

LIFE Platform Meeting: Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC)

Challenges and Opportunities in Europe

Santander, Spain - 22-24 May 2024

Wednesday 22 May 2024 venue Plenary room Palacio de la Magdalena		
08:00	Registration	At the Registration and Help Desk at the main entrance
09:00 – 11:00 Plenary session 1: The Policy Framework Session Chair: Lynne BARRATT (ELMEN)		
09:00	Event Opening	Lynne BARRATT (Chairperson)
09:00	Welcome to the City of Santander and the Palacio de la Magdalena	<i>Speaker:</i> Fran ARIAS (The Councillor of Tourism for the City of Santander)
09:05	The Cantabria Region	<i>Speaker:</i> Pablo PALENCIA (Regional Minister for Rural Development)
09:10	A word from our Hosts	<i>Speaker:</i> Eva GUILLERMINA FERNÁNDEZ ORTIZ (Regional Councillor for Culture, Tourism and Sport & President of the Fundación Camino Lebaniego Cantabria)
09:15	Organisation, programme and housekeeping rules	Lynne BARRATT (Chairperson)
09:20	Plenary 1: Amphibian and reptile conservation in EU nature conservation legislation and policy	<i>Speaker:</i> Frank VASSEN (European Commission, DG.ENV.D3 – Nature Conservation)
09:35	Plenary 2: ARC -Objectives and expected outcomes of the LIFE Platform Meeting	<i>Speaker:</i> María-José ARAMBURU (Project Adviser, CINEA – D2.2 LIFE Environment - Nature)
09:50	Plenary 3: The Steps4LIFE project – Improving ecological connectivity in a fragmented landscape by providing vital stepping stones for amphibians and reptiles	<i>Speakers:</i> Marta VALLE AGUDO (LIFE project coordinator for STEPS4LIFE) and Antonio URCHAGA (SEO/BIRDLIFE)
10:05	Plenary 4: Promoting conservation of European herpetofauna – working with the EU Nature Directives	<i>Speaker:</i> Balint HALPERN (IUCN Species Survival Commission and Societas Europaea Herpetologica SEH Chair of the Conservation Committee)
10:20	Plenary 5: LIFE for Amphibians and Reptiles – past, present and future	<i>Speaker:</i> Teresa CATELANI (ELMEN)
10:35	Q&A session	
11:00	Coffee break	



11:30 – 13:00 Plenary session 2: Innovation and Retrospection in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation		
Session Chair: Lynne BARRATT (ELMEN)		
11:30	Plenary 6: Promoting Important Herpetofauna Areas in Europe – what are they and where could they be?	Speaker: Ronald ZOLLINGER (RAVON, RACE/Bern Convention Group)
11:45	Plenary 7: What could the new Restoration Law mean for Amphibians and Reptiles?	Speaker: Tony GENT (ARC TRUST UK, and RACE)
12:00	Plenary 8: Amphibian Ark: the role of species’ rescue in amphibian conservation.	Speaker: Jonathan WILCKEN (IUCN, Amphibian Ark AArk)
12:15	Plenary 9: Practical amphibian conservation in Spain	Speaker: Silvia DIAZ LORA (WWF Spain)
12:30	Plenary 10: Conservation Palaeobiology: Information from the Past to Conserve the Present and Prepare for the future	Speaker: Rafael MARQUINA BLASCO (Cenozoic Vertebrate Palaeontology Research Group, Universitat de València (UV), Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social (IPHES) and Universitat Rovira i Virgili)
12:45	Q&A session	
13:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 15:40 Plenary Session 3: Our Knowledge Market		
Session Facilitators: Lynne BARRATT & Karen LUNAN (ELMEN)		
14:00	‘Elevator Pitch’ knowledge market session to get a brief insight into as wide a range of projects as possible • 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	
15:40	Coffee-break and networking	



16:15 – 17:30 Plenary Session 4: Practical solutions for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation – Setting the scene for Day 2. Session Chairperson: Karen LUNAN (ELMEN)		
16:15	<u>Working Group I: Impact of Climate Change on Protected Areas for Amphibians and Reptiles</u> Protected areas for amphibians and reptiles in the context of climate change – have we protected the right areas?	VulneraWeb (ES) – Identification of populations under climate risk (Horizon 2020) Focus: Knowing which species are in danger (how ambient temperatures vary in space and time, where species are distributed, maximum temperature tolerance, what can animals do to hide from the heat? The VulneraWeb provides services to identify species under potential climate risk. <i>Speaker:</i> Dr Agustín Camacho GUERRERO
16:30	<u>Working Group II: Practical measures for dealing with Invasive Species</u> A review of the management of invasive alien amphibians and reptiles of Union concern	IUCN/SSC – Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) – Tools and resources for managing invasive alien species of amphibians and reptiles in the EU Focus: Review of methods, effectiveness of scale and acceptability, including animal welfare. Implementation of EU Regulation on IAS n.1143/2014. Available resources and tools (link with work done specifically by IUCN for European Commission). Awareness raising, monitoring and citizen science. <i>Speaker:</i> Riccardo SCALERA
16:45	<u>Working group III: ARC and land management</u> Long-term future for amphibians and reptiles considering the increasing pressure on habitats through fragmentation, urbanisation and changing agricultural practices	LIFE AMPHICON (SI) – Amphibian Conservation and habitat restoration Focus: Measures for conserving amphibian species in Slovenia, Germany and Denmark, including habitat creation, establishing breeding populations and development of best practice guidelines. Replication and transfer of project results are also important. <i>Speakers:</i> Katja POBOLJŠAJ
17:00	<u>Working group IV: EU and national policies, financing amphibian and reptile conservation</u> To what extent are amphibians and reptiles taken into account in policy agendas and how will we finance active conservation measures?	LIFE for Species (LV) – Threatened species in Latvia: improved knowledge, capacity, data and awareness Focus: The Protection of Threatened Herpetofauna in Latvia, with an emphasis IUCN-based taxa evaluations and proposals for the protected species list criteria. <i>Speaker:</i> Andris ČEIRĀNS
17:15	Q and A session and open discussion	
17:30	Arrangements for Day 2 and closing remarks	
19:00	Joint networking dinner Palacio de la Magdalena	



Thursday 23 May 2024 – Working Groups[Palacio de la Magdalena](#)

All **four groups** will run simultaneously. There will be **four rounds** during the day allowing each participant the opportunity of joining all the workshops on a rotational basis, we expect to have around 15 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 (i.e., 16 presentations in total), focusing on a specific issue within the thematic focus of each Working Group. 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.
- Discussion
- Conclusions and drafting recommendations



Working Group I: ARC, Climate change and Protected Areas

Facilitator: María-José ARAMBURU (CINEA). Rapporteur: Ainhoa Darquistade (ELMEN)

09:00	Round 1	Emys PL LIFE (PL, DK) – Active protection of rare amphibian and reptile species on the Natura 2000 network in Poland and Denmark (LIFE17 NAT/PL/000011) - Focus: Measures to address problems related to the decline of European pond turtle and fire-bellied toad in five Natura 2000 sites. New challenges in the light of climate change. Speaker: Jaromir KRAJEWSKI
10:30	Coffee break – Networking and Poster Session	
11:00	Round 2	LIFE INSUBRICUS (IT) –Wetland restoration and climate change: experiences and solutions within the LIFE INSUBRICUS project (LIFE19 NAT/IT/000883) - Focus: Designing wetland creation and restoration in the context of climate change; experiences and practical solutions to counter the climate adversities (extreme drought, change of the spatial and temporal distribution of precipitations and river flow alterations). Speaker: Daniele SEGLIE
12:30	Lunch break – Networking and Poster Session	
13:30	Round 3	LIFE Clima-Bombina (DK) – New habitats for <i>Bombina bombina</i> other amphibians and birds to counteract problems from climate change in coastal areas (LIFE18 NAT/DK/000732) - Focus: Securing existing areas by comprehensively extending agricultural areas – increasing connectivity through a range of habitat types. Speaker: Carsten HORUP and Peer RAVN
15:00	Coffee break – Networking and Poster Session	
15:30	Round 4	RAVON, RACE/Bern Convention Group - Focus: How to select the important Herp areas in Europe – how do we accommodate climate change? Speaker: Ronald ZOLLINGER
17:00	Wrap-up	Debrief and informal wrap up by facilitator including instructions for field trip
		Free evening in Santander



Working group II: ARC and Invasive Species**Facilitator: Teresa CATELANI (ELMEN). Rapporteur: Riccardo SCALERA (IUCN/SCC ISSG)**

09:00	Round 1	IUCN/SCC – Invasive Specialist Species Group - Managing IAS: invasive alien snakes as a case study - Managing invasive alien amphibians and reptiles (prevention, eradication, and control) - Availability and effectiveness of methods, including: - o detectability of target animals, - o acceptability by the general public, - Tools and resources (relevant IUCN activities) Speaker: Riccardo SCALERA
10:30	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
11:00	Round 2	LIFE RESQUE ALPYR (ES - LIFE20 NAT/ES/000369) and LIFE LimnoPirineus (ES - LIFE13 NAT/ES/001210) - Recovery of amphibian communities in high mountain lakes after the eradication of invasive fish species - Focus: Applying the techniques for eradication in pilot project at the large scale and in more complex lake systems Speaker: Marc VENTURA
12:30	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:30	Round 3	LIFE+ LAMPROPELTIS (ES) - Control of the invasive species <i>Lampropeltis getula californiae</i> on the island of Gran Canaria (BIODIV) (LIFE10 NAT/ES/000565) - Focus: Tools for tackling invasive species - Biosecurity and the value of early warning systems - Risk analysis manual of trade in exotic species - Watch list of Invasives and early warning system Speaker: Ramón GALLO BARNETO
15:00	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:30	Round 4	LIFE EOLIZARD (IT) - Conservation of the Aeolian wall lizard through translocation, reintroduction and habitat restoration (LIFE22-NAT-IT-101114142) - Focus: Controlling predators - Sanctuary islands – removing competing species Italian wall lizard - Balancing populations with reintroductions (releasing captive bred individuals) Speaker: Leonardo VIGNOLI
17:00	Wrap-up	Debrief and informal wrap up by facilitator including instructions for field trip
		Free evening in Santander



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GANADERÍA, PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN



Working group III: ARC and land management**Facilitator: Karen LUNAN (ELMEN).Rapporteur: Stefania DALL'OLIO (ELMEN)**

09:00	Round 1	Emys-R (FR, DE, LV, PL) – Bringing together people and nature (EU Biodiversa+ Programme) - Focus: Mitigating the decline of the European Pond Turtle through habitat restoration and reintroduction of the species - Speaker: Jean-Yves GEORGES, Kathrin THEISSINGER on behalf of the Emys-R Consortium
10:30	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
11:00	Round 2	LIFE in Salt Marshes (CZ) – Complex ecological restoration of degraded and disappearing salt marshes in Moravian Pannonia (LIFE22 NAT-CZ-101113725) - Focus: Pollution control, high nature value farmland, engaging with stakeholders for a sustainable solution. - Speaker: Marie KOTASOVA ADAMKOVA
12:30	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:30	Round 3	LIFE Atlantic Region (DE) - The exemplary implementation of the EU 2020 target with a focus on oligotrophic habitats on sand in the Atlantic region of Germany (LIFE15 IPE/DE/000007). - Focus of the project: 1. Elaboration of an overall concept for implementing the PAF in the Atlantic region in Germany and 2. Specific measures for 15 habitat types and 10 species (including 6 amphibian and 2 reptile species) in the Atlantic region of the two federal states North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony to improve their conservation status. - Specific focus in this workshop: Conservation breeding and reintroduction of <i>Pelobates fuscus</i> in North Rhine-Westphalia. - Speaker: Martina RAFFEL
15:00	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:30	Round 4	LIFE DIVAQUA (ES) – Improving Aquatic Diversity in Picos de Europa (LIFE18 NAT/ES/000121) - Focus: Reducing anthropogenic pressure on biological diversity – improvement of amphibian habitats and reducing mortality risks - Speaker: Alejandra GOLDENBERG VILAR
17:00	Wrap-up	Debrief and informal wrap up by facilitator including instructions for field trip
		Free evening in Santander



Working group IV: EU and national policies, financing amphibian and reptile conservation**Facilitator and Rapporteur: Lynne BARRATT (ELMEN)**

09:00	Round 1	LIFE Tritó Montseny (ES) Conservation of the Montseny Newt (<i>Calotriton arnoldi</i>): management of the habitat, its population and environmental education ((LIFE15 NAT/ES/000757) - Focus: Improvement of the conservation status of the endemic Montseny brook newt and its riparian habitat – possible policy lessons - Speaker: Daniel GUINART SUREDA
10:30	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
11:00	Round 2	LIFE HUNVIPHAB (HU) – Viability improvement of Hungarian meadow viper populations and habitats in the Pannonian Region (LIFE18 NAT/HU/000799) - Focus: Preparation of viper friendly land management guidelines and recommendations for the CAP. Contribute to the conservation of the EU's natural capital (7th EAP), Biodiversity strategy and Climate change programme. - Speaker: Bálint HALPERN
12:30	Lunch break - Networking and Poster Session	
13:30	Round 3	CEO of the ARC Trust (UK) and RACE – Why are we monitoring? - Focus: Monitoring at the local level does not match with monitoring at the national level to feed Article 17 reporting – can we bridge the gap? - What are appropriate indicators of success? - What does good conservation status look like? - Speaker: Tony GENT
15:00	Coffee break - Networking and Poster Session	
15:30	Round 4	Conservation Director, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (UK) – Is Nature's recovery imperilled by a false choice between wildlife and economy – or can we really blame great crested newts for our economic decline? - What kind of policy advice should we be giving to our competent authorities on Amphibian and Reptile Conservation? - How much is conservation effort dictated by economics – and how can we overcome this? - Using Favourable Conservation Status to set more ambitious goals - Using species conservation strategies to guide action for amphibians and reptiles - Speaker: Jim FOSTER
17:00	Wrap-up	- Debrief and informal wrap up by facilitator including instructions for field trip
	Free evening in Santander	



Friday 24 May 2024 – Fun Field Day and Feedback Session		
NOTE: All timings are approximate except for the start time, embarkation to buses, due to traffic and road works en route		
07:45	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 the main entrance to the Palacio de la Magdalena
08:00	Busses will depart promptly	
10:00	Cicera	You will be hosted by project staff from the Steps4LIFE project who will be proud to demonstrate their important work to a wider audience. Steps4LIFE team members can be identified by their white tee shirt with the Steps4LIFE logo on front!
12:00	Mirador de Santa Catalina Several stopping points along the way to visit project works including stepping stone ponds until we arrive at the beautiful location of Mirador Santa Catalina to see more project work and have many brilliant photo-opportunities in this spectacular landscape	
13:30	‘Feedback in the Field’ at the beautiful outdoor location of Habario de Pendes Report on conclusions and policy recommendations with discussion and final reconciliation. 15 mins per workgroup	Outdoor Lunch: Sandwich in the delightful surroundings of the Habario de Pendes. You will need to bring your own water! Facilitators and Rapporteurs from each workgroup will present the main findings to the whole group and you will have a chance to vote on the most important messages you would like to convey to the policy makers.
15:00	Closing remarks and thanks	Pilar GÓMEZ BAHAMONDE (Director the Fundación Camino Lebaniego Cantabria) and Maria Jose ARAMBURU (CINEA)
15:30	Village of Potes	Some further project interventions and a chance to look around the picturesque village of Potes
16:30	Return to Santander	
19:00	Arrival at Santander, free time, departure of delegates	

