

**This presentation is from a LIFE Information Day held in Belfast 2016.
For more presentations from this event and information on LIFE please
see JNCC's LIFE webpages at: jncc.defra.gov.uk/UKLIFE**

The LIFE logo, featuring the word "Life" in a stylized white font with a yellow outline, set against a blue background with a circle of yellow stars.

UK LIFE NCP

LIFE INFORMATION DAY

BELFAST
29 February 2016

Amanda Gregory
UK LIFE National Contact Point, JNCC
UKLIFE@JNCC.gov.uk
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/UKLIFE>

29 February 2016

All images© NRW

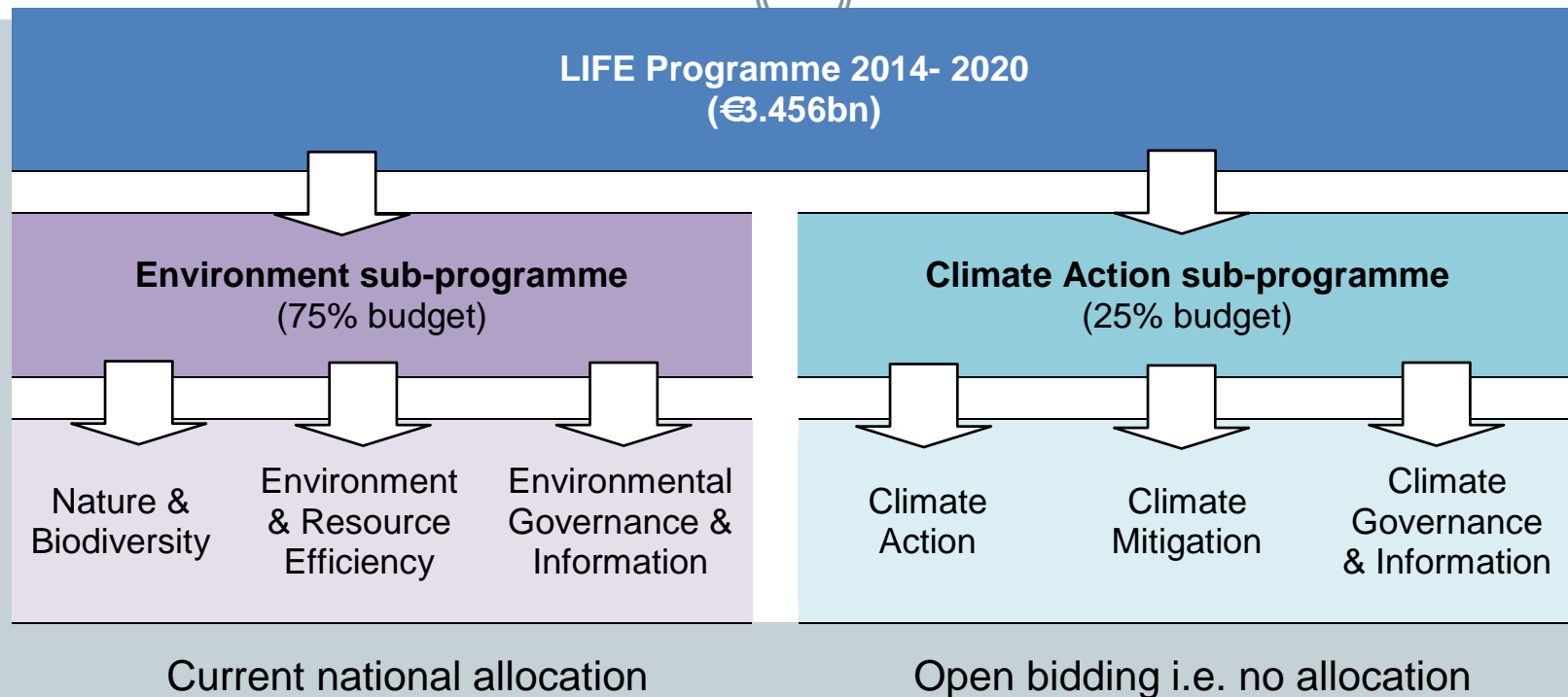


What is LIFE?

- **The primary EU financial instrument for the environment**
- Objective: to contribute towards implementation and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation
- LIFE Co-funds:
 - **Environmental projects**
 - **Biodiversity & Nature projects**
 - **Climate Change Action projects**
- Includes policy on:
Water, Floods, Marine and coastal management, Waste and resource efficiency, Soils, Forests, Chemicals, Noise and the urban environment, Air pollution, Air quality, Nature and Biodiversity.
- Small fund – over-subscribed!



UK LIFE NATIONAL CONTACT POINT



UK allocation for environment - c €104m for 2014-17. No allocation from 2018.

Integrated Projects

Financial Instruments: Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) and Private Financing for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)



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 History

- Over 20 years of support in different guises
- Over 5,500 projects worth €7.8bn, contributing €3.4bn to env and climate
- In UK largely used by Agencies and larger NGOs
- Current programme runs 2014 – 2020
- UK track record is improving: 2013 & 2014 accessed full national allocation
- Very competitive - only 15% of bids across Member States are successful



Traditional LIFE bids

- A typical LIFE grant of around €1 - 4m
- Projects often last 2 to 5 years
- LIFE can co-finance up to 60% of the total project value (though up to 75% where a project focuses on priority species or habitats)
- Integrated Projects poss funding of up to €10m & last up to 10 years – each MS can have 3



Who can access LIFE

- Almost anyone
- Public or private bodies, organisations registered in the EU, commercial organisations. Primarily used by UK Government/Agencies and NGOs such as RSPB
- Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies eligible – but demanding conditionality
- ‘Co-ordinating beneficiary’ has to be based in EU



Project types:

- **Demonstration** - puts into practice, tests and disseminates methods that are **novel** or **new/untested** that can be disseminated and more widely applied
- **Pilot** – apply a new techniques and methods that have not been trialled before
- **Best practice** – only for Nature projects - state-of-the-art existing techniques for conservation of species/habitats

Cannot have best practice projects for: innovative ways or directs or indirect financing or for Green Infrastructure actions.



LIFE projects must show ...

- **Innovation** – applies/tests techniques, approaches **not used before** (across EU), that offers advantages compared to current best practice + capable of **EU replicability**. (Essential for all LIFE strands except LIFE Nature)
- **EU added-value** – demonstrating/developing EU policy or objectives
- **Longevity & sustainability**
- **Replication & transferability**
- **>25% of the budget to fund concrete conservation actions** – LIFE Nature & Biodiversity



After LIFE ...

- Critical for projects to have longevity and sustainability
- Need to start thinking about your sustainable exit plan and who will take ownership of project after the project has finished
- Common pitfalls to long term success in LIFE Nature projects include:
 - Continuation of threats;
 - Uncertain funding;
 - Poor dissemination;
 - Lack of interest;
 - Loss of public support;
 - Little impact on younger stakeholders; and
 - Lack of monitoring.



Thematic priority: Nature

Implementing the Birds and Habitats Directive (Target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy) through:

- Activities aiming to **improve conservation status** of features of Union interest
- Activities to support **bio-geographic seminar** series – Atlantic region
- Activities to implement the **Prioritised Action Framework**
- Best Practice projects - state-of-the-art existing techniques for conservation of species/habitats



Thematic priority: Biodiversity

Implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy (EU Biodiversity Strategy Targets 2, 3, 4 and 5) through:

- Maintain and enhance ecosystems and their services
- Invasive Alien Species
- Species listed as threatened or worse on Red List (but not on HD annex)
- Innovative way of direct / indirect financing
- Green Infrastructure
- **Innovation** is key! Need to apply/test techniques, approaches not used before (across EU), that offers advantages compared to current best practice + capable of EU replicability



Concrete conservation actions

- *Concrete conservation" actions are those that directly improve (or slow/halt/reverse the decline of) the conservation status / ecological condition of the species, habitats, ecosystems or ecosystem services targeted.*
- Need 25% (recommend to have more), or 50% for higher rate of co-financing (when focusing on priority features).
- Preparatory actions count *insofar as they are directly necessary for the execution of concrete actions during the project's lifetime*
- Legal protection (e.g. Natura designation) will only be considered as concrete conservation if it is fully achieved within the project duration (or significant progress shown).



Common queries for LIFE Nature & Biodiversity

- Can we carry out work outside Natura 2000 sites for LIFE Nature projects? **Yes – if long term safeguards**
- Is it possible to purchase land? **Yes – if no alternative**
- Will LIFE co-finance large infrastructure projects? **Occasionally – under duress**
- What are the key differences between LIFE and the Heritage Lottery Fund? **HLF needs more public engagement, LIFE requires concrete actions**
- Do I need a partner from another country to be transnational? **Transnational projects welcomed IF fits within the project objective**

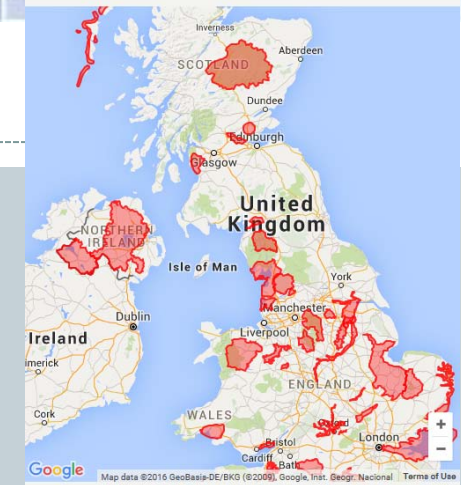


Projects (exemplars)

- **High Nature Value farmland project**
 - **BurrenLIFE (Ireland)** new model for the sustainable agricultural management of the priority habitats of the Burren (Best LIFE Nature project)
- **Ecological Networks**
 - **EcoCo LIFE (EcoCo Scotland)** Implementation of integrated habitat networks to improve ecological coherence across the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN)
 - **Futurescapes (Futurescapes,UK)** Promoting the development of green infrastructure in 34 priority areas throughout the UK

Futurescapes map

Click the areas on the map to find out more.



MoorLIFE 2020 project LIFE14 NAT/UK/000070

- **Largest award ever given by EU LIFE Programme to a UK conservation project**
- Duration 01 October 2015 to 28 February 2021
- Total budget €16,046,116.00
- EU contribution €12,034,587.00

Aims to conserve and protect the priority active blanket bog habitat within the South Pennine Moors' Natura 2000 site and the ecosystem services it provides.





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



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 areas - 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**
- Funding of up to €10m & last up to 10 years
- 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.



Natural Capital Financing Facility

- Implemented through the European Investment Bank
- Test and demonstrate innovative financing approaches for the preservation of natural capital and adaptation to climate change.
- €100 - €125 million to be invested by 2017 funding 9 – 12 operations between €5 - €15 million per project.
- Projects
 - Payments for Ecosystem Services
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Biodiversity offsets
 - Innovative pro-biodiversity and adaptation investments
- Up to 75% of total project costs, up to 10 years with possibility of a five year extension.
- The NCFE may also invest in equity funds, matching other contributions to the maximum share of 33%.



2016 LIFE call

- Expected May 2016
- Traditional projects will continue to have staggered different submission deadlines per priority area.

Traditional projects submitted through eProposal with a total indicative budget of €239,000,000

Climate (all objectives: CCA, CCM and GIC) – 07-Sept-2016

Environment (ENV and ERE) – 12-Sept-2016

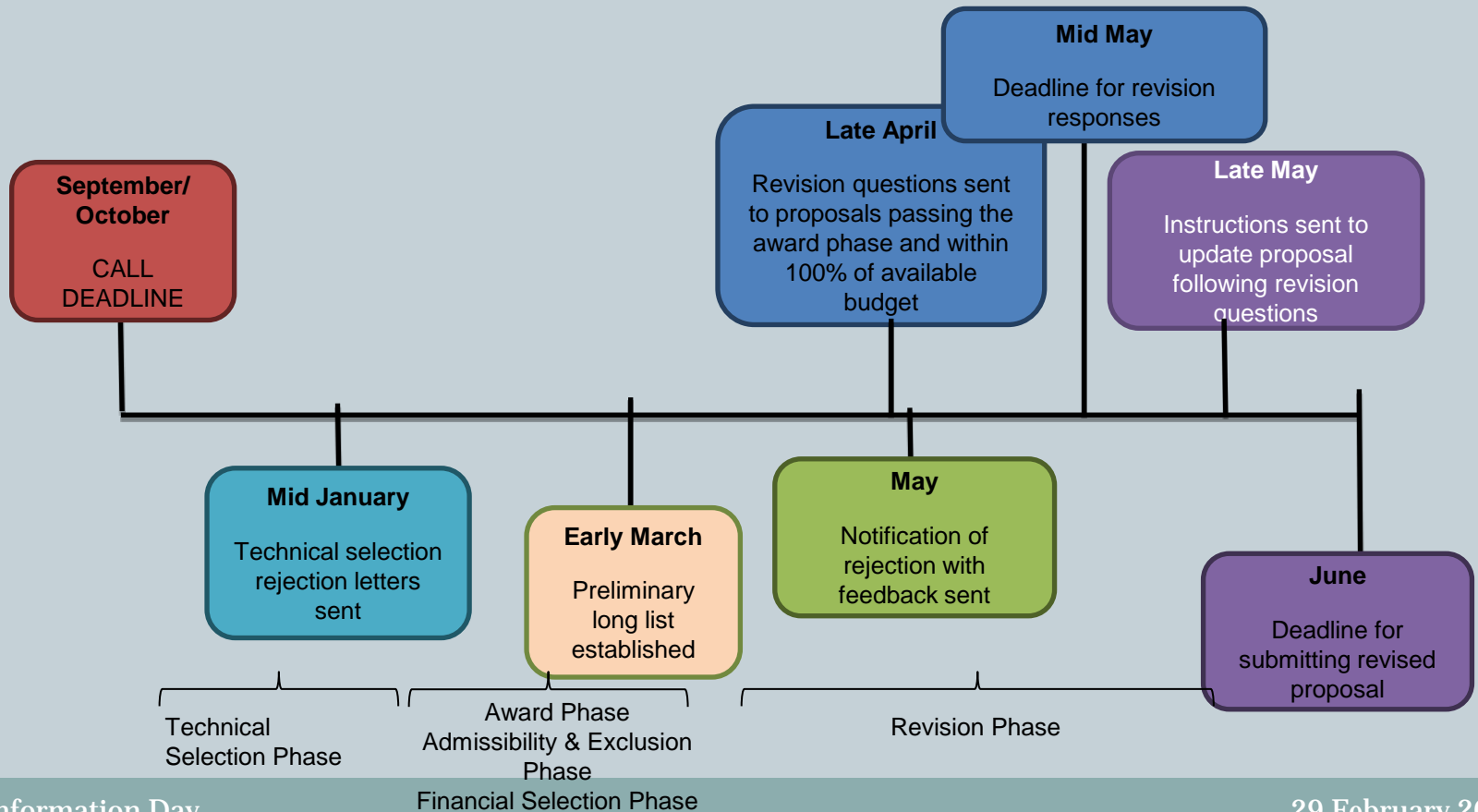
Environment (NAT and GIE) – 15-Sept 2016

- Preparatory Projects Environment* - 20-Sep-16 €1,920,000
- Technical Assistance Projects Environment - 20-Sep-16 €800,000
- Technical Assistance Projects Climate - 20-Sep-16 €160,000
- Integrated Projects Environment - 26-Sep-16 €79,200,000
- Integrated Projects Climate - 26-Sep-16 €16,000,000

UK LIFE NATIONAL CONTACT POINT



Predicted evaluation timeline of 2016 LIFE proposals based on the 2015 call timelines



UK LIFE NATIONAL CONTACT POINT



Is LIFE for me?

- Is LIFE the appropriate funding programme? **READ** the LIFE Orientation Doc
- **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 the UK LIFE NCP – **complete concept form**, seek our advice on specific questions



Recommended reading and links

European Commission LIFE website

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

LIFE and new partnerships for nature conservation

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/stakeholders.pdf>

LIFE Best of the Best LIFE Nature 2013

ECoCo LIFE considered exemplar LIFE Biodiversity project

<https://www.ecocolife.org.uk/>

EC LIFE Project Database

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

LIFE Multi Annual Work Programme (read, read and read again)

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_116_R_0001

Relevant scientific papers



Recommended reading and links (2)

2015 Guidelines for Applicants

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/toolkit/pmtools/life2014_2020/guidelines.htm

UK Prioritised Action Framework

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6934>

Article 17 reports

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6387>

http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_17/Reports_2013

Article 12 Reports

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6526>

http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_12/Reports_2013