EU Funding for Environment

A handbook for the 2007–13 programming period

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WWF, April 2005

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1st edition: 500 copies

Also available for downloading from
www.panda.org/epo

Published by:
WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature
(formerly World Wildlife Fund),
Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Prepared by:
Constantinos Liarikos, WWF-Greece
Dirk Schubert, Nova Institute, Germany
Stefanie Lang,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels
Andreas Beckmann,
WWF-Danube Carpathian Programme
Etienne Aulotte
Peter Torkler, WWF-Germany

With input from:
Alberto M. Arroyo Schnell
Eva Royo Gelabert,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels
Stephan Singer,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels
Mariangiola Fabbri,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels
Elizabeth Guttenstein,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels
Sian Pullen, WWF-International
Paloma Agrasot,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels
Stefanie Schmidt, WWF-Germany
Guy Beaufoy, IDRiSi, Spain

Transport section
of chapter 2 and 3 in cooperation with:
Viviane Raddatz,
BUND-Friends of the Earth Germany, Berlin
Kai Steffen, ITDP Europe, Berlin

Editing:
Stefanie Lang, **Andreas Beckmann**,
Peter Torkler
Graphics and Layout:
Michal Stránský
Printing:
Printed in Poland **by reproart**
on recycled paper

I am pleased to welcome this *WWF Handbook on the use of Regional Funds 2007–13*.

The partnership principle in the management and operation of the cohesion policy has proved to be highly valuable, and this extends to involving environmental NGOs. WWF has proved to be an exceptionally good partner not only by bringing to the Commission's attention when problem conflicts might arise, but also in being proactive as in the case of this Handbook.

I strongly wish that it will create even better partnerships in the future period, and thank the authors wholeheartedly.

Claude Rouam
Head of Unit Cohesion Policy and Environmental Impacts DG Environment,
European Commission

Foreword

WWF has long recognised the importance of the European Union's regional, agriculture and rural development as well as other funds for the environment. With over € 80 billion expenditure each year spread across the 25 European Union member states, the funds have an enormous potential to cause environmental damage. WWF national organisations working closely with other environmental NGOs have had to be constantly vigilant over the past 15 years to see that the funds are spent wisely. NGOs like WWF have been the watchdogs to make sure that EU funded programmes follow all the European environmental conditions, for instance complying with environmental impact assessments as laid down in the structural fund regulations.

But there is another potential impact for the environment and nature conservation which is a much more positive one. The 1999 structural fund regulations for the first time recognised that the funds could be used for the *protection and improvement* of the environment (emphasis added). This change in wording was extremely significant – for the first time the doors were open to local and regional authorities and national governments to start putting forward environmental and nature programme proposals which meet the European Union's cohesion policy objectives set out in the Treaty. At the same time, agricultural support has been gradually reformed not only to reduce impacts on the environment, but also to open new opportunities for financing environmental priorities.

A new round of EU Funds programming for the 2007–13 period is already in full swing. And a whole new set of beneficiary countries and regions will participate for the first time in a complete programming cycle. With this in mind, the WWF network of national and local organisations as well as partners across Europe has worked together over the last 8 months to bring together examples of the types of environmental and nature conservation actions which could be eligible for EU expenditure. These are the programmes that, when implemented, will actually deliver the Union's water, nature, energy, fisheries and related environmental objectives.

This is a practical guide to programming for the EU regional and rural development as well as fisheries funds. It is designed to be helpful for national and regional officials and other agencies drawing up and designing programmes for on the ground implementation in the fields of environment and nature protection. Please let us know if the manual meets its objectives – and what can be done to improve and expand future versions.

Tony Long

Director
WWF-European Policy Office
Brussels, April 2005

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INTRODUCTION

What is at stake?

The extent to which EU member states manage to implement key EU environmental policies, halt biodiversity loss and climate change, and achieve long-term sustainable development will in large part depend on money. Key decisions are now being made regarding the future use of EU and, through co-financing, national funds, which have the potential to act as a key lever for achieving these aims.

The regulations proposed by the European Commission for the most relevant EU funding instruments contain more possibilities for financing environmental and conservation priorities than ever before. Nevertheless, the inclusion and integration of environmental priorities in programming and actual spending is an option, not an obligation for the individual EU member states. However many opportunities are included in the final EU regulations, it will depend largely on decisions made on programming for the use of these funds at national and sub-national levels that will determine which if any of these opportunities are in fact seized.

Those decisions are being made now. Although the regulations for the proposed EU funds have yet to be finalised, the process of programming for eventual use of these funds has already begun in all of the 27 existing and future EU member states in order to be able to draw on funds from January 1, 2007.

In short: what is at stake is the future availability of EU and national financing for environment and nature conservation. Programming for future use of billions of euro from EU and national funds is happening now, and it is of crucial importance that environmental actors – from environmental authorities to NGOs – are closely involved in this process. This handbook should help them.

Who is this handbook for?

This handbook is intended for all stakeholders working for the integration of environmental and nature conservation concerns into EU funding policy for the next programming period 2007–2013, including especially:

- environmental authorities at national and regional levels
- other authorities that are involved in co-ordinating EU funding for the environmental sector
- environmental NGOs or regional initiatives

What is this handbook for?

The new draft regulations for EU funds include many explicit as well as implicit opportunities to fund environment and nature conservation. This handbook will help identify these opportunities, and presents ideas for potential measures and projects to be developed in the next programming cycle in the field of nature protection (Natura 2000), water management (Water Framework Directive), energy (energy efficiency and renewable energies) and sustainable transport.

The handbook focuses on the main EU funding instruments proposed by the Commission that are of greatest relevance for funding these needs, including the Structural and Cohesion Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Fund for Fisheries, and the Financial Instrument for the Environment.

The handbook will help to:

- analyse and grasp the funding potential of the EU regulation drafts
- link activities to funding options
- identify possibilities for combining and co-ordinating support across different funding sources
- present successful examples in order to suggest ideas for measures and projects

What does this handbook not offer?

This handbook does not provide ready to use project proposals for the next funding period. It presents a selection of opportunities for environmental financing contained in the initial draft regulations for the different EU funds. It is thus neither definitive, nor comprehensive, as the final range of financing opportunities within the EU regulations will depend on the agreement finally found between the Council and Parliament. The handbook also does not present financing opportunities available at the national level, which will depend not only on the final form of the regulations agreed at EU level but also, and especially, on the final form of national and regional programming for the use of the funds.

WWF and EU Funds

WWF has for many years been involved in the design and implementation of EU Funds in Brussels as well as at the national and sub-national levels. The organisation works on the issues through a series of teams focussed on funds and thematic issues, including Regional Funds, Rural Development, Natura 2000, Water Framework Directive, and Climate Change, and covering most countries of the enlarged EU from Portugal to Poland, and Belgium to Bulgaria.

For further information on WWF's activities on these issues, please see:
www.panda.org/epo

1. THE PROPOSED EU FUNDS REGULATIONS FOR 2007–13

The aim of this chapter is to give a general overview of the proposed regulations and the funding possibilities for the environment and nature protection.

General Overview

In July 2004, the European Commission adopted a series of legislative proposals with regard to regional and rural development, fisheries, and environment. The following table provides an overview of these proposals including their objectives and priorities, the proposed funding instruments as well as foreseen allocations of funding.

Table 1: Funding 2007–13 – European Commission proposals (2004)

Area	Objectives / Priorities	Eligibility / Instruments	Allocation (in billions of €)
Cohesion Policy[1]	Economic and social cohesion		336.1
	• Convergence	Least-developed regions/ ERDF, ESF, CF	264.0
	• Regional Competitiveness and employment	Outside least-developed regions/ ERDF, ESF	57.9
	• Territorial Cooperation	Outside least-developed regions/ ERDF, ESF	13.2
	• Technical assistance	Monitoring, evaluation, management and pilot measures	1
Rural Development[2]	Sustainable rural development		88.75
	• Competitiveness (agriculture/forestry)	All rural areas/EAFRD	> 13.3 (15%)
	• Land management/Environment		> 22.2 (25%)
	• Wider rural economy		> 13.3 (15%)
	• LEADER	Selected territories/EAFRD	> 6.21 (7%)
Fisheries[3]	• Sustainable development of fisheries sector and management	Fisheries sector and coastal fishing areas/EFF	4.96
	• Implementation of the CFP Reform	Second Instrument to be proposed	2.64
Environment[4]	Development and implementation of environment policy and legislation		2.19
	• Implementation/Governance	EU-wide/Financial Instrument for Environment (LIFE+)	1.65 (75–80%)
	• Information/Communication		0.4 (20–25%)

1 Proposals for the
- General provisions on Structural and Cohesion Funds, COM(2004)492 final
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), COM(2004) 495 final
- European Social Fund (ESF), COM(2004) 493 final
- Cohesion Fund (CF), COM(2004) 494 final
- European grouping of cross-border cooperation (EGCC), COM(2004) 496 final

2 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), COM(2004) 490 final

3 European Fund for Fisheries (EFF), COM(2004) 497 final

4 Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+), COM(2004) 621 final

Before these proposals are investigated from the perspective of nature conservation and environment, the two following points must be underlined:

- The documents mentioned constitute the initial legislative proposals that have been proposed by the European Commission, which are currently being discussed in the European Council as well as the European Parliament, and thus indirectly by the Member States, before final adoption. Changes will almost certainly be made during the negotiations that are taking place during 2005. Nevertheless, the planning process in some Member States has already begun. Therefore, in order to be a competent partner in the planning process, environmental actors must ensure that they are well informed about changes and new opportunities as these develop.
- The financial perspective sets the overall ceiling for all Community spending for the period 2007–13, to be agreed by the European Parliament and the Council. As in the past, the European Commission has suggested fixing the ceiling at 1.24% of Gross National Income (GNI). However, some Member States – the net payers – would prefer to keep the ceiling lower, limiting the overall budget to 1% GNI. If these Member States get their way, proposed budgets will need to be cut, and this could significantly impact the funding opportunities available for environment.

Overview of funding possibilities for the environment

The approach that the European Commission has taken for environmental financing for the funding period 2007–13 relies on the relatively small Financial Instrument for Environment (so-called LIFE+) that is specifically dedicated to environment, and otherwise relies on integrating environmental aspects into other major funding areas. It is therefore important to assess the funding possibilities for the environment in all the proposed funding areas and instruments.

In doing this, it must be kept in mind that recognition of funding possibilities in the proposed EU Funds is mostly an exercise of bringing together experience of past implementation and expert knowledge from the described funding issues. In many cases there is considerable room for interpretation, which should be encouraged. The room for interpretation has its limits, and in this respect it is helpful to always have in mind the primary goals and scope of assistance of the different instruments.

Table 2: Objectives and scope of assistance of the proposed EU funding instruments

Instrument	Purpose/Objectives/Mission	Scope of assistance
ERDF European Regional Development Fund	Reducing regional disparities and supporting structural development and adjustment of regional economies. Strengthening competitiveness and innovation, creating sustainable jobs, and promoting environmentally sound growth.	• Productive investment • Infrastructure • Other development initiatives (services to enterprises, financing instruments…) • Environmental protection • Cooperation
ESF European Social Fund	Full employment, improving quality and productivity at work and promoting social inclusion and the reduction of regional disparities in employment. Strong link to the European Employment Strategy.	• Adaptability of workers and enterprises • Access to employment of job seekers and inactive people • Reinforcing social inclusion • Investment in human capital • Strengthening institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations • Innovative actions and cooperation
CF Cohesion Fund	Convergence of least developed Member States.	• Trans-European transport networks • Environmental projects • Sustainable development with clear environmental benefits: Energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean urban transport
EAFRD European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	Sustainable rural development throughout the Community. Restructuring of the agricultural sector.	• Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry • Improving the environment and the countryside • Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity.
EFF[5] European Fund for Fisheries	Sustainable development of the fisheries sector and coastal fisheries zones.	• Measures for the adjustment of Community fishing fleet • Aquaculture, processing, and trade of fisheries • Measures of collective interest • Sustainable development of fishing coastal zones
LIFE+ Financial Instrument for Environment	Development and implementation of Community environment policy and of environmental legislation, as a contribution to promoting sustainable development.	• Implementation and Governance of environmental policy • Information and Communication on environmental issues

With this overview of the general objectives and scope of assistance of the different funding instruments in mind, the following table provides a first orientation among the funding possibilities for the environment and nature conservation. A more detailed description of the funding possibilities is included in chapter 3.

5 The EU Fisheries Policy proposes two instruments: the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), which is focused on the restructuring of the fisheries sector and the development of coastal areas dependent on fisheries; and another instrument, to be made available in April 2005, which would gather together all the areas where the Common Fisheries Policy needs finance to support its reform, including control measures, scientific advice and technical data, international fisheries agreements, etc. The amount proposed for the two instruments is € 7.6 billion for the 2007–13 period, of which € 4.9 billion are for the European Fisheries Fund.

Table 3: Overview of environmental funding possibilities

	Direct (targeted towards the environment)								Indirect (integration into other sectors / areas)							
	Environmental "Clean-up"	Environmental infrastructure	Water management	Biodiversity / Natura 2000	Energy efficiency/renewables	Environmental capacity building	Environmental awareness raising	Natural risk prevention	Sustainable transport	Sustainable tourism	Sustainable agriculture and forestry	Sustainable fisheries	Industry/clean technologies	Innovation/R&D	Qualification/social inclusion	Health/Quality of life
ERDF																
• Convergence	C	C	?	C	C		C	C	C	C			C	C	C	C
• Competitiveness	C		?	C	C			C	C				C	C		
• Cooperation	?	C	C	P		C		C	C	C				C		C
ESF																
• Convergence						C	?								C	C
• Competitiveness						C	?								C	C
Cohesion Fund	?	C	?	?	C				C							
EAFRD		P	P	C		C	C	C		C	C				C	C
EFF				P		P	P			P		C			C	P
LIFE+			?	?	?	C	C									?

C = clear | P = possibly | ? = uncertain

2. IDENTIFYING FUNDING NEEDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The purpose of the following sections is to present a selection of the most important cost items as identified by experts from WWF as well as BUND and ITDP for four major environmental issues: the operation of the Natura 2000 network, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the achievement of energy saving/CO_2 reduction targets, and the development of sustainable transport schemes.

For all four issues, cost items have been tabulated under the same three major cost categories reflecting the need for "soft" investments related to policy implementation and management as well as "hard" investments in infrastructure:

- **Framework for management and administration**, i.e. all those costs that are not related to sites/operation and concern the establishment of policy and administrative structures as well as preparing administration for new responsibilities.
- **Operation and monitoring**, including those items that are site/operation specific and concern ongoing management and related costs.
- **Infrastructure**, including installation of new infrastructure or improvement or renewal of existing infrastructure needed for achieving environmental objectives.

The cost items presented under each category and for each of the four environmental issues are by no means exhaustive; rather, they should be understood as only an indicative list of necessary investments, and are presented here to highlight the potential of each fund to contribute to financing environmental and conservation needs. Note that very general cost lines (e.g. networking in the Natura 2000 section) are listed side-by-side with very specific cost items (e.g. preparation of management plans, under the same heading). In this way, an attempt has been made to deal with a full range of funding needs and opportunities, and to present some underlining logic that can be projected to other issues as well.

Funding nature conservation (Natura 2000)

Europe's safety net. In response to the precipitous loss of species of plants and animals, European leaders in the early 1990s adopted the Habitats and Birds Directives, which called into life the Natura 2000 network of specially protected areas. The twin directives are central to the EU's aim of halting biodiversity loss by 2010: they are the cornerstone of EU conservation policy, one of four priority issues of the EU's Sixth Environmental Action Programme, and a key instrument for achieving long-term sustainable development, as called for by EU leaders at the Gothenburg Summit and enshrined in the EU Constitution.

After more than a decade of preparations to identify and designate Natura 2000 sites, the challenge now is to actually implement the network. This will require financing and political will. According to the European Commission's Communication on Financing Natura 2000[6], an estimated € 6.1 billion per annum will be needed to implement the Natura 2000 network across the enlarged EU – probably a conservative estimate.

In the Communication, the Commission has proposed that the majority of support for implementation of the Natura 2000 network should come from EU and national funds for agriculture and regional development – an approach that could provide the necessary funding for Natura 2000 as well as contribute to the reform and long-term sustainability of agriculture and regional development support.

The Financial Instrument for Environment, which the Commission has proposed as the only fund specifically dedicated to financing environment, would, according to the Communication, provide modest yet important support as a "gap-filler", covering those essential items that cannot be covered by the larger funds. Unfortunately, the flexible approach taken by the Commission in proposing the Financial Instrument for Environment makes it difficult to judge to what extent this will actually be the case in practice (please see chapter 3 for further discussion of the Financial Instrument for Environment).

A major gap in financing is expected to lie in marine areas. The Commission's initial proposal for the European Fisheries Fund does not include specific mention of Natura 2000, though some of the proposed articles of the regulation could provide limited support for some aspects of implementation, as described in chapter 3.

Tables 4 to 6 below outline the most important cost items related to financing Natura 2000 together with brief explanation of their content.[7] Note that the tables do not include mention of costs relevant to wetlands and rivers, as these are included with the Water Framework Directive costs presented in the next section.

6 Communication from the Commission on Financing Natura 2000 (COM(2004)431 final)

7 Information is drawn from a report commissioned by WWF, Financing Natura 2000 (Alberto M. Arroyo Schnell, 2004), which examined lists of cost items for Natura 2000 developed by the Commission's Article 8 Working Group (Markland et al, 2004) and included in the Commission's Communication on Financing Natura 2000 as well as input from staff of WWF and partner organisations.

Table 4: Framework for management and administration

Cost item	Content
Adaptation of legislation	Studies, coordination between authorities.
Establishment of management bodies	Start-up funding, feasibility studies, management plans, etc.
Administration costs	Staff costs, consumables, travel expenses, rents, leases, etc.
Training and capacity building	Handbooks, seminars, workshops, communication materials.
Awareness raising activities and environmental education	Costs incurred for the organisation of meetings and workshops, the publication of awareness and information materials, setting-up and maintenance of internet pages, etc.
Visitor management measures/activities	Guides, maps, personnel.
Public participation systems	Communication networks, production of newsletters and/or consultation outcomes, communication material, financial support to stakeholders, etc.
Networking activities	Travel, meetings, workshops, etc.
Preparation and review of management plans for sites or species	Elaboration and/or update of management and action plans, land use plans etc.
Measures and activities to carry out appropriate assessments for measuring condition and impact on environment	Costs relevant to coordination between authorities, the assemblage of indices and databases, monitoring activities, etc.
Scientific studies, inventories, mapping	Studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, assembly of databases, etc.

Table 5: Operation and monitoring

Cost Item	Content
Surveillance, wardening and patrolling activities	Personnel, consumables, travel, etc. in order to implement surveillance and guarding activities, including among others surveillance for the control of harmful recreational activities (motorised sports, hunting, etc), the control of harmful economic activities (drilling, building, dredging, fishing, coastal defenses, etc.) and protection against wildfires.
Monitoring systems	Monitoring plans, personnel, travel, consumables, equipment.
Habitats and species conservation, management and restoration measures	Restoration work, infrastructure, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific vegetation, plans.
Ex-situ conservation activities and re-introduction programmes	Costs for the ex-situ conservation of species, relevant research, setting-up of relevant infrastructures, etc.
Measures to ensure sustainable use of habitats and species	• *Agri-environmental measures*, e.g. low intensity production, extensive live-stock breeding, conservation of meadows, etc. • *Forest-environmental measures*, e.g. to control and/or eradicate alien species, afforestation or reforestation activities, management of specific vegetation, etc. • *Aqua-environmental measures*, e.g. fisheries management measures including use of selective gear, no-take zones, etc.
Compensatory payments	Costs of compensation e.g. to farmers, foresters, or other land owners or users for income foregone as a result of Natura 2000.
Trans-boundary projects	Entails the financing of cooperation schemes for the protection and management of trans-boundary resources and ecosystems.
Supporting and communicating pilot projects	Development of pilot projects demonstrating the positive effects of certain measures, and exemplifying management techniques.

Table 6: Infrastructure

Cost item	Content
Infrastructure maintenance	Running costs incurred to meet depreciation of infrastructure.
New infrastructures specific for the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species	Includes an array of measures for the creation of infrastructures specific to the management of the environment, e.g. for water management in peat bogs and mires.
Public use infrastructure	Infrastructure for public use that is conducive to environmental protection and management (e.g. infrastructure increasing the amenity value of sites, such as signage, trails, observation platforms and visitor centres.
Equipment acquisition	Includes the acquisition of equipment relevant to the running of protection and management institutions and actions, such as office and IT equipment, monitoring materials, cars, boats, diving equipment, cameras, etc.
Precautionary measures in sites still not designated (pSCI)	
Fire prevention, fire control and fire management measures	Includes the preparation of wardening and fire-control plans, the development of relevant infrastructures and the acquisition of equipment.
Mitigation measures for infrastructure affecting Natura 2000	Includes post-construction management measures, provision of corridors and passages for species and demolition activities where warranted.
Land purchase	Purchase of land in service of environmental protection and management schemes.

Funding freshwater conservation (Water Framework Directive)

Preserving Europe's waters – and much more. Adopted by the European Parliament and Council in December 2000, the Water Framework Directive is the cornerstone for EU water policy and significant to other areas as it provides a framework and tool for integrated river basin management. The aim of this Directive is to prevent "further deterioration" (i.e. not to make things worse) and achieve "good ecological and chemical status" (i.e. improve on current conditions) in all EU waters by December 2015[8].

The Water Framework Directive is innovative in that it brings a "holistic" and modern approach to water management across the EU: Integrated River Basin Management. This is based on the natural functioning of freshwater ecosystems, including wetlands and groundwater, as these are the source of freshwater on which people everywhere depend. It follows that management of river basins must include maintenance of ecosystem functions as a paramount goal. To ensure the continued delivery of associated socio-economic benefits, the needs and expectations of all 'water stakeholders' must be assessed jointly at the same river basin-wide level, and final decisions on water management must be based on the best possible information.

8 To learn more about the Water Framework Directive, please see Tips and tricks for Water Framework Directive implementation – A resource document for environmental NGOs on the EU guidance for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, EEB and WWF, March 2004, available at www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/what_we_do/policy_and_events/epo/initiatives/freshwater/publications/index.cfm

The implementation of the Water Framework Directive, which was supposed to be transposed into national legislation of all EU Member States by the end of 2003, consists of several planning cycles. The first extends for 15 years (from 2000 to 2015), while subsequent cycles take place every 6 years thereafter. During these cycles, River Basin Authorities – which are set up to manage the Water Framework Directive's individual River Basin Districts – will have to develop and implement a set of different tasks. In some cases these will be relevant to the organisation and capacity of the River Basin Authorities themselves. Other tasks comprise the analysis and characterisation of the original condition of River Basin Districts; the implementation of the actual water management measures needed to achieve the Water Framework Directive's environmental objectives; the establishment of sophisticated monitoring systems; the communication of the policy content and needs of the Directive's implementation process; and, very importantly, the establishment and operation of extensive public/stakeholder participatory procedures.

Each cycle culminates with the production of a River Basin Management Plan, which includes all the measures needed to prevent deterioration and achieve "good status". The first River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive should be finalised by 2009, with the first set of measures starting to apply in 2012.

Nevertheless, each planning cycle should not be regarded as a linear process, but rather as an iterative one, with different (internal) "reviewing" phases – reflecting the river basin dynamics – until a certain set of measures is codified in the River Basin Management Plans. Indeed, Member States should *"use the results [of previous analysis] to help identify and prioritise the appropriate and iterative follow-up actions for the next stages of the planning process"*[9]. Furthermore, the final River Basin Management Plans should not be "fixed in stone" as, after the first planning cycle in 2015, the River Basin Authorities should start again revising and improving them.

It is also important to note that Water Framework Directive implementation is not a process that starts from scratch. Thus, there are 11 water-related EU Directives that need to be adequately implemented for the Water Framework Directive to be successfully implemented on the ground, as acknowledged in Annex VI part A of the Directive. These are as old as the 1976 Bathing Water Directive and the 1979 Birds Directive, and also include the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Unfortunately, many of these related pieces of legislation are among the most poorly implemented in the EU.

9 Cf.: EU Water Director's paper on "Principles and communication of results of the first analysis under the Water Framework Directive", June 2004, available at forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_documents/pressure_analysis&vm=detailed&sb=Title

Note in addition that the current (2004–06) Commission's *Revised Indicative guidelines for the Structural Funds and their coordination with the Cohesion Fund* (COM(2003) 499 final) – aiming at facilitating the identification of coherent and balanced priorities for the development of projects for co-funding under these Funds – already state, on page 10, that *"while specific measures targeted at wastewater treatment and drinking water provision will continue to be a priority, such actions must be seen as part of an overall strategy for ensuring the ecological status and chemical quality in the entire river basin. Integrated programmes for river basin management, including the development of the management plans foreseen under the Water Framework Directive, will also be eligible for support."*

Still, the final stages of development and the implementation of the first River Basin Management Plans under the Directive (from about 2006–7 to 2015) do coincide with the application of the next financial perspective and the application of new EU Funding mechanisms (2007–2013). In programming for use of EU and related national funds, Member States should be aware of the needs related to this Directive – the EU's cornerstone water law – to facilitate the effective implementation of the legislation on the ground.

The following tables (7–9) list some of the most important implementation tasks related to the Water Framework Directive (called "cost items" here), using the same general cost headings as in the previous section. Note, however, that the list is not exhaustive as very much of what needs to be done will depend on the original condition of each River Basin District, including progress with the implementation of the above-mentioned 11 water-related Directives and – as already emphasised – with any of the Water Framework Directive implementation tasks themselves[10].

Table 7: Framework for management and administration

Cost item	Content
Administration of River Basin Authorities (RBAs)	Staff costs, consumables, travel expenses, rents, leases, etc.
Strengthening of RBAs	• Improved administrative arrangements and creation of new management mechanisms. • Actions to enhance cooperation between entities having competence for water and the RBA. • Improvement of administration and cooperation mechanisms for trans-boundary river basins, as well as conclusion/alteration of international agreements.
Technical capacity building for RBAs	• Financing for any type of technical assistance for the development of River Basin Management Plans, including for ensuring the use of the WFD Common Implementation Strategy (WFD CIS) guidance documents. • Translation and circulation of key technical documents. • Capacity building actions for RBA administrators and staff.
Setting up a stakeholder network and managing the participatory processes by RBAs	• "Stakeholder identification analysis" to identify the legitimate "interested parties" in a given river basin/district and establishment of participatory mechanisms, including: • Establishment and management of a "Public Participation Advisory Group". • Organisation of public/stakeholder workshops, meetings and seminars. • Organisation of public/stakeholder discussion groups on the internet. • Development of any other mechanism for carrying out the WFD public consultation/participation requirements.
Support and capacity building of stakeholders/ interested parties by RBAs	• Provision of financial support to the "interested parties" participating in consultative committees, working groups, etc (e.g. paying for trips, time, etc.). • Capacity building of the 'interested parties' by providing training on WFD or WFD-related issues.

10 For information on "best practice" recommendations on how to carry out Water Framework Directive implementation tasks, which might be turned into possible measures to be financed by the EU's Regional Policy funding see the 13 guidance documents coming from the EU WFD Common Implementation Strategy, available at forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_documents/

Communication/information material and publications for participatory processes managed by RBAs	• Development of information resources, including brochures, fact sheets, exhibitions, internet sites, intranet sites, local/national WFD implementation guidance documents (including translation of the WFD CIS documents). • Preparation of background documents for meetings, decision-making processes, etc.
Scientific studies, inventories, mapping	• Assessments of biological, chemical, physico-chemical and hydro-morphological parameters and establishment of thresholds, targets and indexes as required for the status classification. • Establishment of cause-effect relationships affecting the status of water bodies and other preparatory studies. • Development and/or refinement of status classification methodologies, including review of national inter-calibration registers. • Development of GIS and production of maps. • Technical and feasibility studies. • Effectiveness analysis of existing water management measures, including water infrastructures. • Economic valuation studies to support the WFD economic analysis requirements. • Socio-economic and environmental assessments to support the WFD cost-effectiveness requirements. • Preparation of inventories and databases.
Awareness raising campaigns	• Preparation and implementation of public awareness campaigns to communicate the targets of the policy (e.g. socio-economic benefits from achieving "good status"), mainstream concepts and ideas as well as to communicate "good practices" and progress with achieving targets. • Preparation and implementation of public awareness campaigns in relation to other relevant themes (e.g. the role of wetlands in achieving "good status", ecological flood risk management, etc.).

Table 8: Operation and monitoring

Cost item	Content
Monitoring systems and risk analyses	• Review of risk assessment methodologies and practices, including for refining WFD Article 5 risk analysis and achieving the full characterisation of river basins. • Review and/or development of methodologies, monitoring programmes and networks and other relevant technical tools. • Strengthening of links with past and ongoing research initiatives and acquisition/organisation of available data.
Pilot demonstrations	• Development of early demonstrations ('easy wins', pilots) of the positive effects of certain measures, particularly to maintain the faith of stakeholders in the process.
Flood risk management	• Prevention of urban run-off. • Promotion of rainwater infiltration at different levels within river basins (e.g. through growing vegetation). • Promotion of floodwater retention capacities of wetlands and floodplains (e.g. by relocating urban/agricultural settlements).
Vegetation restoration	Increase of vegetation cover as a contribution toward achieving "good status", where relevant.
Erosion control	Limitation of soil erosion as a contribution toward achieving "good status", where relevant.
Water saving solutions for agriculture	Promotion of adapted agricultural production, such as low water requiring crops in areas affected by drought and promoting water saving solutions for farmers.
Water saving solutions for industry	Promotion of water-efficient (less polluting and less water-demanding) technologies and systems in industry.
Water saving solutions for end-users	• Development of mechanisms to establish and enforce WFD-compliant abstraction controls (through e.g. legal, administrative or voluntary means). • Financial support to water users to install less polluting and less water-demanding technologies and systems.
Pollution control	• Development of mechanisms to establish and enforce WFD-compliant pollution controls (through e.g. legal, administrative or voluntary means). • Development of systems to collect, manage and improve efficiency of use of pollutants (e.g. herbicides, household paints). • Monitoring, remediation and rehabilitation of pollution "hot spots" (e.g. mining waste), including mine excavation voids.

Table 9: Infrastructure

Cost item	Content
Adapting existing water infrastructure	Adaptation of existing water infrastructure for water and energy supply as well as for flood defence and inland navigation so they are WFD-compliant, including mitigation of negative impacts on water bodies.
New infrastructure for the management of water resources	• Infrastructure for the establishment and operation of RBAs. • Infrastructure for enabling industry, farmers or households to take-up water efficient solutions. • Infrastructure for the improvement of water distribution networks to improve efficiency of use. • Infrastructure for enabling industry to apply Best Available Technology for pollution control. • Infrastructure for enabling authorities to remediate and rehabilitate historical pollution "hot spots" (e.g. mine waste toxic stores).
Improvement of water networks	Improving efficiency of water supply networks to reduce water losses (e.g. repair leaks).
Wetland restoration	• Restoration of degraded wetlands and floodplains, including river meanders, especially those that reconnect rivers with their floodplains as necessary to achieve "good status".
Equipment acquisition	Acquisition of equipment relevant to the operation of the RBAs, the implementation of monitoring activities, etc.

11 Parts of this section are taken from Froggat A. and G. Canzi, Ending wasteful energy use in Central and Eastern Europe (WWF, 2004), available for downloading from the Internet at: www.panda.org/downloads/europe/endingwastefulenergyincentraleasterneurope.pdf

Funding CO_2 reduction (energy efficiency and renewables)

The implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and longer-term efforts to address climate change are a key environmental objective of the European Union. The EU Funds, especially the Structural and Cohesion Funds, have a key role to play leveraging action on climate change at Member State and regional level. Investment in energy efficiency is important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts as well as contributing to economic growth and competitiveness – especially in the new EU Member States, which are expected to claim the greater part of the Structural and Cohesion Funds.

The European Commission conservatively estimates that by using currently available technologies, 20% of the EU-15's energy consumption could be saved at no cost.[11] In Central and Eastern Europe, the saving potentials are even higher as the countries in the region use twice as much energy per unit of GDP as their western neighbours. Furthermore, according to EU energy forecasts, this higher level of energy intensity is expected to remain well into the future unless bold energy efficiency policy measures are taken. Conservative estimates suggest that 30% of energy could be saved economically, even considering the region's lower energy prices. Despite this, measures on a national, regional, and local level have not been effectively introduced to capture this potential. All too often, energy efficiency measures are not given the priority they need. In addition, inadequate funding, lack of staffing and failure to implement national and EU regulations have resulted in slow progress in this fundamental area.

EU legislation related to energy efficiency that all EU Member States are required to implement include Directives on the promotion of combined heat and power, for mandatory energy labelling of consumer appliances, and on the energy performance of buildings. A Commission proposal for a Directive regarding end-use energy efficiency and the promotion of energy services is currently being decided on and is expected in the near future.

The lack of investment in energy efficiency measures is striking given that high energy intensity is not only an environmental but also an economic problem. Efficient use of energy reduces costs and thus improves competitiveness and economic returns as well as reducing foreign debt. It also benefits the job market. In Slovakia alone, energy efficiency measures could lead to the creation of an estimated 10,000 jobs.

To date in the new EU Member States, Structural and Cohesion funds have largely been used for investments in new infrastructures, electricity and gas interconnections, and not energy efficiency programmes. In addition to needing investment in physical infrastructure, the new Member States still lack institutional capacity to implement energy efficiency.

The main identified cost items for the implementation of an energy-saving/CO_2 reduction policy are listed in tables 10 to 12 below, under the same major headings used in previous sections.

Table 10: Framework for management and administration

Cost item	Content
Administration costs (funding of regulatory authorities)	Staff, administration and operating costs required by authorities overseeing and regulating energy related issues.
Developing a system of public procurement criteria for energy efficiency	Measures to enforce the adoption of public procurement policies in favour of energy efficiency: preparation of relevant rules of conduct, capacity of responsible officials, networking between departments, etc.
Establishment of energy agencies	Setting-up of agencies to implement and coordinate energy efficiency strategies and solutions, including capacity building.
Capacity building for public administrations	Could include seminars, know-how transfer, publications, etc. to strengthen the capacity of public administrations to identify, plan and implement energy conservation/CO_2 reduction.
Capacity building for businesses	Capacity building for private firms to promote energy conservation, energy efficient procurement, training in the implementation of eco-labels and EMAS.
Strengthening of related regulatory authorities	Better administrative arrangements, capacity building, etc.
Studies and plans	Energy efficiency and CO_2 reduction plans.
Research	Promote research for the development and use of renewables, combined power and heat production etc.

Table 11: Operation and monitoring

Cost item	Content
Operation of participation systems (especially for the resolution of conflicts)	Information availability and mainstreaming, organisation of seminars, consultations, etc.
Operation of awareness and information systems	Internet sites, publications, workshops, etc.
Support to business for up taking energy-saving solutions	Support for R&TD and for the application (overheads and consultancy) for the adoption of energy saving/CO_2 reduction solutions.
Support to households to adopt energy-saving solutions	Acquisition of related household equipment, refurbishing of heating systems, home insulation, etc.
Support for the development of relevant skills and techniques	Development of technical skills as relevant to the two previous categories.

Table 12: Infrastructure

Cost item	Content
Improvement of networks	Improvement of networks to diminish energy losses and reduce the need for over capacity.
Refurbishment, improvement or establishment of district heating systems	Upgrading and refurbishing district heating installations, including shifting from coal and oil to gas, biomass, or other renewable energy sources.
Investment in improving the energy efficiency of buildings	Including e.g. investment in insulation, energy efficient windows and doors as well as heating systems. Partially covers implementation of the Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings.

Funding for sustainable transport

In 2001, the EU elaborated and refined its Common Transport Policy in the (second) White Paper, entitled European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to decide. With this the EU set a framework for the Common Transport Policy as well as for the funding of infrastructure. With the Maastricht Treaty the EU began to actively and strategically promote as well as co-finance infrastructure networks deemed to be of (trans-) European importance.

Although the EU's Common Transport Policy foresees the need for inter-modality and the promotion of more sustainable forms of transportation, EU funding for transport infrastructure has been strongly biased toward road building. Many of these road-building projects simply expand the capacity of automobile-based infrastructures without improving the parallel options for other transport modes, thereby actually contradicting the EU's own sustainable transport objectives. To date, very few sophisticated urban transport and modally integrated projects have received co-financing from the EU's Structural and Cohesion Funds.

Both the current White Paper and the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy aim at addressing the present imbalance between different transport modes to achieve a more sustainable modal split. Therefore, all relevant EU policy measures – especially EU support that is earmarked for transportation infrastructure – must focus on achieving this objective. A wide range of policy measures are needed, including traffic reduction schemes, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly development of public spaces, capacity building and improved public participation processes.

The following list provides ideas for sustainable (and often more affordable) use of the EU Funds for supporting transportation. Most attention is devoted to urban public transport measures as it is densely populated urban areas where the effects of modal imbalances are usually most strongly felt. To counter the traditional focus on "bricks and mortar" and large-scale projects, "soft" measures and small-scale solutions have been emphasised intentionally:

- Concerning management and administration, participatory planning as well as education and campaigning help raise public awareness of sustainable transport issues, while applied research fosters the development of integrated strategies.
- Regarding operation and monitoring, public transportation systems can experience rapid progress by restructuring pricing and information policies, whereas at the local level, traffic impacts have often encouraged stakeholders themselves to put transportation and public space issues on the political agenda.
- As construction of infrastructure remains at the centre of EU investment, it needs to be directed towards non-motorised and public transportation as well as the connection of the different modes. Some of the proposed projects are derived from actual projects that have been successfully established in developing countries. The necessity to improvise has inspired numerous low-cost and very efficient public and individual transportation solutions.

However, it is very important to bundle ideas and integrate them into city-wide or regional strategies for sustainable transport. Further description of possible cost items related to sustainable transport is provided in the following tables.

Table 13: Framework for management and administration

Cost item	Content
Capacity building for relevant authorities (transport public services, police, etc.)	Costs include the organisation of seminars, preparation of handbooks, etc.
Awareness raising activities and media campaigns	Leaflets, posters, brochures with different target audiences, public information campaigns, websites, TV spots, activities (car-free days), etc.
Mobility education	Handbooks for parents and teachers, training/education programmes for teachers and other multipliers, traffic reduction schemes around schools and day-care centres, preparation of maps and information material on surroundings of schools and residential areas aimed especially at children, etc.
Participatory planning	Ensure citizen input to general transport development strategies,. e.g. roundtables/citizen forums, stakeholder planning workshops, etc.
Applied research and development	Funding could relate to university-agency joint projects, interdisciplinary projects, preparation of studies and plans, research institutes, etc.

Table 14: Operation and monitoring

Cost item	Content
Transport providers' networks	Establishment of networks of transport providers to ensure intermodality and common pricing.
Simplifying pricing systems	Set up of multi-modal ticketing and charging schemes and establishment of common pricing systems.
Traffic management systems	Information technology infrastructure, traffic monitoring infrastructure, etc. software development.
Mobility information	Set-up of information centres, internet sites, call centres, etc. specialised in giving multimodal advice.
Neighbourhood management	Ensure participation in the reshaping of immediate housing environments including local coordination offices and regular stakeholder meetings.
Innovative commuting	For example schemes for private companies to bulk-purchase tickets for public transportation for their employees.

Table 15: Infrastructure

Cost item	Content
Improvement/ modernization of existing public transport networks	Rail upgrading and refurbishment, new rolling stock and new routes, transit stations; measures for prioritization of public transport (preferred treatment at traffic lights, bus/tram lanes).
Innovative public transport solutions	Citizen-operated bus services, support for purchase of vehicles and insurance costs, bike- and car-sharing schemes, bus-by-call systems, bus rapid transit.
Pedestrian-friendly infrastructure	Creation of wider sidewalks, safe and convenient street crossings, etc.
Bicycle infrastructure	Creation of bike lanes, sufficient and secure storage (especially at transit stations), bike-and – ride facilities, etc.
Inter-modal connections	Bike and ride; park-and-ride facilities; guiding and signalling infrastructures.
Infrastructure for the physically disadvantaged	Improved access to sidewalks and public transport etc.

3. OPTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING THROUGH PROPOSED EU FUNDS

The aim of this chapter is to present a possible link between the environmental funding needs that have been identified in the previous sections with financing measures contained in the Commission's proposals for the most relevant EU financing instruments for the 2007–13 funding period beyond the proposed Financial Instrument for Environment (see special box on this fund below).

The proposed funds covered here are:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the **European Regional Development Fund**, COM(2004) 495 final.
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the **European Social Fund**, COM(2004) 493 final.
- Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a **Cohesion Fund**, COM(2004) 494 final.
- Proposal for a Council Regulation on Support for Rural Development by the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**, COM(2004) 490 final.
- Proposal for a Council Regulation on the **European Fisheries Fund**, COM(2004) 497 final.

The texts on which this section is based constitute the Commission's initial proposals for the regulations, which have yet to be finalised. Some changes are almost certain to be introduced into the final regulations. Nevertheless, given that the needs and measures presented here are relatively general, we expect that the guidelines offered will be equally relevant to the final versions of the regulations.

It should also be mentioned that as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development is meant to constitute a major support for the protection of the natural terrestrial environment, WWF is in the process of preparing an additional report specifically focussed on this fund that will detail funding options and outline relevant procedures and provisions.

Financial Instrument for Environment (LIFE+)

In addition to the main EU funding programmes, the Commission proposes replacing most existing environmental funding lines, including LIFE-Nature, LIFE-Environment, LIFE-Third Countries as well as e.g. the Forest Focus programme and support for the European Environmental Agency, with a single fund focused on supporting development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and communication of Community environmental policy and legislation, particularly the EU's 6th Environmental Action Programme. The proposed Financial Instrument for Environment[12] (also called LIFE+), which is proposed to have an annual budget of ca. € 300 million, is to support activities which have European added value, have a leverage or multiplier effect and demonstrative or catalytic character. Support is to be provided via two main strands: LIFE+ Implementation and Governance (75–80% of total budget); LIFE+ Information and Communication (20–25% of total budget).

It is not possible to determine exactly what actions would be eligible for support from the fund, as the Commission proposes adopting a flexible approach based on multi-annual programmes drawn up by the Commission and defining the principal objectives, priorities, types of actions, expected results as well as indicative financial estimates.

The Financial Instrument for Environment is not included in the following more detailed description of funding possibilities for two main reasons:

- As a fund that is specifically dedicated to the environment, LIFE+ will presumably be more familiar and accessible to environmental authorities and stakeholders than other EU Funds.
- The flexible approach proposed by the Commission for this fund makes it difficult to determine exactly what funding opportunities will in fact exist.

12 Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+), COM(2004) 621 final

Linking funding needs with provisions of the regulations

The following section explores the possibilities in the proposed regulations for meeting environmental funding needs. Hence, the links presented should not be understood as the actual potential for funding the environment within programming in each member state or region, but rather as a list of options that are present in each regulation. The actual availability of these funds on the ground will depend on the final content of the relevant development plans, and of course on relevant rules of eligibility: some of the priorities are not relevant to all the regions, some options may not be available due to the one-programme/one fund rule, and of course some options may not be taken up in the relevant planning and programming for the country or region.

The following pages present a series of tables that provide an overview of funding options for the environment from each fund. The information is provided in two forms:

- *Funding options for each environmental issue*. This presentation is taken up in tables 16 to 19 and offers a direct link between identified funding needs and relevant articles in the regulations. It offers a quick reference to ways to cover environmental funding needs through the Structural and Cohesion funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Fisheries Fund.
- *Relevance of each fund to environmental issues*. This presentation is adopted in tables 20 to 23 and is essentially an inverted reading of the previous tables. It discusses the relevance of individual articles of each regulation to the selected issues of environmental protection.

The two alternative presentations essentially contain the same information, but could be used in different manners. The first one constitutes a tool for environmental decision makers who wish to investigate possible sources of funding for their policy objectives. The second is a tool for development planners wishing to explore how the need for environmental funding fits into the regulations they are called upon to implement.

Taken together, the two presentations should provide a relatively comprehensive picture of the major financing options for environment that are available in the proposed EU funds.

Table 16: Funding options for the Natura 2000 network

	Cost item	Funding options				
		ERDF	**ESF**	**Cohesion Fund**	**EAFRD**	**EFF**
Framework for management and administration	Adaptation of legislation		(3.2bi)			
	Establishment of management bodies	(4.3)	(3.2bi)		(53)	
	Administration costs					
	Training and capacity building	(6.3) (6.1b) (6.2a)	(3.2bi) (3.2bii)		(23b)	(43)
	Awareness raising activities and environmental education	(4.8) (6.1b)			(53) (57bd)	(43.1a) – to the extent that these are relevant to fisheries management
	Visitor management measures/activities	(4.5)			(52a-b) (57d)	
	Public participation systems		(3.2bii)			(44)
	Networking activities	(6.3)	(3.2bi)			(43.1g)
	Preparation and review of management plans for sites or species	(4.4) (5.2d) (6.2c)			(53)	
	Measures and activities to carry out appropriate Environmental Impact Assessment Studies	(6.1b)	(3.2bi)		(53)	
	Scientific studies, inventories, mapping				(53) (57a)	Possible financing by second fisheries fund*
Operation and monitoring	Surveillance, wardening and patrolling activities		(3.2bii)			
	Monitoring systems	(4.3) (6.1b)			(53)	Possible financing by second fisheries fund*
	Habitats and species conservation, management and restoration measures	(4.3) (5.2a) (6.1b)			(38b)	(43.1e) (40) (27a) – to the extent that these are relevant to fisheries management
	Ex-situ conservation activities and re-introduction programmes					
	Measures to ensure sustainable use of habitats and species	(4.3) (5.2a) (6.1b)		(2.2)	(23b) (25.1b) (29) (37) (38a) (44) (55)	(43.1a) (43.1b) (43.1e) – to the extent that these are relevant to fisheries management
	Compensatory payments				(29) (36) (43)	(31)
	Forest-environment measures				(26) (40) (41) (42) (44) (46a)	
	Trans-boundary projects	(6.3) (6.1b)				
	Supporting and communicating pilot projects	(4.3) (5.2a) (6.1b) (6.2c)				
Infrastructures	Infrastructures maintenance	(4.3) (5.2a) (6.1b)			(55)	
	New infrastructures specific for the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species	(4.3) (5.2a) (6.1b)			(38b) (46b)	
	Public use infrastructures	(4.5)				
	Equipment acquisition	(4.2) (5.2a) (6.1b)				
	Precautionary measures in sites still not designated (pSCI)	(4.4) (5.2d)				
	Fire prevention, fire control and fire management measures	(4.4) (5.2d)			(42) (45)	
	Mitigation measures for infrastructures affecting Natura 2000	(4.6) (5.2a)				
	Land purchase	**		**	**	

* A second fisheries instrument, to be proposed by the Commission in April 2005, is expected to support reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, including control measures, scientific advice and technical data, international fisheries agreements, etc.

** Can be eligible as part of projects as far as it does not exceed 10% of any one proposal.

Table 17: Funding options for the Water Framework Directive

	Cost item	Funding options			
		ERDF	**ESF**	**Cohesion Fund**	**EAFRD**
Framework for management and administration	Administration of River Basin Authorities (RBAs)				
	Strengthening of RBAs	(6.3) (6.1b) (6.2a) (6.2c)	(3.2bi)		
	Technical capacity building for RBAs	(6.1b) (6.2a)	(3.2bii)		
	Setting up a stakeholder network and managing the participatory processes by RBAs		(3.2bii)		
	Support and capacity building of stakeholders/ interested parties by RBAs		(3.2bii)		(23b)
	Communication/information material and publications for participatory processes managed by RBAs	(4.8)			(57b-d)
	Scientific studies, inventories, mapping				(53)
	Awareness raising campaigns	(4.8)			(53) (57d)
Operation and monitoring	Monitoring systems and risk analyses	(4.4) (5.2d) (6.1b) (6.2c)			(53)
	Pilot demonstrations				
	Flood risk management	(4.4) (5.2d) (6.2c)		(2.2)	(42)
	Vegetation restoration	(4.3) (5.2a)			(37) (38) (40) (42)
	Erosion control	(6.2c)			(42) (46a)
	Water saving solutions for agriculture			(2.2)	(23.b) (25.1b) (28)
	Water saving solutions for industry	(4.1) (4.3) (5.1b)		(2.2)	
	Water saving solutions for end-users	(4.1)			
	Pollution control	(4.4) (5.2d) (6.2c)			
Infrastructures	Adapting existing water infrastructures	(4.3) (6.2b) 6.1d)			(53)*
	New infrastructures for the management of water resources	(4.3) (6.1d) (6.2a) (6.2c)		(2.2)	
	Improvement of water networks	(4.3)		(2.2)	(28)
	Wetland restoration	(4.3) (5.2a) (6.1b) (6.2a)			(37) (38)
	Equipment acquisition	(4.2) (4.4) (5.2d) (6.1b)			

* These articles refer to studies and interdepartmental cooperation. As such they could assist the assessment of existing infrastructures and the proposal of amendments, but they cannot fund the amendments themselves.

Table 18: Funding options for CO_2 reduction

	Cost item	Funding options			
		ERDF	**ESF**	**Cohesion Fund**	**EAFRD**
Framework for management and administration	Administration costs (funding of regulatory authorities)				
	Developing a system of public procurement criteria for energy efficiency		(3.2bi)		
	Establishment of energy agencies				
	Capacity building for public administrations		(3.2bi) (3.2bii)		
	Capacity building for businesses	(4.1) (4.7) (6.2d)	(3.2bii)		
	Strengthening of related regulatory authorities		(3.2bi) (3.2bii)		
	Studies and plans	(4.3) (5.2b)	(3.2bi)		
	Research	(4.1)			
Operation and monitoring	Operation of participation systems (especially for the resolution of conflicts)		(3.2bii)		
	Operation of awareness and information systems	(4.2)			
	Support to business for up taking energy-saving solutions	(4.1) (4.3) (5.1a) (5.1b) (5.2b)		(2.3)	(28)
	Support to households to adopt energy-saving solutions				
	Support for the development of relevant skills and techniques	(4.1) (5.1a) (5.1b)	(3.1ai)		
Infrastructures	Development of renewable energy sources	(4.7) (5.2b)		(2.3)	
	Development of co-production infrastructures	(4.7) (5.2b)		(2.3)	
	Improvement of networks	(4.7) (5.2b)			
	Refurbishment, improvement or establishment of district heating systems	(4.7) (5.2b)			

Table 19: Funding options for sustainable transport

	Cost item	Funding options		
		ERDF	**ESF**	**Cohesion Fund**
Framework for management and administration	Capacity building of relevant authorities (transport public services, police, etc)	(6.3)	(3.2bi) (3.2bii)	
	Awareness raising activities and media campaigns		(3.2bi) (3.2bii)	
	Mobility education	(4.8)	(3.2bi) (3.2bii)	
	Participative planning		(3.2bi) (3.2bii)	
	Applied research and development	(4.1) (5.1a)		
Operation and monitoring	Transport providers' networks	(5.1c) (6.2b) (6.1c)	(3.2bi) (3.2bii)	
	Simplifying pricing systems	(4.6) (5.1c) (6.2b)		
	Traffic management systems	(4.1) (4.2) (4.4) (5.3a)		(2.3)
	Mobility information	(4.8)	(3.2bi) (3.2bii)	
	Neighbourhood management	(4.8) (5.2c)	(3.2bii)	(2.3)
	Innovative commuting schemes	(4.3)	(3.2bi) (3.2bii)	
Infrastructure	Improvement/ modernization of existing public transport network	(4.6) (5.2c) (5.3a) (6.1d) (6.2b)		(2.3) (2.1 if TEN-T)
	Innovative public transport solutions	(4.5) (4.6) (4.7) (5.2c)	(3.1ai)	(2.3)
	Pedestrian-friendly infrastructure	(4.6)		(2.3)
	Bicycle infrastructure	(4.6)		(2.3)
	Inter-modal connections	(4.6) (5.3a)		(2.3)
	Infrastructure for the physically disadvantaged	(4.6)	(3.1ci)	(2.3)

Table 20: ERDF articles[13] relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction	Relevance to sustainable transport
4.1	Support for R&TD, innovation and entrepreneurship, R&TD for SMEs, technology transfer, improvement of links between SMEs and universities, development of business networks and clusters, etc.		Could be utilised for the development/ adaptation and adoption of water saving techniques from industries and end users.	Could be utilised for the development/ adaptation and adoption of energy efficient solutions from industries.	Could be utilised for developing and operating traffic management systems and applied research projects for sustainable transport modes.
4.2	Support for Information Society measures, including among others, access to and development of on-line public services.	Could be utilised for the acquisition of IT equipment and the organisation/operation of internet information hubs and databases.	Could be utilised for the acquisition of IT equipment and the organisation/operation of internet information hubs and databases.	Could be used for equipping relevant services, for developing on-line information sources and for the establishment of traffic flow management tools.	Could provide assistance to mobility information centres/ on-line multi-modal travel information and booking.
4.3	Environment, including investments connected with waste management, water supplies, integrated pollution prevention and control, rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, promotion of biodiversity and nature protection, aid to SMEs to promote sustainable production patterns, etc.	**A key article** – could finance a range of measures including administrative structures, monitoring plans and activities, infrastructures and measures to ensure the sustainable use of resources.	Could be utilised for restoration measures (wetlands, vegetation, contaminated reserves) and for providing assistance to industry for water-saving solutions.	Could provide assistance to industry for energy efficient and "clean" production modes.	Could provide assistance for supply chain optimisation and for low emission vehicle fleet; (possibly transport schemes for employees).
4.4	Prevention of risks, including development and implementation of plans to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Could provide assistance for management plans and measures to avoid risks to sites such as the prevention of wildfires, shipping risks, etc.	Could fund flood control measures and relevant risk assessments.		Could fund noise and pollution reduction schemes; prevention measures for the transport of hazardous materials.
4.5	Tourism, including promotion of natural and cultural assets as potential for the development of sustainable tourism, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage in support of economic development.	Could finance measures for visitor management.	Could finance pilot projects and awareness raising related to WFD and sustainable tourism.		Could finance measures for car-free tourism, information centres and guiding systems.
4.6	Transport investments, including trans-European networks and integrated city-wide strategies for clean urban transport, which among others contribute to achieving a more balanced modal split and reducing environmental impacts.	Could finance adaptation of existing transportation infrastructures so that they comply with the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives, including mitigation of negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites.	Could finance adaptation of existing water infrastructures for inland navigation so that they are WFD-compliant, including mitigation of negative impacts on water bodies.		**A key article** – could fund sustainable infrastructure measures especially in urban areas (public and non-motorised transport).

13 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), COM(2004) 495 final.

Table 20: ERDF articles relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction	Relevance to sustainable transport
4.7	Energy, including trans-European networks, which among others contribute to integrating environmental considerations, improvement of energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies;	Could provide assistance for Strategic Environmental Assessment and EIA in relation to offshore renewables development.	Could finance adaptation of existing water infrastructure for energy production (e.g. hydropower dams) so they are WFD-compliant, including mitigation of negative impacts on water bodies.	**A key article** – could finance the development of renewable energy sources and co-production investments, as well as the improvement of energy networks for lost reduction.	Assist development of alternative fuels and investments in energy efficient rolling stock (e.g. buses powered by natural gas).
4.8	Education investments, which contribute to increasing the attractiveness and quality of life in regions;	Could be used to raise awareness about the natural values and ecological importance of Natura 2000 sites.	Could finance pilot projects and awareness raising activities to show socio economic benefits from achieving WFD objectives.		Could fund mobility education programmes for all ages.
5.1a	Enhancing regional R&TD and innovation capacities directly linked to regional economic development objectives by supporting industry or technology specific competence centres, by promoting technology transfer, and by developing technology forecasting and international benchmarking of policies to promote innovation, and by supporting inter-firm collaboration and joint R&TD and innovation policies;		Could finance infrastructure for enabling industry to apply Best Available Technology for pollution control.		Could fund integrated regional traffic management systems and their operation. Might be utilised for collaborative research projects on multimodal traffic flows.
5.1b	Stimulating innovation in SMEs by among others supporting the integration of cleaner and innovative technologies in SMEs;		Could be used to support SMEs in taking up water saving solutions.	Could be used to support SMEs in taking up energy saving solutions.	
5.1c	Promoting entrepreneurship by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas, and by fostering the creation of new firms by universities and existing firms;		Could finance pilot projects and awareness raising measures.		Could support new solutions for bicycle- and car-sharing schemes; start-up of university based mobility consulting firms.
5.2a	Stimulating investment for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites and land, and promoting the development of infrastructure linked to biodiversity and Natura 2000 contributing to sustainable economic development and diversification of rural areas;	**A key article** – could finance a range of measures including administrative structures, monitoring plans and activities, infrastructures and measures to ensure the sustainable use of resources.	Could be utilised to provide funding for restoration measures (wetlands, vegetation, contaminated reserves) and for providing assistance to industries and farmers for water-saving solutions.		
5.2b	Stimulating energy efficiency and renewable energy production	Could finance measures relating to offshore renewable energy production and ensuring compatibility with the protection of inter-tidal and marine habitats and species.	Could finance adaptation of existing water infrastructure for energy production (e.g. hydropower dams) so they are WFD-compliant, including mitigation of negative impacts on water bodies.	Could fund the development of renewable sources of energy, co-production, the improvement of district heating systems and up-take by industry of energy saving solutions.	Could assist the development of alternative fuels and efficient engines; support upgrading of public transport vehicle fleets to energy efficient low-emission vehicles.

Table 20: ERDF articles relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction	Relevance to sustainable transport
5.2c	Promoting clean urban public transport;				**A key article** – could fund basically all measures linked to clean urban transport.
5.2d	Developing plans and measures to prevent and cope with natural and technological risks.	Could fund measures for wildfire prevention and control and shipping risk and control.	Could finance risk assessments and management measures for flooding.		
5.3a	Strengthening secondary networks by improving links to TEN-transport networks, to regional railway hubs, airports and ports, etc	Could finance measures related to transport infrastructure and compatibility with the protection of habitats and species.	Could finance adaptation of existing water infrastructures for inland navigation so they are WFD-compliant, including mitigation of negative impacts on water bodies.		**A key article** – could support all kinds of sustainable infrastructure e.g. inter-modal hubs, improvement of existing public transport infrastructure.
6.1b	Encouraging cross border cooperation for the protection and joint management of the environment;	A key article for border protected sites on land and at sea, whereby the collaboration of joint schemes for monitoring, management and administration can be supported.	Could complement article 6.2a to fund the management of international river basins.		
6.1c	Developing cross border collaboration by reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services, and cross-border water, waste and energy systems;		Could assist the improvement of adminstration and cooperation mechanisms for trans-boundary river basins. Could also support trans-boundary water saving solutions.		Could fund common transport information centres and multi-lingual online information.
6.1d	Developing cross border collaboration, for building capacity for joint use of infrastructures in particular in sectors such as health, culture and education.	Could assist the setting up of common information and documentation centres. Could also finance the use of one countries capacity building facilities (conference centres, libraries, etc) by citizens of a neighbouring state.	Could assist the setting up of common information and documentation centres. Could also finance the use of one countries capacity building facilities (conference centres, libraries, etc) by citizens of a neighbouring state.		
6.2a	Establishment and development of trans-national cooperation, on water management, with a clear trans-national dimension, including protection and management of river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, water services and wetlands;	Could finance management measures for protected wetlands and rivers of a cross border nature and trans-boundary marine Natura 2000 sites.	**A key article** – as it could finance a range of activities for international river basins, including monitoring, management, infrastructures and setting-up of administrative services.		

Table 20: ERDF articles relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction	Relevance to sustainable transport
6.2b	Improving accessibility, including investments in cross-border sections of trans-European networks, improved local and regional access to national and trans-national networks and platforms, enhanced inter-operability of national and regional systems, and promotion of advanced communications and information technologies;		Could finance adaptation of existing water infrastructures for inland navigation so they are WFD-compliant, including mitigation of negative impacts on water bodies.		**A key article** for cross-border public transport: Could assist cross border multi-lingual on-line information; cross-border transport provider networks, harmonised common ticketing and information access.
6.2c	Establishment and development of trans-national cooperation, on risk prevention, including the promotion of maritime security and protection against flooding, marine and inland water pollution, prevention of and protection against erosion, earthquakes and avalanches	The reference to erosion control, could mean that it could be utilised to fund vegetation restoration measures. Could also address risks from shipping, coastal development and coastal defenses.	Funding for flood risk assessments and prevention/control. The reference to erosion could also be utilised for funding vegetation restoration measures.		
6.2d	The creation of scientific and technological networks connected with issues relating to the balanced development of trans-national areas, including the establishment of networks between universities and links for accessing scientific knowledge and technology transfer between R&TD facilities and international centres of R&TD excellence, the development of trans-national consortia for sharing R&TD resources, twinning of technology transfer institutions, and development of joint financial engineering instruments directed at supporting R&TD in SMEs.		Could finance strengthening of links with past and ongoing research initiatives and acquisition/organisation of available data.		
6.3	Reinforcement of the effectiveness of regional policy by promoting networking and exchange of experience among regional and local authorities.	Might be possible to utilise for networking activities between managers, especially where issues of development-environment are concerned.	Could finance improvement of administrative arrangements for RBAs and creation of new management mechanisms as well as to enhance co-operation between entities having competence for water and RBAs.		Could assist capacity building for interoperability and cross border access to public transport services Intercultural and language training for planners, authorities and public employees.

Table 21: ESF articles[14] relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction	Relevance to Sustainable Transport
3.1ci	Reinforcing social inclusion of people at a disadvantage and combating discrimination, in particular by promoting: (i) pathways to integration in employment for disadvantaged people, people experiencing social exclusion, early school leavers, minorities and people with disabilities, through employability measures, including in the field of the social economy, accompanying actions and relevant social support and care services;				Could possibly fund specific infrastructure for physically disadvantaged.
3.2aiii	The development of human potential in research and innovation, notably through post-graduate studies and training of researchers and related networking activities between universities, research centres and enterprises.				
3.2bi	Strengthening institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and services especially in the economic, employment, social, environmental and judicial fields, in particular by promoting good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation, through studies, statistics and expertise, support to interdepartmental coordination and dialogue between relevant public and private bodies;	**A key article** – could be used for establishing administrative procedures and capacity building actions for administration. Actions could be financed in capacity building for managers and the operation of management authorities. Very importantly, this article could support inter-departmental cooperation, vital for the implementation of important measures and for the production of proper studies, assessments, etc.		**A key article** – could fund inter-departmental cooperation needed to introduce energy concerns into public procurement procedures.	**A key article** for the integration of planning. Could help to develop and strengthen integrated approaches to transport planning among public authorities. Could also fund participative planning procedures.
3.2bii	Strengthening institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and services especially in the economic, employment, social, environmental and judicial fields. Includes promoting capacity building including enforcement of legislation, through managerial and staff training and specific support to key services, inspectorates and socio-economic actors including social partners and relevant non-governmental organisations.	**A key article** – could provide support, apart from capacity building for administration and managers, for the establishment of participatory systems and procedures and for the provision of capacity building to stakeholders and partners. Could also fund support for setting up specific services to protect and manage sites and river basins.		**A key article** – could support actions for capacity building in industry and partners.	**A key article** – could fund training for integrated planning and interdepartmental cooperation. Could also support participatory planning procedures and capacity building for other stakeholders.
3.1ai	Increasing adaptability of workers and enterprises, in particular by promoting, among the development and implementation of lifelong learning systems and strategies which ensure improved access to training of low skilled and older workers and the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation;			Following the examples of a variety of urban micro-projects, this article could prove useful in providing skills for the reduction of energy consumption by end users (house insulation, heating systems refurbishments, etc.).	Could assist the start-up of small, innovative transport providers.

14 European Social Fund (ESF), COM(2004) 493 final

15 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), COM(2004) 490 final

Table 22: EAFRD articles[15] relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction
23b	Support to help farmers to meet costs arising from the use of advisory services for compliance with Community statutory standards in the fields of, among others, environmental protection.	Could be used to support indirect capacity building (through advisory services) and for the uptake of production methods that conducive to the rationale use of resources.	Could fund indirect capacity building (through advisory) and the uptake of water-saving production methods.	
251a	Support provided to farmers to improve the overall performance of the farm			According to preamble point 21, this measure can be used for the development of energy crops.
251b	Support provided to farmers to assist accomplishing respect the Community standards applicable to the investment concerned. (for newly introduced standards)	Could be used to support solutions for a more rationale use of natural resources.	Could fund water-saving production methods.	
26	Assistance for investments increasing the economic value of forests	Could support better management of forest resources by funding management certification schemes.	Could support improved management of forest resources as required to achieve "good status", including for erosion control, by funding e.g. management certification schemes.	According to preamble point 22, this measure can be utilised for the development of renewable energy sources from forests.
28	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry to cover notably operations related to access to farm and forest land, energy supply and water management.		Could fund the up-take of water saving solution for agriculture.	Could fund the adoption of more energy-saving production solutions in agriculture-related industries (e.g. processing).
29	Support contributing partly to costs incurred and income foregone caused to farmers who have to apply standards in the fields of, among others, the environmental protection. (newly introduced standards)	Could be used to provide compensatory payments to farmers, and to support sustainable use of habitats.	Could support the restoration/management of vegetation and wetland areas.	
36	Support shall be to farmers in order to compensate for costs incurred and income foregone resulting from disadvantages in the areas concerned related to the implementation of directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC (Natura 2000 payments)	**A key article** – provision of compensatory payments (for farmers) in return for specific restrictions resulting from Natura 2000.	Could support the restoration/management of vegetation and wetland areas.	
37	Payments to farmers (or for the case of environment other land managers) who make, on a voluntary basis, agri-environmental or animal welfare commitments beyond the mandatory EU standards/requirements.	Support for the implementation of actions and the adoption of production solutions for more sustainable use of habitats or for the continuation of farming systems that maintain natural values.	Could support the restoration/management of vegetation and wetland areas.	
38a	Support granted for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environmental commitments	Could support the creation of infrastructures (for example: restoring the ecological infrastructure of farmland – stone walls, wet areas, etc.) or the purchase of different machinery relevant to the rational use of habitats and landscapes (also relevant to Water Framework Directive for Natura 2000 wetlands or basins and especially for vegetation management/restoration).		
38b	Support granted for on-farm non-productive investments which enhance the public amenity value of the Natura 2000 area concerned.	Could support the creation of infrastructures relevant to the management of habitats (also relevant to Water Framework Directive for Natura 2000 wetlands or basins and especially for vegetation management/restoration).		

Table 22: EAFRD articles relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction
40	Support provided for the first afforestation of agricultural land.	Support the re-establishment of specific forest habitats in identified locations, where forest is required to meet environmental objectives (habitat restoration, as a buffer to diffuse pollution (relevant to WFD regarding the restoration of vegetation in wetlands/basins).		
41	Support provided for the first establishment of agri-forestry systems on agricultural land.	Could support the establishment of specific forest-agriculture rural landscapes, where these are required to meet environmental objectives.		
42	Support provided for the first afforestation of non-agricultural land.	Support for the re-establishment of specific forest habitats in identified locations, where forests are required to meet environmental objectives (habitat restoration, as a buffer to diffuse pollution (relevant to WFD regarding the restoration of vegetation in wetlands/basins.		
43	Support to forest owners in order to compensate for costs incurred and income foregone resulting from disadvantages in the areas concerned related to the implementation of directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC (Natura 2000 payments).	Provision of compensatory payments (for forest owners) in return for specific restrictions arising from Natura 2000.		
44	Payments to forest owners who make, on a voluntary basis, forest-environment commitments beyond the mandatory EU standards/requirements.	Support for the implementation of actions and the adoption of production solutions for more sustainable use of habitats.	Could support the restoration/management of vegetation and wetland areas.	
45	Support for restoring forestry production potential in forests damaged by natural disasters and fire and introducing appropriate prevention actions.	Could fund measures for the prevention of wildfires and the restoration of fire damaged ecosystems.	Could fund measures for the restoration of fire damaged ecosystems as required to achieve “good status”, including for erosion control.	
46a	Support granted for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of forest-environmental commitments.	Could support the creation of infrastructures relevant to the rational use of habitats and landscapes. (Also relevant to Water Framework Directive for vegetation management/restoration in Natura 2000 wetlands or basins).		
46b	Support granted for non-productive investments in forests which enhance the public amenity value of the Natura 2000 area concerned.	Could support the creation of infrastructures relevant to the management of habitats. (Also relevant to Water Framework Directive for vegetation management/restoration in Natura 2000 wetlands or basins).		
47.2 & 3	Designation and specific support measures for Less-Favoured Areas (LFAs) and areas where land management should continue to maintain or improve on environmental objectives.	With appropriate targeting by national and regional authorities, this measure can be extremely valuable for the maintenance of farming systems of high nature value that often coincide with Natura 2000 sites and/or are responsible for maintaining natural values in the landscape surrounding designated sites.		
52a	Support for small-scale tourism infrastructure such as information centres and the signposting of tourist sites.	Could support visitor management measures.		
52b	Support for recreational infrastructures offering access to natural areas, and small-capacity accommodation.	Could support visitor management measures.		

Table 22: EAFRD articles relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction
53	Support for environmental awareness actions, tourism improvements and the drawing-up of protection and management plans relating to Natura 2000 sites and other places of high natural value.	**A key article** for the support of management plans' preparation in the framework of local development strategies. Could also fund awareness actions and visitor management measures.	Could finance pilot projects and awareness raising measures.	
55b	Assistance for studies and investment associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the rural heritage at village level.	Could possibly fund the conservation of rural landscapes of high ecological value (e.g. stepped hillside cultivations) or coastal landscapes and restoration of lost coastal wetlands (and associated livelihoods).		
57a	Funding of studies of the area concerned.	Insofar as protection of the environment is included as a parameter of the local development strategy, the provisions of this article could be used to fund the preparation of management plans and the implementation of capacity building and awareness actions.	Insofar as protection of the environment and wetland resources is included as a parameter of the local development strategy, the provisions of this article could be used to fund the preparation of management plans and the implementation of capacity building and awareness actions for RBA administrators as well as relevant stakeholders.	
57b	Support to measures to provide information about the area and the local development strategy.			
57c	Support for the training of staff involved in the preparation and implementation of a rural development strategy.			
57d	Funding for promotional events and the training of leaders.			

Table 23: EFF articles[16] relevant to environmental funding

Article	Content	Relevance to Natura 2000	Relevance to WFD	Relevance to CO_2 reduction
31	Supporting aqua-environmental measures –compensation for the use of aquaculture production methods helping to protect and improve the environment and to conserve nature in order to achieve Community objectives relating to fishing and the environment.	Provision of compensatory payments (to micro- and small businesses) to e.g. for maintaining fish ponds, which can be important bird and wetland habitats.	Could finance the adaptation of existing aquaculture production so that it is WFD-compliant, including mitigation of negative impacts on coastal and transitional water bodies making up the River Basin District.	
43	Sustainable development of coastal fishing areas Application of relevant measures through integrated local development actions based on bottom up process through Coastal Action Groups (similar to the LEADER approach under the EAFRD).	Possibly of relevance to coastal and marine Natura 2000 sites – in addition to the actions themselves, the bottom up approach and integrated local development planning can provide the framework for working with local stakeholders/participatory processes, including networking, awareness raising, capacity building and planning.	Possibly of relevance to coastal and transitional water bodies making up the River Basin District – in addition to the actions themselves, the bottom up approach and integrated local development planning can provide the framework for working with local stakeholders/participatory processes, including networking, awareness raising, capacity building and planning.	
43.1a	Sustainable development of coastal fishing areas – Restructuring and re-directing economic activities, in particular by promoting green tourism.	Possibly of relevance to coastal and marine Natura 2000 sites e.g. for awareness raising (related to promotion of green tourism).	Possibly of relevance to coastal and transitional water bodies making up the River Basin District, e.g. for awareness raising (related to promotion of green tourism).	
43.1b	Sustainable development of coastal fishing areas – diversifying activities through the promotion of multiple employment for people actively employed in the fisheries sector, through the creation of additional or replacement jobs outside the fisheries sector.	Possibly of relevance to coastal and marine Natura 2000 sites, e.g. for developing alternative employment for local fishermen as rangers/wardens, guides/interpreters, etc.	Possibly of relevance in estuaries and coastal wetland systems.	
43.1e	Sustainable development of coastal fishing areas – protecting the marine, lake and coastal environment to maintain its attractiveness, regenerating and developing coastal hamlets and villages and protecting and capitalising on the natural and architectural heritage.	Possible support for conservation of coastal Natura 2000 sites such as dunes or lakeside vegetation/wetlands.	Possibly of relevance in estuaries and coastal wetland systems.	
43.1g	Sustainable development of coastal fishing areas – support for inter-regional and trans-national cooperation among actors in coastal fishing areas, mainly through networking and disseminating best practice.	Possible support for networking, capacity building and awareness raising for local stakeholders related to conservation and sustainable development of coastal Natura 2000 sites.	Possibly of relevance in estuaries and coastal wetland systems.	
43.1h	Sustainable development of coastal fishing areas – acquiring organising and presentational skills for the preparation and implementation of the local development strategy.	Possible support for capacity building and networking among stakeholders at local level for local development actions related to coastal Natura 2000 areas.	Possible support for capacity building and networking among stakeholders at local level for local development actions related to coastal and transitional waters making up the River Basin.	

16 European Fisheries Fund (EFF), COM(2004) 497 final

4. THE PROCESS FROM FUNDING OPTIONS TO FUNDING REALITY

The aim of this chapter is to show how the identified financing opportunities can be included in the process of decision making at the national and sub-national levels for the next programming cycle.

Regardless of the final form of the regulations that have yet to be decided at European level, the funding possibilities described in chapter 3 represent **options and not obligations** for the Member States. Whether and to which extent these possibilities are used by the Member States is decided in the further process of programming and implementation.

The following sections contain a brief summary of the main principles and stages of programming and implementation for Cohesion Policy, Rural Development and Fisheries[17] and their relevance for utilising the funding possibilities.

Relevance of the principles for utilising environmental funding options

- The programming process decides on the funding reality. The regulations only offer options, not obligations (the one exception is the agri-environmental measure contained in the proposed regulations for the EAFRD, which all Member States are required to apply).
- The Member States have the greatest influence on the result of the programming process. The Commission's influence is limited.
- National legal structures and responsibilities, existing funding instruments and existing programmes will significantly determine the programming process. Planning does not start from scratch.
- National co-financing is necessary to realise funding options and is quite often a limiting factor for using environmental funding options.

Principles of funding

The reform proposals maintain the basic principles of the present funding period. This includes multi-annual programming, partnership, co-financing, subsidiarity and evaluation. At the same time, the proposals introduce some significant changes. The programming approach will be more strategic, simplified and decentralised, centered on the "Community strategic guidelines" (on Cohesion, Rural Development and Fisheries) and the new "national strategic reference frameworks". The strategies will each represent a political charter for drawing up the operational programmes and specify the thematic and territorial priorities for the use of the funds. In general, the Member States will have significantly more responsibility for planning and managing interventions.

17 Implementation of the Financial Instrument for Environment (LIFE+) is projected to follow a different procedure

The programming process

According to the Commission's proposals, the planning for use of the Structural and Cohesion Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Fisheries Fund should follow more or less the same steps once the regulations are adopted:

- **Community strategic guidelines:** proposed by the Commission, adopted by the Council, assent by the European Parliament.
- **National strategic reference framework:** proposed by the Member State in applying the partnership principle; reflects on the Union's orientations, lays down a national strategy and its programming.
- **Operational Programmes:** one programme per fund and Member State or region, with description of priorities, management and financial sources; proposed by Member State or region.

Relevance of the programming steps for utilising environmental funding options

- The Operational Programmes define which "environmental options" are available in the Member State or region, and thus represent a critical point in the programming process.

- The European and national strategies can – at a strategic level – be used as reference points for environmental funding, although their influence is difficult to predict.

- The national strategy should serve as a basis for planned environmental funding areas in the Operational Programmes through a corresponding description of the environmental situation as well as the environmental objectives and priorities.

The time frame – theory and practice

The next funding period is supposed to start in January 2007. The indicative official time frame to achieve this goal is:

- **Summer 2005:** adoption of the regulations and decision on the financial perspective, the EU budget for the period 2007–13.
- **Autumn/end 2005:** adoption of the Strategic guidelines.
- **Spring 2006:** decision on the national strategic framework.
- **End 2006:** final decisions on the Operational Programmes.

The unknown quantity in this calculation is the financial perspective for the 2007–13 funding period, decisions on which could lead to substantial delays. Net contributing countries to the EU budget argue that a "good result", from their perspective, is more important than a quick conclusion to negotiations.

Although in theory and logically the different planning processes at the different levels should be carried out step by step, with programming only beginning after final decisions are made on the form of the EU regulations, in fact this is not the case. In reality, the planning processes at the different levels are carried out in parallel. For example, some Member States already started the national planning process in 2004, despite the fact that the regulations for the funds have yet to be finalised.

At the national or regional levels, financial decisions are quite often taken at a very early stage and largely determine the funding reality. It is only a slight exaggeration to say that the "technical rest" of the programming (i.e. analysis of the situation, ex-ante-evaluation, participation of economic, social and environmental partners) is an administrative task and more or less done to fulfill the official requirements and has less influence on the funding reality.

Relevance of the time frame for utilising environmental funding options

- In order to be effective, environmental actors must be aware of the differences between the theory and the reality of the timing and the steps of the planning process.
- Early involvement of environmental actors in the planning process is crucial. Main decisions are often taken in the beginning of the process.

Participation of environmental actors

In line with the principles of partnership and environmental integration, the Commission's proposals include stronger provisions for environmental actors from government and NGOs to participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Funds. Article 10 of the proposal for the General Regulation for the Cohesion Policy, COM(2004) 492, explicitly states that environmental partners should be included in the partnership of stakeholders in order to promote the integration of environmental protection and improvement requirements. The proposals for Rural Development[18] and Fisheries[19] contain similar requirements.

In addition to these regulations, the legal position for "early and effective opportunities to participate", especially of environmental NGOs, in the programming process is strengthened through the Aarhus Convention, which comes in force in the EU on June 25, 2005.[20]

Beside the legislative base, the reality of the information and involvement of environmental actors in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the European programmes is heavily determined by the "participation culture" in each country, and is often undertaken as a formality without really realising the advantages of effective partnerships.

Relevance of participation for utilising environmental funding options

- The effective participation of environmental actors especially at the national and regional level is a central precondition for a successful funding of environmental aspects within the programmes as well as the integration of the environment into "non-environmental" funding areas.

- The success of the participation of environmental actors is also determined by the framework conditions as well as by the environmental actors themselves.

- Effective participation requires careful planning of the involved actors. Necessary are for example realistic objectives, knowledge of the institutional framework, sufficient resources, access to information, internal support, and early participation (see also below, "Factors of success").

18 Art 6 of COM(2004) 490 final

19 Art 8 of COM(2004) 621 final

20 Directive 2003/35/EC

Factors of success

According to the proposals for the funding period 2007–13, financing as well as consideration of environmental interests is primarily secured through integration into the "non-environmental-areas" (Cohesion Policy, Rural Development, Fisheries). In many cases, this approach is connected with changes to the existing situation (shifting of funds, introduction of new measures, etc.).

Both political theory and practical experience confirm that the success of such integration or change is positively affected by certain factors, which are outlined in the table below.

Table 24:
Factors of success for environmental actors involved in programming for EU Funds

Area	Description
Engaged environmental actors	A high (personal) engagement of individual, self-assertive environmental actors is of central importance. They are the drivers of change.
Problem pressure	You do not need a crisis for change, but it helps. Problem pressures can trigger change processes. Especially relevant are economic, financial or political problems. Activities are promising in those areas where a certain problem pressure is present and noticed by other actors or even the public.
Vision	Successful and long-term commitment of environmental actors needs a clear vision. Why should we change? A vision presents a positive, long-term picture of the future. An effective vision motivates, coordinates and is the precondition for internal and external communication. An effective vision must be conceivable, desired, feasible, focused, flexible and containable.
Win-Win-Situation	Activities of environmental actors are especially promising in those areas where win-win situations with other actors or sectors are possible, that create (different) benefits for both involved sides. To achieve a win-win situation, the involved parties do not necessarily have to pursue the same goals.
Success	Nothing convinces and motivates more than success (examples). Success must be planned and identified in a systematic manner, and communicated internally as well as externally.
Connectivity	If the goals of environmental actors can be linked to existing conditions, structures, instruments and developments, the chances of success increase. The closer the links, the less effort needs to be expended, synergies increase and strong partners can be won.
Manageability	Focusing the engagement on a few clear and verifiable goals with milestones increases the chances for success. If activities are exceedingly complex, management gets too complicated, co-operation expenditure increases and failure may ensue.
Strong partners	Environmental actors are usually not strong enough by themselves to achieve their aims, so strong partners are needed that can contribute the necessary influence, know how, expertise or resources.
Sufficient resources	Successful participation of environmental actors requires sufficient time, personnel and financial resources. This includes resources for communication, training and environmental management.
Process competences	Process competence is based on knowledge of how political, social and inter-human processes run and can be affected as well as the ability to analyse existing conditions and developments. Process competence covers tactical skills, strategic ability, flexibility, the willingness to give-and-take as well as communication, presentation and dialogue skills.

BEST PRACTICE – SELECTED CASE STUDIES

The aim of this section is to give an overview of projects already realised in the fields of nature conservation and water management, energy, transportation and fisheries.

- **Alps-Adriatic Region:** Integrative Protected Area Management (ERDF: INTERREG III B CADSES)
- **Austria:** Nature Protection Plan for Farmers (EAGGF)
- **Belgium/Netherlands:** Water Management with Stakeholder Involvement (ERDF: INTERREG)
- **Italy:** Integrating Environment and Tourism (EAGGF: LEADER II)
- **Denmark:** Sustainable Fisheries Development (FIFG)
- **Finland:** Nature Conservation and Rural Development (ERDF)
- **Germany:** Biomass Heating (ERDF and INTERREG)
- **Germany and Switzerland:** Water Management and Sustainable Agriculture on Lake Constance (ERDF: INTERREG)
- **Germany:** Renewable Energy on the Isle of Föhr (ERDF)
- **Germany:** Job Creation in Nature Conservation (ESF)
- **Greece:** Conservation and Monitoring of the Monk Seal (ERDF)
- **Ireland:** Waste Water Treatment (Cohesion Fund)
- **Italy:** Sustainable Development around National Parks (ESF)
- **Slovakia:** Restoration and Management of Alluvial Meadows (PHARE)
- **Spain:** "Green Corridor" – Remediation and Restoration of Riparian Habitats (ERDF)
- **Mediterranean Coast:** Rever Med – Green Network for the Mediterranean (ERDF)
- **Scotland (UK):** Improving Access to EU Funds for Local Environmental Initiatives (ERDF/ESF)
- **England (UK):** Invest in Fish – Sustainable Fisheries Management (FIFG)

Alps-Adriatic Region: Integrative Protected Area Management

Duration
April 2003 – March 2006

Priority area
Austria, Italy, Slovenia: Karnische Alpen, Tagliamento, Julische Alpen, Karawanken

Country
Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Czech Republic

Funding instrument
Co-financed by: European Union within INTERREG III B CADSES programme (www.cadses.net)

Total funding
€ 2,370,000

Main objective
The project IPAM – Toolbox focuses on the evaluation, harmonisation and development of methods, instruments and infrastructures for planning and managing protected areas.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Office of the Government of Carinthia, Department of Spatial Planning, Subsection Nature Conservation / E.C.O. Institute for Ecology, Ltd.

Background

The planning and management of protected areas faces very different legal, administrative and technical realities, particularly across regional and national borders. A major challenge and opportunity related to enlargement of the European Union is to address the needs for protected area management across many of these interfaces.

Project aims

- Integration of protected area management into regional economy and rural development
- Improving the quality of protected area management
- Awareness raising among the general public of the complex tasks of protected area management
- Link protected area management with the tasks, instruments and tools of spatial planning
- Support implementation of European standards, policies, procedures and technologies

Project description

Components:

- Work Package 1: project management, reporting and exchange
- Work Package 2: trans-national results (expert system, toolbox and best practice)
- Work Package 3: tools and pilot actions for public awareness and participation processes
- Work Package 4: tools and pilot actions for inventories and monitoring
- Work Package 5: tools and pilot actions for management plans

The results of the project will be available in digital form and are intended to improve protected area management at the trans-national and regional levels:

Partnership

Carinthia (lead partner) – Office of the Government of Carinthia, Department of Spatial Planning / **Styria** – Office of the Government of Styria, Department of Nature Conservation / **Friuli Venezia Giulia** – Regional Directorate of Parks of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia / **Veneto** – Regional Park of Colli Euganei / **Czech Republic** – Academy of Sciences, Institute of Landscape Ecology / **Croatia** – Medimurje County, Department of Spatial Planning / **Slovenia** – Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy

Name of contact person

DI Johann Wagner, Mag. Michael Jungmeier & Mag. Iris Velik

Address

Kinoplatz 6, A-9020 Klagenfurt

Phone / Fax

+43 463 50 41 44 / +43 463 504144-4

E-mail

office@ipam.info

Website

www.ipam.info

Trans-national results

Based on a trans-national database (inquiry, literature, experts), a computer aided information system will be developed for identifying problems, proposed instruments and tools as well as examples of Best Practice. This information system will provide a broad range of users with access to the know-how of European experts from different sectors. Transfer of know-how and experience will be achieved by means of workshops, conferences, excursions and the establishment of virtual teams via the project's homepage. The final result, consisting of the following components, will be available in digital form on CDs and via internet:

1. **Toolbox:** a detailed description of promising tools, instruments and methods for integrative protected area management.
2. **Best Practice:** a collection and description of tools successfully implemented in different areas of the CADSES – region will provide users successful examples and data on contact persons.
3. **Web-based information system:** the system will provide digital decision support and integrates Best Practice and Toolbox in a database. An interactive approach helps identify a given problem and supports the user in deciding which tool to use.

Regional results

The regional pilot actions focus on generating "visible results" for the solution of concrete problems. They involve regional initiatives and administrative bodies, support local implementation and place emphasis on communication with regional stakeholders. This "bottom-up" approach ensures that the broad spectrum of "practical" aspects is included in the project's general results at a trans-national level. A booklet regarding each pilot will inform regional stakeholders and national authorities of project results.

The following pilot actions will be implemented in three methodological work packages

1. **Public awareness and participation processes:** raising public awareness and implementing participative processes in the Mura River Protected Landscape (Croatia); "branding" different protected area categories to raise awareness of the different types of protected areas, by the example of Carinthia (Austria); communication processes accompanying the enlargement and management of a Natura 2000 site in "Val Alba" in view of establishing a regional nature reserve/ Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy).
2. **Inventories and monitoring:** Development of an evidence system for protected areas in Carinthia (Austria); large-scale inventory of an alpine Natura 2000 site by means of remote sensing in the Niedere Tauern/Styria (Austria); scientific basis for a management plan for the Bohemian Forest National Park and Novohradské mountains (Czech Republic).

3. Implementation of management plans: management plans for riverine and alpine Natura 2000 sites in Carinthia (Austria); establishing and managing a new Ramsar site in Carinthia (Austria); establishing an Eco-Management and Audit-Scheme (EMAS) in the Regional Park of Colli Euganei in Veneto (Italy).

Links to other relevant completed (Preparity, Vision Planet, Estia, etc.) and ongoing projects (ECCOR, Tecnoman, Conspace, ISA Map, Future region, etc.) will be sought – especially with other projects within the framework of CADSES, e.g. the ECCOR project, which focuses on the management of areas between Protected Areas, with a view to establishing corridors of natural and semi-natural landscapes throughout Europe.

The project relates to the relevant European strategies and policies (Natura 2000, Agenda 2000, ESDP, etc.) and is carried out in close cooperation with the relevant European institutions (Europarc, Topic Centre of EEA, ECNC, CIPRA, etc.). Furthermore, it includes links to international developments (Biodiversity Convention, Ramsar Convention, IUCN, WCMC, etc.).

Future of the project

Expected results: Integration of protected area management into regional economy and rural development at a strategic and technical level by providing a focused impulse for promoting faster development of tools and technologies in the field of protected area management. Improving the quality of protected area management across the CADSES region through exemplary pilot actions and extensive trans-national transfer of expertise, technologies and results. Raising public awareness of the complex tasks of protected area management and the far-reaching possibilities offered by new technologies and tools. Linking of protected area management with the tasks, instruments and tools of spatial planning in order to avoid conflicts by anticipating and integrating different interests. Strong support in implementing European standards, policies, procedures and technologies in countries that are not yet members of the CADSES region.

Austria: “Nature Protection Plan” for farmers

Duration
2001–2005

Priority area
Agricultural lands

Country
Austria

Funding instrument
EAGGF (Rural Development, Articles 22–24, Article 33 and Article 9)

Total funding
Articles 22–24:
€ 72/field (farmer)
Article 9:
~ € 500/holding (expert; paid for education and materials)
Article 33:
€ 50/field (expert, paid for mapping)

Main objective
Raise awareness of farmers to the nature values on their holdings and nature conservation in general

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and provincial governments of Austria

Background

Because of its bio-geographical location, Austria has an especially rich biodiversity. With the exception of the Alps, most of the species and habitats, like the great bustard and meadow ecosystems, have been shaped by and depend on human cultivation. The Austrian agri-environmental-programme (Österreichisches Programm fuer Umwelt und Landwirtschaft, or ÖPUL) **offers a number of useful nature-protection measures for farmers. But many farmers are unaware of the ecologically valuable areas located on their holdings. In cases where farmers have signed a contract to protect ecologically valuable areas on their holding, other problems can arise especially with different requirements, which are generally well accepted thanks to the high premiums that are paid but not always well understood.**

The project **Nature Protection Plan** began in 2001 to sensitize farmers to the value of their own landscapes, to inform them of the reasons for various requirements, and to provide better guidance in identifying valuable habitats. In addition, experts and farmers developed ideas how special efforts for nature protection could be better communicated to consumers.

Project aims

- Raise awareness of farmers to the ecological features on their holdings
- Increase understanding among farmers of conservation aims and requirements
- Increase the quality and flexibility of required conservation measures by tailoring contracts to individual farms
- Prepare special ideas for communicating nature-conservation measures from the farmer to the consumer

Project description

The project “Nature Protection Plan” is a complementary measure, to precede concrete measures for landscape conservation (e.g. mowing grassland, designing new landscape elements, etc.). Together with the farmer, an ecological expert develops a concept containing the location of valuable areas of the holding; a short description and images of the most important habitats and species; nature conservation aims; operational aspects of the farm; and agreed requirements. The result of the concept is diagrammed on a thematic map and on an individual folder called “Info-folder for my holding”.

Partnership
LFI Ländliches Fortbildungsinstitut

Name of contact person
Mr. Wolfgang Suske

Address
Speisingerstr.63/1
A-1130 Wien

Phone
+43 699 110 60 456

E-mail
wolfgang.suske@chello.at

The „Nature Protection Plan“ consists of

- Organisation of regional information sessions to motivate farmers to participate in the project;
- A consulting-day for interested farmers, including a field trip and identification of valuable areas of each holding;
- Discussion and agreement with the farmer of all aims and requirements;
- Ecological description of the part of the landscape in which the holding is located (including two photos);
- Preparation of short characteristics of the most important habitats and species of the holding (each: one page A4, including one photo);
- Preparation of a thematic map based on an aerial photograph (1:5.000) containing all landscape elements and other valuable areas of the holding;
- Composition of an individual sample of small and practical “species identification cards” for plants, to give the farmer the possibility to identify the plants growing on his holding;
- Regular evaluation of the programme by telephone surveys;
- After one year: “de-briefing workshops” with all participants of the project to discuss problems and new ideas.

Future of the project

In 2003, approximately 1,550 farmers (5,585 ha) participated in the project. Interest in the project is still increasing. Evaluation has shown that more than 86% of all interviewees think “the nature protection plan is a very good measure for educating farmers”. About 55% of the interviewees thought that “the nature protection plan is a useful advertising medium for the farm holding and contains good information for consumers”.

For the next programming period, 2007–13, it is planned to extend the project to foresters as well as farmers. In addition, the operational processes will be changed, because the technical maps of the holdings will become digitalised, offering new possibilities for mapping and for designing the results of the field trip.

Lessons learned

- Ideal possibilities for combining the “Nature protection plan” and the management of Nature 2000 sites;
- The project has fostered good cooperation with natural and national parks authorities;
- Great interest in this project on the part of organic farmers as they have gained good ideas for communicating their “nature conservation work” to consumers;
- Simplification and improvements are necessary in the operational processes of the project (e.g. handling of data).

Belgium/Netherlands: Water Management with Stakeholder Involvement

Duration
1998–2001

Priority area
Provinces of Antwerpen, Vlaamse Brabant and Limburg in Belgium; and Province of Limburg in the Netherlands.

Country
Belgium and Netherlands

Funding instrument
Interreg (ERDF)

Total funding
€ 6 million (€ 3 million EU co-financing through the INTERREG programme).

Main objective
Improved watershed management through capacity building and awareness raising of local stakeholders, especially farmers.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Province of Noord-Brabant

Partnership
Provinces of Noord-Brabant, Limburg Vlaanderen, Limburg Nederland, Borenbond / Zuidelijke Land enTuinbouworganisatie / Noord-Brabants Waterschapsbond / AMINAL / PIDPA

Name of contact person
M. R. Schrauwen

Website
www.watermanagement.be

Background

For years, the Benelux Middengebied **was affected by arid conditions, leading to reduced yields and income for area farmers as well as affecting the integrity of natural areas. Stakeholders and local authorities wanted to find a sustainable solution that would benefit all stakeholders and meet the needs of economic activity as well as nature conservation.**

Project aims

The project's aim was to enhance the good management of the watershed by collecting and retaining precipitation and, indirectly, increase the amount of water available for nature conservation as well as economic activity.

Project description

The project consisted of the following main actions:

- Application of good agricultural practice and water conservation measures by farmers and other stakeholders to maintain the water level within the watershed;
- Improved (sustainable) use of this water by the different landowners;
- Awareness raising and capacity building for sustainable water management at different levels;
- Development of communication tools (internet website, information panel, brochure and folders, press release, conference and meeting, video).

16 water conservation areas (considered as pilot areas) have been established and are equally distributed across the project area (provinces of Antwerpen, Vlaamse Brabant and Limburg in Belgium and the province of Limburg in the Netherlands).

Within those 16 areas, a network of piezometers has been installed that permit stakeholders to gauge the level of water and the impact of their own land management practices on the water table.

Future of the project

- This integrated project with involvement of many partners provides a good example that will be applied in co-operation with other international partners.

- A similar project already has been launched within the same area and on the same basis following agreement by the NUBL (Nadere Uitwerking Brabant en Limburg) in September 2000.

- A number of conferences have been organised on the subject. Seven concrete ideas for new projects have already been developed and will be launched in the near future by other countries and regions.

Lessons learned

- A very good example of a trans-national project enhancing water management across political borders, and combining water management with nature conservation measures that are economically, socially, and ecologically relevant.

- Effective, practical involvement of stakeholders in the project, including 80 farmers. Free capacity building enabled participating stakeholders to monitor the impact of their different land management practices by means of an electronic registration system.

- An important consideration in developing such a project is the ability to apply the approach to other areas.

Italy: Integrating Environment and Tourism

Priority area
Delta 2000 (Po Delta)

Country
Italy

Funding instrument
EAGGF (LEADER II)
+ regional/local and private investors

Total funding
€ 343,143 (50% EU co-financing)

Main objective
Eco-tourism management of wetlands and development of educational products

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Local Action Group DELTA 2000

Partnership
Irish Partner ECAD (East Cork Area Development)
www.activelink.ie/irish/organisation

Name of contact person
Mr. Giancarlo Malacarne
and Mrs. Paola Palmonari

Address
Via Mezzano, 10 Ostellato

Phone
+39 533 68 11 80/68 18 16

E-mail
deltaduemila@tin.it

Background

The area of the Po delta **represents a unique environment, with a mixture of forests, dunes and valleys and some 450 bird species. The main objective of the Local Action Group that was established under the LEADER programme was to increase knowledge about the Delta, to strengthen the positive image of the area and market its unique characteristics. Awareness raising, informational and educational materials were developed for tourists. Co-operation with a similar geographical area was sought to learn more about developing tourism infrastructure.**

Project aims

- Maximise the return on valuable yet fragile wetlands through product development, promotion and education/awareness raising, by cooperating with another wetland area in the process of developing its tourist infrastructures

- Develop tourism and educational products and local capacity to implement and manage them.

Project description

The following actions were realized:

Tourism and promotion:

- Definition of a bird-watching itinerary in the Park of the Po Delta
- Development of specific material for the promotion of the bird-watching product (guide entitled "Bird-watching in the area of the Po delta" in three languages, booklets, posters, etc). This material was distributed on the English market.
- Participation in international fairs, including British Bird-watching Fair.
- Realisation of a familiarising trip (educational tour) in the delta area for tour operators and specialized press, contacts with specialized tour operators and associations at European level, meeting with local agencies and public bodies of various institutions, proposals of holiday package, manual for the hospitality and the reception.
- Implementation of guided free visits in the park of the Po delta.

Education and environmental awareness:

- Development of an educational handbook, *Bird Watching in the Area of the Po Delta*, for secondary and advanced schools. This handbook also provides tools for teachers and students to plan their own "outdoor workshops".
- Promotional action through intensive mailing to 12,000 schools.
- Organisation of an educational tour for middle and secondary school teachers, local officers and guides specializing in natural history.
- Catalogue containing routes and itineraries for bird watching, distributed to 20,000 schools.
- Organisation of a competition for students and exchange programmes between schools for young people in the Po delta and East Cork in the United Kingdom.
- Artistic initiatives and environment week.

Infrastructures and conservation:

- Introduction of innovative equipment and techniques, such as heated bird-watching cabins, towers, and specialized visitor centres.
- Visit of experts of the Po delta to the area of East Cork.
- Studies of management procedures of the environmental sites of the delta.

Future of the project

- Further co-operation is planned between partners with similar or complementary characteristics, e.g. developing a sub-network of partners focussed around wetlands.

- The local community has developed a strong awareness and understanding of their natural heritage. Together with new infrastructures, investments and know-how, this will continue to enhance marketing opportunities and therefore the income of activities related to tourist services and environmental education in the area.

- New employment opportunities have been created for local youth.

- Initiatives will contribute to enhance efforts of the local administration for a sustainable and integrated approach to rural development.

- Local tourist companies been able to expand the range of their offering to include environmental education and eco-tourism as well as prolong the annual tourist season.

Lessons learned

- Positive experience with trans-national co-operation between Delta 2000 and East Cork Area Development (ECAD). Of interest to ECAD was Delta 2000's experience in developing infrastructure appropriate to its wetlands as a tourist product and associated educational tools. In turn, of particular interest to Delta 2000 was ECAD's experience in assisting local tourist actors to create a cooperative marketing channel and marketing for bird-watching tourism.

- The importance of providing mediation facilities in the case of different spoken languages for defining preliminary common objectives and actions. Also important is respect for the different approaches and knowledge of the partner organisations involved.

- Remain realistic within your goals and targets and align them closely to the time frame within which objectives must be achieved. Minimise delays between the initiation and completion of project phases.

Denmark: Sustainable Fisheries Development

Duration
2004–2006

Country
Denmark

Funding instrument
FIFG

Total funding
DKK 30 million (€ 4 million) co-financed through FIFG

Main objective
Improved management and sustainability of Danish fishing sector.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
www.dffe.dk

Partnership
Close involvement of different stakeholders, including NGOs

Name of contact person
Espen Nordberg

E-mail
e.nordberg@wwf.dk

Background

The Fisheries Development Program **was developed by the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture in cooperation with the Danish Directorate for Food, Fisheries, and Agriculture and with input from various Danish institutions and NGOs to improve Danish fisheries management and increase the sustainability of the Danish fisheries sector.**

Project aims

The aim of the program is to develop a basis for fisheries where bycatch and discard of fish for consumption and ecological impact is documented and reduced to a minimum by the application of best possible technology and management practice.

Project description

The program is compromised of four elements:

- Development of new catch and fishing methods, enabling improved selectivity in terms of size and species.
- Development of new instruments for fisheries management (e.g. fishing days, real-time closure and reopening of hot spots) to maximize the use of the Danish fishing quota, including reduction of discard.
- Development of a codex for sustainable fishery, including definition within the fishing sector of a sustainable fishery and acceptance by the sector of sustainable management.
- Definition and description of the ecological sustainability of the fishery, including quantification of the direct and fleet specific effect of the fisheries on target and by-catch species as well as documentation of the effect of using new and selective fishing technologies.

These elements are targeted at the development of improved fishing and management methods to ensure that use of the allocated marine resources is optimal in relation to the composition of the fishing fleet as well as sustainable fisheries development. Thus, the programme supports projects aimed at addressing problems that are of significance to Danish fishing sector by incorporating new technology and management methods in the same project. Projects should contribute to the EU objectives for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy which Denmark as a member country is obligated to fulfil, including implementing recovery plans for threatened fish stocks and fast-tracking the development of environmentally-friendly fishing methods.

Future of the project

The programme, which was opened for first applications for project funding on November 1, 2004, will continue for a three-year period until the end of the current financing period in 2006.

Lessons learned

This is a good example how EU funding programmes (in this case the FIFG) can be used to promote more sustainable practices. It also provides an example of how NGOs can play an important role in program and project development: WWF-Denmark played an important role in initiating and developing the program, and now sits on the program steering committee. As a co-applicant with four other institutions for a € 600,000/1-year project to be funded through the program, WWF-Denmark is also involved at the level of project implementation.

Finland: Nature Conservation and Rural Development

Duration
1995–1998

Priority area
Liminganlahti area

Country
Finland

Funding instrument
ERDF

Total funding
Total cost of the Nature Centre: € 1,159,400 of which the Ministry of Labour provided € 253,600 and the Municipality of Liminka € 420,300. The remaining € 485,500 (42% of the total) came from the ERDF.

Main objective
Development of Rural Communities. Protection and Improvement of the Environment.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Regional Environment Centre of North Ostrobothnia

Background

Liminganlahti **is located in the north-west of Finland and comprises one of the most valuable wetland areas in Finland. It is a roosting site for many migratory bird species that is of international importance. The breeding bird fauna is diverse, including 19 species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. The total number of waterfowl has reached nearly 50,000. The rare bird and plant species of** Liminganlahti **and** Liminka **contribute their uniqueness of the areas as a tourist attraction.** Liminganlahti **has been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive and a candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive.**

Project aims

- The purpose of the programme was to develop and maintain the area as a tourist attraction without disturbing the fragile environment, and to improve the local environment for the inhabitants through environmental improvements.

- Another major aim of the programme was employment creation, both directly by providing local employment as well as indirectly by promoting business opportunities. The Liminganlahti programme coordinates with two LIFE projects in the area.

- The project was initiated by the North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre in co-operation with the Labour District and the Regional Council of North Ostrobothnia. Planning for the programme began in autumn 1995 and the construction work started the same year. The work was completed in the spring of 1998.

Partnership
WWF-Finland

Name of contact person
Anita Isotalus

Address
Regional Environment Centre
of North Ostrobothnia
PL 124 90100 Oulu

Phone
+358 83158 357

Project description

There are three elements to the programme:

Nature travel and recreation

WWF-Finland had established a small Nature Centre on the shores of Liminganlahti in Virkkula. As tourist numbers grew, the planning of a new Nature Centre began, to provide a functional visitor centre and supply services as part of the Environmental Management Programme.

In 1996, the North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre and the Municipality of Liminka made a proposal to the Regional Council of North Ostrobothnia to separate the Nature Centre from the Liminganlahti Development Programme. At the beginning of 1997, the proposal was accepted as a separate Objective 5b project for the Municipality of Liminka. The decision was principally based on economic considerations as the Nature Centre would have otherwise consumed a large proportion of the budget for the Programme. Building commenced in the summer of 1997 and was completed in time for the bird season in the spring of 1998.

Other projects in this category included the creation of a network of camping sites, six bird towers and over six kilometres of raised nature trails built around Liminganlahti. Several buildings and dozens of information and nature trail signs were installed.

The extension of the Varjakka boat harbour was an important part of the Liminganlahti development. Previously there were several small landing sites in the shallow coves of Liminganlahti which were potentially disturbing the birds. Because of the new harbour extension, the routes to the smaller landing sites have remained undredged and therefore cannot be used.

Improvement of waterways and water protection

The aim of these projects was to improve the natural environment of Liminganlahti and of its catchment area by increasing water levels. The bay of Liminganlahti is shallow, and almost one third of it is less than one metre deep. In addition, the bedrock is rising at the rate of 8 mm per year, so that the water surface area is reduced by an average of 27 hectares per year.

Landscaping of the river banks was carried out at Ängeslevänjoki and Temmesjoki and the Niskajärvi wetland was created to filter water originating from the peat production area and to increase the low water levels during the summer months.

The water level of Ängesleväjoki river was increased by approximately a metre by building six elevations in the place of former rapids.

Guidelines have been provided to promote sensitive drainage measures in areas where the land is traditionally used for agriculture.

Co-operation with landowners

The forests along the shores and nearby areas of Liminganlahti form an important part of the area and forestry and landscaping plans were prepared for each farm. These plans were combined with the education of landowners to encourage appropriate afforestation.

Future of the project

The programme's impact on employment was recorded monthly. During the period July 1996 to May 1998 the programme resulted in 18 man years of labour with 6.1 persons employed per month on average. At least one new enterprise was established and a permanent post created. There have been several other impacts on entrepreneurship and employment. Facilities for boating, accommodation and bird watching have been created. The village activities of Varjakka have also been boosted. For example, a course to train bird watching guides and a travel agency specialising in bird watching have been launched. The improvements of the waterways have encouraged the local population to work for the benefit of their river.

The Nature Centre that started as part of the Liminganlahti Development Programme employed ten people full time during the building stage and now employs five full time and three part time staff. The bird population has been monitored in the area since the 1950s. During the Programme, the number of birds has been increasing, unaffected by the growth in visitor numbers

Lessons learned

There are also two LIFE projects in Liminganlahti. The 'Conservation and Management of Liminganlahti Wetland' aims to secure the natural values of Liminganlahti by integrating conservation, protection and other land use measures in an environmentally sustainable way. Activities have included the clearance of reeds and shrubs and the management of existing pastures and meadows by grazing and annual mowing. The second LIFE project aims to protect the lesser white fronted goose, which is a globally threatened species found in the Liminganlahti area during migration in May. The resting population has been in decline since the 1960s and today numbers only 25–40 geese per year. This project that begun in 1997 has given valuable information on how to protect and conserve these important resting areas.

These LIFE projects ensure that the nature conservation interest of the area is monitored and protected and provides direct investment for specialised nature protection measures whilst the Structural Fund projects provide opportunities for socio-economic development, without compromising the natural environment.

Germany: Biomass Heating

Duration
1997–1999

Priority area
Brandenburg,
German-Polish border region

Country
Germany

Funding instrument
ERDF and INTERREG

Total funding
ERDF and INTERREG: € 385,719
public co-financing: € 96,430

Main objective
Upgrading housing and changing to more environmentally friendly heating systems

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Bauamt Schenkendöbern

Background

To change public and private heating schemes from coal to more environmentally friendly systems, a wood chip district heating system was installed in Brandenburg **with financial support from the European Regional Development Fund. This was complemented by additional support from the INTERREG programme which was invested into more energy efficient housing and public buildings in the larger region straddling the German-Polish border.**

Project aims

- Changing to more environmentally friendly heating systems
- Upgrading the living and housing standard in the region
- Installing a renewable energy source
- Making housing and public buildings more energy efficient

Project description

The project changed the heating system of a whole part of a town which had previously relied on energy from fossil fuels (mainly coal). Individual coal burning furnaces were substituted by a central wood chips burning facility for district heating and water heating. These investments were supported by EU co-financing through the ERDF.

At the same time, housing quality and comfort in schools and other public buildings was increased through a complementary project funded through the INTERREG programme, which focussed on improving the energy efficiency of buildings e.g. through modernising roofs, windows and facades to avoid heat loss.

Address
Dorfstr. 53, D-03172 Schenkendöbern

Phone
+49 3561 5562 16

E-mail
mail@schnekendoebern.de

Website
www.schenkendoebern.de

Germany and Switzerland: Water Management and Sustainable Agriculture on Lake Constance

Priority area
Lake Constance

Country
Germany, Switzerland

Funding instrument
INTERREG – Programme Bodensee-Hochrhein
Project: Environmental methods for growing fruit and vegetables

Total funding
€ 759,219
EU contribution: € 288,198

Main objective
Promotion of environmental (organic) farming, nature conservation across national borders and enhancement of water quality

Coordinating/ Organisational body
University of Hohenheim
Institut für Obstbau

Address
Schuhmakerhof 6,
D-88213, Ravensburg-Bavendorf

Phone / Fax
+49 751 7903 311 / +49 751 7903 322

E-mail
mayr@uni-hohenheim.de

Website
www.uni-hohenheim.de
www.ethz.ch

Background

Pollution knows no borders on Lake Constance**, where the quality of the water has suffered from intensive farming methods on both the German and Swiss sides of the lake. For the regional authorities, cross-border cooperation is essential, especially since the common economic interests of the regions surrounding the lake are directly connected to the environmental situation. The project was launched in 1994 by the University of Hohenheim in Ravensburg, Germany in collaboration with the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule of Zurich in Switzerland with EU support provided through the INTERREG programme.**

Project aims

The purpose of the project was to study and promote environmentally friendly methods for growing fruit and vegetables while developing new marketing methods in order to make the Lake Constance area more competitive at the European level.

Project description

To ensure the economic viability of fruit and vegetable cultivation without harming the environment, the project's promoters chose the only solution possible: make production less intensive by using more land and spraying it with less pesticides and herbicides. Activities therefore included:

- Creation of a cross-border extensive farming area;
- Investigation of possibilities for harmonising the farming methods employed on the Swiss and German sides of the lake;
- Research on specific problems, such as organic methods for cultivating greenhouse cucumbers.

The farming and marketing structures on both sides of the border were also examined with a view to anticipating general trends in European agriculture (reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy, globalisation of trade and agreements within the World Trade Organisation) and in the context of closer relations between Switzerland and the European Union.

Future of the project

The different studies have led to a series of recommendations for the continuation of cross-border cooperation. This includes the establishment of a new co-operation network that includes Bavaria and the Austrian region of Vorarlberg; greater sharing of agricultural and scientific information and knowledge; the creation of a system to detect harmful diseases and insects; and the elimination of administrative and legal obstacles to cooperation.

Germany: Renewable Energy on the Isle of Föhr

Duration
1996–1998

Priority area
Island of Föhr

Country
Germany

Funding instrument
ERDF

Total funding
€ 353,000
EU co-financing (ERDF): € 122,000

Main objective
Promoting renewable energy.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Regionalbüro Uthlande der Insel- und Halligkonferenz and the Euregio Wadden

Background

Lying off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein**, the** island of Föhr **seems tailor-made for a pilot project on renewable energy. The island is slightly less than 83 km², two thirds of which are covered by marshland. The population is no greater than 8,700 souls, half of whom live in** Wyk**, the main port. Except for construction, there is practically no industry, and there are only about 70 farmers left on the island, who are mainly involved in milk production.**

As an integral part of the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park, a major part of the island's income comes from tourism. At the peak of the tourist season, the population of the island can reach 30,000. With this in mind, safeguarding the island's natural heritage is a key concern for the island's development.

Project aims

Emphasis was put on promoting renewable energy. The islanders took the initiative in 1994 to form a think tank, Sun for Föhr. The issue was taken up by Fering Natur, the body responsible for safeguarding the island's environment, and resulted in an initial project that was partly financed by the EU through the ERDF.

Project description

A total of 24 solar power stations were built on the island between 1996 and 1998. The project was backed by awareness raising among the local population to increase their appreciation for and use of new forms of energy, including e.g. educational visits to power stations. Today, solar power supplies 24% of the island's total energy requirements. Most of the solar power stations that have been installed produce hot water, which is especially used in the tourism industry.

Further efforts are now underway to develop additional sources of solar, wind and biogas energy.

Name of contact person
Annemarie Lübcke

Address
Sandwall 38, D-25938, Wyk auf Föhr

Phone / Fax
+49 46 81 34 68 / + 49 46 81 34 50

E-mail
luebcke@inselundhalligkonferenz.de

Website
www.inselundhalligkonferenz.de
www.waddenislands.de

Future of the project

The path of development initiated by the Sun for Föhr project has continued to the present. Additional renewable energy projects have been undertaken since the project ended in 1998, most of them financed with support from the regional or national governments. Within the next years, up to 70% of the island's energy needs is expected to be covered by energy from renewable sources. The island has set 2015 as a target for covering 100% of energy needs from renewable sources. Thanks to strong support from the federal government, significant investments have recently been made in photovoltaics. The introduction of biogas (energy production from dung) on farms is currently under study, with potential financing through the ERDF.

Since 2000, the islands in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden sea have joined together to form a common organisation called Insel- und Halligkonferenz. Under this "roof" we have a new project called Energievision Uthlande (Uthlande is the name of our region), which will set a common aim for future plans for developing renewable energy and support ongoing projects on the islands and halligen of the region. We hope to extend this co-operation on developing renewable energy sources to similar areas throughout Europe through Euregio Wadden, an organisation of all European Wadden sea islands.

Germany: Job Creation in Nature Conservation

Duration
2002–2006

Priority area
Bavaria

Country
Germany

Funding instrument
ESF

Total funding
ESF € 2.2 million.
Bavarian Nature Fund: € 2.4 million.
State of Bavaria: € 0.7 million.
Total: € 5.3 million

Main objective
Create jobs in nature conservation and ensure implementation of Natura 2000.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Bayerinscher Naturschutzfonds

Background

Trained specialists in biology and ecology often find it difficult to enter the job market or to find adequate positions. At the same time, protection of Natura 2000 and other protected areas requires staff, scientific and management support. The project has drawn on EU funds through the ESF to co-finance support from the provincial government of Bavaria and the Bavarian Fund for Nature to train and employ conservation managers for Natura 2000 sites in Bavaria.

Project aims

- Create jobs and employment opportunities in the field of nature conservation
- Help qualified biologists and ecologists enter the job market
- Implement the Natura 2000 network of protected sites in Bavaria
- Ensure adequate management of Natura 2000 sites in Bavaria

Project description

With EU co-financing through the ESF, the Bavarian Fund for Nature has been able to support the implementation of Natura 2000 with qualified staff and also create employment opportunities for trained biologists and ecologists who normally face difficulties entering the job market. A network of 29 nature conservation managers has been established to ensure implementation of EU and Bavarian conservation legislation and management in Bavaria's most valuable protected areas.

Future of the project

Funding is available until the end of 2006 for a total of 29 Nature Conservation Managers, of which 14 are women.

Lessons learned

Especially in the difficult funding for nature conservation managers, the EU support enabled the development of a network of Natura 2000 site managers which will be then in a position to look for future funding.

Partnership
Regional authorities,
nature conservation organisations,
Nature Parks

Name of contact person
Ms. Karin Walter

Address
Rosenkavaliers-platz 2,
81925 München

Phone
+49 89 9214 2413

E-mail
karin.walter@stmugv.bayern.de

Greece: Conservation and Monitoring of the Monk Seal

Duration
2003–2006

Priority area
Southwestern Cyclades

Country
Greece

Funding instrument
Regional Operational Programme "Southern Aegean"
(Funded through the 3rd Community Support Framework – ERDF)

Total funding
€ 265,000
EU contribution: € 265,000 (100%)
(ERDF Funding)

Main objective
Protection of an important population of the monk seal.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
MOm / Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the monk seal

Background

The monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) **is one of the most threatened species on earth and Europe's most endangered species of seal. The environmental organization MOm has a long history of studying and protecting the monk seal in Greece, where the seal's last areas of refuge can be found. In particular, MOm has been active in the region of the southwestern Cyclades since 1997 and has identified an important monk seal population on the** islands of Kimolos and Poliaigos**, which have been included in the Natura 2000 network of specially protected areas. Moreover, it considers the whole complex of islands** (Kimolos, Serifos, Sifnos, Folegandros, Sikinos, Antiparos and Milos) **as an internationally important habitat for monk seals. Further research and monitoring is necessary. Through the years of its operation, MOm has been financed through EU funds (LIFE-Nature projects and Structural Funds) and through grants and individual donations and membership support.**

Project aims

The project aims at the protection and promotion of the natural environment of the Southwestern Cyclades. In particular, it focuses on monitoring the population of monk seals on the island of Kimolos and in the broader region as well as raising the awareness of local inhabitants to this threatened species.

Project description

The project includes the following actions:

- Monitoring of the monk seal populations on the island of Kimolos and Poliaigos
- Research and recording of areas of refuge in the broader region of the southwestern Cyclades and in particular the islands of Kimolos, Serifos, Sifnos, Folegandros, Sikinos, Antiparos and Milos.
- Environmental education at the schools on the islands listed above to raise awareness among the local population.
- Creation of an "educational suitcase" (information and environmental education material packet) which will be loaned to schools of the surrounding islands and will be used to increase the awareness of local inhabitants regarding the monk seals and the identified region.
- Preparation of information materials.
- Organisation of a one-day workshop which will present the results of the project to local inhabitants and other interested parties.

Name of contact person
Stella Adamantopoulou

Address
18 Solomou Str.
GR-10682 Athens
Greece

Phone / Fax
+30 210 522 28 88 / +30 210 522 24 50

E-mail
info@mom.gr

Website
www.mom.gr

Future of the project

The project is still ongoing. In line with MOm's longstanding strategy, all efforts will be made to continue working in the region of the southwest Cyclades, due to the international importance of the specific region for the conservation of the monk seal. Moreover, efforts will continue in order to designate the area of the current project as a marine protected area.

Lessons learned

Although the project is still in progress, some lessons can already be identified.

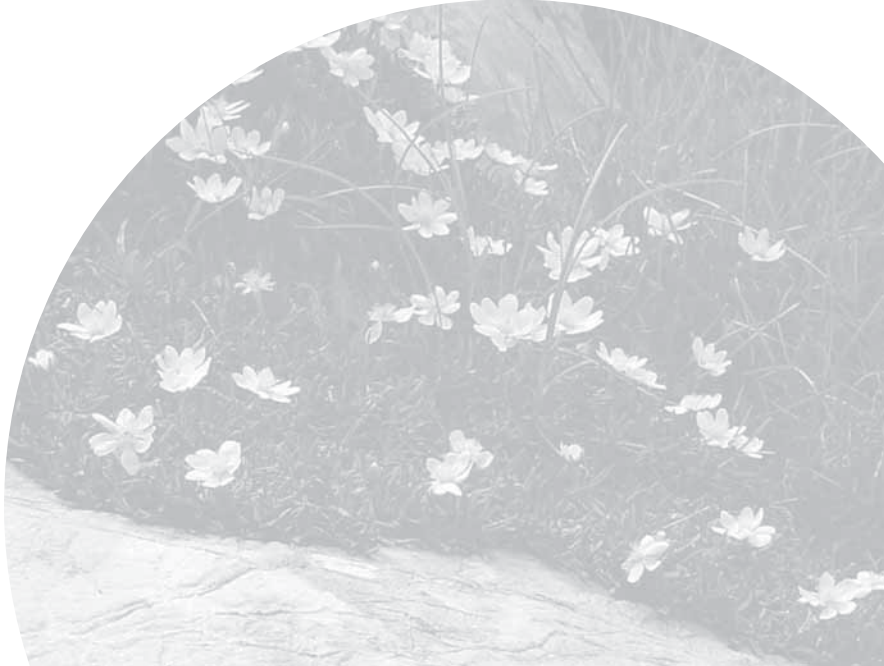
First, the specific line of funding, through the Regional Programme of the Southern Aegean, was the only funding instrument able to simultaneously support both research and conservation actions rather than conservation alone.

Second, the project demonstrates that the possibility of funding projects for the natural environment can become a priority only if there is local commitment to such an objective.

However, the project also highlights difficulties involved in applying for funding and managing the project, including:

- Difficulty in collecting the necessary supporting documents, not only during the application process but also for the monthly monitoring and the continuous management of the project;
- Long delay between the call-for-tender of the project and the actual launch of project implementation;
- Continuous demand for management, which is not funded from the project itself; hence, capacity for management, physical and human infrastructure to cover the workload and time commitment are required.

Lastly, the overall conclusion is the lack of funding available for environmental protection, since requirements are very specific and, for example, cannot be used to cover the expenses of the Educational Centre on the island of Kimolos.



Ireland: Waste Water Treatment

Duration
1996–1998

Priority area
Clonmel town

Country
Ireland

Funding instrument
Cohesion Fund

Total funding
€ 20.17 million. EU contribution:
€ 17.14 million (Cohesion Fund)

Main objective
River clean-up, primary and secondary sludge treatment.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Clonmel Corporation

Name of contact person
Dan Walsh, Acting Borough Engineer

Address
Town Hall, Parnell Street,
IRL Clonmel, Co, Tipperary

Phone / Fax
+ 353 5 22 21 00 / + 353 5 22 22 16

E-mail
bwilkinson@southtippcoco.ie

Background

The quality of Clonmel's waterways **has been immensely improved by a waste water treatment scheme. This has not only had benefits in terms of the environment and safety but also has pioneered new practices in disposing of waste. These improvements have clearly boosted the commercial, touristic and industrial potential of the town.**

Clonmel town is situated in the southern part of County Tipperary on the Suir River and has a population of around 14,500 inhabitants. Up to recent years, all effluent was discharged untreated via 23 separate outfalls directly into the river. A water quality management plan developed in the early 1980s and a more recent report published by the Environmental Protection Agency for the River Suir identified Clonmel as urgently requiring an urban wastewater treatment system.

Project aims

The Clonmel Main Drainage Scheme involves the upgrading of the municipal collection system and the provision of a major wastewater treatment and sludge handling facility. The secondary treatment plant, once complete, will be the largest inland sewage treatment plant in Ireland with a population equivalent of 80,000, allowing for the treatment of effluent from the town's large industrial base. It will provide Clonmel with both primary and secondary treatment of its wastewater.

Project description

The first phase of the project provided for the laying of an interceptor sewer to carry effluent to the treatment plant. This phase of the Clonmel collection system involved extensive works and was completed in the summer of 1996. Works on the treatment plant commenced in 1995 and were completed in 1998.

The scheme has eliminated the discharge of untreated sewage from multiple outfalls to the River Suir and has brought the wastewater treatment facilities at Clonmel into line with the EU wastewater standards. The system uses anaerobic digestion to treat primary and secondary sludge produced on site. This process produces methane, which is recycled for heating purposes – ultimately reducing energy costs. Odour reduction is carried out with high-rate bio-filters removing the odorous compounds, such as hydrogen sulphide, produced by the plant.

Italy: Sustainable Development around National Parks

Duration
End: March 1999

Priority area
National Parks of Cilento-Vallo di Diano, Pollino and Gennargentu

Country
Italy

Funding instrument
ESF

Main objective
Capacity building for the development of sustainable activities.

Coordinating/ Organisational body
CRAS (Centro studi Ricerche e progettazione sugli Affari Sociali – research and study center and designing of social affairs) / WWF-Italy

Partnership
Public institutions within the: National Park of the Cilento and Vallo di Diano / Gennargentu National Park / Pollino National Park

Address
Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 269
00186 Roma

Phone / Fax
+39 6 681 0021 / +39 6 681 30372

E-mail
info@crasitalia.it

Website
www.crasitalia.it/contattaci

Background

The PASS (Pubbliche Amministrazioni per lo Sviluppo del Sud – Public Administration for Southern Italy Development) **project, supported by the European Social Fund, is addressed to the authorities included in the area of the Pollino, Gennargentu, Cilento Vallo di Diano National Parks (the Park Authority, the Mountain Communities and the Municipalities) and, consequently, to private subjects who will later be involved in the designing of development initiatives.**

This intervention comes from the need to use in the best way the opportunities offered by the European funds respecting the environment, an essential factor for a long-lasting and sustainable social and economical development. The project foresees the definition and testing of a new approach for the programming of local development interventions. This innovative approach is the expression of a programming policy based on the principles of social dialogue, of subsidiarity and of multidisciplinarity. The integrated approach represents the highly innovative element of the project which is based on the involvement and participation of all the local stakeholders as active subjects of the development process.

Project aims

The purpose of this intervention is to improve and increase the use of EU and national funds and to develop the capacity for project development and management of the authorities involved. The objective is to give the public operators the possibility to:

- Acquire useful knowledge and competencies for the use and management of EU and national funds.
- Exploit the opportunities offered by EU and national co-financing.
- Promote sustainable development in the rural areas of Cilento-Vallo di Diano, Pollino and Gennargentu, according to the social and economical characteristics of the region.
- Design and test a sustainable model of intervention to satisfy the needs of the local community.
- Use a project model which facilitates co-operation between local authorities and private operators.
- Develop a project for local environmental resources with a systemic logic to enhance and protect them with the best use of the financial resources available.

Project description

Training and information seminars on:

- Opportunities offered by the Structural Funds, EU, national and regional funds and other EU initiatives.
- Information and methodological and technical tools for the definition and evaluation of project ideas.

Technical and planning assistance as well as organisational consulting:

- All the administrators involved will play an active role in the formulation of a local development project. A group of consultants will give their technical support for the design and implementation of the projects, finding out the financial resources that will help the development interventions.

Slovakia: Restoration and Management of Alluvial Meadows

Duration
1999

Priority area
Morava River Floodplain

Country
Slovakia

Funding instrument
PHARE Cross Border Co-operation Programme (1995)

Main objective
Restoration and maintenance of floodplain meadows in the Morava Floodplain through co-operation with local communities and support of traditional land use

Coordinating/ Organisational body
ATA-VVMZ Consortium / DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology

Partnership
Administration of Záhorie Protected landscape Area

Name of contact person
Dr. Ján Šeffer, Milan Janák, MSc

Address
Podunajská 24, 821 06 Bratislava

Phone / Fax
+421 2 4552 4019 / +421 2 4552 4019

E-mail
daphne@changenet.sk

Website
www.daphne.sk

Background

The Morava river floodplain **located on the border of Slovakia and Austria represents a unique cross-border wetland with high biological value. Due to strict military protection over the past half century along the former "Iron Curtain", the area has been preserved as one of the largest floodplains in a near natural state in Central Europe.**

In 1993, the area was designated as a Ramsar Site and several nature conservation projects were begun. Funding from the Global Environmental Facility enabled detailed research of the former "no go" area, including an inventory of floodplain meadows as a basis for their management and restoration in 1994–1996. Based on the research results, a detailed restoration plan was prepared in 1998 for the Morava river floodplain meadows in the framework of a project supported by the European Commission. The transformation process of 140 ha of arable land back to alluvial meadows began.

In 1999 the project **Restoration and Management of Meadows in Morava River Floodplain** was awarded a grant through the PHARE Cross-Border-Co-operation (CBC) Programme, in the framework of which the actual on-site restoration of alluvial meadows was undertaken.

Project aims

Main objective:

Restoration and maintenance of the largest complex of floodplain meadows in Central Europe through co-operation with local communities and support of traditional land use.

Specific objectives:

- Elaboration of a restoration plan for meadows in the Morava River area.
- Restoration of 50 ha of arable soil back to the species rich meadows.
- Education and public awareness campaign.
- Graphic design and printing of 2 publications on the Morava River floodplain meadows.
- Restoration of former wet meadow ecosystem of the Abrod National Nature Reserve.
- Tender for delivery of a mobile mowing machine and an off-road car for the site managers.

Project description

The project included the following activities and outputs:

- Development of a restoration plan for the transformation of arable soil back to wet meadowson the basis of GIS-aided analysis of historical records in comparison with the present situation of the floodplain. Field mapping of vegetation was undertaken in order to achieve a good baiss for comparison.
- After considering the results of mapping, negotiations with farmers and local authorities as well as financial conditions, 50 ha of active arable land were identified for transformation back to species-rich meadows. After reviewing flood frequency, weather conditions and seasonal agricultural works, the actual restoration was completed.
- Two bilingual Slovak/English scientific publications, Morava River Floodplain Meadows – Importance, Restoration and Management and Biodiversity of National Nature Reserve Abrod – Present State, Changes and Restoration as well as a brochure on wet meadows management were prepared to raise awareness of the importance of alluvial meadows and their functions among local and other stakeholders.
- Due to drainage of the Abrod National Nature Reserve, the area was overgrown by brushwood encroachment. During restoration works, 2,018 ha of shrubs and trees were cut and 75 ha of grasslands were mowed.
- A mobile mowing machine was purchased for use by the Administration of the Záhorie Protected Landscape Area in areas where wet meadows have been abandoned by land users and are threatened by overgrowing.

Future of the project

- Restoration of the alluvial meadows in the Morava river floodplain has continued, with up to 140 ha of meadows now restored.

- Thanks to this project and subsequent efforts of DAPHNE, a special scheme for the maintenance of natural and semi-natural meadows and for conversion of arable land to grasslands has been included in the SAPARD programme for 2003 for implementation on specific pilot sites. The southern part of the Morava river floodplain was chosen as one of the pilot sites. Two agricultural companies from the Morava river floodplain have agreed to participate in the programme and have committed to convert 884 ha of arable land to grasslands.

- Both schemes have also been incorporated into the Rural Development Plan for 2004–2006. To date (February 2005), 100 agricultural subjects from across Slovakia have submitted project proposals to participate in the scheme. As part of the project development procedure, DAPHNE has been authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture to certify the occurence of natural or semi-natural meadows on the farmers' holdings. The certificates are being developed based on the data from the national grassland inventory maintained by DAPHNE.

- In 2004, DAPHNE elaborated a study on the agricultural use of the Morava Floodplain based on interviews with local farmers. Further negotiations are planned as part of the preparation of the detailed site management plan.

Lessons learned

- The total mapped area that has been identified as arable and abandoned land is 471 ha. Some 386 ha have been proposed for restoration, 84 ha by special mowing.

- In order for the restoration plan to be successfully implemented and the meadows managed in a sustainable way, it is necessary to co-operate with local stakeholders, particularly with farmers and local authorities and to take into account as much as possible their comments, recommendations and needs.

- The printed results of the project have served as a tool for disseminating information on the importance and functions of the Morava river floodplain meadows in Slovakia and in other countries as well. Especially socio-economic arguments highlighted in the book have promoted consideration of the importance of natural meadows at the local as well as national levels. The successful restoration project has led to the development of similar actions in other parts of the country through the agri-environment schemes of SAPARD and the Rural Development Plan.

- To secure the management of sites that were abandoned by land users, it is necessary to build-up the capacity of site managers to be able to implement the management measures.

Spain: Green Corridor – Remediation and Restoration of Riparian Habitats

Duration
1998–2003

Priority area
Guadiamar river
(Doñana National Park watershed)

Country
Spain

Funding instrument
ERDF funds and Regional funds.
Support from the Council of Europe's Development Bank

Total funding
Total cost for Green Corridor:
€ 165,000,000,
of which € 17,426,802 funded through ERDF
(75% EU; 25% Regional Government)

Main objective
Remediation of the effects of the mining accident and restoration of riparian and marshland habitats

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Regional Department for the Environment

Background

In 1998, a tailing dam failure in Aznalcóllar polluted 6,000 hectares of the Guadiamar river and threatened the Doñana National Park **located downstream from the dam. Different authorities and the mining company began clean-up and restoration works immediately, turning a major disaster into an opportunity for conservation and sustainable development. The** Green Corridor **is probably one of the best known projects that was initiated at this time.**

The Green Corridor project is complementary to other EU-fund supported initiatives such as the Doñana 2005 wetland restoration project of 8,000 hectares (investment of € 87,000,000) and the investments from the 1993–1999 Doñana Sustainable Development Plan-Environmental Investments (water treatment plants and restoration of more than 15,000 hectares of eucalyptus forests to cork oak and pine forests with a budget of € 81,320,000).

Project aims

The Guadiamar river basin has suffered from mining and agricultural activities (arable crops, olives, fruit trees and irrigation) since pre-Roman times, and agriculture. In the 1960s, the lower range of the river was channelled to create space for rice paddies in the old estuary. Today, some villages release industrial wastewater (from the olive industry) into the river.

The failure of the tailings dam in 1998 and subsequent release of 6 million m^3 of toxic waste forced a change in approach to addressing environmental problems in the river basin.

The objectives of the Guadiamar Green Corridor are to mitigate the effects of the mining accident, to restore ecosystems, to improve the ecological status of the river and to promote sustainable development for the local economies.

Name of contact person
Mr. José María Arenas (RENPA Division)

Address
Avda. Manuel Siurot ,
no. 50, 41071 Seville

Phone / Fax
+34 955 00 44 82 / +34 955 00 44 60

E-mail
corredorverde.cma@juntadeandalucia.es

Website
www.cma.junta-andalucia.es/
medioambiente/paisajeprotegido/cverde

Project description

Environmental restoration

Of the large number of actions for environmental restoration, the most significant have been those to fix the heavy metals and arsenic in the soil via addition of limestone and FE-rich clay substrates. More than 2,400 control points have been analysed and mapped.

Close to the Doñana National Park, acidic waters have been stopped and stored by new dams, later cleaned by a specific treatment plant, and finally released to the Guadalquivir estuary.

The result of clean-up, soil remediation, and forestation can be followed up by numerous indicators. 6 years after the accident, more than 20 fish species live and reproduce in the major part of the river. Bird species use the river as a corridor, reptiles and amphibians are back and the otter (*Lutra lutra*) has established a stable population. The pollution, although still existing, is considered as adequate for a protected area with forest use and under recovery.

Environmental education and toursim

In order to attract local population and visitors, school activities (**El Guadiamar en el aula**), numerous trips, institutional activities and events have been organised in the corridor itself and the associated recreational and information areas.

Future of the project

After having finished the restoration works, the area is considered as 'stable' being public property and since 2003 protected as a 'Protected Landscape' by the Regional Government.

Over the next months, work plans include the maintenance of the restored ecosystems, the control of the river's ecological quality, completion of recreational and information infrastructure and organisation of environmental education activities.

The whole project has included a strong research component. In October 2004, a follow-up project, SECOVER, began extending the analysis of ecological and social characteristics in the river basin.

Lessons learned

The need to establish a rapid and co-ordinated action after the mining accident; good practices in clean-up techniques.

The use of ecological restoration with self-design capacity and restoration of ecological processes can be applied in other Mediterranean river basins.

The Green Corridor provides a case study illustrating how to turn crisis-management into an opportunity for sustainable-development.

Rever Med: Green Network for the Mediterranean

Priority area
Metropolitan areas of the North-East

Country
Spain, Italy, Portugal, France

Funding instrument
ERDF with public cofinancing

Total funding
Total financial resources: € 2,021,346
Financial resources for the Emilia-Romagna Region: € 44,356,
of which € 22,178 are from the EU (ERDF)

Main objective
Development of a European green network for the Mediterranean area

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Andalusia Region / Emilia-Romagna Region Department: General Directorate Territorial Planning and Mobility Systems

Name of contact person
Massimo Bertuzzi

E-mail
mabertuzzi@regione.emilia-romagna.it

Website
www.revermed.com

Background

Rever Med will continue the work begun in the project Rever Nord, which was initiated by the partners of the Countries of the Amno (Metropolitan areas of the North-East). A total of 27 public bodies and 4 technical partners have pledged to develop the European Green Network**.**

Project aims

The Rever Med project aims to develop a green network of paths or roads dedicated to non-motorized traffic along the entire stretch of the West European Mediterranean. The network will total 10,000 km in length and connect the south of Portugal with the south of Italy, passing through the Mediterranean regions of Spain and France.

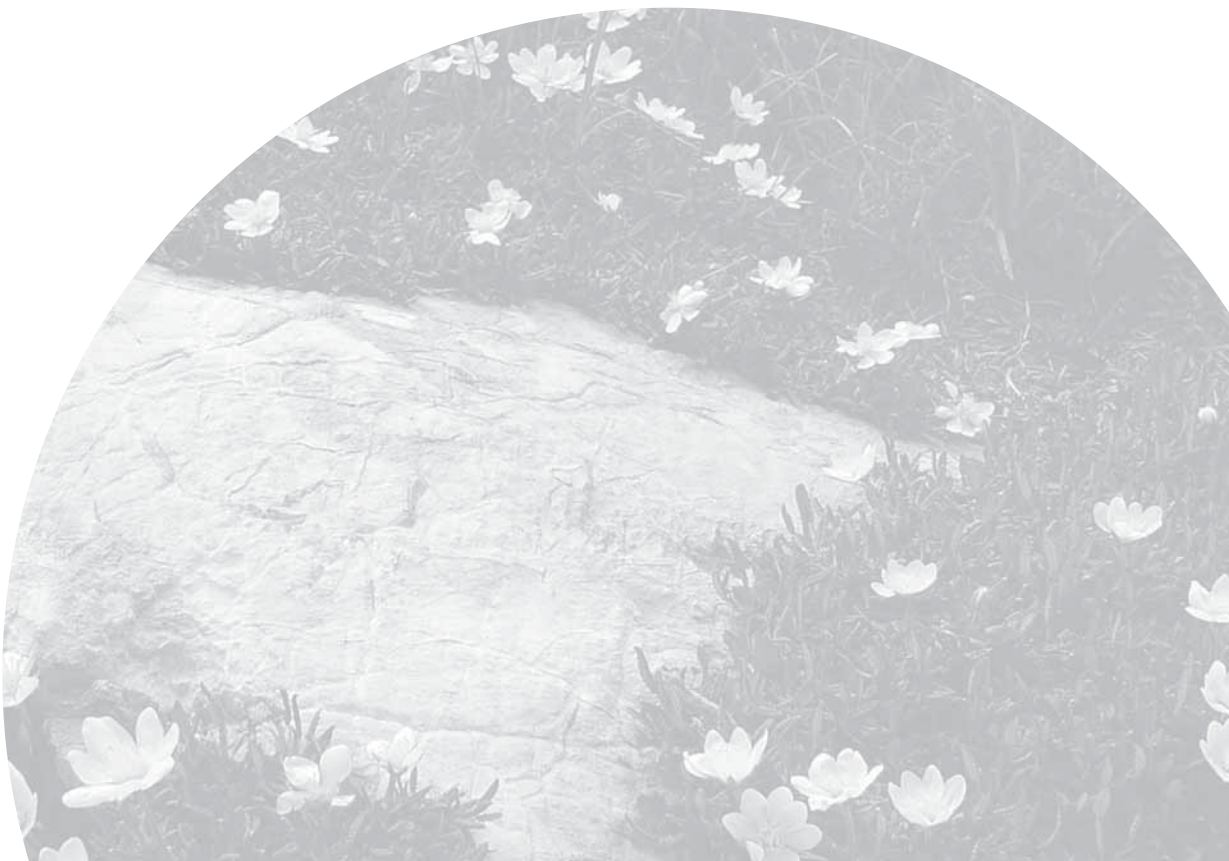
Description of the project

The green network will be mainly composed of concrete elements including:

- greenways
- tracks
- riverbank roads and roads running alongside canals
- cycling tracks
- rural paths and roads with light traffic

The green network also has the objective of exchanging experience between the public administrations, associations and bodies involved in sustainable transport policies in various countries, with the aim of strengthening this issue at a European level.

The project, in which 32 bodies, distributed throughout the MEDOCC area, are involved (12 in Spain, 2 in Portugal, 6 in France, 11 in Italy) wish to extend the “European green network” which was developed for the areas of Northern Europe (inter-regional programming IIC AMNO), specifically to the Western Mediterranean. Furthermore, it wishes to promote the exchange of experience between the territorial management authorities with regard to transport policies, paying particular attention to non-motorized mobility.



Scotland: Improving Access to EU Funds for Local Environmental Initiatives

Duration
2003–2006

Priority area
Communities of Port Glasgow and Clydebank South

Country
Scotland (UK)

Funding instrument
ERDF/ESF

Total funding
£ 920,000 (ca. € 1,391,326), ERDF/ESF Support: £ 460,000 (ca. € 652,325)

Main objective
Capacity building, addressing barrriers to participation

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Inverclyde Council / West Dunbartonshire Councils

Partnership
Inverclyde Council / West Dunbartonshire Council / Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire / Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire / West Dunbartonshire Environment Trust

Name of contact person
Graham McDermott

Address
Inverclyde Council West Economic Development Services,
75-81 Cathcart Street ,
GREENOCK, PA15 1DE

Background

Following on from discussions between Inverclyde Council and West Dunbartonshire Councils, it was proposed that an Environmental Improvement Key Fund should be set for the URBAN II Communities **of** Port Glasgow **and** Clydebank South**. An Environmental Improvement Key Fund Sub-Group was made up of representatives of Inverclyde Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire, Communities Scotland, Inverclyde Community Development Trust and West Dunbartonshire Partnership to take this proposal forward.**

The URBAN II Environmental Improvement Key Fund was approved in September 2003 and will run until September 2006.

Project aims

To establish a grants fund which enables community-led organisations to access European Structural Funds for projects which could support economic development and regeneration through environmental activities.

Phone / Fax
+44 14 75 715 555 / +44 14 75 712010

E-mail
graham.mcdermott@inverclyde.gov.uk

Project description

The following areas form the basis of the actions, which can be undertaken by the Fund:

Physical projects should include:

- Small-scale, community-led improvements to the built and natural environments of the Programme area, especially those which re-use waste materials and expand the network of green areas volunteering as well as Institute of Leadership and Management projects, which have environmental improvements as a focus for the development of skills.
- The development of a network of paths and greenways which both encourage exercise and connect residential areas with areas of economic opportunity or environmental improvement.
- The development of allotments and community growing initiatives, where these contribute to healthy eating and wider public benefits.

Actions relating to resource use should include:

- Projects focusing on waste reduction, collection of recyclable materials, and their re-processing, including composting. Actions will also be supported with a view to increasing community participation in such schemes.
- Training and Institute of Leadership and Management projects linked to energy efficiency, including actions to improve the quality of housing.

Capacity Building Actions should include:

- Training and awareness activities targeted at community groups active in the area who may benefit from being more aware of environmental issues and opportunities and how these impact on everyday life.

Future of the project

It is hoped that, in the future, the EIKF will lead to more community organisations that have the ability to take on larger-scale projects applying directly to SEP, Ltd for mainstream URBAN II and/or Objective 2 funding.

Lessons learned

Both the Port Glasgow and Clydebank South communities have set up local appraisal groups to consider key fund applications from each of the areas. The local groups are made up of community representatives and local agencies. Projects are appraised against a set criterion, combined with discussion centred on local priorities and strategies.

Once the local appraisal groups have appraised projects they are then advanced to a joint Management Board, which is again made up of community representatives and local agencies. This model should prove to be an effective means of sharing good practice across the two areas and enable the EIKF to achieve a good level of consistency in its core application and monitoring documentation.

The application process was designed to be straightforward, flexible and speedy.

England: Invest in Fish – Sustainable Fisheries Management

Duration
January 2004 – October 2006

Priority area
Coastal areas off the southwest England

Country
England (UK)

Funding instrument
FIFG

Total funding
£ 1.6 million (ca. € 2.3 million), including EU co-financing through FIFG, other public sector support as well as private sector support from WWF-UK, the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, and Marks & Spencers.

Main objective
Identify best option for sustainable management of fisheries involving all relevant stakeholders

Coordinating/ Organisational body
Invest in fish is an original concept from Marks & Spencer / the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations / WWF-UK

Background

Fishing and fish-related industries form an integral part of the economy, communities, image and natural environment of southwest England. The fishing industry in South West England is worth £ 165 million (ca. € 239 million) per year and accounts directly for 1,800 jobs, and indirectly for a further 1,900. Yet the state of many fish stocks could be improved, and contribute to the local economy and safeguard local jobs. Studies have shown that by changing current approaches to fish management in the English Channel, fisheries could become more profitable, while fish numbers would actually increase.

Partnership

The project involves all sectors with an interest in the future of fisheries of South West England, and will work with interest groups from other countries.

Address

Invest in fish South West,
Barn C, Boswednan Farm,
Tremethick Cross, Penzance,
Cornwall TR20 8UA

Phone / Fax

+44 1736 333733 / +44 1736 333990

E-mail

Info@investinfishsw.org.uk

Website

www.investinfish.org

Project aims

To maximize the potential of our fish resources, Invest in fish aims to rebuild the English fishing industry, communities and the marine environment by investing in:

- People – bringing together those with an interest in management of fisheries and the marine environment, from fishermen to pressure groups, sea anglers to local communities, retailers to restaurants, and from government to processors.
- Knowledge – providing these stakeholders with the best scientific and economic information to identify opportunities for improving the management of fisheries in the South West.
- Best practice – identifying the management option that best balances economic, social and environmental benefits in a truly transparent and innovative way.

Project description

Invest in fish will unfold in the following stages:

- Listening – Detailed community and stakeholder consultation throughout the project will develop a genuine "bottom up" approach to fisheries management.
- Technical information – Expert scientific, social, economic and environmental information will be sought throughout the project. This will inform, but not replace, the decision-making process.
- Consensus – By drawing together stakeholder views to create an assessment tool, the project will test, evaluate and fine-tune the best option for the future management of the South West fisheries.
- Implementation – The project will develop a detailed costed plan to implement the preferred option.
- Shared learning – The knowledge gained while developing and implementing the project can then be shared with the rest of the UK, other countries, and the European Commission.

Processors, a Japanese restaurant chain called Moshi Moshi, retailer Marks & Spencer, the WWF-UK, and representatives of sea angling associations are among those involved. Each will put forward scenarios for improving fishing in the region that will then be assessed using cost-benefit analysis.

Future of the project

The project presents an innovative, "bottom-up" approach to fisheries management. If the project succeeds, it could halt the fishing industry's decline and set an example for fisheries management right across the EU.

photo © michal@sky.cz

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Links

- WWF European Policy Office: www.panda.org/epo/index.cfm
- NGO Coalition on EU funds: www.coalition-on-eufunds.org/
- Network of sustainable regions: www.sustainable-euroregions.net/member_regions.php

Natura 2000

- European Commission website: europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature_conservation/natura_2000_network/managing_natura_2000/index_en.htm

Water Framework Directive

- European Commission website: europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/index.html
- Guidance documents from the EU Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy, available at: forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_documents/

CO_2 Reduction

- www.managenergy.net/products/R171.htm
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Sustainable transport

- www.t-e.nu/
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Acronyms and abbreviations

CF ..... Cohesion Funds

CO_2 ..... Carbon Dioxide

EAFRD ..... European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

EFF ..... European Fund for Fisheries

EIA ..... Environmental Impact Assessment

ERDF ..... European Regional Development Fund

ESF ..... European Social Fund

EU ..... European Union

FIFG ..... Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance

GDP ..... Gross Domestic Product

GIS ..... Geographical Information System

LFAs ..... Less Favoured Areas

NGO ..... Non-Government Organisation

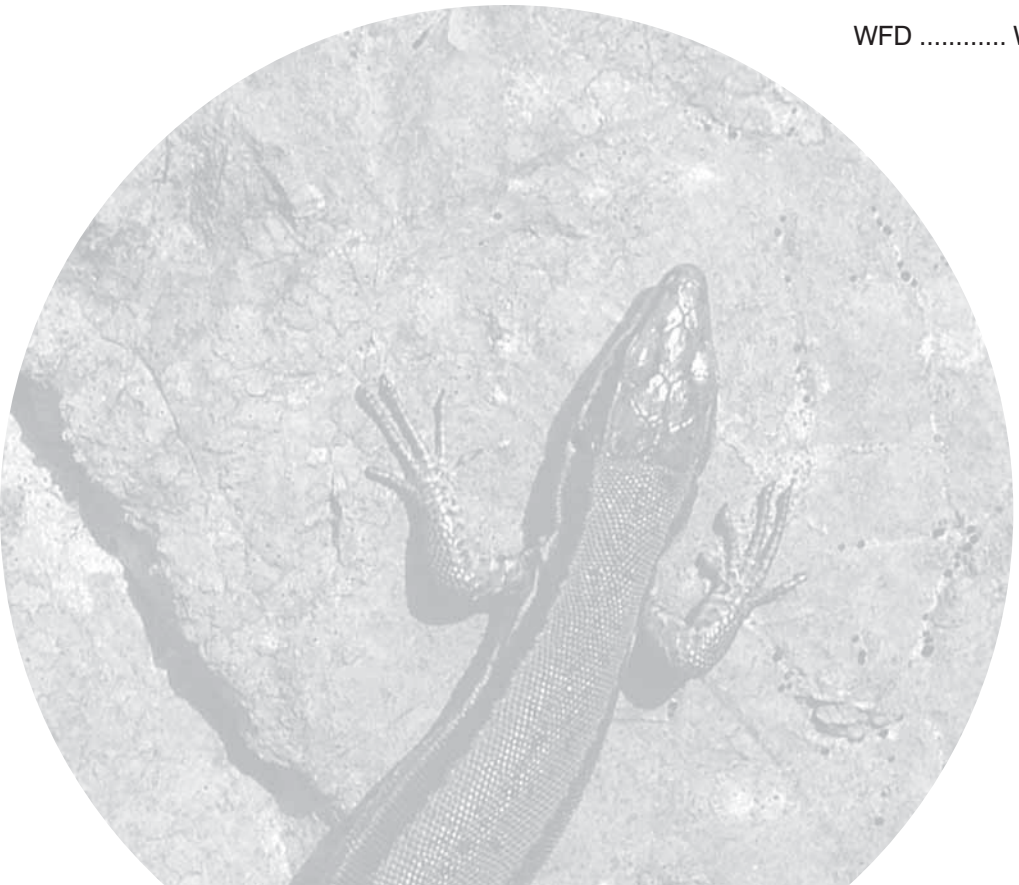
RBAs ..... River Basin Authorities

R&TD ..... Research and Technology Development

SEA ..... Strategic Environmental Assessment

SMEs ..... Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises

WFD ..... Water Framework Directive



Contacts

Dirk Schubert,
Terra Nova Institute, Germany:
Dirk.Schubert@nova-institut.de

Constantinos Liarikos,
WWF-Greece:
c.liarikos@wwf.gr

Stefanie Lang,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels:
slang@wwfepo.org

Andreas Beckmann,
WWF-Danube Carpathian Programme:
abeckmann@wwfdcp.org

Peter Torkler,
WWF-Germany:
Torkler@wwf.de

Alberto M. Arroyo Schnell:
aarroyo@almik.com

Eva Royo Gelabert,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels:
eroyogela@wwfepo.org

Stephan Singer,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels:
ssinger@wwfepo.org

Mariangiola Fabbri,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels:
mfabbri@wwfepo.org

Elizabeth Guttenstein,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels:
eguttenstein@wwfepo.org

Sian Pullen,
WWF-International:
spullen@wwf.org.uk

Stefanie Schmidt,
WWF-Germany:
schmidt@wwf.de

Paloma Agrasot,
WWF-European Policy Office, Brussels:
pagrasot@wwfepo.org

Guy Beaufoy,
IDRiSi, Spain:
gbeaufoy@idrisi.net

Viviane Raddatz,
BUND-Friends of the Earth Germany, Berlin:
viviane.raddatz@bund.net

Kai Steffen,
ITDP Europe, Berlin:
steffen@itdp-europe.org

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WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

for a living planet®

WWF European Policy Office
36, Avenue de Tervurenlaan box 12
1040 Bruxelles, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 7438800 | Fax: +32 2 7438819
wwf-epo@wwfepo.org | www.panda.org/epo