



KEN BRADLEY

**ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY GROUP**

**An Introduction
to LIFE+**



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Environment

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WHAT IS LIFE+?

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



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The LIFE+ Programme

“FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT”

- Co-funding in nature conservation and in other environmental fields that are of European interest (e.g. water, waste, climate)
- Co-funding information and communication activities for the environment.
- Sixth Community Environment Action Programme.



LIFE+ FIGURES

- **Duration: 01.01.2007 to 31.12.2013**
- **Budget: over €2 billion**
- **2011 budget: €267 million
(UK allocation €20.9 million)**
- **Budget distribution**
 - 78% for project grants, of which
 - 50% for nature and biodiversity – eligible costs
 - Remainder targeted for transnational projects



THREE COMPONENTS

- LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance
- LIFE+ Information and Communication



LIFE+ NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Aims to contribute to the implementation of EU policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity



A project must be EITHER:

- LIFE+ Nature OR
- LIFE+ Biodiversity



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LIFE+ NATURE



- Objective: Contributes to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives (Council Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC)
- Approach: Must be best practice and/or demonstration projects
- Focus: Long-term sustainable investments in Natura 2000 sites and on the conservation of species and habitats targeted by the Birds and Habitats Directives



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LIFE+ BIODIVERSITY

- Objective: Implementation of the Commission's Communications "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond" and "Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010"
- Approach: Must be demonstration and/or innovation projects
- Focus: Demonstration of measures and practices that contribute to halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU, other than those related to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives
- NOT an overflow for LIFE+ Nature-type projects



LIFE+ ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

- Objective: Implementation, updating and development of European Union environmental policy and legislation
- Approach: Must be demonstration and/or innovation
- Focus: To bridge the gap between research and development results and widespread implementation, and promote innovative solutions with a public dimension
- Actions on climate change, water, air, soil, urban environment, noise, chemicals, environment and health, waste and natural resources, forests, innovation, and strategic approaches
- Comprehensive and long-term monitoring of forests and environmental interactions



LIFE+ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

- Objective: Communication and awareness raising campaigns and actions for implementing, updating and developing European environmental policy and legislation
- Also covers: Awareness raising campaigns and training activities for forest fire prevention
- Character: Highly visible communication and awareness raising targeting a defined environmental problem
- Do NOT have to be innovation or demonstration



IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

- Reimbursement rate of up to 50% (up to 75% for LIFE+ Nature priority species or habitats) of total eligible costs
- Innovation/Best Practice/Demonstration projects in the Environment field
- Projects that have EU added value – policy relevant, Natura 2000 etc.
- Does not fund general research (Limited research activities may be eligible if they contribute to the objectives of the project.)
- Actions proposed in LIFE+ projects should not be eligible for support under other European funds
- Does not fund projects that have been done before



SEVEN SUGGESTED STEPS

- Identify the environmental problem you wish to address and your needs for support
- Think about whether LIFE+ is right for your project
- Read the documentation
- Decide the scope of your project
- Put together a project team
- Assemble the information for the forms
- Complete the forms and submit the proposal



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TIMETABLE AND PROCESS

- Project Proposals with National Authority (DEFRA) by 18 July 2011
- National Authority will send proposals to Commission by 9 September 2011
- Selection Process from September 2011
- to March 2012
- Grant agreements sent out in May and June
- 2012
- Earliest possible project start date: 01.06.2012



WHERE TO FIND ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

- The Guidelines for Applicants
- The Evaluation Guide
- The Common Provisions
- The national authority
- The LIFE website:
- <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>
- Forum on LIFE website:
- <http://www.lifecommunity.eu>



Restoring active blanket bog of European importance to the north of Scotland (2001-06)

- Coordinated by RSPB
- EC contribution: €2.7million

Building on the initial results of a previous LIFE Nature project. Aimed to:

- Enlarge the area of restored blanket bog;
- Devise a long-term land use strategy for the sustainable management of the SAC/SPA in co-operation with the principal stakeholders;

One of 26 best LIFE Nature projects 2007/08

<http://www.lifepeatlandsproject.com>



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Quality urban environments for river corridor users and stakeholders (2005-09)

- Coordinated by London Borough of Lewisham
- Transnational project with Chester City Council and Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands
- EC contribution: €1.9million

Project aimed to:

- Increase use and enjoyment of river corridors
- Reduce crime and fear of crime
- Improve habitats for wildlife

<http://www.quercus-project.eu>



Ladywell Fields,
Lewisham London



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Conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Scotland (2004-08)

- Coordinated by Scottish National Heritage
- EC contribution: €2.3million

Project aimed to:

- Improve the natural freshwater habitat for Atlantic salmon on 8 of the key salmon river SACs in Scotland

- One of 5 “Best of the Best” LIFE Nature projects 2008/09

<http://www.snh.org.uk/salmonlieproject>



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Thank you



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