

LIFE Programme in Portugal



Facts and figures

The LIFE Programme has funded 177 projects in Portugal over 102 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €274.5m, of which the EU contributed €156m.

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

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

The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

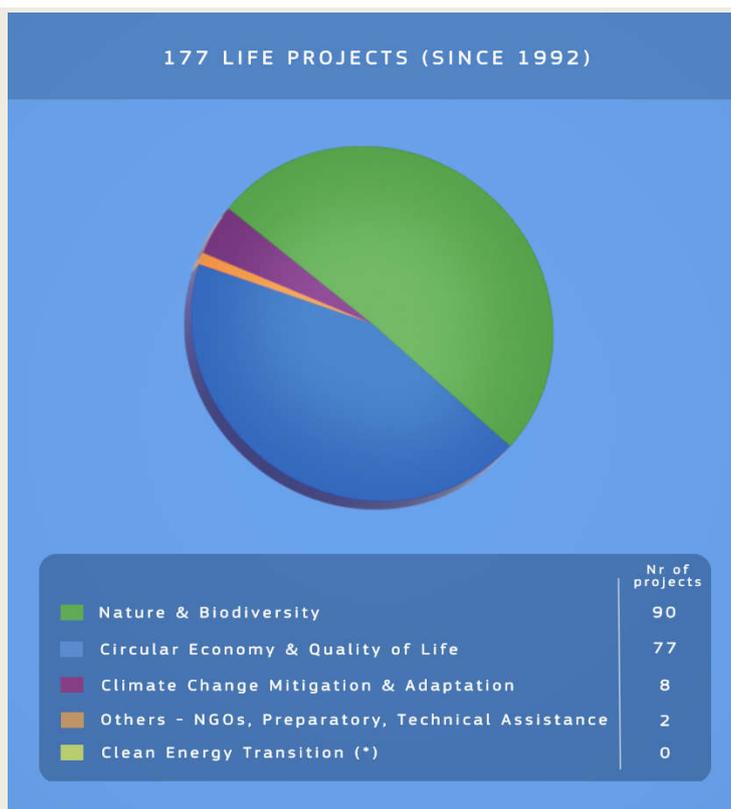
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (*)

For more information:

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

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

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



INVESTMENT IN LIFE PROJECTS IN PORTUGAL (€ million)		
	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	274.5	156
Nature & Biodiversity	137	87
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	75	35
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	60	32
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	2.5	2



LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

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

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 90 projects in Portugal. These represent a total investment of €137 million, of which €87 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed projects in Portugal focused on habitat restoration (Baixo Mondego marshes, Iberian lynx habitat, coastal and marine zones in the Azores, a marine park in Arrábida-Espichel, Maciço Montanhoso Madeira, Mediterranean yew thickets and temporary ponds, Praia da Vitória coastal wet green infrastructure, as well as the Berlengas SPA) and the conservation of species (Bugio’s and Zino’s petrel, little bustard in Alentejo and the Baixo Alentejo cereal steppe, great bustard, lesser kestrel, Azores bullfinch, Bonelli’s eagle, endangered invertebrates, Iberian lynx, black vulture, Macaronesian sparrowhawk and its Madeira Macaronesian laurel forest habitat, bottlenose dolphin in the Madeira Archipelago, other marine protected species; the Spanish imperial eagle and the critically endangered fish species Saramugo). One Biodiversity project addressed the control and eradication of invasive alien species that are threatening biodiversity in the Buçaço Forest. One project addressed the negative effects of transport and energy infrastructure on wild fauna. The project coordinating beneficiaries were mainly national authorities, NGOs and parks, but also included development agencies, universities, and regional and local authorities.

There are nine ongoing projects in Portugal. These focus on the conservation and restoration of habitats (Continental laurissilva relics, the Barriers islands in Algarve) and species (three types of beetle, land snails, Zino’s and Desertas petrels, *Azorina vidalii* and *Lotus azoricus*, wolf, and Bonelli’s eagle). One recently co-funded project, LIFE Natura@night, specifically aims to intervene on public illumination systems to benefit wildlife in Madeira, Azores, and the Canary Islands.

Two closed projects were co-funded under the former Information & Communication strand. The project BIO+SINTRA addressed the problem of carbon emissions and its relation to the degradation of ecosystems and consequences for biodiversity by carrying out pilot measures in the Cultural Landscape of Sintra. ECO-COMPATÍVEL used information and awareness raising activities to address the issue of conflicts between nature conservation aims and the need for sustainable regional development on the island of Madeira.

One ongoing Strategic Nature Project has been co-funded in Portugal. The LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA project’s objectives are described below.



Improving nature conservation in the Azores (LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA) LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010

The LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA project will establish the basis for implementing the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 (PAF) in the Azores Autonomous Region of Portugal.

The project team, led by Direcção Regional do Ambiente, will conduct actions to improve the conservation status of 24 species and 13 habitat types protected under the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive, and conduct specific habitat improvements for the Azores bullfinch (*Pyrrhula murina*). They will also control/eradicate invasive alien species (IAS); improve knowledge on the distribution, conservation status and threats to specific species and habitats; and execute *ex-situ* conservation actions, particularly collecting and conserving seeds from 80% of the endemic plant species of the Azores. The team will develop a GIS database to complement these actions, which will reinforce the capability for Natura 2000 surveillance and management. In addition, awareness will be raised about the conservation value of Natura 2000, and its potential as an instrument for sustainable rural development.

[Project summary](#)



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

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

This strand [formerly LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency and Environmental Governance and Information] has co-financed 77 projects in Portugal thus far, representing a total investment of €75 million, of which €35 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects mainly targeted integrated environmental management, wastewater treatment and water quality improvement, but also air quality management, waste management (PAYT (pay-as-you-throw) system), recycling and reduction (for instance, selling 'ugly' fruit/vegetables on an alternative market or the sustainable use of ash to regenerate degraded soils from mining areas), construction and demolition waste, air pollution, eco-friendly products, water quality improvement, and sustainable public procurement. Regional and local authorities, research institutions and universities were the main coordinating beneficiaries, which also included development agencies, SMEs, a public enterprise and an NGO.

There are four ongoing projects, whose objectives are; eliminating, or substantially mitigating, the hydromorphological pressures identified in the Vouga River Basin, in order to help re-establish good ecological status, as required by the Water Framework Directive and the applicable river basin management plan; providing clear information and accurate measurements on the environmental impact of footwear products; developing new methods for forest fire prevention; and implementing a business model in the food retail sector that optimises food chains and reduces food waste (by at least 10%, equalling 1 600t/year), along with related emissions.



LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

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

To date, the Climate Change strand has co-financed eight projects in Portugal. The total investment for these projects amounts to €60 million, of which the EU is contributing €32 million.

The main objective of LIFE-Montado-adapt is to introduce innovative adaptation technologies in Portuguese and Spanish Montado and Dehesa landscapes and communities, through the demonstration of sustainable and profitable Integrated Land Use systems. The LIFE AGUA DE PRATA project aims to tackle some of the water scarcity challenges faced by the region by sustainably re-using water from the Graça do Divor wells and springs, which were previously sources for an aqueduct. LIFE LUNGS aims to implement the municipal climate adaptation strategy (EMAAC) by making use of urban green infrastructure as a tool for climate change adaptation. LIFE DUNAS' main objective is to improve the resilience of Porto Santo Islands dune ecosystems to the impacts of climate change. The main objective of the LIFE NAdapt 4Rural Areas project is to implement innovative climate change adaptation measures that contribute to sustainable water management within the Ribeira de Fradelos Basin, in the Mediterranean region of Portugal. LIFE MARONESA will tackle the abandonment of mountain pasture areas for Maronesa cattle on common land. It will set up an integrated framework to encourage climate action in the project area.

One ongoing Strategic Integrated project has been co-funded in Portugal. The main objectives of the LIFE IP-CLIMAZ project are summarised below.



Getting to grips with climate change in the Azores (LIFE IP CLIMAZ) LIFE19 IPC/PT/000004

Climate change is a big problem in Portugal's nine Azores islands. This Integrated Project will help local authority, Direção Regional do Ambiente (DRA), implement an existing regional climate change adaptation programme on the islands.

The project team will encourage local communities to get involved in developing roadmaps for adapting to climate change. DRA will also promote its adaptation and mitigation measures into other policy areas, like energy, forestry and tourism, to increase climate resilience. Demonstration cases will help with the move towards carbon-neutral mobility. The team will also work with public authorities from the EU's outermost regions to find solutions to climate adaptation issues.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Clean Energy Transition

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

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

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

Want to know more about LIFE?

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

- Follow the LIFE programme on social media:



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

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
LIFE RELICT - Preserving Continental Laurissilva Relics	LIFE16 NAT/PT/000754	LIFE RELICT	http://www.liferelict.uevora.pt/	10/2017 -> 09/2022
LIFE VIDALIA – Valorização e Inovação Dirigidos à Azorina e Lotus nas Ilhas Açorianas	LIFE17 NAT/PT/000510	LIFE VIDALIA	https://www.lifevidalia.eu/	07/2018 -> 06/2023
Decreasing socio-ecological barriers to connectivity for wolves south of the Douro river	LIFE17 NAT/PT/000554	LIFE WolFlux	https://rewilding-portugal.com/life-wolflux/	01/2019 -> 11/2023
LIFE BEETLES Bringing Environmental and Ecological Threats Lower To Endangered Species	LIFE18 NAT/PT/000864	LIFE BEETLES	https://www.lifebeetlesazores.com/	01/2020 -> 12/2024
Conserving the Barrier Islands in Algarve to protect priority species and habitats	LIFE18 NAT/PT/000927	LIFE Ilhas Barreira	https://www.spea.pt/projetos/life-ilhas-barreira/	09/2019 -> 12/2023
Stewardship network for the conservation of peri-urban Bonelli's eagles	LIFE19 NAT/PT/000414	LIFE LxAquila	https://spea.pt/projetos/lifelxaquila/	09/2020 -> 09/2025
Reducing and mitigating Light Pollution impact in Natura 2000 areas in Macaronesia	LIFE20 NAT/PT/0010984	LIFE Natura@night	N/A	10/2021 -> 09/2025
Improving the conservation status of two Pterodroma petrels endemic to the Madeira archipelago	LIFE20 NAT/PT/001277	LIFE Pterodromas4future	N/A	10/2021 -> 09/2026
LIFE SNAILS - Support and Naturalization in Areas of Importance for Land Snails	LIFE20 NAT/PT/001374	LIFE SNAILS	N/A	01/2022 -> 12/2026
Active protection and integrated management of Natura 2000 Network in Azores	LIFE17 IPE/PT/000010	LIFE-IP AZORES NATURA	https://www.lifeazoresnatura.eu/	01/2019 -> 12/2027

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
AGUEDA - CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR MIGRATORY FISH IN THE VOUGA RIVER BASIN	LIFE16 ENV/PT/000411	LIFE AGUEDA	http://www.life-agueda.uevora.pt/	08/2017→ 07/2022
Footwear environmental footprint category rules implementation and innovative green shoes ecodesign and recycling	LIFE17 ENV/PT/000337	LIFE GreenShoes4All	http://www.greenshoes4all.eu/	10/2018→ 09/2022
LIFE LANDSCAPE FIRE PROJECT - New methodologies for forest fire prevention	LIFE18 ENV/PT/000361	LIFE LANDSCAPE FIRE	https://life.cimvdl.pt/	07/2019→ 06/2022
Digital circular economy market place for food waste prevention	LIFE19 ENV/PT/000689	LIFEfoodCycle	https://missao.continente.pt/niciativas/lifefoodcycle	09/2020→ 02/2024

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
MONTADO & CLIMATE; A NEED TO ADAPT	LIFE15 CCA/PT/000043	LIFE MONTADO	https://www.lifemontadoada.pt.com	09/2016 → 06/2022
AGUA DE PRATA - Adaptation and Watering in Green Urban Areas facing Climatic Heat Waves, Drought and Extreme Storms	LIFE17 CCA/PT/000076	LIFE AGUA DE PRATA	https://life.apambiente.pt/content/adaptation-and-watering-green-urban-areas-facing-climatic-heat-waves-drought-and-extreme	07/2018 → 12/2022
Towards a more resilient Lisbon Urban Green Infrastructure as an adaptation to climate change	LIFE18 CCA/PT/001170	LIFE LUNGS	https://life-lungs.lisboa.pt/	09/2019 → 08/2024
LIFE DUNAS	LIFE19 CCA/PT/001178	LIFE DUNAS	https://lifedunas.madeira.gov.pt/	10/2020 → 09/2025
LIFE Pateiras - Natural Adapt 4 Rural Areas	LIFE19 CCA/PT/001283	LIFE NAdapt 4Rural Areas	N/A	01/2021 → 12/2025
MARONESA - Market Awareness Raising for Opportunities in Needed Intensification and Soil-friendly Agriculture)	LIFE19 GIC/PT/001285	LIFE MARONESA	https://terramaronesa.pt/life-maronesa-ajuda-a-implementar-estrategias-da-ue-sobre-alteracoes-climaticas/	10/2020 → 09/2025
Regional Program for Climate Change in Azores	LIFE19 IPC/PT/00004	LIFE IP CLIMAZ	https://www.lifeipclimaz.eu/	01/2021 → 12/2030