



LIFE eNews

November 2016

LIFE 2017 Concept Notes

The 2017 Call is anticipated to be launched in May with a September deadline (based on last year's timings) so now is the time to start preparing your project. Please download the **NEW** [concept note template](#) and [return it to us via email](#) to enable us to evaluate the eligibility of your proposal. We have also developed a guidance document to help you complete the template.

The next deadline for concept notes is the **21st December** and we will aim to return comments mid January. We will then schedule a two day Logical Framework Training course for the projects which have a higher chance of success. Whilst we will review concept notes at any time of the year, applicants will need to make the December deadline to ensure they gain access to our full support services, such as the Logical Framework Training.

LIFE 2015 Projects Announced

Earlier in the month, [the European Commission announced](#) the projects which successfully gained LIFE funding from the 2015 call. The UK secured funding for **5 projects**, amounting to **€38.5 million**.

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

[LIFE-Shad Severn \(Severn Rivers Trust\)](#) - The project aims to improve the conservation status of the twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*) by removing artificial barriers in the Rivers Severn and Teme to improve access to quality spawning and nursery habitat.

[LIFE blackwit UK \(The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - RSPB\)](#) - The project plans to increase the productivity of the L. l. limosa subspecies of black-

tailed godwit at key breeding sites to a level sufficient for population growth. Among other measures, it plans to enhance and maintain 1100 ha of the target habitat.

[Marches Mosses BogLIFE \(Natural England\)](#) - The project aims to improve the conservation status of the UK's third largest lowland raised bog from 'unfavourable' to 'unfavourable improving' by restoring 665 ha of habitat in line with the UK's Prioritised Action Framework Priority Measures.

LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency

[LIFE Laser Fence \(Liverpool John Moores University\)](#) - The project will develop and demonstrate a laser fence technology to keep animals away from agricultural land. As an alternative to chemicals and electric fences, it addresses animal welfare concerns and will help stop the loss of biodiversity from poisoning of non-target species.

LIFE Environmental Governance & Information

[TRiFOCAL London \(The Waste and Resources Action Programme\)](#) - TRiFOCAL will pilot a communications campaign to encourage sustainable food systems in global megacities. A 20% reduction in per capita tonnage of avoidable food waste generated by Londoners is expected.

LIFE NCP Events

Recent

3rd Wales LIFE Forum

The UK LIFE NCP held the third Wales EU LIFE Forum in Cardiff on 2 November. If you were unable to attend (or would like to revisit any of the information), you can find all the presentations on [our dedicated webpage](#).

Upcoming

LIFE Overview: LIFE priorities and Application process

1 December 2016, 10:30 AM.

This webinar is targeted for first time applicants who want a better understanding of the funding stream and will give an overview of the LIFE programme, detailing the programme priorities, eligibility and the application process.

Register [here](#).

It's (still) Competition Time!

Last month we launched the very first UK LIFE photography competition to brighten up the [UK LIFE NCP webpages](#). We are extending the deadline to **Friday 2 December** to give you a little more time to decide your winning snaps to send our way.

First prize will be the honour of appearing on the front page of the NCP website alongside coverage in our LIFE eNews and social media accounts ([note this can also count as disseminating the project results when reporting back to the Commission](#)). Shortlisted pictures will also appear on the JNCC LIFE webpages.

For further details or to submit questions before the webinar please contact the [UK LIFE team](#)

LIFE: from concept to submission

Details to be confirmed

LIFE Climate Action

Details to be confirmed

Please note that these webinars will be recorded and made available on the [UK LIFE webpages](#).

Please send us photos of your current or completed LIFE project to UKLIFE@jncc.gov.uk alongside a caption, the name of the LIFE project and copyright details.

Terms and Conditions The photo must be in jpeg, png or tiff format and be of a good size and quality (for large files, please use a file transfer site such as [WeTransfer](#) rather than resizing the images). You must own and provide information on copyright of the photo.

EEA Report: Rivers and Lakes in European Cities

A must read for those thinking about LIFE urban river projects under the 2017 LIFE call.

The report describes water management issues related to rivers and lakes and outline the ways in which European cities develop strategies and measures to cope with the key challenges they currently face in relation to their inland surface waters. The report uses 17 case studies on urban river and lake restoration to illustrate important aspects on urban and water management. Finally, the report draws some important lessons learned from the case studies reviewed and frames some key contextual issues that are potentially relevant to different urban settings across Europe.

Inspiring Stories

You can now find a range of inspiring stories on [our webpages](#).

If you have a positive message you want to convey to the UK LIFE community then please get in touch with us. This month we talked to Jackie Webley at Scottish Natural Heritage to get an insight into the [Pearls in Peril project](#).

Pearls in Peril: securing the future of the freshwater pearl mussel in Great Britain, LIFE11 NAT/UK/000383



Upper River Dee small tree enclosures and Freshwater pearl mussel, Afon Eden © Pearls in Peril LIFE

What is Pearls in Peril?

'Pearls in Peril' aims to safeguard important populations of the critically endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) in Great Britain. The project is implementing a wide range of conservation actions in 21 rivers within Natura 2000 sites across Britain focusing on restoring and maintaining habitat and water quality suitable for freshwater pearl mussels.

To safeguard important populations of the freshwater pearl, the project has:

- established over 100km of riparian woodland;
- improved water quality by reducing diffuse pollution from surrounding land use;
- restored over 5km of river;
- raise local awareness of and introduced local 'riverwatch' schemes to help combat illegal persecution;
- worked with local fishery biologists to improve the success of the overall population by refining a technique for collecting the larval stage of the pearl mussels; and,
- raised public awareness of the species, especially through delivery of a "Pearls in the Classroom" programme to over 4000 school children in the catchments of Natura 2000 sites.

The project, funded through LIFE+ Nature and co-funded by 22 partner organisations, runs from September 2012 - March 2017.



White Water, River South Esk, restored section of river with bank protection removed © Pearls in Peril LIFE

What key lessons have you learnt?

- Provide sufficient opportunities to exchange information with other project and partners across the UK and Europe (e.g. visiting other projects, hosting conferences and workshops).
- Work with credible, local partner organisations to maximise the opportunity to effectively engage with local landowners, farmers, foresters etc.
- Dedicated project officers are vital to ensure sufficient time is devoted to implement conservation actions.
- Ensure sufficient administrative support is provided within the project, particularly to support a project's reporting requirements.
- Ensure that project outputs are available on the PIP website for wider dissemination
- Working with partners has facilitated an exchange of skills and experience through delivering physical restoration action. This experience can be used by project partners to deliver further river restoration schemes after the PIP project.

How does the project anticipate its sustainability once funding has stopped?

The actions to raise awareness of wildlife crime will be sustained by through integration into the work plan of the UK group that coordinates action on freshwater pearl mussels at risk from wildlife crime. In rivers where work is being done to improve habitat, landowners, farmers and forest managers have signed management agreements that they will maintain the relevant changes for at least 5 - 10 years after the project finishes. The [project website](#) will be maintained for at least 5 years after the project and continue to host an array of guidance and information to support pearl mussel conservation. This will include the "Pearls in the Classroom" information that can be used by others to continue raising awareness of the species amongst our young people.

The project is coordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage. If you would like to find out more about Pearls in Peril, visit the [project website](#) and [twitter account](#) or contact [Jackie Webley](#) at SNH.

In accordance with the [Chief Secretary to the Treasury's letter](#) of 12 August on the future of EU funding, UK organisations that bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis for EU LIFE funds will have the payment of such awards underwritten by Treasury, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU.

This means that UK organisations have a guarantee that any EU LIFE funds awarded whilst the UK is still a Member State, will continue for the duration of their projects.

This is welcome for many organisations that rely on LIFE funding to carry out a

wide range of valuable environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the UK. We are continuing business as usual in the build up to the 2017 LIFE Call and will keep you updated with developments.

How to contact us

Dedicated mailbox: UKLIFE@JNCC.gov.uk
Our helpline: 01733 562626
(please ask for a member of the UK LIFE team)
UK LIFE webpages: jncc.defra.gov.uk/UKLIFE
Twitter: [UKLIFENCP](https://twitter.com/UKLIFENCP)
LinkedIn: [EU LIFE Community for the UK](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/11071112)



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