

Country: UK

Main driver: Accessing EU funding for UK projects

Period of work: January 2016-present

Contact point: Katy Thompson (katy.thompson@jncc.gov.uk)

Partnership: Defra & Devolved Administrations

Total project value: ~£65k per

Summary The UK LIFE National Contact Point provides information, advice and expertise to UK applicants preparing bids for the EU LIFE programme. The service is free and confidential and provides support from inception of project concepts to submission of bids, covering all aspects of the bid process. The current EU LIFE Regulation runs from 2014-2020 and supports environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU.

JNCC became the UK LIFE National Contact Point (NCP) in January 2016. The service is funded by Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Scottish and Welsh Governments, but also extends to applicants from Northern Ireland. The 2014-2020 LIFE programme is directly administered by the European Commission and has two main strands, Environment and Climate Action. There is an annual call for bids covering project topics listed in the multi-annual work programmes (2014-17 and 2018-20).

Work involved

- **Understanding and interpreting** the LIFE Regulation and the annual call documents to **simplify the process** and ensure applicants have the best chance of success through **complying with the eligibility criteria**.
- **Disseminating news and sharing knowledge** through a telephone helpline; a dedicated email inbox; a monthly newsletter; a dedicated website; and Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.
- **Reviewing concepts and pre-screening of draft application** for eligibility and fit;
- **Providing training** through application writing and logical framework courses, information days and webinars on a range of topics;
- **Represent the UK** at EU LIFE Committee meetings and information dissemination to government agencies across the UK.



© RSPB
LIFE11 NAT/UK/000387

Key outcomes

- During the 2016 EU LIFE Call the UK was awarded funding for four projects including the UK's first ever Climate project. The total project value is close to €14 million. The projects cover peatland restoration, the control of aquatic invasive species and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the refrigeration sector.
- During the 2017 LIFE Call the UK looks to gain funding for five projects with a total project value close to €25 million.
- Over the 2014 – 2017 period the UK has accessed nearly €70 million for environmental and climatic projects and has had the highest Member State success rate in accessing the LIFE programme.



© NRW
LIFE07 NAT/UK/000948

Future work The team is currently supporting Defra and the Devolved Administrations in understanding the implications of the UK Referendum vote and will keep all stakeholders updated on future UK eligibility in the LIFE programme.

Further information: For JNCC's UK NCP website visit:
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7121>