

LIFE Programme in Germany



Facts and figures

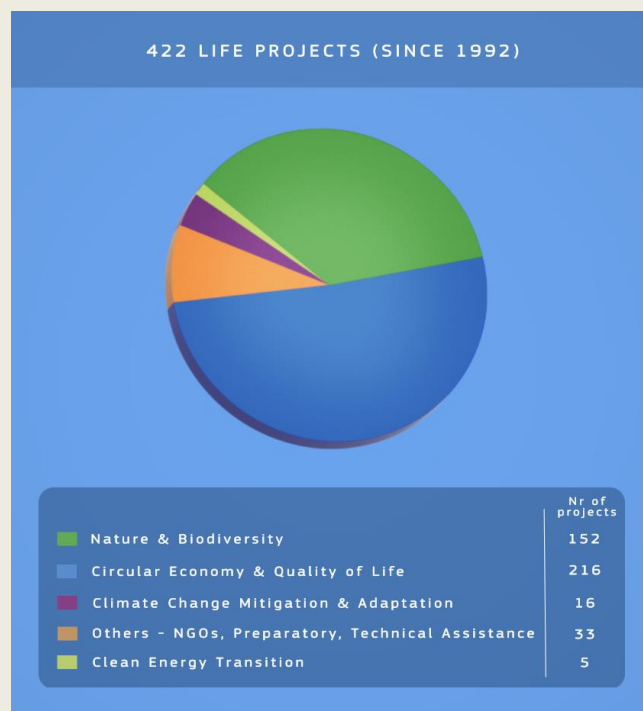
The LIFE Programme has funded 422 projects in Germany, over 317 coordinating beneficiaries, with total project costs of €1193 m, of which the EU contributed €524 m.

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) (**)



INVESTMENT IN LIFE PROJECTS IN GERMANY (€ million)		
	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	1193	524
Nature & Biodiversity	485.5	275
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	614.5	201
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	57	31
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	32	13.5
Clean Energy Transition	4	3.8

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

(**) The new CET sub-programme comprises mostly multi-country projects and all participants are included in the figures



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 climate neutral and resilient economy.

Strategic Integrated Climate Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promote coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation strand has co-financed 16 projects in Germany.

The closed projects under this strand: demonstrated that three of the most important farming systems in the EU (livestock, arable and permanent crops) can become more climate-resilient through the implementation of feasible and sustainable adaptation measures; optimised ecosystem services in vineyards by testing climate-adapted methods in viticulture; demonstrated that car companies are still undermining climate protection efforts, as there remains a gap between official and actual fuel consumption and greenhouse gas (CO₂ equivalent) emission figures; and reduced CO₂ emissions by restoring degraded peatlands.

There are 10 ongoing projects in Germany. The projects aim to: reduce CO₂ emissions by restoring degraded peatlands and provide guidelines for decision-makers and conservationists; develop a new technology that will create significant savings of primary energy and CO₂ emissions in energy-intensive industries and also eliminate the use of fluorinated gases; establish innovative approaches to cope with the effects of climate change at regional level, and create suitable conditions for climate change adaptation processes; support European companies and help them comply with existing reporting requirements, to deliver the EU Action Plan Financing Sustainable Growth, with a focus on climate and related environmental issues; build capacity in the equipment distribution chain and raise awareness among end-users relating to fluorinated gases; increase native biodiversity in vineyards to maximise related ecosystem services regarding pest control, soil biota, humification, erosion protection, water retention, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction; reduce the level of transportation of timber by promoting local supply chains; support implementation of the EU sustainable finance action plan and the Paris Agreement commitments; demonstrated integrated climate change adaptation into the work of local authorities; contributed to the goals of EU climate change mitigation (CCM) policy through the restoration of peatlands in Poland, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland; aim to balance the demand for renewable energy from hydropower with the good ecological functioning of rivers; and help businesses cope with climate stress.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Germany. The LIFE-IP ZENAPA project's objectives are summarised below.

The total investment for these project amounts to €57 million, of which the EU is contributing €31 million.

ZENAPA

Zero Emission Nature Protection Areas (LIFE-IP ZENAPA) **LIFE15 IPC/DE/000005**

The LIFE-IP ZENAPA project aims to work on the nexus between climate change mitigation and biodiversity protection and to establish viable economic solutions in nature protection areas and surrounding regions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with national and pan-European climate protection targets (CAP 2020 and CPP 2050). As well as seeking to achieve CO₂eq neutrality in the participating protected areas, the project aims to develop the potential of regions as incubators for wider uptake of the climate change mitigation and energy production measures, and new financing mechanisms demonstrated. The project beneficiary will work with 11 partners from Germany and Luxembourg. Around 90 model districts or villages will showcase the feasibility of the project.

[Project summary](#)



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.

To date Germany coordinates two projects co-funded under this strand. The CONFESS project's goal is to foster the growth of sustainable energy investments by establishing a harmonised certification scheme for clean energy SMEs, building on the framework of the EU taxonomy. The ENGAGE project aims to provide a solution based on a single data disclosure format for mortgage funding and regulatory purposes encompassing the most relevant European ESG regulations. The total investment of these projects amounts to €2 million, of which the EU contributes 95%.

Germany participates in 3 other CET projects, as follows: Geoenergie Konzept and Technische Universitaet Muenchen in project GEOBOOST; Adelphi Research Gemeinnützige GmbH, Climate Alliance - Klima-Buendnis - Alianza Del Clima e.V. and Iclei European Secretariat in project LIFE EUCE; and Bundesamt für Wirtschaft Und Ausfuhrkontrolle in project CAEPBD6. This represents a total budget of €2 million, of which the EU contributes 95%.



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 146 projects in Germany. These represent a total investment of €485.5 million, of which €275 million was contributed by the EU.

More than half of the completed projects targeted habitats such as wetlands, bogs, river landscapes, floodplains, pastures and forests (mainly in mountainous areas or alluvial forests), and grasslands (mountainous, coastal). The species targeted were freshwater mussel, allis shad, green club-tailed dragonfly, fire-bellied toad, common spadefoot toad, great bustard, black-tailed godwit, aquatic warbler, lesser spotted eagle, other wild birds, bats, and Carpathian lynx. The beneficiaries were mostly regional authorities, park authorities, NGOs and local authorities.

The completed Information & Communication/Environmental governance and information projects improved awareness and understanding among corporate decision-makers about the environmental impacts of business operations and about business opportunities in relation to biodiversity conservation; raised awareness and increased acceptance of the necessity of connecting forest habitats, through the creation of green corridors for mobile species such as the wildcat; and improved transboundary cooperation and population management of large carnivores in Europe .

There are 25 ongoing projects. The majority are focused on improving and restoring habitats such as grasslands, rivers and other watercourses, floodplains, bogs and mires, reedbeds, forests and cultural/natural landscapes. The species targeted include: corncrake, marsh fritillary and violet copper butterflies, black-tailed godwit, dunlin and ruff, meadow birds, marbled duck, amphibians, and thick shelled river mussel. Under the former environmental governance and information strand, the ongoing projects aim to improve the image of the Natura 2000 network through an extensive communication and information campaign in Bavaria; to boost biodiversity at the local level by making companies more aware of its importance; and to create insect-responsible sourcing regions in Germany.

Two Strategic Nature projects are ongoing in Germany. The LIFE IP Atlantic region DE project aims to implement the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 and achieve target 1 (Protect species and habitats) of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy for the Atlantic Biogeographical Region in Germany. The objectives of the most recently co-funded LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitat project are described in the box below.



Bringing wintering birds back to Europe's wetlands (LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats) LIFE19 IPE/DE/000004

The number of birds living in wetlands has declined dramatically across Europe. This is due to modern farming practices and land-use changes in the birds' wintering sites in West Africa. The LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats project will boost the breeding populations and reproduction rates of these birds in wet grasslands - in both Germany and the Netherlands. The project team also aims to increase the numbers of migrating birds returning.

[Project summary](#)



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 216 projects in Germany thus far, representing a total investment of €614.5 million, of which €201 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed Environment projects focused mainly on the areas of clean technologies and wastewater treatment. Other popular themes included water supply/protection and quality, site rehabilitation, reducing emissions and air pollution, eco-product design (ecological certification of products from sustainable marine aquaculture), the protection of nature and biodiversity in urban areas, forest management, agricultural waste, the treatment of hazardous substances (by facilitating the substitution of chemical substances); air pollution in the chemical industry; risk management (pollution control in groundwater); sludge treatment; groundwater protection; municipal waste; and integrated waste management and energy supply.

The completed Information & Communication/Environmental governance and information projects campaigned to reduce environmental pollution caused by vehicle air conditioning systems; raised awareness for the reduction of emissions from wood burning in Germany; sensitised environmental associations and people to participate in public consultation procedures to compile or revise air quality plans; developed a "Biodiversity Performance Tool" in the food chain; and reduce ammonia and methane emissions from agriculture. Most projects were implemented by SMEs and international enterprises, followed by local and regional authorities and research institutions.

There are 18 ongoing projects in Germany covering a variety of themes, including river basin management, water scarcity and water resource protection, wastewater treatment, energy efficiency and supply, waste reduction/use (circular economy)/recycling, eco-products, plastic waste, municipal waste recycling, forest and soil management, sustainable use of pesticides, agriculture, emission reduction in the maritime sector, as well as air pollution reduction. Ongoing Environmental governance and information projects seek to promote the implementation of the REACH Regulation and to improve consumer behaviour related to products that use harmful chemicals.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Germany under this strand. The Living River Lahn LIFE project's objectives are summarised below.



Living River Lahn - one river, many interests (Living River Lahn) **LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022**

The main objective of the Living River Lahn project is to achieve a good ecological status/potential of surface waters in the catchment area of the Lahn through a comprehensive, synergistic, multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach. Another overall objective for the catchment area of the Lahn is to elaborate a "Lahn-Concept", covering different thematic studies and an intensive dialogue with all stakeholders on how to manage the river as an inland waterway of minor importance for waterborne transport in combination with water-ecological and nature protection purposes.

[Project summary](#)

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

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
LIFE FLOODPLAIN AMPHIBIANS	LIFE14 NAT/DE/000171	LIFE Auenamphibien	http://www.life-auenamphibien.com	01/2016 → 12/2023
Improvement of habitats and population connectivity for endangered amphibians in the cityregion of Aachen	LIFE15 NAT/DE/000743	LIFE-Amphibienvverbund	http://www.bs-aachen.de/de/projekte/amphibienvverbund/	01/2017 → 12/2025
Protection of meadow birds in coastal areas of Vorpommern (Germany)	LIFE16 NAT/DE/000592	LIFE Limicodra	http://www.life-limicodra.de/	10/2017 → 09/2025
Management of yellow bellied toad and other amphibians in dynamic habitats	LIFE16 NAT/DE/000660	LIFE BOVAR	https://niedersachsen.nabu.de/tiere-und-pflanzen/aktionen-und-projekte/life-bovar/index.html	03/2018 → 03/2026
LIFE CONTINENTAL DRY GRASSLAND	LIFE17 NAT/DE/000187	LIFE Trockenrasen	https://www.life-trockenrasen.de/	01/2019 → 12/2026
Wetland restoration in the Rhine floodplain Emmericher Ward	LIFE17 NAT/DE/000458	LIFE Wetland Emmerich	http://www.life-rhein-emmerich.de	07/2018 → 12/2024
Promotion and recovery of reeds in the Natura 2000 area DE-4104-302 NSG Bienener Altrhein, Millinger und Hurler Meer	LIFE17 NAT/DE/000460	Reeds for LIFE	https://www.lebendige-roehrichte.de/	07/2018 → 12/2025
Tuff LIFE - Erhalt und Biotopverbesserung der Kalktuffquellen und der Bach-Oberlufe im Regionalforstamt Hochstift	LIFE17 NAT/DE/000497	Tuff LIFE	https://www.wald-und-holz.nrw.de/naturschutz/naturschutzprojekte-life/tuff-life	09/2018 → 08/2023
LIFE Restoration of structure and dynamic of the city of Augsburgs forest creeks and their reconnection to river Lech	LIFE18 NAT/DE/000132	LIFE Stadt - Wald – Bäche	https://www.augsburg.de/umwelt-soziales/umwelt/stadt-wald-baeche	10/2019 → 01/2027
Breeding and migratory low wetland meadow birds in North-Rhine – Westphalia	LIFE19 NAT/DE/000816	LIFE Wiesenvögel NRW	https://www.lanuv.nrw.de/life-wiesenvoegel-nrw	10/2020 → 12/2027
Promotion of Violet Copper (Lycaena helle) and Marsh Fritillary (Euphydryas aurinia) in the Northern Eifel (LIFE "helle Eifeltler")	LIFE19 NAT/DE/000871	LIFE "helle Eifeltler"	https://www.biostationeuskirchen.de/project/helleeifeltaeler/	01/2021 → 12/2027
Siegerland´s cultural and natural landscapes	LIFE20 NAT/DE/001504	LIFE 4 Siegerlandscapes	https://www.life4siegerlandscapes.de/	01/2022 → 12/2027
Erhalt und Wiederansiedlung der Bachmuschel (Unio crassus) in Fließgewässern Brandenburgs	LIFE21-NAT-DE-LIFE-Bachmuschel/101074141	LIFE Bachmuschel	N/A	01/2023 → 06/2032
Natura 2000 - the european nature network - seeing -	LIFE16 GIE/DE/0000012	LIFE living Natura 2000	https://www.anl.bayern.de/projekte/life_projekt/index.htm	07/2017 → 03/2024

understanding - experiencing - shaping it				
Bee- and Insect-Responsible Sourcing Regions	LIFE19 GIE/DE/000785	LIFE Responsible Sourcing	https://insect-responsible.org/en/irsr-home/	09/2020 → 10/2024
The exemplary implementation of the EU 2020 target with a focus on oligotrophic habitats on sand in the Atlantic region of Germany	LIFE15 IPE/DE/000007	Atlantic region DE	http://www.sandlandschaften.de	10/2016 → 09/2026
Conservation of wet grassland breeding bird habitats in the Atlantic Region	LIFE19 IPE/DE/000004	LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitat	https://www.grassbirdhabitat.eu/	11/2020 → 10/2030

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
CityRiver reconnecting town and river	LIFE18 ENV/DE/000332	LIFE CityRiver	https://www.donauwoerth.de/rathaus/aemterstabsstellen/stadtmarketing-cid/cityriver/	09/2019→ 08/2023
Sustainabilisation of forests and soils and valorisation of the achieved ecosystem services in the county of Landsberg	LIFE19 ENV/DE/000123	LIFE FutureForest	https://www.klimaschutz-landkreis-landsberg.de/termine-aktuelles/eu-waldumbauprojekt-future-forest/	09/2020→ 12/2023
Demonstration of the electricity production from waste heat by using an innovative Bipolymer material	LIFE19 ENV/DE/000456	LIFE BipolymerEngine	http://lifebipolymerengine.eu/	09/2020→ 08/2023
Pilot project for phosphorous recovery from incineration of sewage sludge using industrial symbiosis	LIFE19 ENV/DE/000509	LIFE Sludge2resource	https://www.mvkiel.de/klaerschlamm.html	09/2020→ 08/2024
Pilot for smart fertilising system with sensor, satellite and crop science to reduce nitrate and N-losses in agriculture	LIFE19 ENV/DE/000609	LIFE nutriCLOUD	https://www.agricon.de/nutricloud	09/2020→ 08/2023
From single-use plastics to LEGO bricks: Sustainably sourced ABS from recycled post-consumer polystyrene waste	LIFE19 ENV/DE/000652	LIFE ABSolutely Circular	https://absolutely-circular.com/	09/2020→ 08/2024
Facilitating Intermodal Transport to reduce air pollution and energy consumption of freight transport sector	LIFE19 ENV/DE/000712	LIFE FIT	https://www.rail-flow.com/facilitating-intermodal-transport/	11/2020→ 10/2023
Low energy chemo-thermal recycling of carbon fibre composites, a central step to a circular economy for CFRP products	LIFE20 ENV/DE/000312	LIFE CFCycle	https://www.v-carbon.com/v-carbon-life-project/	01/2022→ 06/2025
Demonstration of an agronomy-integrated see & spray technology for a more	LIFE20 ENV/DE/000650	LIFE SMART SPRAYER	N/A	10/2021→ 03/2025

sustainable use of pesticide in agriculture				
Fuel Cell and Methanol Reforming system for clean energy on board	LIFE21-ENV-DE-LIFE-OCEAN/101074503	LIFE OCEAN	N/A	08/2022--> 07/2025
Demonstration of commercial scale Lemna production in vertical farming and coupling with fish farming to foster circular economy and improve sustainability in relevant protein supply chains	LIFE21-ENV-DE-LIFE-LEMNERGY/101074517	LIFE LEMNERGY	N/A	01/2023--> 12/2025
Enabling REACH consumer information rights on chemicals in articles by IT-tools	LIFE16 GIE/DE/000738	LIFE AskREACH	https://www.askreach.eu/	09/2017--> 08/2023
LIFE Chemical Ambassadors for Europe	LIFE21-GIE-DE-LIFEChemBee/101074245	LIFEChemBee	N/A	10/2022--> 06/2026
Living River Lahn – one river, many interests	LIFE14 IPE/DE/000022	Living River Lahn	https://www.lila-livinglahn.de/	12/2015--> 11/2025

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Roll-out of innovative climate change adaptation processes in regional networks from North Rhine-Westphalia for Europe	LIFE18 CCA/DE/001105	LIFE Roll-outClimAdapt	https://evolvingregions.com/en/project/	07/2019 -> 06/2023
Sustainable Viticulture for Climate Change Adaptation	LIFE19 CCA/DE/001224	LIFE VineAdapt	https://www.life-vineadapt.eu	10/2020 -> 09/2027
Controlling Temperature and Oxygen in rivers with diversion plants	LIFE21-CCA-DE-CONTEMPO/101073824	CONTEMPO	N/A	09/2022 -> 08/2027
Establishing climate friendly processing chains to reduce carbon emissions and support the new green deal	LIFE20 CCM/DE/001665	LIFE climate value chains	https://www.climate-value-chains.com/	07/2021 -> 06/2024
Multi-stakeholder Landscape and Technical Innovation leading to Peatland Ecosystem Restoration	LIFE20 CCM/DE/001802	LIFE MULTI PEAT	https://en.nabu.de/news/2022/31014.html	10/2021 -> 09/2026
Refrigerants, Naturally! for LIFE	LIFE18 GIC/DE/001104	Ref. Nat! for LIFE	http://www.refrigerantsnaturally.com/	06/2019 -> 12/2022
Sustainable Finance Climate ACTION	LIFE18 GIC/DE/001209	LIFE FinACTION	https://www.cdsb.net/what-we-do/enhancing-nature-related-financial-disclosures-mainstream-reports-across-europe-	06/2019 -> 12/2022
Climate Banking - Paris Agreement Strategy & Taxonomy Assessment	LIFE20 GIC/DE/001765	LIFE CB-PASTAX	N/A	10/2021 -> 03/2024
Scientific Transition Risk Exercises for Stress tests & Scenario Analysis	LIFE21-GIC-DE-Stress/101074271	STRESS	N/A	10/2022 -> 09/2025
LIFE-IP ZENAPA	LIFE15 IPC/DE/000005	LIFE-IP ZENAPA	https://zenapa.de/	11/2016 -> 10/2024

Ongoing Clean Energy Transition projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Certification of clean energy SMEs	LIFE21-CET-MAINSTREAM-CONFESS/101077584	CONFESS	N/A	11/2022 -> 10/2025
Engage for ESG activation investments	LIFE21-CET-MAINSTREAM-ENGAGE/101075995	ENGAGE	N/A	11/2022 -> 10/2025
6th Concerted Action supporting Member States and participating countries in implementing the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	LIFE21-CET-CA-CAEPBD6/101102078	CAEPBD6	N/A	11/2022 -> 10/2027
Boosting geothermal heat pumps to mainstream cost-effective and efficient renewable heating and cooling in buildings	LIFE21-CET-POLICY-GEOBOOST/101077613	GEOBOOST	N/A	01/2023 -> 12/2025

