This presentation is from a UK/IE LIFE Platform Meeting held in Woking in December 2015. For more presentations from this event and information on LIFE please see JNCC's LIFE webpages at: jncc.defra.gov.uk/UKLIFE

LIFE beyond the Project

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Exit = long-term sustainability

❖ With each successive LIFE programme there has been an increasing emphasis on looking beyond the 'project period' to long-term sustainability

  ❖ The need to build sustainability into project design

❖ There is now an obligation to monitor the impact of project actions throughout the project and often ex-post

❖ Output and outcome indicators are now built into the programme

  ❖ The importance of measuring results, outcomes and impacts

❖ The need to keep up to date with policy issues

A little known fact

LIFE-Environment

- ❖ Environmental Benefit (12)
  - ❖ Direct quantitative (6)
  - ❖ Policy Relevance (6)
- ❖ Long Term Sustainability (9)
  - ❖ Qualitative environmental (3)
  - ❖ Qualitative economic (3)
  - ❖ Qualitative social (3)
- ❖ Demonstration, transfer, co-operation (9)
- ❖ Innovation (9)

LIFE-Nature

- ❖ Short Term Benefit (40)
  - ❖ Conservation Improvement (30)
  - ❖ Leverage (10)
- ❖ Long Term Benefit (60)
  - ❖ Sustainability (30)
  - ❖ Leverage (20)
  - ❖ Regional/National/International Impact (10)

How do we assess this?

- ❖ Progress report
  - ❖ 5.3 – Impact of the Project
  - ❖ 5.4 – Outside LIFE
- ❖ Mid-Term and Final Reports
  - ❖ 5.4 – Analysis of long term benefits
    - ❖ Direct environmental benefits and policy relevance
    - ❖ Long term benefits and sustainability including economic and social
    - ❖ Replication, transfer, demonstration and cooperation
    - ❖ Best practice lessons
    - ❖ Innovation and demonstration value
    - ❖ Long term indicators of project success
- ❖ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/toolkit/pmtools/lifeplus/reporting.htm

Burren LIFE
Farming for Conservation in the Burren

- ❖ 5 year NAT project - closed in Jan 2010

- ❖ 20 farmers signed up to scheme during project lifetime and benefited from agri-env payments

- ❖ No real exit strategy developed until year 4 – negotiations took place with DOA – funding secured for further 3 years

- ❖ 5 month extension – allowed roll out to AfterLIFE 'Burren Farming for Conservation Programme'

- ❖ By Nov 2012 a total of 158 farmers (14,500ha) were participating

- ❖ By 2015 nearly 200 farmers had joined and project was in second 'afterLIFE' period.

- ❖ Now the project outcomes are being considered as the blueprint for farming at least in marginal circumstances throughout Ireland (Royal Visit to Flagship Conservation Project) http://burrenlife.com/royal-visit-to-flagship-conservation-project/

Success Factors

- ❖ Financing needs to be secure

- ❖ Political buy in imperative

- ❖ Need an organisation to run it – things don't just happen by themselves

- ❖ An effective network of stakeholders (the marketplace)

- ❖ Demonstration value (for farmers) based on science

- ❖ A champion (local / national) to drive it forward

- ❖ Aran LIFE project

edoc
Electronic Duty of Care

❖ Four year environment project closed in December 2014

❖ Over 25 million paper Waste Transfer Notices produced annually in UK

❖ Designed and 'built' a system for storing waste transfer notices electronically

❖ Better use of information

❖ Easier tracking and treating waste

❖ Landmark project to reduce government Red Tape

Success Factors

- ❖ Exit strategy was a project action

- ❖ Right balance of partners

- ❖ Effective advisory body

- ❖ Main users of system involved in the design

- ❖ Design was flexible to accommodate user needs

- ❖ Transfer of system to a third party for future hosting

- ❖ Funding secured from central government for near future – mechanisms being explored for long term

- ❖ Political support

Pitfalls-barriers to long-term success

Nature

- Continuation of threats
- Uncertain funding
- Poor dissemination of results
- Lack of interest from authorities
- Loss of public support
- Little impact on younger stakeholders
- Lack of monitoring

Environment

- Not all technical problems resolved
- Motivation does not last beyond project
- User is not involved from the beginning
- Poor dissemination of results
- Changes in Public sector
- Effect of solution not visible enough

But "failure is a natural companion of innovation". Thomas Mayer/NEEMO

Some suggestions for sustainability

❖ Institutional Structures- appropriate and readiness to act on results

❖ Funding Mechanism

❖ Stakeholder Support

❖ Good reputation

❖ Demonstration sound

❖ Based on solid scientific data

❖ Financial incentives?

❖ Win win

❖ Stakeholder participation and engagement

❖ Unexpected events