



LIFE eNews

October 2016

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.

It's Competition Time!

To brighten up the [UK LIFE NCP webpages](#), we are launching the very first UK LIFE photography competition!

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.

Please send us photos of your current or completed LIFE project by **Friday 11 November** 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.

Upcoming Internal Events

Wales LIFE Forum

Cardiff: 2 November 2016

The UK LIKE NCP is going to be holding the third Wales EU LIFE Forum next month. If you have not been invited directly, but wish to be considered as a delegate, please contact the workshop organiser on WalesLIFE@jncc.gov.uk for more information.

Upcoming External Events

[LIFE Projects technical conference: Water, waste and circular economy](#)

Manresa, Spain: 8 November 2016

The conference will publicise 12 LIFE projects working in water, waste and the circular economy and offers a great opportunity to network and share experiences. The LIFE Communications team will present on good practices developed by LIFE. Attendance is free of charge and registration details can be found [here](#). More information is available from [the conference organisers](#).

[World Symposium on Climate Change Communication](#)

Manchester, UK: 22 – 23 February 2017

The symposium will offer opportunities to display and present their works in climate change communication and share knowledge and experiences with other in the same field. It will be split into two themes: theory and practice. More information and details of the call for papers can be found [here](#) (deadline for abstracts: 30.10.16). To register, click [here](#).

In other news...

The application process for the [Ashden Awards 2017](#) is now open! The [UK awards](#) are for achievements in the areas of sustainable buildings, energy innovation, sustainable transport and smart energy.

The [International awards](#) are for projects delivered in at least one of the UN's developing regions.

Apply [here](#) for a chance to win:

- Up to £20,000
- National and international media exposure
- Tailored support to develop your work even further
- Media materials to help you tell your story

For eligibility criteria for UK Awards click [here](#), for International click [here](#).

Inspiring Stories

If you have a positive message you want to convey to the UK LIFE community then get in touch with us. This month we got in touch with Peter Long at the University of Oxford to get an insight into the [NaturEtrade](#) project.

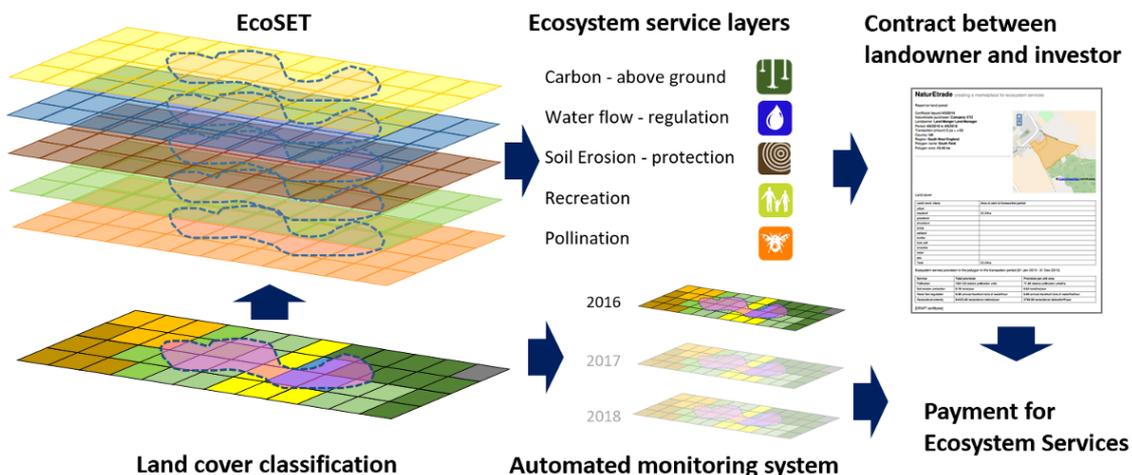
NaturEtrade: creating a marketplace for ecosystem services

What is the NaturEtrade project?

NaturEtrade aims to support climate change mitigation by reducing the conversion of natural land cover types by 40% in its study areas (UK, Spain, Romania and Croatia) by enabling EU landowners to quickly assess their land's ecological potential in terms of ecosystem services provision and then trade those services.

The project will create a novel suite of easy-to-use tools and mechanisms to identify, map and create a marketplace for ecosystem services in Europe.

The project will contribute to the achievement of a number of EU strategic objectives, including those relating to a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy; climate resilience; innovation for green infrastructure; and creation of business opportunities, especially in the green economy.



What key lessons have you learnt?

- In order to allow transactions in ecosystem services to be scalable it is necessary to produce digital spatial data about the state of the environment which is accurate, consistent and at a spatial resolution and temporal frequency which is relevant to individual landowners.
- Satellite technology and centralised IT infrastructure allow for virtually costless monitoring and measurement of ecosystem services and substantially reduces transaction costs between parties.
- NaturEtrade has been integrated with Land Registry data in the UK allowing clear identification of property owners. This means that dispute resolution

rules are straightforward and landowners are only able to contract land under their direct management into ecosystem service contracts.

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

At the end of the LIFE funding project, the NaturEtrade web interface and environmental datasets will be maintained. In the event that we can establish a successful marketplace for transactions in ecosystem service provision, the continued infrastructure of NaturEtrade will be funded by a small levy on each transaction processed through the site.

How will the project ensure the results are replicated/ transferred across the UK and Europe?

By the end of the project, our web interface will be providing information about land cover and the provision of ecosystem services across Europe. We will also be translating our interface and documentation into key languages. It will be possible for landowners across the whole of Europe to use the tool to find out about the provision of ecosystem services on their land and enter into transactions to maintain these ecosystem services.

The project is coordinated by the University of Oxford. If you would like to find out more about NaturEtrade, contact [Peter Long](#) at the University of Oxford

How to contact us

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(please ask for a member of the UK LIFE team)
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