

## LIFE+ Call for proposals 2008 National annual priorities for Latvia

### 1. CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### Contact person

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### 2. METHOD EMPLOYED TO SELECT THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Analyses of environmental policy and national priorities were undertaken by the Ministry of the Environment in close cooperation with social partners.

### 3. IDENTIFIED LONG-TERM NEEDS IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Building capacity on environmental policy design and implementation by undertaking environmental policy integration in other sectors of economy in Latvia., meeting new challenges of modern environmental policy by providing adequate policies and measures for sustainable development.

	Principal objectives and priorities as set out in Annex II of the LIFE+ Regulation	Area chosen as national annual priority: (Tick if appropriate)	Types of projects as set out in Article 3(2) of the LIFE+ Regulation	Specific national objective (Please include reference to more information)
<b>LIFE+ NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY</b>				
1. <b>Nature and Biodiversity</b> To protect, conserve, restore, monitor and facilitate the functioning of natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting the loss of biodiversity, including diversity of genetic resources, within the EU by 2010.				
Priority areas of action (PPA)	a) contributing to implement Community policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity, in particular of Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC, and promote its integration with other policy areas;	X	A, B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To preserve and restore the diversity of ecosystems and their natural structures.</li> <li>2. To preserve and promote the diversity of local wild species.</li> <li>3. To preserve the diversity of species of agricultural plants and animals, to promote characterisation and uses thereof.</li> <li>4. To improve the environmental protection system.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p> <p>NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.</p> <p>Maintain and improve the diversity of ecosystems and their natural elements  Maintain and improve natural species diversity.  Maintain the genetic diversity of natural species, as well as of crop plants and animal breeds.  Promote the conservation of the traditional landscape structures.  Ensure sustainable use of natural resources  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/?doc=3304">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/?doc=3304</a></p>

	<p>b) supporting the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network, including coastal and marine habitats and species;</p>	X	A, B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To preserve and restore the diversity of ecosystems and their natural structures.</li> <li>2. To preserve and promote the diversity of local wild species.</li> <li>3. To preserve the diversity of species of agricultural plants and animals, to promote characterisation and uses thereof.</li> <li>4. To improve the environmental protection system.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p> <p>NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.</p> <p>Maintain and improve the diversity of ecosystems and their natural elements  Maintain and improve natural species diversity.  Maintain the genetic diversity of natural species, as well as of crop plants and animal breeds.  Promote the conservation of the traditional landscape structures.  Ensure sustainable use of natural resources  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/?doc=3304">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/?doc=3304</a></p> <p>Management plans and conservation plans for Nature 2000 sites</p>
	<p>c) supporting design and implementation of policy approaches and instruments for monitoring and assessing national and biodiversity and the factors, pressures and responses that impacts on it, in particular in relation to achieving the target of halting biodiversity loss within the Community by 2010;</p>	X	A, B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To preserve and restore the diversity of ecosystems and their natural structures.</li> <li>2. To preserve and promote the diversity of local wild species.</li> <li>3. To preserve the diversity of species of agricultural plants and animals, to promote characterisation and uses thereof.</li> <li>4. To improve the environmental protection system.</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>

	<p>d) improving the knowledge of the impact of genetically modified organisms on ecosystems and biodiversity: risk assessment methodologies.</p>			<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To preserve and restore the diversity of ecosystems and their natural structures.</li> <li>2. To preserve and promote the diversity of local wild species.</li> <li>3. To preserve the diversity of species of agricultural plants and animals, to promote characterisation and uses thereof.</li> <li>4. To improve the environmental protection system.</li> <li>5. To provide the community with complete information about genetically modified organisms.</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p> <p>NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.</p> <p>Maintain and improve the diversity of ecosystems and their natural elements  Maintain and improve natural species diversity.  Maintain the genetic diversity of natural species, as well as of crop plants and animal breeds.  Promote the conservation of the traditional landscape structures.  Ensure sustainable use of natural resources</p> <p><a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/?doc=3304">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/?doc=3304</a></p>

**LIFE+ ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

2. **Climate change** Stabilising greenhouse gas concentration at a level that prevents global warming above 2°C.

Priority areas of action	a) Ensuring the implementation of EU commitments under the UNFCCC Kyoto protocol and developing a post 2012 strategy and implementation programme with a view on further reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions up to 2020.	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To reduce the harmful effects of global climate change by implementing requirements laid down by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and regulations of the European Union.</li> <li>2. To take measures with a view of jointly reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases and increasing the sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>.</li> <li>3. To provide for Latvian contribution to the prevention of global climate change without causing additional difficulty for economic development of the country.</li> <li>4. To provide capacity building of environmental institutions for better environmental enforcement.</li> <li>5. To reduce environmental pollution caused by power industry, especially the emissions of air pollutants.</li> <li>6. To increase the use of local renewable resources.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p> <p>BIOGAS PRODUCTION PROGRAMME 2007 - 2011  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/print/files/text/Darb_jomas/Biogazes_raz_un_izmant_att_pr_2007-2011.doc">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/print/files/text/Darb_jomas/Biogazes_raz_un_izmant_att_pr_2007-2011.doc</a></p> <p>CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION PROGRAMME 2005 - 2010  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
	b) ensuring the adaptation of the EU economy and society, nature and biodiversity, water resources and human health to the adverse impacts of climate change (to a potential temperature increase of 2°C resulting from increased greenhouse gas concentrations) and mitigating its impact;	X	B	<p><a href="#">Policy document: Report to the government on adapting to climate change (draft)</a></p>
	c) ensuring the implementation and use of market-based instruments, in particular greenhouse gases emissions	X	B	<p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>

	trading, in order to achieve a cost-efficient emissions reduction in a post-2012 framework.			
3. <b>Water</b> Contributing to enhanced water quality by developing cost-effective measures to achieve good ecological status in view of developing the first river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by 2009.				
Priority areas of action	a) preparing the WFD programmes of measures and integrating measures from parent directives such as e.g. Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive, the Bathing Water Directive, the Drinking Water Directive, the Plant Protection Products and Nitrates Directive, and the IPPC Directive;	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To improve the quality of underground and surface waters, to prevent further pollution thereof and to gradually reduce the current level of pollution.</li> <li>2. To improve international co-operation with respect to transboundary river basins in order to ensure joint use of water resources and to reduce the pollution arriving in Latvia.</li> <li>3. To deal with the issue of reducing chemical pollution in the Baltic Sea and to provide for the fulfilment of international obligations undertaken by Latvia.</li> <li>4. To promote a sustainable and rational use of water, with particular attention paid to the preservation of underground water resources and lakes and water bodies threatened by eutrophication.</li> <li>5. To protect water ecosystems and water-dependent terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands.</li> <li>6. To provide for protection against floods and drought.</li> <li>7. To provide for the compliance of potable water to quality standards.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
	b) contributing to the effective implementation of the EU Marine Strategy;	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To improve the quality of underground and surface waters, to prevent further pollution thereof and to gradually reduce the current level of pollution.</li> <li>2. To improve international co-operation with respect to transboundary river basins in order to ensure joint use of water resources and to reduce the pollution arriving in Latvia.</li> <li>3. To deal with the issue of reducing chemical pollution in the Baltic Sea and to provide for the fulfilment of international obligations undertaken by Latvia.</li> <li>4. To promote a sustainable and rational use of water, with particular attention paid to the preservation of underground water resources and lakes and water bodies threatened by eutrophication.</li> <li>5. To provide for protection against floods and drought.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008</p>

				<a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a>
<b>4. Air</b> Achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment				
PAA	a) implementing the Thematic Strategy on air pollution	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure air quality which conforms to standards and long-term goals, to improve air quality in places where it is not satisfactory, with particular attention paid to major cities and manufacturing enterprises.</li> <li>2. To improve international co-operation in order to reduce levels of transboundary air pollution significantly.</li> <li>3. To reduce the risk of eutrophication in water bodies caused by air pollution.</li> <li>4. To make an air quality assessment for compounds of heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel) and polycyclic hydrocarbons in order to develop new standards.</li> <li>5. To provide for the fulfilment of Latvian international obligations with respect to restricting the use of ozone depleting substances.</li> <li>6. To develop and implement regulatory enactments restricting diffusion of offensive odours.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
<b>5. Soil</b> Protecting and ensuring the sustainable use of soil by preserving soil functions, preventing threats to soil, mitigating their effects and restoring degraded soils.				

PPA	a) implementing the Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil; and	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To eliminate or reduce pollution caused by previous military or economic activities and the adverse impact thereof on human health, property, environment and biological diversity.</li> <li>2. To achieve improvement in soil, ground, underground and surface water quality in polluted sites.</li> <li>3. To preclude the penetration of hazardous substances from polluted sites into surface and underground waters.</li> <li>4. To renovate and improve environmental quality in polluted sites.</li> <li>5. To take the current levels of environmental pollution into account in territorial planning.</li> <li>6. To determine the actual value of land and relevant real property tax according to the degree of pollution.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
	b) ensuring the protection and restoration of soil biodiversity.	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To eliminate or reduce pollution caused by previous military or economic activities and the adverse impact thereof on human health, property, environment and biological diversity.</li> <li>2. To achieve improvement in soil, ground, underground and surface water quality in polluted sites.</li> <li>3. To preclude the penetration of hazardous substances from polluted sites into surface and underground waters.</li> <li>4. To renovate and improve environmental quality in polluted sites.</li> <li>5. To take the current levels of environmental pollution into account in territorial planning.</li> <li>6. To determine the actual value of land and relevant real property tax according to the degree of pollution.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
6. <b>Urban environment</b> Contributing to improving the environmental performance of Europe's urban areas.				

PPA	a) contributing to a better implementation of existing EU environmental policies and legislation at the local level by supporting and encouraging local authorities to adopt a more integrated approach to urban management, including the transport and energy sectors.	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To encourage involvement of municipalities in working out and implementation of local Agendas 21, as well as to support establishment of co-operation networks and exchange of experience in the Baltic area.</li> <li>2. To promote applied scientific research in development and effective application of the best methods of implementation of sustainable development.</li> <li>3. To involve the public in assessment of the key problems of environmental protection and social and economic development, and formulation of new initiatives.</li> <li>4. To promote sustainable, natural resources and energy resources saving construction and production of building materials.</li> <li>5. To promote the production and use of local and environmentally friendly construction products.</li> <li>6. To preserve the historical and traditional housing and to extend the life of structures and constructions by using scientifically approved technologies.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
<b>7. Noise</b> Contributing to policy development and implementation on ambient noise.				
PPA	a) to prevent and reduce the harmful effect from exposure to ambient noise.	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To explore environmental noise levels and its disturbing impact on the community.</li> <li>2. To ensure and maintain reduced noise levels in noise-free environments (schools, dwelling houses, hospitals) and during certain periods of time: in the evening hours, at night and during holidays.</li> <li>3. To reduce environmental noise levels, particularly in places where the noise can pose a threat to human health.</li> <li>4. To provide the community with information about environmental noise.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
<b>8. Chemicals</b> To improve the environment and health from risks posed by chemicals by 2020 by implementing chemicals legislation, in particular the REACH regulation and the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides.				

PPA	a) enhancing science-policy integration and the transfer of results to provide a solid technical background in support of REACH;	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To improve regulatory enactments on chemical substances, chemical products, biocides and genetically modified organisms and on the monitoring system thereof.</li> <li>2. To reduce the dependency of economic spheres, in particular agriculture, on hazardous chemical substances and products and the use of certain biocides, using the principle of substitution and alternative methods.</li> <li>3. To develop a management strategy for the circulation of chemical substances, chemical products and biocides and risk reduction programmes, including emergencies, risk of chemical accidents and transportation of hazardous chemical cargo.</li> <li>4. To develop a training system and to provide for the accessibility of information about the classification and labelling of chemical substances, chemical products and biocides among state institutions, producers of chemical substances and products, importers and users.</li> <li>5. To promote scientific developments in the research of chemical substances and biocides, to stimulate the introduction of results thereof in the production by developing clean and little residue technologies.</li> <li>6. To improve the cooperation between state institutions and the professional associations of producers or importers of chemical substances, chemical products and biocides, to support their efforts in the development and implementation of environmental quality systems.</li> <li>7. To ensure control of hazardous chemical substances and compliance of food products and articles with quality requirements.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
	b) implementation of the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides.	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To promote scientific developments in the research of chemical substances and biocides, to stimulate the introduction of results thereof in the production by developing clean and little residue technologies.</li> <li>2. To provide for a sustainable use of agricultural resources.</li> <li>3. To limit the extent of eutrophication and pollution of waters with residues of pesticides and compounds of heavy metals.</li> <li>4. To avert the reduction of biodiversity and degradation of the rural landscape by means of planning and sound land management methods.</li> <li>5. To promote the development of environmentally friendly agriculture and the introduction of good agricultural practices.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>

9. Environment and health Developing the formation base for policy on the environment and health (the Environment and Health Action Plan for 2004 to 2010).				
PPA	a) human bio monitoring and data linkage on environment and health;	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To assure the quality of environment conforming to standard acts.</li> <li>2. To improve public living environment, taking into account requirements of the environment quality in territorial planning.</li> <li>3. To reduce air pollution caused by motor transport.</li> <li>4. To reduce diseases caused by ticks and rodents.</li> <li>5. To assure the noise level that is not hazardous to man and to restrict smells in living and work environment.</li> <li>6. To achieve that waste management should not cause menace to human health.</li> <li>7. To improve the quality of drinking water and bathing water.</li> <li>8. To assure possibilities of public recreation in pure environment.</li> <li>9. To explain methods of safe use of household chemicals to the public.</li> <li>10. To observe labour protection requirements, to establish a safe work environment that is not hazardous to health.</li> <li>11. To establish a permanent inter-ministry work group for settlement of environmental and health issues.</li> </ol> <p>NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
	b) protection of the ozone layer to reduce negative health and environmental impacts.	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To assure the quality of environment conforming to standard acts.</li> <li>2. To improve public living environment, taking into account requirements of the environment quality in territorial planning.</li> <li>3. To reduce air pollution caused by motor transport.</li> <li>4. To reduce diseases caused by ticks and rodents.</li> <li>5. To assure the noise level that is not hazardous to man and to restrict smells in living and work environment.</li> <li>6. To achieve that waste management should not cause menace to human health.</li> <li>7. To improve the quality of drinking water and bathing water.</li> <li>8. To assure possibilities of public recreation in pure environment.</li> <li>9. To explain methods of safe use of household chemicals to the public.</li> <li>10. To observe labour protection requirements, to establish a safe work environment that is not</li> </ol>

				hazardous to health. 11. To establish a permanent inter-ministry work group for settlement of environmental and health issues. <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a>
10. <b>Waste and natural resources</b> Developing and implementing policies designed to ensure sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste, improving the environmental performances of products, sustainable production and consumption patterns, waste prevention, recovery and recycling. Contributing to the effective implementation of the Thematic Strategy on waste.				
Priority areas of action	a) promoting sustainable use of natural resources, with a life-cycle approach, including environmental, social and economic aspects, in order to decouple environmental impact from economic growth;	X	B	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008 <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a>
	b) promoting waste prevention, recovery and recycling with a focus on life-cycle thinking, eco-design and the development of recycling markets; and	X	B	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008 <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a>
	c) contributing to the implementation of Community policy and legislation on waste, in particular the Landfill Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the Waste Shipment Regulation and POPs Regulations and the Directives on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restrictions of the use of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS), End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs),	X	B	

	Hazardous Waste, Waste Oils, PCBs and mining waste.			
<b>11. Forests</b> Providing, especially through an EU coordination network, a concise and comprehensive basis for policy relevant information on forest in relation to climate change (impact on forest ecosystems, mitigation, substitution effects), biodiversity (baseline information and protected forest areas), forest fires, forest condition and the protective functions of forests (water, soil and infrastructure) as well as contributing to protect forests against fires.				
Priority areas of action	a) promoting the collection, analysis and dissemination of policy-relevant information concerning forests and interactions between forests and the environment;	X	B, D	Environmental objectives: 1. To preserve forest biodiversity and the quality of ecological functions in the regulation of climate and water conditions as well as soil protection. 2. To increase the attraction of carbon dioxide by supporting the afforestation of lands not used in agriculture and to promote deliberative measures for increasing the productivity of forest growths. 3. To stimulate the use of wood pulp and articles made of it in order to preserve the bound carbon accumulated in the wood pulp. 4. To improve knowledge of forest owners, managers and the society about the importance of forest biodiversity and forest ecological functions.  NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008 <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a>
	b) promoting the harmonisation and effectiveness of forest monitoring activities and data collection systems and making use of synergies by creating links between monitoring mechanisms established at regional, national, European and global level;			

X

B, D

Environmental objectives:

1. To preserve forest biodiversity and the quality of ecological functions in the regulation of climate and water conditions as well as soil protection.

2. To increase the attraction of carbon dioxide by supporting the afforestation of lands not used in agriculture and to promote deliberative measures for increasing the productivity of forest growths.

3. To stimulate the use of wood pulp and articles made of it in order to preserve the bound carbon accumulated in the wood pulp

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	<p>c) stimulating synergies between specific forests related issues and environmental initiatives and legislation (e.g. EU soil strategy, Natura 2000, Water Framework Directive, etc.);</p>			

X

B, D

Environmental objectives:

1. To preserve forest biodiversity and the quality of ecological functions in the regulation of climate and water conditions as well as soil protection.
2. To increase the attraction of carbon dioxide by supporting the afforestation of lands not used in agriculture and to promote deliberative measures for increasing the productivity of forest growths.
3. To stimulate the use of wood pulp and articles made of it in order to preserve the bound carbon accumulated in the wood pulp.

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. To facilitate afforestation of marginal agricultural and other lands, through the use of existing state mechanisms;</li> <li>4. To preserve and maintain biological diversity at current levels. In order to achieve this, the main principles which will be observed are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest management is optimised to take into account the role of forest ecosystems in local and global processes – carbon dioxide absorption and carbon cycle stabilisation; protection of water flows and water basins, plants and landscapes, etc.;</li> <li>• The levels of forest use is regulated by the state, taking into account forest ecosystem productivity, regeneration capacity and other essential elements of forest structure;</li> <li>• Preservation of forest habitats and their characteristic species diversity is ensured;</li> <li>• Forest monitoring is to be carried out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. To balance the interests of society and forest owners in the use of the forest's social values and in the development of labour relations in the forest sector.</li> </ol> <p>LATVIAN FOREST POLICY <a href="http://www.zm.gov.lv/index.php?sadala=42&amp;id=4261">http://www.zm.gov.lv/index.php?sadala=42&amp;id=4261</a></p>
	d) contributing to sustainable forest management in particular by collecting data related to the improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management as adopted by the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting 7-8 October 2002, Vienna, Austria; and	X	B, D	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To preserve forest biodiversity and the quality of ecological functions in the regulation of climate and water conditions as well as soil protection.</li> <li>2. To increase the attraction of carbon dioxide by supporting the afforestation of lands not used in agriculture and to promote deliberative measures for increasing the productivity of forest growths.</li> <li>3. To stimulate the use of wood pulp and articles made of it in order to preserve the bound carbon accumulated in the wood pulp.</li> <li>4. To improve knowledge of forest owners, managers and the society about the importance of forest biodiversity and forest ecological functions.</li> </ol> <p>NAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>

	e) building capacities at national and Community level to allow for coordination and guidance on forest monitoring.	X	B, D	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To preserve forest biodiversity and the quality of ecological functions in the regulation of climate and water conditions as well as soil protection.</li> <li>2. To increase the attraction of carbon dioxide by supporting the afforestation of lands not used in agriculture and to promote deliberative measures for increasing the productivity of forest growths.</li> <li>3. To stimulate the use of wood pulp and articles made of it in order to preserve the bound carbon accumulated in the wood pulp.</li> <li>4. To improve knowledge of forest owners, managers and the society about the importance of forest biodiversity and forest ecological functions.</li> </ol> <p>NAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
<b>12. Innovation</b> To contributing to developing and demonstrating innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments to assist implementation of the European Technologies Action Plan (ETAP).				
PPA	a) promoting the identification, demonstration and dissemination of innovative technologies and practices, through actions complementary to those of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme;	X	B	<p>Latvia innovation objectives -</p> <p>Provision of favourable conditions for development of business in entire territory of Latvia to increase the competitiveness of businesses, particularly SME, establishment and development of new businesses, and to decrease the negative socially economical differences in the territories of the country;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of improvement in capacity and efficacy of National innovation system by establishment of regulatory, financial and informative environment favourable to innovative activities;</li> <li>- Achievement of material increase of competitiveness and productivity in the industry by promotion of volume of production of products with high added value and increase in proportion of high technology products in production and export structure by expanding the utilization of innovative technologies and progressive management methods in all branches of industry.</li> </ul> <p>PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTION OF BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION 2007 – 2013 <a href="http://www.em.gov.lv/em/images/modules/items/">http://www.em.gov.lv/em/images/modules/items/</a></p>

### 13. Strategic approaches

- Promoting effective implementation and enforcement of EC environmental legislation and improving the knowledge base for environmental policy;
- Improving the environmental performance of SMEs;

Priority areas of action	a) strengthening the knowledge base for policy making and implementation by building a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and supporting the implementation of the Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security initiative (GMES)	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To promote integration of environmental policy and sustainable development in planning and implementation of Latvian development policy.</li> <li>2. To improve the institutional system of sustainable development.</li> <li>3. To promote participation of Latvia in international sustainable development processes and their co-ordination at the state level.</li> <li>4. To promote participation of local ministries in improvement and implementation of Agenda 21 of the Baltic Countries, making use of the benefits of regional co-operation.</li> <li>5. To encourage involvement of municipalities in working out and implementation of local Agendas 21, as well as to support establishment of co-operation networks and exchange of experience in the Baltic area.</li> <li>6. To promote applied scientific research in development and effective application of the best methods of implementation of sustainable development.</li> <li>7. To involve the public in assessment of the key problems of environmental protection and social and economic development, and formulation of new initiatives.</li> <li>8. To establish a united information system in this country and comprehensive circulation of environmental information.</li> <li>9. To assure more active public participation in environment-related decision-making.</li> <li>10. To assure use and analysis of environmental information in the process of working out standard acts and making political decisions and evaluation of policy effectiveness.</li> <li>11. To involve public environmental organisations in the public awareness process on a wider scale.</li> </ol> <p>NAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
	b) implementing the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme for SMEs.	X	B	<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To promote implementation of the Aarhus Convention by working out and supporting different events required.</li> <li>2. To establish environmental awards of the local scale and to set up privileges in commercial</li> </ol>

				<p>activities in order to encourage involvement of small and middle-scale enterprises in environmental projects.</p> <p>3. To improve the process of entrepreneurs' education and information work with consumers in order to extend the output of environmentally friendly products and services.</p> <p>NAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>
<b>LIFE+ INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION</b>				
<b>16. Information and Communication</b> Ensuring regular and effective information flow to provide the basis for policy decisions on the environment, and to provide accessible information to citizens on the state and trends of the environment				
PPA	a) disseminating information, eco-labelling, raising awareness and developing specific skills on environmental issues, including on forest fire prevention.	X	B	<p>All Latvia's environmental objectives</p> <p>NAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN 2004 – 2008  <a href="http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/">http://www.vidm.gov.lv/eng/dokumenti/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/</a></p>