



# **LIFE +**

**Information session**

**by Philip Owen (European Commission) in Brussels**

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# LIFE+

**LIFE+ provides support for:**

- **implementing, updating and developing Community environmental policy and legislation.**
- **the 6th EAP and resulting thematic strategies**



# LIFE+

**is a limited but focused funding instrument and comprises three components:**

*LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity*

*LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance*

*LIFE+ Information and Communication*



# **LIFE+**

**Duration: 1.1.2007 to 31.12.2013**

**Budget: € 2.143 billion**

- **at least 78% of LIFE+ for the co-financing of project action grants**
  - **at least 50% of this amount is for nature and biodiversity projects**
- **up to 22% for operational expenses of DG Environment**
- **Published in OJ L149 9.6.07**



# LIFE+

## Complementarity

**Article 9 states that LIFE+ “shall not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria and main scope of, or receive assistance from, other Community financial instruments”**



# LIFE+

## **Multi-annual strategic programme**

- **Set out as Annex II to the Regulation**
- **Specifies the priority areas of action for Community funding**
- **Member States (from 2008) may select national annual priorities from Annex II**



# **LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity**

**LIFE+ Nature: *demonstration of best-practice projects* for implementing the objectives of the EU Birds' directive 79/409/EEC and of the EU Habitats' directive 92/43/EEC, including the Natura 2000 network of sites**

**LIFE+ Biodiversity: *demonstration of innovative projects* for implementing certain objectives of the Commission Communication *COM (2006) 216 final* on halting the loss of biodiversity**



# LIFE+ Nature

- **Focuses on:**
  - sustainable long-term investments in Natura 2000 sites
  - conservation actions for species targeted by the Birds' and Habitats' directives
  - projects must “demonstrate best practice”
- **Co-financing rate generally 50% (but up to 75% when clearly targeting priority species or habitats)**
- **Land purchase is possible**
- **A significant part of the project budget should be allocated to “concrete conservation actions”**
- **Recurring conservation management actions for species, habitats and Natura 2000 sites are ineligible**



# LIFE+ Biodiversity

- **Focuses on:**
  - **“demonstrating innovation” measures for enhancing biodiversity in both terrestrial and marine areas, without regard to the Natura 2000 status**
- **Actions must be different from and have an added value compared to those in Natura 2000 network**
- **Co-financing rate for projects is 50%**
- **Land purchase is ineligible**
- **A significant part of the project budget should be allocated to “concrete conservation actions”**
- **Scope includes French overseas departments**



# LIFE+ Nature or Biodiversity?

<b>LIFE+ Nature</b>	<b>LIFE+ Biodiversity</b>
<i>Exclusively Birds and Habitats directives</i>	<i>Not restricted to the Birds and Habitats directives</i>
<i>Demonstration of best practice</i>	<i>Demonstration of innovation</i>
<i>Long-term sustainability of conservation measures</i>	<i>Demonstrating the feasibility of new or innovative measures in the short term</i>
<i>Land purchase and long-term lease or compensation eligible</i>	<i>Only short term lease or compensation are eligible</i>
<i>Infrastructure and equipment costs eligible at 100%</i>	<i>Infrastructure and equipment costs partially eligible (depreciation)</i>



# **LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance**

## **Contributes to:**

- Development of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments**
- The knowledge base as regards environment policy and legislation**
- Monitoring of environmental pressures – including forests and environmental interactions**
- The implementation of Community environmental policy**



# **LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance**

- Priority objectives:  
climate change, water, air, soil, urban environment, noise, chemicals, environment and health, waste and natural resources, forests, “innovation”, strategic approaches**
- Each priority objective comprises one or more areas of action**
- Co-financing rate for projects is 50% (maximum)**



# **LIFE+ Information and Communication**

## **Aims at:**

- **Implementing communication and awareness raising campaigns on environmental, nature protection or biodiversity conservation issues**
- **Awareness raising for forest fire prevention**
- **Special training for agents involved in forest fire prevention**



# **LIFE+ Information and Communication**

## **Focuses on:**

**Ensuring regular and effective information flow to provide the basis for policy decisions on the environment, and to provide accessible information to citizens on the state and trends of the environment**

- **Priority area of action:**

**Disseminating information, raising awareness and develop specific skills on environmental issues, including forest fire prevention**

- **Co-financing for projects 50% (maximum)**



# **LIFE+ implementation**

**Commission organises annual call for proposals, selects, revises and monitors projects, makes payments with help of**

- (a) external experts for the selection and revision of proposals**
- (b) external monitoring teams for monitoring of ongoing projects**

## **Member States:**

- (a) forward all project proposals to the Commission**
- (b) set national priorities and objectives (from 2008 onwards)**
- (c) prepare comments on proposals (in particular in relation to national annual priorities)**



# **LIFE+ project selection**

- **Based on technical and financial quality, EU added value and consistency with the Regulation**
- **Takes account of:**
  - **National priorities (except for 2007)**
  - **Member States' comments**
- **Is in accordance with indicative national financial allocations**
- **Respects 50% ring-fencing for nature and biodiversity**
- **Endeavours to include transnational projects (for 15% of the budget)**



# LIFE+ project selection

What is new ?

- proposals will be submitted on CD-ROM, in *.pdf* format only (scan of the proposal forms, including signatures and stamps where necessary including maps for LIFE+ Nature and obligatory annexes)
- where signatures, individual forms or obligatory annexes are missing, applicants will be given the possibility to resubmit these missing documents/forms within a short deadline



# **LIFE+ project selection**

- **one award procedure with similar criteria for all proposals submitted under LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance and LIFE+ Information and Communication.**
- **the short list of proposals submitted to the LIFE+ Committee must take into account the 50% threshold for LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, as well as the indicative national allocations per Member State**



## 2007 project selection: draft calendar

Application guidelines and forms published	15/09/07	
Submission of proposal to national authority	30/11/07	
Member State submission to Commission	31/12/07	
Evaluation of eligibility criteria	01/01/08	15/02/08
Evaluation of selection and award criteria	16/02/08	30/04/08
Provisional long-list of projects	01/05/08	
Revision of project proposals	01/05/08	15/07/08
Project long- list submitted to the LIFE+ committee	15/07/08	
LIFE+ committee meeting	31/07/08	
Signature of grant agreements	16/10/08	30/11/08



# Conclusion

**Prepare project proposals!**