Enforcement and legal aspects:

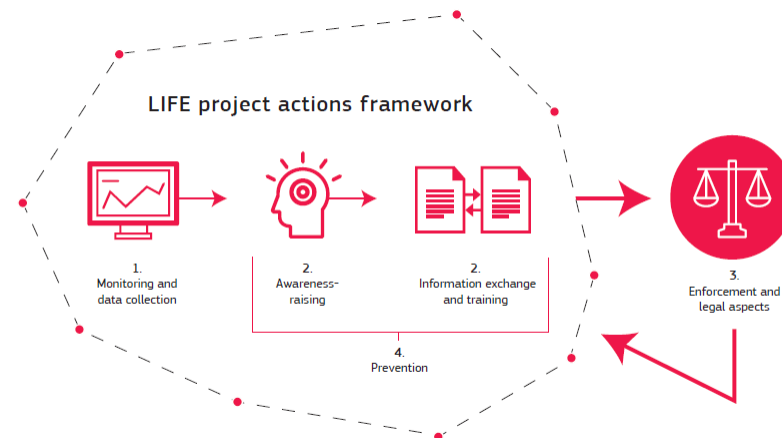
- Updating/implementation of legislation, fines and sanctions
- Training specialised prosecutors in judicial processes
- Helping to establish or resource specialised wildlife crime units within police forces

## Information exchange, training and awareness raising:

- Training of enforcement officers
- Training dogs to detect poison baits – some cross-border
- Training in evidence collection (poison kits)
- Public information campaigns against the illegal use of poison

## Prevention:

- Setting up surveillance zones in collaboration with local hunters' associations



# Key achievements

## LIFE wildlife crime projects



- Crime **monitoring and data collection** with new satellite tagging technologies
- **Database of incidents** (potential to become pan-European)
- **Anti-poison detection and prevention patrols (50 K-9 units)** in almost all EU Mediterranean countries
- **Anti-poison networks** involving hunters and shepherds etc.
- Working with technology and people
- Getting the **media involved** – making people **aware wildlife crime is a crime**
- Awareness-raising campaigns across Member States
- **Specialised awareness raising and training for statutory authorities, police, customs, public prosecutors, environmental lawyers and judges**
- Strong and clear penalties, more routinely enforced





# LIFE Project – VENENO NO



VENENO NO ('no poison') analysed information from **more than 4 000 poisoning cases** over a five-year period. This revealed the need for stronger controls over the marketing and use of phytosanitary products, to prevent their use in poisoned baits.

[www.venenono.org](http://www.venenono.org)



- VENENO NO has helped authorities bring **24 cases** involving illegal bird poisoning **to court**.
- These have resulted in **13 convictions**.
- The project's discoveries have fed into national action plans and a **European Action Plan to Prevent Illegal Poisoning of Wildlife**.
- All Spain regional autonomies have **poison legal action plans in force**.



# LIFE project - ENPE



## European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment

- LIFE is supporting the network's efforts to make the application of environmental law more consistent across Europe;
- giving public prosecutors and judges the knowledge and confidence to pursue such cases.

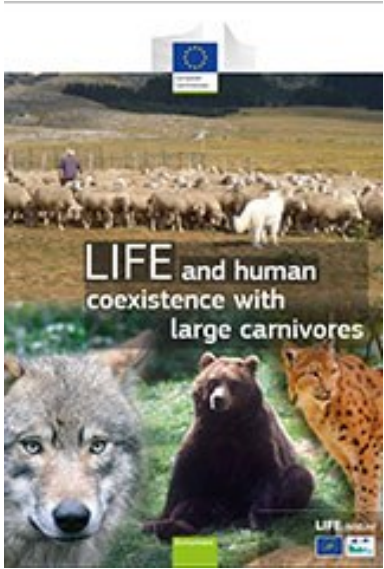


[LIFE-ENPE](#) is a multi partner project that seeks to improve compliance with EU Environmental Law by addressing uneven and incomplete implementation across Member States through improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of prosecutors and judges in combating environmental crime.





# LIFE thematic publications





**Thank you for your attention!**

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