

Title



The LIFE programme is the only area of European spending that is dedicated solely to the EU's environment. A subcomponent of LIFE, LIFE nature and biodiversity, supports projects that contribute to the implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives (the Natura 2000 Network), the integration of biodiversity into other policy areas, the assessment and monitoring of pressures on biodiversity and its response to those pressures. The LIFE programme represents a major contribution to the EU's goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2020 and also plays a key role in maximising the leverage effect of the EU budget.

The projects delivered under the programme have provided value for money, secured and created jobs, have helped to establish innovative projects across the EU and have delivered successful results on the ground despite a tiny investment of only €2.4 billion from 2007-2013, only representing 0.23% of the overall EU budget.

At a time when the value for money of EU policy instruments, and their ability to deliver results on the ground, is under intense scrutiny, the LIFE programme is a shining example of EU action that works, and that should be supported by increasing its budget to 1% of the MFF. This would make at least 1 billion euro/year available for measures on biodiversity and would fund 15-20% of the annual costs of implementing the Natura 2000 network, estimated by the European Commission to be around €6 billion each year.



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The LIFE Programme

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU, as well as in some candidate, acceding and neighbouring countries. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 3708 projects, contributing approximately €2.8 billion to the protection of the environment. [More details.](#)

- [At the crossroads: EU LIFE funding for biodiversity - Priority recommendations for the final negotiations on the EU's LIFE Programme 2014-2020 \(2013, May\)](#)
 - [Ten Reasons why the LIFE fund should be increased significantly \(2012\)](#)
 - [Open letter to the European Council and the European Parliament - Give 1% for LIFE! \(2012, September\)](#)
 - [Joint NGO position on LIFE 2014-2020 \(2012, March\)](#)
 - [Eligibility of costs under LIFE 2014-2020 \(2012, March\)](#)
 - [Eligibility and co-financing under LIFE: Case studies from Member States \(2012, February\)](#)
 - [Joint NGO Position on LIFE \(2012, February\)](#)
 - [Integrated Projects under LIFE - Briefing for the meeting of the Council Working Party of 3rd February 2012 \(2012, January\)](#)
 - [Joint NGO position on LIFE for nature and biodiversity 2014-2020 \(2011, February\)](#)
 - [BirdLife LIFE CLIMA Briefing \(2011\)](#)
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