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# LIFE Programme 2014 – 2020

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# What is LIFE?

- EU's sole financial instrument for the environment
- Objective - to contribute to **implementation** and **development** of EU **environmental policy and legislation**.
- Hallmark is implementation; **catalyst** for new thinking, **new models** of implementation; can be **rolled out across EU**; deliver EU **'additionality'**; **better implement / refine policy**
- LIFE co-funds: **Biodiversity and Nature Conservation**
  - » **Environmental projects**
  - » **Climate Change Action**
- Projects can be on land, sea or air
- Small fund, highly over subscribed



# LIFE history

- Over 23 years of support in different guises
- Over 4,171 projects contributing €3.4 billion
- In UK, largely used by Agencies and larger NGOs
- 7 year programme 2014 - 2020
- **UK track record - not overly impressive** – c 50% of ‘allocation’; 2013/14 1<sup>st</sup> year fully spent
- Very competitive - **only 15% of bids across Member States are successful**



# LIFE 2014-2020 – Objectives

- contributing towards a **resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy**; protecting and improving the **environment**; maintaining and improving **biodiversity**, ecosystems and especially **Natura 2000 network**
- improving development, implementation and enforcement of EU **environmental and climate policy and legislation**
- **integrating and mainstreaming** of environmental and climate objectives into other EU policies
- improving environmental and climate **governance**
- Implementing **7th Environment Action Programme**



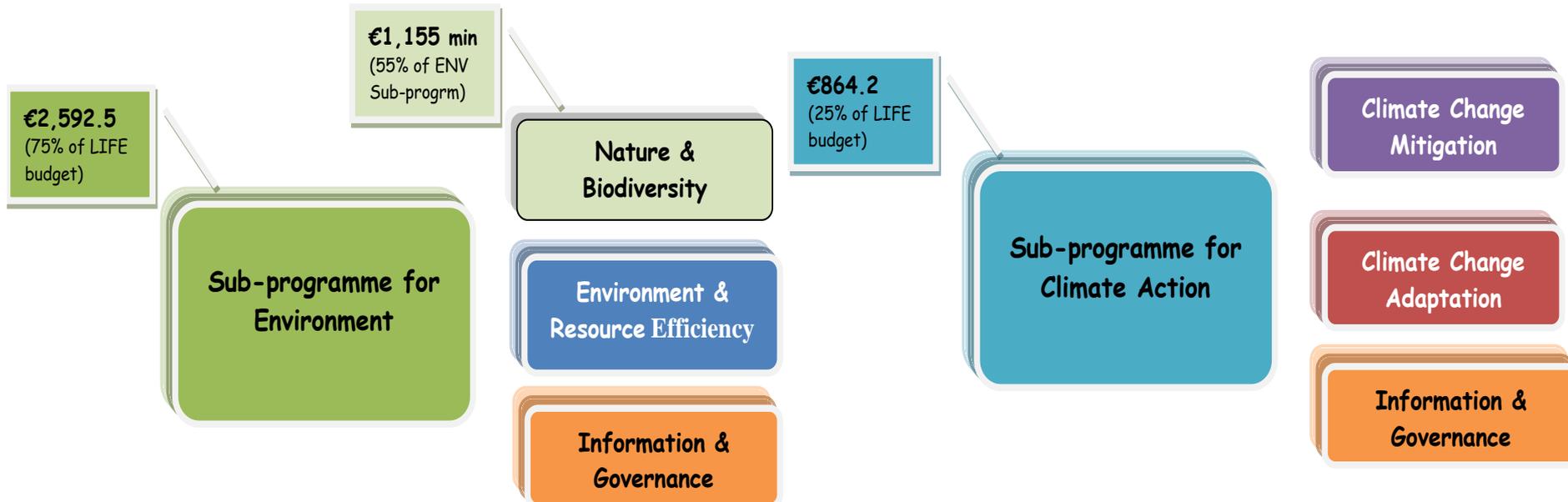
# LIFE programme 2014 -2020

- **7 years** multi-annual work programme: **€3.46billion**
- First **4 year MAWP** divided into sub-themes
  - **Environment (€2.59bn)**
    - Nature and Biodiversity
    - Environment and Resource Efficiency
    - Governance and Information
  - **Climate Action (€0.86bn)**
- LIFE project funding also through innovative **financial instruments**
- **Integrated Projects** – new larger projects covering both sub-themes



# LIFE Programme

€3,456.7 (2014-2020)





# Budget 2015

- Projects funded by action grants and financial instruments: **€240.8 million**
- Sub-programme for Environment: **€184.1 million** i.e. more than 75% of projects
- Sub-programme for Climate action: **€56.7 million**
- **UK allocation**
  - Indicative allocation for **environmental sub-theme** for 2014 - 17 is **c€104m** (including IPs). No MS allocation after 2017.
  - No MS allocation for climate sub-programme



# Environment themes

- **Three priority areas:**
  - **Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)**
  - **Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)**
  - **Environmental Governance and Information (GIE)**
- **Includes policy on** water, floods, drought, Marine and coastal management  
Water industry/services, Waste and resource efficiency, including green and circular economy, Soils, Forests, Chemicals, Noise and urban environment, Air pollution, air quality (including EU NEC directive), Nature and Biodiversity.



# Nature and Biodiversity Priority area

- **Policy link:** to objectives of **Birds and Habitats Directives (nature)**, or **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020**
- **Areas of focus:** Within this priority area, specific **thematic priorities** in LIFE Regulation; proposals must meet these. In addition, **project topics** for Nature and Biodiversity are set out in the **multiannual work programme**
- **Typical project:** Implementing a **Natura 2000** site management plan or actions; *testing and demonstrating approaches* supporting the various targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy
- **Typical actions:** Most actions geared towards nature conservation, e.g. restoration and conservation of **endangered habitats and/or species**, but also other types of actions related to **Biodiversity**. NB – **at least 25%** of budget should be for **‘concrete conservation’** actions



# Environment and Resource Efficiency Priority area

- **Policy link:** to a range of environmental policy and legislation, including between the environment and health, and in support of the '*Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe*'
- **Areas of focus:** specific thematic priorities in LIFE Regulation, proposals **must** meet these and project topics in multiannual work programme;
- **Typical project:** Implementing a pilot or demonstrative project tackling one of project topics in the MAWP, including development of *innovative technologies suitable for replication, transfer or mainstreaming*
- **Typical actions:** Actions linked to solving the **specific** environmental problem being tackled



# Environmental Governance and Information priority area

- *governance and compliance*, information and communication actions, awareness raising campaigns and skills development for implementing, updating and developing **European environmental policy and legislation**.
- Have to target a **specific environmental problem**
- Example Project topics:
  - Information campaigns **raising awareness and encouraging behavioural changes** (i.e. measurable change) on key waste-related issues with a focus on **waste reduction**.
  - Projects aiming to initiate **beach and sea clean-up schemes** as a means to **increase awareness** of the impacts of marine litter



# Climate Action - Sub-programme

- **Policy link:** Work towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy, underpinning the implementation of the 2020 climate and energy package and the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change
- **Areas of focus:** Other than three priority areas: climate change **mitigation**, climate change **adaptation** and **climate governance** - **no project topics**.
- **Typical project:** Demonstration or piloting of innovative climate technologies, systems, methods or instruments related to **climate change mitigation or adaptation strategy**, as well as **best practice** projects
- **Typical actions:** Most actions linked to greenhouse gas emissions reductions or to addressing the current or projected impacts of climate change



# Who can apply?

- Almost anyone
- Public or private bodies, organisations registered in the EU, commercial organisations
- Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies eligible – but demanding conditionality
- **Co-ordinating beneficiary – must based in EU**



# Integrated projects

- New innovation for 2014-20 programme (30% action grants ring fenced)
- **Comprehensive implementation on large territorial scale - regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national – of environmental or climate plans or strategies required by specific Union environmental or climate legislation**
- Limited to **four specific environmental areas requiring strategic plans - nature, air, water and waste (not marine) + Climate action**
- Member States entitled to minimum of 3 over 7 year period; one on **Environment**, one on **Nature & Biodiversity**, one on **Climate Change mitigation and adaptation**
- Ensure supplementary funding for **complementary actions mobilising other EU funds** (e.g. rural development funds, structural funds, Horizon 2020) or private sector for a sustainable outcome.



# What can LIFE *not* fund?

- Compensatory action under Art. 6 of the Habitats directive
- Actions that should be (or are) financed under Structural Funds (e.g. Rural Development Fund) or CAP
- Research projects – possibly Horizon 2020?
- Purely domestic objectives – must **further EU policy or objectives**, with **focus on implementation**
- What the **Commission** consider is for **MS action**
- **Biodiversity projects** unless truly ‘innovative’ including trials/pilots in EU context (outside Natura 2000)



# LIFE projects must have ...

- **'EU added-value'** – demonstrating/developing EU policy or objectives
- **Matching funds** - 60% EU co-financing for biodiversity and environment/CC in 1<sup>st</sup> MAWP
- **Demonstration** - puts into practice, tests and disseminates methods that are **new/ untested** that can be disseminated and **more widely applied**
- **'Innovation'** – applies/tests techniques, approaches, **not been used before** (across EU), that offers advantages compared to current best practice + capable of **EU replicability**
- **Best practice** – only for 'Nature' projects i.e. N2K: state-of-the-art existing techniques for conservation of species/habitats
- Normally - typical grant of €1-4m; over 2 to 5 years - sustained into future. Projects less than €1m unlikely to be worthwhile



# Projects must be well developed!

- Be clear on your **specific project objective (very important!)**
- Be clear on **underlying environmental problem**, not symptoms; realism of what can be achieved – develop a logical framework with key participants
- A great project not delivering **MAWP priorities & EU additionality will fail**
- **Focus** on project topics – to help you earn more points
- **Use expertise** to help you! Beta /Agencies and Defra colleagues can help frame the EU policy context/additionality.
- The selection procedure for **LIFE** is a very **tough, thorough and detailed**
- **Can you help/work with others** – find partners in UK and other MS e.g. **mentor, critical friend**; get experience
- Expect to spend **6+ months** developing a project bid
- Be clear and precise – applications are evaluated on what is submitted (not on the potential of the idea)



# Common Reasons for projects being rejected

- No clear EU relevant environmental or climate action focus or insufficient link to policy
- Less than 25% 'Concrete Conservation' actions (NAT)
- Doesn't deliver the MAWP description
- Not convincingly demonstrative or pilot



# Is LIFE for me? What can you do?

- **Make SURE LIFE** is the appropriate funding programme (NOT a structural fund, NOT operational business financing tool, NOT for research)
- Set aside time and **READ** Multi-Annual Work Programme and application guidelines **thoroughly**. Be **AWARE** of all **exceptions** that may apply.
- **Identify/support** match funding at an early stage.
- Ensure projects have financial coherence and are **COST EFFECTIVE**
- **FOCUS** - Do NOT include action unrelated to the **objective** of the proposal
- **CHECK** whether any project fully fits with a priority **project topic**, or you will receive fewer points
- Offer support to those developing a LIFE bid (in particular on finances)
- **Register with Beta**, UK National Contact Point – **complete concept form**, seek their advice on specific questions



**Thank you for listening**

**Any questions?**