The LIFE Programme
L’Instrument Financier pour l’Environnement

The only EU funding tool dedicated exclusively to the environment and climate action

Since 1992
• 4,480 projects approved
• €3.46 billion for 2014-2020 (€2.14 billion in 2007-2013)
• Two sub-programmes:
  • LIFE Environment
  • LIFE Climate Action

Pilot, demonstration, best practice or information, awareness and dissemination projects to contribute to implementing and developing EU environmental policy and legislation
LIFE & Forests

• NAT projects (majority) – conservation and restoration of forest habitats and species

• ENV projects – address particular threats and aim at a more sustainable use of forest resources; climate change

• GIE projects – awareness raising, fire prevention
LIFE forest projects

Number and percentage of type of forest-related LIFE projects in period 2006-2013

Forest Thematic Report, 2015
LIFE & Forests - Beneficiaries

Types of coordinating beneficiaries (n = 134)

- NGO-Foundation: 22%
- Regional authority: 20%
- Local authority: 13%
- National authority: 10%
- Research institution: 9%
- Park-Reserve authority: 8%
- Small & medium sized enterprise: 7%
- University: 5%
- Development agency: 4%
- International enterprise: 3%
- Professional organisation: 2%
- Public enterprise: 2%
- Large enterprise: 2%

Forest Thematic Report, 2015
Figure 21. Policy relevance of forest-related LIFE projects and their link with the priority areas of the EU Forest Strategy. The link with the Biodiversity Strategy (2011) is also provided.
Objectives of LIFE forest projects

Objectives of forest related projects per LIFE strand (n = 336)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Fire prevention measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reforestation &amp; spontaneous afforestation</td>
<td>Species management plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication tools, media</td>
<td>Creation of recreational structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Traditional agro/silvo/pastoral practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAS controlling measures</td>
<td>Forest management plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating heterogenous forest structure, high diversity</td>
<td>Action plans and strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting native species</td>
<td>Climate change adapted forest management plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental education</td>
<td>Developing decision support system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land purchase/lease/compensation</td>
<td>Designation as protected area (legal status)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing connectivity</td>
<td>Developing early warning systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Involvement of volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production of guidelines and procedures</td>
<td>Setting up coordination platforms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrological &amp; soil measures</td>
<td>Promoting citizen science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conversion plantations</td>
<td>Developing efficient pathways for bioenergy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder consultation</td>
<td>Developing new technologies for recycle/use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing monitoring systems</td>
<td>Lobby and advocacy work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting up pilot initiatives &amp; demonstration</td>
<td>Develop environment-friendly technology for wood processing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most occurring forest habitat types in LIFE projects

- Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests 9130
- Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or aok-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli 9160
- Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests 9110
- Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains 9190
- Bog woodland 91D0*
- Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, scree and ravines 9180*
- Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion) 91E0*
LIFE & Forests - successes and challenges

Successes of forest-related LIFE projects
(n = 118, 65 projects)

- Improved conservation status habitat/sp
- Increased diversity forest ecosystem
- Increased awareness & local support
- Innovative approach easy replicable
- Increased local implication for mgmnt
- Improved connect/fourst habitats
- Increased sust forest resource use
- Decreased risk/impact forest fires
- Increased rural attract/life qual
- Increased nr/breeding success
- Creation green jobs
- Diversified forest ownership

Challenges of forest-related LIFE projects
(n = 129, 96 projects)

- Technical limitation
- No political will for change
- Challenging land purchases
- Disturbance biotic factors (IAS, ...)
- Conflicting land uses
- Overly ambitious desing of project
- Challenging sectoral/partner cooperation
- Disturbance abiotic factors
- Underestimation of costs
- No ownership stakeholders

Forest Thematic Report, 2015
Project beneficiary: CONSORCI ALBA-TER (Local Authority)

Main aim

Recovery of riparian habitats of the River Ter, especially ‘Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa’, ‘Salix alba and Populus alba galleries’ and ‘Mediterranean temporary ponds’.

Project actions were aimed at conserving the diversity of the existing vegetation and creating sustainable habitats, with complementary measures to manage development and organise access to avoid further habitat degradation by human activity.

Riparia-Ter website
**Threats:** Invasion of exotic plant species, disappearance and deterioration of riverside forests, artificial development of banks and river margins, reduction of the abundance and diversity of fauna

**Results**
- recovery of 75 ha of river forest habitats. Forest management and the control of invasive species also benefitted other habitat types in the area, such as holm oak woods, pine woods and dry meadows;
- application of specific criteria to encourage vigorous, well-structured riparian woodlands;
- six ponds were created; another restored;
- regulated public use of the restored areas;
- involvement of local people in tree planting, bird-ringing and other activities

[Image of riparian habitats recovery]

[Link to Riparia-Ter website]
LIFE10 ENV/IT/0399 – EMONFUR
Establishing a monitoring network to assess lowland forest and urban plantation in Lombardy and urban forest in Slovenia

Project beneficiary: Körkövizig (regional authority)

Main aim

To develop a monitoring protocol to assess the status and adaptability of artificial and natural urban and periurban forests to climate change and their ability to mitigate rising temperatures and air pollution

Methodology

• To use field & aerial technologies
• To place weather stations within the urban and periurban forests
• To collect data for the monitoring protocol

Emonfur website
Results

→ **Heat island effect** (city centre vs urban forests)

- difference in absolute maximum temperatures of between 1.5°C and 2.7°C
- daily differences greater than 10 °C (occasionally)

→ **Defoliation** (city forests vs periurban forests)

- higher in the city forests (sensitive to abiotic & biotic factors)

→ **Carbon sequestration** (urban forests vs national & regional average)

- mature urban woods showed better carbon storage capacity (112 tC/ha vs 94 tC/ha)

**Periurban forests**: Better conservation status & ecosystem services

[Emonfur website]
LIFE08 INF/D/0032 – Netze des Lebens
Biotope networks - networks of life: promoting a forest corridor system with a European perspective

Project beneficiary: Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (NGO)

Main aim

To raise awareness and increase acceptance of the necessity of connecting forest habitats, through the creation of green corridors for mobile species such as the wildcat.

Combines habitat restoration, connectivity and awareness raising

Netze des Lebens website
LIFE & PARTNERSHIPS

Eastern Bakony - Restoration and conservation of priority habitats and species in the Eastern Bakony area
LIFE07 NAT/H/000321

BRIGHT - Bussaco’s Recovery from Invasions Generating Habitat Threats (BIODIV)
LIFE10 NAT/PT/000075

Partnership with forestry experts

Involvement of prisoners
More information


National Contact Points: Information on eligibility and project preparation
http://ec.europa.eu/life/contact/nationalcontact

Funding: General information
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm
LIFE Communication tools & services

- **LIFE website**
- **Project database**
- **Thematic publications**
- **LIFE thematic brochures**

Photos: LIFE Programme
Thank you for your attention!

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