

2010 LIFE+ Application Package

The **most important changes** compared to the 2009 package are the following (*additional information in italics*):

Changes common to the three strands:

1. **Indicative lists** of types of projects which the Commission would welcome have been introduced in the application guides of the three strands. *See Guidelines for Applicants 2010 – Nature and Biodiversity (pages 22-23); Environment Policy and Governance (pages 22-27); Information and Communication (pages 19-20). A summary is attached at Annex A.*
2. A new obligatory action concerning **networking** has been introduced. *See Guidelines for Applicants 2010 – Nature and Biodiversity (pages 37 and 44); Environment Policy and Governance (pages 32 and 40); Information and Communication (page 25).*
3. **Project indicators** have been removed from the application guide and forms and they will have to be provided with the submission of the inception report.
4. The **selection process** will be shortened from 14 months to 12 months. *National authorities to submit proposals to the Commission by 4 October 2010. Earliest possible starting date for projects 1 September 2011.*
5. Applicants that are scored as non-viable based on their economic performance indicators will not be automatically excluded. A **financial guarantee** will be requested instead. *See Financial Selection Criteria (page 11) of the Guide for the Evaluation of LIFE+ project proposals 2010.*
6. The **payment scheme** has been modified: There will be from 2 up to 4 payments depending on the project duration and amount of the EC contribution. *See Article 28 of the Common Provisions. In summary:*
 - *Projects up to 24 months duration or EC contribution of €300k or less: **two payments** 70% pre-financing and final payment.*
 - *Projects 24-48 months and EC contribution of more than €300k: **three payments** 40% pre-financing, 40% mid-term pre-financing (once project has spent at least 150% of first pre-financing), final payment.*
 - *Projects more than 48 months and more than €2m: **four payments** 40% pre-financing, 20% first mid-term pre-financing (once project has spent at least 100% of first pre-financing), 20% second mid-term pre-financing (once project has spent at least 100% of first and first mid-term pre-financing), final payment.*

Changes only related to the Nature and Biodiversity strand:

1. The full purchase cost of **durable goods** in Biodiversity proposals is now eligible. *See Article 25.9 of the Common Provisions.*
2. The eligibility of setting up and testing **recurring activities** has been clarified. *See Guidelines for Applicants 2010 – Nature and Biodiversity (pages 25 and 39).*
3. **Co-financing for LIFE+ Nature** addressing priority habitats and/or species of the Birds and Habitats Directives have been modulated (new rates are 50, 60 and 75%) depending on the percentage of the concrete actions addressing the priority habitats and/or species. *See Guidelines for Applicants 2010 – Nature and Biodiversity (pages 28-29). A maximum co-financing rate of 75% is applicable to LIFE+ Nature projects as follows:*
 - **50% maximum** for all projects investing less than 30% of the total cost estimated for concrete conservation, for activities directly benefitting priority habitats or species.
 - **60% maximum** for all projects investing between 30% and 50% of the total estimated cost for concrete conservation, for activities directly benefitting priority habitats or species
 - **75% maximum** for all projects investing more than 50% of the total estimated cost for concrete conservation, for activities directly benefitting priority habitats or species

The higher percentages (i.e. 60 or 75%) will only be granted to projects for which clear and convincing details have been given, allowing the EC to verify the eligibility of the requested rate.
4. Proposals aimed at **inventories for NATURA 2000 in territorial waters** are eligible. *See Guidelines for Applicants 2010 – Nature and Biodiversity (page 27).*
5. References to **sustainability requirements** have been reinforced in the evaluation guide. *See Award Phase Criterion (page 13) of the Guide for the Evaluation of LIFE+ project proposals 2010*

Indicative lists of types of projects/ priority areas identified for 2010 call

LIFE+ Nature

- Projects aimed at the direct conservation of habitats and species covered by the Habitats and Birds directives and, in particular, supporting the set-up and management of NATURA2000. These are the classic LIFE+ Nature projects (site or species related) that will remain the main axe of LIFE+ Nature financing. Ex-situ actions are also possible if justified.
- Projects for improving the ecological coherence/connectivity of the NATURA 2000 network ("Green Infrastructures").
- Projects aimed at fulfilling the obligations deriving from Article 8(1) and 8(2) of the Habitats Directive (i.e. identification of the financial needs and corresponding measures).
- Projects aimed at the preparation and planning for the designation of new marine Natura 2000 sites in territorial or off-shore waters and/or the extension of existing marine sites.
- Projects for the support and development of surveillance of the conservation status of habitats and species (Article 11 of the Habitats Directive).
- Projects for the control and eradication of invasive alien species.

Note: Data from past LIFE funding show that there are relatively few proposals addressing the direct conservation of a rather large part of the biodiversity covered by the Habitats Directive. For example arthropods and mollusc species are seldom the specific target of LIFE+ Nature projects. Applicants are invited to consider this aspect when preparing their proposals

LIFE+ Biodiversity

- Projects targeting threatened species that are not included in the annexes of the Habitats Directive but that have a status of "endangered" or worse in the available European Red Lists (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/redlist/index_en.htm) or in the IUCN Red List for those species that are not covered by the European red Lists IUCN Red List.
- Projects for the implementation of river basin management plans, or addressing Marine Regions, for the implementation of measures to guarantee a Good environmental status.
- Projects to test fisheries management measures in line with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Directive and technical measures to reduce by-catch of species which are not commercially exploited.
- Projects addressing ecosystem functions and services. The focus of LIFE-Nature has been, until now, on the conservation of habitats and species, for themselves and not for the functions and the services they deliver to society.
- Projects addressing biodiversity and soil. The Commission welcomes projects aiming at increasing the protection of soil biodiversity and its many ecological functions.
- Projects for the control and eradication of invasive alien species.

LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance

1. Principal objective "Climate change"

Stabilise greenhouse gas concentration at a level that prevents global warming above 2°C. Priority areas of action:

- Ensuring the implementation of EU commitments under UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol, and facilitating development of post 2012 implementation programme with a view on further reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions up to 2020;

- Ensuring the adaptation of the EU economy and society, nature and biodiversity, water resources and human health to the adverse impacts of climate change (to a potential temperature increase of 2 °C resulting from increased greenhouse gas concentrations) and mitigating its impact;
- Ensuring the implementation and use of market-based instruments in particular in order to achieve a cost-efficient emission reduction in a post 2012 framework.

N.B. Proposals aimed at promoting and implementing innovative or demonstrative projects combining biodiversity and climate change, such as protecting and restoring natural ecosystems to conserve or enhance their carbon stocking capacity (for example: forests, water bodies), should be submitted under the LIFE Biodiversity strand.

2. Principal objective “Water”

Contribute to an enhanced water quality by developing cost-effective measures to achieve good ecological status in view of developing the river basin management plans under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Contribute to improving quantitative water management and water efficiency. Contribute to decrease vulnerability of water and ecosystems to climate change impacts and other anthropogenic pressures. Priority areas of action:

- Preparation of the WFD programmes of measures and integrating measures from parent directives such as e.g. the Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive, the Bathing Water Directive, the Drinking Water directive, the Plant Protection Products and Nitrates Directive, the Flood Directive and the IPPC Directive;
- Development of best practice examples for sustainable use of hydropower based on ecologically based minimum flow requirements;
- Development of best practice examples for improving long-distance fish migration;
- Development of best practice examples to reduce eutrophication from diffuse sources;
- Implementation of innovative technologies to reduce use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture;
- Development of innovative tools (technologies, practices, etc.) to improve water efficiency in households, agriculture and industry sectors;
- Natural flood management and increase water retention by re-establishing floodplains and providing space for water in urbanised areas;
- Improving the Nitrate Directive implementation, in particular focusing on the entire nitrogen cycle;
- Development of innovative urban water treatment systems;
- Development of innovative and cost-effective technologies for the improvement of the quality of drinking water;
- Implementation of innovative measures of Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
- Implementation of innovative actions for the improvement of bathing waters;
- Implementation of innovative activities contributing to a "good environmental status" of marine water according to the Marine Directive;
- Implementation of green/blue infrastructures, linking urban and rural areas, as well as marine and coastal areas (fish passes, restoration of river morphology, water retention in urban areas, restoration of links between water bodies and their flood- and marshplains).

N.B. When dealing with green/blue infrastructures that aim directly at creating the necessary connectivity among Natura 2000 sites, the proposal should be submitted under LIFE+ Nature.

3. Principal objective “Air”

Achieve levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment. Priority area of action:

- Implementing the Thematic Strategy on air pollution;

- To test technologies, methodologies and practices, which reduce air pollution and exposure of the population and/or the environment to poor air quality;
- Purification of air by ecosystems.

4. Principal objective “Soil”

Protect and ensure the sustainable use of soil by preserving soil functions, preventing threats to soil, mitigating their effects and restoring degraded soils. Achieve a sustainable agriculture which will contribute, on one side, to the enhancement of the positive aspects for the environment and, on the other side, also contribute avoiding negative impacts and environmental risks. Priority areas of action:

- Implementing the Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil (COM(2006)231, 22.9.2006); ensuring the protection of soil including soil biodiversity and the restoration of degraded soils;
- Implementing the 'priority area' (former 'risk area') approach contained in the proposal for Soil Framework Directive (COM(2006)231, 22.9.2006) for the soil degradation processes;
- Developing and implementing land use practices and techniques, particularly in farming and forestry production processes, which protect and improve the status of soil in terms of structure, organic matter, pollution, biodiversity, etc. This might include supporting farmers and foresters through pilot agro-environmental schemes, different types of environmental friendly agricultural management and technologies, reduction of residues coming from agriculture, etc.;
- Developing and implementing land use practices in urban development, which protect and improve the status of soil.

5. Principal objective “Urban environment”

Contribute to improving the environmental performance of Europe’s urban areas. Priority areas of action:

- Contributing to a better implementation of existing EU environment policies and legislation at the local level by supporting and encouraging local authorities to adopt a more integrated approach to urban management, including the transport and energy sectors and green public procurement;
- Contributing to urban green infrastructure, and its linkages to the peri-urban and rural countryside;
- Contributing to 'greening' existing energy and transport infrastructure and strengthening the functionality of the spatially linked ecosystems.

N.B. When dealing with green/blue infrastructures that aim directly at creating the necessary connectivity among Natura 2000 sites, the proposal should be submitted under LIFE+ Nature.

6. Principal objective “Noise”

Contribute to policy development and implementation on environmental noise. Priority areas of action:

- To test technologies, methodologies and practices which reduce noise, especially in the urban environment;
- To prevent and reduce the harmful effects from exposure to environmental noise.

7. Principal objective “Chemicals”

Improve the protection of environment and health from risks posed by chemicals by 2020 by implementing chemicals legislation, in particular the REACH Regulation. Priority areas of action:

- Enhancing science-policy integration and the transfer of results to provide a solid technical background in support of REACH¹;
- Development of non-toxic chemicals that can substitute toxic ones;
- Safer handling of chemicals;
- A more economical or sustainable use of chemicals;

¹ This could also include support to other chemical safety legislation including promotion of non-animal testing.

- Ways of re-using chemical waste products;
- Innovation of low risk biocidal products;
- Eco-friendly delivery measures for the application of the active (biocidal) substance (i.e. precise delivery, no leaks).

8. Principal objective “Environment and health”

Develop the information base for policy on the environment and health (the Environment and Health Action Plan for 2004 to 2010). Priority area of action:

- Human biomonitoring and data linkage on environment and health²;
- Protection of the ozone layer to reduce negative health and environmental impacts;
- Promoting the ecosystem services approach on projects targeted on health and human well-being.

9. Principal objective “Waste and natural resources”

Develop and implement policies designed to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste, improving the environmental performances of products, sustainable production and consumption patterns, waste prevention, recovery and recycling. Contribute to the effective implementation of the Thematic Strategy on waste and natural resources. Priority areas of action:

- Promoting sustainable use of natural resources, with a life-cycle approach, including environmental, social and economic aspects, in order to decouple environmental impact from economic growth;
- Promoting waste prevention, recovery and recycling with a focus on life-cycle thinking, eco-design and the development of recycling markets;
- Contributing to the implementation of European Union policy and legislation on waste, in particular the Landfill Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the Waste Shipment and POPs Regulations and the Directives on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS), End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), Packaging, Hazardous Waste, Waste Oils, PCBs and mining waste;
- Implementing the new Waste Framework Directive, including a particular focus on the application of the waste hierarchy in waste policies, waste prevention and the implementation of recycling targets for household waste, as well as for construction and demolition waste;
- Managing manure to generate end-products easily reusable in agriculture allowing better nutrient management.

10. Principal objective “Forests”

Provide, especially through an EU coordination network, a concise and comprehensive basis for policy relevant information on forest in relation to climate change (impact on forest ecosystems, mitigation, substitution effects), biodiversity (further develop the existing baseline information and protected forest areas), forest fires, forest condition and the protective functions of forests (water, weather, soil and infrastructure) as well as contributing to protect forests against fires. Priority areas of action:

- Promoting the collection, analysis and dissemination of policy-relevant information concerning EU forests and interactions between forests and the environment;
- Promoting harmonisation, efficiency, and effectiveness of forest monitoring activities and data collection systems and making use of synergies by creating links between monitoring mechanism established at regional, national, European and global level;
- Stimulating synergies between specific forests related issues and environmental initiatives and legislation (e.g. EU soil strategy, Natura 2000, Water Framework Directive, Sustainable Production and Consumption, Green Public Procurement, Energy Efficiency, etc.);

² For example: communication and data interpretation on human bio-monitoring, pilot data linkage, air epidemiology.

- Contributing to sustainable forest management in particular by collecting data related to the carbon balance of EU forests, forest biodiversity and the improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management as adopted by the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting 7-8 October 2002, Vienna, Austria;
- Building capacities at national and European Union level to allow for coordination and guidance on relevant and EU representative forest monitoring;
- Strengthening forest ecosystem services by (re)-establishing functional or spatial linkages between forested areas which also guarantee the permeability between forest areas and open land as part of Green Infrastructure.

N.B. When dealing with green/blue infrastructures that aim directly at creating the necessary connectivity among Natura 2000 sites, the proposal should be submitted under LIFE+ Nature.

11. Principal objective “Innovation”

Contribute to developing and demonstrating innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments to assist implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP), through actions complementary to those of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme.

Priority areas of action:

- Identifying, testing and communicating innovative and emerging techniques, which could be potentially considered as Best Available Techniques (BAT) for the updating of the BAT Reference Documents (BREF) in specific sectors.

12. Principal objective “Strategic approaches”

Promote effective implementation and enforcement of EC environmental legislation and improving the knowledge base for environmental policy. Improve the environmental performance of SMEs. Promote strategic integrated planning approaches for improving the use of land and sea. Priority areas of action:

- Strengthening the knowledge base for policy making and implementation by building a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and supporting the implementation of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security initiative (GMES);
- Implementing the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme for SMEs (ECAP)³;
- Improving access to and exchange of data and information on environment through implementation of INSPIRE and SEIS guidelines;
- Promoting integrated planning approaches which consider ecosystem approaches to tackle fragmentation, and developing a Green Infrastructure approach, supporting the multi-purpose use of land by safeguarding and improving ecosystem services.

Note: for the 2010 call, the Commission has indicated that whilst any project dealing with the abovementioned priorities is welcome, it would favour those dealing with:

- **Natural resources and waste**, to develop and implement policies designed to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste.

LIFE+ Information and Communication

- Halting the loss of biodiversity.
- Natural resources and waste, to develop and implement policies designed to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste.
- Forest and climate change.

³ COM(2007)379. More information is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/sme>

- Water scarcity/efficiency awareness raising campaigns focused on water-stressed Member States.
- Compilation and active transfer to relevant stakeholders that could usefully implement them of the techniques used, results and lessons learnt from a significant number of previous LIFE projects for a specific theme/habitat/species (e.g. rivers, bogs, bats).
- Launching national public campaigns to promote NATURA 2000.
- Skills development for Natura 2000 site managers.
- The implementation of Art. 6 of the Habitats Directive with specific reference to the way the evaluation of incidence is carried out (e.g. developing and promoting a system for the accreditation of evaluators, sharing best practices, etc.).
- Promoting the integration of biodiversity concerns in territorial planning procedures.
- Awareness raising campaigns on biodiversity (aligned with the relevant EU Campaign) aimed at explaining to the general public what biodiversity is and why it is important.
- The promotion of connectivity between natural areas (Green Infrastructure) by explaining it better to citizens.
- Integrating the concept of Ecosystems services in private company management or in public spending in particular in connection to Green Public Procurement.
- Increasing the knowledge and awareness about soil and soil biodiversity and its many ecological functions.
- The broad and targeted dissemination of best practices (including best practices developed as part of previous LIFE projects).

Note: for the 2010 call, the Commission has indicated that it would favour proposals dealing with halting the loss of biodiversity.