

LIFE Platform Meeting: Agriculture for the Benefit of Biodiversity

How can results-based payment schemes address the biodiversity crisis?

Leuven, Belgium – 9th to 11th October 2024

Wednesday 9 th October 2024 venue Dirk Boutsgebouw (VAC Leuven)		
08:00	Registration	At the Registration and Help Desk at the main entrance
08:45 – 09:00 Inspirational Welcome Session Chair: Neil Wilkie		
08:40	Event Opening Organisation, programme and housekeeping rules	Neil Wilkie – ELMEN (Chairperson)
08:45	Inspirational message: Putting results-based payment schemes at the heart of national agricultural policy	<i>Speaker:</i> Charlie McConalogue Irish Minister of Agriculture (TBC)
08:55		
09:00- 11:00: Plenary session 1: The Policy Framework – Introducing the RBaPS Panel		
09:00	Plenary 1: Agriculture policy framework for nature friendly farming	<i>Speaker:</i> DG AGRI ?? (TBC)
09:15	Plenary 2: Environment, conservation and agriculture – The EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Natura/Emerald network	<i>Speaker:</i> Mr Humberto DELGADO ROSA Director, DGENV.D
09:30	Plenary 3: Challenges of implementing RBaPS at the national level	<i>Speaker:</i> Stefan Heitefuss Lower Saxony Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Protection (DE) (TBC)
09:45	Plenary 4: Using science to inform RBaPS in Ireland	<i>Speaker:</i> James Moran Teagasc, Ireland and the RBaPS Network (IR) (TBC)
10:00	Plenary 5: AECM Scheme 2016-2020. ANLb Collective approach delivering habitats The AECM Scheme in Netherlands 2016-2020, farmers working collectively to produce management plans and deliver habitats. Has been/is being evaluated. Targets biodiversity and water. Works through the HD. Indicators are habitats based on the needs of 67 indicator species.	<i>Speaker:</i> (BoerenNatuur) (NL) (TBC)



10:15	Plenary 6: Operating a results based payment scheme in an area under common ownership LIFE in Common Land	<i>Speaker: Luis Fernandez Reija</i> (Universidad de Satiago Compostela) (ES) (TBC)
10:30	Plenary 7: RBaPS from a landowner perspective	<i>Speaker: Jurgen Tack</i> (European Land Owners Association) (TBC)
10:45	Plenary 8: RBaPS - opportunities and challenges for farmers	Representative of the Irish farmer (Speaker TBC)
11:00	Coffee break	

11:45 – 13:00 Plenary Session 2: Question Time – your chance to ask the panel of experts questions on our themes
Session Facilitator: Lynne Barratt (ELMEN)

	Opening Address for the Panel Session <i>Speaker: Goedele Van der Spiegel</i> (CEO of Agency of Nature and Forests) <i>Confirmed</i>	
11:45	<p>Panel composition : DG Agri, DG Env, Member State Authority (Germany), James Moran Ireland, RBaPS network (NL or FR), Ramon Alberto Diaz-Varela Spain, Jurgen Tack ELO, A farmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions submitted by the participants in advance – read out by the participant and directed to a specific panellist • Facilitators ask the targeted panellist to respond – panellists will have the questions in advance of the meeting to allow time to prepare answers • Other panellists will be asked to join in (facilitators will check in advance that others have an opinion on the topic) • Facilitators will go back to the questioner for a response and invite the audience for supplementary questions • We will use something like Slido to connect with in house and on line audiences for voting on issues • We will make sure every panellist has one question directed at them as the main speaker • We will ask a lighter (possibly topical) question at the end of the session • Panellists will be asked to end on their policy message 	
13:00	Lunch Break and networking	

14:00 – 15:30 Plenary Session 3: Case Studies from across Europe Session Chairperson: Neil Wilkie		
14:00	Plenary 9: The current status of Results based payment schemes across the EU: definition of RBaPS and key recommendations from the evaluation	EU Evaluation of RBAPS in the CAP <i>Speaker:</i> Costas Apostolopoulos or DG Agri evaluation unit (EU CAP Network) (TBC)
14:15	Plenary 10: Critical needs for implementing RBaPS in Ireland	Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE IP Ireland Focus: What skills are necessary to upscale - critical role of the farm advisor. Need to modify the indicators and payment levels to make them consistent across wider geographical zones. Should payment for a measure be exactly the same in all locations. Upscaling can cross physical boundaries and encompass different ecotones – how to ensure compatibility and equitability. What other resources are required that might be in short supply when upscaling. <i>Speaker:</i> Gary Goggins
14:30	Plenary 11. Results oriented management (EBW) 2023 to 2029 in Austria. Establishing precise goals and associated measurable and comprehensible indicators for biodiversity. Seems to operate in a similar way to Irish example. Stepwise increasing RBaPS,	<i>Speaker:</i> Erika Depisch (Suske Consulting) Targets: Habitats, species, landscapes and physical features Nationwide operating Agri-environmental measures of the CAP Upto 500 farmers involved
15:45	Plenary 12: Pilot results-based agri-environment schemes at landscape scale in Transylvania HNV farmland. Grasslands in the HD and species in FFH and HD. Uses 30 indicator species, score assessment method. Stepwise increasing results based payment schemes	<i>Speaker:</i> Răzvan Popa Fundatia Adept (and Nat Page) <i>Targets:</i> Biodiversity Regional operating in two biogeographical regions Upto 100 farmers involved
15:00	Plenary 13: This AECM can only be mobilised in areas where there is a threat of trivialisation of grassland cover and where the recovery of biodiversity or its maintenance requires a particular effort.	HERB_07 Maintenance of the floristic richness of a permanent grassland (FR) - Fédération des Parcs Naturels Régionaux - Focus: Each territory defines, on the basis of a territory diagnosis, the eligible permanent grassland areas (habitats, habitats of species of Community interest) among the crops in the "Permanent grasslands and pastures" category, giving priority to the sectors where the threats of trivialisation of grasslands are the most important. - National project well developed scheme ongoing. <i>Speaker:</i> TBC, Parc naturel regional Périgord-Limousin
15:15	Q& A Session	
15:30	Coffee break and networking	

16:00 – 17:30 Plenary Session 4: Our Knowledge Market	
Session Facilitators: Lynne Barratt & Neil Wilkie	
16:00	<p>‘Elevator Pitch’ knowledge market session to get a brief insight into as wide a range of projects as possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4’ short offering from each presenter • Timing will be VERY strict! • Estimated 20 projects presenting • Presentations will be targeted towards one of the 4 themes • Participants have been given a template to follow • Use this opportunity to match faces to projects and find people later you may be interested in networking with • Workgroup presenters will also be giving you a taster of what they will be presenting in the workgroup sessions • Participants have been asked to end on their policy message
17:30	Closing remarks and instructions for the field trip
18:00	Drinks Reception

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Thursday 10 th October 2024 – Fun Field Day		
NOTE: All timings are approximate except for the start time, embarkation to buses, due to traffic etc		
08:45	Please report to the assembly point – please be prompt! Please take the first available seat we are not counting people in and out! More details are in the field trip notes on the website. Emergency number is available in case you get left behind!	Assembly point To be announced later
09:00	Busses will depart promptly to the following venues –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Port of Antwerp (Flanders): the ‘Double Goal’ project where the government is working together with local farmers to increase biodiversity by using innovative approaches. In short: when a farmer is doing some measures in favour of biodiversity in this area, they have an advantage to manage public land as well. This serves as an example how a government can provide incentives to have a more nature friendly farming.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leuven and Hoeleden (Flanders): in Leuven there is an innovative project ongoing where the city of Leuven provides an area of 16 ha to local food suppliers (farmers). This site ‘Herpendalvallei’ is set up in the frame of the local food strategy of the city. The main objective is to farm local products for the local market, all organic farming (a good example of the farm to fork strategy). A second stop would be in Hoeleden. This is a farmer with cattle with a local breed of cattle (wit-blauw). They work together with the local nature conservation NGO to manage some parcels. This farm is being transformed into a nature inclusive farming (adapted grazing schemes, grassland, hedges, orchards, etc.).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farm in Ramilies (Wallonia): orchard, pigs, etc. during this visit the different AECMs will be explained and how it works in Wallonia. Also several parcels will be visited to demonstrate the results / practices of these AECMs
16:00	Depart for Leuven	
18:30	Arrival at Leuven, free time	



Friday 11th October 2024 – Working Groups
 venue [Dirk Boutsgebouw \(VAC Leuven\)](#)

All **groups** will run simultaneously. There will be **three rounds** during the day allowing each participant the opportunity of joining three workshops on a rotational basis, we expect to have around 20 participants in each round and that the participants in each working group will change during the day.

Each Working Group will occupy one room for the whole day. Each round will start with one project presentation focusing on a specific issue within the thematic focus. There will be 4 workgroups dealing with four themes:

- **Working Group I: Effective Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Working Group II: Selecting meaningful indicators as a proxy for biodiversity**
- **Working group III: Linking payment schemes to indicators – Farming for Nature – the role of results-based payments**
- **Working group IV: Building capacity for upscaling**

There will be two workgroups presenting a range of these topics

- **Working Group V: Effective Stakeholder Engagement and Building Capacity for upscaling**
- **Working Group VI: Selecting meaningful indicators as a proxy for biodiversity & linking payment schemes to indicators**

The final session will be in plenary when we will hope to provide some feedback on the issues discussed.

Each Working Group will have a dedicated Facilitator to guide discussion and foster inclusion and Rapporteur to accurately record the main points of the discussion. Each session will be interactive with audience participation throughout – we encourage all participants to bring along their own results to share during the sessions.

There will opportunities for bi-lateral and small group networking, private conversations, and destressing in the coffee area outside the workgroup rooms! Posters will also be on display in this common area.

Each round:

- Presentation project (approx. 15' content) to stimulate discussion.
- Can be presented over the whole duration of the workgroup session with interaction from the participants
- Presenters will be provided with speaker notes and suggestions for how the presentation should flow and there will be a video briefing
- Discussion
- Conclusions and drafting recommendations



Working Group I: Involving stakeholders**Facilitator: Ben Delbare**

09:00	Round 1	LIFE NATUREMAN (DK) – The farmer as a manager of Nature: (LIFE16 IPE/DK/000006) - Focus: Aiming at a favourable conservation status for Natura 2000 site by making nature management a sound branch of farming. Speaker: Jørgen Bidstrup
10:15	Coffee break – Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	LIFE B4B (BE) – Stakeholder engagement at the scale of an integrated project – Focus: Setting up a stakeholder collective AECM in Wallonia Speaker: (TBC) B4B Partner Natagriwal
12:15	Lunch break – Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	RestPoll (DE) – Restoring Pollinator Habitats across European agricultural landscapes (Horizon Europe) - Focus: RestPoll will, together with stakeholders ranging from individual land managers to governments, co-design, evaluate, and refine measures and cross-sectoral approaches to restore pollinators and their services. Central to RestPoll is the establishment of a Europe-wide network of pollinator restoration case-study areas and Living Labs (LL), which are unique hubs for experimentation, demonstration, and mutual learning. We have identified 18 case-study areas in 14 European countries with multiple restoration measures, consisting of existing agro-environmental schemes and novel, prospective schemes such as payments for pollination/ ecosystem services, in agricultural landscapes to conserve biodiversity in general and wild pollinators in particular. Speaker: (TBC)
14:45	Coffee break – Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap up	Debrief in Plenary
16:00	Delegates depart	

Working group II: Selecting meaningful indicators

Facilitator: Sara Barcelo

09:00	Round 1	<p>LIFE Atlantic Crex Improving Corncrake conservation status in Ireland by enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Focus:</u> Setting indicators for species <p>Speaker: John Carey</p>
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	<p>LIFE HUNVIPHAB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Focus:</u> Setting indicators for habitats - Availability and effectiveness of methods, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Score cards o Metrics o Overcoming other environmental variables - Tools and resources <p>Speaker: (TBC)</p>
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	<p>BioMonitor4CAP: Advanced biodiversity monitoring for results based and effective agricultural policy and transformation (Horizon Europe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Focus:</u> Setting indicators for policy - develop, evaluate and test affordable and reliable systems for monitoring biodiversity that can successfully be applied on agricultural land as well as on E.U.'s designated sites "Natura 2000" - combine classical biodiversity indicator systems with new technological approaches, including acoustic, optical and molecular system - provide recommendations for adapted management practices and thus to strengthen biodiversity on farms internationally as well as to support the development of the EU biodiversity policies <p>Speaker: Vitaly Krupin from IRWIR PAN (Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development)</p>
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap-up	Debrief in plenary
16:00	Delegates depart	

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Working group III: Linking payments to indicators

Facilitator: Maud Latruberce

09:00	Round 1	<p>LIFE19 NAT/SK/001069 LIFE SYSEL – Conservation of the European Ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>) at the northwestern border of its range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Unintentional development of an a-e scheme but developed during the project and continued after – problems and solutions. - The scheme was existing in Slovakia, but not used by farmers as it was not that beneficial and in some cases even bad for target species. We held extensive communication with farmers, prepared better conditions, then had to negotiate for some of them with the Agricultural agency, had problems with the State Nature Conservancy, as they did not want to cooperate on controls of farmers, therefore some compromises had to be made etc.. - Speaker: Katarina TUHARSKA (from LIFE Metamorphosis)
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	<p>LIFE Olivares Vivos + (ES) – LIFE Olivares Vivos + Increasing the impact of Olivares Vivos in the EU (LIFE20 NAT/ES/001487)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: The project is seeking to better integrate results and lessons learnt from the previous LIFE project in the green architecture design of the common agricultural policy (CAP), the reinforced cross-compliance requirements, and the planning of eco-schemes and measures for climate and environment of the new CAP post-2020 - Uncommon and very interesting approach. - Speaker: (TBC)
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	<p>LIFE PAF-NATURALIT (LT) - Optimizing the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania (LIFE16 IPE/LT/000016).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: The project is facilitating the coordinated use of complementary funding, from EAFRD in particular. - The project plans to develop and implement new agri-environmental measures and to submit proposals for more efficient administration of the existing traditional measures. For example, it develops and tests result-oriented agri-environmental measure with selected farmers.. <p>Speaker: Žymantas Morkvėnas and Justas Gulbinas</p>
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debrief in plenary
16:00	Delegates depart	

Working group IV: Critical resources for upscaling

Facilitator: Neil Wilkie

09:00	Round 1	<p>ACRES Manager (IE) Hen Harrier Programme Ltd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Operating at the next scale under the acres scheme in Ireland. Movement into structural phase, IT systems, institutional support, changing the minds of institutions, getting people paid – all need to get the supporting structures right. Land parcel needs to tie in with - Speaker: Fergal Monaghan
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	<p>LIFT (FR) – Low-input farming and territories – integrating knowledge for improving ecosystem based farming (Horizon 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus : The overall goal of LIFT is to identify the potential benefits of the adoption of ecological farming in the European Union (EU) and to understand how socio-economic and policy factors impact the adoption, performance and sustainability of ecological farming at various scales, from the level of the single farm to that of a territory. To meet this goal, LIFT will assess the determinants of adoption of ecological approaches, and evaluate the performance and overall sustainability of these approaches in comparison to more conventional agriculture across a range of farm systems and geographic scales. LIFT will also develop new private arrangements and policy instruments that could improve the adoption and subsequent performance and sustainability of the rural nexus. - Speaker: (TBC)
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	<p>Conservation Performance Payments in Sweden (RBaPS Network)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Result and Value based Agri environmental payments to Landscape elements and forest edges - The objective of this scheme is the protection and preservation of two large carnivores, native to Swedish Lapland, the Lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>) and Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>). The Lynx and Wolverine are endangered carnivores on the World Conservation Union Red List, both at risk of habitat loss and illegal hunting. The scheme also targets wolves or any wild animal that is not an ungulate and that are protected from hunting - Speaker: (TBC)
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debrief in plenary
16:00	Delegates Depart	

Working group V: Stakeholder Engagement and Upscaling

Facilitator: Jan Sliva

09:00	Round 1	<p>Theme: Stakeholder engagement Fabulous Farmers (BE) (INTERREG North West Europe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: FABulous Farmers is a European project designed to support farmers in the transition to more agro-ecological practices on their farms. The project aims to reduce the reliance on external inputs, like chemical fertilisers and pesticides, by encouraging the use of methods and interventions that increase the farm's Functional AgroBiodiversity (FAB). These are targeted measures of biodiversity in and around the field to improve pollination, pest management, soil and water quality on the farmland. - Speaker: TBC
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	<p>Theme: Stakeholder Engagement at Scale LIFE Maronesa – Market Awareness Raising for Opportunities in Needed Extensification and Soil Friendly Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Peer-to-peer knowledge transfer among cattle breeders and local population - LIFE MARONESIA will help implement the EUs climate change adaptation strategy, by reducing the risk of wildfires and increasing the climatic resilience of agriculture. A planned technical report on a results-based payment scheme should be useful for the national body in charge of defining and implementing the EUs common agricultural policy. - The project will also contribute to implementation of the EUs LULUCF Regulation, the Effort Sharing Regulation and the farm to fork strategy. - Speaker: João Oliveira
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	<p>Theme: Upscaling The Irish Acres Scheme – Burren Aran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus: Operating at the next scale under the acres scheme in Ireland - Speaker: Patrick McGurn
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debrief in plenary
16:00	Delegates Depart	



Working group VI: Indicator selection and linking indicators to payments

Facilitator: Lynne Barratt

09:00	Round 1	<p>Theme: Indicator Selection (LV) LIFE-IP LatViaNature – Optimising the governance and management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Favourable reference values at a national level both for all terrestrial and freshwater habitat types (59) and species (115) of EU importance; - Site conservation objectives for all terrestrial Natura 2000 sites (in total 326 sites); - Monitoring methods for assessing the effectiveness of forest and grassland management; - Speaker: (TBC)
10:15	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
10:45	Round 2	<p>Theme: embedding payment systems in the CAP (ES) LIFE Iberian Agrosteppes – Sustainable agrarian approached for agro-steppe species and habitats conservation in Natura 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal integration of the best farming measures into the CAP financing schemes and in the rural development plans of the Autonomous Communities of Extremadura and Aragon; - Speaker: (TBC)
12:15	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:15	Round 3	<p>Theme: Linking indicators to payments (NL) LIFE IP PAF Biodiversity recovery approach for N2000 sites and surroundings, in cooperation with agricultural and other land users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The integrated approach is centred on the recognition that nature conservation that enhances biodiversity must be based on the creation of mutual benefits and new agricultural business models. This is now considered a leading principle when developing management plans for rural areas. [linking performance indicators to the business models] - Speaker: (TBC)
14:45	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:15	Wrap-up	- Debrief in Plenary
16:00	Delegates Depart	