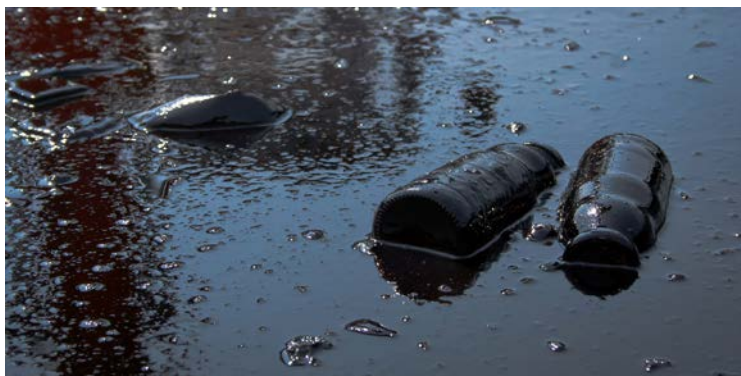




European Union Network for the  
Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law

## Practical Guide - Criteria for the Assessment of the Environmental Damage



This project aims to identify best practices and to provide guides/tools, such as check-lists and assessment plans, to enhance capability of Competent Authorities and other stakeholders in promptly and effectively evaluating the environmental events and determining the clues and the evidences of environmental damage in different situations.

There is a variety of environmental events, such as environmental incidents, environmental non-compliances and environmental offences, considered by European and national laws, requiring different Competent Authorities to promptly and effectively determine clues and evidence of possible environmental damage.

This diversity of situations and ascertaining methods is likely to have sometime resulted in inconsistent and inefficient actions in finding clues and evidence of possible environmental damage and, thus, to the failure in effectively preventing and mitigating the damage.

It is evident that, with a proper planning of ascertainment actions, the success of preventive or remedial measures can be strengthened and possibly improved.

### TARGET GROUPS

Competent authorities for environmental damage assessment and enforcement; industrial operators; environmental protection agencies; nature protection bodies; environmental inspectorates; environmental guard departments; environmental monitoring and research institutions; technical universities; environmental associations; NGOs; insurance companies and associations; environmental consultants

### EU LEGISLATION

- [Directive 2004/35/CE on Environmental Liability](#)
- [Directive 79/409/EEC - Birds Directive](#)
- [Directive 92/43/EEC - Habitat Directive](#)
- [Directive 2000/60/EC - Water Framework Directive](#)
- [Directive 2008/56/EC - Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#)
- [Directive 2006/118/EC - Groundwater Protection](#)

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Preparations for and planning of the environmental ascertainties to be conducted by Competent Authorities and/or by operators, could benefit from criteria for the assessment of the environmental damage and threat of damage.

Thus, the project objective is to recommend the best practices to implement for an investigation adequate to ensure immediate prevention and effective remediation of the environmental damage.

This project focusses on the phase of the “ascertainment” or “immediate action” of the assessment of environmental damage or threat of damage. Thus, the quantification and monetisation of the damage, as well as the choice of preventive and remedial measures are not included in the objective of this project.

## LINKS

- [IMPEL projects](#)

## KEY WORDS

- Environmental Liability Directive (ELD)
- Environmental Damage
- Threat of environmental damage
- Environmental crime
- Environmental investigations
- Environmental incidents
- Environmental non-compliance
- Environmental offences
- Eco-criminal acts