

JNCC took on the UK LIFE National Contact Point from 01 January 2016 and these presentations/documents are from events under the previous LIFE NCP, Beta Technology. For further information on UK LIFE please see the dedicated webpages at: jncc.defra.gov.uk/UKLIFE



LIFE programme 2014 – 2020

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Welcome to LIFE!

"When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life" (Samuel Johnson quoted by James Boswell 1791)



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 20 years of support in different guises
- Over 5,500 projects worth €7.2billion
- In UK largely used by Agencies and larger NGOs
- New 7 year programme
- **UK track record - not overly impressive** – c 50% of ‘allocation’; 2013/14 1st 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**
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New LIFE programme 2014 -20

- New multi-annual work programme: **€3.456billion - 7 years**
- Programme divided into sub-themes
 - **Environment**
 - Nature and Biodiversity
 - Environment and Resource Efficiency
 - Governance and Information
 - **Climate change**
- LIFE project funding also through innovative **financial instruments**
- **Integrated Projects** – new larger projects covering both sub-themes



Budget 2014

- Total budget of **€404.6 million** for this year's call
- Projects funded by action grants and financial instruments: **€324.6 million**
- Sub-programme for Environment: **€247 million** ie 75% of projects
- Sub-programme for Climate action: **€79.2 million**
- IP Budget: **€61.5 million** - only for the sub-programme Environment (no climate change element in 2014)
- **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-theme programme
- 2015 budget to be confirmed



LIFE Programme

€3,456.7 (2014-2020)

€2,592.5
(75% of LIFE budget)

Sub-programme for Environment

€1,155 min
(55% of ENV Sub-program)

Nature & Biodiversity

Environment & Resource Efficiency

Information & Governance

€864.2
(25% of LIFE budget)

Sub-programme for Climate Action

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Adaptation

Information & Governance



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, eg 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

- *New 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** (ie 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



Case studies

- Restoring Active Blanket Bog in Wales (a Best LIFE project) – RSPB
- That's LIFE Restoring Humberland Peatlands – Natural England
- SMART Waste – Smarter Regulation of Waste in Europe - SEPA
- WaterLIFE – Delivery of the Water Frame Directive through collaboration between the civil society and the public sector -
- Further information about these and other projects can be accessed at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>



Integrated projects

- New '**big idea**' 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 Action**
- 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.
- LIFE now envisaged as only part funder (**smaller**) of larger portfolio of projects



What can LIFE *not* fund?

- Compensatory action under Art. 6 of the Habitats directive
- Actions that should be (or are) financed under Structural Funds (eg 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 1st 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 ie 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** (v.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 technology/Welsh Government/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 eg **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)



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.
- Help us develop a **pipeline of key projects** - improve 'Team GB' score
- 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 Technology**, UK National Contact Point – **complete concept form**, seek their advice on specific questions



Common Reasons for projects being rejected

- No clear EU relevant environmental or climate action focus
- Less than 25% 'Concrete Conservation' actions (NAT)
- Not convincingly demonstrative or pilot



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



Thank you for listening

Any questions?