

EXTRACT FROM THE ANNEX OF THE DECISION C(2014)1706

LIFE FINANCING FOR 2014

INTRODUCTION

On the basis of the objectives provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 614/2007¹ (hereinafter "LIFE Regulation"), this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2014 as it is shown in the below table.

Moreover, it includes the contributions paid by the Union as subscriptions to international and multilateral climate agreements of which it is a member in accordance with Article 121(2)(d) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union² (hereinafter "Financial Regulation").

Actions	Indicative amount in EUR
Grants implemented under direct management (1), of which	294 942 966
- call for proposals for integrated projects (1.1)	61 500 000
- call for proposals for traditional projects grants (1.2)	205 893 803
- call for proposals for technical assistance projects (1.3)	566 163
- call for proposals for preparatory projects (1.4)	1 653 000
- call for proposals for capacity building projects (1.5)	15 000 000
- call for proposals for operating grants (1.6)	9 000 000
Procurement implemented under direct management (2)	63 073 034
- procurement supporting the development, implementation and communication of the environment policies and legislation (2.1)	44 614 033
- procurement supporting the development, implementation and communication of the climate action policies and legislation (2.2)	18 459 001
Financial instruments (3)	40 000 000
- Private financing for energy efficiency instrument (PF4EE)	30 000 000

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 185.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

(3.2)	
- Natural capital financing facility (NCFE) (3.3)	10 000 000

1. GRANTS IMPLEMENTED UNDER DIRECT MANAGEMENT

1.1. ACTION GRANTS FOR INTEGRATED PROJECTS

1.1.1 Legal basis

LIFE Regulation, and in particular Articles 17, 18, 19 and 20.

1.1.2 Budget Lines and amounts

Budget article 07 02 01 - Contributing to a greener and more resource efficient economy and to the development and implementation of Union environmental policy and legislation - EUR 24 500 000.

Budget article 07 02 02 - Halting and reversing biodiversity loss - EUR 37 000 000.

1.1.3 Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The integrated projects (IP) aim at implementing one of the following environmental plans or strategies required by specific environmental Union legislation, developed pursuant to other Union acts or developed by Member States' authorities:

- Natura 2000 network management: Prioritised Action Frameworks
- Waste: Waste Management Plans
- Water: River basin management plans
- Air: Air quality management plans

The integrated projects financed under this AWP will be completed in 2020 or later and they are expected to contribute to the achievement of the following outcomes:

Thematic priorities	Quantitative outcomes	Qualitative outcomes
WATER	No. of river basin districts (RBD) covered by IPs	Implementation of compliant and efficient river basin management plans (RBMP) in the covered RBD, in conformity with article 4 of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC Additional funding mobilised
WASTE	No. of EU regions covered by waste IPs	Putting in place and implementing compliant and efficient Waste Management Plans (WMP) and/or Waste Prevention Programmes (WPP) in the covered Region, in conformity with Articles 28 and 29 of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98. Additional funding mobilised
AIR	No. of EU regions covered by Air IPs	Compliant and efficient Air Quality Plans and Programmes (AQPP) in the covered Region, in conformity with Article 23 of the Directive

		2008/50 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. Additional funding mobilised
NATURE	No. of PAFs covered by Nature IPs. % of the Natura 2000 network covered by Nature IPs.	Improving conservation status within the meaning of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds Restored or brought to adequate management

The priorities for 2014 are the following:

- 1) IPs dealing with the implementation of Prioritized Framework Programmes (PAF) for NATURA 2000:

IPs designed to support the implementation of PAFs pursuant to Article 8 Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The IP should contribute towards achieving target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the general objectives of the Habitats and Birds Directives, and in particular contribute to improving the conservation status of species and habitat types of Community Interest (Habitats Directive) and/or the status of bird species (Birds Directive 2009/147/EC).

- 2) IP projects implementing river basins management plans (RBMPs):

IP designed to support the implementation of measures in River Basin Management Plans pursuant to Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD).

The IP should contribute towards achieving WFD objectives and target significant pressures affecting the environment's capacity for water retention and the use of low impact measures (e.g. green infrastructure) for depollution. The projects should focus on large scale (e.g. sub-catchment or river basin) planning and establishment of measures to increase water retention in urban and rural areas, enhance infiltration, increase water storage capacity and remove pollutants through natural or "natural-like" processes. They should seek synergies to implement actions that will redress existing hydro morphological pressures and improve biodiversity and amenity value.

- 3) IP dealing with implementation of waste management plans:

The IP are designed to support the implementation of the Waste Management Plans (WMP) and/or Waste Prevention Programmes (WPP). They should contribute to the implementation of the waste hierarchy (art 4 of the WFD), the achievement of the recycling targets as foreseen in article 11 of the WFD and additional targets included in the EU waste legislation, as well as the implementation of necessary measures to support those objectives.

- 4) IP dealing with the implementation of air quality plans and programs:

The IP are designed to support the implementation and monitoring of local and regional air quality plans with the ultimate goal of contributing to National Air Pollution Reduction Programmes.

1.1.4. Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The call for proposals will fund all the activities related to the definition, revision, implementation or management of environmental plans or strategies, including the involvement of relevant stakeholders and activities aimed at ensuring sustainability and replicability.

The purchase of land could be financed in line with Article 20 of the LIFE Regulation and according to the specific conditions mentioned in this article.

1.1.5. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

A call for proposals based on a two-stage procedure will be launched.

Applicants will be invited to submit, as part of their candidature, a short concept and strategy note for their integrated projects (IP), outlining the project contents, the plan or strategy it is intended to implement and a financial plan related to its implementation.

Besides the eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria indicated in Articles 131 and 132 of the Financial Regulation, the applications will be assessed on the basis of the following main criteria:

<p>Main eligibility criteria</p>	<p>A proposal shall comply with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed action shall aim at implementing the following environmental plans or strategies required by specific environmental Union legislation, developed pursuant to other Union acts or developed by Member States' authorities in one of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natura 2000 network management: Prioritised Action Frameworks pursuant to Article 8 Habitats Directive - Waste: Waste Management Plans pursuant to Article 28 Waste Framework Directive. - Water: River basin management plans pursuant to Annex VII to the Water Framework Directive - Air: Air quality plans pursuant to the Air Quality Directive 2. The proposed action shall cover a large territorial area, in particular, regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national. A multi-city approach may also be acceptable for IP dealing with air quality management, as well as for IP in the climate sub-programme. 3. at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source shall be mobilised for the implementation of the IP. 4. The key stakeholders shall be involved in the
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	implementation of the IP.
Main selection criteria	<p>The coordinating applicants and associated applicants will have to demonstrate a sufficient:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. operational capacity: professional competencies, qualifications and requirements needed to undertake the proposal within stated technical parameters and 2. financial capacity: stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the period during which the proposal is being carried out and to participate in its funding.

The Commission identifies and lists the proposals that comply with the eligibility criteria. It is planned to invite applicants of these proposals to participate in a written "question and answer" phase and applicants can submit questions in view of the preparation of the full proposal.

These applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal and each full proposal will be checked against the exclusion and the selection criteria and then ranked on the basis of a score system based on the following main award criteria:

Criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
1. Technical coherence and quality	10	20
2. Financial coherence and quality	10	20
3. EU added value: extent and quality of the contribution to the objectives	15	20
4. EU added value: extent and quality of mobilisation of other funds, in particular Union funds	-	10
5. EU added value: quality of multipurpose, synergies and integration	7	15
6. EU added value: replicability and transferability	5	10
7. EU added value: transnational, green procurement, uptake	-	5
Total	55	100

Once having ranked the proposals on merit basis, the Commission will define a final list of awarded projects by ensuring the adaptations necessary to comply with:

- the 55% quota of budgetary resources devoted to action grants supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity according to Article 9(2) of the Life Regulation;

- the geographical balance indicated in Article 19(4) of the LIFE Regulation.

1.1.6. Implementation

The action will be implemented in direct management by DG Environment. Grants awarded shall be covered by a written agreement.

1.1.7. Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Publication date	May 2014
Closing date for sending concept notes to the Commission	October 2014
Information to applicants about the results of the evaluation	November 2014
Closing date for sending full proposals proposals to the Commission	April 2015
Award decision and information to the applicants about the results of the evaluation	July 2015
Indicative amount of the call	61 500 000 EUR

Grant agreements will be signed upon successful completion of the award process.

1.1.8. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

A 60% maximum rate of total eligible costs will be co-financed.

1.2. ACTION GRANTS FOR TRADITIONAL PROJECTS³

1.2.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation, and, in particular, Articles 17, 18, 19 and 20.

1.2.2. Budget lines and amounts

Budget article 07 02 01 - Contributing to a greener and more resource efficient economy and to the development and implementation of Union environmental policy and legislation EUR 68 380 000.

Budget article 07 02 02 - Halting and reversing biodiversity loss - EUR 90 000 000.

Budget article 07 02 03 - Supporting better environmental governance and information at all levels - EUR 7 003 803.

Budget article 34 02 01 - Reducing of Union greenhouse gas emissions – EUR 19 755 000.

³ Traditional projects include the financing of pilot, demonstration, best practice, and information, awareness, and dissemination projects within the meaning of Article 18 (a), (b), (c) and (h) of the LIFE Regulation

Budget article 34 02 02 - Increasing resilience of the Union to climate change – EUR 19 755 000.

Budget article 34 02 03 - Better climate governance and information at all levels - EUR 1 000 000.

1.2.3. Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The traditional action grants aims at

- contributing to a greener and more resource efficient economy
- halting and reversing biodiversity loss;
- supporting better environmental and climate governance and information at all levels
- reducing Union greenhouse gas emissions
- increasing resilience of the Union to climate change.

They are expected to contribute to the implementation, management and development of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation, including monitoring and evaluation, integration of the environmental and climate objectives into other policies, communication, awareness raising and better governance.

In accordance with Article 8 of the LIFE Regulation on complementarity with other EU funding, proposals dealing with research have to be addressed to the instruments of implementation of Horizon 2020⁴. Complementarity and synergies with Horizon 2020 actions will be assessed in the award criterion "EU added value".

The project topics included in the Multiannual Work Programme 2014-2017 and implementing the thematic priorities set out in Annex III to the LIFE regulation represent the priorities applicable in the framework of the Environment Sub-Programme for the first four years.

Specific priorities for 2014 are not foreseen in the framework of the Sub-Programme for Climate Action, however it is expected to address the following:

- Support for implementation of adaptation strategies. This would include specific vulnerability assessments at regional or cross-border levels focusing on highly vulnerable areas such as urban, coastal, mountains and islands, drought prone areas or river-basins as well as implementing innovative adaptation approaches and preparation of specific investment plans.
- Support for pioneering a post carbon society by the integration mitigation/adaptation measures into regional practice, in particular through the deployment of new approaches (model cities or regions) within the objectives of the EU climate and energy package or the Roadmap 2050 targets.
- Demonstration at regional or sub-regional level of low carbon strategies, including mainstreaming of a range of emission reduction and resource efficiency measures across sectors and by using a range of measures to incentivise behavioural change, or land use management plans including land management practices which have an impact on emissions and removals of emissions.

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/index.html>

1.2.4. Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The call for proposals will fund all the activities related to the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate legislation and/or able to contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, to halting and reversing biodiversity loss and to the integration and mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other policies.

The purchase of land could be financed in line with Article 20 of the LIFE Regulation and according to the specific conditions mentioned in this article.

1.2.5. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Besides the eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria indicated in Articles 131 and 132 of the Financial Regulation, the applications will be assessed on the basis of the following main criteria:

Main eligibility criteria	<p>A proposal shall comply with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it contributes to one or several of the general objectives set out in Article 3 of the LIFE Regulation and of the specific objectives defined in Articles 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16 of the LIFE Regulation, - it falls within the scope of the priority area of the LIFE sub-programme as set out in Articles 9 of the LIFE Regulation and - it corresponds to one of the project types defined in Article 2(1)(b), (c) and (h) of the LIFE Regulation. 		
Main selection criteria	<p>The coordinating applicants and associated applicants will have to demonstrate sufficient:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. operational capacity in terms of professional competencies, qualifications and requirements needed to undertake the proposal within stated technical parameters and 2. financial capacity in terms of stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the period during which the proposal is being carried out and to participate in its funding. 		
Main award criteria		Min. score	Max score
	1. Technical coherence and quality	10	20
	2. Financial coherence and quality	10	20
	<p><u>For the projects under the environment sub-programme</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. EU added value: Extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Environment 4. Contribution to the project topics 	10	20
		<p><u>For the projects under the climate action sub-programme:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. EU added value: Extent and quality of the contribution to an increased climate resilience and/or to the reduction 	

	of greenhouse gas emissions	7	15
	4. EU added value: Extent and quality of the contribution to the specific objectives of the priority areas of the LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action:	7	15
	5. EU added value: multipurpose, synergies and integration	7	15
	6. EU added value: replicability and transferability	5	10
	7. EU added value: transnational, green public procurement, uptake	-	5
	Total	55	100

Once having ranked the proposals on merit basis, the Commission will define a final list of awarded projects by ensuring the adaptations necessary to comply with the 15 % quota of the budgetary resources to transnational projects according to Art 19(7) of the Life Regulation.

Moreover, under the sub-programme for environment, adaptations might be necessary to comply with the following:

- the 55 % quota of budgetary resources devoted to action grants supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity according to Article 9(2) of the Life Regulation and
- the geographical balance indicated in Article 19(5) of the LIFE Regulation.

1.2.6. Implementation

This call for proposals is part of the activities delegated to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). However, being the first year of the delegation, the start date of the implementation of the operational appropriations by the Agency will be laid down in a decision adopted by the Steering Committee⁵. Therefore, some activities related to this call might be implemented by DG ENV/DG CLIMA.

1.2.7. Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Publication date	May 2014
Closing date	October 2014
Award decision and information to the applicants about the results of the evaluation	Mars 2015
Indicative amount of the call	185 893 803 EUR

⁵ See Commission decision C/2013/9414, Article 1(2).

1.2.8. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

The maximum cofinancing rate is 60 % of the total eligible costs for all projects.

However, according to Article 20 of the LIFE regulation, maximum cofinancing rate is 75 % of total eligible costs for projects which, under the priority area Nature and Biodiversity, concern priority habitat or species for the implementation of the Directive 92/43/EEC or the species of birds considered as a priority for funding by the Committee for Adaptation to Technical and Scientific Progress when necessary to achieve the conservation objective.

1.3. ACTION GRANTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

1.3.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation, and, in particular, Articles 17, 18, 19 and 20.

1.3.2. Budget lines and amounts

Budget article 07 02 01 - Contributing to a greener and more resource efficient economy and to the development and implementation of Union environmental policy and legislation EUR 216 163.

Budget article 07 02 02 - Halting and reversing biodiversity loss - EUR 350 000.

1.3.3. Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Technical assistance projects should help applicants preparing integrated projects, and in particular should ensure that those projects comply with the timing, technical and financial requirements of the LIFE Programme in coordination with funds referred to in Article 8(3) of the LIFE Regulation.

It is expected to ensure the uptake of 1-2 technical assistance projects under the priority area Nature and Biodiversity and 1-2 technical assistance projects in the priority area Environment and Resource Efficiency.

1.3.4. Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

All the activities necessary to support the capacity of the applicant to submit an integrated project.

1.3.5. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Main eligibility criteria	A proposal for a technical assistance project is only retained for evaluation against the award criteria, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the project proposal aims at the preparation of a future IP proposal.- the applicant is not a Member State which receives financing for a capacity building project which covers at least a part of the period to be covered by the technical assistance project.
Main selection criteria	The coordinating applicants and associated applicants will have to demonstrate sufficient: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- operational capacity in terms of professional competencies, qualifications and requirements needed to undertake the

	proposal within stated technical parameters and - financial capacity in terms of stable and sufficient sources of funding and to participate in its funding.		
Main award criteria		Min. score	Max score
	1. Technical coherence and quality	30	60
	2. Financial coherence and quality	20	40
	Total	55	100

1.3.6. Implementation

The action will be implemented in direct management by DG Environment.

1.3.7. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Publication date	2 nd quarter of 2014
Closing date for sending proposals to the national competent authorities	3 rd quarter of 2014
Closing date for national authorities to send proposals to the Commission	3 rd quarter of 2014
Award decision and information to the applicants about the results of the evaluation	3 rd quarter 2015
Indicative amount of the call for proposals	566 163 EUR

Grants agreements will be signed upon successful conclusion of the evaluation process.

1.3.8. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

According to Article 20(1) of the LIFE Regulation, the maximum rate at which the technical assistance projects can be co-financed by LIFE is 60 % up to a maximum amount of 100.000 EUR per project.

1.4. ACTION GRANTS FOR PREPARATORY PROJECTS

1.4.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation, and, in particular, Articles 17, 18(f), 19 and 20.

1.4.2. Budget lines and amounts

Budget article 07 02 02 - Halting and reversing biodiversity loss - EUR 1 200 000.

Budget article 07 02 03 - Supporting better environmental governance and information at all levels - EUR 453 000.

1.4.3. Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Preparatory projects support specific needs for the development and implementation of Union environmental or climate policy and legislation.

Once a year the Commission makes an inventory of specific needs regarding the development and implementation of Union environmental or climate policy and legislation that need to be addressed by preparatory projects.

In this context the priorities for 2014 are the following:

- Testing the creation of a Resource Efficiency Observatory,
- Developing network cooperation amongst prosecutors,
- Establishing an EU NGO platform on Best Available Techniques,
- Completing EU28/Pan-European Species Red Lists for species groups relevant to the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EU Habitats Directive),
- Development and update of species action plans for bird species listed in Annex I and Annex II to the Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive).

1.4.4. Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The activities to be funded will vary in relation the work necessary to address the specific needs identified by the Commission including the project duration and the indicative budget to be allocated to each project.

1.4.5. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Main eligibility criteria	<p>Be a public or private organisation registered in an EU Member State.</p> <p>Beside the general eligibility criteria identified pursuant to Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, specific eligibility criteria might be defined if necessary to address the specific needs identified by the Commission.</p>		
Main selection criteria	<p>Operational capacity – the applicant must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the project.</p> <p>Financial capacity - the applicant must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain his activity throughout the duration of the project and to participate in its funding.</p> <p>In line with Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, the verification of the financial capacity does not apply to public authorities.</p>		
Main award criteria		Min. score	Max score

	Technical coherence and quality of the proposal in relation to the specific need addressed	22	45
	Comprehensiveness of the approach in relation to the specific need addressed	15	30
	Financial coherence and quality	12	25
	Total	55	100

1.4.6. Implementation

The action will be implemented in direct management by DG Environment.

1.4.7. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Publication date	1 st quarter of 2014
Closing date for sending proposals to the national competent authorities	3 rd quarter 2014
Closing date for national authorities to send proposals to the Commission	3 rd quarter 2014
Award decision and information to the applicants about the results of the evaluation	4 th quarter 2014
Signature of grant agreements	1 st quarter of 2015
Indicative amount of the call for proposals	1 653 000

Grants agreements will be signed upon successful conclusion of the evaluation process.

1.4.8. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

According to Article 20(1) of the LIFE Regulation, the maximum rate at which the preparatory projects can be co-financed by LIFE is 60 % up to a maximum amount of 100.000 EUR per project.

1.5. ACTION GRANTS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

1.5.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation, and, in particular, Articles 17, 18(f), 19 and 20.

1.5.2. Budget line and amount

Budget article 07 02 03 - Supporting better environmental governance and information at all levels - EUR 11 250 000.

Budget article 34 02 03 - Better climate governance and information at all levels - EUR 3 750 000.

1.5.3. Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Capacity building projects are intended to enable Member States who have had a low uptake of LIFE projects in the past, to participate more effectively in the LIFE Programme.

The Member States who are beneficiaries of such projects are expected to increase their capacity to attract quality LIFE project applications.

Given their specificity, yearly priorities applicable to capacity building projects are not defined.

1.5.4. Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

All the activities necessary to build the capacity of Member States, including LIFE national or regional contact points, to attract quality LIFE project applications, will be funded under the call for proposals.

Therefore activities may include, but shall not be limited to:

- recruitment of new personnel and training for LIFE national or regional contact points;
- facilitating exchanges of experience and best practices and promoting the dissemination and use of results of projects under the LIFE Programme;
- 'train the trainer' approaches;
- exchange and secondment programmes between public authorities in Member States, in particular 'best in class' exchange activities.

The interventions covered by the capacity-building plan may include the procurement of experts to address ad-hoc gaps in technical and process capability, but may not include the procurement of experts whose primary function is the drafting of proposals for submission under the annual calls for proposals.

1.5.5. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Main eligibility criteria	<p>The applicant is a Member State:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. for which the GDP per capita in 2012 was not above 105 % of the Union average, and either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the average absorption level of the indicative national allocation for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012, as established under Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 614/2007, is below 70 % or - the GDP per capita in 2012 was below 90 % of the Union average, or - accession to the Union was after 1 January 2013. 2. which application contains a capacity-building plan, in which the Member State commits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to maintain resources dedicated to the LIFE Programme, including staffing levels, at levels no lower than those in place
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	<p>in 2012 for the duration of the present MAWP;</p> <p>- to not apply for a further capacity building project, if the capacity building project is granted.</p>		
Main selection criteria	<p>In line with Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, the verification of the financial capacity does not apply to public authorities.</p> <p>Taking into account the nature of the proposal, the authorising officer could, depending on the results of a risk assessment, waive the obligation to verify the operational capacity of the applicants.</p>		
Main award criteria		Min. score	Max score
	Technical coherence and quality of the proposed interventions	15	30
	Financial coherence and quality	10	20
	Comprehensiveness of the approach in relation to the identified weaknesses leading to the Member State's low participation in LIFE+ 2010-2012 programmes	15	30
	Presentation of the expected improvement of the ability to promote integration, complementarity, synergies and replicability of the Life Programme into policies, economic activities and other programmes	10	20
	Total	55	100

1.5.6. Implementation

This call for proposals is part of the activities delegated to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). However, being the first year of the delegation, some activities will be implemented by DG ENV according to the transitional measures agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding between DG ENV and EASME.

1.5.7. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Applications for capacity-building projects will follow a fast-track award procedure.

Considering the fact that pursuant to Article 19(8) of the LIFE Regulation capacity building projects can only be allocated to a predefined number of Member States and only one project per Member State can be subsidised, there is no competition among received applications. Therefore applications may be submitted on a rolling basis from the date of publication of the 2014 call for proposals for LIFE action grants, which will include the application package for capacity building projects. Applications must be submitted before 30 September 2015 in order to be considered for the financing period 2014-2017.

Publication date	May 2014
Closing date	September 2015
Award decision	On on-going basis between May 2014 and September 2015
Indicative amount of the call	15 000 000 EUR

Grants agreements will be signed upon successful conclusion of the evaluation process.

1.5.8. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

According to Article 20(1) of the LIFE Regulation, the capacity building projects can finance 100% of the total eligible costs up to a maximum amount of 1 million EUR per project, provided that the grant does not cover 100% of the total cost of the project.

1.6 OPERATING GRANTS FOR CO-FINANCING THE WORK PROGRAMME OF NON-PROFIT ENTITIES

1.6.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation and, in particular, Articles 17 and 21.

1.6.2. Budget lines and amounts

Budget article 07 02 03 - Supporting better environmental governance and information at all levels - EUR 7 000 000.

Budget article 34 02 03 - Better climate governance and information at all levels- EUR 2 000 000.

1.6.3. Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objectives of the calls is to promote better environmental and climate governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation (Article 12(d) of the LIFE Regulation - specific objective for the priority area Environmental Governance and Information)

The expected result is to support the strengthening of civil society participation in the dialogue process of environmental and climate policy development and implementation.

The priorities for the 2015 work programmes of the applicants are the following:

- To protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital
- To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy
- To safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing

1.6.4. Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Grants will be awarded following an open call for proposals to co-finance the 2015 work programme of the selected organisations.

1.6.5. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Main eligibility criteria	An applicant organisation must:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be a non-profit-making legal person, independent in particular from government and other public authorities and from political or commercial interests, - be primarily active in the field of environment and/or climate action and have an environmental/climate objective aimed at the public good and with a view to sustainable development, as well as being involved in the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and/or climate policy and legislation; - be operating at Union level with a structure and activities covering at least three European Union Member States, - be established (legally registered) in the EU28 Member States or in a third country in accordance with Article 5 of the LIFE Regulation and under the conditions provided for in that Article.
<p>Main selection criteria</p>	<p>Applicants will only be selected if, based on specific supporting documents related to their performance during the two previous years, they can demonstrate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - operational capacity - the applicant must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed work programme, and - financial capacity - the applicant must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain his activity throughout the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding. <p>In cases of exceptional circumstances, notably regarding a new network created by experienced organisations, the Commission may grant derogation from the requirement of supporting documents referring to the two previous years.</p> <p>Art. 131 of the Financial Regulation will apply to the selection of public bodies and international organisations.</p>
<p>Main award criteria</p>	<p>1. Relevance of involvement in the Union’s environmental and climate action policy process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - under the thematic objectives of the 7th Environment Action Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital - to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy; - to safeguard the Union’s citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing, - under the climate and energy package, the roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 and the Union’s

	<p>adaptation strategy.</p> <p>2. Relevance and potential to contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximising the benefits of the Union’s environment and climate action legislation by improving implementation and enforcement, - improving the knowledge and evidence base for Union environment and climate action policy, - securing investment for environment and climate action policy and address environmental externalities and - improving environmental and climate action integration and policy coherence. <p>3. Relevance for enhancing the sustainability of the Union’s cities and increasing the Union’s effectiveness in addressing international environmental and climate related challenges.</p> <p>4. Relevance in addressing environmental and climate emerging issues and new policy priorities.</p> <p>5. Effectiveness of the beneficiary's contribution to the Union policy process.</p> <p>6. Organisational development – potential to develop in order to become a more efficient stakeholder in the Union’s policy process.</p> <p>7. Technical and financial coherence of the work programme.</p>
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1.6.6. Implementation

This call for proposals is part of the activities delegated to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). However, being the first year of the delegation, the start date of the implementation of the operational appropriations by the Agency will be laid down in a decision adopted by the Steering Committee⁶. Therefore, some activities related to this call might be implemented by DG ENV/DG CLIMA.

1.6.7. Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Timing of call for proposals :	
Publication date	June-September 2014
Closing date	September-October 2014

⁶ See Commission decision C/2013/9414, Article 1(2).

Notification of results	January 2015
Finalisation date for the grant agreements	February/March 2015
Indicative amount of the call for proposals:	9 000 000 EUR

1.6.8. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

The specific grant will take the form of a partial reimbursement of eligible costs. The rate of overall EU assistance shall not exceed 70 % out of the applicant's eligible expenses for 2015. The maximum amount that can be requested and awarded is fixed at €900.000.

2. PROCUREMENT

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2014 amounts to €63 073 034.

2.1. *PROCUREMENT SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT POLICIES AND LEGISLATION*

2.1.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation, and, in particular, article 17(1).

2.1.2. Budget lines and amounts

Budget article 07 02 01 - Contributing to a greener and more resource efficient economy and to the development and implementation of Union environmental policy and legislation - EUR 11 590 000.

Budget article 07 02 02 - Halting and reversing biodiversity loss - EUR 5 816 000.

Budget article 07 02 03 - Supporting better environmental governance and information at all levels - EUR 12 443 033.

Budget item 07 01 04 01 - Support expenditure for the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) — Sub-programme for Environment – EUR 14 765 000.

2.1.3. Subject matter of the contracts envisaged, type of contracts, indicative number and timeframe for the launching of the procurement procedures

Indicative Subject of the contracts	Type of contract ⁷	Estimated n° contracts	Indicative date of publication (quarter / Year)
- Sustainable Consumption and production, eco-innovation and circular economy, integration of environmental requirements into industry and	SER	20	2 nd – 3 th Q 2014

⁷ SER (service contract), ETU (study contract), FRA (new framework contract), EXP (reimbursement of expert expenditures), PUB (publications).

<p>internal market policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecolabel, EMAS, Eco-design, - Product environmental footprint, Organisations environmental footprint PEF/OEF methodology. - ETV (Environmental Technology Verification) - Preparation for review of the existing instruments - Measures related to sustainable buildings and sustainable food 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to development and implementation of EU waste policy and legislation in the following areas: - Waste streams directives: WEEE, RoHS, ELV, Batteries, Packaging - Waste Framework Directive (targets review, assessment of plans, compliance of assistance, waste classification) - Ship Recycling regulation (development of EU list of recycling facilities and financial mechanism) - Waste shipments 	<p>ETU FRA</p>	<p>15 1</p>	<p>3rd – 4th Q 2014</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to the development and the implementation of Chemicals Legislation: REACH,- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), - Classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures (CLP), - Export and Import of Dangerous Chemicals (PIC),Report on sustainable use of chemicals, - Support to policy developments and activities in the field of biocides,Endocrine disruptors,Nanomaterialand mixtures, - Support to the implementation of the Directive 86/609/EEC on the Protection of Laboratory Animals. 	<p>SER FRA</p>	<p>11 1</p>	<p>1st Q 2014</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to policy development in the areas of Agriculture, Soils, Nature and biodiversity, including Implementation of the Directive 91/676/EEC on the protection of water from nitrate pollution from agricultural sources. - Land use communication - Initiatives to address land degradation 	<p>ETU SER</p>	<p>5 8</p>	<p>3rd – 4th Q 2014</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation and mid-term review of EU biodiversity strategy, including improving the knowledge base, implementation of green infrastructure and development of the No Net Loss initiative, combating Invasive Alien Species (IAS); Biodiversity tracking in the EU budget - Contribution to international processes, including CBD and Intergovernmental science policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES) - Implementation of the Nature Directives (Birds 	<p>SER</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>1st Q 2014</p>

<p>and Habitats Directives).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication activities on nature and biodiversity including Natura2000 award scheme - Red list of Orthoptera - Large carnivores 			
<p>Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to the implementation of the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Waters - Implementation of the Water framework Directive, River basin management, Water Information System for Europe (WISE) and EU legislation on bathing and drinking water, urban waste water Treatment (water industry directives) including SIF; - Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive & Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) - Floods directive 	<p>SER FRA</p>	<p>15 1</p>	<p>2nd – 3rd Q 2014</p>
<p>Industrial emissions and accidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standards and legislation on industrial emissions, including the industrial emissions directive (IED) and other related directives - European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) - Implementation of legislation on industrial accidents <p>Air quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific and technical input to the inter-institutional negotiations of the Air Quality Policy Review package and its subsequent implementation, including regarding the contribution of other sectors. - Implementation, evaluation and development of legislation on ambient air quality, including at the regional and local level. - Implementation and evaluation of the marine fuel sulphur content directive (1999/32) <p>Noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation and development of legislation on noise <p>Mercury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International negotiations to prepare the implementation of the multilateral Minemata Convention on mercury - Implementation and review of the EU legislation on mercury, including Minemata Convention. 	<p>SER ETU FRA</p>	<p>14 1 1</p>	<p>1st – 2nd Q 2014</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support in implementation of EC Environmental Law, including cooperation with judicial authorities. 	<p>ETU SER</p>	<p>6 2</p>	<p>1st -2nd Q 2014</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) directives, guidance on the implementation of the European Liability Directive (ELD). - Acces to justice and to information, inspections and surveillance, legal enforcement and conformity checks as well as technical assessment of comliance with EU environmental law. - Economic and social impacts of envirnmental protection and resource efficiency. SEIS outlook. 			
<p>Support in integrating EU environmental policy into external cooperation, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The environmental and economic implications of strengthening cooperation with ASEAN countries, latin America and Eastern neighbourhood countries - Feasibility study for an EU-Russia eco-innovation centre 	ETU	4	3 rd – 4 th Q 2014
<p>International work of core EU domestic interests, including integrating the results of international work into EU legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitoring of the implementation and enforcement of the EC wildlife trade regulation - implementation of the EU timber regulation - Development of EU FLEGT licences 	SER	4	1 st Q 2014
<p>Resource Efficiency indicators and knowledge base, including impact assessments, sustainable urban development, cost benefit analysis and modelling. Economic analysis of environmental policies, resource efficiency and sustainable development.</p>	ETU SER	15 3	3 rd – 4 th Q 2014
<p>Communication and outreach activities, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder events and participatory schemes, such as Green Week, European Green Capital Award. European Business Award, retail Forum Annual Event, etc. - Communication campaign on Resource Efficiency and biodiversity. - Scoping and strategy for preparation of future communication activities - Evaluation activites - Media relations. - Publications, Video news releases and other audiovisual production, web and social media activities, - Conferences and workshops 	SER FRA	20 1	3 rd – 4 th Q 2014
<p>Technical assistance related to on going action and operating grants under predecessor programmes. Technical assistance in relation to the implementation of the LIFE + and LIFE programme. Promotion of the</p>	SER, EXP	10	4th Q 2014

sustainability of LIFE III / LIFE + results			
Development, Maintenance and quality assurance of IT Systems supporting the management of the LIFE	SER	8	2 nd - 3 rd Q 2014
Publications on LIFE + projects and implementation and development environment policy and newsletters, Eurobarometer surveys, Production of communication material (including audiovisual & Websites)	PUB/SER	20	4th Q 2014
Audit and evaluation - <i>ex post</i> audit of LIFE projects (via DG BUDG Framework contract), programme evaluation	SER / ETU	5	3rd Q 2014
COP12 Support	SER	3	4th Q 2014

Other types of procurement activities

Indicative subject of the contracts	Type of contract	Estimated n° contracts	Indicative date of publication (quarter / Year)
Publications on LIFE + projects and implementation and development environment policy	co-delegation with OP	several	3 rd – 4 th Q 2014
ENV contribution to the implementation of Land use/land cover area frame survey (LUCAS) 2015	Crossed sub-delegation with EUROSTAT	1	3 rd Q 2014
Reviewing and developing certain fisheries related marine environment indicators by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)	Memorandum of Understanding ICES/MARE ⁸	1 - subject to the signature of MoU with ICES	2 nd Q 2014
Contribution to AGORA application	Crossed sub-delegation with EMPL	1	2 nd Q 2014
Hosting eProposals, Ecolabel, EMAS and its accessibility to external stakeholders, R4BP, Declare/Alures, FLEGT, extension of E-prior for specific contracts	Memorandum of Understanding and Crossed sub delegation with DIGIT	7-8	1 st – 4 th Q 2014

2.1.4 Implementation

This action will be implemented in direct management by DG Environment

⁸ These services are expressly covered by the scope of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the European Commission and ICES on 6 May 2013. The renewal of this MoU to cover 2014 is waiting for the adoption of the proposal on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and is based on the earlier text. They will be addressed as 'non-recurring advice' (according to Annex II B of the Memorandum of Understanding). To request these services from ICES is essential for a coherent implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Common Fisheries Policy based on the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle.

2.2. *PROCUREMENT SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION OF THE CLIMATE ACTION POLICIES AND LEGISLATION*

2.2.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation and, in particular, article 17(1).

2.2.2. Budget lines and amounts

Budget article 34 02 01 - Reducing of Union greenhouse gas emissions – EUR 6 587 591.

Budget article 34 02 02 - Increasing resilience of the Union to climate change – EUR 5 587 591.

Budget article 34 02 03 - Better climate governance and information at all levels - EUR 2 824 819.

Budget item 34 01 04 01 - Support expenditure for the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) — Sub-programme for Climate Action - EUR 3 459 000.

2.2.3. Subject matter of the contracts envisaged, type of contracts, indicative number and timeframe for the launching of the procurement procedures

Indicative Subject of the contracts	Type of contract ⁹	Estimated n° contracts	Indicative date of publication (quarter / Year)
Assistance in conformity checking of transposition by MS of Directives in the climate change area and assistance on technical assessments of MS compliance with legislation in this area	SER / FRA	2	1 st – 3 th Q 2014
Evaluation, follow up and impact assessment	SER / ETU /FRA	6	3 th – 4 th Q 2014
Communication activities on EU Climate Action policy and contributing to communication activities on the corporate communication priorities (Economy and Citizens) – awareness raising campaign, support to communication at EU events	SER / FRA	13	3 th – 4 th Q 2014
Building knowledge base: collection of data, definition of tools, modelling for informing climate policies decision making, including for private climate finance and EU Adaptation strategy	SER /ETU	2/3	1 st – 2 nd Q 2014
Fluorinated gases and ozone layer protection	SER	4	2 nd – 4 th Q 2014
Low-carbon and innovative technologies, carbon capture and storage (CCS), carbon leakage (CL), renewable energies	SER, ETU, FRA	7	2 nd – 4 th Q 2014
Emissions monitoring, reporting and verification, Emission from aviation. Assistance to the process of	SER/FRA 18	18	1 st – 4 th Q 2014

⁹ SER (service contract), ETU (study contract), FRA (new framework contract).

auctioning of allowances (auctioning platform, clearing monitor).			
Developing and monitoring (tracking) of mainstreaming of mitigation and adaptation in the programming of EU policies	SER/ETU	3	4 th Q 2014

Other types of procurement activities

Indicative Subject of the contracts	Type of contract	Estimated n ^o contracts	Indicative date of publication (quarter / Year)
Contribution of the LIFE Programme to an integrated communication campaign via multiple channels about the Union's political priorities as defined by the Communication "Corporate Communication under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020" (SEC(2013) 486 final) ¹⁰ .	Co-delegation with DG COMM	1	1 st – 4 th Q 2014
CLIMA contribution to the implementation of Land use/land cover area frame survey (LUCAS) 2015	Crossed sub-delegation with EUROSTAT	1	3 rd Q 2014
Hosting agreements, including hosting hardware token system and MOU IT Security maintenance, review and assessment	Memorandum of Understanding CLIMA/DIGIT	3-4	1st – 4th Q 2014
Publications on implementation and development climate action policy	co-delegation with OP	3-4	1st – 4th Q 2014

2.2.4. Implementation

This action will be implemented in direct management by DG Climate Action

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for financial instruments in 2014 amounts to €40 million and, in particular:

- 30 million EUR for the Private Financing for Energy Efficiency instrument
- 10 million EUR for the Natural Capital Financial Facility.

¹⁰ Environmental and climate policies play a central role in the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy which aims at promoting a resource-efficient, low- carbon and climate- resilient economy, with a view to sustainable growth. Corporate communication actions that demonstrate to non-specialised audiences the EU's added value in sustainable growth and job creation as well as seek views from the public on the future of the European Union intrinsically support the Programme's objectives.

3.1. PRIVATE FINANCING FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY INSTRUMENT (PF4EE)

3.1.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation and, in particular, Article 17(1).

3.1.2. Specific Financial instrument to be used

Private Financing for Energy Efficiency instrument (PF4EE)

3.1.3. Budget line and amount allocated to the financial instrument

Budget article 34 02 01 - Reducing of Union greenhouse gas emissions – EUR 17 500 000;

Budget article 34 02 02 - Increasing resilience of the Union to climate change – EUR 12 500 000.

3.1.4. Objectives to be fulfilled and the foreseen results

PF4EE will aim at:

- making energy efficiency lending a more sustainable activity across European financial institutions;
- encouraging private commercial banks and other financial intermediaries to address the energy efficiency sector as a distinct market segment;
- increasing lending for energy efficiency in response to priorities identified by Member States' National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.

Under the PF4EE approximately 6-10 financing agreements could be signed with financial institutions (EIB Loans for EE and expert support facilities) in the period 2014-2017. A financing agreement may cover the implementation of the FP4EE in more than one MS and a financial intermediary may sign more than one financing agreement.

It is expected that for the years 2014-17, assuming an average investment cost of €300 000, up to 1,800 final recipients and projects will receive a total loan financing of approximately €430 million. The total investment in energy efficiency over this period could be around € 540 million.

The estimate leverage of the value of the loan portfolio to the LIFE provision is 6 fold. Taking into account the possible contribution of final beneficiaries to project costs in the order of 25%, the leverage of total investment to the LIFE provision could be at up to 8 fold.

3.1.5. Implementation mode and entrusted entity

The financial instrument will be implemented through indirect management as allowed for in Article 25 of the LIFE Regulation and in according with Article 58 of the Financial Regulation.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) will be entrusted with the implementation of PF4EE according to Article 216 of the Rules of Application under condition that the on-going assessment of the requirements of Article 60(2) of the Financial Regulation will gave positive results.

The new financial instrument has been developed in cooperation with the EIB and is based on their DEEP Green initiative.

3.1.6. Indicative timetable

A delegation agreement is expected to be signed with the EIB in the third quarter of 2014. The implementation will start immediately, based on the experience already built with the DEEP Green Initiative.

3.2. NATURAL CAPITAL FINANCIAL FACILITY (NCFE)

3.2.1. Legal basis

LIFE Regulation and, in particular, Article 17 (1).

3.2.2. Specific Financial instrument to be used

The Natural Capital Financial Facility (NCFE) will combine direct and indirect financing of projects through debt and equity. An expert support facility will be provided in order to ensure that projects reach a sufficient stage of maturity for financing. In view of the current market conditions, the facility will target a share of 70% of direct investments and 30% through intermediaries, although the latter could be higher depending on demand. The proportion of total investments in projects covered by loan or equity from the NCFE is expected to vary between 50% and, in exceptional cases, 100%, with an average of 75%.

3.2.3. Budget line and amount allocated to the financial instrument

Budget article 07 02 02 - Halting and reversing biodiversity loss - EUR 5 000 000.

Budget article 34 02 02 - Increasing resilience of the Union to climate change – EUR 5 000 000.

3.2.4. Objectives to be fulfilled and the foreseen results

The objectives targeted by the NCFE are the following

- To address market gaps and barriers for revenue generating or cost saving projects that are aimed at preserving natural capital, including climate change adaptation projects, and thereby to contribute to the achievement of EU and Member States' objectives for biodiversity and climate change adaptation.
- To establish a pipeline of replicable, profitable natural capital projects that will demonstrate their feasibility and leverage funding from private investors.
- To demonstrate to private investors the attractiveness of natural capital projects for the longer term, in order to build-up a sustainable and sufficiently large flow of private capital.

During the initial pilot phase, the NCFE is expected to execute 9-12 investments (including indirect investments), or 3-4 investments per year. The total budget of €60M would be allocated from the LIFE Programme plus €50M from the EIB. Individual investments would remain up to €10-15M. Given the expected leverage factor anticipated to be between 2.8 and 4.2, the total investment in natural capital management projects triggered by the NCFE over the pilot phase alone could be up to €420M.

3.2.5. Implementation mode and entrusted entity

The financial instrument will be implemented through indirect management as allowed for in Article 25 of the LIFE Regulation and according with Article 58 of the Financial Regulation.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) will be entrusted with the implementation of NCFE according to Article 216 of the Rules of Application on condition that it fulfils the requirements of Article 60(2) of the Financial Regulation, which assessment is at present on going.

The NCFE is a pilot of a new financial instrument developed together with the European Investment Bank, and therefore it has been chosen for the indirect management

3.2.6. Indicative timetable

A delegation agreement is expected to be signed with the EIB in the third quarter of 2014. The implementation will start in 2014.