

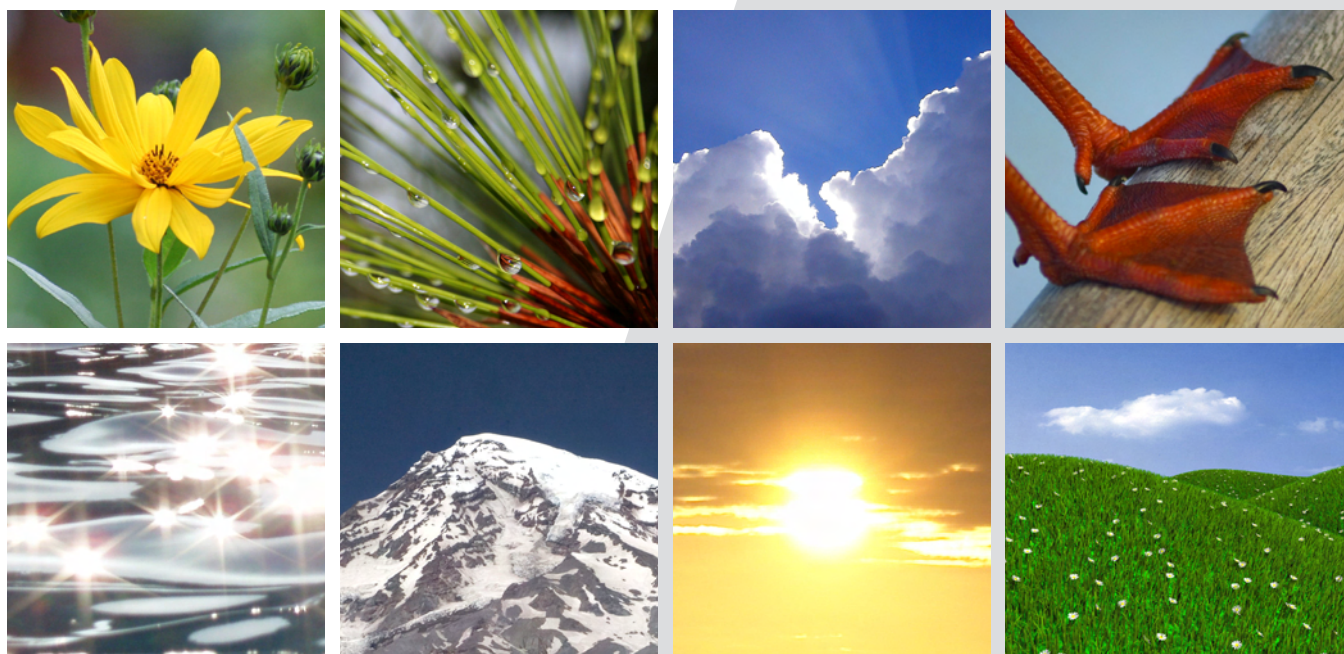
Directorate General Environment, Unit E.4. LIFE

Ex-Post Evaluation of Projects and Activities Financed under the LIFE Programme

Country-by-country analysis

Greece

July 2009



COWI

COWI A/S

Parallevej 2
DK-2800 Kongens Lyngby
Denmark

Tel +45 45 97 22 11

Fax +45 45 97 22 12

www.cowi.com

Directorate General Environment, Unit E.4.
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The views expressed are those of the Consultant and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission.

Table of Contents

1	Executive summary	2
2	Introduction	2
3	Environmental policy overview	2
4	Overview of LIFE projects in Greece	3
5	Effects of projects implemented	4
5.1	Results and impacts for Nature projects	4
5.2	Results and impacts for Environment projects	5
6	The effectiveness of projects	6
7	The sustainability of projects	6
8	The utility of projects	7

Table of Appendices

Appendix 1	Comprehensive overview of LIFE Projects in Greece
Appendix 2	Summary tables on LIFE Environment projects in Greece
Appendix 3	Summary tables on LIFE Nature projects in Greece

1 Executive summary

Greece has been involved in the LIFE Programme since its beginning in 1992. A total of 145 projects have received support since its commencement, 98 of which fall within the period covered by this evaluation (1996-2006). In this period, Greece had 34 LIFE Nature projects and 64 LIFE Environment projects.

Greek LIFE Nature projects have supported the increase in populations of endangered species and the rehabilitation of biotopes as well as awareness-raising of the public. The projects were relatively small and effective but were also subject to problems with local public management. The sustainability of LIFE Nature projects varied in Greece as a function of a political void on the local level.

LIFE Environment projects in Greece tended to be effective to a medium to high degree. Nevertheless, the sustainability of the projects was low as the projects did not in general generate long-term impacts after project termination. Moreover, the projects were not used strategically to feed into the political process and therefore the utility of the Environment projects is medium to low.

2 Introduction

This country report on the implementation of the LIFE Programme in Greece is part of the overall ex-post evaluation of the LIFE Programme. The evaluation was commissioned in July 2008 and covers all LIFE projects initiated in the period 1996-2006. The overall objective of the evaluation is to assess the relevance and impact of the activities and projects financed under the LIFE Programme. The evaluation comprises country studies in all Member States except Bulgaria, which has never had any LIFE projects during the study period. This report documents the analysis carried out concerning the implementation of the LIFE Programme in Greece. The ex-post evaluation focuses on assessing the effect of the LIFE Programme on Europe's nature and environment through looking at results and impacts of LIFE projects implemented under the Nature (NAT) and Environment (ENV) components. The results and impacts have further been assessed along three main evaluation criteria:

- Effectiveness, i.e. the extent to which planned objectives have been reached;
- Sustainability, i.e. the extent to which positive impacts have continued or are likely to continue;
- Utility, i.e. the extent to which impacts address key environmental needs and priorities in the EU and for the stakeholders concerned.

3 Environmental policy overview

Since the 1990s, Greece has undergone significant economic reform. It has benefited from the generally good environmental conditions in the country (i.e. in exploitation of natural resources or tourism) but also exacerbated the pressure on the environment.

Environmental policy in Greece over the past few years has been necessary in order to respond to the country's most acute environmental problems (such as forest fires and waste disposal) while at the same time, address the pressures on the environment exerted by a high desire for economic growth. Greece is currently struggling to address some of its commitments related to climate change and GHG emissions. Air quality in urban areas exhibits high concentrations of NO_x, ozone and particulate matter. Most atmospheric pollution is attributed to the increasing number of private cars and the environmental

pollution associated with energy generation is also significant. The illegal discharge of industrial effluent has led to the contamination of groundwater with heavy metals.

Solid waste management remains a priority as Greece still fails to comply with EC legislation on waste management (the rehabilitation or closure of illegal dumps). Over the period 1990 – 2003, waste generation presented a continuous increase, from 0.82 kg/person/day to 1.19 kg/person/day, remaining however below the EU-15 average (1.5 kg/person/day).¹ Nevertheless, the management of solid waste is one of the most important environmental problems that Greece faces in the last decades. From a total of 3,038 dump sites, currently or previously in operation in Greece, decisions for closure have been issued for 2055 sites, whereas 1871 sites have been earmarked for rehabilitation.

Greece ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2004. Up to the end of 2006, 19.1 per cent of the land surface (a 2.5 per cent increase since 2002) and 5.5 per cent of the territorial waters of Greece was included in the Natura 2000 ecological Network. Reportedly, 27 Management Bodies have been established² to ensure proper management of the areas covered by these Bodies. To date 87 sites are covered by a Management Body, corresponding to the 25 per cent of the number of Natura 2000 sites³ and covering an area of 1 million ha. Forests and forest areas cover 58 per cent of the area of the Natura 2000 Network, a fact that depicts their importance for Greek biodiversity. The total area of legally designated sites has doubled (from 2.6 per cent of the Greek land surface in 2002, to 4.9 per cent in 2006), but in several areas degradation phenomena are being observed. Finally in 25th October 2007 Greece was condemned by the ECJ (case 334/04) for the insufficient designation of SPAs⁴ and thus failing to fulfil its obligations under Article 4(1) and (2) of Directive 79/409. The NATURA 2000 Barometer also shows that the country's progress in implementing both directives (Habitats and Birds directives) is incomplete⁵.

4 Overview of LIFE projects in Greece

During the period 1996 to 2006, the LIFE Programme co-financed 98 projects in Greece, namely 34 Nature projects and 64 Environment projects. A full overview table of the projects is provided in Appendix 1. Appendices 2 and 3 provide some summary tables and background information.

The **LIFE Environment** projects co-financed by the LIFE Programme covered a wide range of issues including waste- and water-management, the development of (i) eco-management tools, and (ii) environmentally friendly technology. The typical types of beneficiaries were local authorities (incl. development agencies) and universities which accounted for 34 projects in total.

The **LIFE Nature** projects co-financed by the LIFE Programme during 1996-2006 covered a significant and varied number of actions relating to the practical implementation of Natura 2000 (management plans and action plans) enriching the knowledge base for species and their protection. LIFE Nature supported the increase in populations of endangered species and the rehabilitation of biotopes as well as awareness-raising of the public. The beneficiaries were to a large extent Greek NGOs, universities and research centres accounting for 68 per cent of projects.

1 MEPPPW, 4th National Communication to the UNFCCCChange, March 2006

2 General Inspector of Public Administration «Annual Report 2006». Athens: May 2007.

3 http://www.wwf.gr/images/stories/Seminar_natura/tryfon_greek_per_cent20natura_per_cent20network.pdf

4 <http://curia.europa.eu/en/content/juris/c2.htm>

5 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/nat2000news/nat22_en.pdf

Table 4.1 Overview of LIFE projects 1996-2006 in Greece

	Number of projects	Total LIFE contribution (million EUR)	Main themes covered ⁶	Average LIFE contribution per project (million EUR)	Average project duration (years)
Environment	64	36.4	Strategic Approaches (30%) Natural resources and waste (23%)	0.6	3.5
Nature	34	31.6	Habitats (67,7%)	0.9	4.1

Source: BUTLER

5 Effects of projects implemented

5.1 Results and impacts for Nature projects

LIFE Nature financing has been essential to Greece as there is little financing of bundled activities aimed at the implementation of legislation in nature conservation⁷. In Greece 151 areas of special protection are classified according to the Birds Directive, representing 10 per cent of the total country territory (compared to an average 8.9 per cent of EU 15). In 2006, 122 species and 83 biotopes fulfilled requirements to be funded by LIFE in Greece. Amongst them were at least 15 species of birds covered by Greek LIFE projects and beneficiaries were mainly Greek NGOs.

Distribution of funding for endangered species in Greece followed international distribution, i.e. megafauna/large animals attracted the largest funds but this entailed related protection of other animals and plants in the same habitat. About 30 per cent of projects were targeted at four species of national importance: the brown bear (*Ursus Arctus*); *Carretta Caretta*; *Monachus Monachus* and *Gypaetus Barbatus*.

More than 80 studies were produced but only two of these were integrated into public legislation and policy (National Parks of Pindos and Sporades Marine Park). From the 239 Natura 2000 sites in Greece, only nine have legal protection status. After completion of the LIFE Nature projects there was often no follow up nor was monitoring ensured by the competent authorities. This is linked to a general lack of application of nature conservation legislation and related enforcement mechanisms. Some key species such as *Caretta caretta* and *Monachus monachus* are monitored by the independent NGOs active locally. In special sites (Prespa, Dadia) where there exist locally based conservation protection organisations and established cooperation with scientists, the protection measures continued beyond the LIFE projects. Those projects enjoying continuity of funding were related to the main target species: the brown bear, monk seal, bearded vulture and sea turtle.

⁶ For the purpose of this evaluation, the LIFE projects were categorised according to the thematic structure of the LIFE+ Programme (ref. Regulation EC No. 614/2007, Annex II). The themes included for LIFE Nature: Habitat Directive, Birds Directive and Biodiversity. For LIFE Environment: Climate change, air, water, soil, forests, natural resources and waste, chemicals, urban environment, strategic approaches.

⁷ The Structural Environment Funds such as EPPER were also related to Nature Conservation and the Ministry of Agriculture commits funds which relate specifically Agri-Environment measures.)

LIFE has generally led to an enriched knowledge base about species and habitats, providing considerable findings which are a prerequisite for future management. Scientific knowledge has increased overall through LIFE project funding. For example, in the case of the protection of the falcons habitat, the implementation of LIFE projects actually led to the identification of nearly triple the population of falcons (*Falco eleonore*) compared to before LIFE Nature funding.

Regarding rehabilitation actions efforts have been partially successful and been an important input to future management. For example, in the case of forest rehabilitation, the Vai forest saw the palm forest area doubled (from 16 to 32 ha) thus closely achieving the foreseen target. Information and awareness-raising is another successful dimension of LIFE implemented in all projects in Greece. Large amounts of information have been widely disseminated through a variety of tools which has resulted in a high profile for Natura 2000. This has made a significant contribution to reducing potential conflicts, particularly conflicts of interest with local interests groups. The professionalism of many NGOs has helped to improve the capacity of local authorities to better manage Natura 2000 sites, and led to a more effective implementation of legislation.

LIFE projects have generally led to targeted, organised, flexible and financially effective actions in the field of nature conservation. However, it usually depended on the particular LIFE beneficiary whether or not they chose to continue to work on their own, which again depended on the ability to find additional funding.

5.2 Results and impacts for Environment projects

Environment projects tend to be innovative for Greek standards but not necessarily compared to those of the EU (and especially the Northern European countries), and they also tend to achieve their objectives. The majority of projects fall into three main categories: (i) strategic approaches, (ii) natural resources and waste, and (iii) water. Soil, Air and urban environment make up the less representative categories for Environment projects in Greece. For those Environment projects taking a strategic approach, (which make up the largest category of projects: 19 out of 64 Environment projects), the impact from the project results are often limited as they often end with the life of the project. There is little push towards implementing legislation. This is partly due to the fact that they do not address and are not fed into national strategy development. The combination of active beneficiaries and good cooperation between partners has led to follow-up projects being adopted and implemented. When looking at the potential impact of projects on environmental management at country level the timing as well as the choice of partnership is very important. Project themes tend to follow an *ad hoc* distribution which might be partly due to the fact that there is no prioritisation of environmental problems at national level and the environmental sector includes a varied and diverse category of themes. Where LIFE Environment project results have had an impact on national policy development, this was more a question of lucky timing, as in the case of the LIFE projects on the recycling of electronic wastes (WEE directive). There is generally little effort by competent authorities towards making use of LIFE project results for implementing legislation, policy development or large scale commercialisation.

The impact of international cooperation on Greek Environment projects has been significant with transfer of technical know-how and expertise from other Member States such as Germany (Asbestos mine project) and Austria (humification project and Climate Alliance project respectively).

Amongst the most successful LIFE projects in terms of their outputs and impact were those providing cooperation schemes between private and public entities, common planning and decision making - these were innovative for small communities in less densely populated areas in Greece. Where local

development agencies have been involved as partners (as in the case for Anatoliki in Thessaloniki or Polygiros in Halkidiki) projects tend to be more effective, integrated into the local setting and reflecting a real need.

6 The effectiveness of projects

Effectiveness can be assessed at two levels: The project level, which compares achievements with project objectives, and at the programme level, which compares achievements with LIFE Programme objectives⁸. The project level effectiveness of LIFE Nature and LIFE Environment in Greece can be considered high, with LIFE Nature projects being comparatively more effective than LIFE Environment projects in general. Effectiveness at the Programme level is by far more effective for LIFE Nature projects. This is partly due to the fact that there is a clear link to the Programme level requirements, i.e. meeting obligations under the Birds and Habitat Directives and due to competent, independent beneficiaries, such as NGOs that have previous LIFE experience and solid local knowledge. As there is still no cadastre in Greece, there is no support from land owners so there is a general reluctance towards implementation of nature projects. Beneficiaries need to buy land (as in the case of the sea turtle habitat, Sekania, in Zakynthos) and Natura 2000 sites are mainly being located on public land. For Nature projects, the legislation requiring implemented is very specific and is limited in size.

In general, there is a greater failure rate in Environment projects which also tend to have less impact than Nature projects. Results are often formalistic and small scale or targeted on the development of a prototype as the final objective. Besides timing and effective choice of partners, a good understanding of the local conditions and a local presence is important for effectiveness of project implementation and the potential for longer term impact. The existence of dedicated municipal development agencies is valuable as they have scientific staff, know-how and political knowledge of the local setting. The very academic projects have a tendency to be less successful as they have no practical application and do not involve key stakeholders such as the private sector. Environment project related to EMAS and composting have been generally inefficient and often lack applicability.

7 The sustainability of projects

Lessons learnt from the implementation and potential sustainability of LIFE projects in Greece does not lead to optimistic conclusions. This is not due to the beneficiaries (NGOs and research institutions) who are often dedicated and active in meeting their project objectives but the fact that actions tend to fall into a policy and strategy void as there are no plans for follow-up actions. The projects are carried out in increasingly difficult conditions with little co-financing support from government authorities. While LIFE projects aim to create innovative actions for long term implementation within an overall national environmental policy, the Greek policy context is not conducive to fulfil these latter conditions and obligations.

There are no institutional mechanisms for knowledge transfer from the information derived from LIFE projects to the competent authorities and no associated database within the Ministry of Environment which is accessible to other competent authorities responsible for the diverse environmental themes.

⁸ Specific objective for: LIFE Nature: To contribute to the implementation of Council Directive 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); LIFE Environment: To contribute to the development of innovative and integrated techniques and methods and to the further development of Community environmental policy.

Local level authorities are often not aware of their obligations and responsibilities, are understaffed, insufficiently trained and under-funded.

In respect to **LIFE Nature** the factors favouring sustainability of projects include the presence of an active NGO often before project starts, during the project and after the end of LIFE through independent funding. The NGOs are active and professional beneficiaries with access to a maximum of local knowledge and therefore gain acceptability by key local stakeholders. Ideally, the successful implementation of Nature projects also requires an active mayor, representing a respected authority in the local context with related responsibilities for other sectors. An example of such a figure is in the case of the Amelioration and conservation of Rouva's Forest on Idi Mountain in Crete (99/NAT/GR/006497). Other examples include the Botanical gardens and the "Reserve wet project on artificial features of wetlands.

Concerning **LIFE Environment** projects, sustainability of LIFE projects was scored very low by all stakeholders. In the main, this is due to the lack of follow-up by national authorities and a lack of local presence after the project. Factors that favour effectiveness are a good local community involvement, the political will to address a problem and the appropriate technical solution proposed with respect to the Greek market context. There are a number of very elaborate technically approaches which are not easily marketable in Greece. EMAS projects in Greece have generally been the least sustainable, (cost-benefit and applicability was judged as low by monitors) with the exception of the EMAS project managed by the beneficiary from the University of Macedonia. An example of a more sustainable project was the Demonstration plant for sludge management of sewage treatment plants with humification (LIFE02 ENV/GR/000371). This was a clearly designed project with practical, energy efficient solutions, excellent results, a good link to policy development and comprehensive dissemination activities.

8 The utility of projects

LIFE projects in Greece have contributed to addressing EU environmental problems and priorities by clearly meeting the criteria for project selection, There are, however, at national level, no official priorities but a list of all potential conservation and environmental issues.

LIFE Nature

Nature projects in Greece have contributed to addressing EU environmental problems and priorities by clearly meeting the criteria for project selection (the two EU nature conservation directives are clearly targeted). Stakeholders all agree on the importance of the role of LIFE as a financing instrument, without which there would be no comprehensive approach to nature protection development in Greece given that LIFE allows for bundled conservation activities.

NGOs are very active and generally achieve tangible results and sustainable outputs. Public services are often obstacles and their resistance can slow down or hamper project results. The Ministry does not support activities in general. For Nature projects the active NGOs have developed good international cooperation networks throughout their projects which have led to follow-up projects and high awareness raising among the population (examples include the vultures network with the Balkan neighbours in the WWF-Dadia project, also MOM on monk-seals and the protection of the brown bear in the Balkans).

LIFE Environment

Environment Projects are generally more limited in achieving viable results which are “translated” into national policy/legislation except in cases where timing has been favourable such as the project on ecological recycling of electronic waste where the results were adopted by the government.

The LIFE programme is not used strategically in order to implement national priorities. Projects generally appear to be ad-hoc and do not follow priority guidelines but follow an impromptu bottom-up distribution of themes. The government does not have a possibility to assess the project results systematically (interview with national focal point) as the focal point is not informed of project results and results are therefore not integrated into policy or strategy development. Waste management is one of the most urgent environmental problems reflected in a variety of projects ranging from olive mills waste to computer and organic waste projects but again there is no systematic follow up of results and recommendations by the government competent authorities. LIFE provides the little opportunity there is in Greece for development of innovative environmental technology and awareness raising activities relating to the array of environmental themes.

International cooperation does play a central role in Environment projects due to the transfer of technical know-how provided, as in the case of the Asbestos mine project where German experts were involved, the humification project with Austrian input, and Climate Alliance with Austrian expertise.

Appendix 1 Comprehensive overview of LIFE Projects in Greece

In connection with the ex-post evaluation, data was extracted from the BUTLER database of the LIFE Unit. Table 1 and Table 2 below provide an overview of the information available on each project as well as the LIFE+ theme attached by the evaluation team to the project. The budget figures for LIFE co-financing do not necessarily correspond to the actual payments made.

Table 2 Overview of LIFE Environment Projects in Greece

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE96 ENV/GR/000535	Integrated approach for solving the problem of liquid hydrocarbons present in the Hellenic Aspropyrgos refinery (HAR) water table	LIFE II	1996	1996	2000	1,441,823	719,423	Public enterprise	No	Water
LIFE96 ENV/GR/000537	Programme for Integrated Coastal Area Management in Cyclades (PICAMCY)	LIFE II	1996	1997	2000	570,446	279,105	University	No	Soil
LIFE96 ENV/GR/000559	The pilot implementation of Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS: E.U Regulation 1836/93) in the Municipalities of middle-sized urban cities and specifically in the Municipalities of Volos, Larissa and Patras	LIFE II	1996	1997	1999	357,149	171,630	Local authority	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE96 ENV/GR/000564	Concerted Actions for the Management of the Strymonikos Coastal Zone	LIFE II	1996	1997	2000	758,657	370,929	Research institutions	No	Soil
LIFE96 ENV/GR/000580	Information, Concertation, Conditions for the Sustainable Development	LIFE II	1996	1997	2001	952,473	446,157	Local authority	No	Soil

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE96 ENV/GR/000586	Inventory and evaluation of the current situation of Blast-Cleaning-Coating operations in Greece	LIFE II	1996	1997	2000	1,025,149	483,639	Research institutions	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE97 ENV/GR/000351	Local Authority and Citizen: an interactive system of information flow on waste management and a pilot project for the collection of hazardous household wastes	LIFE II	1997	1997	2000	370,145	166,349	Development agency	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE97 ENV/GR/000366	Partnership in Sustainable Tourism on Kefalonia and Ithaca.	LIFE II	1997	1997	2001	1,225,518	585,951	Local authority	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE97 ENV/GR/000372	Model for the Integrated Management of the Encampment of Unsheltered Nomad Gypsies in Suburban Areas of Greek Cities: Pilot Application in the Municipality of Menemeni (ENVIROM)	LIFE II	1997	1997	2000	392,549	128,775	Local authority	No	Urban environment
LIFE97 ENV/GR/000380	Demonstration to plant trees - forest zone creation on the west rocky egaleo mountain above the town of Perama.	LIFE II	1997	1997	2001	1,506,365	666,615	Local authority	No	Soil
LIFE97 ENV/GR/000382	Implementation of local environmental policy in the residential development	LIFE II	1997	1997	1999	1,723,384	721,830	Local authority	No	Urban environment
LIFE97 ENV/GR/000384	An innovative system promoting the introduction of clean technologies in Industry	LIFE II	1997	1998	2001	676,167	321,105		Yes	Strategic Approaches

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE97 ENV/GR/000387	Application of air pollution methods and incorporation of the results into land use planning of Kavala region	LIFE II	1997	1997	2001	393,187	196,593	Regional authority	No	Air
LIFE98 ENV/GR/000211	Development and adjustment to the Mediterranean conditions of an integrated system for waste collection and recycling	LIFE II	1998	1998	2002	1,293,257	608,969	Local authority	Yes	Natural resources and waste
LIFE98 ENV/GR/000212	An integrated groundwater treatment and management policy in regions affected by high fluorine, boron, uranium, radon and arsenic, N. Greece	LIFE II	1998	1998	2001	1,936,191	968,096	Local authority	No	Water
LIFE98 ENV/GR/000218	Development of a demonstration plasma gasification/vitrification unit for the treatment of hazardous waste.	LIFE II	1998	1998	2003	1,229,475	614,738	University	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE98 ENV/GR/000234	A Resource Exchange Programme For River Potamos	LIFE II	1998	1998	2002	596,148	259,691	Development agency	No	Water
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000525	HYMETTUS. Innovative management of the suburban space with integration of environmental considerations into the various fields of activity and promotion of sustainable urban development.	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	1,404,552	603,914	Public enterprise	No	Urban environment
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000528	Green drachma : an innovative approach for waste recycling and environmental public awareness.	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	870,501	390,341	NGO-Foundation	No	Natural resources and waste

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000539	Solar photocatalytic treatment of landfill leachate	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	313,750	155,029	Local authority	No	Water
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000547	Innovative management of the suburban area 'Kastrominas' of the municipality of Chios	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	1,093,839	370,435	Local authority	No	Urban environment
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000550	Enhanced management of industrial wastes received at the Ano Liosia landfill.	LIFE II	1999	1999	2004	1,661,027	761,612		No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000555	The Eco-island Vision - Cooperation for Sustainable Development.	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	467,395	232,159	Local authority	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000557	Actions for the promotion of integrated coastal zone management in the catchment areas and estuaries of two rivers - the case of Kalamas (Greece) and Lynher (UK).	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	796,774	371,908	Regional authority	No	Soil
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000567	Demonstration and large scale application of the new magnetic method 'cleanmag' for the clean-up of waterborne oil spills.	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	1,999,385	920,947	Research institutions	No	Water
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000582	Pollution reduction & sustainable management in the wine producing industry	LIFE II	1999	1999	2004	778,591	297,016	Public enterprise	No	Water

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000590	Wastewater Reuse-Guideline development. Pilot artificial re-charging of aquifers through direct injection and irrigation, for seawater intrusion control within the framework of integrated and sustainable water management	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	1,474,008	664,411	Mixt enterprise	No	Water
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000592	Integrated information system for monitoring environmental emergencies of high probability of occurrence in the Mediterranean.	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	1,232,851	516,090	Research institutions	No	Water
LIFE99 ENV/GR/000600	Local authority and business : promoting voluntary environmental agreements	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	397,109	196,017	Local authority	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE00 ENV/GR/000671	Process development for an integrated olive oil mill waste management recovering natural antioxidants and producing organic fertilizer	LIFE II	2000	2001	2004	1,239,213	608,561	University	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE00 ENV/GR/000685	Mediterranean reservoirs and wetlands. A demonstration of multiple - objective management in the island of Crete	LIFE II	2000	2001	2006	1,703,497	848,017	University	No	Water
LIFE00 ENV/GR/000688	Sustainable Management of E-waste in Greece	LIFE II	2000	2001	2004	918,873	446,400	NGO-Foundation	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE00 ENV/GR/000722	Green Games and Local Authorities	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	832,800	414,818	Development agency	No	Strategic Approaches

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE00 ENV/GR/000723	Establishment, operation and demonstration of an innovative closed-cycle system of oil milling waste water using the Fenton method in Sitia-Crete, and reuse of treated water and by-products in agriculture	LIFE II	2000	2001	2004	527,548	1		No	Water
LIFE00 ENV/GR/000739	Management of earthquake construction and demolition waste in the municipality of Ano Liosia	LIFE II	2000	2002	2003	2,403,575	984,138	Development agency	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE00 ENV/GR/000751	ICZM: Demonstration actions in the National Marine Park of Zakynthos	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	1,437,693	638,336	Park-Reserve authority	No	Soil
LIFE02 ENV/GR/000359		LIFE III	2002	2002	2005	1,272,992	570,000	Research institutions	No	Air
LIFE02 ENV/GR/000360	Innovative collection system and Life Cycle Assessment for waste lube oils	LIFE III	2002	2002	2006	3,109,443	730,753	SME	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE02 ENV/GR/000362	Climate Alliance for Mediterranean Cities	LIFE III	2002	2002	2006	892,942	441,728	Local authority	No	Air
LIFE02 ENV/GR/000363	Development and implementation of eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) in educational institution	LIFE III	2002	2002	2005	1,089,575	487,300	University	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE02 ENV/GR/000371	Demonstration plant for sludge management of sewage treatment plants with humification	LIFE III	2002	2003	2005	1,800,195	743,109	International enterprise	No	Natural resources and waste

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE02 ENV/GR/000373	Development of a Pilot Separate Collection and Management Scheme in Crete for Batteries and Accumulators	LIFE III	2002	2002	2007	966,199	456,790	Regional authority	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE02 ENV/GR/000392	Partnership for Greening Cultural Events in Archaeological Areas	LIFE III	2002	2002	2005	810,599	404,300	Development agency	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000204	Introduction and Promotion of the ECO-LABEL to the greek textile industry (ECO-TEXTILE)	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	1,150,000	543,900	NGO-Foundation	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000205	Promotion and Implementation of Systems for the Production of High Quality Compost from Biodegradable Household Waste separated at Source	LIFE III	2003	2003	2006	1,131,470	565,735	University	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000213	Rehabilitation of abandoned bauxite surface mines using alumina red mud as filler	LIFE III	2003	2003	2006	1,910,000	750,000	International enterprise	No	Soil
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000214	Utilisation of MABE Asbestos Mine as a Disposal Site for Asbestos Wastes	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	4,290,537	2,140,269	Local authority	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000217	Ecosystem Based Water Resources Management to Minimize Environmental Impacts from Agriculture Using State of the Art Modelling Tools in Strymonas Basin	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	1,090,183	531,505	NGO-Foundation	No	Water

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000219	Applying European Emissions Trading & Renewable energy support mechanisms in the Greek electricity sector	LIFE III	2003	2003	2006	1,834,000	917,000	Intergovernmental body	No	Air
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000221	Greening Public Procurement in Mediterranean Local Authorities	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	791,408	391,635	Public enterprise	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000223	Development of an economically viable process for the integrated management via utilization of winemaking industry waste; production of high added value natural products and organic fertilizer	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	1,316,423	645,086	University	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE03 ENV/GR/000229	Environmental Help Line on Waste Minimization and Demo Best Practice Projects	LIFE III	2003	2003	2006	1,169,006	544,378	Public enterprise	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE04 ENV/GR/000099	Development and implementation of integrated water resources management policy to a river basin, through the application of a social wide local agreement, based on the principles of Agenda	LIFE III	2004	2004	2008	1,403,235	687,618	Development agency	No	Water
LIFE04 ENV/GR/000110	Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) as a decision support tool (DST) for the eco-production of olive oil.	LIFE III	2004	2004	2007	839,575	419,787	University	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE04 ENV/GR/000114	EMAS and Information Technology in Hospitals	LIFE III	2004	2004	2007	621,322	305,332	Public enterprise	No	Strategic Approaches

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE04 ENV/GR/000129	Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Multi-dimensional Protected Areas	LIFE III	2004	2004	2008	790,949	377,896	Development agency	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE04 ENV/GR/000137	Enhancing transferability of innovative techniques, tools, methods and mechanisms to implement "sustainable building" in the Mediterranean region	LIFE III	2004	2004	2007	3,219,961	1,381,980	Development agency	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE04 ENV/GR/000138	Integrated Product Policy in the Telecommunication Sector	LIFE III	2004	2004	2008	1,286,550	355,744	International enterprise	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE04 ENV/GR/000145	Promoting sustainable Development in the Region of Halkidiki through Concerted Pilot Actions on Integrated Product Policy Tools	LIFE III	2004	2004	2007	1,324,500	662,250	Development agency	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE05 ENV/GR/000214	SATELLITE-ASSISTED MANAGEMENT OF AIR QUALITY	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	1,916,480	939,990	University	No	Air
LIFE05 ENV/GR/000235	Sustainable Construction in Public and Private Works through IPP approach	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	1,110,540	555,110	University	No	Strategic Approaches
LIFE05 ENV/GR/000242	Collaborative Environmental Regeneration of Port-Cities: Elefsina Bay 2020	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	1,921,600	751,425	Public enterprise	No	Urban environment
LIFE05 ENV/GR/000245	Environmental Friendly Technologies for Rural Development	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	2,193,875	1,096,210	Local authority	No	Soil
LIFE06 ENV/GR/000375	Developing green products in the financial sector and reducing environmental impact of bank services	LIFE III Extension	2006	2006	2010	2,021,073	932,336	International enterprise	No	Strategic Approaches

Table 3 Overview of LIFE Nature Projects in Greece

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	Directive (Birds, Habitats) or biodiversity
LIFE96 NAT/GR/003217	Conservation of Phalacrocorax pygmaeus and Anser erythropus in Greece	LIFE II	1996	1997	2000	1,088,800	816,600	NGO-Foundation	No	Birds
LIFE96 NAT/GR/003221	Conservation actions for Larus audouinii in Greece	LIFE II	1996	1997	2000	659,879	494,909	NGO-Foundation	No	Birds
LIFE96 NAT/GR/003222	Conservation of Ursus arctos and its habitats in Greece (2nd phase)	LIFE II	1996	1997	2000	3,335,801	2,335,061	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE96 NAT/GR/003225	The Mediterranean monk seal in Greece: Conservation in action	LIFE II	1996	1997	2000	1,319,757	989,818	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE97 NAT/GR/004243	Conservation and management actions in special protected areas in Greece	LIFE II	1997	1998	2002	2,742,136	1,782,389	Research institutions	No	Birds
LIFE97 NAT/GR/004247	Implementation of management plan for Pylos Lagoon and Evrotas Delta	LIFE II	1997	1997	2001	1,513,418	1,059,394	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE97 NAT/GR/004249	Conservation of Canis lupus and its habitats in Central Greece	LIFE II	1997	1998	2002	1,085,278	542,639	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE98 NAT/GR/005262	Application of Management Plan for Caretta caretta in southern Kyparissia Bay	LIFE II	1998	1998	2002	616,817	431,772	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE98 NAT/GR/005264	Conservation measures for the Palm Forest of Vai, Greece	LIFE II	1998	1999	2003	1,067,675	768,726	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE98 NAT/GR/005276	Conservation of Gypaetus barbatus in Greece	LIFE II	1998	1998	2002	1,383,815	968,671	Research institutions	No	Birds
LIFE98 NAT/GR/005279	Conservation measures for the endangered fish Ladigesocypris ghigi	LIFE II	1998	1999	2004	833,537	625,153	Research institutions	No	Habitats

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	Directive (Birds, Habitats) or biodiversity
LIFE99 NAT/GR/006475	Conservation management of Amvrakikos wetlands	LIFE II	1999	1999	2004	2,234,852	1,676,139	Development agency	No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/GR/006480	Implementation of management actions for Tavropos Lake area in Greece	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	569,242	444,173	Development agency	No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/GR/006481	Conservation and management of Mainalo Mountain	LIFE II	1999	2000	2004	1,418,516	709,258		No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/GR/006497	Amelioration and conservation of Rouva's Forest on Idi Mountain	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	351,339	175,669	Local authority	No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/GR/006498	Implementation of Management Plans in Gramos and Rodopi Areas, Greece	LIFE II	1999	2000	2003	1,912,226	1,147,336	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/GR/006499	Actions for the protection of the calcareous fens	LIFE II	1999	1999	2004	651,874	636,539	Research institutions	No	Habitats
LIFE00 NAT/GR/007198	Restoration and conservation management of Drana lagoon in Evros Delta	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	2,086,533	1,251,920	Development agency	No	Habitats
LIFE00 NAT/GR/007242	Conservation management of Cheimaditida-Zazari wetlands	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	1,477,006	886,204		No	Habitats
LIFE00 NAT/GR/007248	The Monk Seal : conservation actions in two Greek NATURA 2000 sites	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	1,498,178	898,907		No	Habitats
LIFE02 NAT/GR/008489	Habitat Management and Raptor Conservation in Nestos Delta and Gorge	LIFE III	2002	2002	2007	1,248,000	936,000		No	Birds
LIFE02 NAT/GR/008491	Conservation management in Strofylia-Kotychi	LIFE III	2002	2002	2007	2,017,908	1,513,431	Development agency	No	Habitats
LIFE02 NAT/GR/008492	Conservation actions for Gypaetus barbatus and biodiversity in Crete	LIFE III	2002	2002	2006	2,286,108	1,371,665	University	No	Birds

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	Directive (Birds, Habitats) or biodiversity
LIFE02 NAT/GR/008494	Conservation of priority bird species in Lake Mikri Prespa, Greece	LIFE III	2002	2002	2007	1,863,471	1,118,083	NGO-Foundation	No	Birds
LIFE02 NAT/GR/008497	Conservation of birds of prey in the Dadia Forest Reserve, Greece	LIFE III	2002	2002	2006	1,566,345	939,807	NGO-Foundation	No	Birds
LIFE02 NAT/GR/008500	Reduction of mortality of Caretta caretta in the Greek seas	LIFE III	2002	2002	2006	1,476,600	885,960	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE03 NAT/GR/000089	Conservation actions in the Northern Pindos National Park	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	1,102,850	661,710	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE03 NAT/GR/000091	Conservation measures of Falco eleonora in Greece	LIFE III	2003	2003	2008	1,160,370	870,278	NGO-Foundation	No	Birds
LIFE03 NAT/GR/000092	Implementation of management measures at the Agras wetland	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	843,500	506,100	Local authority	No	Habitats
LIFE03 NAT/GR/000093	Rehabilitation of Coppice Quercus frainetto woods (9280) and Quercus ilex woods (9340) to high forest	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	1,942,100	971,050	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE04 NAT/GR/000101	Conservation management of an Island SPA	LIFE III	2004	2004	2008	824,212	618,159	Local authority	No	Birds
LIFE04 NAT/GR/000104	A pilot network of plant micro-reserves in Western Crete	LIFE III	2004	2004	2008	931,650	698,738	Research institutions	No	Habitats
LIFE04 NAT/GR/000105	Actions for the conservation of Mediterranean temporary ponds in Crete	LIFE III	2004	2004	2009	1,275,000	956,250	Research institutions	No	Habitats
LIFE05 NAT/GR/000083	Monk seal & fisheries: Mitigating the conflict in Greek seas	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	1,564,735	938,841	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats

Appendix 2 Summary tables on LIFE Environment projects in Greece

Table 4 Overview of LIFE ENV projects in Greece by year, 1996-2006

Generation	Year	Number of projects	Total budget (EUR million)	Total LIFE co-financing budget (EUR million)	Average duration (years)	Average LIFE funding per project (EUR million)
LIFE II	1996	6	5.1	2.5	3.2	0.4
	1997	7	6.3	2.8	3.3	0.4
	1998	4	5.1	2.5	4.0	0.6
	1999	12	12.5	5.5	3.8	0.5
	Total	29	28.9	13.2	3.6	0.5
LIFE III	2000	7	9.1	3.9	3.3	0.6
	2002	7	9.9	3.8	3.4	0.5
	2003	9	14.7	7.0	3.6	0.8
	2004	7	9.5	4.2	3.4	0.6
	Total	30	43	19	3.4	0.6
LIFE III extension	2005	4	7.1	3.3	4.0	0.8
	2006	1	2.0	0.9	4.0	0.9
	Total	5	9.2	4.3	4.0	0.9
Grand total		64	81.3	36.5	3.5	0.6
Comparative figures for all ENV projects		1,076	1,947.7	615.9	3.3	0.6

Table 5 Overview of LIFE ENV projects in Greece 1996-2006 by theme

LIFE+ theme	No. of projects	In % of total	Total budget (EUR million)	In % of total	LIFE contribution (EUR million)	In % of total
Climate change	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Air	5	8%	6.3	8%	3.1	8%
Water	12	19%	14.5	18%	6.6	18%
Soil	8	13%	10.1	12%	4.6	13%
Forests	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Natural resources and waste	15	23%	23.5	29%	10.2	28%
Chemicals	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Urban environment	5	8%	6.5	8%	2.6	7%
Strategic approaches	19	30%	20.3	25%	9.4	26%
Total	64	100%	81.3	100%	36.5	100%

Table 6 Greece LIFE ENV projects 1996-2006 according to beneficiary type

Beneficiary type	No. of projects	In % of total	Total budget (EUR million)	In % of total	LIFE contribution (EUR million)	In % of total
Public entities						
National authority	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Regional authority	3	5%	2.2	3%	1.0	3%
Local authority	15	23%	19.0	23%	8.9	24%
Development agency	9	14%	11.8	14%	5.3	15%
Intergovernmental body	1	2%	1.8	2%	0.9	3%
Park-reserve authority	1	2%	1.4	2%	0.6	2%
Sub-total	29	45%	36.2	45%	16.8	46%
Public and private enterprises						
International enterprise	4	6%	7.0	9%	2.8	8%
Large enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
SME Small and medium sized enterprise	1	2%	1.5	2%	0.7	2%
Mixed enterprise	7	11%	8.1	10%	3.6	10%
Public enterprise	1	2%	3.1	4%	0.7	2%
Sub-total	13	20%	19.7	24%	7.8	21%
NGOs and research						
NGO-Foundation	4	6%	4.0	5%	1.9	5%
Research institutions	5	8%	6.3	8%	2.9	8%
University	10	16%	12.1	15%	6.0	16%
Training centre	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Sub-total	19	30%	22.5	28%	10.7	29%
None indicated	3	5%	2.9	4%	1.1	3%
Total	64	100%	81.3	100%	36.5	100%

Appendix 3 Summary tables on LIFE Nature projects in Greece

Table 7 Overview of LIFE NAT projects in Greece, 1996-2006

Generation	Year	Number of projects	Total budget (EUR million)	Total LIFE co-financing budget (EUR million)	Average duration (years)	Average LIFE funding per project (EUR million)
LIFE II	1996	4	6.4	4.6	3.0	1.2
	1997	3	5.3	3.4	4.0	1.1
	1998	4	3.9	2.8	4.3	0.7
	1999	6	7.1	4.8	4.0	0.8
	Total	17	22.8	15.6	3.8	0.9
LIFE III	2000	3	5.1	3.0	4.0	1.0
	2002	6	10.5	6.8	4.5	1.1
	2003	4	5.0	3.0	4.3	0.8
	2004	3	3.0	2.3	4.3	0.8
	Total	16	24	15	4.3	0.9
LIFE III extension	2005	1	1.6	0.9	4.0	0.9
	2006	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	1	1.6	0.9	4.0	0.9
Grand total		34	47.9	31.6	4.1	0.9
Comparative figures for all NAT projects		771	1,224.1	637.2	4.2	0.8

Table 8 Categories of LIFE NAT projects in Greece, 1996-2006

LIFE NAT themes	No. of projects	In % of total	Total budget (EUR million)	In % of total	LIFE contribution (EUR million)	In % of total
Habitats Directive	24	71%	33.1	69%	21.7	69%
Birds Directive	10	29%	14.8	31%	9.9	31%
Biodiversity projects	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Total	34	100%	47.9	100%	31.6	100%

Table 9 Greece LIFE NAT projects 1996-2006 according to beneficiary type

Beneficiary type	No. of projects	In % of total	Total budget (EUR million)	In % of total	LIFE contribution (EUR million)	In % of total
Public entities						
National authority	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Regional authority	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Local authority	3	9%	2.0	4%	1.3	4%
Development agency	4	12%	6.9	14%	4.9	15%
Intergovernmental body	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Park-reserve authority	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Sub-total	7	21%	8.9	19%	6.2	20%
Public and private enterprises						
International enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Large enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
SME Small and medium sized enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Mixed enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Public enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Sub-total	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
NGOs and research						
NGO-Foundation	16	47%	23.3	49%	15.0	47%
Research institutions	6	18%	7.8	16%	5.7	18%
University	1	3%	2.3	5%	1.4	4%
Training centre	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Sub-total	23	68%	33.4	70%	22.0	70%
None indicated	4	12%	5.6	12%	3.4	11%
Total	34	100%	47.9	100%	31.6	100%

Annex 1 Background information:

LIFE NATURE projects:

Rehabilitation actions: efforts have been partially successful and provide important input to future management.

Forest rehabilitation: Vai: totally protected area of 38ha, target reached by 83%, therefore doubled surface protected.

Information, awareness raising is additional dimension of LIFE implemented in all projects in Greece. Large amount of information diffused through variety of tools with wide diffusion of image of Natura 2000 image and have contributed to reduce potential conflicts (conflict of interest with local interests groups).

Capacity building: Professionalism of many NGOs improved capacity of local authorities to better manage Natura 2000 sites, and implementation of legislation. Amongst the most innovative LIFE projects were those providing cooperation schemes between private and public entities, common planning and decision making- these were innovative for small communities in less densely populated areas in Greece. LIFE projects often created basis for important coalitions allowing extension or complementary action through other funds (Intereg..).

CONCLUSIONS:

Some key species such as caretta caretta and monachus will be monitored by financially strong NGOs independent. In special sites (Prespa, Vadia) where there are locally based organisations cooperation with scientists- the protection measures will continue.

- Without LIFE nature conservation in Greece would be inexistent as basic source of funding of targeted projects for biodiversity.

- Without LIFE condition of some species (bear, falk and eagle) would be worsened irreversibly.

- All actions of nature conservation would be carried out in absence of competent authorities of Ministry of Environment as they are almost always absent.

- Even if NGOs, research institutions and public authorities have benefited from LIFE (experience and knowledge) the main competent authorities have not benefited at all from this knowledge and experience.

- LIFE projects have been the oasis of targeted, organised, flexible and financially effective actions for nature conservation. It depends now only on LIFE beneficiaries if they desire to continue work on their own and if they are capable of finding follow-up funding. All those who have cooperated in LIFE should be able to bring the issues onto the political agenda with the aim of reversing the current situation which is characterised by indifference towards the valuable resource of nature in Greece.

LIFE Nature projects that are related to the target species of brown bear, monk seal, bearded vulture and the sea turtle have shown a high degree of sustainability and follow-up actions.