

Bruselas, 23 de julio de 2010

## La Comisión concede 250 millones de euros a más de 200 nuevos proyectos LIFE+

***La Comisión Europea ha aprobado la financiación de 210 nuevos proyectos en el marco de la tercera convocatoria del programa LIFE+ (2007-2013), el fondo europeo para el medio ambiente. Los proyectos proceden de toda la UE e incluyen actuaciones en los ámbitos de la conservación de naturaleza, la política ambiental y la información y la comunicación. En conjunto, representan una inversión total de 515 millones de euros, de los que 249,8 millones serán fondos de la UE.***

Janez Potočnik, Comisario de Medio Ambiente, ha declarado lo siguiente: «*El programa LIFE+ sigue financiando proyectos de alta calidad e innovadores con alto valor añadido para la UE. Creo que estos nuevos proyectos contribuirán de forma importante a la conservación de la naturaleza y a la mejora del medio ambiente, así como a dar a conocer en toda Europa los principales retos ambientales que se nos presentan, especialmente la pérdida de biodiversidad, la penuria de agua y el cambio climático.*».

La Comisión ha recibido más de seiscientas solicitudes de organismos públicos o privados de los veintisiete Estados miembros de la UE durante la convocatoria de propuestas, que se cerró en noviembre de 2009. De esas propuestas, se seleccionaron 210 para su cofinanciación al amparo de los tres componentes del programa: LIFE+ Naturaleza y Biodiversidad, LIFE+ Política y Gobernanza Medioambiental y LIFE+ Información y Comunicación.

Los proyectos **LIFE+ Naturaleza y Biodiversidad** mejoran el estado de conservación de especies y hábitats amenazados. De las 194 propuestas recibidas, la Comisión seleccionó para financiación 84 proyectos de asociaciones de organismos de conservación, autoridades públicas y otras partes. Situados en 24 Estados miembros, representan una inversión total de 224 millones de euros, de los que aproximadamente 124 millones de euros serán fondos de la UE. La mayor parte de los proyectos (74) se refieren a la naturaleza y contribuyen a la aplicación de la Directiva de aves y/o de hábitats y al establecimiento de la red Natura 2000. Los otros diez proyectos se refieren a la biodiversidad, una nueva categoría de proyectos LIFE+ para iniciativas piloto que abordan problemas de biodiversidad más amplios. La Comisión se congratula del aumento constante del número de proyectos de biodiversidad financiados desde 2007 (cuatro proyectos), cuando se introdujo la categoría.

Los proyectos **LIFE+ Política y Gobernanza Medioambiental** son proyectos piloto que contribuyen al desarrollo de conceptos políticos, tecnologías, métodos e instrumentos innovadores. De las 308 propuestas recibidas, la Comisión seleccionó para financiación 116 proyectos de una amplia gama de organizaciones públicas y privadas. Los proyectos seleccionados, situados en 17 Estados miembros, representan una inversión total de 278 millones de euros, de los que aproximadamente 120 millones de euros serán fondos de la UE. Los proyectos centrados en la innovación (17 proyectos) representan la mayor parte de la financiación de la UE (aproximadamente 20,9 millones de euros). El tema más tratado, considerando el número de proyectos, es el de los residuos y recursos naturales (20 proyectos apoyados por un importe de 19,3 millones de euros), seguido por los del agua y la innovación (17 proyectos cada uno). Los 63 proyectos restantes se refieren a diferentes temas, entre los que se incluyen el aire, los productos químicos, el cambio climático, la energía, el medio ambiente y la salud, los bosques, el ruido, la conservación del suelo, los planteamientos estratégicos y el medio ambiente urbano.

Los proyectos **LIFE+ Información y Comunicación** tienen por objeto poner de relieve las cuestiones medioambientales y divulgar información al respecto, así como organizar campañas de sensibilización y formación sobre prevención de incendios forestales. De las 113 propuestas recibidas, la Comisión seleccionó para financiación 10 proyectos procedentes de un gran número de organizaciones del sector público y privado en los ámbitos de la naturaleza y el medio ambiente. Los temas abordados son, por ejemplo, la biodiversidad, el cambio climático, los residuos y el agua. Los proyectos se sitúan en siete Estados miembros y representan una inversión total de 12,9 millones de euros, de los que 6,3 millones de euros serán fondos de la UE.

## **El programa de LIFE+**

LIFE+ es el instrumento financiero europeo para el medio ambiente, que dispone de un presupuesto total de 2 143 millones de euros (dos mil ciento cuarenta y tres millones de euros) para el período 2007-2013. Durante ese período, la Comisión pondrá en marcha una convocatoria de propuestas de proyectos LIFE+ al año.

## **Más información**

Véase en anexo el resumen de todos los nuevos proyectos financiados por LIFE+, desglosados por países.

- Para conseguir más datos sobre los nuevos proyectos LIFE+ Naturaleza y Biodiversidad, véase:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/compilations/documents/natcompilation09.pdf>

- Para conseguir más datos sobre los nuevos proyectos LIFE+ Política y Gobernanza Medioambiental, véase:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/compilations/documents/envcompilation09.pdf>

- Para conseguir más datos sobre los nuevos proyectos LIFE+ Información y Comunicación, véase:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/compilations/documents/infcompilation09.pdf>

- Para más información sobre LIFE+, véase:

<http://ec.europa.eu/life>

- También se puede contactar con las autoridades nacionales pertinentes:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/index.htm>

## Anexos

### **ESPAÑA - 36 proyectos (94,8 millones)**

#### **LIFE+ Política y Gobernanza Medioambiental (27 proyectos - 60,7 millones)**

##### **- CREAMAgua** (Comarca de los Monegros)

Este proyecto aspira a introducir estructuras ecosistémicas «naturales» de humedales y bosques de ribera para reducir los nutrientes inorgánicos (nitratos y fosfatos) y las sales procedentes de la escorrentía agrícola en toda la comarca de los Monegros.

##### **- CITROFUEL** (CITROTECNO)

Este proyecto persigue crear un nuevo procedimiento para mejorar y optimizar la gestión y el uso sostenible de recursos naturales y residuos de la producción de agrios. En el proyecto se tiene previsto construir y hacer funcionar un prototipo industrial para producir bioetanol a partir de la biomasa generada por la producción industrial de agrios mediante un nuevo proceso de fermentación.

##### **- LASERFIRING** (Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)

El proyecto se propone desarrollar un nuevo método para fabricar cerámica estructural mediante tecnología de láser en la fase de cocción, lo que facilitaría realizar la misma a temperaturas más bajas. En el caso concreto de los ladrillos refractarios, el nuevo procedimiento reducirá la temperatura de cocción de 1 300 °C a 900 °C sin que ello perjudique a las propiedades estéticas o estructurales.

##### **- Soria CO2Cero** (Ayuntamiento de Soria)

El proyecto Soria CO2Cero persigue mejorar el medio ambiente de Soria y luchar contra el cambio climático con una serie de medidas estratégicas y legislativas. Un aspecto crucial del proyecto será la creación de un pasillo que atravesará la ciudad y que conectará diversos elementos de su patrimonio ambiental y cultural. El pasillo CO2Cero se convertirá en una referencia de buena práctica municipal en materia de sostenibilidad ambiental y cultura ecológica.

##### **- MIPOLARE** (Dirección General de Industria, Energía y Minas. Consejería de Universidades, Empresa e Investigación de la Región de Murcia)

El principal objetivo del proyecto MIPOLARE es evaluar, demostrar y difundir una solución sostenible alternativa para la recuperación de minas mediante el mejoramiento del suelo gracias al uso de dos residuos (purines de cerdo y lodo de mármol) y a la fitoestabilización.

##### **- ACCIÓN AGROCLIMÁTICA** (Fundación Global Nature)

El proyecto Acción Agroclimática aspira a crear un instrumento para realizar auditorías energéticas y de gases de efecto invernadero (GEI) en las explotaciones agrícolas y para determinar las mejores prácticas y los cultivos más convenientes para mitigar el cambio climático y adaptarse al mismo. Persigue aportar una metodología de amplia aceptación en el sector agrícola de toda la Unión Europea y aplicable a la mayoría de los diversos sistemas agrícolas.

##### **- The Green Deserts** (Transfer Latin Business Consultancy S.L.)

El objetivo principal del proyecto es demostrar la viabilidad y la eficacia de las nuevas técnicas de plantación de árboles en zonas desertificadas, pobres o rocosas. Se aplicará una tecnología innovadora de colectores de agua para recuperar la función de esponja de suelos degradados y reforzar las capacidades existentes de los suelos de sostener la vida vegetal.

- **BIOENERGY & FIRE PREV.** (Ayuntamiento de Enguera)

El principal objetivo de este proyecto es mejorar la capacidad de Enguera de proteger sus recursos forestales contra los incendios y demostrar las nuevas posibilidades de empleo rural provechosas para todos que aportan ventajas ambientales. Se crearán nuevas herramientas y planteamientos de gestión forestal para reducir al mínimo los riesgos de incendio. También se ensayará y evaluará el potencial de la biomasa como fuente renovable de energía y de empleo rural.

- **VALUVOIL (CARTIF Foundation)**

El objetivo del proyecto VALUVOIL es demostrar un método ambiental y económicamente viable para mejorar la descomposición anaeróbica de residuos y subproductos generados por el tratamiento de aceite vegetal usado.

- **MANEV** (Sociedad de Desarrollo Medioambiental de Aragón [S.A.U.])

Este proyecto intenta demostrar que la aplicación al estiércol porcino de tecnologías de depuración y un sistema adecuado de gestión pueden contribuir a reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero y a mejorar la sostenibilidad de la ganadería porcina.

- **WOODRUB** (Asociación de Investigación y Desarrollo en la Industria del Mueble y Afines)

El principal objetivo del proyecto WOODRUB es crear, probar y demostrar productos innovadores respetuosos con el medio ambiente producidos a partir de madera reciclada y de caucho procedente de neumáticos usados. El proyecto proporcionará a los gestores de residuos de madera y caucho un nuevo ciclo de vida útil para sus productos, y brindará a las empresas públicas y privadas de construcción opciones de productos más respetuosos con el medio ambiente.

- **AG\_UAS** (Asociación de la Industria Navarra)

El objetivo global del proyecto es crear una herramienta rentable y espacial para una gestión y control más eficientes y sostenibles del agua, conforme a lo dispuesto en la Directiva Marco del agua. Producirá una tecnología de UAV (vehículos aéreos no tripulados) capaz de supervisar masas de agua extensas y de proporcionar datos que podrían también extrapolarse al aire y al suelo.

- **GREENING BOOKS** (Acondicionamiento Tarrasense)

El objetivo de los GREENING BOOKS es mejorar el comportamiento ambiental del sector de la edición. El proyecto pretende crear un instrumento innovador dirigido a todos los interesados en todo el ciclo vital del proceso de edición, gracias a la integración de los instrumentos existentes, tales como la etiqueta ecológica, EMAS, el diseño ecológico y ACV, así como las tecnologías más recientes.

- **ECOREGA** (Unións Agrarias – UPA)

El objetivo de este proyecto es demostrar buenas prácticas de gestión de residuos orgánicos agrícolas que puedan ayudar a reducir las repercusiones en el medio ambiente de las explotaciones de vacuno y a reducir sus emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Las acciones del proyecto se centrarán en la utilización de residuos agrícolas con fines de compostaje y de producción de metano. Se propone un sistema innovador que mezcla el estiércol líquido de las explotaciones de ganadería vacuna con otros tipos de residuos orgánicos (porcino, aves de corral, etc.).

- **ELVISUSTECH** (Asociación de Investigación de las Industrias del Curtido y Anexas)

Este proyecto creará y demostrará una unidad de separación innovadora para solucionar los problemas causados por los plásticos oscuros, el caucho y otros materiales difíciles durante el reciclado. Este equipo se ha diseñado para facilitar la consecución de los objetivos dispuestos en futura legislación relativa a la gestión de los residuos sólidos de los sectores eléctrico y electrónico, de automoción y otros al final de su vida útil, contribuyendo así a una aplicación más precisa de las políticas y la legislación relacionadas con la Directiva sobre los vehículos al final de su vida útil y la Directiva RAEE.

- **NOISEFREETEX** (Asociación de Investigación de la Industria Textil)

El proyecto NOISEFREETEX tiene por objetivo validar soluciones convincentes para reducir el ruido en las instalaciones industriales próximas a las zonas urbanas gracias al recurso a tecnologías de acabado textil. La idea es determinar los materiales textiles concretos con propiedades interesantes desde el punto de vista de la absorción acústica y utilizarlos como elementos constructivos en las instalaciones industriales. El proyecto también probará distintas clases de procesos de acabado y mejorará las propiedades de los materiales.

- **EDEA-RENOV** (Junta de Extremadura)

La finalidad del proyecto es probar y proponer soluciones concretas para reducir el impacto medioambiental del sector de la construcción de viviendas. El proyecto se centrará en tres ámbitos principales: renovación, innovación en la construcción nueva y uso de tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones.

- **UFTEC** (Centro Tecnológico del Agua - Fundación Privada)

El proyecto LIFE+ UFTEC aspira a demostrar la viabilidad (también económica) del pretratamiento directo por ultrafiltración para la ósmosis inversa como alternativa al pretratamiento convencional en las depuradoras de agua potable: coagulación, floculación, decantación y filtración por arena. La tecnología alternativa propuesta debería reducir los costes económicos y las repercusiones en el medio ambiente relacionadas con el consumo químico, así como las pérdidas de agua en el pretratamiento convencional.

- **ATLANTIC VINEYARDS** (Diputación Provincial de Pontevedra)

El proyecto persigue demostrar la necesidad y viabilidad de una gestión sostenible de la producción de vino en los viñedos de las Rías Bajas (*Rías Baixas*) dentro de un sistema integrado. Se creará un sistema de control integrado para reducir al mínimo los riesgos ambientales basado en una red de sensores meteorológicos situados en los viñedos al efecto de limitar a lo estrictamente necesario el uso de productos químicos.

- **LOS TOLLOS** (Consejería de Medio Ambiente - Junta de Andalucía)

El objetivo del proyecto es recuperar la cuenca endorreica de la laguna de Los Tollos para restaurar la topografía y recuperar el suelo degradado en la antigua cuenca lacustre y zonas adyacentes. Otros objetivos son eliminar la conexión entre el acuífero de superficie (salino) y el acuífero de agua dulce y restablecer los procesos de hidrología de superficie.

- **CLEANFEED** (Dirección Industrias Alimentarias - Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Planificación Territorial, Agricultura y Pesca)

El proyecto propone la creación de un prototipo para separar automáticamente los residuos alimenticios de los envases, aumentando así la cantidad de residuos vegetales que puedan reutilizarse comercialmente. Otro objetivo clave del proyecto es idear, probar y validar un plan de acción para aprovechar el excedente de alimentos vegetales de la venta al por menor de alimentos mediante su transformación en piensos. El planteamiento propuesto implica la demostración de una metodología innovadora de recuperación de los residuos alimenticios vegetales de forma higiénica.

- **DEMONSTRATION OF KDV TECH** (Sanea Tratamiento de Residuos, S.L.U.)

El proyecto persigue desarrollar la primera demostración completa de la tecnología de despolimerización catalítica para el tratamiento de los residuos sólidos urbanos generados en Cataluña. La instalación de demostración podrá tratar hasta 30 000 toneladas al año de residuos urbanos mixtos y la tecnología de despolimerización catalítica tiene por objeto transformar los residuos urbanos biodegradables mixtos en un gasóleo sintético que pueda sustituir al gasóleo convencional.

- **DOMOTIC** (Fundación San Valero)

El principal objetivo del proyecto DOMOTIC es demostrar y cuantificar el potencial de reducción de las emisiones de CO<sub>2</sub> gracias al recurso a tecnologías y modelos inteligentes de construcción en los edificios. El proyecto introducirá tres modelos de la última generación de informatización del hogar en tres edificios de demostración de distintas clases.

- **SustainGraph** (Asociación Industrial de Óptica, Color)

El proyecto SustainGraph aspira a crear una herramienta electrónica para evaluar las repercusiones en el medio ambiente de los productos gráficos a lo largo de su ciclo de vida útil. Determinará y fomentará buenas prácticas en la creación de productos y servicios gráficos nuevos y sostenibles que puedan orientar a las PYME europeas.

- **RECYCLED-PVB** (Fundación Lurederra)

El proyecto Recycled-PVB aspira a crear una instalación piloto a efectos de la demostración de la depuración de polivinilbutiral (PVB) procedente de vidrio laminado. El objetivo global es ayudar a encontrar un uso práctico y sostenible para el vidrio de los residuos de vehículos. Se generarán conocimientos sobre las características técnicas y de equipos específicas necesarias para el lavado, trituración y tratamiento de PVB.

- **Radio-electric Governance** (Centre de Telecomunicacions i Tecnologies de la Informació)

El principal objetivo del proyecto es aumentar la información y mejorar la comprensión de los campos electromagnéticos generados por las estaciones de radiocomunicaciones. El proyecto elaborará un inventario de la infraestructura de radiocomunicaciones de toda Cataluña y controlará y evaluará los campos electromagnéticos generados por esa infraestructura, con lo que facilitará información tanto a las autoridades locales como a la población sobre su potencia y repercusiones en la salud.

- **CONNECT** (Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros Técnicos de La Rioja)

El principal objetivo de este proyecto es fomentar la implantación progresiva de vehículos eléctricos como medio alternativo de movilidad urbana. El proyecto Connect creará una red experimental de cinco puntos de recarga sin emisiones para los vehículos eléctricos. Estos puntos se abastecerán de combustible procedente de fuentes de energía renovables y deberían facilitar un equilibrio ecológico general más favorable en un 75 % que la recarga desde la red eléctrica.

### **LIFE+ Naturaleza y Biodiversidad (8 proyectos - 31,8 millones)**

#### **LIFE+ Naturaleza (6 proyectos)**

- **UROGALLO CANTÁBRICO** (Fundación Biodiversidad)

El objetivo de este proyecto de LIFE Naturaleza es mejorar el estado de conservación del urogallo cantábrico (*Tetrao urogallus cantabricus*). Las tareas de conservación se centrarán en los sitios de la red Natura 2000 que se están designando en las montañas del Cantábrico y también redundarán en beneficio del hábitat de las aves, así como de otras especies relacionadas. Se prevé que el proyecto mejore la conectividad y la funcionalidad del hábitat del urogallo.

- **MARGAL ULLA** (Xunta de Galicia - Conselleria do Medio Rural)

El objetivo global de este proyecto de LIFE Naturaleza es contribuir a mejorar el estado de conservación de las especies *Margaritifera margaritifera* y *Galemys pyrenaicus* en la cuenca fluvial del Ulla y a crear las condiciones oportunas para la recuperación de las poblaciones originales.

- **Δ-LAGOON** (Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries)

El principal objetivo del proyecto es mejorar la situación ecológica de las lagunas Alfacada y Tancada gracias a medidas de recuperación y gestión de hábitats, tales como la mejora de la función hidrológica, la eliminación de la infraestructura que interfiera con la conectividad y la creación de nuevos hábitats lacustres en arrozales existentes e instalaciones acuícolas abandonadas.

- **Life Posidonia Andalucía** (Consejería de Medio Ambiente - Junta de Andalucía)

El objetivo principal de este proyecto LIFE Naturaleza es mejorar el estado de conservación de las praderas de posidonia (*Posidonia oceanica*), lo que se conseguirá gracias a la realización de estudios y a la aplicación de medidas de conservación. Se investigarán las amenazas para los ecosistemas (por ejemplo, la contaminación, el anclado de buques, la pesca de arrastre y la pesca local tradicional incontroladas y la expansión de especies exóticas invasoras) y se evaluarán los mecanismos para atenuar sus efectos negativos en las praderas. Estudios ulteriores aclararán los beneficios más amplios de las praderas y los costes de su pérdida, por ejemplo, las repercusiones en las poblaciones de peces, la regeneración de las playas y el deterioro de las atracciones turísticas.

- **OXYURA LEUCOCEPHALA-MURCI** (Consejería de Agricultura y Agua)

Este proyecto se dedica a la conservación de la malvasía (*Oxyura leucocephala*) en los humedales de Murcia. Su objeto es mejorar la comprensión del hábitat de cría de la especie, ampliar y conservar su hábitat y reducir el impacto de los seres humanos y de otras especies.

- **TERRITORIO VISÓN** (Gestión Ambiental, Viveros y Repoblaciones de Navarra, S.A.)

Este proyecto persigue aumentar considerablemente la biodiversidad en la cuenca baja de los ríos Aragón y Arga, una zona con una población muy densa de visón europeo (*Mustela lutreola*) en Europa Occidental, mediante la mejora del estado de conservación de la especie y la recuperación de los ecosistemas fluviales de los que depende.

#### **LIFE+ Biodiversidad (2 proyectos)**

- **LIFE TRACHEMYS** (Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Agua, Urbanismo y Vivienda – Generalitat Valenciana)

El principal objetivo de este proyecto de LIFE Biodiversidad es atajar las consecuencias ambientales negativas de especies exóticas de tortuga en los humedales, especialmente de la tortuga de Florida (*Trachemys scripta*). Se creará una estrategia para preservar las especies acuáticas en peligro de extinción de peces endémicos y tortugas de agua dulce autóctonas en Valencia y Portugal suprimiendo las poblaciones exóticas invasoras silvestres de tortugas de agua dulce.

- **Innovation against poison** (Fundación Gypaetus)

Este proyecto pretende ejecutar, supervisar, evaluar y difundir actuaciones innovadoras y convincentes que mejoren considerablemente las estrategias actuales para combatir el envenenamiento ilegal en la UE. El objetivo global es mejorar claramente el estado de conservación de las especies en peligro de extinción afectadas por el uso ilegal de veneno en la UE, especialmente de aquellas cuya principal causa no natural de mortandad sea el envenenamiento ilegal.

#### **LIFE+ Información y Comunicación (1 proyecto - 2,2 millones)**

- **BIOCxLIFE** (Fundación Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente)

El objetivo global del proyecto BIOCxLIFE es promover la producción y el consumo de productos que permitan a los ciudadanos contribuir a atajar la pérdida de biodiversidad.

### **AUSTRIA - 3 projects (13.3 million)**

#### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (One project - 5.9 million)**

- **CEMOBIL** (Magistrat der Landeshauptstadt Klagenfurt am Wörthersee)  
The aim of the project is to significantly reduce air and CO2 emissions in the city centre of Klagenfurt by increasing the share of electric vehicles to 10% of all new registrations.

#### **LIFE+ Nature (2 projects - 7.4 million)**

- **Flusslandschaft Enns** (Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung)  
The main objective of the project is to reduce the threats to the area around the river Enns by reconnecting alluvial forests and other valuable habitats with the river dynamics and improving the condition of remaining peatland habitats and orchid meadows in the river valley.
- **LIFE+ Großtrappe** (Österreichische Gesellschaft Großtrappenschutz)  
The objectives of this LIFE+ project are to reduce the threat of collision with power lines, for many years the main cause of mortality among adult and immature great bustards in Austria, and at the same time to continue Austria's intensive habitat management efforts.

## **BELGIUM - 7 projects (21.2 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (4 projects – 8.6 million)**

- **Renew4GPP** (Firma Dam De Saedeleir NV)

The project aims to enhance green public procurement (GPP) by demonstrating to municipal authorities the ecological advantages of three high-quality, innovative gardening products based on 100% renewable resources. These products can be substituted for conventional mulch and barrier fleeces, which are made from oil-based materials.

- **VOPAK-EXPERO3** (Vopak Chemical Terminals Belgium NV)

This project's objective is to demonstrate the applicability of an in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) technique for the remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated with a cocktail of organic contaminants in very high concentrations at an explosion sensitive site.

- **ATMOSYS** (Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek NV)

The objective of this project is to set up, evaluate, and demonstrate an advanced air quality modelling system and associated web-based service, containing novel elements specifically designed for air pollution policy support in hot-spot regions. The system will be based on advanced technology, including prognostic 3-D atmospheric computer models.

- **DEMOCOPHESII** (Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment)

The main objective of this project is to demonstrate the feasibility of a harmonised approach to Human Biological Monitoring (HBM) in the EU by implementing a pilot study in 16 Member States and sharing the expertise with five additional countries that will be adhoc members of this project.

### **LIFE + Nature (3 projects – 12.3 million)**

- **LIFE Kleine Nete** (Natuurpunt Beheer vzw)

The project aims to restore 52 ha of a complex of Annex I habitats that depend on seepage, flood and/or (in the lower stream) freshwater tide; 17 ha of Annex I habitats on a dry, poor, sandy soil as a stepping stone between the Campine plateau and the heath lands in Flanders; and 3 ha of the valuable Annex I habitat "oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters" and their associated species such as dragonfly and moor frog.

- **ZTAR** (Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos)

The project aims to restore the rich biodiversity of this internationally important Natura 2000 site by carrying out large-scale restoration of the ecological dynamics in the Zwin area, thus enabling appropriate implementation of the Birds and Habitats directives

- **Life Itter en Oeter** (Natuurpunt Beheer vzw)

This project is aiming to combat threats to species listed in the annexes of the Habitats and Birds directives in the lowland brook systems of Bosbeek and Itterbeek, a Natura 2000 site. At the end of the project, the site will be one of the key areas in lowland Europe for the target habitats and species.

## **BULGARIA - 2 projects (3.3 million)**

### **LIFE+ Nature (2 projects – 3.3 million)**

#### **- Black Sea Oak Habitats (Balchik State Hunting Area)**

The overall objective of the Black Sea Oak Habitats project is to ensure long-term conservation of priority oak habitats by reforestation measures and management planning. These should provide favourable conditions for sustainable development of the target habitats (Pannonic woods with *Quercus petraea* and *Carpinus betulus*; Pannonian woods with *Quercus pubescens*; Euro-Siberian steppic woods with *Quercus spp*; and Eastern white oak forests).

#### **- Safe Ground Redbreasts (Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds)**

The project aims to introduce land-management measures in the Dobrudzha region of northern Bulgaria to provide secure foraging grounds for the red-breasted goose. The intention is that this will stabilise the population of the most threatened goose species in the world in its wintering grounds.

## **CYPRUS - 2 projects (2.6 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (1 project – 1.3 million)**

#### **- PM3 (Department of Labour Inspection Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance)**

The project aims to support the competent Cypriot authorities in preparing efficient and cost-effective particulate matter (PM) management. For this purpose, state-of-the art forecasting and scenario analysis software will be applied. The project will enhance data collection and processing capacities through the integration of remote-sensing technologies into the existing monitoring network.

### **LIFE+ Nature (1 project – 1.3 million)**

#### **- ICOSTACY (Environment Service - Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of Cyprus)**

The project's objectives are to improve the habitat of 20 targeted species within 14 Natura 2000 sites, to assess the conservation status of these species to complete knowledge gaps, to raise awareness among land users and the general public with regard to these species, and to provide evidence to support concrete proposals for enhancing the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 sites in Cyprus.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC - 2 projects (8.5 million)**

### **LIFE+Nature (2 projects - 8.5 million)**

#### **- Lounské Středohoří Steppe (Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic)**

The project aims to contribute to the maintenance and the restoration to favourable conservation status of the unique thermophilous habitats and species in the Lounské Středohoří hills. The project will seek to increase the populations of target species, improve overall species diversity and raise public awareness of thermophilous habitat types and species, their protection, maintenance and sustainable use.

- **Butterflies CZ-SK** (Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic)

The project aims to introduce, test and promote patchwork management, which is essential for the conservation of the target butterfly species. The project will also propose and test new agri-environmental measures, which should enable the inclusion of currently excluded areas under the agricultural subsidy scheme (c. 900 ha affected).

## **DENMARK - 5 projects (11 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (3 projects - 5.8 million)**

- **Climate Partnerships** (Albertslund Kommune)

The project aims to mobilise local Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for climate solutions and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from private enterprises through PPP. It will do this by developing and demonstrating effective models for PPPs for climate planning and GHG reductions in private enterprises and by developing competences and tools in local administrations.

- **Composites Waste** (Grymer Group ApS)

The key objectives of the project are to develop a new waste business concept involving the sourcing and processing of composites waste into quality glass fibre materials and to demonstrate the use of processed composites waste material in two main industries: the production of asphalt for road-paving; and the production of exhaust systems and silencers.

- **NorthPestClean** (Region Midtjylland)

The main objective of the NorthPestClean project is to demonstrate, using large-scale pilot studies, that a novel remediation method based on in situ alkaline hydrolysis is an effective technology for cleaning pesticide contaminated soil and groundwater.

### **LIFE+ Nature (2 projects – 5.2 million)**

- **RAHID** (Danish Forest and Nature Agency)

The main objective of the project is to restore some of Denmark's large areas of heath land. And improve the conservation status and, if possible, increase the surface area of dry sand heaths and inland dunes and *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths.

- **CONNECT HABITATS** (Faaborg-Midtfyn Kommune)

The Connect Habitats project aims to restore semi-natural dry grassland habitats in the Bøjden Nor nature reserve to a favourable conservation status. It also aims to improve the conservation status of coastal lagoons and Atlantic salt meadows, and enable their development inland in order to combat the impacts of climate change and coastal erosion.

## **ESTONIA - 1 project (2.6 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (1 project - 2.6 million)**

- **OSAMAT** (Eesti Energia AS)

Every year some eleven million tonnes of oil shale is burned, producing more than six million tonnes of oil shale ash (OSA) This by-product is disposed of by spreading on land, causing pollution of rainwater. The objective of the project is to demonstrate the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of converting aggregates and additives (OSA) into a material that can be used in the construction sector.

## **FINLAND - 9 projects (16.6 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (8 projects - 14.6 million)**

- **VOCless waste water** (Uudenkaupungin Rautavalimo Oy (Meehanite Technology Oy))

The project aims to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from mechanical and semi-chemical pulping processes and will specifically target VOCs in wastewater from the pulping process. It will demonstrate the viability of a VOC and odour abatement system in conditions characterised by fumes with high humidity, varying VOC concentrations, low oxygen content, the possible presence of sulphur compounds and large air-flows.

- **GISBLOOM** (Suomen ympäristökeskus)

The project aims to build capacity to integrate climate change effectively into river basin management plans in Finland. It will demonstrate an integrated model to quantify the effects of different climate-change scenarios to help tackle threats of eutrophication and algal blooms.

- **LCA IN LANDSCAPING** (MTT Agrifood Research Finland)

The project will demonstrate the many possibilities to use waste-derived materials in green cover (particularly in amenity lawn areas) construction and management. To this end it will conduct a lifecycle assessment (LCA) of the 20 demonstration sites. The LCA results are expected to show that the increased use of recycled materials in landscaping will reduce negative environmental impacts.

- **Climforisk (Metsäntutkimuslaitos** (Finnish Forest Research Institute))

This project is concerned by how changes in the water cycle will affect forests. Many of the climate change effects on forests are dependent on how soils are able to provide water to plants. As a consequence, the project aims to improve knowledge of how forest growth could change in future by compiling existing data and models. Information compiled by the project will establish a better basis for regional forest management planning in the context of climate change.

- **MACEB** (Ilmatieteen laitos)

The project aims to demonstrate, using the best available tools, an innovative approach to mitigating warming of the Arctic climate by reducing black carbon (BC) emissions at mid latitudes. It will also identify knowledge gaps and uncertainties in how BC emissions can be linked to radiative forcing in Arctic areas using existing modelling and measurement tools.

- **INSULATE** (Terveyden ja hyvinvoinnin laitos (National institute for health and welfare))

The project will focus on the assessment of national programmes to improve the energy performance of the existing housing stock, such as government-supported improvements in thermal insulation. It will develop a common protocol for assessing the impacts of a building's energy performance on indoor environmental quality and health and establish an integrated approach for the assessment of environmental and health information.

- **ABSOILS** (Ramboll Finland Oy)

The project aims to demonstrate that it is possible to convert discarded soil into valuable secondary materials with civil-engineering applications. It will determine the best possible solutions for the stabilisation of discarded soils, using regionally sourced commercial and by-product additives (such as fly ash), with the ultimate goal of establishing the optimum mixing of soil and stabilisation materials for different applications.

- **REDUST** (City of Helsinki)

The project aims to find best winter practices in the fields of traction control, dust suppression and street cleaning, and accelerate their implementation in order to reduce levels of respirable street dust (PM10) in urban areas. The project will demonstrate the emissions reduction potential and air quality benefits of these best practices.

**LIFE+ Nature (1 project – 2 million)**

- **Return of rural wetlands** (Metsähallitus)

The main objective is to create a new framework and give a good start to a future nationwide programme for wildlife habitat conservation, restoration and recreation that will operate on a local level. The project has two distinct parts, demonstrative and innovative, which both have the objective of halting the loss of biodiversity in the Finnish wetlands outside the Natura 2000 network and other protection programmes.

**FRANCE - 12 projects (28.9 million)**

**LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (9 projects - 22.2 million)**

- **ECOTRANSFLUX** (Five Celes)

The Ecotransflux project aims to demonstrate that the high power Transverse Flux Induction Heating (TFIH) technology can be implemented on new processing lines of steel cold-rolling plants to reduce **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and acid waste, whilst meeting quality, economic and capacity criteria.**

- **WaterRtoM** (Office International de l'Eau)

The general objective of the project is to speed-up the transfer of research outputs to practitioners in the water management sector. A methodology will be developed for assessing the potential benefits of emerging tools / methods with regard to the distance from research to market (the Research to Market Assessment Strategy - ReMAS). Furthermore, for the research outputs ranked "close-to-implementation", an individualised strategy for business implementation will be developed thanks to a Precursors Marketing Strategy (PMS).

- **IRIS** (RHODIA Operations)

The IRIS project aims to demonstrate the industrial-scale feasibility of an innovative catalytic chemical process to convert co-products of the polyamide-66 nylon chain into the new eco-friendly and safe solvent Rhodiasolv IRIS, which is readily biodegradable, non-VOC, non-toxic, non-carcinogenic and non-irritant.

- **AETHER** (LAFARGE LCR)

The AETHER project intends to **show the feasibility of producing a new type of cement at industrial scale** within existing industrial installations **with significantly lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** than conventional Portland cement. This will be done by demonstrating the performance of **an innovative type of clinker with a new and proven chemical composition.**

- **CLIMATE** (Conseil général de l'Essonne)

The CLIMATE project aims to develop and adopt a territorial climate action plan for the department of Essonne. The objective is that there will be signs of reduced GHG emissions in Essonne by 2013, aiming at a 25% reduction - compared with 1990 levels - by 2020.

- **GREEN TESTING** (Innovations Extrêmes, Technologies & Recherche)

The project will focus on demonstrating new environmental-friendly practices and technologies for surface non-destructive testing (NDT) - a part of the manufacturing process for high quality products in automotive, nuclear and aeronautic sectors. It will do this by optimising protocols and working methods to reduce consumption of energy and emissions to air, water and soil, as well as the quantity of waste being produced.

- **C.C.H.P ENVIR CHALLENGES** (Communauté de Haute Provence)

This LIFE project's objective is to demonstrate the effectiveness of new territorial planning approaches aimed at improving the management of kitchen waste, waste recycling, energy efficiency and protection of soil and water resources. It will create a demonstration building containing environmentally-friendly features such as geothermal air circulation, heating produced by recycled wood logs from a waste reception centre, and photovoltaic panels for generating electrical energy and heating water.

- **GREENCITY** (VIZELIA)

The objective of the Green City LIFE project is to implement software controlling electricity, water and gas consumption in public buildings. Using 3D models and intelligent meters, the project will monitor consumption in order to manage and audit energy in real time. A web platform will centralise and control all data for the municipal buildings involved in the project, making it the most comprehensive such project carried out in this field.

- **Green Waste Plast** (Union des syndicats des PME du Caoutchouc et de la plasturgie)

The aim of this LIFE project is to demonstrate that waste of various types of 'blister' or light packaging, can be re-usable, and that innovative and effective recycling processes exist as an alternative to incineration or landfill. A pilot installation will be set up using innovative technologies such as granulators and micronisators to process, mill and grind waste products in a cryogenic low temperature atmosphere.

**LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity (3 projects - 6.7 million)**

**LIFE+ Nature (1 project)**

- **MULETTE** (Bretagne Vivante – SEPNEB)

The project aims to restore the freshwater pearl mussel populations of "Massif armoricain" (French Brittany). It includes six sites that are classified as Sites of Community Importance (pSCI) and are known as main refuges for freshwater pearl mussel populations in western France.

**LIFE+Biodiversity (2 projects)**

- **CAPE DOM** (LPO)

**This project's objective** is to contribute to stopping the biodiversity loss in three French overseas departments (Reunion Island, Martinique and French Guiana), by testing demonstrative and innovative conservation management tools for the protection of threatened bird species and their habitats, and by disseminating the results to the other EU outermost regions.

- **BioDiVine** (Institut Français de la Vigne et du Vin)

The aim of this project is to demonstrate the benefits from strengthening landscape structures as a means to restore and conserve biodiversity in cultivated vineyards. This will be achieved by assessing biodiversity-friendly actions in different European biotopes. Complementary semi-natural spaces will be created in vineyards from seven test sites in three countries (Portugal, Spain, France) covering Atlantic, Mediterranean and Continental regions.

## **GERMANY - 9 projects (30 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (1 project - 4.4 million)**

- **MY FAVOURITE RIVER** (Bundesrepublik Deutschland, vertreten durch Wasser- und Schifffahrtsdirektion Südwest, vertreten durch Wasser- und Schifffahrtsamt Stuttgart)

The project plans to co-ordinate concurrent investment plans at municipal, regional and national level in order to achieve unified, environmentally sustainable and durable river management. It thus aims to ensure appropriate and sustainable maintenance and development of the river Neckar as an important waterway.

### **LIFE+ Information and Communication (1 project – 0.8 million)**

- **Pro-Klima Autoklimaanlage** (Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.)

The project will campaign to reduce environmental pollution caused by vehicle air conditioning systems. Firstly, it will focus on raising awareness about enhancing current vehicle air conditioning systems, so that energy consumption and resulting emissions will be significantly reduced. At the same time, it will campaign for the introduction of natural refrigerants to be brought forward.

### **LIFE+ Nature (7 projects – 24.7 million)**

- **Rheinauen bei Rastatt** (Regierungspräsidium Karlsruhe)

The project is targeting a substantial improvement of wetland ecosystems along a section of the river Rhine (west of Rastatt). As one of the most important ecological corridors in Central Europe, the area plays an important role in goals of a coherent Natura 2000 network: the project should substantially aid the restoration of many typical wetland habitats and also help to improve the conservation status of several plant and animal species listed in the Habitats Directive.

- **Steigerwaldrand Iphofen** (Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Gesundheit)

The project's main aim is to conserve the Steigerwald hills Natura 2000 site near Iphofen. In addition, the project area will be developed as a demonstration area for traditionally-managed landscapes and for coppiced woodland in Germany and Central Europe.

- **Wald – Wasser – Wildnis** (Landesbetrieb Wald und Holz NRW)

The project's overall goals are to develop and target the conservation of the four endangered forest habitat types in six Natura 2000 sites in the Eifel National Park, which encompasses the counties of Aachen, Düren and Euskirchen in North Rhine-Westphalia.

- **Bergmähwiesen Winterberg** (Naturschutzzentrum –Biologische Station – Hochsauerlandkreis e.V.)

The project aims to restore, ecologically improve and sustainably protect nationally significant clusters of mountain hay meadow as high-risk plant communities and as a refuge for endangered montane species and habitats. The planned project area comprises the Natura 2000 sites of “Bergwiesen bei Winterberg” and “Oberes Orketal” with the most important remnants of montane grasslands on a total of 538 ha.

- **Alosa alosa** (Landesanstalt für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz in Nordrhein-Westfalen)

The key objective of the project is the re-introduction of Allis shad to the Rhine watershed. In a unique European approach, the project is combining the conservation of the largest remaining Allis shad population in Europe in the Gironde watershed in France with the re-introduction of Allis shad to the Rhine watershed in Germany.

- **Hang- und Hoochmoore** (Stiftung Natur und Umwelt Rheinland-Pfalz)

The project aims to restore and protect important bog habitats in the Hunsrück and Eifel area. The main objective of this project is to stop the decline of plant communities and species associated with bogs. In addition, the project will help stop emissions and reactivate the bonding of carbon dioxide from bog habitats.

- **LIFE-Aurinia** (Stiftung Naturschutz Schleswig-Holstein)

The overall objective of the LIFE-Aurinia project is to reactivate habitats of *the marsh fritillary butterfly* in the last two known sites of the species (Nordoe and Jardelunder moor). At similar good sites (e.g. the military training field Lütjenholm and Geltinger Birk) the project will try to improve the necessary habitats of *the target species*: mat grasslands, wet grasslands, heathlands and dry grasslands.

## **GREECE - 16 projects (25.8 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (10 projects - 18.2 million)**

- **PROTEAS** (Technical University of Crete)

The main objective of the project is to develop a protocol of good practices in an essential health, safety, and environmental (HSE) management system. The project’s ultimate goal is to assist implementation of the REACH regulation and reduce risks from emissions or accidental releases of hazardous substances.

- **WASTE-C-CONTROL** (Environmental Planning, Engineering and Management (EPEM) S.A.)

The WASTE-C-CONTROL project aims to enable reduced GHG emissions by developing a software tool that will assess, monitor, control and report on the emissions resulting from the entire life cycle of solid-waste management activities. It will assess different waste-management options that will enable the project to identify procedures and practical tools within Local Action Plans (LAPs) that would reduce GHG emissions from waste-management activities at local level.

- **Adapt2Change** (Technological Education Institute (TEI) of Larissa)

The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate adaptation of agricultural production to climate change and limited water supply. Specifically, it aims to minimise agricultural water use by introducing a water-recycling method in a closed, fully automated, hydroponic greenhouse system.

- **CARBONTOUR** (Region of the North Aegean)

The CARBONTOUR project aims to develop an integrated methodology to measure CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions from tourism accommodation facilities and to strategically plan mitigation measures. The main output of the project will be a user-friendly software tool.

- **eSYMBIOSIS** (Viotia Prefecture)

The eSYMBIOSIS project's general objective is *to produce a web-based platform for Industrial Symbiosis (IS), enabling communication between potential partners and offering automated matching of partners according to economic and environmental objectives and thus facilitating the implementation of IS as an environmental policy at all levels.*

- **SAGE10** (Benaki Phytopathological Institute)

The SAGE10 project seeks to promote the long-term sustainability of the agro-ecosystem and economy. The project will develop an innovative Impact Assessment Procedure (IAP) for objectively evaluating the potential environment consequences of proposed agricultural practices. The IAP should be a tool for prioritising activities and achieving ISO14001/EMAS accreditation on farms.

- **ROADTIRE** (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

The objective of the ROADTIRE project is to demonstrate an innovative use for recycled vulcanised rubber from end-of-life (EOL) tyres in road construction. This ultimately aims to demonstrate a market for EOL-tyres in civil engineering and thus reduce the amount of collected EOL-tyres being stockpiled or sent for uses with a higher carbon footprint.

- **ENERGY-WASTE** (Epana S.A.)

The project will develop and implement a demonstration logistics management scheme to exploit the thermal content of non-recyclable urban waste from EPANA's recycling factory. It will do this by demonstrating an advanced gasification concept for the energy exploitation of the non-recyclable stream of a modern recycling factory, thus showing how the approach can reduce the overall GHG emissions from urban waste streams.

- **ACEPT-AIR** (N.C.S.R. "Demokritos")

The objective of this project is to resolve the impact of major and minor sources of particulate matter (PM) that lead to concentrations exceeding EU limit values. A database will be developed that contains information on the physico-chemical characteristics of atmospheric particulate matter, the anthropogenic emission source strength, and the naturally emitted primary and secondary materials originating from local and/or distant sources. A methodology will be developed to produce a versatile and long-term decision-making tool for policymakers.

- **SOL-BRINE** (Municipality of Tinos)

The project promotes the concept of Zero Discharge Seawater Desalination and aims to develop an advanced solar-driven brine treatment system, promoting the use of renewable energy sources in the reject effluent (brine) treatment processes whilst eliminating brine disposal. The brine treatment system, which is in line with the Zero Liquid Discharge concept and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, will thereby significantly contribute to the protection of inland surface waters, coastal waters and groundwater.

## **LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity (4 projects – 5.5 million)**

### **LIFE+ Nature (2 projects)**

- **ARCTOS/KASTORIA** (Prefecture of Kastoria)

The project aims to improve the conservation status of the brown bear in terms of habitat condition and population by addressing major threats relating to road infrastructure, traffic and human-caused mortality.

- **ACCOLAGOONS** (Prefectural Authority of Thessaloniki)

The objectives of the project are to restore the hydrological and ecological status of the Epanomi lagoon in order to enhance the conservation status of priority habitats of coastal lagoons and posidonia beds as well as the priority species they host, such as *Numenius tenuirostris* and *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*.

### **LIFE+ Biodiversity (2 projects)**

- **SKYROSBIODIVERSITY**

The objective of this LIFE Biodiversity project is to establish integrated planning methods and management capable of enhancing biodiversity whilst remaining compatible with sustainable economic and social development. The actions will be based on the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan focusing on important habitats and species on the island of Skyros.

- **VERENIKE** (National Agricultural Research Foundation/ Forest Research Institute)

The aim of the project is to enhance biodiversity during the restoration of fire-disturbed ecosystems by introducing a new technology, based on pre-cultivation in mini-plugs, to be tested with a wide range of species. The seedlings produced using the new technology will be transplanted to three study areas in Central Macedonia, where their growth will be monitored and evaluated.

### **LIFE+ Information and Communication (2 projects – 2 million)**

- **PROM.SUS.FIS.PR.PRESPA** (Society for the Protection of Prespa)

An awareness campaign will target local inhabitants and stakeholders, public authorities and the general public: The overall objectives are to promote the conservation of threatened endemic and rare fish of the area and to implement sustainable fishery practices. The project will seek to inform local people, professional and recreational fishermen of the importance of sustainable fishery practices across the Prespa basin and of the regulations to maintain the lakes' native fish populations.

- **Thalassa** (MOm/Hellenic Society for the Study & Protection of the Monk Seal)

The project's objective is to mitigate the imminent danger, caused by human-related threats, to the long-term term viability of all rare, endangered and important marine mammals inhabiting Greek waters. In order to achieve this, the project aims to raise the awareness of selected target audiences about marine mammals in Greece, the importance of these species for marine ecosystems, the imminent threats they face, and the conservation actions necessary to ensure their long-term viability.

## **HUNGARY - 1 project (4 million)**

### **LIFE+ Nature**

- **Falco cherrug B-H-R-S** (Bükk National Park Directorate)

This LIFE Nature project aims to stabilise and further strengthen the European core populations of saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) by implementing best practice *F. cherrug* conservation actions in Bulgaria and Romania.

## **IRELAND - 2 projects (4.1 million)**

### **LIFE+ Nature (2 projects – 4.1 million)**

- **BLACKWATER SAMOK** (Integrated Resource Development)

The main purpose of the project is to bring about a sustained enhancement of the Upper Blackwater SAC by targeting the species of Freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, European otter and kingfisher. More specifically this will be achieved by carrying out actions aimed at restoring the quality of the river bed and riparian zone.

- **DBPRBRI** (Coillte Teoranta - The Irish Forestry Board)

The primary objective of this LIFE Nature project is to help restore wetland, peat-forming conditions on Ireland's raised bogs by continuing the process of removing plantation forests. This project builds upon the work carried out under Coillte's previous LIFE-funded project "Restoring Raised Bog in Ireland", which was completed in December 2008.

## **ITALY - 56 projects (94.2 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (40 projects – 64.4 million)**

- **WIZ** (ACQUE S.P.A)

The overall goal of the WaterIze 'WIZ' spatial planning project is to integrate the protection and sustainable management of water in urban planning processes and local policy areas. The project aims to incorporate long term analysis of drinking water management in urban spatial planning by creating a platform for local authorities to be involved in decision-making processes.

- **P.R.I.M.E.** (Municipality of Mola di Bari)

The project aims to develop the potential reuse of Neptune grass (*Posidonia oceanica*) residues by developing an Integrated Management System capable of combining environmental protection with waste biomass management and the reuse of material for agriculture.

- **I.MO.S.M.I.D.** (Provincia di Reggio Emilia)

The project aims to identify and define an innovative integrated governance model inspired by criteria for sustainable mobility. The idea is to try to satisfy the growing demand of supplementary Local Public Transport (LPT) services and to reduce the use of private vehicles. The project will be to bring together transport and energy matters with a system capable of exploiting energy produced from renewable sources within a trial industrial district.

- **SUMFLOWER** (Università degli studi di Genova - Giardini Botanici Hanbury)

The project's aim is to create a sustainable management system for floriculture and ornamental horticulture. It will reduce the main environmental impacts of floricultural activities by improving efficiency, while also respecting economic viability. SMEs operating in the floriculture and ornamental horticulture sectors will be assisted in the application of best available techniques, innovative technologies and practices.

- **WASTE-LESS in CHIANTI** (Provincia di Firenze)

The project aims to contribute to European and national policies on waste prevention and sustainable consumption through the implementation and monitoring of an integrated waste prevention and reduction programme for Chianti in Florence. By selecting an internationally known district, the aim is to provide Member States with a model for the establishment of their own waste prevention programmes by December 2013 (as required by the EU Waste Framework Directive).

- **N.O.W.A.S.T.E.** (I.R.S.S.A.T. (Istituto di Ricerca, Sviluppo e Sperimentazione sull'Ambiente ed il Territorio))

The overall objectives of the project are to develop and test, in small urban areas, an innovative system for the treatment and composting of domestic organic waste. Using environmentally-friendly materials, the system will target the elimination of toxic emissions and also promote energy savings.

- **GAIA** (Comune di Bologna)

The project aims to tackle two environmental problems through an integrated policy: climate change (both mitigation and adaptation effects of urban forestation) and air quality (the depuration potential of plants). The project foresees the dissemination of public-private partnership tools, developed within the framework of corporate social responsibility (CSR) experiences, and the networking of this know how through the diffusion of specific guidelines.

- **AQUA** (ARPA EMILIA ROMAGNA)

This project seeks to demonstrate that the negative impact of industrial production, specifically of agro-industry, on water quality and availability can be significantly reduced through voluntary business actions. The idea is to introduce a 'cradle-to-cradle' (or regenerative) approach to industrial water management and to adopt private-public partnerships as the means to achieve this.

- **ManFor C.BD.** (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche)

The project aims to test and verify in the field the effectiveness of different forest management options in meeting multiple objectives (including production, protection and biodiversity). It will address these issues in different test areas, from production to protected forests, including Natura 2000 sites and priority habitats and species.

- **EXPAH** (Azienda Sanitaria Locale Roma E)

The EXPAH project will address the environmental and health problems caused by the emission, dispersion and transformation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) compounds. Its overall goal is to identify and to quantify exposure among children and elderly people to PAH content in particulate matter in a highly urbanised area (i.e. the city of Rome) and to assess the impact on human health, in order to support environmental policy and regulation in this field.

- **P.Pro.SPO.T.** (Comunità Montana Colline Metallifere)

This project aims to introduce in Italy, particularly in Tuscany, the 'single tree silviculture' technique applied to the management and conservation of sporadic tree species. Through the valorisation of these species, the beneficiary hopes to increase the biodiversity, the ecological stability and the whole value of the forest.

- **OPERA** (Agenzia Prevenzione Ambiente Emilia-Romagna)

The main goal of the 'OPERA' project is to develop a methodology and guidelines to support local authority planning for regional policies supporting national and European actions for compliance with air quality standards. The actions are also designed to take into account possible synergies with measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

- **Bio.Lea.R.** (Gestione Ambientale Integrata dell'Astigiano SpA)

The aim of this project is to demonstrate the performance of a landfill for lesser reactive, biologically treated waste (pre-treated organic wastes) in comparison with a conventional landfill. It aims to control moisture levels of pre-treated organic wastes using innovative and monitored liquid injection, in order to shorten and temporarily concentrate biogas production.

- **NADIA** (Provincia di Genova)

The project's main aim is to demonstrate the technical and economical feasibility and effectiveness of best practices for reducing road traffic noise levels (and in some cases, also reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy use). This would be achieved by the integration of noise mapping and planning activities, the use of innovative techniques (such as noise barriers, windows and asphaltting of road surfaces), traffic management and education.

- **ETA-BETA** (Agenzia per la Promozione e lo Sviluppo Sostenibile dell'Area Metropolitana di Milano S.p.A.)

The project's main aim is to quantify the environmental impact of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will do this by carrying out initiatives that will improve the capacity of SMEs to develop and use environmental technologies whilst strengthening and promoting the creation and development of 'ecologically equipped productive areas' (EEPAs).

- **EFRUD** (Consorzio per la ricerca e lo sviluppo di tecnologie per il trasporto innovativo)

The main goal of the project is to reduce environmental damage caused by the transportation of refrigerated, perishable goods within urban areas. The project will reduce emissions and noise, and will improve the energy efficiency of the logistical chain, whilst maintaining the standard of perishable goods.

- **EnerGeo** (Ceramiche Gardenia Orchidea S.p.A) prima di ELBA

The project's main objective is to drastically reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy use in the manufacture of ceramic tiles, by using two new geopolymers: Geopolfloor-base and Geopolfloor-foam. The project will demonstrate the feasibility, at industrial scale, of the use of these materials for the production of floor tiles.

- **ELBA** (Autorità Portuale di Piombino)

The project will focus on the planning, implementation and demonstration of an advanced eco-sustainable integrated mobility scheme for people and goods on the island of Elba, which lies just off the Italian mainland close to Piombino.

- **SUN EAGLE** (Seconda Università Degli Studi di Napoli)

The project aims to promote a localised, participatory approach to policy assessment and implementation in relation to the reduction of emissions and the increasing of carbon dioxide absorption capacity. This will be done through experimentation with local governance models, with particular reference to the management of forests and mountains.

- **GREEN INNOVATION** (Politecnico di Milano)

The goal of this project is to demonstrate that it is possible to manufacture magnesium-based larger scale, complex-shape structural elements that can be used in place of classic automotive parts. Use of such components will result in a substantial weight reduction by directly substituting heavier steel or cast iron components, which make up on average some 64% of the weight of a car.

- **ET IDEA** (NIER Ingegneria SpA)

The ET IDEA project aims to develop and test the typical reference years (TRYs) concept as an innovative tool for the reconstruction, standardisation and analysis of meteorological data for the whole of Italy. It will produce a software package containing TRYs for 1 500-2 000 locations across Italy. The software will facilitate meteorological-data standardisation and analysis for the whole territory.

- **E.N.A.** (Provincia di Pesaro e Urbino)

The main objective of the project is to improve the environmental performance of SMEs in the naval sector of the Marche Region. To this end, and in line with Directive 2005/32/EC on eco-design requirements for energy-using products, practices in carbon footprint and environmental management systems in the nautical industry will be enforced by informing more than 300 companies.

- **PALM** (Studio Galli Ingegneria (SGI) SpA)

The objective of the PALM project is to develop a decision support system to allow water companies to identify the optimum balance between reducing water leaks and being economically sustainable. Ultimately, the aim is to enable water companies to reduce water loss by 50% and the related environmental impacts by up to 60%.

- **T.A.SM.A.C** (Regione Marche Public Transport Department)

The project will reduce the environmental impact (acoustic and air pollution) of car traffic resulting from the flow of tourists into urban centres; increase the availability, 'liveability' and accessibility of the urban centre for tourists and residents; and define an urban mobility governance model (T.A.SM.A.C. model) linked to tourist flows.

- **SEDI.PORT.SIL** (MED INGEGNERIA S.r.l.)

The SEDI.PORT.SIL project aims to demonstrate an integrated approach to the sustainable management of sediment dredged from ports. The project intends to demonstrate the efficiency of consolidated treatment technologies coupled with innovative techniques for recycling and exploiting port dredged sediment as a resource rather than just a dangerous waste.

- **Ultra Crash Treatment** (Metallurgica Abruzzese S.p.a.)

The main objective of the project is to minimise all environmental problems related to hot galvanising processes of steel wire rods. This will be achieved by demonstrating the suitability of replacing a hot galvanising process with a new technology based on cold spray galvanising of dusts.

- **MDPATC** (Trafileria e Zincheria Cavatorta S.p.A.)

This project intends to demonstrate technological approaches that reduce the environmental footprint of wire rod products. Physical treatments will replace chemical processes and raw material recycling opportunities will be improved during the manufacture of high performance metal wire products, such as nails, screws and arc-welded nets.

- **Sludge's Wealth** (COOMI SOC.COOP.)

The objective of this project is to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of a new waste treatment plant for offshore units. This is based on a hybrid microwave and hot air heating technology capable of converting biological sludge into combustible pellets. Microwaves are expected to help sanitise the end product, which can then be used as incinerator fuel.

- **ECO-CLUSTER** (Parco Nazionale Appennino Tosco-Emiliano)

The main objective of the ECO-CLUSTER project is to improve the environmental footprint of SMEs operating in the national park area. A parallel purpose aims to help improve the competitiveness of local businesses. Such dual goals will be achieved by preparing and implementing an 'Action Plan for the Environmental Compliance Assistance Programme for SMEs'.

- **LAIKA** (Comune di Milano)

The project aims to demonstrate that local authorities are able to adopt effective harmonised accounting, planning and reporting methods for projects dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Specific goals are to determine a GHG baseline inventory and define a GHG emission target at municipal level in the project area and define actions and measures for target achievements at local level.

- **AQUA** (Centro Ricerche Produzioni Animali CRPA)

This project will reduce water pollution from nutrients at river basin scale by optimising the use of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) from livestock farms, thus reducing nutrient losses to water. This will be achieved by reducing nitrogen in manure by lowering N inputs in feedstuffs and by improving the efficiency of fertilisation to maximise the effectiveness of nutrients.

- **GAS-OFF** (Azienda Sperimentale Vittorio Tadini)

The project aims to develop an integrated strategic approach for mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from dairy farms. This will be achieved by monitoring 50 dairy farms in the province of Lodi. Information gathered during the project will assist researchers, farm planners, and policymakers to develop and maintain sustainable farming systems.

- **H2POWER** (Municipality of Perugia)

This project proposes a new approach to the use of energies for mobility. By introducing elements to reduce the pollutant impacts of traditional fuels, the general objective is to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from traditional internal combustion engines. The methodology will involve turning a methane-fuelled city bus into one fuelled by hydrogen/methane.

**LIFE Nature and Biodiversity (15 projects – 28.8 million)**

**LIFE+ Nature (13 projects)**

- **ECO-RICE** (Provincia di Vercelli - Settore Tutela Ambientale)

The main objectives of this project involve: safeguarding and improving key forest sites and riverine ecological corridors in the target area; identifying new fields for the development of an ecological network; implementing forest management models aimed at improving nesting conditions for herons; and piloting an integrated territorial land management approach (at province scale) that brings together all relevant public and private sector stakeholders.

- **SICALECONS** (Regione Siciliana - Assessorato Agricoltura e Foreste)

The main aim of this project is to improve the conservation status of the endemic Sicilian subspecies of the rock partridge. Actions will target Nature 2000 areas identified as Special Protection Areas (SPA) and involve risk reduction works to tackle each of the identified threats.

- **ARCTOS** (Ente Autonomo Parco Nazionale Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise)

The project seeks to make livestock husbandry practices and regulations more compatible with the needs of bears. The goal is to increase the number of farms in the bear's range adopting effective prevention measures and compatible husbandry techniques by at least 30%.

- **POSEIDONE** (Regione Lazio – Direzione Ambiente e Cooperazione tra I Popoli)

The principal objective of this project is to safeguard and to restore some marine Natura 2000 sites of particular importance to the conservation of the priority habitat 'Posidonia beds in the Tyrrhenian Sea'.

- **COORNATA** (Ente Parco Nazionale della Majella)

The overall aim of the project is the long-term conservation of the Apennine chamois along the Central Apennines. The project aims to establish five geographically isolated colonies of Apennine chamois in five parks, namely the Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise National Park, the Majella National Park, the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park, the Monti Sibillini National Park and the Sirente Velino Regional Park.

- **ARION** (Università degli Studi di Genova)

The main objective of the project is the improvement of the conservation status of *the bottlenose dolphin in the MPA of Portofino*. To this aim the decline in individuals will be prevented by an acoustic monitoring system detecting and tracking the bottlenose dolphins. A network of hydrophones, communicating with an on-shore computer centre, will be installed on the buoys of the Portofino MPA to identify and follow dolphins in real time.

- **LIFE+ FAGGETE DEL TABURNO** (Provincia di Benevento)

The general objective of this project is to improve the conservation status of species and habitats in the Natura 2000 sites of the Taburno Massif, in particular the beech habitats with *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium* and *Taxus baccata* with natural regeneration.

- **SORBA** (Provincia di Vicenza)

The main aim of this LIFE Nature project is to restore freshwater habitats in the former fish-farming areas of the Bosco Dueville Natura 2000 sites. Structural works will be undertaken to facilitate more natural habitat conditions and planting of local vegetation will promote the re-colonisation of amphibians (*Rana latastei*) and bird species (*Alcedo atthis*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Egretta garzetta* and *Circus aeruginosus*).

- **Re.S.C.We.** (Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto ("Sentina" Regional Natural Reserve))

The overall objective of this project is to restore coastal lagoons to their original condition and to widen the waste dune formations along the coastal area of the Sentina nature reserve.

- **Natura 2000 sites in the River Po delta** (Consorzio del Parco Regionale del Delta del Po dell'Emilia-Romagna)

This project is targeting the conservation of habitats and species in the Natura 2000 sites of the River Po delta. It aims to develop joint conservation actions between multiple public and private owners to achieve this result.

- **RICOPRI** (Province of Rome)

The main objective of this project is the long term conservation of two priority grasslands habitats that *depend on* good agro-pastoral management practices. An additional objective is the conservation of the butterfly species associated with these habitats, in particular, *Eriogaster catax* and *Melanargia arge*.

- **LIFE+ BOSCO INCORONATA** (Comune di Foggia)

The general project objectives are to conserve the rare or endangered habitats of the Bosco dell'Incoronata regional natural park and to increase the biodiversity of the Valle del Cervaro - Bosco Incoronata site of Community importance (SCI) within the Natura 2000 network.

- **ZONE UMIDE SIPONTINE** (Regione Puglia - Assessorato all'Ecologia)

The Zone Umide Sipontine project aims to restore the Wetlands of Capitanata Natura 2000 site. Specifically, it aims to improve the conservation status of priority wetland, coastal-dune, coastal-lagoon and Mediterranean salt-steppe habitats contained within the site, and provide associated benefits for bird species.

#### **LIFE+Biodiversity (2 projects)**

- **EC-SQUARE** (Regione Lombardia)

The main objective of this project is to control and eradicate threats caused by grey squirrels in different socio-ecological contexts. The project actions will be located in three different regions (Lombardy, Piedmont and Liguria) in northern Italy.

- **PP-ICON (ALMA MATER STUDIORUM Università)**

The main objectives of this LIFE Biodiversity project are to ensure the survival of an isolated population of the rare plant species burning-bush (*Dictamnus albus*) and to restore the community of *Dictamnus albus* natural pollinators in a Bologna province regional park.

#### **LIFE+ Information and Communication (1 project - 1 million)**

- **FISH SCALE** (Costa Edutainment S.P.A. (Acquario di Genova))

The tendency of commercial fishermen to discard up to 60% of their catch as 'by-catch', because market demand is concentrated on a relatively small number of fish species, is both a serious threat to biodiversity and a cause of fish-stock depletion. This project intends to increase consumer knowledge and appreciation of neglected edible species (mainly local). This will activate a virtuous cycle by increasing demand for the species and their commercial value, thereby helping to reduce fish discards and preserve marine biodiversity.

### **LATVIA - 4 projects (8.3 million)**

#### **LIFE+ Nature (4 projects – 8.3 million)**

- **DVIETE** (Latvian Fund for Nature)

The main aim of the project is to improve the conservation status of the corncrake (*Crex crex*) in Latvia and to restore breeding habitats for the species in a degraded and abandoned section of the Dviete river floodplain.

- **MARMONI** (Baltic Environmental Forum – Latvia)

The project aims to develop concepts for assessing the conservation status of marine biodiversity (including species and habitats) – examining the impacts of various human activities, as well as the impacts of nature conservation policy from a socio-economic perspective. Focusing on the Baltic Sea territorial waters and the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) of Estonia, Latvia, Finland and Sweden, the aim is to apply a regional approach for future marine biodiversity monitoring and international co-operation when assessing marine biodiversity in the Baltic Sea.

- **Life-HerpetoLatvia** (Municipality of the Daugavpils City)

The project's main aim is to facilitate the enlargement of populations of *Emys orbicularis*, *Coronella austriaca* and *Bombina bombina*, and to ensure their long-term survival in Latvia, by implementing a combination of 'in-situ' and 'ex-situ' actions and by improving their legal protection.

- **EREMITA MEADOWS** (Daugavpils University)

The project's goals are to develop a comprehensive ecological management system for Fennoscandian wooded meadows and rare species dependent on old-grown trees and undisturbed forest habitats; and to ensure the conservation of two EU priority beetle species: *Osmoderma eremita* and *Phryganophilus ruficollis*.

## **LITHUANIA - 4 projects (5.6 million)**

### **LIFE+ Nature (4 projects – 5.6 million)**

- **Baltic Aquatic Warbler** (Viešoji istaiga Baltijos aplinkos forumas)

The main project objective is to ensure the favourable conservation status of the aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), which breeds in wet meadows and open fens dominated by sedge grasses.

- **DENOFLIT** (Klaipeda University)

The project aims to conduct inventories of marine species and habitats in the offshore waters of the Lithuanian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and designate Natura 2000 areas selected during site evaluation.

- **Eagles in the forest** (Viešoji istaiga Gamtosaugos projektu vystymo fondas)

The main goal of the project is to protect the nesting sites of at least 10% of the national lesser spotted eagle's population – that is around 2.5% of EU population (more than 200 pairs) – from direct destruction and indirect damage caused by timber harvesting.

- **ECONAF** (Lithuanian Fund for Nature)

The overall aim of the project is to create an ecological network in the south of Lithuania by ensuring the favourable conservation status of threatened populations of selected Habitats Directive species and simultaneously enhancing the ecological value of the target area.

## **LUXEMBOURG - 1 project (5.3 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (1 project - 5.3 million)**

#### **- ECO2 Tyre Tech (Goodyear S.A)**

The project will develop concepts for environmentally sustainable tyres based on novel green material solutions. The beneficiary aims to reduce the weight, increase the mileage and reduce the noise of premium brand tyres, whilst increasing the amount of recycled and renewable material in the tyres. The ecological and economical benefits will be validated through the latest software for carbon footprint and lifecycle impact calculation.

## **THE NETHERLANDS - 6 projects (37.2 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (4 projects – 29 million)**

#### **- QSIDE (Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek TNO)**

The QSIDE project aims to demonstrate a new methodology for assessing traffic noise in cities. The project will use a new engineering method to measure noise levels at quiet facades and in quiet areas and to produce detailed traffic-noise mapping of cities.

#### **- ADIOS (Twee "R" Recyclinggroep B.V.)**

The Adios project will construct a pilot plant with a tunnel oven to demonstrate a prototype thermal treatment process for denaturing asbestos on a large scale. The goal is to show that there is a better environmental and economic alternative to incinerating AFC waste or depositing it in landfill sites.

#### **- BLUETEC (Bluewater Energy Services B.V.)**

The BLUETEC project aims to demonstrate the technical feasibility and cost effectiveness of a full-scale 1 MW tidal-energy installation. It thus hopes to demonstrate the technology's potential to significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improve Europe's competitiveness in exporting innovative and renewable technologies.

#### **- SEWEEEX (Municipality of Arnhem)**

The main objective of the project is to demonstrate a new SEWage Energy EXchange system (SEWEEEX) to transfer heat from the sewage system to urban buildings. It expects to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as well as emissions of fine dust or nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), by 78% in comparison with the use of fossil fuels and to show financial benefits in comparison with other energy sources.

### **LIFE+ Nature (2 projects – 8.2 million)**

#### **- Revitalising Noordduinen (Stichting Landschap Noord-Holland)**

The project will take place in the Natura 2000 site, Duinen Den Helder Callantsoog. This is one of the few Natura 2000 sites in the Netherlands where fixed coastal dunes (grey dunes) are still present. The aim of the project is to revitalise this part of the Noordduinen by demolishing and removing the hardened surfaces and buildings left behind by the military, in order to recreate the grey dunes habitat.

- **Dutch dune revival** (Vereniging Natuurmonumenten)

The main aim of this project is to enlarge and restore habitats and increase the presence of rare and characteristic species. This will be achieved by i) recovering and enlarging the area of grey dunes, white dunes and humid dune slacks at Voornes Duin; ii) recovering and enlarging the area of grey dunes and white dunes at Duinen Goeree and Kwade Hoek; and iii) recovering and enlarging the area of grey dunes, white dunes, dune forest and dunes with *Hippophaë rhamnoides* and humid dune slacks at Kennemerland-Zuid.

## **POLAND - 10 projects (25.3 million)**

### **LIFE+ Information and Communication (2 projects – 3.3 million)**

- **FORESTFIRE II** (Dyrekcja Generalna Lasów Państwowych)

This project aims to reduce risk of forest fires caused by people. Its general goal is to raise awareness of steps to prevent/avoid forest fires among rural residents and people using forests for recreational purposes. This is the second phase of a three-part campaign which aims to cover the entire country.

- **DOKLIP** (Fundacja Instytut na rzecz Ekorozwoju)

The main goal of the project is to raise awareness of climate change among leaders at county level and to stimulate initiatives in support of practical local measures to protect the climate and adapt to any changes.

### **LIFE+ Nature (8 projects – 22 million)**

- **Wislawarszawska.pl** (Miasto Stołeczne Warszawa)

The general project objective is to restore the breeding colonies of waders, gulls and terns in the Middle Vistula Valley Natura 2000 network site (SPA), especially those within the Warsaw borders.

- **Ochrona bociana białego** (Regionalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska w Olsztynie)

The main objective of this project is to reduce stork mortality risks associated with power-line collisions. Other stork support actions will include renovating nest sites and improving habitat conditions for the species' main amphibian food sources. The latter will be achieved by increasing the water retention capacity of habitat areas and by raising groundwater levels.

- **Bagna są Dobre!** (Towarzystwo Ochrony Przyrody Ptaki Polskie)

This LIFE Nature project's main aim is to restore degraded habitats located within the borders of the Warta Mouth National Park. Interventions will target breeding, feeding and resting grounds for birds in order to improve conditions for species that rely on open meadows and wetland habitats during migration and wintering.

- **Renaturyzacja** (Biebrzański Park Narodowy)

The main goal of this project is to *improve* the conservation status of habitats and species at the Ostoja Biebrzańska and Dolina Biebrzy Natura 2000 network sites. Works extending over 9 000 ha will target *hydrogenic habitats and restore appropriate water flow conditions in the vicinity of key areas, such as around the Rudzki canal, the Elk river, the Jegrznia river, and the Woźnawiejski canal.*

- **Pustynia Błędowska** (Gmina Klucze)

The main objective of this project is to secure a favourable conservation status for the largest Polish complex of xeric sand calcareous grasslands and inland dunes. Habitat restoration work will focus on the Pustynia Błędowska Natura 2000 site with the aim of restoring habitats here to the conditions they would have been in half a century ago.

- **Biomass use for Aquatic W** (Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków)

The aim of this project is to link the production of biomass as a renewable energy source, with the large-scale mechanised management of aquatic warbler habitats. The project seeks to demonstrate that conservation management of this habitat can also be economically viable.

- **Polskie Ostoje Ptaków** (Zakład Badania Ssaków Polskiej Akademii Nauk)

The overall project aim is to implement and improve protection measures for a number of important European wetland bird species that breed in SPAs within the five Polish national parks. This will be achieved by improving habitat conditions in order to increase the breeding success of the targeted wetland bird species and, at the same time, curbing pressures from invasive alien predatory species, particularly the American mink (*Mustela vison*) and the common raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

- **Restytucja i utrzymanie siedlisk legowych ptaków wodnych i błotnych (Park Narodowy "Ujście Warty")**

The general objective of this LIFE Nature project is to restore and maintain habitats for breeding waterfowl birds that nest in meadow areas of the Warta Mouth National Park. Target species include the corncrake, gulls, terns, plovers and some ducks. Habitat work will safeguard appropriate plant succession processes and focus on permanently removing willow bushes. A two year programme of intensive grazing will be introduced in order to inhibit willow regeneration. This will be followed by the reintroduction of pasture on the meadows.

## **PORTUGAL - 8 projects (7.6 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (1 project - 1 million)**

- **Building-SPP** (Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia, I.P.)

The goal of the Building-SPP project is to mainstream sustainable public procurement (SPP) in Portugal and Greece by assisting public authorities in implementing a procurement strategy in line with their economic, social and environmental policies. It will also encourage co-operation among public procurers and promote greater market engagement among public procurers and suppliers.

### **LIFE+ Nature (4 projects – 5 million)**

- MarPro (Universidade de Aveiro)

The MarPro project aims to successfully implement the NATURA 2000 network for the target cetacean and seabird species and their habitats throughout the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of mainland Portugal. It will reduce conflicts between fisheries and the target species in order to ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds directives.

- Habitats Conservation (QUERCUS – ANCN)

This LIFE project's objective is to demonstrate a methodology for the **conservation of priority calcareous habitats** in the Natura 2000 site, Serra de Aire e Candeeiros. The project aims to restore 1 000 ha of calcareous habitats and, indirectly, ensure the protection of non-priority habitats for the conservation of threatened flora and fauna.

- Life Ilhéus do Porto Sant (Serviço do Parque Natural da Madeira)

The principal **objective of the** Life Ilhéus do Porto Sant **project** is to remove threats to the natural ecosystems of the Natura 2000 site of the Porto Santo islets and to improve the conservation status of species endemic to this region. The project will research the distribution, density and conservation status of endangered species of seabirds, terrestrial molluscs, plants and arthropods in the project area.

- HIGRO (QUERCUS – ANCN)

The Higro project aims to define a methodology for the restoration and active conservation of the temperate Atlantic wet heaths and *nardus* grasslands on silicious substrates in mountainous areas. It aims to achieve an ecologically interesting balance of the two habitats in the mosaic, whilst maintaining or increasing their total occupation area.

#### **LIFE+ Information and Communication (2 projects – 1.6 million)**

- **ECO-COMPATÍVEL** (Serviço do Parque Natural da Madeira)

The overall **long-term project objective** is to reinforce, through educational and awareness activities, the compatibility of regional and territorial development in the Madeira Archipelago (i.e. socio-economic activities such as tourism, fisheries and agriculture) with EU biodiversity conservation policy (namely the management of nature reserves, sites, habitats and species listed in the Habitats and Birds directives).

- **BIO+SINTRA** (Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua, S.A.)

The **overall project objective** is to develop a pilot experience for the Cultural Landscape of Sintra (transferable to other locations) aimed at changing people's attitudes – targeting a decrease in **carbon emissions** to mitigate climate change, safeguarding local habitats and species and reducing biodiversity loss.

### **ROMANIA - 2 projects (1 million)**

#### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (1 project - 0.7 million)**

- **CLEANWATER** (National Administration "Apele Romane" - National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management)

The Cleanwater project aims to develop, at the river-basin scale, an integrated water management system to identify waters under threat and designate vulnerable zones. This aims to provide the authorities with a means of developing effective river-basin management policies for the Barlad river and to assess their impact.

#### **LIFE+ Nature (1 project – 0.3 million)**

- **STIPA** (Fundatia ADEPT Transilvania)

The STIPA project aims to improve the conservation status of two priority dry grassland habitats in the Sighisoara -Tarnava Mare Nature 2000 site. The beneficiaries will carry out field assessments of the conservation status of 10 000 ha of priority grassland habitats. With this information - and in consultation with farmers and other stakeholders - they will develop conservation action plans for the targeted habitats.

### **SLOVAKIA - 2 projects (2.9 million)**

#### **LIFE+ Nature (2 projects – 2.9 million)**

- **AYBOTCON** (Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia (Slovenská ornitologická spoločnosť / BirdLife Slovensko)

The core objective of this LIFE Nature project focuses on halting and reversing unfavourable populations trends for the bittern and ferruginous duck in eastern Slovakia, especially within the Medzibodrožie SPA which remains an important migration route and breeding area for these and other birds.

- **A POMARINA\_SK** (Raptor Protection of Slovakia)

The main objective of this LIFE Nature project is to enhance the conservation status of the imperial eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) in Slovakia. This will be achieved by establishing favourable conditions in the short term for stabilising the Slovak breeding population of the species in the Carpathian eco-region.

## **SLOVENIA - 3 projects (9.8 million)**

### **LIFE Nature and biodiversity (3 projects – 9.8 million)**

#### **LIFE+ Nature (2 projects)**

- **WETMAN**

The overall goal of the project is to re-establish the favourable conservation status of eight targeted freshwater habitats and six wetland habitat SCIs. The project sites - Pohorje, Zelenci, Vrhe, Planik, Gornji kal and Mura-Petišovci (which are covered by six SCIs and two SPAs) - contain different types of wetlands, all of which have suffered from a lack of appropriate management.

- **MANSALT** (SOLINE Pridelava soli d.o.o.)

The overall objective of the project is to improve the conservation status of target bird, reptile and fish species and target habitat types in the Natura 2000 site, Sečovlje salina.

#### **LIFE+ Biodiversity (1 project)**

- **Life at Night** (Euromis d.o.o.)

The overall objective of the project is to improve the conservation status and biodiversity of nocturnal animals at selected areas by reducing the negative effects of artificial lighting used for the illumination of cultural heritage sites.

## **SWEDEN - 9 projects (34.7 million)**

### **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (7 projects - 20.9 million)**

- **GREECIT** (City of Umeå)

**The main objective of this project is to set up a number of actions that will demonstrate methods and techniques that inspire and motivate people to change their behaviour and become part of a process to develop more sustainable city management policies and governance.**

- **CLIRE** (Region Skåne)

The CLIRE project aims demonstrate ways of dramatically reducing the carbon footprint of the health sector in Skåne, in line with EU objectives in relation to climate change. The project seeks to: improve the procurement system so that products with a low carbon footprint will have a better chance of winning public tenders; establish a demonstration facility ('the sustainable treatment room') and a working methodology that can be employed by health clinics; and increase the use of renewable energy sources in hospitals, clinics and other health facilities.

- **BIOGASSYS** (Kommunförbundet Skåne)

The overall aim of the project is to demonstrate the potential of biogas to become a major contributor to energy production in Europe and an important tool in mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. BIOGASSYS will demonstrate a sustainable system for biogas production and provide solutions and best practices that can be used to combat critical stages of the biogas life cycle.

- **LICC** (Malmö Stad)

The Climate Living in Cities Concept (CLICC) project will show how citizens may reduce their carbon footprint in the areas of housing, transport, and food and consumer goods. It seeks to reduce the carbon footprint of the city's inhabitants by 50% and thus contribute to the wider EU objective of combating climate change.

- **Mare Purum** (Ekomarine AB)

The main objective of this LIFE project is to demonstrate the long term reduction of marine fouling using an environmentally-friendly hull paint, based on Ekomarine's patented technique. The project will be performed in waters with varying salinity, temperature, depth, and other conditions.

- **Pure Energy Separator** (Alfa Laval Tumba AB)

The project will demonstrate and evaluate an innovative continuous ejection technology, based on a new method of expelling sludge from a separator. The system **does not require any process water and therefore the sludge will be concentrated and dry**. The result will be that more than 90% of the waste oil can be reused. The volume of oil going for incineration will then be reduced, which is in line with the objectives of the Directive for the Disposal of Waste Oils (75/439/EEC).

- **DYEMOND SOLAR** (NLAB Solar AB)

This project seeks to demonstrate a cost-effective means of producing transparent Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells (DSCs), based on a patented technology that uses one-dimensional photonic crystals (1DPCs) to improve the efficiency and colour of solar cells. The demonstrated prototype production system will be a pre-industrial-scale system.

**LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity (2 projects – 13.8 million)**

**LIFE+ Nature (1 project)**

- **GRACE** (County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland (Länsstyrelsen i Västra Götalands län))

The main aim of this project is to restore specific habitat types to favourable conservation status within 23 Natura 2000 sites associated with the Swedish archipelago in the Counties of Västra Götaland, Halland, Blekinge and Stockholm. A partnership approach between the four counties is expected to provide operational efficiencies and increase understanding about nature conservation activity in coastal habitats.

**LIFE+ Biodiversity (1 project)**

- **MIRDINEC** (Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management)

The objectives of this project focus on halting the loss of EU biodiversity, particularly in wetland areas, caused by the raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*). An early warning system will be established to track immigration of raccoon dogs and innovative culling/management methods will be applied to control the species.

**UNITED KINGDOM - 6 projects (16.4 million)**

**LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance (4 projects – 12.4 million)**

- **SSCM4ECAP** (Buckinghamshire County Council)

The project will develop an innovative 'bottom-up' approach to Green Public Procurement. It will demonstrate the use of supply-chain strategies to improve the environmental performance of local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and achieve local authority sustainability targets.

- **EDOC** (The Environment Agency of England and Wales)

The Electronic Duty of Care (EDOC) project intends to develop a national, Internet-based interface to record the collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of waste materials. This aims to enable the monitoring and mapping of waste management without creating a mountainous paper trail.

- **iGREEN** (The Environment Agency of England and Wales)

The iGreen project will demonstrate how environmental guidance for SMEs can be taken to the next level by developing joined-up service provision through the NetRegs website. It will deliver innovative solutions around intelligence gathering, product creation, and dissemination of environmental information and messages through multimedia and multiple channels. Tools will include a legislation generator for Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and environmental e-Learning tools for six different industries.

- **Hydro4LIFE** (International Hydropower Association)

The main aim of this project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of the new Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP) and consolidate knowledge on hydropower sustainability performance in the EU. The project also aims to raise awareness and build capacity - primarily via an electronic outreach campaign - about the HSAP and hydropower sustainability performance among all relevant stakeholders, including Member State/EU regulators and policymakers.

#### **LIFE+ Nature (1 project - 2.2 million)**

- **Reintroducing *Otis tarda*** (Reintroducing the great bustard *Otis tarda* to southern England)

This project aims to increase the population of great bustards on Salisbury Plain by extending the reintroduction programme to support the establishment of a self-sustaining population over the longer term.

#### **LIFE+ Information and communication (1 project - 1.8 million)**

- **RESTORE** (Environment Agency for England & Wales)

The project will develop a network linking policymakers, river basin planners, practitioners and experts across Europe to share information and good practice on river restoration activities. A database of river restoration projects will be created, providing understanding of policy opportunities and constraints, the effectiveness of restoration methods, design issues and project costs/benefits.