

Section 3.1.5 Where relevant, CAP contribution towards LIFE projects

Explanation of the CAP contribution (including the financial terms) to leverage support and upscale integrated Strategic Nature Projects as defined under the [LIFE] Regulation (EU) .../... [LIFE] [when farmers communities are involved]

Section 3.1.5 of the CSP is not applicable as Ireland does not intend to fund LIFE projects through the CSP, however Ireland would like to provide the following information to demonstrate the complementarity between on-going LIFE projects and what is proposed within the CSP.

Not applicable; Ireland does not intend to fund LIFE projects through the CSP; however Ireland foresees strong complementarity between its CSP interventions and its current LIFE projects including Strategic Nature Projects (SNaP).

Relevant Current LIFE Projects

Two large-scale LIFE projects that commenced in 2021 are the Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP and Corncrake LIFE. The Wild Atlantic Nature project aims to support appropriate and sensitive habitat management in blanket bog areas in the west and north-west of Ireland through a results-based payments scheme along with other community supports and innovations. Corncrake LIFE is also working with farmers and landowners to improve the habitat conditions and range of Corncrake areas in the west and north-west of the country.

A further two new LIFE projects that have recently been approved are Lough Carra LIFE and Machair LIFE. Both of these projects will contain results-based measures for farmers to deliver quality grassland habitats on their farms.

LIFE Strategic Nature project for Ireland

The LIFE Strategic Nature project for Ireland (SNaP) Concept Note recently passed the evaluation stage and Ireland has been invited to submit a full proposal. Ireland is working towards submission of this full proposal in April 2022.

The project aims primarily at implementing the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 in Ireland 2021-2027 (PAF21) and covers the entire country. The SNaP will focus on the improvement of the administrative capacity of the beneficiaries and management authorities to apply conservation methods and practices. The implementation of concrete conservation measures identified as priorities in the PAF will be facilitated via the mobilisation of complementary funding and coordination as part of the proposed complementary actions.

The SNaP is expected to also contribute to the implementation of the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species, the EU Pollinator Initiative, the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure, and EU biodiversity policies, at national level, also via complementary actions.

The SNaP will focus on building and managing a conservation measures data hub, a national dataset of measures which will involve the collection of data from results-based payment schemes and

measures delivered in CAP, along with data from LIFE and EIP projects as well as a number of other relevant projects.

Ireland will continue to seek to participate in future LIFE projects and Horizon Projects that will contribute to the objective of improving biodiversity, climate, and water quality and other environmental objectives to support the transition to carbon neutrality.

DRAFT