



Commission proposal for a new LIFE Regulation 2014-2020

EU Funding for the Environment and
Climate Action

12 December 2011





Structure of the Presentation

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2. Objectives
3. Structure
4. Work Programmes
5. Types of Funding
6. Territorial Scope
7. Simplification
8. Management
9. Calendar for adoption





1. Context: the Multi annual Financial Framework (June 2011)

- ➔ **Environment and Climate Action are integral part of all interventions and instruments**
- ➔ **However, mainstreaming does not address all environment and climate needs**
- ➔ **Thus, the need for a Specific Instrument – LIFE**
- ➔ **Budget €2.400m for Environment and €800m for Climate Action**





1. Context: Impact Assessment

- LIFE is a successful instrument
- EU Action for Environment & Climate is necessary
- Better Thematic Prioritisation is needed
- Further simplification is possible
- Management can be improved





2. Objectives of the LIFE Programme

- LIFE should be used as a **catalyst**;
- LIFE should promote **implementation** and **integration** of environment and climate objectives in other policies and Member State practice, including mainstreaming;
- LIFE should contribute to the improvement and dissemination of **knowledge-base**;
- Emphasis will also be placed on **better governance**;
- Specific link to **EU priorities**: resource efficiency, biodiversity loss and climate adaptation and mitigation





3. Structure

- **Creation of two sub-programmes:**
 - LIFE sub-programme for Environment
 - LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action





3. Structure

→ **LIFE sub-programme for Environment: three priority areas**

- *Environment & Resource Efficiency*
- *Biodiversity*
- *Environmental Governance & Information*





3. Structure

→ **LIFE sub-programme for Environment: three priority areas**

- *Environment & Resource Efficiency:*
 - shift focus towards implementation through **Integrated Projects** (waste, water, air);
 - Includes a specific objective in relation to **Resource efficiency**;
 - **Development, test and demonstration** of policy approaches, best practices and solutions to environmental problems;
 - **Private sector oriented market-replication excluded** (to be covered under Horizon 2020)



3. Structure

→ **LIFE sub-programme for Environment: three priority areas**

▪ *Biodiversity:*

- focused on Natura2000 (in particular Integrated projects to implement Prioritised Action Frameworks);
- and the implementation of EU Biodiversity Strategy2020;
- best practice and demonstration for nature and biodiversity
- 50% of resources allocated to projects under the sub-programme for Environment





3. Structure

→ LIFE sub-programme for Environment: three priority areas

- *Environmental Governance & Information:*
 - Supports information and awareness raising **projects** and activities and facilitates **knowledge sharing**;
 - Supports cooperation **Networks**, and best practices for **enforcement and compliance**;
 - Promotes better governance and supports **environmental NGOs**.





3. Structure

→ **LIFE Climate Action: three priority areas**

- LIFE Climate Mitigation
- LIFE Climate Adaptation
- LIFE Climate Governance & Information





4. Multi Annual Work Programmes

→ **Balance between bottom-up and top-down in programming:**

- Closer links to Union policy priorities
- Shift from a pure bottom-up approach to a flexible top-down approach
- Work programmes valid for at least two years
- These will cover e.g., priorities, allocation of resources between interventions, and targets for the period – not exhaustive





5. Types of Funding

- Action Grants, both traditional and larger, integrated projects
- Operating Grants
- Other types of Funding (e.g., studies, conferences, etc.)
- Possibility to make contributions to innovative financial instruments



5. Types of Funding

➔ **Integrated Projects:**

- Aiming at **implementation of plans, programmes or strategies** required by EU environmental or climate legislation or pursuant to other acts or developed by MS authorities;
- **Larger scale**, e.g., regional, multiregional, national;
- **Primarily in the areas** of nature, water, waste, air, climate mitigation and adaptation
- Integrated projects shall ensure **geographical balance** in line with the principles of responsibility sharing and solidarity
- **Sustainability** will be important as well as **mobilisation of other EU funds**



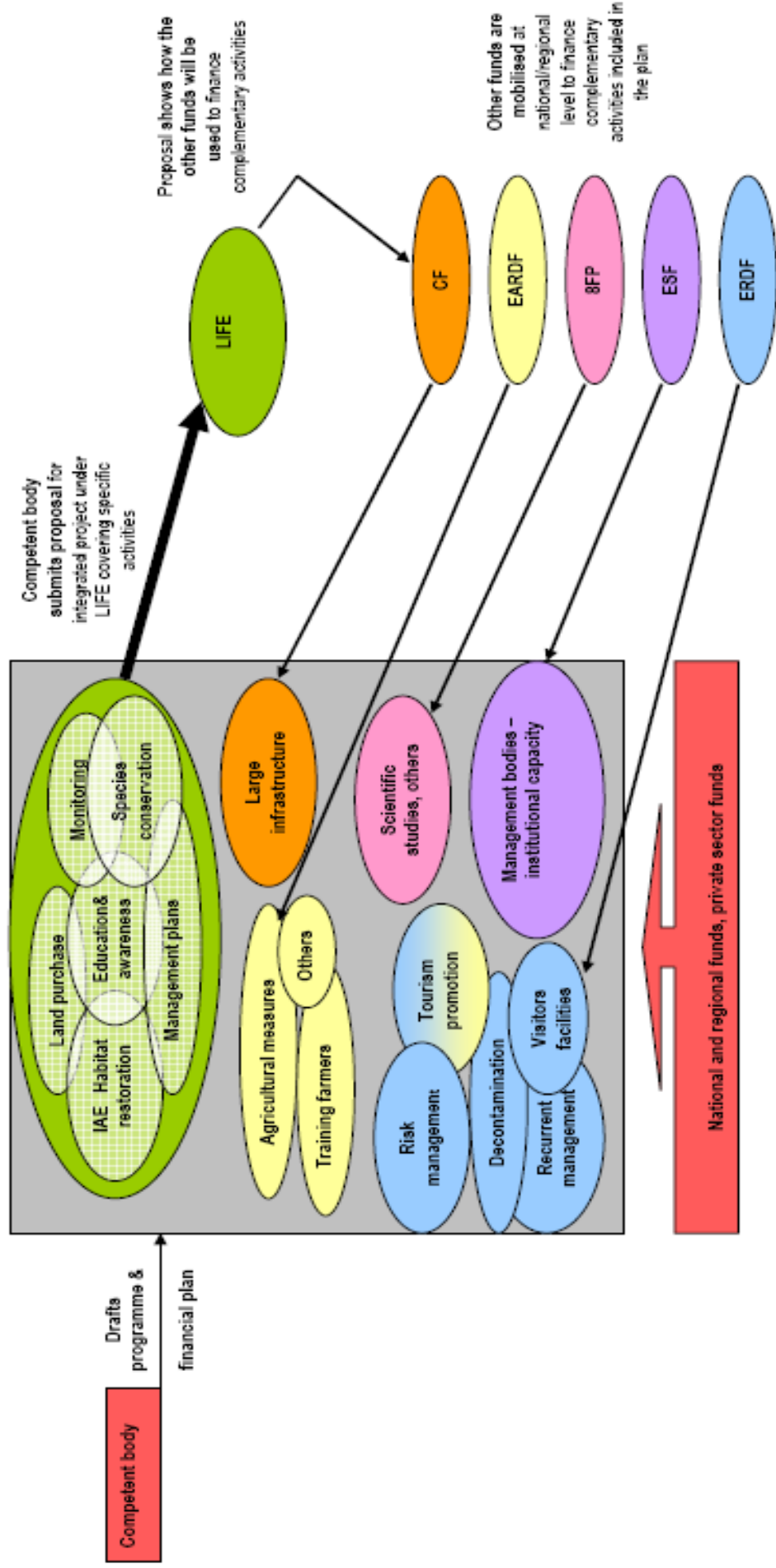


Integrated Project - Nature

- A Region develops a Regional Programme for Natura2000 covering all 10 sites under its jurisdiction
- It identifies a range of management and conservation activities.
- The region then identifies the financial needs for the implementation of these activities and submits a proposal for a LIFE Integrated Project.
- This project clearly specifies the activities or group of activities among those included in the programme that will be financed by LIFE (e.g. the restoration and connectivity activities, capacity building, awareness raising).
- In addition, it presents evidence on how it will use other funds (e.g. from EARDF, ERDF, private) to implement the complementary measures included in the programme (compensation payments, correction of power lines, infrastructure etc).



Programme for the management of Natura2000 sites in Region X*



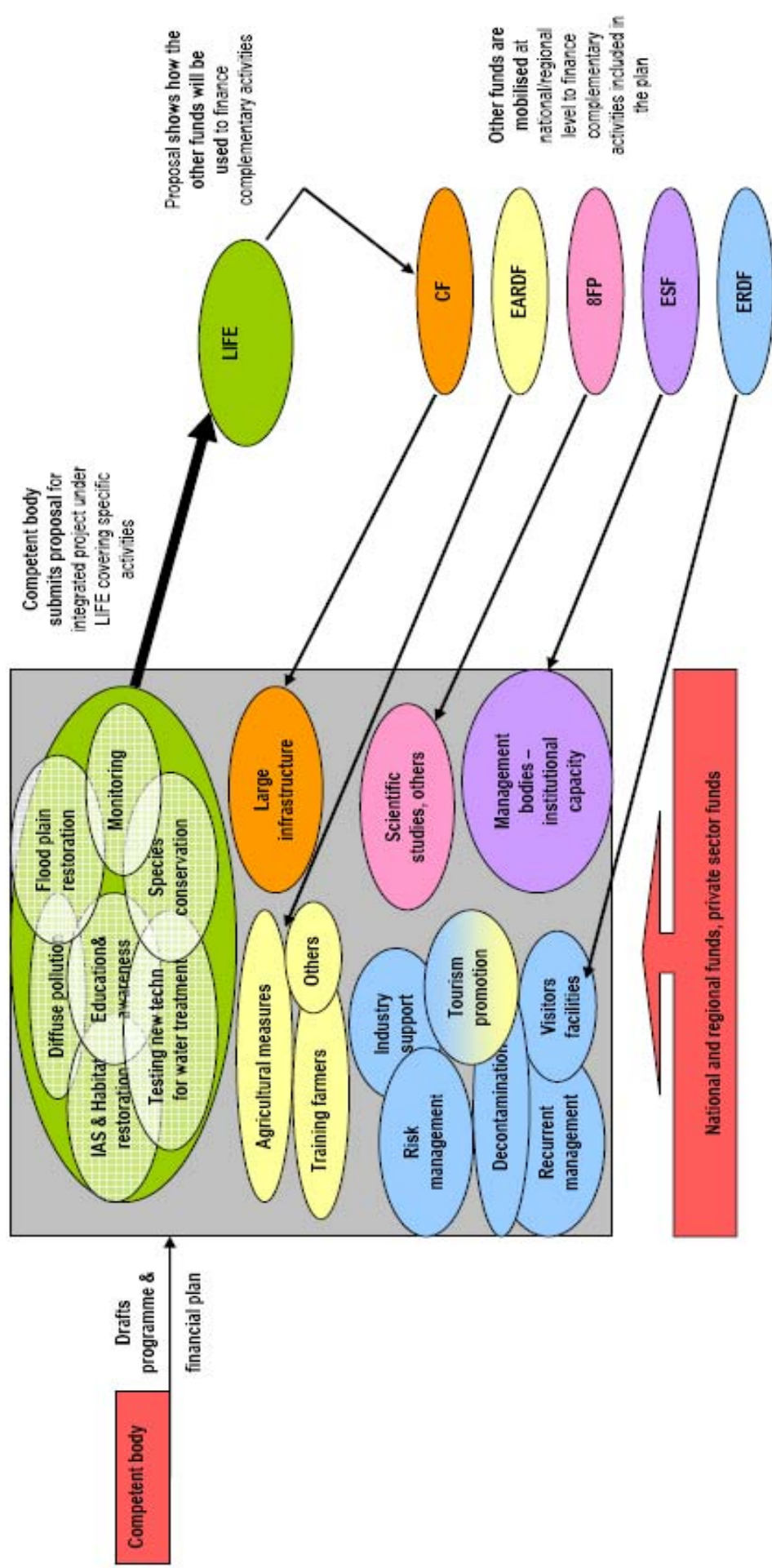


Integrated Project - Water

- A Competent Authority for a River Basin develops a River Basin Management Plan according to the requirements of the WFD.
- The Competent Authority submits, together with the most relevant associated bodies/organisations, a proposal for a LIFE Integrated Project.
- This project clearly specifies the measures/activities or group of measures/activities among those included in the River Basin Management Plan (and programme of measures) that will be financed by LIFE (e.g. removal of obstacles for river connectivity to improve fish migration, development of monitoring methods, awareness raising, partnerships etc.).
- In addition, it presents evidence on how it will use other available funds (e.g. from ERDF, EARDF, public, private) to implement the complementary measures included in the programme (compensations payments, infrastructure etc).



*River Basin Management Plan for Basin X and financial plan **





6. Territorial Scope

- Possible Participation of **Third Countries** (as per current LIFE+)
- Possible Co-operation with **International Organisations** (e.g., international studies such as TEEB)
- **Activities outside the Union** in exceptional cases
 - Action outside the EU is indispensable to achieve EU environmental/climate objectives; **or**
 - To ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the MS; **and**
 - The Coordinating beneficiary is based in the EU



7. Simplification

- ➔ Lighter Procedures
- ➔ Improved use of IT tools
and larger projects
- ➔ Simplified rules on
eligibility of costs





8. Management

- Centrally Managed: The management of the programme remains at EU level
- Possible use of Executive Agency
- But maintain important link with Policy





9. Calendar for adoption

→ Indicative calendar:

- **12/12/2011:** Adoption Commission proposal for a new LIFE Regulation
- **19/12/ 2011:** First Presentation of the Draft Regulation at the Environment Council
- **2012-2013:** Co-Decision Procedure to adopt a Regulation





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