

Biodiversity tracking methodology for each programme 2021-2027

Programme and main elements	Suggested application of markers
Horizon Europe¹	
Pillar 1	Project level tracking as at present, with relevant expenditure under ERC funding and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and research infrastructures. Application of markers at both project and topic level enables proportion of biodiversity relevant expenditures to be estimated to inform ex ante (topics) or ex post (projects) estimation.
Pillar 2	Marking of relevant topics in work programmes, with a particular focus on the “Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment” Cluster. Marking at project level for non-biodiversity focused topics. Only expenditure with relevant biodiversity targets should be tracked.
Pillar 3	Likely to be limited potential, with tracking necessary at project level.
InvestEU	
Commission guidance on climate and environmental tracking	% marker applied in accordance with the Commission guidance
Expenditure identified by partners on a voluntary basis as meeting the definition of biodiversity expenditure under the Taxonomy Regulation	100%
Expenditure identified by partners on a voluntary basis as meeting the definition of either climate mitigation, or climate adaptation expenditure under the Taxonomy regulation	40% (or proportion of the investment relevant for biodiversity)
EU Space Programme	
All expenditure	Case-by-case assessment of each service to identify proportion of expenditure relevant to biodiversity
Connecting Europe Facility	
Transport and Energy projects	Isolation of biodiversity-relevant expenditure for all projects as part of the biodiversity mainstreaming approach; where a project can with reasonable confidence be identified as making a net positive overall contribution to biodiversity, the biodiversity-relevant expenditure can be tracked at 40% or

¹ Tracking is supported by a handbook to facilitate the attribution of markers to biodiversity-relevant projects across the Work Programmes of Horizon Europe.

	100%, depending on the significance of the impact.
European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund – based on Intervention Fields defined in the Common Provisions Regulation	
058: Climate adaptation/risk management: floods	40%
059: climate adaptation/ risk management: fire	40%
060: Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g. storms and drought	40%
065: waste water collection and treatment	40%
066: waste water collection and treatment compliant with energy efficiency criteria	40%
073: Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land	40%
074: Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land compliant with efficiency criteria	40%
078: protection, restoration etc of Natura 2000 sites	100%
079: Nature and biodiversity protection, green infrastructure	100%
080 - Other measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the area of preservation and restoration of natural areas with high potential for carbon absorption and storage	100%
167 - protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism	40%
European Social Fund +	
Intervention Field 01: Contributing to green skills and jobs and the green economy	Programme authorities may identify expenditure as relevant to biodiversity on a case-by-case basis, with a marker of 40% or 100% depending on intensity of impact
Recovery and Resilience Facility	
All expenditure that can be assigned to an Intervention Field in Annex VI of the RRF Regulation	% marker applied in the RRF Regulation, Annex VI
Just Transition Fund	
All support	Same approach as for ERDF and CF (above).

European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development ²				
Intervention ³		EU coefficient	Weighting factor	
Ecoschemes and rural development interventions (other than the payments for natural or other area-specific constraints) ⁴	Interventions for which Member States have flagged the “biodiversity” objective (SO6) ⁵	100%	Interventions linked only to SO6 have as only objective to contribute to biodiversity	100%
			Interventions linked to both SO6 and SO4 and/or SO5 also aim to contribute to climate- and other environment-related objectives, though biodiversity has not been flagged as the only objective	70%
			Interventions linked to SO6 and other SOs (other than SO4 and SO5) are considered to contribute only partly to biodiversity	50%
	Interventions for which Member States have not flagged the “biodiversity” objective (SO6)	40%	Interventions linked to SO4 and/or SO5 only have not been flagged by Member States as contributing to biodiversity, but they can nevertheless provide a useful contribution to it by addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss	100%

² The methodology described applied to the CAP as implemented in the CAP Strategic Plans. The programming period for the plans cover 2023 – 2027, as 2021 and 2022 were transitional years.

³ The methodology is based on the links between each intervention and the three environmental and climate specific objectives referred to in points d), e) and f) of Article 6(1) of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, i.e.:

“(d) to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy (hereafter SO4);

(e) to foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency (hereafter SO5);

(f) to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes” (hereafter SO6).

Member States were asked to make such links, for each intervention, in their CAP Strategic Plans. Based on these links, several categories of spending are distinguished.

As direct payments are annual, the tracking is based on the annual planning of financial allocations within the CAP Strategic Plans for 2024, while the following years are based on average values for the programming period. Rural development commitments are multi-annual and therefore the calculation is based on the average for the programming period.”

⁴ In the case of ecoschemes and rural development interventions (other than the payments for natural or other area-specific constraints), the weighting factor is linked to the number of CAP Specific Objectives of a given intervention.

⁵ The link to SO1 “to support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the EU in order to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the EU” is not taken into account for eco-schemes as it reflects that eco-schemes are a type of direct payments.

			(such as climate change, water or land pollution). They are, therefore, considered to contribute to biodiversity	
			Interventions linked to SO4 and/or SO5 combined with other SOs are also considered to contribute to biodiversity, but to a lesser extent due to the wider scope of the flagged objectives.	50%
Direct payments other than eco-schemes (included under the previous part of the methodology) and payments for natural or other area-specific constraints (ANC)	Such payments are considered to contribute to biodiversity objectives because they are subject to conditionality. Moreover, ANC support limits land abandonment, which can indirectly contribute to preserving farmland biodiversity.	40%		10% ⁶

European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund – based on intervention types defined in Annex IV of the EMFAF Regulation

1. Reducing negative impacts and/or contributing to positive impacts on the environment and contributing to Good Environmental Status	100%
2. Promoting conditions for economically viable, competitive and attractive fishing, aquaculture and processing sectors	0%
3. Contributing to climate neutrality	40%
4. Temporary cessation of fishing activities	40%
5. Permanent cessation of fishing activities	40%
6. Contributing to Good Environmental Status through implementing and monitoring Marine Protected Areas including Natura 2000	100%
7. Compensation for unexpected environmental, climatic or public health events	0%
8. Compensation for additional costs in	0%

⁶ The EU decided to allow derogations from certain part of the GAECs obligations in 2023 as part of the measures taken to address the unprecedented uncertainties related to food security, triggered by the war of aggression in Ukraine. To take account of the reduced scope of the GAECs in 2023, an EU coefficient of 2% is applied to these financial allocations in the draft budget 2024 (instead of 4%).

Outermost Regions	
9. Animal health and welfare	0%
10. Control and enforcement	40%
11. Data collection, analysis, and promotion of marine knowledge	40%
12. Maritime surveillance and security	40%
13. Community-led Local Development (CLLD) – preparation actions	0%
14. CLLD – implementation of strategy	40%
15. CLLD – running costs and implementation	0%
16. Technical assistance	0%
LIFE (Financial Instrument for the Environment)	
Nature and Biodiversity	100%
Other sub-programmes	Case-by-case assessment of projects
Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument	
Geographic component	Application of markers on a case-by-case basis, based on Commission services assessment of individual projects or groups of projects
Thematic component	Application of markers on a case-by-case basis, based on Commission services assessment of individual projects or groups of projects
Rapid response component	Application of markers on a case-by-case basis, based on Commission services assessment of individual projects or groups of projects
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)	
All expenditure	Application of markers on a case-by-case basis, based on Commission services assessment of individual projects or groups of projects
Union Civil Protection Mechanism	
Expenditure on forest fires	40%
Technical Support Instrument	
Biodiversity policy and delivery support	Case-by-case allocation of markers