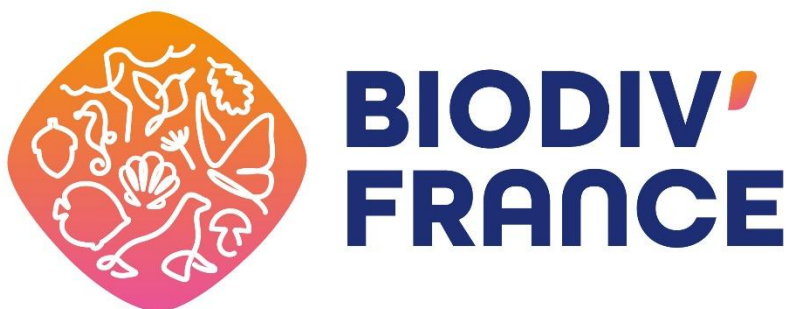




CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**Experimental twinning projects
between protected area managers
within the European Union**



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The LIFE BIODIV'FRANCE project is an action programme supporting the French National Strategy for Biodiversity 2030. Co-funded by the EU and coordinated by the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), it takes place on a 9-year period until 2032 with a total budget of €50 million. Some thirty national and regional organisations are gathered around five axes: territorial authority support, protected area management, sectoral support, citizen commitment, and skill development.

The EU strategy regarding biodiversity sets the goal of an efficient and consistent European network, through territorial cooperation between EU members. As part of LIFE BIODIV'FRANCE, twinning projects between European protected area managers are initiated by the French Federation of Conservancies of natural areas (Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels – FCEN) to strengthen the sharing of information, knowledge, and experience, between European managers. The goal is to foster replicability of relevant management practices regarding protected areas. The twinning projects will favour beneficial exchanges through remote discussions, the implementation of joint actions within both twinned areas, and reciprocal study field trips.

FCEN is starting a call for proposals in order to initiate at least five experimental twinning projects over a two-year period (2026-2027) between French protected area managers and other EU-member managers (including Outermost regions and Overseas countries and territories), with the aim of exchanging their management practice expertise and carrying out joint actions. The objective of this experimental phase is to test the measure to further perpetuate and adapt these twinning projects to a larger scale.

For each twinned organisation, the requested funding can go from €5.000 up to €19.000, which represents a maximum total of €38.000 per twinning project for the two-year long experimentation. A balance between the subsidy granted to both twinned organisations must be respected: not more than a 20% difference of the total. Payments are conditioned to the signature of a three-party convention agreement between the French manager, the other European entity, and FCEN.

As for any LIFE programme, eligible fees are:

- Staff costs: working time allocated to the twinning project over the experimental period;
- Mission expenses (e.g. for the study field trips): national and European travelling, housing, and food costs;
- Specific expenditures for joint actions (services up to the ceiling of 30% of the total budget);
- General fees (7% of the budget).

At least five proposals will be funded in this call. To evaluate the relevance of each proposal, the selection criteria are recompiled in this table:

Selection criterion	Mark
Identified benefits of the twinning project in term of protected area management for both twinned organisations	/5
Relevance of joint actions	/5
Study field trip programme and planning (gains for managers, socio-professional stakeholder representation, etc.)	/5
Means of transport for the study field trips (preferential criterion for carbon-friendly travels)	/2
Minimal risks for the twinning project implementation and their right identification	/2
Qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure the successfulness of the twinning project	/3
Reliability of the perennation plan	/3
Global proposal	/25

Moreover, considering all twinning projects, FCEN's will is to span a diversity of protected areas in terms of:

- Protected area models and levels of protection, with a significant part of Natura 2000 sites;
- Biogeographical regions and ecosystems;
- Specificities of the twinning projects (transborder managers or not, beginners in European cooperation or not, socio-economic dimensions of the project...)

A methodological guide is attached to this call and precisely recompiles the goals of these experimental twinning projects, with some advice for the preparation and conduction of the twinning measures, such as information regarding the reporting to FCEN. Particular heed ought to be paid to this guide for the right constitution of the proposal and the draft budget.

FCEN stands alongside applying organisations for any interrogation or remarks regarding this call for proposals, which is open for both newcomer organisations interested in using this opportunity to initiate European cooperation, yet also entities wishing to deepen an existing collaboration. FCEN will support the matchmaking process, the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the twinning projects, as well as communication and spotlighting efforts.

**/!\ Only organisations that do not belong to
the LIFE BIODIV'FRANCE consortium
(neither as an associated beneficiary, nor as an affiliated entity)
are eligible to this call for proposals /!**

End of the call: 30/10/2025, at 6:00 pm (Paris UTC +2)

The complete proposal (common answer to the call + supporting documents of each organisation) is to be sent by email to FCEN and will be followed by a confirmation receipt. Any proposals received after the end date will not receive the confirmation receipt and will not be considered. Winner designation will be made official at the beginning of November, so as to sign the three-party convention agreements before the end of 2025, *i.e.* to efficiently start the twinning projects in January 2026.

Contacts to send the proposals and to ask for any information:

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PROPOSAL FORM

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Description of the common twinning project	6
Planning of the first study field trip in 2026 (called Study field trip n°1) in one of the two twinned areas	7
Planning of the second study field trip in 2027 (called Study field trip n°2) in the other twinned area	8
Draft budget	9

Moreover, the list of the following supporting documents is to be attached to the common answer to the call:

- The last published activity reports (financial + technical reports) of both organisations willing to be twinned together;
- If exists, copy of international cooperation strategy;
- Letters of commitment of both presidents;
- Bank account details (IBAN/BIC) for both organisations, required for the payment of the initial deposit at the signature of the agreement;
- Certificate of registration in the national business register, such as the SIRENE directory in France or any equivalent national system of enterprise identification in force in the twinned European organisation's country;
- Recent extract from the national Trade and Companies Register (e.g. a Kbis extract issued within the past three months in France, or its equivalent in the twinned European organisation's country). *If the entity is not registered, this must be clearly stated;*
- In case of VAT exemption: a signed statement from the legal representative confirming that the organisation is not subject to VAT, specifying the legal basis for the exemption according to the organisation's status and relevant national VAT legislation.

As a reminder, only one common answer to the call is expected (in French, English, or Spanish), for a common twinning project implying two organisations *de facto*. The proposal will be considered as complete only with the common answer and all the supporting documents of both organisations. If they are not in French, English, or Spanish, a translation of these supporting documents is required.