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European Commission

A. Funding from DG Environment



The Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)

The new Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) has entered into force in 2007. It replaces LIFE III (DG Environment's funding instrument for the environment for 2000-2006), FOREST FOCUS, URBAN and the support to European Environmental NGOs. It has thus become the EU's single financial instrument that targets exclusively the environment. LIFE+ has a total budget of 2.1 billion EUR for the period 2007-2013.

The overall objective of LIFE+ is *"to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of Community environmental policy and legislation"*.

It supports the implementation of the 6th Community Environmental Action Programme (6th EAP) and its thematic strategies: combating climate change, stopping the decline in biodiversity, minimising negative environmental effects on human health, dealing with natural resources and waste in sustainable ways.

The LIFE+ Programme consists of three components:

- Nature and Biodiversity (which will receive at least 50 % of the funds available)
- Environmental Policy and Governance
- Information and Communication

Projects funded under LIFE+ must bring added value on the European level and must be focused on innovative and demonstrative initiatives. Day-to-day operations will not be funded under these components. There is a separate call for proposals to provide financial support to European Environmental NGO's (see page 3).

Currently, LIFE+ funds may only be used for expenditure in EU27 countries although it is possible that in the future certain third countries may also participate. This would apply to European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members, candidate countries for accession to the European Union and Western Balkans countries including the ones in the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Eligible beneficiaries for LIFE+ funds are:

- Local and Regional authorities
- Administrations, States
- Research centres, Universities
- Agencies, Chambers
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Associations, Federations, Unions

The first call for proposals was issued in the autumn of 2007 for projects to start earliest in 2009. However, the EC will continue to issue annual calls for proposals and provide funding for projects under the LIFE+ programme until the end of 2013.

Project proposals have to be submitted to the national contact points in each participating country, designated by the EC as responsible for coordination, programme promotion and project pre-selection.

National Contact Points LIFE+ Homepage

European Commission
DG Environment
LIFE Unit, E.4
BU-9 02/1
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail: env-life-info@ec.europa.eu

Additional programmes of DG Environment

Financial Support for European Environmental Organizations

Under the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+), there is a separate call for proposals for financial support to European Environmental NGOs. Through this support, the European Commission aims to strengthen the input of civil society in environmental policy-making and its implementation.

Support may be provided to NGOs that contribute to the implementation of Community environmental policy and the priority areas of the LIFE+ programme:

- Limiting climate change
- Nature and biodiversity
- Health and environment
- Sustainable management of natural resources and waste
- Horizontal or cross-cutting issues

Additional areas of interest are initiatives on environmental education, enlargement and third countries.

NGOs wishing to apply need to be:

- independent,
- non-profit making,
- legally established in one of the 27 EU Member States and active at European level in at least three European countries.

The grant amounts to an average of 80,000 EUR, and covers up to 70% of the eligible annual budget of the NGO.

[Financial Support for European Environmental NGOs](#)

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200 rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
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E-mail: env-ngo@ec.europa.eu

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

CIP encourages the competitiveness of European Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) through innovation activities such as eco-innovation and renewable energy sources. Within the framework of the CIP, the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (DG Environment) brings support to eco-innovation projects.

[Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme Environmental Technologies Action Plan](#)

European Civil Protection

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument (CPFI) was established in March 2007. This instrument aims at supporting and complementing the efforts of Member States for the protection of people, environment and property (including cultural heritage) in the event of natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism and technological, radiological or environmental accidents. The CPFI covers three main aspects of civil protection activities: prevention, preparedness and response.

The budget allocated to this instrument for the total 2007-2013 period amounts to 189.8 million EUR. Indicative annual amounts of 20 million EUR are available for actions within the EU and 8 million EUR for actions in third countries.

[Civil Protection Financial Instrument](#)

B. Funding from DG Research

FP7 is open to countries both within and outside the EU: EU Member States, EEA countries, candidate countries, International Cooperation Partner Countries, as well as Israel and Switzerland. However, there are different rules on the level of participation and funding for the different groups of countries.

The participation in FP7 is open to a wide range of organizations and individuals:

- Research groups at universities or research institutes
- Companies intending to innovate
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Public or governmental administration (local, regional or national)
- Early-stage and experienced researchers (third countries' nationals included)
- International organizations
- Civil society organizations

National Contact Points have been appointed to give support to researchers and organizations intending to participate.

[European Research portal](#)
[7th EU Research Framework Programm](#)



C. Funding from DG Regional Policy

The aim of DG Regional Policy is to strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion by decreasing the disparities in level of development between the European regions. The so-called cohesion policy follows three objectives:

- convergence
- regional competitiveness and employment
- European territorial cooperation

The global budget for the period 2007-2013 accounts for nearly 36% of the EU budget with 347.4 billion EUR. This budget is mainly aimed at the convergence objective (81.54%) and the regional competitiveness and employment objective (15.95%).

The funds that contribute to the three objectives of the regional policy are the:

- European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- Cohesion Fund (CF)

Of these funds, only EFRD is of interest to nature conservation.

[National managing authorities of the Cohesion Fund](#)

[Summaries of regional policy legislations](#)

[DG regional policy's official website](#)

Structural Funds: The European Fund for Regional Development

The European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD) is one of the EU's structural funds – together with the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund². The EFRD can provide direct aid to investments, technical assistance as well as to infrastructure. In accordance to the objectives of the European Regional Policy (ERP). Concerning the convergence objective, the EFRD contributes to the modernization of the economic structure. It can fund projects in relation to environment and risk prevention or education. As for regional competitiveness and employment, environment and risk prevention is one of the three priorities. Actions as cleaning up polluted areas, boosting energy efficiency, promoting clean public transport or creating prevention plans can be funded.

[Operational programmes co-funded under the EFRD](#)

The European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation:

The European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation is a new legal instrument to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. As a legal entity, it is a

D. Funding from DG Maritime Affaires and Fisheries and DG Agriculture

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) replaces the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) and is designed to secure a sustainable European fishing and aquaculture industry. The fund's objective is *"to grant financial support to the European fishing industry, during the period 2007-2013, with a view to help it adapt to the evolving needs"*. It both supports the industry to make it more competitive and promotes measures to protect and enhance the environment. The total 2007 – 2013 budget is around 3.8 billion EUR which is allocated by Member States between the different set priorities.

[European Fisheries Fund](#)

[List of national contact points](#)

[National operational programmes 2007-2013](#)

[Call 2007-2013](#)

E.

[ENRTP Official Website](#)
[Publications and working Documents](#)

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as well as thematic programmes such as

Region	Countries	Funds
EU27	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	LIFE+ (incl. NGO support) FP7 EFRD EFF EAFRD ENRTP
EFTA (European Free Trade Association)	Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	LIFE+ FP7
Candidate Countries	Croatia, Macedonia, Turkey	LIFE+ FP7 ENRTP
Western Balkan Countries		

programme brings a maximum support of 85,000 EUR.

The project must contribute to one or several objectives of the Programme. The eligible countries depend on each call for proposal.

2. Tourism and Biodiversity fund

The Tourism and Biodiversity fund belongs to the 'ecosystem grants programme' and contributes therefore to the achievement of the general goals and objectives of the programme. This fund supports sustainable tourism projects which contribute to the protection of ecosystems and their biodiversity, linked to the Dutch (or European) tourism market. The maximum amount available is EUR 25,000 per project.

Beneficiaries: local NGOs, community-based organisations as well as private enterprises having committed themselves towards the protection of ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources.

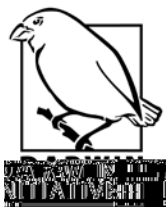
3. Purchase of Nature

The objective of this Programme is *"to support local NGOs in the purchase of vulnerable nature, with the aim to conserve biodiversity on the long term"*. The fund is open to local NGOs from tropical countries and NGOs from Eastern Europe and from the Community of independent states. The maximum financial support is EUR 85,000.

Funds of the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands

Submit applications through the Eeconet Action Fund

There will be no more open deadlines for the Ecosystem Grants Programme and the Tourism and Biodiversity fund after 15 September 2008. Information on possible future funding possibilities will be published on the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands website.



Darwin Initiative

The "Darwin Initiative" was launched at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and is financed by DEFRA (the UK Department

for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). It funds projects in collaboration with British experts to support countries in their implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB).

The total budget of the Initiative is around 7 million GBP which includes the on-going projects. The average amount of the financial support is around 200,000 GBP but cannot be higher than 300,000 GBP.

The objective of the Darwin Initiative is to use the British skills in the field of protection of biodiversity and to collaborate with local partners in order to achieve:

- the protection of the biological diversity
- the sustainable use of its components
- a fair share of benefits from the use of genetic resources

In order to be eligible, the main applicant must live in Great-Britain and must establish a partnership with organisations from 'guest' countries, i.e. developing countries, non-EU States as well as English overseas territories. There must be a clear link with the implementation of the CBD. In addition to the implementation of the CBD, the priority themes are:

- strengthening of institutional capacity
- training
- research
- environment awareness

Darwin Initiative

Email: darwin-projects@ectf-ed.org.uk



Fondation Ensemble

'Fondation Ensemble' is a private state approved humanitarian foundation. Its mission is to lead solidarity actions

at the national (France) and international level, with the emphasis on actions dealing with the protection of environment and of all living species. The goal is to strengthen capacities, to involve different actors as well as train them. At the international level, projects are implemented in the following fields:

- water and sanitation (65%)
- sustainable development (21%)
- animal biodiversity (14%)

Fondation Ensemble provides two funds:

- The Programme Fund (85% of the Foundation funds) aims at initiatives led by small and medium associative structures. The financial support is between 40,000 EUR and 300,000 EUR per year. There is a minimum of 50% co-financing and the project duration is required to be a minimum of 2 years.
- The Small Grants Fund (15% of the foundation fund) focuses on shorter-term actions. The maximum grant is 30,000 EUR, with a total project budget of 60,000 EUR. Co-financing is not needed.

For both funds, project proposals can be submitted all year round.

[Fondation Ensemble](#)

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation acts as an accelerator of projects and solutions for the environment. It supports and develops initiatives in the fields of research and studies, technological innovation and socially-aware practices. The three main areas are:

- climate change
- biodiversity
- water

[Pre-application form](#)

[Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation](#)

Nordic Development Fund

The Nordic Development Fund is a multilateral development financing institution funded by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It supports development projects in low income countries, specifically it has a long term cooperation with the following countries:

Africa:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Asia:

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Vietnam

Latin America:

Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua

NDF also supports private sector development which is not limited to partner countries. Priority is given to poor countries, in particular in Africa. Other countries may be eligible for direct investments, in particular countries which have earlier received benefits from NDF credits with government guarantee.

[Nordic Development Fund](#)



Swedish International Development cooperation Agency – SIDA

Sida's objective is to help create conditions that will enable the poor to improve their lives. Natural Resources and the environment is one of the several fields of actions and include Biological diversity. In 2007, around 140 million EUR were provided in funding. SIDA specifically allocates funds to support the operations of charities and non-governmental organisations in developing countries. The principal requirement is that an NGO must co-finance at least ten per cent of the total sum for a project or programme.

[Grant for NGOs](#)

[All grants](#)

[SIDA Website](#)

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