



The new LIFE Programme 2014-2020

INFO Day

Bruxelles

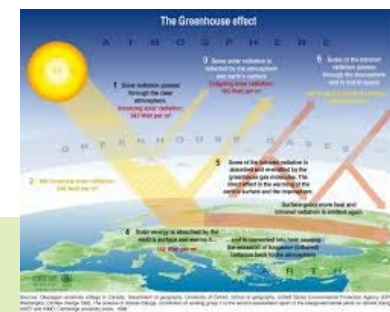
30/6/2014

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Head of LIFE Nature Unit



Why LIFE?

- **LIFE is a catalyst:** it provides a **platform** for the development and exchange of best practices and knowledge thereby improving, catalysing and accelerating changes;
- **LIFE** is the ideal instrument to show to regional and national authorities the benefits of investing in the environment sector and incentivising them to **develop strategic frameworks for spending.**
- **LIFE** has been **successfully tested since 1992:** positive feed-back and final evaluation, more than 3100 projects funded





LIFE – Then and Now

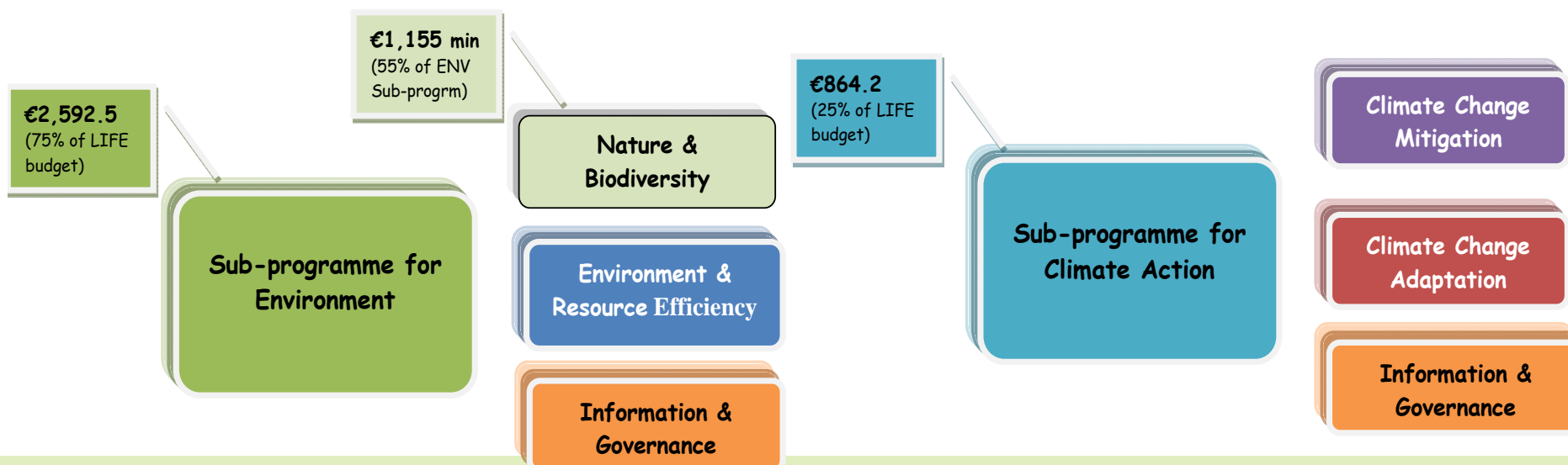
- **LIFE 1992-2013**: more than 3100 projects in the fields of
 - **nature & biodiversity**
 - other **environmental protection**
 - **information and governance**
- **LIFE 2014 to 2020**, subdivided in:
 - Sub-programme for **environment**
 - Sub-programme for **climate action**





LIFE – structure for 2014-2020

LIFE Programme
€3,456.7 (2014-2020)





LIFE 2014-2020 - Legal Framework

- **The LIFE Regulation** (Regulation (EU) 1293/2013 of 20/12/2013)
- **The LIFE multiannual work programme 2014-2017** (Commission Decision of 19/03/2014)
- The Action/Operating **grant agreements** of beneficiaries with the **Contracting Authority** (including **Common provisions**) or agreements of recipients **with banks**





LIFE 2014-2020 – The objectives

- **resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy**; protecting and improving the **environment**; maintaining and improving **biodiversity**, ecosystems and, in particular, the **Natura 2000 network**
- improving the development, implementation and enforcement of **Union environmental and climate policy and legislation**
- **integrating and mainstreaming** of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies
- improving environmental and climate **governance**
- the implementation of the **7th Environment Action Programme**





LIFE 2014-2020 - Budget

- ↴ LIFE 2014 to 2020: total budget of **€3.5 billion (+40%!**)
- ↴ For **projects** funded by action grants and financial instruments: **€2.8 billion** (81% of total)
- ↴ Sub-programme for **environment €2.1 billion** for projects
- ↴ **Nature & Biodiversity** including **related governance and information** at least 55% of sub-programme ENV (could be further increased by 10% in view of demand level)
- ↴ Sub-programme for **climate action €0.69 billion** for projects
- ↴ **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs** **€63 million**





LIFE 2014 - Budget

- ↘ In 2014: total budget of **€ 404.6 million**
- ↘ For **projects** funded by action grants and financial instruments: **€324.6 million** (81% of total)
- ↘ Sub-programme for **environment** **€245.4 million** for projects
- ↘ **Nature & Biodiversity** including **related governance and information** **€ 132.8 million**
- ↘ Sub-programme for **climate action** **€79.2 million** for projects
- ↘ **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs** **€9 million**





LIFE – What stays? (1)

- **Priorities:** Environment, nature and biodiversity, information
- **Funding types:** Action grants for projects; Operating grants for NGO's
- **Projects:** Pilot, demonstration, best practice, information => so called "traditional projects"
- **Funding rate:** exceptionally 75% for priority species and habitats
- **Actors:** beneficiaires SMEs, public authorities, NGOs
- **National allocations** but only for 4 years and ENV traditional projects



LIFE – What stays? (2)

- ***E-Proposal** submission tool for traditional projects*
- *Separate **application and evaluation guidelines***
- ***External evaluators***
- ***Monitoring teams***
- ***No research** or only limited investement for project implementation*
- Emphasis on **replicability/transferability** of project results



LIFE – What's new? (1)

- ***A new priority area: Climate action*** => Mitigation and adaptation
- **Multi-annual work programmes MAWP** (4+3 years)
- ***New types of projects: Integrated, technical assistance, capacity building, preparatory projects***
- **Project topics for traditional projects** under the **sub-programme for environment**
- **Governance** component => from INF to **GIE/GIC**
- **Innovative financial instruments** => NCFF, PF4EE



LIFE – What's new? (2)

- ➔ **Funding rate: max 60% of eligible cost in the first 4 years; 100% for capacity building**
- ➔ **Actors:**
 - EASME** for **grants** except ENV Integrated Projects
 - EIB/intermediary banks** for **financial instruments**
 - National Contact Points** role explicitly acknowledged in the Regulation
- ➔ **Submission** *directly to EC and no LIFE Committee vote on the list* (+ no national priorities and comments)



LIFE – What's new? (3)

- **Positive complementarity** in particular between ENV and CLIMA but also with other direct or shared funding programmes
- **Multi purpose projects** designed to deliver results on many sectors
- **Long term sustainability:** more emphasis
- **Article 6** for work outside the EU
- **Outcome and performance indicators:** improved programme evaluation
- **Green procurement:** a priority for every project



Tools: The "traditional" projects (1)

For whom?

→ Mainly SME, NGO, public administrations active in the field of environment and climate protection

What for?

→ Pursuit of general and specific objectives of the 6 priority areas.

→ Sub-programme for environment: additional focus on thematic priorities and on project topics (LIFE MAWP 2014-2017)

Average indicative size?

→ 1 to 5 beneficiaries; EU contribution: 500,000 to 1.5 M€, 3 to 5 years
...but larger and longer projects possible

Co-funding rate?

→ **Max 60%**; NAT: for priority habitat/species: max 75%



Tools: The "traditional" projects (2)

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

What for?

→ Birds and Habitats Directives

→ Biodiversity strategy

Pay attention to:

- Demonstration/Innovation not obligatory for BIO, but ...
- read carefully project topics!
- Ongoing and Recurrent actions
- 25% Concrete Conservation Actions
- Marine inventories only off-shore



Tools: The "traditional" projects (3)

ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

What for?

→ Innovative /demonstrative projects for all environmental sectors

Pay attention to

→ Climate related projects under the new CLIMA part

→ Project topics

→ Potential overlap with Horizon2020 (guidance will be given)



Tools: The "traditional" projects (4)

Governance and Information

What for?

→ Information and awareness raising + control and compliance

Pay attention to

→ Project topics (more top down approach)

→ New Governance and Enforcement area

→ Climate related projects under the CLIMA part



LIFE Call 2014 Indicative timetable

Traditional projects

Call published 16 June 2014 → Submission Oct. 2014 → Grants signed July 2015 → Reserve list grants signed Oct/Dec 2015

Integrated projects

Call published 16 June 2014 → Submission concept note Oct. 2014 → Submission full proposal Apr. 2015 → Grants signed Sept 2015 → Unused budget transferred to reserve traditional projects Sept. 2015





Tools: Integrated projects (IPs)

For whom?

⇒ Mainly public administrations and other entities active in the field of environment and climate protection and capable of coordinating, besides the IP, complementary actions co-funded by additional private, public (preferably EU) funds.

What?

⇒ Implementing Union environmental and climate plans and strategies (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017); large scale; complementary actions with additional co-funding; involvement stakeholders

Average size?

⇒ Several beneficiaries; EU contribution: ~10 M€; 5-8 years long

Co-funding rate?

⇒ 60%



Tools: Integrated projects (IPs)

Implementation of a Plan or Strategy means:

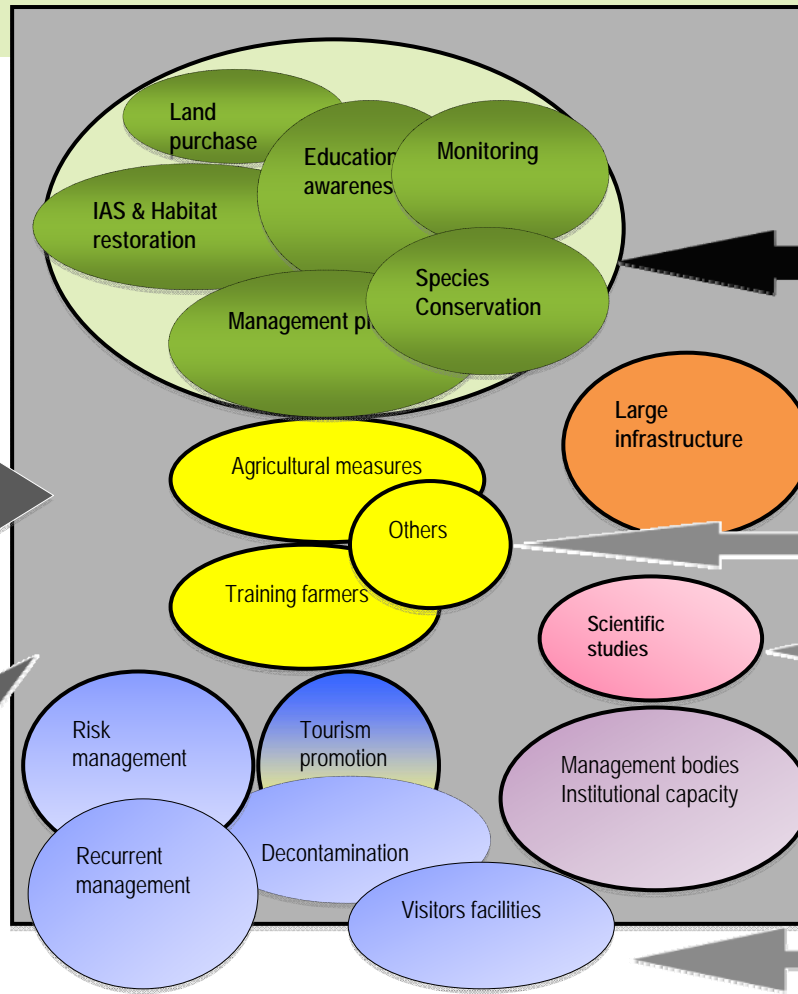
- **Target** implementation of **all elements/actions of the plan** in question
- In a **large geographical area/ covering a significant number of cities** (air, water)
- **Not all** aspects have to be covered **by the LIFE IP itself**
- But there have to be **longterm commitments** to implement the entire plan in the given geographical area / cities **by all relevant actors**
- **N.B.:** IP's are there to help competent authorities do what is their legal obligation!



Example of a Nature IP for a PAF in region X

Competent Body
Region X + stakeholders

National/private funds



Competent body submits proposal for an Integrated Project under LIFE covering specific activities

Proposal shows how other Funds will be used to finance complementary activities (at least 1)

LIFE IP EC 60% + co-financing 40%

Cohesion Fund

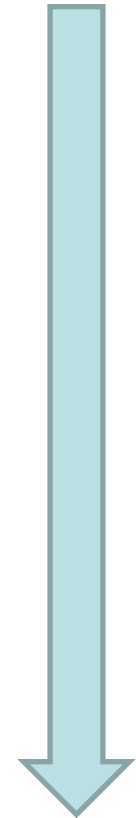
EARDF

Horizon 2020

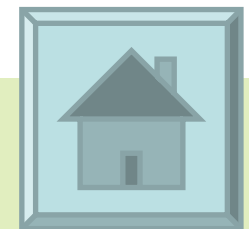
ESF

ERDF

TIME



Full plan implementation





Tools: Integrated projects (IPs)

The mechanism

- Submission off-line (Word and Excel files)
- Two stage approach
- 1st stage Concept Note and plan
- 2nd stage full proposal

The project

- Revolving planning mechanism
- More flexibility
- Payments following periodic planning
- Cascading grants



Tools: Technical Assistance Project (TAs)

For whom?

- For those who would like to submit an IP, but are need assistance in finalising the application

What?

- Support in drafting the IP application; should be applied for a year before the intended IP

Average size?

- Maximum 1% of the allocation for IP's => maximum 100.000€

Co-funding rate?

- 60%



Thank you for your attention!

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

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