



LIFE BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY

METHODOLOGY MANUAL

LIFE-IN-MN01-1.0-EN

Title: **LIFE Business & Biodiversity** Methodology Manual

Code: LIFE-IN-MN01-1.0-EN

Applicability: International

Type: Manual (MN)

Version: 1.0

Status: Final

Language: English

Approval: LIFE Institute

Date: 10/27/2025

Contact:

LIFE Institute

Rua Victor Benato, 210 – Bosque Zaninelli – Pilarzinho

ZIP Code: 82.120-110 – Curitiba – PR – Brazil

Phone: +55 41 3253 7884

lifeinstituteglobal.org

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OBJECTIVE

To present the LIFE Methodology, describing its main components.

APPLICABILITY

It applies to organizations certified by the LIFE Certification System, organizations that use the LIFE Methodology as a management tool - either in its entirety or in a modular fashion - certification bodies accredited by the LIFE Institute, as well as anyone interested in understanding, using, or consulting the Methodology.

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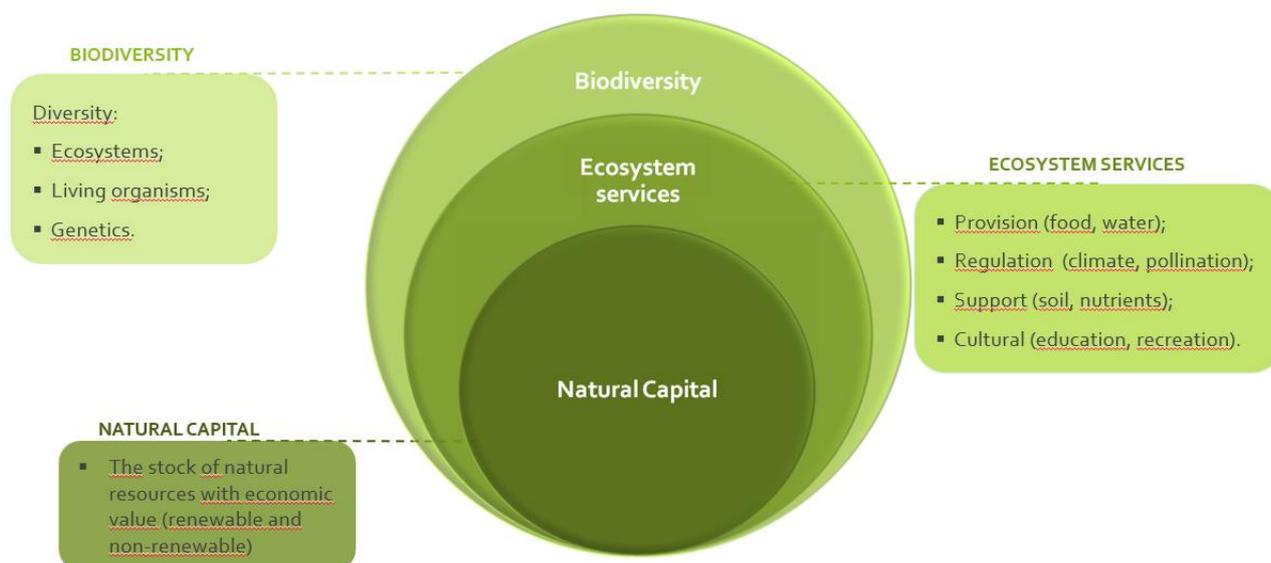
1. INTRODUCTION

The LIFE Methodology is a tool developed by the LIFE Institute to promote business engagement with biodiversity and ecosystem services.

2. DESCRIPTION

2.1 LIFE METHODOLOGY

The LIFE Methodology has a mixed, measurable, and integrated approach, giving it an innovative and tangible bias through its qualitative and quantitative structure focused on biodiversity management, as shown in the image below:



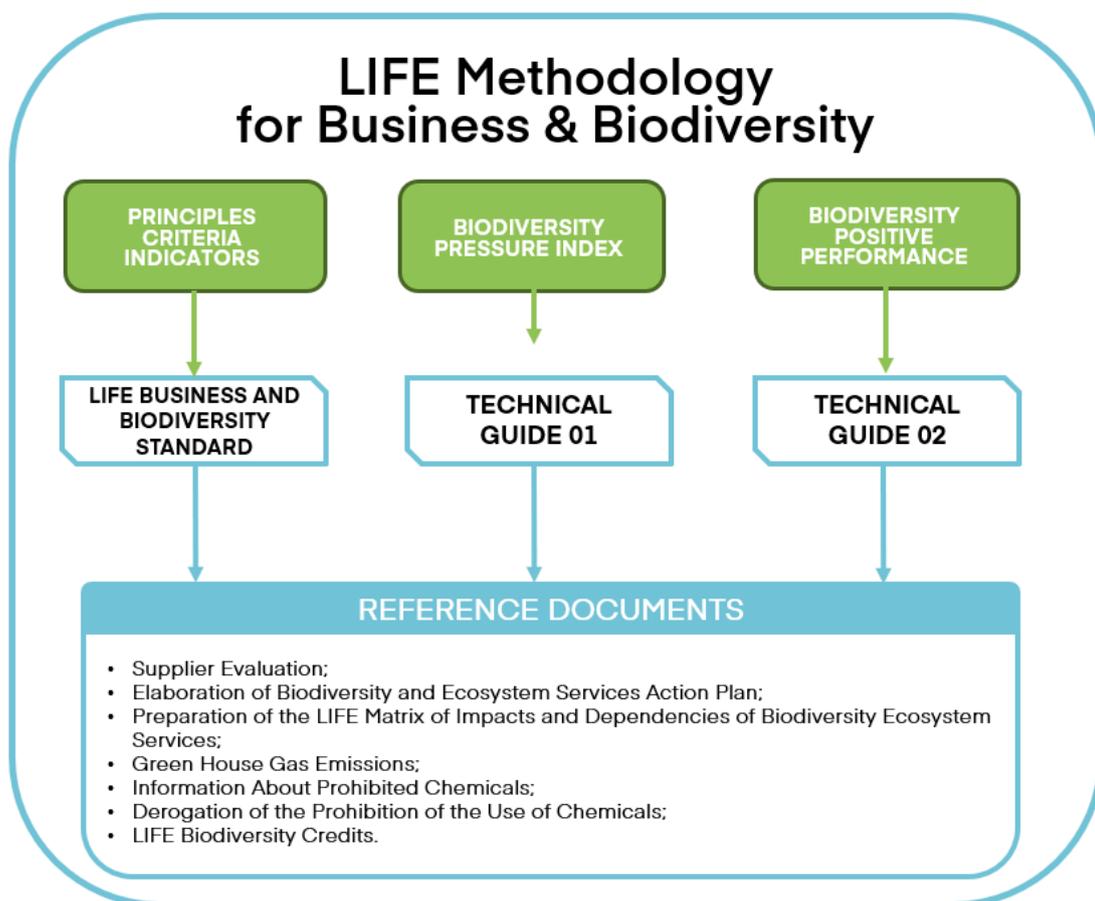
Composed of metrics and management indicators, it leads to an objective analysis of the positive and negative impacts on biodiversity, as well as the risks, dependencies, and opportunities in the relationship between business and biodiversity.

Incorporated into the LIFE Key software, its application enables the assessment and monitoring of organizations' performance in relation to biodiversity. In addition, the application of the LIFE Methodology allows the generation of LIFE Biodiversity Credits.

Further details on the applicability of each module of the LIFE Methodology, including the generation of Biodiversity Credits, can be found in the Audit Guide.

2.2 LIFE METHODOLOGY COMPONENTS

The LIFE Methodology consists of different modules, including qualitative indicators of organizational management and metrics that allow the calculation of positive and negative impacts on biodiversity.



2.3 LIFE METHODOLOGY FOR BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY DOCUMENTS

Given the need to adapt the Methodology to different countries and regions the code assigned to each document might alter. Examples of that are the Technical Guides: “LIFE-BB-IN-TG01” stands for the Guide adapted to international applicability, while “LIFE-BB-EU-TG01” represents the Guide adapted to applicability within Europe. An example of this can be found in Table 3.

LIFE Methodology Base Documents

CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
LIFE-BB-IN-CP	LIFE PREMISSES	Present Premises that base LIFE Methodology and Certification.
LIFE-BB-IN-CS	LIFE STANDARD BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY	Based on LIFE Premises, it defines the principles, criteria and indicators that aim to incorporate the biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and natural capital in good business practices in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.
LIFE-BB-XX*-TG01	LIFE TECHNICAL GUIDE – 01 Measuring the Biodiversity Pressure Index (BPI) and definition of Biodiversity Minimum Performance (BMP)	Information of organization’s pressure on biodiversity calculation and establishment of minimal performance necessary in conservation actions.
LIFE-BB-XX*-TG02	LIFE TECHNICAL GUIDE – 02 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Action Plan (BAP) and Definition of Biodiversity Positive Performance (BPP)	Evaluates organization’s performance in conservation actions.

Table 1: LIFE Methodology Base Documents -Source: LIFE Institute *‘XX’ The Technical Guides are adapted to different countries and regions; therefore, its code alters according to its applicability.

LIFE Methodology Supporting Documents

CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
LIFE-BB-IN-RD	SUPPLIERS EVALUATION	Defines the minimum requirements for the Purchasing Policy, mentioned on LIFE Standards.
LIFE-BB-IN-RD	PREPARATION OF THE LIFE MATRIX OF IMPACTS AND DEPENDENCIES ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES – LIFE MATRIX	Guidelines, recommendations, and the main steps that should be considered when preparing the LIFE Matrix of Impacts and Dependencies on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
LIFE-BB-IN-RD	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FOR BPI CALCULATION	Guidelines on how to obtain greenhouse gases emissions to calculate Biodiversity Pressure Index. Available in Portuguese
LIFE-BB-IN-RD	INFORMATION ABOUT PROHIBITED CHEMICALS	Defines and informs which are the chemical products which use is prohibited by LIFE Institute.
LIFE-BB-IN-RD	DEROGATION OF THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF CHEMICALS	Defines the minimum requirements to request the derogation of the use of chemicals by LIFE Certified companies.
LIFE-BB-IN-RD	LIFE BIODIVERSITY CREDITS - GENERAL RULES FOR MANAGEMENT AND NEGOTIATION	General Rules for Management and Negotiation.

Table 2: LIFE Methodology Supporting Documents- Source: LIFE Institute

Examples of Documents of Regional Applicability

CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
LIFE-BB-BR-RD	COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES	Presents the way in which organizations in the process of LIFE Certification must demonstrate their compliance with Principle of LIFE Standard. – Applicability to Brazil (BR)
LIFE-BB-BR-RD	ADDITIONALITY FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE LIFE METHODOLOGY IN BRAZIL	Presents guidelines for identifying and proving the additionality of conservation actions carried out by the organization/producer, for the purpose of scoring the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Action Plan (BAP). – Applicability to Brazil (BR)
LIFE-BB-PY-RD	CONSERVATION PRIORITIES	Describes the calculation methodology adopted in Paraguay to calculate qualifier Q03 – importance of the area for conservation. – Applicability to Paraguay (PY)

Table 3: Documents of Regional Applicability- Source: LIFE Institute

LIFE KEY – Transparency and Disclosure

Biodiversity Management Software developed by the LIFE Institute.

The software allows for the practical application of LIFE Methodology, as well as the visualization and generation of:

- Detailed technical reports - indexes, tables, and graphs; positive and negative impact metrics and biodiversity balance, management indicators;
- Executive reports that facilitate communication with investors, stakeholders, and shareholders;

Exclusive application to LIFE-certified companies:

- Audit reports;

- Public summaries with the overall results of LIFE Certification, which are published on the websites of the certifying bodies.

3. OTHER DOCUMENTS

In addition, users of the LIFE Methodology can use other documents, such as the Glossary of Technical Terms and the Audit Guide, applicable to LIFE Certification processes.

Other LIFE Documents

CODE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
LIFE-BB-IN-MP	GUIDE TO EXTERNAL AND INDEPENDENT AUDIT - LIFE BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY CERTIFICATION AND LIFE BIODIVERSITY CREDITS	Provides guidelines and directives for conducting external and independent audits of LIFE certifications.
LIFE-IN-GL	LIFE GLOSSARY OF TERMS	Brings definition of technical and management terms applicable to LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity and LIFE Methodology on Sustainable Territorial Management, as well as the LIFE Certification System.

Table 4: Other Documents. - Source: LIFE Institute

The complete list of LIFE Documents can be found on the LIFE Institute website.