



[RSPB Isles of Scilly Seabird Recovery Project](#) Manx shearwaters preening off St Agnes - their future is brighter © Nathan Fletcher

New Multi Annual Work Programme 2018-2020 published

The European Commission published the new Multi Annual Work Programme (MAWP) last week. The new MAWP will run from 2018 - 2020 and is introducing a new two-stage application process (see below).

The MAWP is also increasing the LIFE budget for nature conservation and biodiversity by 10%. This rise follows key measures indicated in the [Action Plan for nature, people and the economy](#), which are to be rolled out by 2019 to halt biodiversity loss in the EU.

In total, €1 243.81 million will be earmarked for work on nature conservation and environmental protection, and a further €413.25 million for climate action. In parallel, the total number of project topics in the sub-programme for environment has come down from 87 to 42.

The new MAWP is available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018D0210&from=EN>.

The new two stage application process for LIFE Environment projects

The LIFE programme has introduced a new two stage approach for the Environment sub-programme (the Climate sub-programme will keep the one stage application process for the 2018 Call). The first stage is a concept note, approximately 10 pages long. Applicants that make it through to the second stage of **LIFE's Environment sub-programme** will then submit their full proposal based on feedback from the LIFE programme. For the LIFE Climate Action sub-programme, the submission procedure remains unchanged. Applicants will submit full proposals from the start.

Stage 1: Concept Note

Applicants will be requested to submit a concept note in English that is approximately 10 pages long. The information that will be requested will notably include:

- Basic information about the coordinating beneficiary
- The environmental problem targeted (for environment and information & governance strands); description of species, habitats, biodiversity issues targeted by the project (for nature and biodiversity strands)
- Project objectives
- The project partners (information on the coordinating and associated beneficiaries, and co-financers of the project)
- Actions and means
- Expected results and impacts of the project
- The sustainability of project results
- Project risks and constraints
- The EU added value of the project (understood at this stage as the contribution to LIFE priorities and objectives)
- The pilot or demonstration character of the project (and/or best practice for nature and biodiversity strand)
- An indicative budget for the project

All concept notes will be evaluated against two criteria:

- Overall quality of the proposal
- Overall EU added value

They will then be ranked by merit. Applicants with the best ranked concept notes will be invited to stage 2: submission of their full proposal. The evaluation and application guides will be published on the day the call opens (which we expect to be in April 2018).

Stage 2: Full proposal

While there will be small adjustments to the full proposal forms, the information requested will not differ substantially from what has been requested in past calls for LIFE funding. We expect the 2018 Call to be launched in April alongside the 2018 Guidelines for Applicants.

UK LIFE Process

The LIFE Programme's concept note is not anticipated to be published until the 2018 Call is launched in mid April. We therefore recommend that potential applicants continue to develop their

ideas using the UK LIFE Concept note template and Guidance which is available to download from our website: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7132>.

Indicative 2018 Call Timeline

The indicative timetable for the **Environment sub-programme** for the 2018 Call is as follows:

Date or period	Activity
mid-April 2018	Call publication
June 2018 (tbc)	Deadline for applicants to submit concept notes to the Contracting Authority
October 2018 (tbc)	Applicant notification, invitation of shortlisted applicants to submit their full proposal
January 2019 (tbc)	Deadline to submit full proposals
January 2019 to June 2019 (tbc)	Evaluation and revision of proposals
July 2019 (tbc)	Signature of individual grant agreements
1 July 2019 (tbc)	Earliest possible starting date for 2018 projects

The **Climate sub-programme** is expected to have a similar timeline to the 2017 Call, i.e. a deadline for full submissions will be in September 2018 with successful projects commencing in July 2019.

Public consultation on future EU Cohesion Policy

The European Commission has recently launched an online [consultation](#) to collect views on how to make the most of the EU's budget. The consultation will inform the preparation of the European Commission's Cohesion policy. You can respond by filling in the the online questionnaire. The consultation closes on 08 March 2018.

Events

Humberhead Peatlands LIFE+ End of project Conference - 15 –16 May 2018, Doncaster

For information, contact David Hargreaves at david.hargreaves@naturalengland.org.uk

Coastal Dunes and Sandy Beaches workshop - 12 to 14 June 2018 – Dunkirk (France)

Within the framework of the [LIFE+FLANDRE project](#), the [Agency of Nature and Forest](#) (Flemish Authority) and the [Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale](#) invite you to participate in the international workshop on coastal dunes and sandy beaches management and restoration. You will be able to experience dune restoration in real life, network with

colleagues, and discuss opportunities for further collaboration. Further topics include nature-based solutions for coastal defence, restoring ecological connectivity, ecosystem services of coastal dunes and sandy beaches. For more information, visit www.natuurenbos.be/FLANDRE-international-workshop or contact us at UKLIFE@jncc.gov.uk.

How to Contact Us

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