

WILD-ID EUROPE

DNA-based wildlife identity, traceability and enforcement support

HORIZON-NATURE-2027-02-04 | Early-stage concept | Proposed coordinator: Biogen Praha

THE OPPORTUNITY

Biogen Praha s.r.o., a Czech biotechnology SME, is initiating WILD-ID EUROPE: a proposed European innovation project to strengthen the identification and traceability of protected wildlife and improve the detection of invasive alien species in trade and transport pathways. Biogen Praha is evaluating its role as project coordinator, supported by experienced Horizon Europe project-management expertise.

PROJECT AMBITION

- Validated molecular workflows for individual wildlife identification, species verification, parentage/kinship testing and, where feasible, genetic origin assessment.
- PCR/qPCR, STR/SNP and targeted NGS approaches for protected species and invasive alien species, adapted to realistic sample types and enforcement workflows.
- Secure, interoperable genetic identity records with QR-linked verification, appropriate data governance and traceable laboratory evidence.
- Operational pilots with competent authorities to assess accuracy, reproducibility, cost, turnaround time and practical usability.

INITIAL PILOT & VALIDATION

An initial feasibility pilot is envisaged for selected primate species using non-invasive hair samples, subject to access to appropriate reference material and species-specific marker validation. Expansion to additional taxa and border biosecurity applications would be co-designed with consortium partners. Genetic diversity analysis may be explored where population-level sampling is adequate.

PARTNERS WE ARE SEEKING

- Competent CITES, customs, environmental or other relevant enforcement authorities from at least three eligible countries, subject to call requirements.
- Research institutions in wildlife forensics, conservation genetics, molecular ecology and bioinformatics.
- Digital, AI, cybersecurity, field-deployment and stakeholder-engagement partners to support interoperability, implementation and impact.
- Experienced Horizon Europe project-management and proposal-development support, including administrative and financial coordination expertise.

BIOGEN PRAHA CONTRIBUTION & PROPOSED COORDINATION

Biogen Praha proposes to contribute to, and potentially lead or co-lead, molecular assay development, genomic identification, sequencing workflows, bioinformatics and technical validation. As project initiator, Biogen Praha is considering serving as overall coordinator, with specialist support for grant administration and consortium management. Roles, budgets, intellectual-property arrangements and the final coordinator designation will be negotiated and confirmed within the consortium.

CURRENT STATUS

Exploratory technical discussions have taken place with representatives of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (ČIŽP) on potential CITES enforcement applications. No institutional participation or coordinator commitment has yet been confirmed. This document is an invitation to jointly develop the concept, not a finalized consortium proposal.

LET'S BUILD THE CONSORTIUM

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