



INTERNATIONAL TALLINN 2021 PEATLAND CONGRESS

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International Peatland Congress

"Restoring peatlands for biodiversity conservation and for tackling climate change through LIFE – EU LIFE funding 2021-2027"

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Abstract: Since 1992 the LIFE programme has been the European Union's key source of funding for environmental conservation and climate action. In 2020 an impact study of LIFE funding on nature conservation in Europe was published. This [study](#) came at a time when the new State of nature in the EU report and the first EU ecosystem assessment were launched, together with the adoption of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 - 'Bringing nature back into our lives'. The review focused on LIFE's benefits for species protection, habitat restoration and protected areas. In addition, it looked at its impact on wider biodiversity aspects such as ecosystem services and stakeholder engagement.

Peatland restoration features prominently in the study, with over 360 LIFE projects covering all peatland habitat types included in the EU Habitats Directive Annex I. The 2020 State of nature in the EU report by the European Environment Agency shows none of these habitat types having a better conservation status at national or EU level. However, a number of them show improving trends, which to a large extent can be attributed to actions co-funded by LIFE.

This talk will present the study's overall key messages. In particular, it will address why and how peatlands are covered by LIFE projects. We will focus on key results for biodiversity, as well as for climate change mitigation and adaptation. These results will be illustrated by presenting examples from LIFE projects, some of which will be present at the congress.

Lastly, this presentation will conclude with some information about upcoming LIFE opportunities. In particular, online IPC participants will have the opportunity to get some useful insights about the new structure, sub-programmes and their budgets along with the type of projects and actions of the new LIFE programme for 2021-2027.

Keywords: LIFE impact, protected areas, peatland restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, LIFE programme 2021-2027, EU funding instrument.