

Cyprus

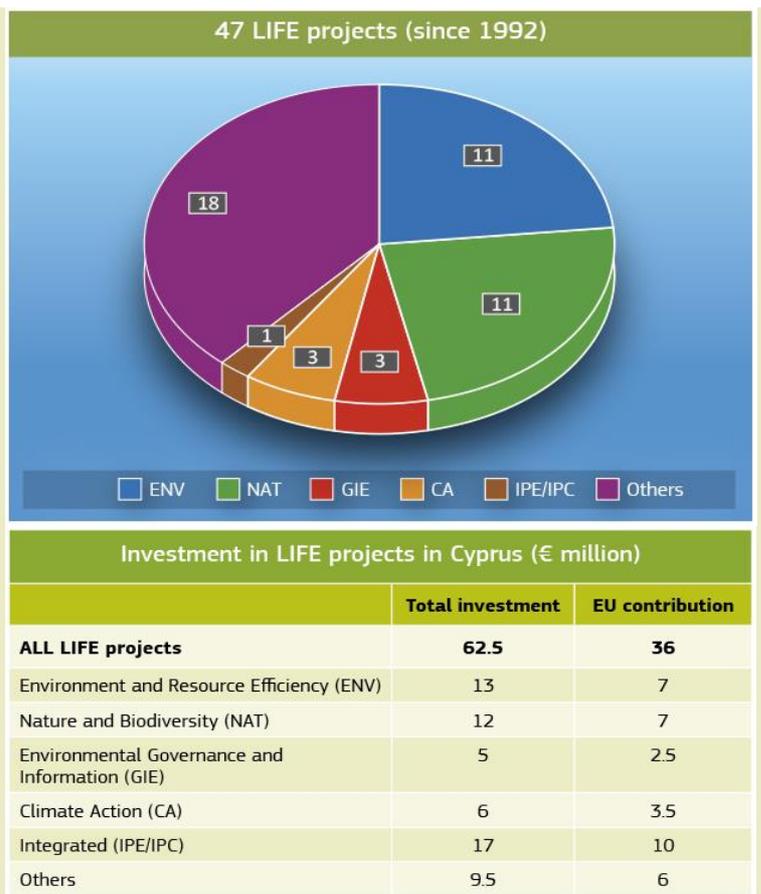
Overview



This document provides an overview of LIFE in Cyprus. It showcases key data and some of the latest LIFE projects.

You will also find contact details and other useful resources and a full list of current and recently-finished LIFE projects.

Every year calls for project proposals are launched covering the LIFE programme's priority areas.



ABOUT LIFE

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 4 500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising over €9 billion and contributing more than €4 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The budget for the LIFE programme for 2014–2020 is set at €3.4 billion in current prices, with a sub-programme for environment and a sub-programme for climate action.

Types of LIFE project:

- Traditional (Environment and Resource Efficiency; Nature and Biodiversity; Environmental Governance and Information; Climate Change Mitigation; Climate Change Adaptation; Climate Governance and Information).
- Integrated (Environment, Nature or Climate Action)
- Preparatory
- Capacity-building

Other types of LIFE funding:

- NGO operating grants
- Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)
- Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)

NCFF and PF4EE are joint initiatives with the European Investment Bank, which manages the two funds.

For more information visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/life/>

LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency

This LIFE priority area is aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to environmental challenges, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

To date, the LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency strand (formerly the LIFE Environment Policy and Governance component) has co-financed 11 projects in Cyprus, representing a total investment of €13 million, of which €7 million has been provided by the EU.

All projects are completed and they tackled the following issues: waste from electrical and electronic equipment; water quality improvement; wastewater treatment (namely in the wine sector); waste (use of quarry waste); climate change mitigation (impact assessment for the adoption of CO₂ emissions trading for maritime transport) and adaptation (increasing Cyprus' adaptive capacity to climate change impacts through the development of a National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, with the use of modelling); water (strengthening the scientific foundation of water quality programs); air quality monitoring (particulates monitoring, modelling and management); industrial waste (demonstrating an environmentally and financially sustainable procedure for the management and treatment of returned, expired dairy products); agricultural waste (developing, demonstrating and evaluating an integrated system for the treatment of livestock); and energy supply (pointing the way towards a more economically and environmentally sustainable electricity grid in Cyprus and Europe). The beneficiaries were universities, national authorities and a large enterprise. The projects had durations of between 30 and 44 months.

Presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Environment project in Cyprus. It was among the best projects awarded in 2019.



Smart net metering for promotion and cost-efficient grid-integration of PV technology in Cyprus (LIFE+ SmartPV) LIFE12 ENV/CY/000276

LIFE+ SmartPV successfully established a basis for the rolling out of smart metering and demand-side management in Cyprus. A network of 292 solar power 'prosumers' using smart meters and subject to dynamic tariffs was set up on the island. Between them they reduced carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 800 tonnes over the course of the project. The beneficiary calculated that full roll out of demand side management could cut CO₂ emissions by 0.375 tonnes for each MWh produced; with smart net metering this would increase to 0.417 tonnes per MWh produced. The impact would be further enhanced if an energy storage system was integrated into the decentralised network. The metering tool and data from the pilot solar network are being used by decision-makers in Cyprus to support the wider implementation of demand-side management systems.

As a result of this LIFE project, the competent authorities have updated the dynamic tariff model and extended it to all owners of solar panels in the country. The involvement of key competent authorities in the project implementation as associated beneficiaries was important to the success of the project and implies a positive long-term impact. Smart net metering can be replicated in other countries, especially when combined with domestic energy storage measures. The project showed the steps necessary to put similar schemes in place elsewhere, from engagement with power companies and competent authorities, to setting up the relevant tools and training the owners of solar panels on net metering, energy saving practices, and energy management.

The University of Cyprus is feeding the results of the LIFE+ SmartPV project into a collaborative study with the European Joint Research Centre that will be used to revise Cyprus's energy policy to increase renewables' share of the mix, in line with EU climate change mitigation goals. Knowledge gained from the project can also be used in the proposed Advanced Metering Infrastructure project, which aims to roll out smart metering across Cyprus.

For further information:
<http://www.smartpvproject.eu/>

LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

This LIFE priority area is aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to contribute to the development and implementation of nature and biodiversity policy and legislation, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 11 projects in Cyprus. These represent a total investment of €12 million, of which €7 million was contributed by the EU.

Completed LIFE Nature projects in Cyprus have: implemented conservation and protection measures in five Natura 2000 sites on the island; established a plant micro-reserve network in Cyprus for the conservation of priority species and habitats; improved the conservation status of fauna species in Cyprus; restored and managed the Oroklini Lake special protection area; improved the conservation status of the priority habitat type endemic forests with *Juniperus* spp.; promoted and enabled the long-term conservation of arborescent matorral with *Zyziphus* and gypsum steppes; and improved ecological conditions for selected bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive found in three Natura 2000 sites in Cyprus.

There are currently three projects running in Cyprus under the Nature and Biodiversity component. One project's objective is to maintain the priority habitat in the Koilada Kedron-Kampos Natura 2000 network site in good conservation status. Another project aims at preventing a lionfish invasion in the Mediterranean through early response and targeted removal. The most recently funded project's overall aim is to prevent the griffon vulture's extinction in Cyprus and then to improve its conservation status.

These projects are being implemented by the Cypriot Ministry of Agriculture, Rural development and the Environment, the University of Cyprus, and BirdLife Cyprus, over periods ranging from 42 to 48 months.

Presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Nature project in Cyprus.



Improving lowland forest habitats for Birds in Cyprus (LIFE-FOR BIRDS) LIFE13 NAT/CY/000176

The LIFE - FOR BIRDS project successfully improved the conservation status of 11 threatened bird species across three project sites in Cyprus, with some breeding species increasing by up to 7.1%.

The average number of bird trapping and killing incidents fell by 60% at the project sites, by restricting vehicle access, erecting warning signs and infrared cameras, intensifying patrolling, and increasing fines for illegal practices. To address the threats facing forest birds, the project team conducted a wide range of management actions, which included providing water, planting cereals and legumes, removing invasive species, installing nest boxes, and patrolling.

LIFE - FOR BIRDS brought about change in forest management policy in Cyprus, which now incorporates conservation measures for birds in Cypriot forests. It also prepared an integrated management plan for the Koshi site. The project's conservation actions comprise best practice examples that may be replicated in other state forests.

The project installed 200 artificial nests, sowed 39.5 square kilometres with cereals and legumes, and established 17 water bodies, two rainwater collecting aprons and some 400 metres of stone walls alongside the agricultural fields. A weir was constructed in Koshi, the driest part of the project areas.

The project team restored 10.2 ha of Annex I habitat types by removing alien species, planting over 5 000 native trees and shrubs, and allowing indigenous vegetation to grow back. They also created five traditional agricultural fields, with a total area of more than 5.5 square kilometres, to provide food, refuge, water and nesting places for birds. An extensive public awareness campaign disseminated information through the Internet, video spots, educational events, seminars, posters, newsletters and more.

For further information:
<http://www.lifeforbirds.eu>

LIFE Environmental Governance and Information

This priority area is aimed at raising awareness of environmental matters, supporting the communication, management and dissemination of environmental information, and promoting better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement.

To date, this strand (formerly the LIFE+ Information and Communication component) has co-financed three projects in Cyprus. This represents a total investment of €5 million, of which €2.4 million was provided by the EU. The project durations vary from 34 to 36 months.

Two projects are completed. The first project's objective was to halt biodiversity loss in Cyprus through a comprehensive and broad-based awareness-raising and communication campaign, utilising mass media, social media, events, training, seminars and networking meetings. The project beneficiary was Dias Publishing House, the largest and one of the oldest media groups in Cyprus.

The second project has promoted waste reduction, reuse and recycling in Cyprus. Through an awareness-raising campaign, based on an integrated communication strategy, the project informed, educated and motivated action in these areas. It was coordinated by the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation. Its results are described in more detail in the project box below.

The ongoing project aims to increase public awareness of the Troodos National Forest Park's natural values and the ecosystem services it provides. This site is one of the most visited Natura 2000 sites in Cyprus and one of the most important natural ecosystem and biodiversity hotspots on the island. It is coordinated over 36 months by the Department of Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Cyprus.



Awareness raising campaign for the promotion of waste Reduction, Re-use and Recycling in Cyprus (LIFE KNOW WASTE) LIFE13 INF/CY/000919

The LIFE KNOW WASTE project promoted the reduction - reuse - recycling (3R) of waste in Cyprus via an integrated communication strategy ("ReThink"), using TV, radio, printed press and educational activities. It mapped knowledge and awareness regarding the 3R concept before developing and launching a Reduce - Reuse - Recycle communication strategy and guidelines, to support the implementation of EU and Cypriot waste management policies.

The TV campaign was implemented, according to the communication strategy, involving the 5 major TV Stations of Cyprus. For this campaign, the project team produced 5 information spots of 30 seconds and 4 of 10-14 seconds; 10 education spots (each 5 minutes); a weekly TV programme (30 minutes); 3 documentaries (60 minutes); and 160 inserts in daytime shows and news bulletins.

Radio was another important media, with 5 radio spots of 30-60 seconds each, as well as a special radio opening/closing signal (5 seconds); radio programmes for the 1st (189 programmes) and 3rd channels (7 programmes) of CyBC; and inserts in informative shows and news bulletins.

The printed press and electronic media campaign was largely implemented by the Cyprus News Agency (CNA), exploiting its great journalistic experience, its large number of subscribers, and its wide range of contacts in all political and socio-economic levels. This campaign delivered: 76 interviews, 220 articles and 120 weekly newsletters, all in Greek, English and Turkish.

The social media campaign included the development and regular updating of a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Two digital interactive educational tools (app) were developed, one for mobile devices (Reconnect) and one for all electronic devices (ReDeco).

Five festivals took place in Nicosia and Limassol with approximately 35 000 participants. As part of the project's After LIFE communication plan, three additional festivals took place in October 2017, May 2018 and October 2018 and these were attended by approximately 21 000 people. Furthermore, a final conference was implemented the last days of the project duration.

As the three surveys (including a questionnaire, focus groups and interviews) implemented at the beginning, the middle and the end of the project revealed, 54% of Cypriot people had heard of it in June 2017, versus 29% in September 2016, while the percentage that stated that the campaign mobilised them to change their behaviour (e.g. purchasing practices taking into account environmental aspects, increasing reuse, exchanging or leasing goods, increasing recycling) increased in all categories between the two periods (September 2016 and June 2017). Furthermore, recycling rates increased in the years from 2013 to 2017 from 44% to 59%.

For further information:
<http://rethink.com.cy>

Sub-programme for Climate Action (LIFE 2014-2020)

LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and LIFE Climate Change Adaptation

The Climate Change Mitigation priority area is helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notably by contributing to the implementation and development of related policy and legislation, improving the knowledge base, developing integrated approaches, and developing and demonstrating innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments.

To date, the Climate Change Mitigation strand has co-financed one project in Cyprus. This project aimed to revamp organic farming and its products in the context of climate change mitigation strategies, but only achieved partial results. Its total investment amounted to almost €1 million, of which the EU provided nearly €0.6 million. The project was coordinated by the Cyprus University of Technology.

The Climate Change Adaptation priority area is supporting efforts to increase resilience to climate change, in particular by contributing to the implementation and development of related policy and legislation, improving the knowledge base, developing integrated approaches, and developing and demonstrating innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments.

The Climate Change Adaptation strand has co-financed two projects in Cyprus. The overall aim of the first project is to increase the resilience of municipalities to climate change by equipping them with a tool that supports their climate change adaptation planning. More details about the project can be found in the box below. Its results will be added in due course.

The second project's main goal is to demonstrate the feasibility and effectiveness of an adaptation strategy to Desert Dust Storms (DDS), and to better inform EU policy-making by providing field-based evidence for the adoption of a strategic plan for mitigating the health effects of DDS events in south-east Europe. The total investment of these two projects amounts to €5 million, with the EU contributing €3 million.



Climate Proofing Urban Municipalities (LIFE UrbanProof) LIFE16 CCA/CY/000086

The overall aim of the LIFE UrbanProof project is to increase the resilience of municipalities to climate change by equipping them with a tool that supports their climate change adaptation planning. This tool will: Provide insight into the expected changes in climate; enhance understanding of climate change impacts and the mechanisms defining vulnerability; enable the exploration and evaluation of available adaptation options; and provide guidance for monitoring the adaptation process.

The project will develop, implement and demonstrate an innovative and interactive decision support tool (UrbanProof toolkit) for urban adaptation planning, which will provide local decision-makers, stakeholders and target groups with access to visual information (maps and graphs) on climate change, vulnerability, adaptation and monitoring and which will guide them, step-by-step, through the whole adaptation process. It will seek to bridge the gap between scientific and local understanding of climate change by providing information on future climate changes at local level; to identify the impacts and evaluate the vulnerability to climate change of the partner municipalities (in Cyprus, Greece and Italy); to identify, evaluate and prioritise adaptation options and develop local adaptation strategies for the partner municipalities; to communicate climate change and its associated risks for the partner municipalities as well as the available options for addressing them by implementing, demonstrating and promoting green and soft adaptation measures in order to increase public awareness of climate change adaptation; to gain public acceptance and to ensure active participation and engagement of local stakeholders during the implementation of the adaptation strategy, and to promote continuity and economic sustainability of this strategy; and to promote the adoption of the proposed methodology and adaptation options to other municipalities in order to maximise transferability and replicability.

The project expects to: develop the UrbanProof toolkit; to produce a toolkit administrator guide and tutorial video; to evaluate the technical and economic viability of the toolkit; to identify and assess the likely impacts of climate change on the partner municipalities in Cyprus, Greece and Italy; and to develop local adaptation strategies for these municipalities. Another outcome would be the endorsement by the municipalities of these strategies (local council approval) and the implementation of green infrastructure projects in partner municipalities in Cyprus and Italy.

For further information:

<http://urbanproof.eu>

LIFE Integrated Projects for the Environment and Climate

This LIFE priority area is aimed at implementing on a large territorial scale (regional, multi-regional, national, trans-national) environmental or climate plans or strategies required by specific EU environmental or climate legislation, primarily in the areas of nature, water, waste, air and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Integrated Projects ensure the involvement of stakeholders and promote the coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other relevant EU, national or private funding source.

To date, one Integrated Project for the Environment has been co-financed in Cyprus.

The primary objective of LIFE IP PHYSIS is to achieve and/or maintain a favourable conservation status for species and habitat types of community importance in Cyprus, through actions throughout the Cypriot Natura 2000 network. The project represents a total budget of €17 million, of which the EU will contribute €10 million, and is coordinated by the Cypriot Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

Detailed objectives can be found in the box below.



Managing the NATURA 2000 network in Cyprus and Shaping a sustainable future (LIFE IP Physis) LIFE18 IPE/CY/000006

The LIFE IP Physis project's approach is to catalyse financial support from complementary funds and to ensure synergies between policy sectors for the purpose of Natura 2000 protection.

The project addresses all the weaknesses identified in the management of the Natura 2000 network in Cyprus, will fill knowledge gaps for species and habitats, improve the governance of the network, exploit ecosystem services and implement action and management plans for species and habitats.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- implement concrete conservation measures and apply legal instruments for habitats types and species of Community interest that are facing significant threats;
- develop management structures at a regional scale for the sites of the Natura 2000 network outside state forest land, so as to involve main stakeholders (land owners, users and local authorities);
- tackle the issue of private land management in the Natura 2000 network through innovative solutions;
- study and acquire the necessary knowledge on ecosystem services and their provisions at national and local scale;
- strengthen the coherence and connectivity between Natura 2000 network sites;
- provide a geospatially-oriented database system for the Natura 2000 network and a web-based GIS tool for governmental, professional, expert and public use;
- improve capacity, knowledge and awareness of key stakeholders, involved bodies, authorities and the general public with respect to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats directives and the Natura 2000 network; and
- disseminate the results of the project and ensure their transfer and replication by other stakeholders, nationally, regionally at the Mediterranean Biogeographical Region, and at EU level.

The expected result of the project is the implementation to the fullest extent possible of the Cypriot PAF 2014-2020 for Natura 2000 through both the project itself and the mobilisation of complementary funds. A total of 17 general priority measures and 42 general measures will be implemented within the framework of the project.

For further information:

<https://birdlifecyprus.org/news-details/conservation-science/LIFE-IP-Physis>

Find out more about LIFE and LIFE projects

Surf on the LIFE website

The LIFE website provides a wealth of information on the LIFE programme:
<http://ec.europa.eu/life/>



Search the LIFE projects database

For further information on LIFE projects in Cyprus or LIFE projects in general, please consult the online LIFE projects database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

This easy-to-use database is the authoritative source of information on all ongoing and completed LIFE projects. It also provides information on the beneficiaries, their contact details, and the projects' websites.



Search via social media



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www.flickr.com/photos/life_programme

Contact

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Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Quarry Resource Efficiency Demonstration Project (QuaResE)	LIFE11 ENV/CY/000859	http://www.quarese.com		06/2012→ 11/2014
Smart net metering for promotion and cost-efficient grid-integration of PV technology in Cyprus (LIFE+ SmartPV)	LIFE12 ENV/CY/000276	http://www.smartpvproject.eu/		07/2013→ 03/2017
Sustainable management of livestock waste for the removal/recovery of nutrients (LIFE LIVE-WASTE)	LIFE12 ENV/CY/000544	http://www.livewaste.org/		09/2013→ 08/2016

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Improving the conservation status of the priority habitat types *1520 and *5220 at the Rizoelia National Forest Park (LIFE-RIZOELIA)	LIFE12 NAT/CY/000758	http://www.life-rizoelia.eu		09/2013 → 02/2017
Improving lowland forest habitats for Birds in Cyprus (LIFE-FORBIRDS)	LIFE13 NAT/CY/000176	http://www.lifeforbirds.eu		10/2014 → 12/2017
To promote and enable the long term conservation of High Nature Value Farmlands in Cyprus (AgroLIFE)	LIFE13 BIO/CY/001114	http://agrolife.eu/		06/2014 →06//2017
Integrated conservation management of priority habitat type 9590* in the Natura 2000 site Koilada Kedron-Kampos (LIFE-KEDROS)	LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850	http://www.life-kedros.eu/		09/2016 →08/2020
Preventing a LIONfish invasion in the MEDiterranean through early response and targeted Removal (RELIONMED-LIFE)	LIFE16 NAT/CY/000832	http://relionmed.eu		09/2017 →09/2021
Saving Griffon Vultures in Cyprus through concrete conservation actions (LIFEWithVulturesCY)	LIFE18 NAT/CY/001018	https://birdlifecyprus.org/news-details/in-the-press/life-with-vultures-project-launch		07/2019 →07/2023

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Environmental Governance and Information projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Awareness raising campaign for the promotion of waste Reduction, Re-use and Recycling in Cyprus (LIFE KNOW WASTE)	LIFE13 INF/CY/000919	http://rethink.com.cy		06/2014 → 04/2017

Troodos National Forest Park: Promoting natural values and Ecosystem Services (LIFE-TROODOS)	LIFE16 GIE/CY/000709	http://ilifetroodos.eu/		10/2017 -> 09/2020
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Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and LIFE Climate Adaptation projects

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Revamping organic farming and its products in the context of climate change mitigation strategies (LIFE+ ORGANIKO)	LIFE14 CCM/CY/000990	http://organikolife.com		09/2015 -> 08/2019
Climate Proofing Urban Municipalities (LIFE UrbanProof)	LIFE15 CCA/CY/000086	http://urbanproof.eu		10/2016 -> 05/2020
Mitigating the Health Effects of Desert Dust Storms Using Exposure-Reduction Approaches (LIFE-MEDEA)	LIFE16 CCA/CY/000041	https://www.life-medea.eu		09/2017 -> 08/2021

Ongoing LIFE Integrated Projects

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Managing the NATURA 2000 network in Cyprus and Shaping a sustainable future (LIFE IP Physis)	LIFE18 IPE/CY/000006	https://birdlifecyprus.org/news-details/conservation-science/LIFE-IP-Physis		11/2019 -> 10/2029

Other ongoing projects

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
CYprus Capacity Building for life (CYCLamEn)	LIFE14 CAP/CY/000006	http://www.lifecyclamen.com.cy/		12/2015 -> 12/2019