

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

Richard Findon





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 and Climate Change Action**
- Projects can be on land, sea or air
- Small fund, highly over subscribed. Very competitive - only 15% of bids across Member States are successful.
- **UK track record - not overly impressive** – c 50% of 'allocation'; 2013/14 1st year fully spent



New LIFE programme 2014 -20

- New multi-annual work programme: **€3.456billion - 7 years**
- **4 year MAWP** divided into sub-themes
 - **Environment**
 - **Climate change**
 - 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**
- LIFE project funding also through innovative **financial instruments**
- **Integrated Projects** – new larger projects covering both sub-themes



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



Climate Change sub theme

→ Priority areas:

- **Mitigation:** contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- **Adaptation:** supports efforts leading to increased resilience to climate change

→ Specific objectives:

- Implement/develop Union policy and legislation; mainstream activities across policy areas;
- Improve and apply knowledge base in practice
- Develop and implement integrated strategies and action plans
- Develop & demonstrate innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments for replication, transfer or mainstreaming, best practice



Climate Change 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



Case studies

- LIFE ObservaTREE - LIFE ObservaTREE - an integrated early warning system for tree pests and diseases using citizen science, Forestry Commission Research Agency -
- Hydro4LIFE - Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol: EU Assessments, Monitoring, Capacity Development and Outreach, International Hydropower Association-
- Green Roofs against climate change. To establish a UK Green Roof code to support climate change mitigation and adaptation – Groundwork
- TacTICS - Tackling Climate Change-Related Threats to an Important Coastal SPA in Eastern England – RSPB
- The Alde-Ore Estuary - Securing a sustainable future for wildlife – National Trust
- 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 Climate Action**
- **UK's applications ...**



What can LIFE *not* fund?

- 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**



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**
- 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/Defra/Agencies/DAs can help frame the EU policy context/additionality.
- The selection procedure for **LIFE** is 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**
- Do NOT include action unrelated to the **objective** of the proposal



Common Reasons for projects being rejected

- No clear EU relevant environmental or climate action focus or insufficient link to policy
- Doesn't deliver the MAWP description
- 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 be based in EU**



Thank you for listening

Any questions?