

Disclaimer: The European Commission has not altered the text of the questions resulting from the 2008 and 2009 LIFE+ workshops, which are reproduced below, except for leaving out specific names of countries or companies in some cases. Where questions put in the various workshops were identical or nearly identical, not all variations have been included.

The answers provided are for orientation purposes only. They are not binding. They often represent a summary or simplification of the documents published with the call for proposals. Moreover, please note that the documents published by the Commission for each call for proposals are modified (usually slightly) every year. This means that the answers given below may only be valid for the year in which the questions were formulated. Note that any final decision on a given proposal is taken solely on the basis of the contents of the submitted proposal and of the documents published by the Commission with the corresponding call for proposals.

N.B. the "beneficiary" and the "partners" in LIFE III are now called "coordinating beneficiary" and "associated beneficiaries" in LIFE + (see the Common Provisions for a description of their roles and responsibilities). When "beneficiary" is mentioned without further specification, it refers both to the coordinating beneficiary and all associated beneficiaries.

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1. General/miscellaneous issues

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
What is considered a transnational project? Is it a project that involves more than one country as a territory of application? Or is it a project that the participants are of more than one country?	A project is considered transnational when there are beneficiaries from more than 1 EU Member State and hence costs are incurred in several EU Member States.
Do transnational proposals have better success rates?	Not necessarily. Just note that they obtain a few more points in evaluation if there is an added value in their transnational character.
For a transnational project, is it recommended to refer to the national priorities of the associated beneficiaries? If so, will it be taken into account in the selection process?	As explained on page 16 of the evaluation guide, "A transnational proposal falling within the national priorities of more than one Member State may be more favoured."

What percentage of the projects selected from the 2007 call were transnational projects (compared to the 15% target)	Roughly 30%, which is in line with past averages. Note that, also in line with the past, LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance includes more transnational projects.
For the transnational projects, is there a list for interested bodies to form a partnership?	No.
How do we find partners to develop a new project?	If you are looking for partners in the context of your work or wish to exchange information and experience, you can look in the LIFE projects database or under "LIFE by Theme" (see LIFE homepage). The database contains an invaluable source of information about each project, including a description, beneficiary contact details and links to project homepages. Users can carry out a search to find projects in specific Member States, or to find projects with a specific profile.
Can a transnational LIFE+ Information project that involves participants from non-EU countries (candidate country) be supported under LIFE+?	No, it applies only to EU countries, as no agreement with candidate countries has been signed yet.
Can non-EU associated beneficiaries participate in a LIFE+ project?	This is not presently possible.
For future calls (2009 and beyond) will we still be limited in EU sites or is there potential to include non-EU sites?	Please refer to arts. 1 and 8 of the LIFE+ Regulation. Consult the yearly calls for proposals.
According to the 2009 LIFE+ guidelines, organisations from non-EU countries are not eligible to become LIFE+ beneficiaries. As the LIFE+ regulation in principle allows for such cooperation to be enabled, when can it be expected that countries like Switzerland will become eligible? What conditions have to be satisfied from such countries (European economic area and/or candidate EU countries)?	For specific non-EU countries to participate in the LIFE+ Programme, an agreement with such countries would have to be concluded, and supplementary budgetary appropriations received. No such agreements have been concluded yet with any country, and no request to start formal talks has been received.
A European grouping of territorial cooperation established in accordance with Regulation 1082/2006 shall have in each Member State the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under that Member State's national law. Can such a European grouping that has its registered office in one Member State submit a LIFE+ proposal through another Member State where one of its members is registered?	LIFE+ beneficiaries must submit their proposals to the competent national authority of the Member State in which the coordinating beneficiary is registered.
Can LIFE+ finance projects overseas (France)? Are there any specific conditions?	LIFE+ projects can be funded in the French Overseas Departments, but LIFE+ Nature projects are limited to those territories where the Birds and Habitat directives apply.
Are there any consultant companies located in country X that can help writing a LIFE+ proposal?	The Commission cannot reply to this question. We suggest consulting the relevant ministries (Environment, Agriculture, Industry, etc.).
Would it be possible for the EC services to complete (fill in) all the administrative, technical and financial forms for a <u>fictive</u> LIFE+ proposal, and provide this on the LIFE+ website? This would be to serve as a model and practical guidance for applicants.	Not envisaged at this time. Potential applicants could get in touch with successful past LIFE projects, which may be willing to share their experience.

<p>How many people are required in average for writing a LIFE+ proposal? How long does it take?</p>	<p>It depends on the size and complexity of the proposal. However, note that in order to write a proposal, technical, financial and administrative skills are required. Depending on the requirements of each project the load on the technical, financial and administrative tasks will vary. You may consider contacting previous LIFE projects when possible to learn from their experience.</p>
<p>If in 2008 there are a lot of good proposals that are approved and the total allocation for country X (€Y million) is granted, then will this favour larger allocation for country X in 2009?</p>	<p>There is no such link, for any country, for any year, neither in a positive nor in a negative way.</p>
<p>How many projects will be funded as the national allocation for 2009 for country X is Y million €?</p>	<p>The number of approved projects depends on the quality of the projects, not on the financial framework or number of projects submitted. It also depends on the size of the eligible projects, i.e. on the EC contribution requested.</p>
<p>What is the purpose of the indicative national allocations, if a country can in any case have more or less of the budget depending on the numbers of good proposals?</p>	<p>LIFE+ is an EU level programme and as such should aim to ensure that all Member States benefit. Indicative national allocations are an attempt to ensure this takes place, subject to sufficient, good quality proposals being submitted from all countries.</p>
<p>Isn't the allocation for my country somewhat small?</p>	<p>The Commission decides about indicative allocations per country following agreed criteria which are set out in the LIFE+ Regulation.</p>
<p>What is the role of the European Parliament in the project approval process?</p>	<p>After the LIFE+ Committee has delivered its opinion on the short and reserve list, it is submitted for <i>scrutiny</i> to the European Parliament, before the list can be finalised and grant agreements be issued. NB. The EU Parliament has a "right of scrutiny" ("<i>droit de regard</i>") for draft implementing measures based on legislation decided jointly by the Council and Parliament (co-decision). The "right of scrutiny" gives Parliament one month to object to the measures if it considers that the Commission has exceeded its implementing powers.</p>
<p>What is the role of the national authority in the selection process?</p>	<p>The role of the national authority is to carry out a first informal eligibility check (if it chooses to do so), ensuring that the proposals are complete, but it does not screen proposals for other reasons. The national authority can also make comments on the proposals, which can give applicants a limited advantage if the comments are positive. National authorities may have defined national priorities, which are found on the LIFE+ website. Furthermore, after the first eligibility step, the national authority forwards the proposals to the Commission by the agreed date. A Committee made up of Member States' representatives examines and endorses (or rejects) the list of projects for co-financing proposed by the Commission.</p>

<p>The Ministry of Environment from member State X plans to support a project financially and, thus, it may become a project co-financer. The Ministry also performs duties of authorised authority and will comment on proposals. One may see a conflict of interest in having one agency being a part of a project and also commenting on projects. What is the opinion of the Commission about this situation?</p>	<p>Please refer to the section on national annual priorities in the Application Guide. There need not necessarily be a conflict of interest, but the assessment of the comments from the Ministry would be carried out with particular care in this case.</p>
<p>Do projects in my Member State receive financial support from the Ministry of Environment?</p>	<p>The European Commission does not know about particular arrangements for specific Member States. Although ministries may participate in certain projects as coordinating beneficiaries, associated beneficiaries or co-financers, we are not aware of any ministry which systematically co-finances all projects in a given Member State.</p>
<p>National priorities: Purpose? Scoring? When and how should MS' comments be submitted?</p>	<p>As set out in Article 6 of the LIFE+ Regulation. They are scored in accordance with criterion 6 of the Evaluation Guide. Comments must be submitted by the deadline agreed in the form of a letter.</p>
<p>Giving a score to projects in the Member States that have submitted national priorities is used to compare projects within that Member State and not between Member States that have chosen the option to not submit priorities. Is this interpretation correct?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Who checks compliance with the national priorities?</p>	<p>The European Commission does.</p>
<p>How frequently does project monitoring via independent auditors take place through the lifetime of a LIFE+ project?</p>	<p>The Commission carries out continues monitoring, including visits by the Commission itself, and by the external monitoring team (the latter at least once a year, but could be more). In addition, the Commission may carry out financial audits anytime during the project and up to 5 years after project closure.</p>
<p>What does complementarity with other funding instruments mean?</p>	<p>Ample information provided in the application guides and forms. Article 9 of the LIFE+ Regulation has details on the complementarity between financial instruments: LIFE+ should not finance measures which fall within the eligibility criteria and main scope of, or receive assistance for the same purpose from, other Community financial instruments, including the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, the European Fisheries Fund and the Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities.</p>

<p>How can applicants check whether their projects can or cannot be financed by other instruments?</p>	<p>Several means available. They can check the information made available by their national or regional authorities (for instance, websites of relevant Ministry or direct contact); they can check the information made available by the European Commission for every financial instrument; for nature projects, they can also check the "Financing Natura 2000" toolkit developed by the WWF for the Commission. This document is available on DG Environment's website (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/index_en.htm).</p>
<p>Are overlaps with other programmes considered at an EU- or a local-level? For example, if at the EU-level the EAFRD includes a particular area of action, but a particular region does not chose to include this action in its priorities, can LIFE+ cofinance actions in this area?</p>	<p>At both levels, depending on the type of programme and its level of management. Instructions on complementarity are to be found in the application guide and forms, as well as in the evaluation guide published with the LIFE+ calls for proposals. Applicants should, inter alia, prior to submitting their proposal to the European Commission, check thoroughly that the actions proposed under their project cannot be and are not funded through other European funds.</p> <p>If the project has already been submitted to another funding instrument and rejected, it is worth mentioning it in the technical application forms (this is foreseen).</p>
<p>Concerning the compatibility of LIFE+ and INTERREG. If a group of local authorities has received significant funding from INTERREG to implement biodiversity projects, but it was not yet decided how the funding would be distributed amongst the members of the group of 10 municipalities that received the funding. Would the municipality still qualify for LIFE+ Biodiversity funding?</p>	<p>In principle, they would qualify. Still, applicants should, prior to submitting their proposal to the European Commission, check thoroughly that the actions proposed under their project cannot be and are not funded through other European funds (Interreg or other).</p> <p>Note that applicants are asked to sign a declaration to this effect. Form A3 includes the following paragraph: "1.The specific actions listed in this proposal do not and will not receive aid from the Structural Funds or other Community financial instruments. In the event that any such funding will be made available after the submission of the proposal or during the implementation of the project, my organisation will immediately inform the European Commission".</p>
<p>If a needed action/work of an overall Project is found to be possibly eligible for funding through other co-funding mechanisms (e.g. ERDF), but without having a guarantee on the approval of funding under such mechanism (as they involve calls for proposals as well, with schedules and applicant restrictions which may condition access to funding), should it be included in the LIFE+ application (explaining this situation)? In case yes, must the beneficiary apply for the corresponding funding and demonstrate the eventual non approval formerly to the submission of the LIFE+ Project, for it to be eligible under the LIFE+ budget?</p>	<p>Applicants should not include in their application actions that are eligible through other EC instruments. Before submitting their proposal to the European Commission, applicants must check thoroughly that the actions proposed under their project in practice cannot be and are not funded through other European funds. Beneficiaries are required to sign a declaration to this effect (see form A3).</p>

<p>We have a concrete project, which could be, regarding the content, financed from the ERDF. The problem occurs because our national call for ERDF has a fixed limit on the value of the minimum financial value of the project, which we cannot achieve and therefore we are not entitled to ERDF funds. Are we, in this case, eligible for LIFE + funds, as the ERDF in country X is de facto not available to us?</p>	<p>In principle your project would be eligible for LIFE+, provided it meets all other LIFE+ criteria. You would be expected to send documentary proof that the EDRF funds are not available for that project.</p>
<p>Where and how can we have details on other Financial/Funding Instruments?</p>	<p>Firstly, consult the relevant national ministries: agriculture, economy, etc. Some details on other Financial/Funding Instruments can be found on the webpage of the following financial instruments:</p> <p>European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fin/index_en.htm or contact directly the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</p> <p>European Regional Development Fund: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/feder/index_en.htm or contact directly the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing</p> <p>Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP): http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm</p> <p>7th Research Framework Programme: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm</p> <p>Civil Protection Financial Instrument: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/prote/finance.htm</p> <p>Cohesion Fund http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/cf/index_en.htm</p> <p>European Fisheries Fund: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/tenders_proposals_en.htm</p>
<p>Can a project proposal be refused because a number of actions included in the proposal do not fall within the scope of LIFE+ component under which it is submitted?</p>	<p>This needs to be looked at on a case-by-case basis. If the elimination of those actions would result in a significantly different project, or if it led to the project losing coherence, then the proposal would very likely be refused.</p>
<p>Which European financial tools can LIFE+ be combined with?</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Can a LIFE+ project benefit from FEDER funds through the contribution of a public body already benefitting from such funds, given that this public body cannot always determine precisely the origin of its funds?</p>	<p>A LIFE+ project cannot be co-financed with funding from other EU programmes. As explained in Article 24.2 of the Common Provisions, “the coordinating beneficiary shall ensure that no other direct or indirect European Union funding is used to co-finance the project.”</p>
<p>Can LIFE+ projects receive additional funding through other instruments after the projects end?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

What does the “EU added-value” of a project and its actions mean?	Please refer to art. 3.2 of the LIFE+ Regulation, to the LIFE+ Guides for Applicants, and to the Guide for the evaluation of LIFE+ project proposals (for instance, by searching "added value" in the documents cited).
Is the evaluation done in relation to the European objectives or the implementation of the European directives?	The criteria for European added value are in Article III of the LIFE+ Regulation.
Is the European added value an important criterion?	The criterion "European added value and complementarity and optimal use of the EU funding", fourth evaluation criterion, is the criterion with the heaviest weight (30 points out of 100). Any proposal that does not reach a minimum of 15 points for this criterion would be rejected.
Does European added value imply demonstration within the EU or promotion of EU work in an international context? For example, is protection of a bird living in the Vosges a regional or European problem?	If the bird is in the relevant annex of the Directive, it is considered European. It is EU added value because the project supports the implementation of a European policy (Birds Directive in that case).
How binding are the numbers highlighted in the Project Output Monitoring Indicator? What happens if a project underperforms on the defined targets?	Projects need to strive to meet such targets; failure to meet them will not necessarily result in a financial penalty. The expected results and deliverables of a project are the ones detailed in the relevant forms A, B and C: this will be the information that will be used by the EC to evaluate the achievements of a project. The purpose of the project output monitoring indicator forms is to collect information for statistical purposes. However, applicants should ensure that the information entered in the project output monitoring indicator forms corresponds to the project outputs defined in proposal forms A, B and C.
Can the Commission give more information on output monitoring indicators?	Please consult the LIFE+ website and Guidance chapter 4.
In which context is the assessment of the carbon footprint of a project to be documented: (a) minimisation of the footprint; (b) quantification of the footprint; (c) qualitative awareness of the existence of the footprint; and/or (d) (others)? If a project produces a large number of hardcopy documents (because this is thought to be the most effective means of communication), could it be that it becomes penalised for it during evaluation?	Please refer to the relevant page of the Evaluation Guide.
How to count carbon footprint?	There is not a single methodology offered by the Commission. Internet search will provide various solutions.
A project about techniques to enhance the welfare of animals in piggeries, chicken housing and cow sheds, concentrating on air conditioning and waste management. Is there a ‘place’ in LIFE+ for such a project?	The general objective of LIFE+ is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of Community environmental policy and legislation. Animal welfare is the remit of DG SANCO.

<p>If a proposal is rejected, is the applicant informed with enough details?</p>	<p>Yes. If the proposal is rejected after the eligibility phase, the applicant is notified before the meeting of the LIFE+ Committee. If the rejection is done after, the applicant receives a letter with detailed explanations on why the project was rejected.</p>
<p>Will applicants receive an evaluation of their proposals from the EC including the score (number of points) their proposal received? Based on this information, can the applicant revise its rejected proposal and submit it again next year?</p>	<p>Applicants whose applications are rejected receive detailed explanation of the grounds for rejection. The applicant may re-submit its proposal, preferably bearing in mind the comments received.</p>
<p>If a proposal is rejected, can it be resubmitted the following year?</p>	<p>Yes. It is advisable to take into account the reasons for rejection and modify the proposal accordingly.</p>
<p>Is there a record of what happened to reserve list projects that were resubmitted? If so, what proportion were successful in being cofinanced the next year?</p>	<p>No record is kept on this issue, nor on resubmitted projects. Projects on the reserve list of a given year are not transferred to subsequent years, but may be resubmitted. In this case, they will be re-evaluated from scratch without taking into account any findings or assessments from the previous evaluation round.</p>
<p>Under certain circumstances, can a follow-up project be eligible for support under LIFE +? If yes, what are the circumstances?</p>	<p>"Follow-up" projects undergo the same rigorous evaluation as new ones. In addition, the "follow-up" project must have clear added conservation value compared to the previous one. Note also that Recurring activities are ineligible for LIFE+ funding.</p>
<p>Is it necessary to present, as a part of the LIFE+ Application, supportive statements from “all kinds” (at respective levels) of decision-making authorities (meaning authorities that will be issuing permits, statements, etc., necessary for successful implementation of the project) concerned with the project?</p>	<p>Indications on this issue are provided in the Guidelines for Applicants, see section "Form A8 – Competent authority supporting the proposal".</p>
<p>How many participants, especially beneficiaries, shall participate in a project? Are there any “good practice” guidelines on this issue?</p>	<p>There is no obligation to involve associated beneficiaries in a LIFE+ proposal. A proposal that is submitted without any participant other than the coordinating beneficiary itself is perfectly eligible.</p> <p>Projects involving partnerships between beneficiaries are only encouraged when this partnership brings an added value to the project. Overall, the experience of the previous LIFE programmes has shown that multi-beneficiary projects are more difficult to manage and involve higher technical and financial risks. It is therefore strongly advised to keep the number of associated beneficiaries in a proposal to the necessary minimum. It is generally recommended not to involve more than 5 associated beneficiaries in a LIFE+ proposal. Should the proposal involve more, this should be explicitly justified.</p>

<p>Is there a minimum or maximum number of project participants?</p>	<p>At least 1 (coordinating beneficiary) and a recommended maximum of 5 associated beneficiaries. Keep it simple, and only add participants if they add value. Refer to the section entitled "Who may participate in a project?" in the guidelines for applicants.</p>
<p>Can modifications on the project participants take place that do not affect the budget? In case a new beneficiary is willing to be included and take some of the tasks of another beneficiary, and assuming that this will not change the EU contribution, is it feasible to modify the list of participants?</p>	<p>It would be possible. Note that changes to an approved project must take account of Article 15 of the Common Provisions (i.e. "significant changes" – such as the change of a beneficiary - require the approval of the Commission through a formal project amendment).</p>
<p>Why are the application forms so inflexible? There are some cases when all the specifics cannot be put in the forms. For example, financial state of the applicant can change (e.g. due to raising additional capital). Experience from last year shows that if you put such specifics as annexes to the application form they are not accepted and the application is rejected. How to avoid this, how to show the specifics in the application forms?</p>	<p>The Commission believes the forms are clear and transparent. Note that the evaluation of a project must be made on the real situation when it is submitted, not on the basis of potential future developments.</p>
<p>Why is it not possible to add additional information which would show/support the quality of the project as an annex to the application? For example, instead of summarising how certain visitors' infrastructure will be built, the plan for its construction could be simply annexed to the application.</p>	<p>Such information is not evaluated. Evaluation of various projects must be made on the basis of comparable information.</p>
<p>Why does the project evaluation take such a long time?</p>	<p>See the document entitled Evaluation Guide to get an idea of the various aspects that need to be assessed.</p>
<p>How much recourse does an applicant have if they do not agree with proposed changes during the Revision Phase?</p>	<p>Revision instructions can be challenged, provided good arguments (in line with the applicable rules and regulations) can be provided in due time.</p>
<p>Are there any sanctions of backing out not sooner than in the revision phase of the project evaluation?</p>	<p>There are not. But try and avoid this whenever possible.</p>
<p>What language should be used to write a LIFE+ application? Should it be preferably English or other EU official languages?</p>	<p>Either language is possible. Although the Commission recommends using English where possible, applications written in other official EU languages (Irish and Maltese excluded) are not at a disadvantage, i.e. they are not penalised in any way.</p>
<p>Does the submission of LIFE+ application in the national language of a member state pose a threat to the project in terms of its proper evaluation related to potentially incorrect interpretation/translation of the proposal to the language, in which the proposal will be evaluated?</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p>Is it possible to focus a project on complex area environmental problems under the LIFE+ Programme or should a project proposal rather be concentrated on limited (specific) number of environmental issues (problems)?</p>	<p>It is possible to have LIFE+ projects focusing on a wide range of environmental problems in a given area. However, note that project coherence is important for both specific and wide projects, and that it may prove a greater challenge in more ambitious projects. See, for instance, the section on Technical coherence and quality in the Award phase of the Guide for the evaluation of LIFE+ project proposals.</p>
<p>What if a project fits all three categories at the same time - LIFE+ Natura and Biodiversity, Environment Policy and Governance as well as Information and Communication? For example, a project focusing on protection of a Natura 2000 site could have strong informational and educational component which would include new approaches and technologies to stimulate environmental governance?</p>	<p>All 3 types of projects require a publicity and information component, the difference is that projects that apply for LIFE+ Information and Dissemination have to show that they have reached significant change in knowledge or behaviour of the target groups by the end of the project.</p> <p>A LIFE+ Nature or Biodiversity proposal must allocate at least 25% of its budget to concrete conservation actions. A LIFE+ Information and Communication project does not include concrete conservation actions.</p>
<p>Could you give a list of topics for projects?</p>	<p>The LIFE programme has a bottom-up approach. Participate in it if you have a problem that you really want to deal with. It gives you freedom for deciding on project's subject matter in the framework of the LIFE+ programme. You may also consult the LIFE website project database for past examples.</p>
<p>Can you give some statistical information for the total EU projects that are funded under the three components during the past couple of years?</p>	<p>Please visit the Project Database and Theme pages on the LIFE website.</p>
<p>Among the beneficiaries of selected projects, what is the percentage public/private?</p>	<p>About 60% from the public sector, 25% from NGOs, and 15% from the private sector.</p>
<p>Is it possible to use LIFE+ for projects going beyond 2013 (for example with implementation from 2011 – 2016)?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Will the timetable for next year's Call for Proposals be similar to this year's?</p>	<p>Consult the LIFE webpage.</p>
<p>Is it possible to modify the proposal presentation timetable?</p>	<p>Not possible. It is the same schedule for all EU Member States.</p>
<p>Will there also be a Call for Proposals next year?</p>	<p>Yes, there will be a Call for Proposals in the LIFE+ programme every year until 2013.</p>
<p>Will formal conditions of the year of 2009 Call differ from those of 2008?</p>	<p>This is not known at the moment; check the LIFE website.</p>
<p>Some years ago, there were some networking meetings between similar ongoing LIFE projects within country X. Is this something that is envisioned for LIFE+ projects as well, either at a national or even international level?</p>	<p>Such networking meetings are being organised, both by the Commission and by some Member States. Not all Member States or sectors are covered, though, so far.</p> <p>The Commission welcomes initiatives by LIFE project beneficiaries to organise such sectoral meetings.</p>

2. Financial / Administrative issues

How limiting is the average project grant of €1 million (EU contribution)?	Not limiting at all. Proposals could be less or more than €1 million. It's just a broad indication.
Please clarify the ideal size of a project.	The average project may well be of some €2 million, out of which €1 million can come as the EC grant. Proposals could be substantially less or more than this. It's just a broad indication.
If a project is small (total budget 200,000€), can it be submitted under any LIFE+ component?	This budget is small but it can, provided it meets the requirements for the specific component.
Is there a minimum budget for EU-contribution?	No, but note that very small projects are not favoured in the selection process for reasons of scale and management effort.
Are there minimum budgets for LIFE+ Projects? Which are (have been) small project budgets on Projects approved under LIFE+?	Strictly speaking, there are no minimum budgets for LIFE+ projects. Projects with a total budget below €500,000 have been financed under LIFE+, including a recent one where the EC contribution was just above €150,000. However, smaller projects tend to have a higher proportion of management costs and a less favourable cost/benefit ratio.
Can a small municipality undertake a project grant of €1 million (EU contribution)?	Yes, provided it has sufficient resources for implementing and managing all necessary actions.
Can a public or non-public body submit more than one proposal where they are the coordinating beneficiary?	There is no limit to the number of proposals a public or non-public body may submit.
If a public or non-public body has already a LIFE+ project which is currently running, can they submit a new LIFE+ proposal?	Yes
A European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC, in accordance with Regulation xxx) has full legal capacity to work in two countries (X and Y) and intends to submit a project that includes actions to be carried out in both countries. The costs will be incurred by the EGTC, which is registered in one country (X) but will be paid in the two countries and related to actions that will be carried out in the two countries. Will this project be considered transnational despite not having any associated beneficiary in one of the two countries? If the proposal is approved, will the financial contribution be considered as part of the indicative amount assigned to one of the countries or to the two countries and if so, how will this be split?	It would be considered as part of the indicative amount assigned to the country in which the EGTC is headquartered.
Can the “law 1901” (France) associations submit a LIFE+ proposal?	The “law 1901” associations are legal entities according to French law and can thus submit a LIFE+ proposal.
Can an individual (not a company, organisation etc) submit a proposal?	No.

May private companies (not non-profit organisations) be involved as participants in a proposal?	Yes.
Can a bank submit a LIFE+ proposal, as it is a profit-organisation?	Yes.
Is a university eligible?	Yes.
Are there any circumstances in which universities would not be considered eligible as beneficiary due to the “bottom-up” character of the programme?	No. Bottom-up refers to the fact that the programme solicits project ideas and concepts from applicants, rather than being imposed from the top by the authorities. It does not refer in any way to the kind of applicants that may apply.
Which percentage of proposals in the past involved “municipalities” as beneficiaries?	The LIFE project database, when searched in mid 2009 by entering "Local Authority" under type of beneficiary, produces 311 projects, out of 2912 entries.
Can the JRC participate in LIFE projects?	Only under extremely limited conditions.
Some projects were refused in the past because some beneficiaries were unable to provide proof of their “public body” status. What kind of proof is required from a declared public institution to justify its “public body” character?	Please refer to section "1.5 Administrative and financial information to be provided" of the Application Guide. The rules are now simpler than in the past.
Will a public company (100% public capital), that submits a proposal as coordinating beneficiary, be considered a public body by the Commission?	Yes, if it complies with the conditions specified in the Application Guide.
Should a public company that works exclusively for a regional administration always participate in a project as an associated beneficiary or could it be considered as a subcontractor that belongs to the regional administration (and would therefore not include VAT costs and overheads in the expenses invoiced to the regional administration that will act as coordinating beneficiary)?	Such a company would have to be an associated beneficiary in the project. If it were to be a subcontractor, it would have to bid in an open call for tender.
Is there any difference if the applicant is a public body or a private company? What is the status of the NGOs?	All differences are explained in detail in the Application Guidelines. The main difference being the financial information to be provided.
If there are no co-financers included in the list of participants in a proposal, can the 50% non-European contribution be covered by associated beneficiaries?	All beneficiaries (coordinating or associated) must make a reasonable financial contribution.
Which is the list of private organisations registered in the EU?	There is no such list. Applicants have to show, among other things, that they are registered in the EU.
Is it acceptable if the (coordinating) beneficiary pays only a negligible financial contribution to the project from its own resources for the reason that it has no revenue-generating activities, but it is able to ensure larger amounts for the project co-financing through various co-financers?	Yes, but note that the Guidelines for Applicants state that "The (coordinating) beneficiary and (if applicable) any associated beneficiaries are expected to provide a reasonable financial contribution to the project budget. A beneficiary's financial contribution is considered as a proof of its financial commitment to the implementation of the project objectives - a very low financial contribution may therefore be considered as an absence or lack of commitment".
Can the co-financing of the coordinating beneficiary be less than the co-financing of the associated beneficiaries?	Yes, however, it must be reasonable and cannot be zero.

<p>What is the minimum of a financial contribution of an associated beneficiary or co-financier?</p>	<p>There is not a minimum amount specified. But note that the Guidelines for Applicants state that</p> <p>"The (coordinating) beneficiary and (if applicable) any associated beneficiaries are expected to provide a reasonable financial contribution to the project budget. A beneficiary's financial contribution is considered as a proof of its financial commitment to the implementation of the project objectives - a very low financial contribution may therefore be considered as an absence or lack of commitment".</p> <p>Careful, it should not be zero, else the proposal will be rejected.</p>
<p>How must we distribute the budget? What is the co-financing for partners?</p>	<p>You can decide yourself about budget distribution, provided it respects LIFE+ rules. Note that each project beneficiary must receive part of the EC grant and also make a financial contribution to the project.</p>
<p>Is a different share of the contribution acceptable when the partners are a public subject, commercial subject and NGO, and if yes, what differences are acceptable?</p>	<p>Yes. You can decide yourself about the contributions, provided they respect LIFE+ rules. Note that each project beneficiary must receive part of the EC grant and also make a financial contribution to the project.</p>
<p>Can a coordinated beneficiary be also a co-financier?</p>	<p>Yes, in a way (if part of its contribution is used for co-financing the actions of the other beneficiaries, it is de facto a co-financier). However, it should <u>not</u> participate in the project as both coordinating beneficiary <u>and</u> co-financier: it should contribute the entire intended co-financing to the project under the single identity of coordinating beneficiary. Moreover, in such cases, it would be necessary to explain why the co-financing from the LIFE programme is needed, especially for the actions where the co-financer/associated beneficiary would be involved in.</p>
<p>Could you please go over eligible costs for national co-financing?</p>	<p>Please refer to the Common Provisions, articles 25 eligible and article 26 ineligible costs.</p>
<p>Is there a negotiation period with regards to the amount of financing which will be given?</p>	<p>There is no "negotiation" on the amount of co-financing to be granted by the Commission. The maximum co-financing <u>rate</u> is fixed (see Guidelines for Applicants). The actual <u>amount</u> will be determined during the Revision phase of the evaluation (see section entitled "How will LIFE+ projects be selected?" in the Guidelines for applicants).</p>
<p>Please clarify about co-financing 50%. Are the rules for private, public and NGO the same? Let's say I am a private business participating in LIFE project and I were to buy a tractor (for forestry related activities). What is the co-financing share I will be entitled to? Is it only 40% because I am private business?</p>	<p>There are special provisions for NGOs and public bodies in LIFE+ Nature, as regards the maximum amount of depreciation of durable goods (see the Common Provisions).</p>
<p>What is the role of a cofinancer?</p>	<p>Please refer to art. 7 of the Common Provisions.</p>
<p>Could you please provide examples on 75% EC grant exception?</p>	<p>Please refer to the LIFE website project database for concrete examples.</p>

<p>Specifically on the LIFE+ Nature Application Guide p. 13, middle paragraph “Finally, it is expected ...during revision” does it imply that all project beneficiaries should get the exact percent of the EU contribution which they contribute. For example, a beneficiary offers 20% of the budget (non-EU contribution), should they benefit from 20% of the EU contribution?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>No formal national mechanism for co-financing of LIFE project is in place in country X. Therefore, it is always extremely difficult for beneficiaries to ensure co-financing of LIFE projects, particularly in the case of larger projects. The same stands for pre-financing of the 3rd instalment payable after the project end date, subject to approval of the Final Report. Is it possible to have a review of the practice in Member States on: how to obtain additional capacity/additional costs in relation to LIFE project implementation; what is the common source of financing; and what is the common manner of national financing? Could you provide any examples?</p>	<p>The Commission does not have any systematic insight into the co-funding mechanisms of LIFE projects in the various Member States.</p> <p>Generally speaking, cofinancing is provided by national authorities, other public bodies and certain private organisations (NGOs, Foundations, private companies and other).</p>
<p>Project size is an issue for many of us. Could you please give examples how we can make such a large co-financing share?</p>	<p>This is usually done through co-financers and associated beneficiaries. Note that several NGOs have successfully managed LIFE projects, including large ones.</p>
<p>A project presented by a private non-commercial organisation hasn't been selected because of a lack of sufficient financial guarantees. Can financial guarantees be provided by the organisation's associates?</p>	<p>Note that during the evaluation phase, the Commission tries to determine the financial situation of the coordinating beneficiary.</p> <p>Please refer to art. 28.2 of the Common Provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • depending on the coordinating beneficiary's financial viability as evaluated during the selection phase, a guarantee issued by a bank or an insurance company may be requested by the Commission during the revision phase. This guarantee will equal the amount of the first pre-financing and will cover the duration of the project plus six months. Its validity will be extended in the event of an extension of the project. In exceptional cases this guarantee could be replaced by joint and several guarantees by a third party. The guarantee is to be in the format set out in Annex II.

<p>What is the rationale, and the “type”, of activity to be defined in the sentence “if the same type of action is carried out by several project participants, it is advisable to split this action and to assign one separate action to each of the participants“ (page 35 of the Application Guide, LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance)? Under what circumstances an activity should be split or kept as a single activity? (An applicant from LIFE+ in 2007 interpreted the sentence to mean that an action (e.g. Project Management) that is shared between several partners must be listed as a separate activity for each participant. During the Revision Phase, it was asked to lump them together in one activity again).</p>	<p>For the sake of transparency of the budget, it is highly advisable not to pool costs for different beneficiaries into one single project action. This makes the proposal more transparent and reduces the work burden for the applicant and for the Commission, in particular during the revision phase. Conversely, a proposal that has costs for several beneficiaries pooled into one single action will be scored lower on technical and financial coherence and quality. If the beneficiary nevertheless decides to make several beneficiaries responsible for the same actions, then the proposal should include a detailed breakdown of the costs per beneficiary, on form FB and on the detailed financial forms.</p>
<p>Can a project change partners during the life of a project if, for example, one partner become incapable to act and endanger the capacity of the project to deliver? If yes, under which circumstances a change of partner is possible?</p>	<p>Yes, a project can in principle change "partners" (associated beneficiaries / cofinancers). There are various conditions: Article 15.2 of the Common Provisions: When the changes are substantial, written additional agreement from the Commission must be obtained. Substantial changes are: [...] Changes to the project partnership structure.” Article 15.3 “In the cases foreseen in Article 15.2 the coordinating beneficiary shall submit a formal request for changes, in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Commission. When a request for changes includes modifications of the project partnership and/or of the budget made available by an associated beneficiary or a co-financier, the associated beneficiary / co-financier involved shall also sign the modification request. The Commission reserves the right to accept or to refuse the request and may decide not to take into consideration any request received later than three months before the end of the project. “</p>
<p>If a LIFE+ project is about networking on an environmental issue in Northern Europe and the issue is written into the application, are the costs of the networking of the EU LIFE+ partner to non-EU country (Norway etc.) eligible? For instance travelling to meetings to non-EU site? (The non-EU country, naturally, pays its own costs.)</p>	<p>Proposals submitted under the 2008 and 2009 calls may only take place on the territory of the European Union Member States. Actions are not allowed to take place and costs are not allowed to be incurred outside the EU territory. The only exception to this rule may be related to a limited amount of travel and subsistence costs for the attendance of conferences, workshops or similar events, provided that these are useful to achieve the project objectives and have been specifically foreseen in the proposal or have specifically been approved by the Commission.</p>
<p>Can LIFE+ funding be used to finance the participation at some event in the EU of some experts from non EU third countries that are willing to completely finance a mirror project component in their home country?</p>	<p>LIFE+ funding may be used to limited amount of travel and subsistence costs for the attendance of conferences, workshops or similar events by experts from outside the EU, provided that this is useful to achieve the project objectives, has been specifically foreseen in the proposal or has specifically been approved by the Commission. Note that what matters here is the contribution to achieving <u>the LIFE project objectives</u>.</p>
<p>Do sub-contractors have to be registered in the EU to represent an eligible cost or can sub-contractors from outside the EU be paid out of eligible expenditures under LIFE+?</p>	<p>Subcontractors should preferably be registered in the EU, but it could be possible for a non-EU country if this country falls within Articles 106-107 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.</p>

<p>a. Can a company from non-EU country become a subcontractor to the project if the work itself is placed in EU area?</p> <p>b. What if the work is done outside EU-area?</p> <p>c. What about the possibility that a subcontractor from country X in the EU builds up a secondary sub-subcontract with a company outside the EU? This might be relevant in for instance seeking staff for monitoring.</p>	<p>a. Yes (see answer to question above).</p> <p>b. No. LIFE+ projects are implemented in the EU.</p> <p>c. Fine, if the monitoring is done in the EU.</p>
<p>Concerning sub-contracting rules in the Common Provisions for a private beneficiary (Article 8.4), can the Commission clarify if the amount of €125,000 refers to a single sub-contracting relationship of that amount, or whether it refers to the sum of all sub-contracting relationships proposed in the application?</p> <p>Also, for contracts exceeding €125,000, can the Article be interpreted to mean that the normal practices of the beneficiary concerning invitations to tender can be followed (assuming they comply with the phrases included in the Article) (in this case the applicant would be an international NGO)?</p>	<p>€125,000 refers to contracts, not to "subcontracting relationships".</p> <p>The answer to the second question is "yes".</p>
<p>It is difficult to estimate exactly the costs of subcontractors' work and certain expenses – prices can change reasonably before the project even gets started. Can the estimated costs be changed later, in the implementation phase?</p>	<p>Variations in costs per category are accepted up to that foreseen in the budget plus 10% and €30 000. Over and above that, for the costs to be eligible, prior authorisation is needed from the Commission. See article 15 of the Common Provisions.</p> <p>In no case can the EC contribution mentioned in the grant agreement at the start of the project be increased.</p>
<p>The public administration of Member State X has to manage long procedures for contracting services and personnel. In order to be able to carry out the project actions in due time, contracts should be prepared in advance (e.g. one year in advance to the starting date of the project). Could this represent a problem taking into account that eligible costs must actually be incurred during the lifetime of the project and the legal obligation to pay must be contracted after the signature of the grant agreement by the Commission? Would the LIFE+ funding be acknowledged already in the preparation of such contracts, even if funding were not confirmed?</p>	<p>The LIFE funding would have to be acknowledged in such contracts. Moreover, such contracts must include a clause by which they would be rescinded if the LIFE project is not granted. See article 25.1 of the common provisions.</p>
<p>Project management can be financed as external assistance or it must be personnel cost?</p>	<p>Please refer to the section of the Guidelines for Applicants entitled "Which project beneficiary should be in charge of the project management?"</p>
<p>Should service contracts be declared as personnel or external assistance costs?</p>	<p>As personnel costs if fulfilling article 25.2.</p>
<p>For a French territorial collectivité, assistance for project management is subject to public procurement and public procurement regulations do not allow mentioning the name of the company that will be in charge of implementing the project; is LIFE+ an appropriate tool for such institution?</p>	<p>The Commission prefers that the project is managed by its beneficiary. Otherwise, it is a weakness of the project; it is not however an exclusion criterion. The application must describe well why this information cannot be mentioned.</p>

<p>The maximum of 35% of the budget for external assistance. Some projects are planning to perform extensive restoration works of a kind that requires heavy machinery. This means that it is likely that the cost for external assistance will be more than 35%.</p> <p>Is this acceptable, if the reason for the high use of external assistance is the fact that it is the most cost effective way of performing desired actions within a project?</p>	<p>Higher percentage (i.e. above 35%) may only be accepted if an adequate justification for this is provided in the project proposal. This is examined on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>What about public tendering procedures in the context of the LIFE+ Programme? Are national laws applicable?</p>	<p>Please refer to art.8 of Common Provisions.</p>
<p>Is an external co-operation with a top expert less appreciated than a partnership (also with a top expert) since externally cooperating expert cannot be co-financed by 50% contribution from LIFE?</p>	<p>Generally speaking, if the company is an active participant, interested in project results, it should be an associated beneficiary. If, on the other hand, it were a mere service provider, not interested in project results, it could be external assistance (see arts. 8.2 and 8.3 of the Common Provisions).</p>
<p>May a development company participate as associated beneficiary (next to a prefecture/municipality) or as sub-contractor? Does the participation of a development company require public contest?</p>	<p>Generally speaking, if the company is an active participant, interested in project results, and willing to accept all the obligations that come with it, it should be an associated beneficiary. If, on the other hand, it were a mere service provider, not interested in project results, it could be external assistance (see arts. 8.2 and 8.3 of the Common Provisions). If the company were a subcontractor, concerning tendering requirements please refer to art. 8 of Common Provisions.</p>
<p>Is it possible that for actions assigned to sub-contractors to last the whole duration of a LIFE+ project?</p>	<p>Yes, so long as they are limited in scope.</p>
<p>Do sub-contractors appear in the proposal?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>If a project invests in an expensive piece of infrastructure, such as a new pipe for the improvement of water passage under a road (to improve the ecological function of the river passing through the pipe), can the construction works related to the installation of the pipe be considered as a part of the investment, or do they have to be registered as external assistance?</p>	<p>If the infrastructure is registered as such by the beneficiary, then the related costs can be included as durable goods. Otherwise, it would be external assistance.</p>
<p>Can an EU grant from another EU programme be counted as part of the budget of a LIFE+ project (beyond the LIFE+ grant)?</p> <p>What are the conditions or restrictions, if any?</p>	<p>No. Please refer to art. 9 of the LIFE+ Regulation.</p>
<p>We wish to publish a magazine in the course of the LIFE+ project. Can we sell the magazine or advertisements in it? Since we are dealing with an NGO the objective would not be to benefit but to finance the subsequent publishing of the magazine. Can this kind of financing be self-financing?</p>	<p>Please, refer to art. 24.4 of the Common Provisions.</p>

Can revenues coming from activities developed during the project (such as fees for participation at events) be counted in the budget as part of the financing of the project? If yes, how precisely should such budget component be described and documented in the submission?	Please, refer to art. 24.4 of the Common Provisions.
What happens if the project has an income from sales or services or product (e.g., innovative solar power plant can sell electricity in the distribution system)? Can profit or income be included in the project as a project's holder own input?	That income would have to be declared. I could not be included in the project as the beneficiary's own input from the moment that it would lead to the beneficiary making a profit.
Can a book that is produced via a LIFE+ project, in the end of the project, can it be used by a non-profit organisation as a product?	It depends on what is understood by "used as a product". If this is meant to generate revenue for the non-profit organisation, then art. 24.4 of the Common Provisions applies.
What happens to the rights of a published book/brochure after the end of a project? Who has the rights, the EU or the coordinated beneficiary?	The rights stay with the project beneficiaries. Note, however, that according to art. 13.9 of the Common Provisions, the Commission has the right to use all the information related to the project or produced by the project. Refer also to Common Provisions arts. 20 on Confidentiality, 21 on Protection of data and 22 on Ownership and exploitation of results.
How should income generated from e.g. websites be treated?	See articles 24.4 and 29 of the Common Provisions.
Can a special edition of regularly printed journal be eligible for LIFE+ funding?	Probably yes, if it is an action within a wider project, and depending on the justification given. Most probably not, if this were the only action in a project.
Can an edition of regularly printed journal containing articles on respective LIFE+ projects be eligible for LIFE + funding?	Probably yes, if it is an action within a wider project, and depending on the justification given. Most probably not, if this were the only action in a project.
Can audit costs incurred to document: a) the project overall cost balance; and/or b) a beneficiary financial capability statement be counted as eligible costs?	No.
Do all the private applicants need an audit report? How old can the report be given the fact that now it would be difficult to obtain one on time?	Please refer to section 5 entitled "Administrative and financial information to be provided" in the various "Guidelines for applicants". The audit should refer to the last completed financial year.
How many audit sessions are typically required? This is necessary in order to estimate the associated cost that should be considered for the overall budget calculation.	One independent financial audit is foreseen for projects with cofinancing of over Euro 300,000 (see Article 31 of the Common Provisions). An initial audit of the organisation's accounts must be included in the application for non-public bodies requesting a cofinancing of over Euro 300,000 – however, this cost is not eligible and should not appear in the project budget.
An audit report or a certification by an independent auditor must be presented by the coordinating beneficiary together with the balance sheet and profit and loss account to certify that they present a true and fair view of the coordinating beneficiary's financial situation. This information shall be provided only by the coordinating beneficiary or also by other associated beneficiaries?	As noted in the guidelines for applicants, these documents must be provided only by the coordinating beneficiary.

Is the project's external audit an eligible cost?	It is, if an audit is necessary. Please refer to art. 31 of the Common Provisions.
Should multi-beneficiary projects have one auditor?	This is preferred.
What is an independent auditor?	As accepted by national law.
An applicant has received an independent audit report that confirms that their financial viability is fine. However, the opinion cannot be said to be unqualified as it contains a comment about the way in which the applicant has interpreted their capital costs. The applicant does not think that this comment has any impact on their ability to manage a LIFE+ project. Therefore, to what extent will the Commission accept a qualified opinion from an auditor, and will the Commission accept additional explanations or documentations from the applicant to support their position?	The rule is that it should be an unqualified opinion from the auditor.
Is it possible to apply floating exchange during the implementation of LIFE+ 2009 projects?	Please refer to Art. 29.5 of the Common Provisions, which introduces greater flexibility than in the past: "The coordinating beneficiary or an associated beneficiary having their accounts in other currencies shall convert amounts into Euro using the exchange rate applied by the European Central Bank on the first working day of the year in which the expenditure is paid".
Can the cost of transfer of ownership from a national public authority to a local public authority represent an eligible cost under LIFE+?	Probably not.
Is taking out insurance against the risk of a LIFE+ project failure possible? Does cost of such insurance eligible? Are there any special institutions, which deal with such special insurance issues for the LIFE+ Programme at the national or EU levels?	Such a cost would not be eligible.
What is the most preferred financial security required by the European Commission (for example in case of recently created NGO's and other private organisations)?	Please refer to section "1.5 Administrative and financial information to be provided" in the Application guidelines.
What shall be done in case of bankruptcy of a coordinating beneficiary? Does any LIFE+ legal rule apply in such situation?	Please refer to Art. 19.4 of the Common Provisions.
Can in-kind expenses (i.e. expenses for which there is no cash-transaction during the project) be counted as: a) an eligible cost; and/or b) as a co-financing cost?	No.
Can the rights of a patent or technology be used as contribution for participation in a LIFE+ project?	No.
If a project participant has existing equipment that can be used for the project (i.e. a boat), can it participate in the project via the action of offering its equipment? Should this participant produce an invoice for such action?	This would amount to an "in kind" contribution, which is not acceptable.

<p>If a participant's contribution is only limited to manpower, then what is the EU contribution that corresponds to that participant?</p>	<p>If this is understood as a contribution "in kind", it is not acceptable. If it is understood to mean that this beneficiary would have and declare personnel expenditure only, there is no set EU contribution. It depends on the logic of the project.</p>
<p>Can land lease of a private person be considered as contribution in kind?</p>	<p>In principle not. Land lease is allowed under certain conditions. See the section on "Land purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payment for use rights" in the Nature and Biodiversity Guidelines for Applicants.</p>
<p>Could volunteer work be considered as contribution in kind?</p>	<p>Yes, volunteer work is considered a contribution in kind. It is therefore ineligible.</p>
<p>If an extension of activities is required by the Commission in a Revision phase, can this be done with a corresponding extension of the project budget?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Having a project aimed at awareness raising campaign where a co-financer sets a precondition of being advertised/medially promoted by a beneficiary during the project at all events, to what extent can this advertising be done?</p>	<p>Just having its logo (as well as logos of all other participants of the project) is acceptable; however no special or unrelated publicity of co-financer can be either attached or financed from the project.</p>
<p>Can one apply for LIFE funding for a project under which actions are undertaken to be in compliance with legislation.</p>	<p>No, if the only objective were to comply with legislation. Yes, if it were a case of demonstrating a best practice, or an innovative approach, complying also with the legislation. However, note that any costs related to any action that can be considered as a compensatory measure which are the responsibility of a Member State and which are decided in relation to the Birds' and Habitats' Directives are ineligible.</p>
<p>When a MS is planning a project that impacts on a Natura 2000 site, it must offset the impact on the Natura 2000 site, as required by legislation, for example by creating new habitats. Can a project that aims at implementing such compensating and mitigating measures, apply for LIFE funding.</p>	<p>No (see common provisions, Art. 26 on ineligible costs).</p>
<p>Is the travel and subsistence of voluntary staff eligible?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Is overtime considered an eligible cost? In particular, can the overtime of permanent employers of public organizations be considered an eligible cost if this overtime is dedicated to the particular needs of the LIFE+ project?</p>	<p>Overtime is an eligible cost if it is paid and there is a record of this. The cost declared should be the total cost, including overtime; the hours declared should also be the total hours worked, including overtime.</p>
<p>Can depreciation charges relating to durable goods be considered as eligible costs?</p>	<p>Yes – under some conditions (refer to Common Provisions: art. 25.5 - 25.10).</p>
<p>Can the expenses for providing training to schools, etc., be considered eligible costs?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Can the production of a brochure which will be sent as an insert of a pre-existing magazine be considered an eligible cost?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Is a thesis eligible?</p>	<p>Perhaps, provided it meets all of the other eligibility criteria and provided it is not just research.</p>

Can the cost of maintaining the website for 5 years after closure of the project, be charged to the project, and is this cost eligible for co-financing.	No, since it is not incurred during the lifetime of the project, i.e. its implementation is not completed before the project closure.
Are costs associated with visitor centres for marine Natura 2000 sites eligible?	They may be depending on the detail of the project.
Are there any circumstances under which any expenses incurred before the Expected Start Date can be counted as eligible for support after the 01.01.2010 (for the 2008 Call)?	According to the Common Provisions Article 25.1, a cost shall be considered as incurred during the lifetime of the project (and therefore eligible) when the legal obligation to pay was contracted after the signature of the grant agreement by the Commission.
Is the time spent preparing the application in the year before the submission eligible?	No.
What are the eligibility rules for buying equipment?	Please refer to art. 25 of the Common Provisions.
Clarify to what extent can own personnel in public authorities work in LIFE+ projects.	Please refer to Article 5(5) of the LIFE+ Regulation. For a detailed explanation, see the guidelines for applicants.
Can the salary costs of a public body be co-financed by a private organisation?	Yes, provided the financial contributions by the public body to the project budget still exceed (by at least 2%) the sum of the salary costs of their staff charged to the project.
Sum of public bodies' contributions (as coordinating beneficiary and/or associated beneficiary) to the project budget must exceed (by at least 2%) the sum of the salary costs of their staff charged to the project. This will be checked at both the selection phase and at the time of the final payment. We are not clear about the interpretation. For example, if the costs of the permanent staff of a public body will total costs of €55,000 (€50,000 for work and €5,000 for other costs), what is the total in this case, that the public body as a beneficiary or associated beneficiary has to contribute to the project?	The Commission takes into account actual wages plus obligatory social charges and any other statutory costs included in the remuneration, but excluding any other cost. So, if the €5,000 corresponds to this definition, then the total is €5,000 + 2%.
Could you give a practical example in which the 2% rule is applied?	The total amount of co-financing of public institutions which are beneficiaries of a project must be greater than or equal to 102% of the total personnel costs incurred by those same beneficiaries. Example: The sum of the salary costs of the public bodies' staff charged to the project is €100,000 (actual wages plus obligatory social charges and any other statutory costs included in the remuneration, but excluding any other cost). These public bodies should make a contribution to the project of at least €102,000.

<p>What is the 2% rule on the salaries of the persons from the public sector?</p>	<p>The total amount of co-financing of public institutions which are beneficiaries of a project must be greater than or equal to 102% of the total personnel costs incurred by those same beneficiaries. For these personnel costs to be eligible they must be supported by timesheets, timely signed by the member of personnel, showing the time spent on the project by each person. The 2% rule does not apply to the salaries of the persons specifically contracted to implement the project and within the duration of the project (not before, not after).</p>
<p>Salaries of civil servants charged to the project: The “2% rule” is clear, as is the need for secondment. It is not, however, clear how to ensure/document that salaries of “permanent staff” (understood to be staff employed by the institution independently from the project usually for indefinite period) can represent “additional costs” to the institutions. It is usual practice that salaries of civil servants/public employees are allocated to the institution notwithstanding the number of projects it implements and these allocations are made according to the number of permanent staff members, rather than the number of projects that the institution implements. It therefore seems that only staff hired specifically for the project in addition to institution permanent staff can represent “additional costs with respect to existing permanent staff”. Please explain.</p>	<p>The rule on "additional costs" is to be understood in the context that the own financial contribution (to the project budget) of the public bodies in question must be at least 2% higher than the sum of the salary costs (in the project budget) of its permanent staff that is specifically seconded to the project.</p>
<p>Why must the sum of financial contributions of public bodies exceed by at least 2% the sum of the salary costs of their permanent staff charged to the project? This looks like subsidy or it gives impression that it is easier for the private organisations to apply for funding.</p> <p>Also, how do you distinguish between permanent staff charged fully to the project for which this rule applies and other staff that is fully charged to this project? For example, last year one of the applicants got the suggestion that out of 10 employees working on the project 4 could be considered as permanent staff for the 2% rule, while the other 6 do not count as such.</p>	<p>These are necessary guarantees sought by the Commission, also a requirement in the LIFE+ Regulation. Please refer to art. 25.2 of the Common Provisions and to art. 5 of the LIFE+ Regulation.</p>
<p>According to the Common Provisions (art. 25.2) ‘the sum of the public authorities’ contributions (as coordinating beneficiary and/or associated beneficiary) to the project must exceed (by at least 2%) the sum of the salary costs of the civil servants charged to the project’. Does this rule concern only “civil servants” or also other employees of the public body?</p>	<p>It concerns all permanent staff of the public body.</p>
<p>Is the overhead of research organisations included in the 2% above the sum of the salary costs of their permanent staff charged to the project?</p>	<p>Please refer to point 6.10 of the Guidance. Public bodies' contributions to the project budget must exceed by at least 2% the sum of their salary costs charged to the project.</p>

<p>The Common Provisions specify requirements for personnel costs in case of civil servants (point 25.2). In the case of a University as beneficiary, is it necessary to have its professors specifically seconded to the project? If yes, how can it be demonstrated/formalised as they are not accountable to anybody in the organisation?</p>	<p>Such staff should be specifically seconded to the project.</p>
<p>Concerning the requirement under LIFE+ that public body staff be seconded to a LIFE+ project: under country X's law this would necessitate their position being backfilled (i.e. filled by another person). Does the LIFE+ programme require this form of back-filling and if – if so - how will the validity of the backfilling be assessed?</p>	<p>The LIFE programme as such does not require such back-filling.</p>
<p>If a beneficiary employs someone specifically for the purpose of a LIFE+ project, in country X the beneficiary will be obliged to recruit this person as a permanent member of staff if their contract is for longer than three years. Would the costs of making this person redundant at the end of the LIFE+ project considered as eligible?</p>	<p>No. Only the personnel costs incurred during the project's lifetime can be considered as eligible project costs. Any personnel costs shall be charged in respect of the actual time devoted to the project. They shall be calculated on the basis of the actual gross salary or wages plus obligatory social charges and any other statutory costs included in the remuneration, but excluding any other cost.</p>
<p>Regarding the 2% rule for public bodies, should the contribution come directly from the public body or can the public body bring it from external sources?</p>	<p>It should come directly from the public body insofar as the public body makes the contribution to the project's budget and there is proof of this.</p>
<p>Is there any limit (financial or other) on the eligibility of personnel costs under LIFE+ 2008? Is there any difference regarding the eligibility of personnel costs between the 2007 and 2008 calls for proposal?</p>	<p>No such limit on the eligibility of personnel costs (but note requirements regarding civil servants, as described in Guidelines for Applicants).</p>
<p>Regarding administrative or non specialized staff personnel costs, do these have to be considered on the overall overhead costs of a Project? Or, in other words, is it possible to account, when needed and justified, with full time or part time designation or hiring of staff for administrative functions related e.g. to project management?</p>	<p>Staff in charge of administrative or financial management may be charged to the project, provided the complexity or size of the project justifies it.</p>
<p>What is the practice on the technical part of the project - how many people must be included or must work on monitoring and reporting?</p>	<p>This varies from project to project. Common sense must prevail: sufficient staff for the tasks to be performed, but no more than that.</p>
<p>The LIFE + guidelines provide some minimal requirements regarding concrete actions under the components 1 and 2 and require an “appropriate amount” of actions for the obligatory “Project Management and Monitoring” actions? What is considered an overall ”appropriate” percentage of volume of actions (or range of percentages) for such actions?</p>	<p>A minimum percentage for concrete actions is specified in the Application Guides. Regarding a percentage of adequate Project management and Monitoring actions, this will vary from project to project, depending on their complexity.</p>
<p>Is the VAT included in a proposal?</p>	<p>Please refer to article 30 of the Common Provisions.</p>
<p>On form A2 which VAT number is necessary: the national or the EU?</p>	<p>The VAT number from the national register.</p>

<p>Article 25.13 of the Common Provisions states that “<u>Overheads</u> shall be eligible for flat-rate funding of a maximum of 7% of the total amount of eligible direct costs actually incurred, excluding land purchase/lease costs. They need not be supported by accounting documents. They shall be eligible as indirect costs which are intended to cover general indirect costs needed to employ, manage, accommodate and support directly or indirectly the personnel working on the project”. However, it happened that in revision phase of LIFE III projects (2005/2006) the Commission challenged the 7% flat rate included in LIFE Applications and requested beneficiaries to lower overheads to the lower level (and referred to the respective amount of the personnel costs (in the contrary to the wording aforementioned CP article). Please clarify.</p>	<p>According to art. 25.13 of the Common Provisions, "Overheads shall be eligible for flat-rate funding of a maximum of 7% of the total amount of eligible direct costs actually incurred, excluding land purchase/lease costs. They need not be supported by accounting documents. They shall be eligible as indirect costs which are intended to cover general indirect costs needed to employ, manage, accommodate and support directly or indirectly the personnel working on the project". This means 7% is accepted as a maximum</p>
<p>What’s the allowable overhead?</p>	<p>Up to a maximum of 7%.</p>
<p>Given that LIFE+ does not cover the costs of recurring activities, is it possible for LIFE+ to finance the project’s operating expenses?</p>	<p>Expenses to operate an investment are not eligible, but overhead expenses directly linked to the project’s operation are eligible, up to 7% of the eligible direct costs (except for the costs of land acquisition).</p>
<p>How can LIFE+ finance the salaries of NGO staff? Where is there information on this?</p>	<p>Refer to the Common Provisions, for instance to art. 25.2. Note that salaries are eligible only if related to implementing LIFE+ project activities.</p>
<p>When is the bank guarantee requested and under which conditions?</p>	<p>Please refer to Article 28.2 of the Common Provisions.</p>
<p>For what type of proposals bank guarantee is requested?</p>	<p>The Commission may, if it deems it appropriate and proportionate, require applicants to lodge such a guarantee in order to ensure full performance of the contract and to limit the financial risks connected with payment of pre-financing.</p>
<p>Why is there no specific cell provided in the financial forms, where the bank guarantee is described?</p>	<p>Art. 25.12 of the Common provision specifies that the costs incurred in effecting the bank guarantee, when required by the Commission, are charged to the Other Costs category. Similar references are found in the application guides.</p>
<p>We have been advised by the evaluators of our proposal that we can include in the financial forms just the taxes charged by the banks on the guarantee but not the guarantee itself, why so?</p>	<p>LIFE+ can cover the bank fees and taxes.</p>
<p>Do you have information on banks/ credit institutions that provide financial aid to institutions applying under LIFE+?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>How can new organisations be funded via LIFE+? In other words, how can organisations, which were founded less than a year (and have no annual balance reports), be considered eligible for funding via the LIFE+ programme?</p>	<p>Please refer to section "1.5 Administrative and financial information to be provided" of the Application Guide.</p>

<p>How do you claim the expenses of the project implementation? Do you have to have a separate account for this project?</p>	<p>Project management has to establish accurate bookkeeping (timesheets, payment slips, receipts, etc.). In addition, tendering procedures have to be respected. It is strongly recommended to have a separate bank account, as the bank account or sub-account used by the coordinating beneficiary must make it possible to identify funds paid by the Commission (see art. 24.6 of the Common Provisions).</p>
<p>Does the requirement to have a full-time person on the project in 2007 still apply in 2008?</p>	<p>It is not compulsory and was not either in 2007. It is however strongly recommended to have a strong coordination structure to meet the requirements of the project and LIFE+ programme. In principle, the Commission expects the project manager to work full time, but this is not a requirement.</p>
<p>When should the bank account be active?</p>	<p>Upon signature of the Grant Agreement – in Annex VII of the Grant Agreement, the <i>Financial identification of the co-ordinating beneficiary</i> requests bank account details.</p>
<p>About the LIFE+ project costs: if the bill is signed before the project last date and is directed to activities of the LIFE+ project (activity that is included into the project application), but the term of payment is after the last date of the project period and the bill is thus paid after the last date. Is this an eligible cost for the project? Or should all the bills to be also paid during the project period?</p>	<p>The cost would be eligible if the activity is carried out within the project and the invoice is paid before the submission of the final report. See Art. 25.1 of the Common provisions.</p>
<p>Is it possible to have two applicants on same Natura 2000 site?</p>	<p>Technically possible if sufficient guarantee of spatial segregation; really depends on the nature of the two projects.</p>
<p>Can staff from national parks be involved in more than one project at the same time? If so, under which conditions?</p>	<p>Yes. They have to keep real, clear, complete and separate accounts for every project.</p>
<p>Are the background or the qualifications of the contact person of the public or non-public body important? Will it be important if it is the coordinating beneficiary?</p>	<p>No. However, note that the contact person should belong to the coordinating beneficiary.</p>
<p>What if the project worker becomes ill? How do we allocate the days then? How should the time of the sickness be allocated with a) full time staff from the proposal and b) part time staff (etc. 10 hours per week)?</p>	<p>Time sheets should reflect hours effectively worked in the project. In special cases (illness, maternity leave), conditions vary, often from employer to employer and from country to country. This should be looked at in a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>What percentage of a total project cost can be devoted to preparatory actions? Are there any limits in this context?</p>	<p>There are no specific limits on this issue. However, note that preparatory actions should be linked to other project activities; that, for projects requiring a minimum of 25% of concrete actions, preparatory actions count towards this 25% only insofar as they are directly necessary for the execution of concrete actions during the project's lifetime.</p> <p>Refer to the specific sections on preparatory actions in the guidelines for applicants per LIFE+ component.</p>

What are the chances that the payments from the Commission will be late? Is in such case the payment paid with interest rates to the applicant? Delay in the last payment could threaten financial viability of the applicant.	On delayed payments and interest, please refer to art. 28.11 of the Common provisions.
How long does it usually take to get the final payment?	It depends on whether additional information is required, following analysis of the final report. Refer also to art. 28 of the Common Provisions.
Public bodies have to fill in a special form – a statement that they are public bodies. How does the Commission check if this is true, what kind of certificate would a public body have to provide?	When in doubt, the Commission requests documents during the evaluation process. But note that there are no standard documents or certificates for the whole EU.
For organisations which are non-public but supervised by public bodies (ex research centres), are they considered public bodies?	Please refer to section 5 of the Guidelines for Applicants, consult also the requirements specified in the Public Body Declaration annexed to the Guidelines.
A foundation of a public body is also a public body or it is a private non-commercial organisation?	Please refer to section 5 of the Guidelines for Applicants, consult also the requirements specified in the Public Body Declaration annexed to the Guidelines.
Is cofinancing from the State environmental Fund possible?	Yes, provided that Fund is not using funds received from another EC instrument or structural funds for cofinancing the LIFE project.
Is it possible to shift funds within the scope of the budget items?	Please refer to art. 15 of the Common Provisions.
Is it possible to set a reserve in the budget for unexpected events?	No.
Slide 48 of the presentation mentions public and non-public organisations. What definition is given to these 2 terms?	See Section 5 of the Application Guides.
Does LIFE+ funding for NGOs count as a state aid?	See Article 34 of the common provisions
Does the EC Regulation 1998/2006 apply to LIFE+?	See Article 34 of the common provisions
If LIFE+ funding is not considered state aid, which is the basis for excluding this funding from the EC Regulation 1998/2006?	See Article 34 of the common provisions

3. LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity

<p>What specific characters differentiate a project under LIFE+ Nature compared to LIFE+ Biodiversity? Can the Commission services outline a few practical examples exemplifying clearly the differences?</p>	<p>Please refer to sections 2 and 3 of the "Nature & Biodiversity" Guidelines.</p>
<p>For a project regarding a Natura 2000 site, should a proposal be submitted under LIFE+ Nature or under LIFE+ Biodiversity?</p>	<p>As a general principle, LIFE+ Nature. However, it could be LIFE+ Biodiversity, but then it should <u>not</u> have, as a primary goal, conservation management of species/habitats covered by the EU Birds and Habitat Directives. Should this be the case, the project should be classified as a LIFE+ Nature project.</p>
<p>For a project that includes both Natura 2000 and non-Natura 2000 sites, should it be submitted under LIFE+ Nature or under LIFE+ Biodiversity?</p>	<p>LIFE+ Nature's focus is on long-term sustainable investments in Natura 2000 sites, habitats and species. A project targeting both Natura 2000 and non-Natura 2000 sites should be submitted under LIFE+ Biodiversity, provided other conditions specified in the application guide are met. Otherwise it would be rejected.</p>
<p>Can a proposal be considered under LIFE+ Biodiversity if it refers to species which are not under Natura directives but under a different protection treaty such as IUCN?</p>	<p>LIFE+ Biodiversity projects must be <u>demonstration or innovative projects</u> (as opposed to simple best practise) and must fall within the scope of the Commission Communication on Halting the loss of Biodiversity. In order to be accepted for funding, it is thus essential that any such project is a "demonstration" project, or is clear innovative. Land purchase or long-term of land is not possible in this context.</p>
<p>If the proposed action does not belong to a Natura 2000 area, can it be eligible in the LIFE+ Biodiversity? If yes, then is the action still eligible even if it refers to protected species that do not belong to Natura?</p>	<p>One of the main mistakes of the LIFE+ Nature ad Biodiversity applicants is to submit proposals with standard or best-practise conservation actions as LIFE+ Biodiversity, because the project area does not benefit from an appropriate conservation status under Natura 2000 (and hence is not eligible for LIFE+ nature funding). LIFE+ Biodiversity projects must be <u>demonstration or innovative projects</u> (as opposed to simple best practise) and must fall within the scope of the Commission Communication on Halting the loss of Biodiversity.</p>
<p>Is it possible to submit a project dealing with both biodiversity and Natura 2000? Which component to choose?</p>	<p>There are two distinct categories of projects: LIFE+ Nature and LIFE+ Biodiversity. A project must be one or the other, NOT a mixture of both. A nature conservation project that exclusively targets species and/or habitats from the Birds and/or Habitats Directives is by definition a LIFE+ Nature project. Any other project should be submitted for financing under another component of LIFE+, or another financing mechanism.</p>
<p>For actions which are both species-based but site-based, can they be submitted under a LIFE+ Nature project?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Can a project be considered for rehabilitating species/sites within Natura 2000 sites?</p>	<p>Yes. Please refer to sections 2 and 3 of the "Nature & Biodiversity" Guidelines.</p>

<p>For LIFE+ Nature projects, do the objectives need to directly benefit the features that the site is designated for? For example, can LIFE+ cofinance a project in an area designated for the conservation of a fish species, if the project actions (putting the meanders back into the river course) cannot be conclusively proved to benefit the fish species (even though it is thought that it will benefit them, and will definitely benefit the area as a whole)?</p>	<p>For LIFE+ Nature projects, the objectives always need to directly benefit at least some of the features (habitat types or species) that the site is designated for.</p>
<p>Is it possible to include actions in a LIFE+ Nature project targeting a priority species of bird also in those SPAs for which it is not a qualifying species?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>In Member State X, the legal designation of SPAs pursuant to national Nature Conservation Act is still in process. The area of the SPAs already legally designated may differ from the area of the respective site stated in the National SPA list communicated to the EC before X became a member state. Can the SPA, which has not yet been legally designated pursuant to the X's Nature Conservation Act, however, be included in the National SPA list, be included in the LIFE+ Application?</p>	<p>Actions in sites that are not yet officially designated Natura 2000 sites by the deadline for the submission of applications are in general ineligible. The date of designation in this context is the date at which the European Commission received the formal information from the Member State about the site's designation.</p>
<p>Can a LIFE+ project deal solely with a proposed Natura 2000 site (i.e. a site that is not a Natura 2000 site, but it is recognised that it is a potential Natura 2000 site because of presence of numerous species and habitats from the two Directives)?</p>	<p>No, if the site qualifies for Natura designation, it must have been designated (SPA or pSCI) before the date of the deadline for submitting the proposal to the Commission.</p>
<p>Would a LIFE-Nature project proposal to be carried out in an area that has been proposed for the Natura 2000 network (SCI) in 2007, after approval of the list for the Mediterranean region by the European Commission, be considered eligible?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Is LIFE+ Natura focused solely on the Natura 2000 sites? Can a project focus on a habitat or species listed in the Habitat Directive which is widespread both in a Natura 2000 site and its adjacent area?</p>	<p>LIFE+ Natura supports only “Natura 2000 species” within Natura 2000 sites. Exceptionally a project can include an area adjacent to a Natura 2000 site if you can show that it is important for conservation of a “Natura 2000 species” and if you obtain written commitment from the relevant Authority that the site will be declared a Natura 2000 site by the end of the project. In this case, the Authority has to be one of the partners in the project. In addition, an area outside of existing Natura 2000 sites can be included in the project if the objective is protection of corridors or “stepping stones”. This is only possible if the national Natura 2000 network is deemed sufficient; in addition, a guarantee must be provided that this area will gain highest possible protection status on the national level before the end of the project. For detailed information, consult the relevant pages in the application guide.</p>

<p>Specifically on the 2008 LIFE+ Nature Application Guide p. 24, bullet#2, is this statement valid outside Natura sites?</p>	<p>Note: The question refers to one of the exceptions to the need for projects to include a substantial amount of concrete conservation actions, namely, in this case, to "Life+ Nature projects for the support and/or the further development of the surveillance of the conservation status of natural habitats and species covered by the Birds and Habitats Directives".</p> <p>A project that deals with the further development of the conservation status surveillance is not required to restrict its "monitoring development and testing actions" to Natura 2000 sites.</p>
<p>For LIFE+ Biodiversity projects, if less than 25% of their action/budget is directed to Wild Birds and Natural Habitats, will such proposal be rejected? (p. 35 of LIFE+ Nature Application Guide)</p>	<p>Please refer to pages 35 and 36 of the 2008 document entitled Nature and Biodiversity - Guidelines for applicants.</p>
<p>Can the Commission clarify what concrete conservation actions are? For example, in 2008, the Commission rejected an action aiming to validate in the field the conditions of reintroduction of an endangered species because the Commission was asking for an effective reintroduction. Are "developing biodiversity indicators" and "identifying ecologic corridors" concrete conservation actions or not?</p>	<p>"Concrete conservation" actions are those that <i>directly improve</i> (or slow/halt/reverse the decline of) <i>the conservation status</i> of the species and habitat types targeted (see pages 23 and 35 of the 2008 Application Guide).</p> <p>Developing and testing new biodiversity indicators is not a concrete conservation action, but can be eligible for LIFE+ Biodiversity funding under certain conditions (see page 36 of the 2008 Application Guide).</p> <p>Identifying ecological corridors is not a concrete conservation action in itself, unless it would be needed for the creation of the actual the corridors. In this case, the creation of the corridors must be an expected result of the project.</p>
<p>If a proposal is submitted for the reintroduction of wild animal species (like wolf or bear) that have been extinguished, should this proposal be considered a biodiversity proposal?</p>	<p>Reintroduction projects for species covered by the Birds or Habitats Directives should be submitted as LIFE+ Nature project, and hence should comply with the funding rules for such projects.</p>
<p>Do wild birds have a higher priority than fauna?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Can a project proposal be associated with a combination of flora and fauna species?</p>	<p>Yes, it is often the case.</p>
<p>Can a project proposal involve both priority and non-priority species?</p>	<p>Yes. Note that where proposals also contain actions that do not target priority species/habitats, a maximum co-financing rate of 50% will be applied to the whole project.</p>
<p>Are species which are considered as priority species only those which are included in the Natura catalogues or even those which have been published in EU catalogues (e.g. horse of Skyros island) and in catalogues of national organizations (e.g. Aethionema retsina – Top 50 plants of the Mediterranean IUCN, 2006 or Falco eleonora)?</p>	<p>Priority habitats and priority species (other than bird species) are those listed in the annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive <u>and</u> marked with a star (*) in front of their name.</p> <p>Bird species considered as "priority for funding under LIFE+" are those listed under: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/index_en.htm</p>
<p>Is LIFE+ Biodiversity only for non-Natura 2000 sites?</p>	<p>No. Please refer to the guidelines for applicants.</p>

Can all species be included under LIFE+ Biodiversity project?	Yes.
If a N2000 site focus is on the conservation of one species (e.g. eagles), but the site is also getting funds from elsewhere for another issue (e.g. ponds), can LIFE+ still fund the eagle component/objective?	Yes, as long as there is a clear distinction of the actions and costs in terms of bookkeeping. Any risk of double-funding must be avoided through, inter alia, transparent bookkeeping.
It would be necessary to improve knowledge about various nature habitats to be able to actively protect them. As itself this is not a direct environmental problem to be solved. But could funding for such a project be applied from the LIFE+ Information?	No. Probably from DG Research, provided conditions are met.
Regarding land purchase, should the area be decided prior to submitting a proposal?	There is no requirement for pre-defining <u>exactly</u> which land plots will be purchased in a project, but each land purchase should be justifiable, related to the project objectives and take place inside of the boundaries of the project area. Please refer to the section on Land Purchase in the Guidelines for Applicants as well as to the instructions given, in the same document, for filling in Form C1b – B. Purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payment for use.
What documentary proof and level of details needs to be provided in the submission regarding the acquisition of land for a nature or biodiversity project?	Please refer to the specific section on land purchase in the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Guidelines for applicants 2008 (pages 27-28), to art. 35 of the Common Provisions, and to the explanations given in the Guidelines for Applicants regarding filling in forms B1 and F5 of the application forms. In addition, the beneficiary is expected to demonstrate the feasibility of what it intends to do. Note that land purchase is only possible under LIFE+ Nature.
Concerning the purchase of land under LIFE+ Nature, what valuation of the land will the European Commission accept (does it have to be an official valuation of some kind)?	Impartial evidence must be provided in the proposal that the purchase price is consistent with the current market prices for the type of land and the region concerned.
How is the “highest possible legal protection status” to be documented for surfaces in which measures that address species of Annex IV of the Habitats Directive are implemented outside a Natura 2000 area?	Generally speaking, a law that guarantees protection covering the activities of the project is sufficient. Examples of protection figures include nature reserves, national parks, etc.
For surfaces of types described under the question above on legal protection status, is a registration in the Land Register before the end of the project a sufficient proof of “highest possible legal protection status”? What should be then the preferred wording of the registration text in the land register?	No, this would be insufficient. Please refer to page 27 of the 2008 LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Guidelines for Applicants.

<p>For the surfaces of types described under the question above on legal protection status, is a declaration of the relevant authority that a procedure will be started to declare the surface as protected zone or natural monument before the end of the project, a sufficient proof of “highest possible legal protection status”?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>For the surfaces of types described under the question above on legal protection status, is a written declaration by the land-owner that the surfaces will in the future only be reserved for natural protection purposes a sufficient proof of “highest possible legal protection status”? What should be then the preferred wording of such declaration?</p>	<p>No. Please refer to page 27 of the 2008 LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Guidelines for Applicants.</p>
<p>Target site/project area: which is which? Is the target site the whole site where the project will perform activities, and the project area the place where the concrete actions will take place, or is it vice versa?</p>	<p>There is no such distinction in the 2008 call documents.</p>
<p>Who should sign form A8 when the beneficiary is the responsible authority for Natura 2000?</p>	<p>The beneficiary should sign form A8.</p>
<p>The Saimaa ringed seal is a threatened species to be protected. The effective way to protect the seal would be to purchase or to lease a water area in order to stop net fishing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which programme (LIFE+ Nature or LIFE+ Environment) is suitable for this as we extend the area also outside a Natura 2000 area? 2. Is purchasing or leasing the water area regarded as a concrete action? 3. What about alien species that disturb the Saimaa ringed seal? Is it possible to include the avoidance of these in a LIFE+ proposal? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase of land or water areas is only possible under LIFE+ Nature. Unless the project is a restoration or reintroduction project, the purchase should concern areas that do already benefit from an appropriate Natura 2000 site status (in this case: pSCI/SCI or SAC designated for the Saimaa ringed seal) at the date of submitting the proposal to the Commission. 2. Purchasing or leasing the water area would be regarded as a concrete action insofar as it is necessary to achieve the conservation objectives of the project. 3. Alien species eradication may be included in a LIFE+ proposal if it is necessary to achieve the conservation objectives of the project.
<p>A LIFE+ Nature proposal would include an action to purchase single chestnut trees that are private property, although they are placed on public land, with the aim of preserving a habitat type of community interest (9260). Would this action be eligible? Under which category of actions should this be included (e.g. purchase/lease of land and/or compensation payments for use rights)?</p>	<p>Theoretically, this would be eligible, and would be submitted under "land purchase". However, the added value of this action may be questioned, and would therefore require a clear justification, providing also guarantees of sustainability of results.</p>
<p>Canals are a way of increasing standing open water habitats. Would canals be eligible for cofinancing under LIFE+ Biodiversity?</p>	<p>The creation of canals may, under certain conditions, be considered as an eligible action in a LIFE+ Biodiversity project. Please refer to the Application guidelines.</p>

<p>Many natural areas needing special protection are in rural areas. How can local authorities be encouraged to apply for LIFE+, given that rural areas are “under-skilled” and not well informed of this opportunity?</p>	<p>Note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most LIFE Nature projects are carried out in rural areas. Often the beneficiary is several municipalities working together, or NGOs. - Be careful with proposals relating to rural areas (as in linked to rural economic activity), for many of those would probably be eligible under other EC instruments (and thus not eligible under LIFE+). - LIFE+ workshops aim to inform a wide audience of this opportunity.
<p>The obligation to make the project sustainable after it ends creates financial limitations for some applicants; how can they prove that they will have enough revenues to cover future costs?</p>	<p>LIFE+ Nature is about long-term, sustainable conservation measures and investments in Natura 2000 sites, species and habitats. Sustainability is often not so much the beneficiary guaranteeing financing as identifying potential sources of financing.</p>
<p>Should LIFE+ Nature projects be demonstration projects or should they be innovation projects?</p>	<p>They should be best practice or demonstration projects.</p>
<p>On your film we saw a story about bears restored in Italy. We also want to have our bear population re-introduced in our country. Can we take it from Italy their project ideas? Will it not be considered as somewhat copying their project if we do?</p>	<p>The Commission encourages the exchange of best-practice in nature conservation. The fact that a best-practice action has already been implemented elsewhere in the EU is not a negative evaluation criterion.</p>
<p>Can a research action be involved in a LIFE+ project? For example, the study of a species that was never done before?</p>	<p>Yes, in this case, and it should be designated as a preparatory action. Keep in mind the minimum 25% concrete actions.</p>
<p>For a particular species that was never studied and will be via preparatory actions, how can the concrete actions be defined at the end of the preparatory study?</p>	<p>If the situation is so unclear that it is difficult to define concrete project actions, part of the project preparation should likely be done before the submission of the LIFE project. Note that this would not be an eligible cost.</p>
<p>In the context of LIFE+ Nature and LIFE+ Biodiversity: what is the definition of long-term and short-term (land purchase and long-term lease or compensation eligible versus only short term lease or compensation are eligible)?</p>	<p>Short term is the project's duration. Long term means decades (at least 30 years).</p>
<p>To what extent can training activities be eligible for cofinancing under LIFE+ Nature? Do they count as concrete actions?</p>	<p>Training activities are eligible for cofinancing under LIFE+ Nature where shown to be necessary for the achievement of the project objectives. They would usually not be considered as concrete actions.</p>
<p>Is it possible to include in a project (not connected with forest fires prevention) any training actions? What is a definition of “training activities” and what are the key differences between “training activities” (for example for forest fire agents) and communication and awareness raising “campaigns” and actions related to the implementation, updating and development of European environmental policy and legislation. For example: are seminars, conferences, workshops regarded as “training activities” or they constitute parts of awareness raising campaigns?</p>	<p>Please refer to the application guidelines. Training activities are eligible for cofinancing under LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity where shown to be necessary for the achievement of the project objectives. As to whether workshops, seminars, etc. can be regarded as training or as awareness raising, it depends on the structure and contents of such events.</p>

<p>Can a small tourist infrastructure be a part of a LIFE+ Nature or Biodiversity project?</p>	<p>The application guide reads: "Should the proposal include the creation of small-scale visitor infrastructures, these must not cover more than 10% of the budget allocated to concrete actions in the proposal budget, and must be well-justified and cost effective or else they will be deleted from the proposal during the revision phase".</p>
<p>Would a project for protection of the dolphin population in the sea of EU Member State X be eligible for funding under LIFE+ Nature? It is a listed species, but there is no Natura 2000 site for its protection in X and it is highly unlikely that a Natura 2000 site can be designated for them due to specifics of X's marine situation. Is it perhaps better to apply under LIFE+ Biodiversity?</p>	<p>The 2008 <i>LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Guidelines for applicants</i> provide indications on this and similar cases. Inter alia: "A nature conservation project that targets exclusively species/habitats of the Birds/Habitats Directive <i>is a LIFE+ Nature project</i> (provided it meets the various requirements specified in this document). In all other cases, it can only be a <i>LIFE+ Biodiversity project</i> (provided it meets the various requirements specified in this document), and must therefore be an innovative / demonstration project.</p> <p>The only exception to this rule is that applicants may submit a LIFE+ Biodiversity project proposal that targets exclusively species covered by the Birds / Habitats Directives in the case where it is a demonstration of an innovative site-related conservation measure not involving long-term investments, and that takes place outside a Natura 2000 site". The condition of site designation is only related to those species that are listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.</p>
<p>I want to check whether our understanding of the provisions of the Guidelines for applicants 2009 - Nature and Biodiversity (page 24) is correct.</p> <p>In the case of marine / offshore / marine Natura 2000 sites, we understand that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant needs a certificate issued by the competent institutions (Ministry RS of the Environment and Spatial Planning), which would state that the Government will proclaim Marine SPA - Natura 2000 sites by the end of the project or until the end of 2012 and so complement the existing national network SPA - Natura 2000 areas. 2. Competent national institution (the Ministry RS of the Environment and Spatial Planning) should be involved in the project as a lead partner or as an associate partner. 3. For projects dealing with marine SPA Natura 2000 there is an exception that it is not necessary to implement any concrete actions (concrete conservation actions). <p>Is this correct?</p>	<p>Yes. Note that these rules only apply to preparatory inventories and planning for the designation of new / additional <u>offshore</u> marine Natura 2000 sites.</p>

<p>In 2008, an applicant in Member State X submitted a LIFE+ proposal for preparing an inventory for the designation of offshore marine Natura 2000 sites. Such a project is clearly eligible as explained in the Application Guide for Nature and Biodiversity projects; the Guide also requires a commitment from the Competent Ministry/Authority to designate the site(s) concerned as Natura 2000 sites before the end of the project and preferably by the end of 2012. The Commission rejected this proposal because the Applicant could not provide such commitment.</p> <p>Requiring such a commitment seems paradoxical; if the goal of the inventory is to find out if the sites can be designated, is not it hard for the Authority to commit to such a designation without the results of the inventory? Could the Commission delete such a commitment from the Guide or at least make it more flexible?</p>	<p>As quoted, the inventory is meant to lead to the <u>designation</u> of offshore marine Natura 2000 areas that meet the necessary criteria. Without a commitment from the competent authority authority to designate the sites concerned as Natura 2000 sites before the end of the project, there would be no guarantee that the project would have any value or implications. The Commission does not intend to delete its request for such a commitment.</p>
<p>What is recommended for LIFE+ Nature regarding monitoring: does it have to be described as a part of each action or should it be a separate action encompassing monitoring of the results and impacts of other actions?</p>	<p>Please refer to the section entitled Project management and monitoring (obligatory) in the "Guidelines for applicants".</p> <p>It should always be a distinct action.</p>
<p>A project to be coordinated by a University intends to carry out studies for the identification of marine areas to be declared as marine reserves. Should the competent authorities be involved in the project and how?</p>	<p>The proposal must include a commitment from the Competent Ministry/Authority to designate the site(s) concerned as Natura 2000 sites before the end of the project and the Competent Ministry/Authority must be a beneficiary of the project (coordinating beneficiary or associated beneficiary). Proposals that gather data for other purposes (e.g. inventories for the designation of other types of marine protected areas) will be rejected (see 2008 <i>LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Guidelines for applicants</i> page 24).</p>
<p>You've mentioned that for LIFE Nature and Biodiversity projects a minimum of 25% should be for concrete conservation actions, but an exception for marine territories and bio-indicators would apply. Does the exception apply to marine biodiversity monitoring projects? Usually there is little to no concrete conservation actions but only monitoring that can take place with regard to marine projects.</p>	<p>The Guidelines state that this exception only applies to preparatory inventories and planning for the designation of new / additional offshore marine Natura 2000 sites.</p>
<p>How are the progress and final results of Nature and biodiversity projects with expected long-term effects evaluated within the LIFE+ framework? In general it is not possible to validate improvements in i.e. biodiversity during the project life cycle, but only afterwards.</p>	<p>These aspects should be considered already at the planning stage and indicators for monitoring improvements/changes should be suggested. Although final results cannot be observed in some cases, trends may be observable and can be monitored with adequate indicators.</p>

<p>The Police in country X tend to enforce their role in the prevention of loss EU bird and animal species, especially because of illegal use of chemicals, hunting, etc. In favour of this arrangement of jeeps and field equipments, enforcement of cooperation between Police and Ranger Service, special nature training for police officers, enforced field services, etc., are planned. Would it fit within the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity component? If so, which (Nature or Biodiversity)?</p>	<p>Probably not. From the information given, it sounds like reinforcing recurring activities, which are ineligible for LIFE+ funding. A LIFE+ project can finance investments that support recurring activities, but not the costs of the recurring activities itself.</p> <p>In the case of legal enforcement, LIFE+ can only support actions that would have an added value compared to the normal tasks carried out by the applicants.</p>
<p>Can breeding programmes for zoos be life + funded under LIFE + and if yes, under which component?</p>	<p>LIFE+ Nature and biodiversity may finance captive breeding where this is justified for species conservation, with a concrete reintroduction aim into the natural environment during the project, respecting the IUCN guidelines (i.e. not for the zoo's commercial or other purposes). Note also that recurring actions are ineligible, and the need for the targeted species to be part of Europe's natural ecosystems.</p>

4. LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance

<p>What specific character(s) differentiate(s) a “demonstration” project from an “innovation” project (both are testing, applying and proving innovative methodologies)? Can the Commission services outline a few practical examples exemplifying clearly the difference?</p>	<p>Please refer to the section entitled "General principles of LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance" in the Application Guidelines. Giving examples is delicate.</p>
<p>The Public Transport Company of city X plans to introduce in Member State Y the technology special rubber rails for tram to reduce the noise and resonance of public transport. This technology is new in country Y although already used in other EU countries and there are no other sources of funding currently for this type of development. Can it be funded within the LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Regulation component?</p>	<p>For a definition of what is understood by "innovative", please refer to the section entitled "General principles of LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance" in the Application Guidelines. Note that it is indicated that "Geographical technology or practice transfer alone (without a genuine development of innovative character) cannot be considered as innovative".</p>
<p>Where is the line drawn between “demonstration” and investments in production facilities where industrial “capacity” is created? For example testing of new solar cell materials or windmills or recycling of plastics.</p>	<p>Demonstration usually means pilot-plant scale and not industrial scale and is meant to bridge the gap between R&D and full scale industrial implementation.</p>
<p>How is the level of innovation defined and evaluated? What is and what is not innovation? How do we know that the innovation we are going to demonstrate is not best practice somewhere else?</p>	<p>Please refer to the section entitled "General principles of LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance" in the Application Guidelines, and to the Evaluation Guide.</p> <p>As to the last question, generally this is something that experts in the specific field know, but can sometimes be difficult to prove for non-technical innovations or best practices. For technical solutions a lot of different BAT databanks, documents and networks exist.</p>
<p>According to the Principal objective “Forests” under the LIFE+ Regulation and to the national priorities, could any actions to protect forest against fires be financed with this fund?</p>	<p>No, only actions foreseen are eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects contributing to the monitoring of the environmental status of forests within the European Union territory. - Awareness raising campaigns for the prevention of forest fires and training for forest fire agents.
<p>What is the difference between the CIP and LIFE+ programmes?</p>	<p>Please refer to the Environmental Policy and Governance Guidelines.</p>
<p>What are the innovative and competitive environmental dimensions that can better be addressed though a LIFE+ project compared to a project under CIP?</p>	<p>Please refer to the Environmental Policy and Governance Guidelines.</p>
<p>It is not clear in the guidelines which types of ecolabel related project can be supported under LIFE+ compared with the CIP programme. In particular can a project developing a new ecolabel be eligible under LIFE+?</p>	<p>Please refer to footnote 13 on page 20 of the 2008 "Life+ Environment Policy and Governance" Guidelines.</p>
<p>What EMAS/ecolabel costs are eligible?</p>	<p>EMAS/ecolabel projects should in general be financed by the CIP programme – see footnote 13 on page 20 of the 2008 application guide. Dissemination of ecolabel activities may fall under the Information and Communication component.</p>

For regulations that are obligatory for industry, can their application be a LIFE+ project?	There is no EU added value for an action if it is obligatory, so the answer is probably "No".
Could you give an example for Environmental Policy and Governance Project?	Please consult the LIFE website project database.
To which of the three LIFE+ components is the most appropriate to address a project linked to climate change?	It depends. In principle, if it is about climate change, it would fit most naturally in the second component, LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance. However, it could also fit under the third component, if its focus were mostly on information and communication about climate change, or under the first component, for instance if it focused on mitigation measures.
In terms of climate-change related projects, are demonstration/ innovation/ best practice or communication and information preferred by the LIFE+?	It depends on which kind of problem and related actions are foreseen.
What is "major infrastructure"?	Examples of major infrastructure: roads, buildings, etc. Refurbishment for different purposes normally considered "minor".
What is considered as "big infrastructure" that cannot be eligible in a LIFE+ project? Are there any criteria (e.g. in terms of cost, or other) to assess what is a big infrastructure that could not be financed under LIFE+?	This is analysed on a case-by-case basis, depending, inter alia, on the size of the project. The infrastructure must be justified in the context of the specific project. For instance, building office infrastructure for park management staff would be considered a major infrastructure. Refurbishing an existing building to serve as offices would not be considered a major infrastructure.
Is a demonstration action resulting from research eligible under LIFE+?	LIFE+ does not fund pure research, but demonstration actions as defined in the guide of Component II "Environment Policy and Governance".
How can a LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance project bridge the gap between research and practical application of the results if it does not consider any investment costs eligible, i.e., to demonstrate how a certain technology works the project should obtain that technology.	Investment costs are eligible, provided all other requirements are met.
Where does the obligation to disseminate information start and stop? For a technical project, in addition to demonstrate its feasibility, is it also necessary to explain to potential competitors how to implement it? What level of detail is it necessary to present?	The Commission expects a broad dissemination of the information. One of the common provisions deals with copyrights (see Article 22 of common provisions), which are limited to a reasonable cost. The company remains the owner, but they must be available. Copyrights have never been an issue in previous LIFE programmes.
Is it possible to submit an environmental project focused on human health (without a considerable environmental scope)?	No.
Does an "innovation project" need to innovate at the community level or can a project be innovative only at the country level (the solution being already known in other EU countries).	Considering the European character of the programme, a project on innovation should be innovative at the community level, contrary to a demonstrative project.
Can the reconstruction of a Passive House (high energy efficient building) be part of a LIFE+ ENV project? The house would serve as a basic tool for energy efficiency campaign, according to the experiences even new technology or new regulation could be recommended to the environment and energy policy level.	Probably not, though more detail would be needed, as this is a very specific case. In any case, it would have to meet all the criteria for LIFE ENV projects.

<p>Where can an exact definition of “environmental noise” under the principal objective “Noise” under the component “environmental policy and governance” be found?</p>	<p>See, for instance, Art. 3 of Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 25 June 2002, and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm</p>
<p>A public body proposes to create a new tool that would enable SMEs to access information about the legislation that is specific to their business site, in order to fulfil the creation of an EMS. The tool is completely new, but it could be built directly onto the existing compliance system. There would be a future on-cost to maintain the content that populates the newly developed system.</p> <p>Because this tool goes beyond compliance, there is some indication that businesses might be prepared to pay a nominal fee in order to be able to access such an EMS legislation list service. (It is worth noting that, as a public body, all revenue could only be used to ensure the system is maintained and improved. Also, it is highly unlikely that we would begin charging until the end of the project.)</p> <p>However, it seems that this idea would fall under exploitation of prototypes; is this so? If so, would the no "exploitation of products within 5 years of the end of project" in the LIFE+ guidance apply? Furthermore, how would depreciation work?</p> <p>Is there any flexibility within these rules for individual cases, where the motive is purely to ensure the continued provision of a comprehensive and service for small businesses in country X and EU?</p>	<p>Whether the software in question is considered as a prototype depends on how it is treated by the tax authorities: if it is subject to depreciation, it could be considered as a prototype. In this case, the 5-year rule would apply.</p> <p>Any fees received during the project period must be declared as project income in the financial reporting to the Commission.</p>

5. LIFE+ Information and Communication

How to understand the terms “innovation” and “demonstration” in the context of the LIFE+ Information and Communication?	Projects related to the third component do not have to be innovative or demonstrative in their nature.
Can a project focusing on awareness-raising using the demonstrative cleaning of the sidewalks of a transnational road with heavy traffic be supported under LIFE+? If so, under which component?	Yes, if the project meets the criteria of the Information & Communication component.
Can a project focused on drawing up a compendium and guide of “best practices” be supported under LIFE+? If so, under which LIFE+ component would such a project have greater chances of success?	Yes, if the project meets the criteria of the Information & Communication component.
Can licenses for images, videos, etc., necessary to develop good quality information and dissemination material, be eligible for cofinancing? If yes, how should such cost be presented to be compatible with the ineligibility rule “for license or patent fees or other fees related to the protection of intellectual property rights”?	As long s the licences are justified for the <u>implementation</u> of the Communication & Information project, they are eligible.
There is a project planned on the cultural linkages to environmental values, implementation of environmental issues and the potential to influence the environmental protection through cultural approaches. Could this be placed into some component of LIFE+ other than Information and Communication?	It depends on the concrete actions foreseen, but probably not.
Particularly for LIFE+ Information and Communication, how important are national priorities versus European priorities, based on the legislation on nature?	National Priorities are taken into account for a maximum of 5 out of 100 points in the Award phase.
For LIFE+ Information and Communication, A8 form (mandatory for all LIFE+ Information & Communication project proposals aiming at contributing to forest fire prevention) requires a declaration of support from the Competent Forest Fire National Central Authority. Is this national central authority support required even when the information and communication activities concern a region and there is a competent authority on forest fires at the regional level?	If there is a competent authority at the regional level, this would also be acceptable.
Marketing activities for commercial products must be avoided under LIFE+ Information and Communication projects, according to the guidelines for applicants for this kind of projects. Could a project publicise local products produced under environmental friendly agriculture or would these actions be considered ineligible?	Generally not eligible.
In Component III “Information and Communication”, is it possible to train in forest fire prevention a targeted audience (for example, teachers, elected officials, socio-professionals...) other than agents in charge of fighting forest fires?	In principle no; training under Component III is for the agents in charge of fighting forest fires (see guide, Annex 1, point F: training of agents, Form A8).

<p>Are demonstration actions to develop eco-labels for biodiversity eligible under Component III “Information and Communication”?</p>	<p>In principle no, possibly under Component I “Nature and biodiversity”.</p>
<p>To be eligible, under which component should you submit a project based on exchanges, transfer of experience, know-how, and networking at the international level?</p>	<p>As there is no innovation involved, under Component III “Information and communication”.</p>
<p>Who in the Commission services is responsible for the “information and communication” component? No name or contact details are mentioned in the LIFE+ 2009 guidelines in this respect.</p>	<p>See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/lifeunit.htm</p>
<p>Could you give an example of Information and Communication project that a small municipality ran?</p>	<p>Please consult the LIFE website project database.</p>
<p>In the guidelines for the component “information and communication” it is said that “campaigns and actions should primarily be national or transnational”. Is a project providing campaigns addressing only some regions in several EU countries appropriate for submission under this component? Is trans-nationality in the third component differently weighted during evaluation compared to the two other components?</p>	<p>Transnationality is not weighed differently for the third component. A project proposal providing campaigns addressing only some regions in several EU countries would be appropriate for submission under the "information and communication" component, provided it meets all other criteria. The underlying idea is to encourage projects with significant EU added value, which often, but not always, means a large geographical reach.</p>
<p>Is a project targeting the education and awareness building of school pupils through excursions, special action days and moving exhibitions adequate for a positive submission under LIFE+? Considering that “training” under the third component is only possible for the prevention of forest fires, how are “information transfer” and “training” defined and differentiated under that particular component?</p>	<p>"Education" of schoolchildren as such is not a common action within LIFE+ information and communication. On the other hand, schoolchildren are often among the primary targets of awareness-raising campaigns under LIFE+. Training in the context of prevention of forest fires refers to training of forest fire agents, while "information transfer" is wider, targeting the general public.</p>
<p>Which kinds of lobbying activities of NGOs can be eligible for funding through LIFE+ Communication and Information?</p>	<p>The LIFE+ Information and Communication application guide clearly states that lobbying activities by NGOs are not eligible.</p>
<p>The question regards Information and Communications component. Is a project (or an activity within a project) eligible if it focuses on certification and awareness-raising about agricultural products that were grown and produced in Natura 2000 territory? The purpose of such activity is to educate the general public about the importance of Natura 2000 in ensuring sustainable agricultural development.</p>	<p>No, if its main target is sustainable agricultural development. Applicants should not include activities and related costs for labelling/certification and marketing for commercial products even if their production relates to Natura 2000 territory.</p>