

# LIFE+ Fund Briefing Note



**Up to 20 million is up for grabs in 2010 to support the UK deliver environmental projects.**

## LIFE+ 2010 Funding Call Open

### May 2010

The 'LIFE+' programme is the European Union's only funding scheme targeting the environment. LIFE+ funds a broad range of best practice, demonstration and/or innovation projects. Demonstrating European added value scores highly, particularly projects that deliver key environmental policies and agendas.

For the first time the European Commission has given examples of the types of projects it is looking to support.

- LIFE+ is open to ALL legal persons resident in Member States, and all types of organisations whether public, private or NGO.
- There is additional scoring for collaborative partnerships across multiple EU countries.
- Partnerships can include up to six organisations.
- Typical project length is 2-5 years.

### What is the basic criteria?

- There is no maximum or minimum budget but average funding rate is €1 million.
- Reimbursement rate is 50% (75% for LIFE+ Nature priority species or habitats).



## Three LIFE+ Funding Strands

### STRAND I

Nature and Biodiversity supports projects that contribute to the implementation of the EC's Birds and Habitats Directives, and the EC's goal of halting the loss of biodiversity.

### EC priorities include:

- Projects aimed at the direct conservation of habitats and species covered by the Habitats and Birds directives and, in particular, supporting the set-up and management of NATURA 2000.
- Projects for improving the ecological coherence/connectivity of the NATURA 2000 network ("Green Infrastructures").
- Projects for the control and eradication of invasive alien species.
- Projects for the implementation of river basin management plans, or addressing Marine Regions, for the implementation of measure to guarantee a Good Environmental Status.
- Projects to test fisheries management measures in line with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Directive and technical measures to reduce by-catch of species which are not commercially exploited.
- Projects addressing biodiversity and soil, particularly projects aimed at increasing the protection of soil biodiversity and its many ecological functions.



## **S**TRAND 2

Environment Policy and Governance supports technological projects that offer significant environmental benefits, for example process or efficiency improvements. This part of the programme helps to improve the implementation of EU environmental legislation that builds the environmental policy knowledge base.

### **EC priorities include:**

- Development of innovative urban water treatment systems;
- Development of best practice examples for improving long-distance fish migration;
- Developing and implementing land use practices and techniques, particularly in farming and forestry production processes, which protect and improve the status of soil in terms of structure, organic matter, pollution, biodiversity, etc;
- Contributing to urban green infrastructure, and its linkages to the peri-urban and rural countryside.

## **S**TRAND 3

Information and Communication supports projects that spread information about environmental issues, such as climate change and conservation. This strand of LIFE+ can also support forest fire prevention awareness and training campaigns.

### **EC priorities include:**

- The promotion of connectivity between natural areas (Green Infrastructure) by explaining it better to citizens.

## **What won't it fund?**

LIFE+ does not fund research actions where they are exploratory in nature; however it will fund the application of research through demonstration activities for example.

Actions proposed in LIFE+ projects should not be eligible for support under other European funding programmes such as CIP, FP7, ERDF etc.

### **Call Details:**

Calls opened: 4th May 2010

Submission of proposals required by: 1st Sept 2010

## **External Funding & Partnership Support**

If you are interested in LIFE+, or any external funding mechanism, Maslen Environmental (part of the JBA Group) can help. We have built up a considerable portfolio of successes from over 12 years of working on business case development, funding bid preparation and submission, securing in excess of £25 million for our clients. We have a track record in successful delivery for Environment Agency and public sector agencies, and links with the UK Government and EU funding networks.

Tom Hudson is one of Maslen's External Funding specialists. Tom is familiar with funding strategies/ appraisals and supporting applicants, writing and facilitating 5 EU LIFE+ bid submissions for partnerships involving the Environment Agency in 2009.

## **Further Information**

### **EU LIFE+**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

### **DEFRA**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/policy/international/life/index.htm>

## **External Funding Manager**

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