

Evaluation study to support the evaluation of the Zoos Directive (Council Directive 1999/22/EC)

Country: Belgium

The purpose of the Zoos Directive is the conservation and protection of wild animals outside their natural habitat and to strengthen the role of zoos in the conservation of biological biodiversity. The objective for the evaluation of the Zoos Directive is to support the European Commission's Zoos Directive Regulatory Fitness Check and Performance (REFIT) programme. This study is carried out in order to assess whether the Zoos Directive meets its goal and whether or not the different member states have implemented legislation with the help of the Zoos Directive.

The tasks performed for this study are:

Development of framework and methodology to address the issues under examination. A work plan to further describe the approach and the tools to be used for collecting and assessing evidence. The evaluation is set up in accordance with "Better Regulation Package" and the "Better Regulation Guidelines" for carrying out evaluations under REFIT. This calls for addressing evaluation criteria for efficiency, relevance, coherence, and EU added value. Specific attention is paid to validation of data by triangulation to enhance the credibility of the findings.

A review of relevant available information and evidence. This is done by database searches and a literature review. The literature review covers both methodological international literature and empirical international literature. Peer-reviewed articles and congress papers are used to provide peer-reviewed information and to guarantee the reliability of the literature review. Information is collected from existing evaluations, studies, reports, audits, information on infringements, complaints, court rulings, information and recommendations from stakeholders. This will include evidence available at EU and Member State levels from competent authorities, agencies, economic sectors, NGOs, scientific/technical journals, business and the private sector. Websites, technical journals and grey literature are consulted as these may contain further useful information.

Consultation with at least 14 representative member states and stakeholder through written, face-to-face, telephone or web-based interviews or structured questionnaires.

Undertake a public consultation to obtain the views of citizens and civil society through a structured questionnaire. The evaluation includes a public consultation by internet to get the views of citizens and civil society. A structured public questionnaire is prepared in consultation with the Commission, and necessary materials for the public consultation are produced by way of the Commission's web site – "Your Voice in Europe"). Subsequently results are evaluated in accordance with the normal procedures applying to public consultation exercises undertaken by the Commission

Evaluating relevant information and evidence sources at EU and member states levels. The information collected will be systematically evaluated for the five different evaluation criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, and EU added value. A comprehensive assessment and synthesis of the available relevant evidence and information is effectuated aimed at answering as far as possible each of the questions posed for different categories of the evaluation.

A one day international workshop will be organized in Brussels to present the main findings of the draft report, to assess the feedback of the stakeholders. Approximately 100 participants should be foreseen to ensure the most relevant parties in the workshop.

The **Final study report in English**, including all results obtained, can be accessed [HERE](#)

