



LIFE
Viva
Grass



COSTING THE EARTH? – translating the ecosystem services concept into practical decision making

LIFE Platform meeting on Ecosystem Services

LIFE PROJECT SUMMARIES

This summary of project activity has been compiled by the organisers using data from the LIFE websites and our own monitoring records. The information has been targeted to the themes of this meeting and it is not intended as a comprehensive record of the project activities. For more details about a project you can click on the link to the website. We apologise in advance for any errors. Projects are organised alphabetically by country and then in year order. We hope that you find this resource useful!

LIFE Grote NeteWoud	LIFE 12 NAT/BE/438	Contact: Ewoud L’Amiral
Project: Wilderness on human scale		
<p>About: The lowland river system ‘Grote Nete’ is very suited to develop a vast woodland with new habitat for very critical species such as otter, black stork and beaver. The main focus of this project is the large-scale restoration, development and sustainable management of alluvial forest (90%), mainly by means of natural forestation, and small pockets of the most valuable open habitats (10%). This increase of habitats will be sustainable, because of the acquisition of at least 120 ha. Furthermore, the project aims to restore the habitat of Annex II fish species by improving the structure of the river or smaller streams and by facilitating the migration of these species. The sites of former weekend houses will be reintegrated in the natural river valley.</p> <p>The beneficiaries aim to offer unique adventurous nature experiences and create public awareness that will stick to peoples’ minds forever. Stakeholders will be involved and win-win situations are sought by combining the strengths of different partners. The support of local authorities to the project is expected because of the benefits it brings to their communities in an ecological and financial perspective (e.g. biodiversity, ecosystem services, catering to visitors, lower cost for water management, higher property prices).</p>		
<p>Website: https://www.natuurpunt.be/pagina/inleiding-life-grote-netewoud</p>		

The project “Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands” (LIFE Viva Grass) No. LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189 is co-financed by the EU LIFE+ Programme, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund, Estonian Environmental Investment Centre and the project partners.



LIFE Green4Grey	LIFE 13 ENV/BE/212	Contact: Pieter de Corte and Katia van Tichelen
Project: Innovative design and development of multifunctional green and blue infrastructure in Flanders grey peri-urban landscapes		
<p>About: The project will demonstrate the innovative development and design of multifunctional green and blue infrastructure (GI&BI) elements in peri-urban areas. These elements will deliver multiple ecosystem services and functions for many different interested parties. The seven densely populated pilot areas covered by the project are part of the peri-urban areas of Brussels and Hasselt-Genk. One specific objective is to develop and use innovative approaches and pilot actions of ecosystem based multi-functional land use targeting a multiple set of green and blue infrastructure functions (incl. biodiversity/habitat improvement, water quantity-quality, health & well-being, socio-cultural, “green” business environment, climate adaptation, sustainable food production, education) in 7 integrated project area plan of multi-functional land use thereby upgrading a whole set of ecosystem services and functions.</p>		
<p>Website: http://www.green4grey.be/</p>		

LIFE in Quarries	LIFE 14 NAT/BE/364	Contact: Kathleen Mercken
Project: Life in Quarries		
<p>About: Prior to the 90', the extractive industry in Wallonia was not subject to rehabilitation plans. From 1990 to 2003, actions undertaken mainly consisted in afforestation measures with indigenous and exotic trees. For about a decade, there is a will to enhance the biodiversity value of such areas. In 2012, FEDIEX even signed a sectorial charter on "Quarries and Biodiversity", with another federation, recognizing the importance value and role of quarries in the conservation and development of patrimonial species and habitats during and after the operational phase. Quarries are indeed generating a large diversity of temporary habitats, sometimes evolving to more permanent ones. However, the biological role and ecosystem services provision are often neglected though they are playing a significant role as stepping-stone and regulating green infrastructure in landscape. Among the project objectives is to test and define methods to prepare physical quarry infrastructures during exploitation processes. This will facilitate the establishment of restoration measures and therefore increase ecosystem services.</p>		
<p>Website: www.lifeinquarries.eu</p>		

LIFE Belini	LIFE 15 IPE/BE/014	Contact: Stevie Swenne
Project: Belgian initiative for making a leap forward towards good status in the river basin district of the Scheldt		
<p>About: The overall objective of the LIFE Belini is to support the targeted and coordinated implementation of the RBMP measures that will achieve significant progress towards the good status of water bodies in line with the WFD. It will carry out a set of measures that have been identified as most effective for improving the Scheldt RBD, in particular the three selected catchment areas. Special focus will be on implementing the WFD and RBMPs in a multi-functional way, implementing the Floods Directive and Flood Risk Management Plans, and strengthening local, interregional and international cooperation. Actions include implementing concrete projects in rural and highly urbanised areas to show that the area can support an effective riverine ecosystem. The project will</p>		

develop an Ecosystems Services Approach (ESA) monitoring framework using a best practice to describe combined technical, social and economic benefits.

Website: No website available at 25/04/2017

Wachtelkönig&Uferschnepfe	LIFE 10 NAT/D/011	Contact: Heinrich Belting
Project: Waterlogging and grassland extensification in Lower Saxony to improve habitats of the Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>) and Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)		
<p>About: In recent years, the corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>) has suffered from dramatic losses of adequate hatcheries, particularly near the western boundary of its range, i.e. north-western Germany and Benelux. In many cases breeding sites are occupied by single males that are not paired. Only a few breeding sites remain but these have a high amount of annual breeding. Many of the remaining habitats are overlapping with those of the black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>). Given the significantly high proportion of breeding animals on its territory, Lower Saxony has a great responsibility for both these species within Germany and the rest of Europe. More than 90% of the Western populations of the black-tailed godwit are found here and in the neighbouring Netherlands and its breeding stock occurs exclusively in Member States. The project is managing the re-wetting and use of wet grassland in cooperation with local farmers to increase breeding productivity in these and other species in the grasslands.</p>		
Website: www.wiesenvoegel-life.de		

LIFE Feuchtwälder	LIFE 13 NAT/DE/091	Contact: Inga Willecke
Project: Conservation and restoration of alluvial forests and bog woodland in Brandenburg		
<p>About: The project aims to protect, stabilize and develop bog woodland and alluvial forests in their natural characteristic including typical animal and plant species in three riverine systems in Brandenburg. This requires the establishment of a near natural water regime within the alluvial areas and forests as well as the associated waterways. Particularly the moorlands of bog woodlands (*91D0) depend heavily upon the stabilization and reestablishment of natural hydrologic conditions. For the conservation and stabilization of habitat type *91E0 it is planned to stabilize and improve the interdependence between the water course and its floodplain. In the long run this will cause the raise of the river bed and a frequent overflow of the watercourse during flood waters. Silvicultural measures will improve the habitat structure of alluvial forests (*91E0). The project has made significant progress with defining indicators for the alluvial habitats which will be tested in two project sites.</p>		
Website: www.feuchtwaelder.de		

LiLa	LIFE 14 IP/DE/022	Contact: Stephan von Keitz
Project: Living Lahn River – one river, many interests		
<p>About: The project aims to contribute to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive to achieve a “good” ecological status for surface waters in the catchment area of the Lahn River, an eastern tributary of the Rhine. LiLa will serve as a pilot for the recategorisation of inland waterways that previously gave priority to waterborne transport. It will demonstrate an integrated multi-stakeholder approach to managing the Lahn catchment, which crosses several administrative</p>		

boundaries, improving the ecosystem services it provides. Restoration of near-natural conditions will improve the Lahn's ecological status and biodiversity. The project will also create water retention areas and identify pollution sources to improve water quality. The concept of the socio-economic monitoring is being developed together with the University of Hannover, which is currently involved in various similar research activities. The project recently produced a concept study concerning progress towards this action and is in contact with the authors of the TEEB DE study relating to the analysis of ecosystem services in Germany.

Website: <http://www.lila-livinglahn.de>

VinEcos	LIFE 15/CCA/DE/103	Contact: Cornelia Häfner/ Sabine Tischew
Project: Optimizing ecosystem services in viticulture facing climate change		
<p>About: A main task of nature conservation is to maintain ecosystems that protect the climate by carbon sequestration. Ecosystem-based approaches, focussing on synergies between nature protection, climate protection and climate adaptation are more cost efficient than technical solutions. In this respect, the LIFE VinEcoS project will analyse the kind of services provided by the ecosystem and related values. Though ecosystem services are currently investigated for various areas, no relevant surveys are known for vineyards, yet. The project will apply an eco-economic evaluation approach and sustainably optimize these ecosystem services in the face of climate change. The main objective of the project is to optimize ecosystem services in vineyards by testing climate- adapted methods in viticulture. Relevant methods will be implemented on demonstration areas of Kloster Pforta vineyard and beyond.</p>		
Website: not available as of 26/04/2017		

LIFE Patches & Corridors	LIFE 15 NAT/DE/745	Contact: Bernhard Theissen
Project: Development of a habitat network for the Violet Copper to promote a sustainable metapopulation		
<p>About: The LIFE-Patches & Corridors project aims to improve the conservation status of the violet copper butterfly and its supporting habitat types. The overall objective is to establish a habitat network within and between Natura 2000 sites in order to sustain violet copper (sub) - populations. Corridors and stepping stones will be established by removing obstacles and developing new habitats. The project is at an early stage and is discussing methodology.</p>		
Website: not available as of 25/04/2017		

LIFE Mires Estonia	LIFE 14 NAT/EE/126	Contact: Jüri-Ott Salm
Project: Conservation and restoration of mire habitats		
<p>About: The priority habitat types - active raised bogs (7110*), bog woodlands (91D0*) and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods (9080*) have become very rare in the European Union. This is mainly due to the negative impacts caused by drainage. Based on biogeographical overall assessment on Estonia, the status of the habitat types targeted by the project is not favourable nor secure. Thus, the overall aim is to avoid harmful activities and improve or maintain the status of the mire habitats and the species by passive conservation or active restoration. The overall objective of</p>		

the project is to secure the favourable conservation status of wetlands, especially mires and priority habitats protected under EU Habitats Directive - Active raised bogs, Bog woodland, and Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods through the restoration of the hydrological regime as well as the abandoned peat mining areas, the project additionally aims to target the conservation of other species affected by drainage.

Website: <https://soo.elfond.ee/>

AwaRaEst LIFE	LIFE 14 CAP/EE/0009	Contact: Tiina Pedak
Project: Awareness raising and application quality improvement of the LIFE programme in Estonia		
<p>About: Overall, the vision of the capacity building is, that Estonia will have the means to educate all parties involved in LIFE and provide them with the theoretical knowledge and technical support they need to leverage all the LIFE possibilities. The purpose of the project is to make the program more visible among potential Estonian applicants and public sector officials. Secondly, the project aims to educate potential applicants in drawing up good quality applications. Moreover, in the education process and networking, potential applicants will learn about the possibilities of LIFE, LIFE project management, see best practices, learn about how and where to find co-funding, etc. Also, a support platform with all relevant LIFE information will be created in the form of a new website.</p>		
Website: http://life.envir.ee/		

LIFE+ Ordunte Sostenible	LIFE11 NAT/ES/704	Contact: José María Fernández-García
Project: Sustainable management of the Ordunte SCI for the natural conservation of the area and use of its resources		
<p>About: The Ordunte Mountains in the Basque Autonomous Region have been designated a Natura 2000 protected area because it is the only active blanket bog and largest peat enclave in the Basque region, it also has a matrix of pastures formed by mountain grasslands and natural woodlands. The main project aim is to maintain and/or restore the 'favourable' conservation status of habitats and species of Community importance through long term sustainable management of the area and by promoting the socio-economic development of the area by boosting public use of the area in ways compatible with conservation. One specific action deals with the assessment of socio-economic impact of the project actions on the population, local economies and ecosystem functions. The project has adopted the TESSA methodology (for rapid assessment of ecosystem services at sites of biodiversity conservation importance) to determine the impact on ecosystem functions.</p>		
Website: www.bizkaia.net/lifeorduntedesostenible		

LIFE+Tremedal	LIFE 11 NAT/ES/707	Contact: José María Fernández-García
Project: Inland wetlands of the Northern Iberian Peninsula: management and restoration of mires and wet environments		
<p>About: This project has successfully completed the actions to improve the conservation status and resilience of the peaty and wet habitat types in the project locations. It conducted restoration actions and implemented good management measures to reduce the threats that negatively impact on the habitats. This project pioneered the use of the TESSA tool in LIFE projects to assess the impact of the project actions on ecosystem functions. The project registered an improvement of regulating</p>		

services and cultural services as well as benefits to supporting services such as biodiversity and soil maintenance.

Website: www.lifetremedal.eu

LIFE BioDehesa	LIFE 11 BIO/ES/726	Contact: Maria Luisa Sillero Almazan
Project: Dehesa Ecosystems: development of policies and tools for biodiversity conservation and management		
About: <i>Dehesas</i> are holm-oak man-transformed landscapes based on management of pasture for livestock. These <i>dehesas</i> form part of the natural heritage in Spain but have been declining in surface and status of conservation over the past decades, sometimes due to abandonment and sometimes to agricultural intensification or unsuitable agricultural practices. This is leading to a decrease in the biodiversity value of these ecosystems, which must be urgently reverted. The project is currently classifying and collecting data relevant to the 22 ecosystem services provided by the <i>dehesas</i> . Collecting economic information has proved difficult as owners are initially reluctant to provide financial data for their plots. The project is currently collecting monthly data and in 2018 will analyse the data and compare with the Millennium Ecosystems (EMA) methodology.		
Website: www.biodehesa.es		

REAGRITECH	LIFE 11 ENV/ES/579	Contact: Jordi Morato
Project: Regeneration and re-use of runoff and drainage water in agriculture plots by combined natural water treatment systems.		
About: The project will try to demonstrate the feasibility to regenerate and reuse the irrigation waters (runoff and infiltration) as well as decreasing its pollutant charge and nutrients and pesticides in the soil using appropriate technologies such as natural treatment systems. The aim of this project is to demonstrate that the REAGRITECH system is valid to reuse the water resources without any risk for the environment. It also aims at demonstrating the capacity to collect the runoff and infiltration waters originally coming from irrigation, and re-inject them into the system. In this sense, the experimental system will serve to save water resources. As well, the efficiency of natural water treatment technologies for nutrient and pollutants (such as pesticides) reduction from drainage water will be tested during the project. To this end, two constructed subsurface wetlands and buffer strips will be used, to improve the water collected quality and to achieve a reuse of such water for irrigation purposes. The main goal for buffer strip systems will be to ensure the sanitation process on treated waters that will lead to the infiltration point to feed the aquifer and the river. The project has assessed the ecosystem services provided by the green infrastructure.		
Website: http://www.unescosost.org/project/reagritech		

LIFE Blue Natura	LIFE 14 CCM/ES/957	Contact: Soledad Vivas
Project: Andalusian blue carbon for climate change mitigation: quantification and valorization mechanisms		
About: The LIFE Blue Natura project's main aim is to quantify the carbon deposits and the sequestration rates of marsh and seagrass meadow habitats in Andalusia. An emphasis will be placed on what is accumulated under the ground or sea, as well as analysing predicted future developments, from the carbon loss rate, to potential carbon fixation and accumulation rates, and the emission/sequestration ratio of carbon from damaged meadow zones into the atmosphere.		

This information will enable an approximate evaluation of the environmental services created by these habitats to be made. It should also encourage existing initiatives to finance conservation and restoration projects of blue carbon sink-habitats and the development of key policies for mitigating and adapting to climate change, with special attention to carbon emissions trading or carbon markets.

Website: <http://www.life-blunatura.eu/>

LIFE Adaptamed	LIFE 14 CCA/ES/612	Contact: Rut Aspizua
Project: Protection of key ecosystem services by adaptive management of climate change endangered Mediterranean socio-ecosystems		
<p>About: The link between the provision of key ecosystem services (e.g. soil retention, temperature regulation, pollination) and socio-ecosystems (e.g. mountain Mediterranean scrub, coastal dune forests) in three Mediterranean Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) is well established on the basis of long-term management experience and scientific knowledge. However, habitats in these NPAs are being increasingly and negatively affected by climate change, and these impacts can provoke changes in their capacity to provide ecosystem services. The LIFE ADAPTAMED project aims to mitigate the negative effects of climate change on key ecosystem services in three representative Mediterranean NPAs of socio-economic importance. The project will focus on developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and disseminating adaptive management measures. It will use an ecosystem approach and address socio-ecosystems identified as key for the provision of, among other things, soil retention, pollination, pastures (net primary production), temperature regulation, water provision, prevention of forest fires, and desertification.</p>		
Website: http://rediam-dev.lter-spain.net		

LIFE Olivares Vivos	LIFE 14 NAT/ES/1094	Contact: Jesus Pinilla
Project: Olive Alive: towards the design and certification of biodiversity friendly olive groves		
<p>About: The project is aimed at halting the loss of biodiversity in olive groves of Andalusia (Spain). The intensification of olive cultures has been increasing since 1980s, with the elimination of any kind of natural vegetation within the olive groves and in the surrounding of the properties (path and plot edges, banks and slopes, riverine vegetation, etc.), causing loss of flora and fauna species but also soil erosion. The loss of biodiversity is currently affecting the 65% of the olive groves in Andalusia, but also in Italy, France and Greece and then, the potential replicability of project results is very high. The project objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To define, on scientific grounds, an innovative model of olive growing with high demonstration value and agriculturally, economically and socially viable. • To establish profitability formulas based on an added value appreciated by consumers (biodiversity) to help curb the abandonment of traditional olive farming or culture intensification, avoiding also indirect environmental costs (erosion, carbon footprint, pollution, hydric over exploitation and loss of biodiversity). • To improve the ecosystem services provided by olive farming through restoration actions and creation of green infrastructure in demonstration plots and define restoration strategies that are technically, environmentally and economically viable and effective. 		
Website: www.olivaresvivos.com		

LIFE Baccata	LIFE 15 NAT/ES/790	Contact: Javier Ferreiro da Costa
Project: Conservation and restoration of Mediterranean <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods (9580*) in the Cantabrian Mountains		
About: The overall objective of the project is to improve the conservation status of the habitat 9580* in 15 SACs in the Cantabrian Mountains, by acting on the following habitat conservation status indicators: Area of occupancy, Structure and functions and Future prospects. The project has not yet started the assessment of the impact of the project actions on ecosystem services.		
Website: not available as of 25/04/2017		

Urban Oases - Keidas	LIFE 11 ENV/FI/ 0911	Contact: Outi Wahlroos
Project: Shaping a Sustainable Future through Environmentally Functional Landscape Features		
About: The beneficiaries have demonstrated the need for managing urban landscapes in a sustainable and holistic manner. These urban wetlands and swales are still quite new in Finland and that so the project has a national pilot value. In parallel, the project has identified innovative new functional landscape structure types as well as designed prototypes for accurate and comparable monitoring. One of the main results was to demonstrate and clarify what ecosystem services can be achieved through functional landscapes and at what cost. Ecosystems of fluctuating water level landscapes are becoming scarce and the project demonstrated the value and integrated costs involved in their restoration.		
Website: http://www.helsinki.fi/taajamakeitaat/		

LIFE MONIMET	LIFE 12 ENV/FI/409	Contact: Ali Nadir Arslan
Project: Climate change indicators and vulnerability of boreal zone applying innovative observation and modelling techniques		
About: The future development of carbon and water balances and their relationship to climate change in boreal zone are currently poorly known. As also the indications of vulnerability of the region are not comprehended, there are handicaps in the evaluation of anthropogenic influences to climate change. The project is concerned with this issue by implementing a new innovative approach to in situ monitoring and mapping of climate change indicators that have an influence on the mitigation potential and vulnerability estimates of boreal forests and peatlands. The approach is based on a combination of different information sources describing phenology, CO ₂ and CH ₄ exchange, land cover, snow evolution and albedo. The information sources include in situ observations and Earth Observation (EO) (satellite) data, as well as ancillary data supporting vulnerability assessments. Dedicated high resolution regional models are applied to describe climate and land surface fluxes of carbon and water by different ecosystems. Among the project objectives are:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create links and add value to existing monitoring mechanisms such as ICOS and EO systems (GMES) and make use of data acquired in previous EU Life+ funded, and other projects related to ecosystem monitoring • To create new webcam monitoring system to facilitate Earth Observation systems by providing time-series of field observation for calibration and validation, as well as to improve the assessment of forest ecosystem services • To synthesize modelling and observation approaches to identify climate indicators. 		

Website: <http://monimet.fmi.fi>

LIFEPeatLandUse	LIFE 12 ENV/FI/150	Contact: Miia Parviainen
Project: Quantification and valuation of ecosystem services to optimise sustainable re-use for low-productive drained peatlands		
<p>About: Ecosystem service concept and the valuation efforts of ecosystem services are changing the discussion concerning land use policy and natural resource management. Increasing knowledge on the importance of healthy ecosystems for human well-being is leading to situations, where multi-functional and ecologically sustainable land use is an option to simultaneously generate ecological, economic and social benefits. The main objective of the project is to quantify and value ecosystem services to assist land use planners and policy makers in making ecologically, economically and socio-culturally sustainable land use decisions. Detailed objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To develop and demonstrate a decision support system to quantify and value ecosystem services and optimize ecologically, economically and socio-culturally sustainable land use. 2) To consolidate and increase the knowledge base on the impacts of peatland use on ecosystem services through the compilation of multiple datasets and state of the art modelling. 3) To enhance general awareness, reduce conflicts, and promote stakeholder cooperation concerning the use of peatlands. 4) To promote the sharing and utilisation of long-term monitoring data and scientific information in the land use planning. 		
Website: http://www.metla.fi/hanke/8547/index.htm		

FRESHABIT	LIFE 14 IP /FI/023	Contact: Teppo Vehanen and Katri Rankinen
Project: Freshabit – towards integrated management of freshwater Natura 2000 sites and habitats		
<p>About: The project aims to improve the ecological status, management and sustainable use of freshwater Natura 2000 sites in Finland, by tackling the problems they face at catchment level. The project is working in eight regional Natura 2000 networks to develop and demonstrate (among other things) the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to develop and demonstrate methodology related to assessment, modelling and monitoring of freshwater habitats, ecosystem services and cultural heritage; ● to develop biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators serving both national and international monitoring and policy needs; ● to enhance sustainable use of freshwater resources by integrating conservation approaches in ecosystem-based entrepreneurship and to improve environmental awareness. 		
Website: www.metsa.fi/freshabit		

Oliveclima	LIFE 11 ENV/GR/942	Contact: Georgios Koubouris
Project: Introduction of new olive crop practices focussed on climate change mitigation and adaptation		
<p>About: Human activities increase the level of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere by introducing new sources or removing natural sinks. Sources are processes or activities that release greenhouse gases; sinks are processes, activities or mechanisms that remove greenhouse gases. A balance between sources and sinks determines the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Agriculture is often referred to as a 'source'. The introduction of human activities, including</p>		

appropriate farming practices, which enhance the capability of plants to capture GHG and remove them from the atmosphere is essential in reversing this situation for agriculture, turning it into a 'sink'. Project OLIVE-CLIMA aims to reverse the situation of agricultural being a GHG source by introducing human activities that enhance the capability of plants to capture GHG.

Website: <http://www.oliveclima.eu/>

LIFE Natura2000Value Crete	LIFE 13 INF/GR/188	Contact: Michalis Probonas
Project: The ecological services, social benefits and economic value of ecosystem services in Natura 2000 sites in Crete		
<p>About: The project seeks to address the main environmental problems that derive from lack of proper information on the NATURA 2000 network and the misconceptions of the EU environmental policy in Crete. The project aims to support conservation efforts targeting NATURA 2000 Sites in Crete, to motivate the public to participate into relevant decision-making, and to illuminate the socio-economic damage which will result from biodiversity loss in Crete. Specific objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inform and change negative attitudes of stakeholders who see NATURA 2000 Network as an inhibitive factor for economic development. • To inform stakeholders, targeted audiences and the layman public in local societies on the ecological significance of NATURA 2000 Sites and on funding opportunities for "green" development in rural areas. • To provide guidance to other NATURA 2000 site managing bodies in Greece on ways to develop information and communication strategy to highlight the ecological, social and economic value of ecosystem services. 		
Website: http://www.ecovalue-crete.eu		

LIFE CLIMATREE	LIFE 14 CCM/GR/635	Contact: Antonios Kolimenakis
Project: A novel approach for accounting and monitoring carbon sequestration of tree crops and their potential as carbon sink areas		
<p>About: Agriculture is a significant factor for the capture of carbon dioxide since all vegetable production is based on photosynthesis, depended almost exclusively on sunlight, atmospheric carbon, water and minerals. The problem for the assessment of this capture and the consequent storage of carbon in the form of plant tissues has two aspects. The first aspect is originated to the production of GHG during the cultivation and the second to the annual life cycle of most of the crops, which translate to a cascading effect. This problem has driven to the neglect of a significant factor in the carbon life cycle analysis and therefore to a diminished amount of carbon storage calculated and utilized in the carbon trading system. Amongst the primary objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve and update the estimated carbon sink accounting within EU through the inclusion of the calculated tree-crop capacity (CO₂ t/y); • to estimate the socioeconomic benefit of tree crops' carbon storage and to evaluate the economic dimensions under different climatic and economic scenarios; • to provide a more accurate and increased baseline for carbon sink, and to improve this way the knowledge base for the monitoring and evaluation of effective climate change mitigation actions and measures. 		
Website: http://www.lifeclimatree.eu/		

LIFE GHOST	LIFE 11 BIO/IT/556	Contact: Luisa Da Ros
Project: Techniques to reduce the impacts of ghost fishing gears and to improve biodiversity in north Adriatic coastal areas		
<p>About: The increasing frequency of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) at sea is having an increasing impact on coastal habitats (UNEP/FAO 2009). Nevertheless, estimates of the impact of ALDFG on biodiversity and the economy are scarce and very little has been done to reduce this problem. Concrete measures are necessary to recover and improve biodiversity, especially in habitats affected by fishing activities (e.g. trawling). The rocky habitats of the northern Adriatic are rich in biodiversity, making them an appropriate area for demonstrating restoration measures. Project objectives include assessing the impact of ALDFG on biodiversity in the rocky habitats and estimating the economic value of the ecosystem benefits resulting from the removal and/or reduction of ALDFG. The project will produce a report on the economic value of ecosystem services that provides useful insights for identifying and quantifying the economic benefits of removing ALDFG.</p>		
<p>Website: www.life-ghost.eu</p>		

Making Good Natura	LIFE 11 ENV/IT/168	Contact: Giampiero Mazzocchi
Project: Making Public Goods Provision the Core Business of Natura 2000		
<p>About: The project aimed at developing and testing a governance model for the management and financing of Natura 2000 sites through Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and self-financing tools. After a state-of-the-art analysis and a general study of Ecosystem Services in different environments, detailed analysis and demonstrations were carried out in 21 pilot sites distributed in several Italian Natura 2000 areas (located in 6 Italian Regions). The different nature of the selected pilot sites allowed the development of a general method applicable to similar contexts. A handbook and an IT tool were also produced to guide and help in the application of the developed MAKING GOOD NATURA (MGN) governance model.</p> <p>To reach this objective the beneficiaries carried out the following <u>main activities</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the main local stakeholders and key actors to be involved in the definition of Ecosystem Services (ES) and PES schemes through participative approaches. • Analysis of the ES provided by the pilot sites and identification of the most relevant ones (2-3 per site). • Evaluation of the economic value of the ES identified. • Identification of PES-like and self-financing schemes related to the identified ES. • Development of a Governance Model for the Natura 2000 network • Application of the developed model to the 21 pilot sites. • Actual signing of part of the developed PES schemes • Production of supporting tools facilitating the replication of the proposed methodology 		
<p>Website: www.lifemgn-serviziecosistemici.eu</p>		

LIFE SeResto	LIFE 12 NAT/IT/331	Contact: Andrea Bonometto
Project: Habitat 1150* (Coastal Lagoon) recovery Seagrass RESTOration. Anew strategic approach to meet HD and WFD objectives.		
About: The project aims to restore a large area of the Venetian Lagoon, which is the biggest transitional environment in Europe. Seagrass meadows in the lagoon have receded significantly in the past few decades due to human activities. The project aims to quantify and highlight the value of ecosystem services provided by the lagoon environment and particularly the angiosperm meadows.		
Website: http://www.lifeseresto.eu/		

LIFE Xero-Grazing	LIFE 12 NAT/IT/818	Contact: Luca Giunti
Project: Semi-natural dry grassland conservation and restoration in Valle Susa through grazing management		
About: The project aims to conserve and restore the dry grasslands with orchids priority habitat within a representative area of a Natura 2000 site. The project will define a restoration methodology (guidelines) and will implement actions that will lead to the conservation and restoration of significant portions of this habitat. As a result, the project will be able to produce technical guidance that could be applied in the Cottian Alps (Alpi Cozie) Natural Park (and other SCIs) to ensure sustainable and long-term management of the habitat. In particular, the project aims to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore shrub and tree-encroached areas; • Define a methodology and guidance for sustainable grazing; • Develop the tourist potential of the area. 		
The project is testing the model developed by the Making Good Natura (LIFE 11 ENV/IT/1168) project to assess the impact of the project actions on socio-economics and ecosystem services.		
Website: http://www.lifexerograzing.eu/it/		

LIFE SAM4CP	LIFE 13 ENV/IT/1218	Contact: Simonetta Alberico and Andrea Ballocca
Project: Soil administration models for community profit		
About: The LIFE SAM4CP project aims to create an easy-to-use simulator that will allow territorial decision makers to include the ecological functions of soil within the assessment of the environmental and economic costs and benefits associated with possible urban planning and land use measures and choices. The simulator will allow different territorial transformation scenarios to be assessed according to the seven main ecological functions provided by soil to integrate these functions – and their potential gain or loss – into the decision-making process. The tool aims to help avoid land use decisions that disproportionately reduce soil functions. It also aims to enable a proper evaluation of the potential costs and benefits of specific measures aimed at reducing soil sealing. It will be used to help draft a municipal land-use plan to preserve the ecosystem services provided by soils. The project is developing an urban planning tool that simulates territorial transformation scenarios and calculates the effects of soil consumption/sealing in terms of reduction of ecosystem services provided. They will assess the costs and benefits of planning policies and land use choices that aim to reduce soil sealing and preserve the associated ecosystems functions and services.		
Website: www.sam4cp.eu		

PAN LIFE	LIFE 13 NAT/IT/1075	Contact: Claudio Marciano and Nicola Mayera
Project: Natura 2000 Action Programme		
<p>About: The overall objective is to provide an effective contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the EU strategy for biodiversity and its headline target to halt “the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss”. The project’s strategy will include a financial plan that considers all sources of funding (European, national and regional) for the management of the Natura 2000 network and an updated list of priority actions to be carried out over the next decade. It will also look at integrating biodiversity conservation and management objectives into regional development and employment. As part of the process the socio-economic value of the ecosystem services of the regional Natura 2000 network will be properly assessed.</p>		
<p>Website: http://www.panlife.eu/</p>		

SOS4LIFE	LIFE15 ENV/IT/000225	Contact: Francesca Ugolini
Project: Save our Soil for LIFE		
<p>About: SOS4LIFE is a demonstration project that aims to implement at municipal level the European regulations on soil protection. The main objective of the project is the implementation a viable regulation framework and planning tool to achieve, at municipal level, the “no net-land take” target and promote de-sealing interventions to compensate newly urbanized areas and improve the urban resilience to climate change. The project is developing a benchmarking method, at Italian and European level, for the evaluation of ecosystem services (ES) provided by urban soils and for the assessment of economic/environmental impacts caused by land take and soil sealing. They plan to define some guidelines for the management of urban soils and best practices to improve their ES.</p>		
<p>Website: www.sos4life.it</p>		

Soil4Wine	LIFE15 ENV/IT/000641	Contact: Giulio Mela
Project: Innovative approach to soil management in viticulture landscapes		
<p>About: The vineyard landscapes of North Apennines areas are affected by various soil threats, such as erosion, decline of organic matter, local and diffuse contamination, sealing, compaction, decline in biodiversity and landslides. All these are generated by environmental factors (such as geomorphology and slopes, climate change and soil types) and behavioural factors (such as vineyard and soil management practices). These soil management practices stem from radical changes in farming practices and cultivation techniques in recent decades. The abandoning of these areas and the gradual introduction of mechanisation has led to profound changes in land use and management. The project aims to address these threats through a series of management measures to prevent erosion and increase the organic content of the soils. In addition, the project will define the social, economic and environmental constraints of the proposed viticulture practices and of the soil ecosystem services in the pilot areas. The information will be used to design innovative soil conservation policies based on PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services).</p>		
<p>Website: not available on 28/04/2017</p>		

Viva Grass (Host Project)	LIFE 13 ENV/LT/189	Contact: Heidrun Fammler and Zymantas Morkvenas
Project: Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands		
<p>About: Marginal agricultural areas in Europe, remote from geographical perspective or not suitable for intensive agriculture, are still hosting high biodiversity of natural and semi-natural grassland that has formed through interaction between various ecosystems and extensive farming practices. However, due to change in rural lifestyle, such regions are experiencing depopulation and land abandonment, which results in overgrowing of the fields by shrubs and consequent loss of grassland biodiversity. This is also the case in the Baltic States where high rate of land abandonment was experienced since beginning of 1990ies.</p> <p>With EU accession and availability of agricultural subsidies the share of managed agricultural land has increased. However, measures within the Rural Development Programmes are more tending to promote agricultural production and intensive use of land, instead of continuing extensive, nature-friendly management practices. Although agri-environmental measures of RDP contribute to maintenance of valuable ecosystems, they have to be more area specific, since efficiency of grassland management depends on natural and socio-economic conditions of the particular area. Furthermore, only economically viable management practices can be long lasting.</p> <p>The Project aims to support maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by grasslands, through encouraging ecosystem based approach to planning and economically viable grassland management. The project shall demonstrate opportunities for multifunctional use of grasslands as basis for sustainability of rural areas and stimulus for local economies.</p> <p><u>Specific objectives are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To scrutinise synergy potentials & shortcomings in land use & nature conservation policy as well as best practice examples in relation to sustainable grassland management and come up with proposals for improvement of the policy and legal framework • To offer integrated, ecosystem based planning solutions based on economically viable grassland management scenarios • To encourage implementation of economically viable grassland management models within areas of different natural and socioeconomic contexts • To raise awareness and capacity of planners and local stakeholders on economically viable approaches to management of grassland ecosystems and services they provide. 		
Website: www.vivagrass.eu		

WETLIFE2	LIFE 13 NAT/LT/084	Contact: Simonas Valatka
Project: Restoration of proper hydrological conditions in Amalva and Kamanos bogs		
<p>About: The WETLIFE 2 project aims to restore important habitats within the Amalva and Kamanos wetlands in Lithuania. Its primary approach for rehabilitating the targeted habitats will be the restoration of proper hydrological conditions. This hopes to benefit rare and endangered species as well as securing the provision of ecosystem services provided by the mire habitats. The project will implement direct restoration activities to restore the hydrology of targeted areas of bog habitat, principally by blocking drainage ditches. It will intervene to improve the quality of degraded bog and to raise water levels in previously reclaimed land to restore wetland habitats. It will also re-establish</p>		

fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods. The project aims to restore the conditions for the natural regeneration of features typical of active raised bogs. To further support this aim, the project will work to develop more sustainable agricultural practices in the areas surrounding the core area of Amalva wetland. It aims to agree and sign land management contracts with farmers of surrounding land to facilitate significant expansion of the bog habitats. Finally, the project will raise awareness among local stakeholders on the importance of peatland ecosystem services and their intrinsic and economic value to improve public co-operation and support for the aims of the project.

Website: www.wetlife2.gpf.lt/

LIFE LT	LIFE 14 CAP/LT/008	Contact: Aušra Šmitienė
Project: Building LIFE capacities in Lithuania		
About: The project aims to raise awareness of Lithuanian NGOs and SMEs about opportunities offered by the LIFE programme, to improve their knowledge and skills to prepare LIFE applications and implement LIFE projects, and know where to look for help, if necessary. This will be achieved through raising Lithuania's capacity to submit quality applications and by providing opportunities for on-going and closed projects to ensure sustainability of the project outcomes.		
Website: http://lifeprojektai.lt/		

LIFE Ecosystem Services	LIFE 13 ENV/LV/839	Contact: Inga Hoņavko
Project: Assessment of ecosystems and their services for nature biodiversity, conservation and management		
About: As the policies for environmental protection and management are developing in the EU, the necessity for economic evaluation of the ecosystems is increasing. The approach of ecosystem assessment and their services has been incorporated into various EU and EC planning documents. However, the practice of valuing ES has not yet been introduced to Latvia. Some of the key objectives of this project are to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopt the international practices and experiences in economic valuation of ecosystems and their services for the situation and conditions of Latvia, creating a clearly comprehensive assessment system, • perform the pilot implementation of the developed assessment system in two chosen Pilot Implementation Areas, • promote the new methodology for the economic evaluation of ecosystems and their services by information and communication of the long-term benefits of the economically, environmentally and socially responsible decision making to improve the overall welfare of the region. 		
Website: http://ekosistemas.daba.gov.lv		

LIFE REstore	LIFE 14 CCM/LV/1103	Contact: Kaspars Pabērzs
Project: Sustainable and responsible management and re-use of degraded peatlands in Latvia		
About: Peatland drainage was carried out in Latvia throughout the Soviet era, up to the 1990s. This contributed to the degradation of natural ecosystems and resulted in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from areas that previously stored large amounts of carbon (carbon sinks). According to		

unofficial studies, in 1991, there were about 55 000 ha of peat extraction fields in various stages of exploitation in Latvia. Currently, peat extraction licences are issued for about 25 000 ha, with areas where activities have not been carried out for at least 20 years forming an additional 20 000 ha. A general lowering of the water table prevents the natural re-vegetation of these areas. Appropriate, sustainable, and integrated management of these peatlands is therefore required to protect ecosystem services and to reduce further GHG emissions. Among the project objectives is to develop a decision support tool for lands re-use planning in degraded peatland areas, which achieves an optimal balance between ecological restoration for biodiversity, economic benefits and GHG emission reductions. The project will conduct an ecosystems services impact assessment for degraded peatlands.

Website: www.restore.daba.gov.lv

CAP LIFE LAT	LIFE 14 CAP/LV/002	Contact: Zane Pūpola and Jānis Vēbers
Project: Capacity building for LIFE programme implementation in Latvia		
About: The strategic vision of CAP LIFE LAT is to increase the number of Latvian LIFE projects applied, to increase their success rate at the European LIFE competitions and support a high-level implementation quality leading to new proposals.		
Website: http://www.lvafa.gov.lv/life		

Amsterdam Dunes	LIFE 11 NAT/NL/776	Contact: Luc Geelen
Project: Amsterdam Dunes – source for nature – dune habitat restoration project		
About: Since 1850 the habitats of the Natura 2000 pSCI 'Kennemerland-Zuid' deteriorated notably in size and quality by desiccation due to water extraction, from air pollution, acidification and eutrophication through nitrogen deposition. This has led to wide-spread grass and shrub encroachments and accumulation of nitrogen rich organic matter in the topsoil. This caused even further deterioration of the habitats. From 1957, the water extraction was reduced and replaced by infiltration of purified water of the Rhine. This restored the hydrological balance of the site. The main objective of the project is to rehabilitate the priority dune habitat types. As part of the project they produced a 'Quick Scan' assessment of the ecosystem services provided by the dune systems featuring water extraction, nature conservation, recreation & coastal protection.		
Website: www.waternet.nl/life		

LIFE+ Laurissilva Sustentável	LIFE 07 NAT/P/630	Contact: Azucena de la Cruz
Project: Recovery, conservation and sustainable management of the priority habitats of Serra da Tonqueira/Graminhais Plateau		
About: This project objective was to enable the future management of native habitats and control of alien invasive species by establishing the basic needs: a nursery dedicated to the production of native plants for conservation purposes and a team of qualified people that can launch a programme for alien species control for the management of natural sites. This will also be ensured in a sustainable way due to the creation of the network of protected areas. This was made possible through the promotion of economic activities that depend of the maintenance of the rich local natural heritage and that could contribute to the continuity of the conservation efforts after the end		

of the LIFE project. Also helping local producers developing products or services that could benefit the conservation of the area or economically support these efforts (like handcraft, gastronomy, tourism, etc).

Website: <http://life-laurissilva.spea.pt>

LIFE Rich Waters	LIFE 15 IPE/SE/015	Contact: Gerda Kinell and Sara Bergek
Project: Integrated approach to mobilise resources for resilient ecosystems and rich waters in the Northern Baltic Sea River Basin District		
About: The LIFE IP Rich waters project aims to boost the full implementation of the RBMP 2016-2021, and achieve the EU environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), which requires good status of all waters. These aims will be achieved through policy instrument measures listed in the RBMP's programme of measures that have the greatest potential to contribute to the achievement of the objectives in the RBMP. It will also be achieved by carrying out concrete and capacity building measures that support the adoption of common approaches and best practices, as well as innovative measures. The main areas addressed by the project are water planning, eutrophication, connectivity and environmental pollutants.		
Website: not available as of 25/04/2017		

CSP	LIFE 11 ENV/UK/392	Contact: Travis O'Doherty
Project: Celtic Seas Partnership: Stakeholder driven integrated management of the Celtic Seas marine region		
About: This project will support the implementation of EU environmental and maritime policy, using a stakeholder-led approach to contribute to the development of marine strategies, particularly under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) for the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine waters. This is a favoured action under the 'Water' theme of EC LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance. Under the Water priority, the project will also contribute to the implementation of the principles of the EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. In amongst other important initiatives the project has one action dedicated to developing a way forward for assessing ecosystem services in the Celtic Seas Region. The final product and recommendations can be downloaded from the website.		
Website: www.celticseaspartnership.eu		

NaturEtrade	LIFE 12 ENV/UK/473	Contact: Peter Long
Project: Creating a market place for ecosystem services		
About: In the EU, around 1500 ha of biodiverse land are lost every day to changes in infrastructure and urbanisation. The implications of this land conversion are serious; it directly affects key ecosystem services supporting climate change, natural infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources (EEA, 2010). This project aims to demonstrate a novel approach to enable EU landowners to quickly assess the ecological potential of their land in terms of the ecosystem services that it provides, and then trade these services. There are five interlinked project objectives:		

1. Creation of a web-based tool that can assess the uploaded parcels of land anywhere in the EU and determine the ecological potential /ecosystem services that they contain;
2. Establishment of a web-based trading platform, where parcels of land and the ecosystem services they provide can be traded;
3. Development of standard contracts/a land verification system and an economic structure of the trading platform;
4. Dissemination of the ecosystem service tool and marketplace to sellers and buyers in order to make this approach sustainable and raise awareness amongst landowners and businesses of environmental concerns and policies;
5. Determination of whether innovative techniques and tools for measurement and trading of ecosystems services can reduce loss of ecologically diverse land in Europe by monitoring four case-study regions and comparing the amount of land-use change in these regions before and after the tools and technologies have been introduced.

Website: www.naturetrade.ox.ac.uk

Cumbrian Bogs LIFE+	LIFE 13 NAT/UK/443	Contact: Chris Kaighin and Jane Lusardi
Project: Restoration of degraded lowland raised bogs on three Cumbria SCI/SACs		
<p>About: Lowland raised bogs are a threatened habitat in England and all the sites have been damaged by past operations such as local peat winning, landscape-scale peat extraction via surface milling and land drainage to facilitate agricultural conversion. This project proposes to tackle areas where the restoration process of Habitat 7120- Degraded raised bog capable of natural regeneration needs to be started in order to achieve Favourable SAC conservation status within the expected 30 year period. The project has made excellent progress with the assessment of the socio-economic impact of the project and its contribution to ecosystem function restoration. The project worked with NE specialists in ecosystem services, economics and hydrology to develop a brief for external consultants to complete.</p>		
Website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumbrian-bogs-life-project		

EcoCo LIFE	LIFE 13 BIO/UK/428	Contact: Paul Sizeland
Project: Implementation of integrated habitat networks to improve ecological coherence across the CSGN		
<p>About: Habitat fragmentation is recognised as one of the major challenges facing the conservation of habitats and species in a changing climate, which is also fundamental to the continued and improved provision of ecosystem goods and services. The project will address habitat fragmentation through identifying some of the most beneficial places within the CSGN to implement habitat restoration, creation and improvement opportunities. Management will include a suite of concrete conservation activities to make habitats better connected, more diverse, and improved in quality and functionality across landscapes. This will improve the CSGN area's ecological coherence, and the resilience of habitats and species in a changing climate. In the targeting of improvements to ecological coherence, the project will seek to deliver multifunctional benefits. The development of the project's ecological coherence protocol will take account of these directives and aim to implement habitat management restoration to improve ecological coherence which will also improve the ecological status of water bodies (through, for example, reducing diffuse pollution impacts) and to reduce flooding (e.g. by managing riparian zones to retain more water run off). The</p>		

project has developed a monitoring framework for assessing ecosystem function impacts in the management zones, this includes a set of indicators.

Website: www.ecocolife.org.uk

BureLIFE	LIFE 14 NAT/UK/054	Contact: Cordelia Spalding
Project: Bringing the Bure back to LIFE: Hoverton wetland restoration project		
<p>About: The main aim of this project is to restore the naturally eutrophic lake habitat (H3150) to a biodiverse, clear-water state whilst minimising the carbon footprint of the project. The restoration work will also benefit priority Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> habitat (H7210*), species such as otter (S1355) as well as its SPA condition and in particular its assemblage of water fowl including wigeon (A050), gadwall (A051) and shoveler (A051). Project is currently carrying out baseline surveys to inform the assessment and act as a comparison once the interventions are completed.</p>		
Website: http://hovetongreatbroad.org.uk/		

MoorLIFE 2020	LIFE 14 NAT/UK/070	Contact: Matt Buckler
Project: MoorLIFE 2020		
<p>About: The aim of this project is to conserve and protect of the EU priority habitat Active Blanket Bog (ABB) within the South Pennine Moors SAC and the ecosystem services it provides. Among the objectives are to safeguard ABB through promotion of land management appropriate to the protection of ABB; responsible enjoyment of ABB and reducing the threat of wildfire to ABB. This will be done through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a land management advisor role and programme of events and communication materials to engage with the full range of land owners and managers on managing the SPM SAC with regard for the protection of the ABB and its ecosystem services. • Delivery of an innovative and diverse programme of communication events, materials and campaigns to engage with the public, local communities, and visitors to the SAC about the value and importance of ABB and the role they can play in looking after this habitat. <p>The ecosystem services and socio-economic assessments will be carried out by external consultants.</p>		
Website: http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife2020		