



# What is the LIFE programme?





# LIFE is primary EU financial instrument across environment

- Been around for 20 years
- Co-funds:
  - Environmental projects
  - Biodiversity & Nature projects (Natura 2000)
  - Climate Change Action projects
- Objective: to contribute towards implementation and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation.
- Used as a catalyst for new thinking, new models of implementation; projects rolled out across EU; delivers EU additionality.
- Small fund, highly over-subscribed!



# LIFE 2014 - 20

€3.456m

Natural Capital  
Financing  
Facility (€30m)

75%

ENVIRONMENT

Nature &  
Biodiversity  
c40% total  
budget

Environment  
& Resource  
Efficiency

Environmental  
Governance &  
Information

25%

CLIMATE ACTION

Adaptation

Mitigation

Governance  
&  
Information

INTEGRATED PROJECTS

UK allocation for environment - c €104m for 2014-17

Note: from 2018 no Member State allocation

Financial Instruments inc energy efficiency- PF4FEE; NCFF



# Who can apply?

- Almost anyone
- Public or private bodies, organisations registered in the EU, commercial organisations. Primarily used by UK Government/Agencies and NGOs such as RSPB
- Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies eligible – but demanding conditionality
- ‘Co-ordinating beneficiary’ has to be based in EU



# Application process

- Annual Call: announcement on 1 June 2015 for traditional LIFE projects.
- Deadline for applications: mid-September to mid-October (depending on LIFE strand).



# How are LIFE projects funded?

- A typical LIFE grant of around €1-4m
- Projects often last 2 to 5 years
- LIFE can co-finance up to 60% of the total value of an environment or climate change project (though up to 75% in cases where a project focuses on concrete conservation actions for priority species or habitat)
- Integrated Projects poss funding of up to €10m & up to 10 years, but NOT for marine.



# LIFE projects normally must show ...

- **'EU added-value'** – demonstrating/developing EU policy or objectives
- **Match funding** – LIFE will give up to 60% of total value of environment or climate change project (up to 75% in cases where a project focuses on concrete conservation actions for N2K priority species or habitat)
- **Demonstration** - puts into practice, tests and disseminates methods that are **novel** or **new/untested** that can be disseminated and **more widely applied**
- **'Innovation'** – applies/tests techniques, approaches – key for **biodiversity; not used before** (across EU), that offers advantages compared to current best practice + capable of **EU replicability**
- **Best practice** – only for 'Nature' projects ie N2K: state-of-the-art existing techniques for conservation of species/habitats



# ‘Environment’ sub-theme...

- Three priority areas:
  - Nature and Biodiversity,
  - Environment and Resource Efficiency
  - Governance and Information
- Includes policy on:
  - Water, Floods, **Marine and coastal management**, Waste and resource efficiency, Soils, Forests, Chemicals, Noise and the urban environment, Air pollution, Air quality (including EU NEC directive), Nature and Biodiversity.





## *(..cont) Nature and Biodiversity (priority area)*

- Projects contributing to objectives of Birds and Habitats Directives (nature), or EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020
- **Areas of focus:** Proposals must meet specific thematic priorities in LIFE Regulation. Project topics for Nature and Biodiversity are also set out in the multiannual work programme.
- **Typical project:** Implementing a Natura 2000 site management plan or actions; testing and demonstrating new approaches supporting EU Biodiversity Strategy targets
- **Typical actions:** Most geared towards nature conservation, e.g. restoration and conservation of endangered habitats and/or species, and those related to Biodiversity.



# Marine LIFE

- Offshore Annex of UK PAF identifies funding needs for Natura 2000 and the wider seas (see JNCC web site)
- Challenges: between 2005-2012 c4.5% funds given to bids with marine elements
- Marine LIFE Thematic report



# 'Climate Change' sub-theme

→ Three priority areas:

- **Mitigation** : reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- **Adaptation**: increase resilience to climate change
- **Governance**

→ Specific objectives:

- implement/develop EU policy & legislation, mainstream activities across policy areas;
- develop & demonstrate innovative technologies, systems, methods & instruments, transfer/mainstream best practice
- improve & apply knowledge base in practice
- develop & implement integrated strategies and action plans



# Integrated projects

- New '**big idea**' for 2014-20 programme.
- Comprehensive implementation of a strategic plan on large territorial scale (at least 'regional') required by EU environmental or climate legislation
- Limited to nature, air, water and waste (**not marine**) + **Climate action**
- MSs entitled to minimum of 3 projects (Environment, Nature & Biodiversity, Climate Action) over 7 year period
- Must mobilise other EU funds to help the project, and ensure supplementary funding for complementary actions on this
- UK currently has two potential IPs :
  - Sustainable Urban Waters (EA- submitted)
  - Peatland Restoration (possible Defra lead)



# What can LIFE *not* fund?

- Actions that should be funded under other European funding streams such as Structural Funds, (eg Regional Development Fund, Horizon 2020), CAP, Rural Development fund (Agri-Environment), Fisheries fund
- Compensatory action under Art. 6 of the Habitats Directive
- Purely domestic objectives – LIFE *must further EU policy aims or objectives*, with a focus on implementation
- General biodiversity projects unless truly ‘innovative’ including trials/pilots in EU context (outside Natura 2000)



# What is Defra doing?

- UK's policy lead, taking overview of bids
- Contracts Beta Technology to act as NCP – pl contact them
- Works with ALBs, DAs and successful applicants to boost UK performance by:
  - Using them to mentor and 'hand hold' applicants
  - Developing a longer term strategic pipeline of agreed priority projects that support our natural capital/biodiversity objectives, with the objective of working better together.
  - Developing series of events and support activities via Beta to help applicants



# Further reading/action

- EU LIFE website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/index.htm>
- Register with UK NCP to receive newsletter/information:  
[www.BetaEurope.co.uk](http://www.BetaEurope.co.uk)
- Marine Thematic Report:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/generalpublications/documents/marine\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/generalpublications/documents/marine_report.pdf)
- Please share potential marine environmental/natural capital projects with Amanda Gregory: [Amanda.Gregory@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.Gregory@jncc.gov.uk)
- Offshore PAF: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6934>