

LIFE

Title



The LIFE programme is the only area of European spending that is dedicated solely to the EU's environment and nature conservation projects (as well as projects in some candidate, acceding and neighbouring countries).

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. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 4171 projects, contributing approximately €3.4 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. [More details here.](#)

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/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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Briefings and position papers

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

