

LIFE Programme in the United Kingdom



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 271 projects in the United Kingdom over 173 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €728m, of which the EU contributed €346m.

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising more over €12 billion and contributing with more than €5 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The LIFE programme contributes fully to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The budget for the period 2021–2027 is set at €5.4 billion.

The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

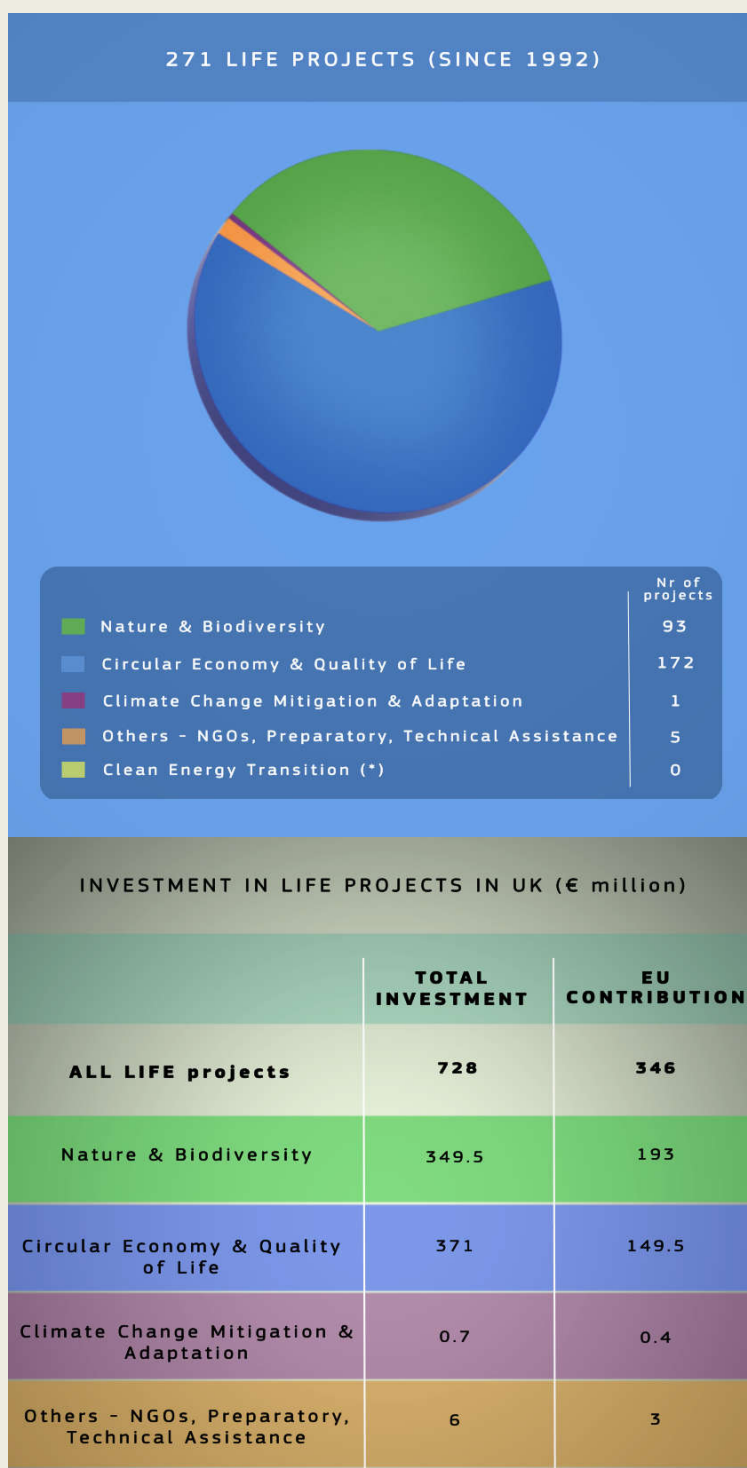
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

For more information:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

'The future is green. The future is LIFE' leaflet

Past and closed projects are designated in this document with the new LIFE programme 2021-2027 nomenclature





LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

The Nature and Biodiversity strand includes support for standard action projects for developing, applying and promoting best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity, as well as “Strategic Nature Projects” (SNAP). These new projects support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in Member States in order to mainstream those objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the prioritised action frameworks adopted pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 93 projects in the United Kingdom. These represent a total investment of €349.5 million, of which €193 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects have supported actions targeting habitats (moors, dunes, wet heaths, raised bogs, limestone areas, oak woods, “machair” (fertile low-lying grassy plain found on some of the north-west coastlines of Ireland and Scotland), estuaries, woodlands, rivers (e.g. Irton), alkaline and calcareous fens, island SPAs (Scilly and Shiant) as well as species conservation and restoration (such as island seabirds, great bustard, little tern, hen harrier, capercaillie, Atlantic salmon, roseate tern, curlew, non-native stoat, and freshwater mussel). One project prevented the unintentional introduction of the grey squirrel in Anglesey. One project produced a strategic plan for the management and restoration of all Special Protection Areas in Wales. A range of conservation actions have been implemented by a project to better connect habitats and increase their biodiversity, with improvements in quality and functionality across landscapes. One project contributed to enhancing the landscape connectivity for brown bears and wolves through a regional network of Natura 2000 sites in Romania. A biodiversity project sought to reverse the decline of breeding wading birds in the river floodplain of the Avon Valley, part of which is designated as a Natura 2000 network site. Another aimed to support habitat management in strategic areas within the Central Scotland Green Network area, in order to improve ecological coherence. NGOs accounted for 80% of the project coordinating beneficiaries, followed by national, local and regional authorities, park authorities and universities.

There are 24 ongoing projects in the United Kingdom. These are focusing predominantly on the conservation of habitats (e.g. moors, rivers, peatlands, wetlands, sand dunes, mosses, Welsh raised bogs, Pennine peatlands, Celtic rainforest, dune habitats, ravine woodland in the Peak District, transition mires, quaking bogs, coastal Natura 200 sites), but also species (black-tailed godwit, twaite shad, Scottish wildcat, and curlew). The biggest project, with a total budget of €16 million, MoorLIFE2020, aims to conserve and protect the priority active blanket bog habitat within the South Pennine Moors’ Natura 2000 site and the ecosystem services it provides. One project will deliver a package of measures to reduce the impact and spread of IAS (invasive alien species) in freshwater aquatic, riparian and coastal environments across England. One project aims to eradicate the introduced non-native stoat (*Mustela erminea*) from the Orkney Islands by 2023.

Four projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental governance and Information strands. Among the three closed projects, the Birds Directive project offered direct advice to farmers, acknowledging that this is most effective way to influence farmer behaviour and land management. The Futurescapes project made an important contribution to the development of landscape-scale conservation in the UK, through the promotion of the principles of good landscape-scale conservation and green infrastructure planning in support of the Natura 2000 network. The Securing the stone-curlew project addressed 100% of the UK population of the stone-curlew and managed to maintain it at around 400 breeding pairs. The ongoing Biosecurity for LIFE project aims to protect seabirds from invasive predators by producing biosecurity plans for all 41 SPAs in the UK, as well as establishing ‘rapid response hubs’ to deal with any incursions.



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Actions supported under the Circular Economy and Quality of Life strand will help in reaching major EU policy objectives such as the transition to a circular economy, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the environment and life. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

This strand [formerly LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency and Environmental Governance and Information] has co-financed 172 projects in the UK thus far, representing a total investment of €371.5 million, of which €149.5 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects mainly targeted: environmentally-sound urban design; quality of life and transport planning; sensitive area management (coastal); clean technologies; water supply, water quality and water resource protection; river basin management; groundwater protection; wastewater treatment; green public procurement; pollution control; stakeholder participation; forest management; the delivery of the Water Framework Directive through collaborative action between civil society and the private sector; risk management related to public health; energy supply; waste use and recycling (including WEEE and waste-related crime); the circular economy; land-use planning (including spatial planning for ecosystems services); eco-products design; a more resource-efficient clothing sector; waste reduction (viable approaches to increase the recovery of target critical materials by 5% within the project lifetime and Smarter Regulation of Waste in Europe); hazardous waste (innovative laser fence systems to prevent mammals from damaging crops); and food protection (prevention of food chain poisoning). Most of the projects were coordinated by local, regional and national authorities, international enterprises, SMEs, universities, NGOs/foundations, research institutions and development agencies.

There are two ongoing projects. The LIFE BOSS project will upscale and bring to the market the novel BOSS technology to radically innovate and boost plastic recycling and re-use in EU. The LIFE B3 FURN project aims to market the first formaldehyde-free wood panel made from 100% recycled material that is 100% recyclable at end of life and equal in performance to conventionally produced MDF.

Five projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication and Environmental governance and Information strands. All these projects are closed. The Eco-Animation project produced three episodes of the 'My Friend Boo' cartoon series and accompanying teaching packs to engage European children between 5-8 years old with simple environmental messages about the environment, sustainability and climate change. The RENEW project promoted links between water and energy saving actions to householders in the UK and tested how best to communicate this innovative message. The RESTORE project's main outputs were the development of the European river restoration website (www.restorerivers.eu), which is the main source of information on river restoration in Europe, and the RiverWiki, which contains information on over 500 river restoration case studies from 31 countries. LIFE ENPE built a self-sustaining network of environmental prosecutors, to improve collation and dissemination of information on environmental crime; and improve the capacity and consistency in Europe for combatting transnational waste, wildlife and air pollution crimes. The LIFE TRIFOCAL London project piloted a holistic communications campaign to encourage sustainable food systems in cities, prevent food waste, promote healthy and sustainable eating, and encourage the recycling of unavoidable food waste.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded under this strand. The LIFE-IP RBMP-NWRBD UK project's objectives are described below.



Improved water management in the North West England River Basin (LIFE-IP RBMP-NWRBD UK) LIFE14 IPE/UK/000027

The LIFE-IP RBMP-NWRBD UK project will substantially increase the capacity to deliver improvements in water bodies in the North West England River Basin District (NWRBD). The project team, led by the Environment Agency, will increase mobilisation of relevant funds, and demonstrate the most appropriate and technically-feasible measures to address issues in river basin management, including diffuse rural and urban pollution, natural flood management, uptake of sustainable drainage solutions, and the use of green infrastructure and ecosystem services. The project team will also increase engagement of stakeholders and formalise their roles, to help mobilise funding and to deliver more effective integrated water management. The project will also ensure that improved data and knowledge informs river basin planning; that barriers to the adoption of an integrated approach are reduced; and that provision is made for upscaling the Integrated Project's successes to national and Member State levels.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation strand will support actions which help implement the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and meet the European Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Projects under this strand will contribute to a renewable energy based- and climate- resilient economy. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, the Climate Change strand has co-financed one project in the UK. Its total investment amounts to €0.7 million, of which the EU is contributing €0.4 million.

The aim of the closed REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE project was to facilitate the refrigeration and air conditioning sectors transition towards the use of low GWP refrigerants, in order to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It reached many industry professionals, policymakers and other stakeholders with a relatively small budget. It created high-quality training materials that will continue to be used well beyond the project end in EU Member States, and provided a demonstrably proven blended learning training programme.



LIFE Clean Energy Transition

Building on the Intelligent Energy Europe (2003-2013) and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (2014-2020) programmes, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme continues to support the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy. In particular, it aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy across Europe.

The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme supports projects in the following five areas of intervention:

- 1) Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition;
- 2) Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market;
- 3) Attracting private finance for sustainable energy;
- 4) Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects;
- 5) Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition.

Want to know more about LIFE?

- Visit the [LIFE website](#) and [LIFE project database](#)

- Follow the LIFE programme on social media:



- Sign up to the [LIFE Programme](#) and [CINEA Clean Energy](#) Newsletters

- Contact the LIFE National Contact Point in your Member State:

Name: Ms Jessica MAGNUS

Mr Tom TANGYE

Address: Monkstone House - City Road

Peterborough PE1 1JY

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1733 562626

E-mail: jessica.magnus@jncc.gov.uk / tom.tangye@jncc.gov.uk

UKLIFE@jncc.gov.uk

Website: [JNCC website](#)

- Contact your NEEMO Monitoring Team

NEEMO EEIG DAI

Address: Thamesfield House, Boundary Way

Hemel Hempstead HP2 7SR

UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: +44 1442 202400

E-mail: dai@neemo.eu

Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Bringing the Bure back to LIFE: Hoveton Wetland Restoration Project	LIFE14 NAT/UK/000054	Bure LIFE	https://hovetongreatbroad.org.uk	09/2015 → 06/2023
MoorLIFE 2020	LIFE14 NAT/UK/000070	MoorLIFE 2020	https://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/moorlife2020	10/2015 → 09/2022
LIFE - Shad Severn: Conservation and restoration of twaite shad in the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation	LIFE15 NAT/UK/000219	Unlocking the Severn for LIFE	https://www.unlockingthesevern.co.uk/	07/2016 → 09/2022
Pennine PeatLIFE	LIFE15 NAT/UK/000725	Pennine PeatLIFE	https://www.northpennines.org.uk/what_we_do/peatland-programme/pennine-peatlife/	08/2018 → 07/2025
Recovering and securing the future of the globally near - threatened black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) in the UK	LIFE15 NAT/UK/000753	LIFE blackwit UK	http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/centre-for-conservation-science/research/projects/436379-eu-life-recovering-and-securing-the-future-of-the-blacktailed-godwit-in-the-uk	08/2018 → 07/2025
Marches Mosses Raised Bog Restoration Project	LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786	Marches Mosses BogLIFE	http://themeressandmosses.co.uk/page/74/marches-mosses-boglife-project.htm	08/2018 → 07/2025
New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs	LIFE16 NAT/UK/000646	LIFE Welsh Raised Bogs	https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/our-projects/nature-projects/new-life-for-welsh-raised-bogs/?lang=en	08/2018 → 07/2025
Restoring the Celtic Temperate Rainforest of Wales toward Favourable Conservation Status	LIFE17 NAT/UK/000020	Celtic Rainforests LIFE	https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/looking-after/life-celtic-rainforests-project	08/2018 → 07/2025
Sands of LIFE	LIFE17 NAT/UK/000023	SoLIFE	https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/new-life-to-welsh-sand-dunes/?lang=en	09/2018 → 12/2022
Safeguarding Orkney's native wildlife from invasive non-native stoats	LIFE17 NAT/UK/000557	Orkney Native WildLIFE	https://www.onwp.org/	08/2018 → 12/2023
Dynamic Dunescapes	LIFE17 NAT/UK/000570	DuneLIFE	https://www.dynamicdunescapes.co.uk/	09/2018 → 09/2023
LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES: Reducing and Mitigating Erosion and Disturbance Impacts affecting the Seabed	LIFE18 NAT/UK/00039	LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-recreation-remedies-project	07/2019 → 10/2023
Restoration of freshwater features in River Dee and	LIFE18 NAT/UK/000743	LIFEDeeRiver	https://naturalresources.wales/splash?orig=%2fabout-us%2four-	09/2019 → 12/2024

Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC			projects%2fnature-projects%2flife-dee-river-project&lang=cy	
Enabling 100% favourable condition across a key subset of Scotland's Natura sites through enhanced vegetation management	LIFE18 NAT/UK/000838	LIFE 100% favourable	https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/100-for-nature/	07/2019 -> 07/2024
SWAforLIFE: Scottish Wildcat Action Phase 2 Wildcat recovery through threat mitigation and translocation	LIFE18 NAT/UK/000995	SWAforLIFE	https://savingwildcats.org.uk/	10/2019 -> 09/2025
LIFE in the Ravines: Restoration of ravine woodland in the Peak District Dales SAC to mitigate effects of Ash Dieback	LIFE19 NAT/UK/000147	LIFE in the Ravines	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-in-the-ravines	09/2020 -> 11/2025
Curlews in crisis emergency action to halt the decline of curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> in priority landscapes across the UK	LIFE19 NAT/UK/000844	LIFE curlew UK	https://curlewlife.org/	10/2020 -> 12/2024
LIFE on the edge: improving the condition and long-term resilience of key coastal SPAs in S, E and NW England)	LIFE19 NAT/UK/000964	LIFE on the edge	https://www.projectlote.life/	10/2020 -> 10/2024
Restoration of freshwater features in four SAC rivers in Wales: Afon Teifi, Afonydd Cleddau, Afon Tywi and River Usk	LIFE20 NAT/UK/000100	4 Rivers for LIFE	N/A	09/2021 -> 12/2026
Securing the resilience of Transition Mires and Quaking Bogs in Wales	LIFE20 NAT/UK/000137	LIFEquake	N/A	01/2022 -> 12/2026
Water And Disturbance Environmental Restoration on the Northumbrian coast	LIFE20 NAT/UK/000277	LIFE WADER	N/A	10/2021 -> 12/2026
Rathlin Acting For Tomorrow: Removing invasive non-native ferrets and rats from the Rathlin Island SPA, Northern Ireland	LIFE20 NAT/UK/000349	LIFE RAFT	N/A	09/2021 -> 12/2026
LIFE Moor Space: Connecting the Humberhead Levels	LIFE20 NAT/UK/000697	LIFE Moor Space	N/A	10/2021 -> 12/2026
Restoring and revitalising to ensure a more resilient River Kent and its species	LIFE20 NAT/UK/001013	LIFE R4ever Kent	N/A	10/2021 -> 01/2027
Biosecurity for LIFE: Safeguarding the UK's globally important seabird island SPAs from invasive alien species	LIFE17 GIE/UK/000572	Biosecurity for LIFE	https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/biosecurity-for-life/	08/2018 -> 07/2023

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Bio-based binder for furniture: Fibreboard production with microfibrillated cellulose (MFC) as binder	LIFE20 ENV/UK/000329	LIFE B3 FURN	N/A	11/2021-> 12/2024
Novel recycling process for the full range of post-consumer plastic waste feedstocks including black plastic	LIFE20 ENV/UK/000630	LIFE BOSS	N/A	09/2021-> 02/2025
Integrated water management approach to delivery of the North West England River basin management plan	LIFE14 IPE/UK/000027	LIFE-IP RBMP-NWRBD UK	https://naturalcourse.co.uk/	01/2015-> 03/2024