

JNCC is the UK LIFE National Contact Point

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

Update on the 2017 LIFE Call

The **2017 LIFE** Call is expected to be launched on the 28th April with staggered deadlines across September.

Climate Action: 7 September

Env & resource efficiency: 12 September

Nat & Bio, Env Governance & Info: 14 September

The Guidelines are expected to be very similar to those within the 2016 Call so please use the previous Guidelines to start preparing your project. Sustainability, transferability and replicability are expected to be increasingly important for 2017 so make sure that these are core components of your project.

LIFE NCP Events

Webinar

LIFE: from concept to application

7th April 2017 - 11:00 - 11:45

External Events

UK/IE LIFE Platform Meeting on Managing Project Risks

8th June, Cambridge

This event will be run by NEEMO,

This webinar will talk you through a tried and tested approach to developing LIFE applications. It is important to note that this approach is applicable to any project development. To register and for more details please see the following webpage: <http://bit.ly/2IHkoKa>

the LIFE Project monitors, and will be focused on producing a risk management guidance for LIFE projects.

Please contact [Neil Wilkie](#) at NEEMO for more information.

Application Writing Workshop

24 May 2017, Bristol

Agenda and detail to follow

Update on the UK LIFE National Allocation

The UK National Allocation is solely for the Environment programme and runs from 2014 -2017. We have received the following update which indicates that the UK has approximately €34 million remaining for the 2016 and 2017 LIFE Call. Once the results of the 2016 LIFE Call are known we will have a better understanding of how much will be remaining for the 2017 Call.

Please note the below figures are in Euros

Member State	Allocation 2014-2017	Used in 2014	Balance after 2014	Used in 2015	Balance after 2015	Percentage spent
UK	74,254,393	21,779,562	52,474,831	18,021,143	34,453,688	54%

[Report on LIFE's contribution to employment and the green economy](#)

A group of experts within the LIFE external monitoring team (NEEMO) has published a report analysing the LIFE programme's role in creating green jobs and boosting sustainable economic growth across Europe.

The report concludes that from an initial investment of €2.1 billion (total LIFE project funding from 1991 to 2016), the LIFE Programme has led to the creation of 74 500 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs: 31 000 during project implementation and 43 000 as a result of the first five years of project replication. This was estimated to have contributed €9.3 billion to the European economy. In addition, LIFE Nature projects contribute around €43 billion, when their role in improving ecosystem services is monetarised.

25 Years of LIFE

2017 is the LIFE Programme's 25th Anniversary! To celebrate this milestone the LIFE community is



organising a series of events around Europe during May 2017, a date that also marks a quarter century of the EU Habitats Directive and Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

If you want to be part of the celebrations, and showcase your project, why not organise an event and register it on the dedicated website: LIFE-25.eu.

EU LIFE Information Day & Networking Event

As part of the EU Green Week, the European Commission is organising an information and networking event to advise applicants on the LIFE programme's 2017 call for traditional projects. Representatives of businesses, industry, NGOs, and local and regional authorities are particularly invited to join the event on Wednesday, 31 May, between 10:00 - 16:00 in Brussels.

[Please register in advance via the EU Green Week website](#) (first come, first served).

New LIFE networking portal

The Slovenian LIFE NCP has set up a networking portal as part of their LIFE Capacity Building Project. The portal aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas and search for relevant partners. The portal can be found on the following webpage: <https://lifeslovenija.si/en/>



Inspiring Stories

You can now find a range of inspiring stories on [our webpages](#).

If you have a positive message you want to convey to the UK LIFE community then please get in touch with us. This month we talked to Paul Sizeland at SNH to get an insight into the EcoCo LIFE Project

EcoCo LIFE Scotland

Implementation of integrated habitat networks to improve ecological coherence across the CSGN

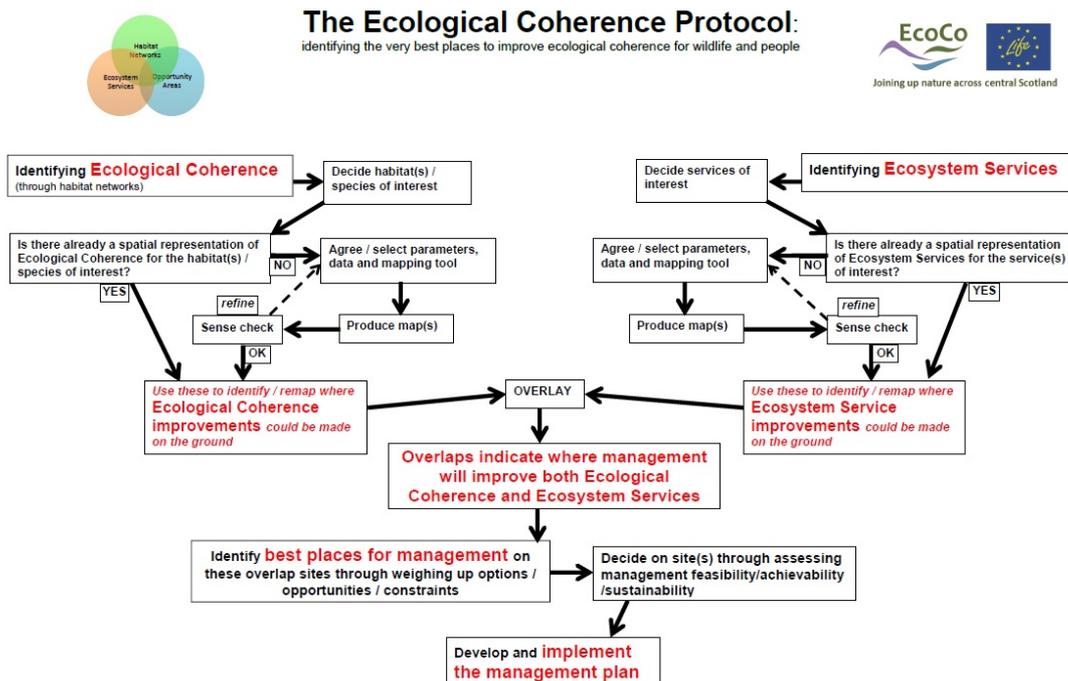
LIFE13 BIO/UK/000428

What is EcoCo LIFE?

EcoCo LIFE aims to improve ecological coherence and the climate resilience of habitats and species across the Central Scotland Green Network area (CSGN) by addressing habitat fragmentation. The CSGN area is Scotland’s most heavily fragmented lowland area comprising 13% of Scotland’s land area, 70% of Scotland’s population and most of Scotland’s industry and built environment. Hence there are multiple demands on the area’s land use and significant pressures on the CSGN’s ecological coherence. The project will identify the most beneficial places to implement habitat restoration, creation and improvement through application of an Ecological Coherence Protocol. Management interventions in these areas will make habitats better connected, more diverse, and improved in quality and functionality across landscapes. EcoCo specifically addresses four broad habitat types; peatlands, wetlands, freshwater and open mosaic habitat (brownfields, vacant and agricultural land). The project comprises 12 management zones containing a number of sites, each of which can be viewed as a “project”.

The Ecological Coherence Protocol assesses potential sites through habitat networks and opportunity areas GIS mapping and modelling, evaluation of wider ecosystem benefits and socio-economic impacts to prioritise places for practical intervention. It has been developed using science and stakeholder information and its outputs are expressed as maps and project-level peer reviewed evaluations. EcoCo takes a broader “landscape scale” approach to address the impacts of demands on land for development and other uses, and a loss of good quality habitat especially outwith the Natura 2000 network and other national designated areas.

Funded under LIFE+ Biodiversity, EcoCo LIFE is coordinated by SNH in partnership with Buglife, Butterfly Conservation, East Ayrshire Coalfields Environment Initiative, RSPB, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.



Schematic of the Ecological Coherence Protocol © SNH

How does the project anticipate its sustainability once EU funding has stopped?

The impact of on-the-ground project actions is intended to endure well beyond the investment period of the project and so monitoring of project sites is planned to continue well into the future. Project actions such as re-wetting of bogs, raising water levels in drained wetlands, reconnecting floodplain and reprofiling land forms will create conditions for the desired restorative measures to happen. The project is informed through medium to long term management plans and land management agreements with landowners.

Volunteers are a key component for ongoing hands-on management work and have been useful in the project's monitoring aspects. This will be continued by ensuring that volunteer events are stimulating, engaging and useful.

Many of the partners have a dynamic, creative approach to funding and it is expected that on a project by project basis within each management zone, partners will continue to secure necessary funding where required.

How will the project ensure the results are replicated / transferred across the UK and Europe?

Engagement with other LIFE projects is a core component of EcoCo and networking with similar projects is built into the project. Dissemination to the rest of the UK and EU through the website and one-to-one contact is an ongoing project activity that has engendered a number of enquiries. EcoCo plans an exchange with a suitable "sister" EU LIFE project in 2017.

Scottish Natural Heritage is adopting the GIS team and others allied to EcoCo's efforts to hard wire methods and techniques for ongoing application to landscape scale conservation approaches. This adds to the multiple contacts SNH has with others in sharing and promoting the project's innovations. The combined reach of EcoCo partners throughout the UK and beyond has been evident in promoting the projects findings. EcoCo held an interim conference that had representation from UK national institutions and Natural England in June 2016, and plans a final conference with a broader reach in summer of 2018.



Grangepan volunteers planting bugs © Buglife

What key lessons have you learnt?

- "Ecological coherence" is a challenging yet useful concept to apply in practice; it has drawn partners together to consider a more meaningful way to prioritise actions and think through aims and objectives, and establish a central focus beyond mere site-focused interventions.
- Effectiveness and efficiency has to be kept in balance! The rigour of scientific and intellectual analysis has to be tempered with the need of such a project to deliver practical and timely actions on the ground.
- Communication is vital. Partnership approaches can yield some really rich results in joined-up thinking at a number of levels provided that communication whether through face-to-face, workshops or well-structured e-dialogue is maintained.
- Project management structures are important and should be in place to achieve the level of scrutiny, reporting and control required, but should be flexible enough to allow partners freedom to deliver and accommodate agility and changes. Don't let the tail wag the dog!

