

Lithuania

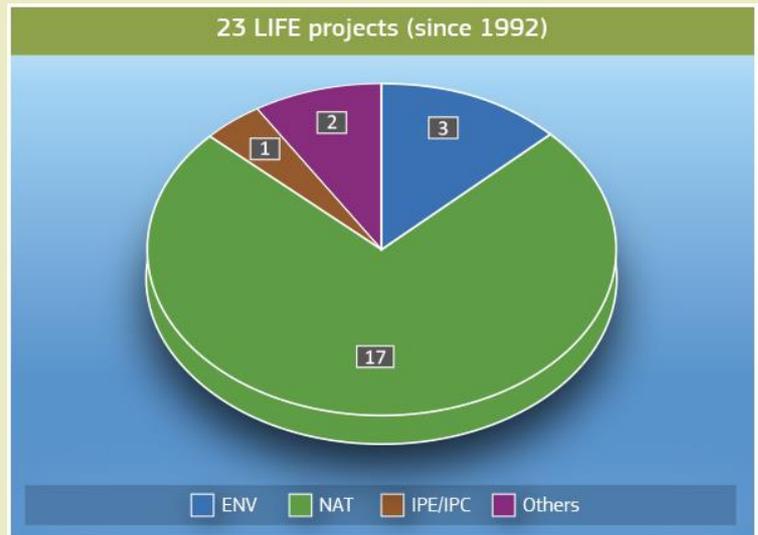


Overview

This document provides an overview of LIFE in Lithuania. 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.



Investment in LIFE projects in Lithuania (€ million)

	Total investment	EU contribution
ALL LIFE projects	61.5	43
Environment and Resource Efficiency (ENV)	10.5	6
Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)	33	16
Integrated (IPE/IPC)	17	20
Others	0.9	0.7

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 (NCF)
- Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE)

NCF 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

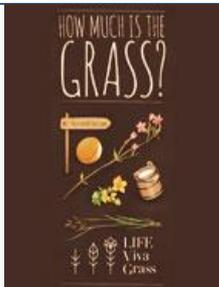
This LIFE priority area is aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to environmental challenges, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

To date, the LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency strand (formerly the LIFE Environment Policy and Governance component) has co-financed three projects in Lithuania, representing a total investment of €10.5 million, of which €6 million has been provided by the EU.

The closed LIFE Viva Grass project aimed to contribute to the improvement of land-use and nature conservation policies and to the legal framework for the long-term maintenance of grasslands' biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide (see results in the box below).

There are two ongoing projects in Lithuania. The NutriBiomass4LIFE project will create and demonstrate a full-scale self-sustainable closed-loop circular economy model for nutrient-rich waste recycling for Vilnius. The AlgaeService for LIFE project will test two prototype algae and cyanobacteria harvesting machines in real-world conditions on rivers, lakes and the Curonian Lagoon.

These above-mentioned projects are implemented by an NGO, a SME and a research institution, respectively, over an average period of 60 months.



Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands (LIFE Viva Grass) LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189

Grassland ecosystems provide multiple benefits for society, which cannot directly be quantified in monetary terms. However, the concept of ecosystem services (ES) does allow the identification and assessment of the benefits of nature to people. The LIFE Viva Grass project aimed to help semi-natural grasslands becoming 'economically-viable'. It promoted understanding of the multi-functionality of grasslands as ecosystems, of the multiple benefits they provide as well as trade-off possibilities deriving from the ecosystem services approach. The project developed an integrated planning tool that performs an analysis of ES supply, by showing areas (fields) with very low or very high level of ES supply.

At the two pilot farms, grassland management plans were developed, taking into account the owner's business vision, MAES (Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services) results and recommendations provided by the planning tool. Economic benefits were related to provision of ES services (meat products, production of biomass) whereas the farmers could also receive other economic benefits if the payment for ES would be included into the CAP beyond 2020.

Cesis Municipality has direct economic (monetary) benefits from the project as the restored 30 ha of grassland has been rented to local farmers. The local farmers have to maintain the land cover and manage the land according to the project recommendations, but they also gain additional productive agricultural land that will deliver provisional ES in the long term (biomass, meat and milk products). Similarly, local farmers benefit in Dubysa Regional Park, where they will manage the restored land and expand their farming business. Meanwhile, the park administration will save financial resources not needed to maintain the large grassland areas.

In Silute Municipality, the prepared field guide 'Birding in Lithuania: Nemunas delta region' aimed to promote the tourism sector in the area. Bird watching is one of the cultural ecosystem services which delivers economic and social benefits to people near bird sites. The survey results showed that 60% of foreign tourists in this area were encouraged by the published guide book to visit Nemunas delta area. Tourists will provide direct benefits for the local economy through catering, merchandising activities and will stimulate investments in improving the local infrastructure.

The restoration activities of the project have directly increased the values of the sites for people. The restored grasslands in Pavilniai Regional Park encouraged the park administration to establish a new tourist path that goes through the restored grasslands. The path has become widely known and often visited by people as it is located very close to Vilnius city centre. This has increased the supply of several cultural ecosystem services and provided long-term benefit from active physical use for recreational and nature educational purposes.

For further information:
<http://vivagrass.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.

The LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 17 projects in Lithuania so far. These represent a total investment of €33 million, of which €20 million was contributed by the EU.

The completed projects achieved the following results: restoring favourable conditions to secure the survival of a number of threatened Lithuanian coastal habitats and species; ensuring the favourable conservation status of the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*) in the North European lowlands; conserving the white stork, the bittern and other breeding bird species; and the aquatic warbler; restoring the natural hydrological and ecological functions of the Amalvas and Žuvintas wetlands, in order to achieve a favourable conservation status for the bog, swamp, wood and lake habitats of these proposed Sites of Community Importance; creating an ecological network in southern Lithuania; protecting the nesting sites of at least 10% of Lithuania's lesser spotted eagle population (more than 200 pairs) from direct destruction and the indirect effects of timber harvesting; compiling inventories of marine species and habitats in the water off the Lithuanian Exclusive Economic Zone; restoring and maintaining the favourable conservation status of the active raised bog habitat within the Aukstumales Telmological Reserve; restoring the Amalva, Kamanos and Tyruliai bogs. One biodiversity project improved the conservation status of migratory, wintering and some breeding bird species in Lithuania, through a reduction in the negative impact of high voltage overhead electricity transmission lines. Apart from two projects implemented respectively by Klaipeda University and Salantu National Park, the beneficiaries were NGOs. The projects had durations of between 36 and 60 months.

There are four ongoing projects in Lithuania. Their objectives include: to develop a cross-border Lithuania-Latvia ecological network plan and identify the functional ecological network for the beetle and other saproxylic invertebrates (dependent on dead or decaying wood); to restore degraded habitats of the aquatic warbler in Lithuania, as well as in parts of Belarus; to improve the conservation status - to favourable - of the common tern and little tern breeding populations in Lithuania; and providing a climate resilient network of critical sites for the lesser white-fronted goose in Europe. These projects are being implemented by NGOs and an intergovernmental body (Baltic Environmental Forum). They have foreseen durations of between 54 and 79 months.

The project presented in the box below is an example of a successful LIFE Nature project in Lithuania.



Installation of the bird protection measures on the high voltage electricity transmission grid in Lithuania (LIFE Birds on Electrogrid) LIFE13 BIO/LT/001303

Seeking to prevent disruptions of high voltage overhead electricity transmission lines due to collisions and electrocution caused by birds, the project implemented measures to impede birds (white stork, in particular) perching on support structures above insulators. For this purpose, wishbone type bird flight diverters were installed, and saucer type casings above insulators supporting wires were erected that helped to disperse abundant droppings of large birds causing electrocution. Seeking to reduce the threat of bird collisions with electricity transmission lines, visibility measures - special spirals and pendant type wire markers - were installed on existing overhead lines.

The project succeeded in improving the conservation status of the migratory, wintering and other bird species, by supporting breeding populations of common kestrel and other falcon species through the reduction of the negative impacts of high voltage overhead electricity transmission lines.

Specifically, the project:

- Installed 6 464 'spiral' type wire markers on 93.9 km of high voltage power lines;
- Installed 2 890 high visibility markers on 31.2 km of electricity lines;
- Installed 1 1032 'wishbone' and 7 075 'saucer' type bird protection measures on pylons;
- Erected 580 nesting boxes for falcons.

The most important monitoring results of bird deaths show that:

- Annual toll of up to 45 000 bird deaths caused by collisions with the high voltage electricity lines occur;
- Annual toll of 11.1 bird deaths per 1 km of high voltage overhead electricity lines where visibility increasing measures are not installed;
- Annual toll of up to 3.6 bird deaths per 1 km of high voltage overhead electricity lines where the visibility increasing measures are installed;
- Bird deaths reduced from 1.2 to 4 times beneath the electricity line segments with different bird protection measures installed;
- As a result of the implemented protection measures 1 374 bird deaths are avoided annually on 123 km length of the high voltage overhead electricity lines;
- 254 bird victims (112 mute swans in Nemunas river, Kaunas, 142 birds of different species in other places) were found caused by collision with the wires.

For further information:
<http://www.birds-electrogrid.it>

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 has been co-financed in Lithuania. This represents a total budget of €17 million, of which the EU will contribute 60%. In order to optimise the functionality of the Natura 2000 network, Lithuania has elaborated a Prioritised Action Framework (PAF), i.e. a planning tool that aims to integrate financing for the Natura 2000 network into EU financial instruments to 2020. The LIFE-IP PAF-NATURALIT project will focus on implementing the PAF, which covers the entire Natura 2000 network in Lithuania. Meanwhile, demonstration activities will be implemented in selected regions representing different geographical and natural conditions: the Žemaitija, Dzūkija and Aukštaitija natural parks, Labanoras regional park and Čepkeliai nature reserve. The project is coordinated by the Environmental Projects Management Agency (EPMA), part of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, over a 10-year period, starting January 2018. Detailed objectives of this project are described in the box below.



Optimising the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania (PAF-NATURALIT)

LIFE16 IPE/LT/000016

The PAF-NATURALIT project aims to improve the current Natura 2000 network management system in Lithuania, to ensure favourable conservation status of targeted habitats and species. Specifically, the project aims to positively change the conservation status of at least 18 habitat types of Community interest (33% of all habitat types nationally reported under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive); improve the conservation status of at least 19 species of Community interest (19% of all species nationally reported); and improve population trends of at least 23 bird species (11% of all bird species reported under Article 12 of the Birds Directive).

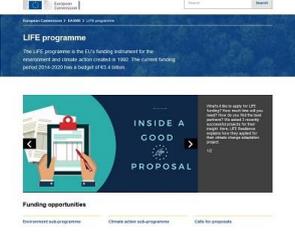
The expected results of the project include:

- Conservation status determined for 27 species;
- SMART conservation objectives and measures proposed;
- Endorsed favourable reference values for 101 species of Community interest and national-level conservation objectives for those species and 54 habitats;
- Approved site-level objectives for at least 410 SCIs and for 84 SPAs;
- At least 5 new protected areas established;
- At least 100 ha of land in Natura 2000 sites purchased for management;
- At least 50 conservation agreements signed with private land owners and users;
- Revised and accelerated nature management planning process;
- Conservation measures provided for c. 20 Natura 2000 network sites and 50 previously adopted nature management plans revised;
- Improved institutional capacity for the implementation of the PAF;
- Nature conservation measures integrated into the Rural Development Programme, along with innovative agri-environmental measures (implemented on approximately 300 ha);
- Nature conservation management planning integrated into forest management planning procedures and guidance for forest management planners covering EU bird species and habitat types and species of the Habitats Directive;
- Animal grazing for sustainable and economically-viable management of open habitats promoted;
- Establishment of management for maintaining favourable conservation status of wetland habitats;
- Local business benefiting from ecosystem services in a pilot area in a Natura 2000 site.

For further information:

<http://lifeprojektai.lt/en/life-projects/lithuanian-life-projects/optimizing-the-management-of-natura-2000-network-in-lithuania-life-ip-paf-naturalit/>

Find out more about LIFE and LIFE projects

<p>LIFE website</p> <p>The LIFE website provides a wealth of information on the LIFE programme: http://ec.europa.eu/life/</p>	
<p>LIFE project database</p> <p>For further information on LIFE projects in Lithuania or LIFE projects in general, please consult the online LIFE projects' database: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Social media</p> <p>  twitter.com/LIFE_Programme  http://www.facebook.com/LIFE.programme </p>	
<p>Contact</p>	
<p>The National Contact Point for Lithuania</p> <p>Ministry of Environment - European Union Funds Management Division, European Union Support Management Department</p> <p>Name: Ms Sigita ALČAUSKIENĖ - Chief Desk Officer (LIFE ENV/NAT and GIE) Ms Lina ČEICYTĖ (LIFE Climate Action)</p> <p>Address: A. Jaksto St 4/9 LT - 01105 Vilnius</p> <p>Tel: +370 706 63532 +370 706 61855</p> <p>E-mail: s.alcauskiene@am.lt lceicyte@am.lt</p> <p>Website: LIFE NCP Website</p> <p>NEEMO GEIE – ELLE sia skolas iela 10-8 LV - 1010 RIGA Tel: +371 6 7242411 E-mail: elle@neemo.eu</p>	

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
Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands (LIFE Viva Grass)	LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189	http://vivagrass.eu		06/2014-> 11/2018
Nutrient recycling circular economy model for large cities – water treatment sludge and ashes to biomass to bio-energy (NutriBiomass4LIFE)	LIFE17 ENV/LT/000310	http://www.nutribiomass.eu/		07/2018-> 03/2022
ALGAE – ECONOMY BASED ECOLOGICAL SERVICE OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS (AlgaeService for LIFE)	LIFE17 ENV/LT/000407	http://algaeservice.gamtostyrimai.lt		08/2018-> 07/2023

Recently closed and ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Restoration of degrading habitats of Community interest in the protected areas of Lithuania (Buveinių tvarkymas)	LIFE10 NAT/LT/000117	http://lifeplus.salanturp.lt		01/2012 -> 12/2016
Restoration of raised bog of Aukštumala in Nemunas Delta Regional Park (LIFEAukstumala)	LIFE12 NAT/LT/000965	http://www.aukstumala.lt		07/2013 -> 06/2017
Demonstrative restoration of the Tyruliai bog as a part of the initiative of the re-wetting of Lithuanian peatlands (Tyruliai – Life)	LIFE12 NAT/LT/001186	http://www.tyruliai-life.lt/		07/2013 -> 06/2017
Restoration of proper hydrological conditions in Amalva and Kamanos bogs (WETLIFE 2)	LIFE13 NAT/LT/000084	http://wetlife2.gpf.lt/		07/2014 -> 10/2018
Installation of the bird protection measures on the high voltage electricity transmission grid in Lithuania (LIFE Birds on Electrogrid)	LIFE13 BIO/LT/001303	http://www.birds-electrogrid.lt		06/2014 -> 07/2018
Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favourable conservation status of Aquatic warbler in Lithuania (LIFEMagniDucatusAcrola)	LIFE15 NAT/LT/001024	https://meldine.lt/		07/2016 -> 01/2023
Ecological network for Osmoderma eremita and other species dependent on veteran trees (LIFE OSMODERMA)	LIFE16 NAT/LT/000701	https://www.osmoderma.lt/		09/2017 -> 03/2022
Adjustment of key stakeholders' capacity for improvement of Common and Little terns conservation status in Lithuania (LIFE Terns)	LIFE17 NAT/LT/000545	https://www.lifeterns.lt		07/2018 -> 12/2022
Providing a climate resilient network of critical sites for the	LIFE19 NAT/LT/000898	N/A		09/2020 -> 08/2025

Lesser White-fronted Goose in Europe (LIFE LWfG CLIMATE)				
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Ongoing LIFE Integrated Projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Optimizing the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania (PAF-NATURALIT)	LIFE16 IPE/LT/000016	http://lifeprojektai.lt/en/life-projects/lithuanian-life-projects/optimizing-the-management-of-natura-2000-network-in-lithuania-life-ip-paf-naturalit/		01/2018 -> 12/2027

Other ongoing projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Building LIFE capacities in Lithuania (LIFE LT)	LIFE14 CAP/LT/000008	http://www.lifeprojektai.lt		01/2016 -> 09/2019