



CZECH REPUBLIC

This document provides an overview of LIFE in the Czech Republic.

It showcases success stories and ongoing initiatives, indicates how to find further information on the projects and provides a list of ongoing projects in Annex.



Overview

Since it became a Member State in 2004, five LIFE projects have been financed in the Czech Republic. Two of these were financed during the LIFE III programming period (2000-2006) under the LIFE Nature component. Altogether the projects represent a total investment of €10.9 million, of which €5.7 million is being contributed by the European Union.

The current phase of the programme, LIFE+ (2007-2013), has a total EU budget of €2 143 million. Every year a call for project proposals is launched covering the programme's three components: Nature and Biodiversity, Environment Policy and Governance, and Information and Communication. Since October 2009, the European Commission has approved three LIFE+ projects in the Czech Republic: one under the LIFE+ Information and Communication component and two under the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity component.

You will find more details on these and all recent LIFE projects in the Czech Republic in the annexed lists.



Between 2004 and 2006 (i.e. during the LIFE III programme), the LIFE Nature component (now called Nature and Biodiversity) co-financed two projects in the Czech Republic. These projects represented a total investment of €1.5 million, of which €1.1 million was contributed by the European Union. One project, carried out by an NGO over a 39 month period, dealt with the restoration of thermophilous habitats in the Moravian Karst. The other project, carried out by a regional authority and operational between January 2007 and December 2010, has provided support for the preservation of alluvial forest habitats in the Morávka river Basin.

Two more projects have been approved under the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity component in the Czech Republic. This represents a total investment of €8.5 million, of which the European Union will contribute €4,3 million. One project, starting January 2011, aims to contribute to the maintenance and the restoration to favourable conservation status of the unique thermophilous habitats and species in the Lounské Středohoří hills. This project will run for approximately 5.5 years. The second project, also starting January 2011, and due to be carried out over a five-year period, aims to introduce, test and promote patchwork management to the conservation of target butterfly species. Both projects will be carried out by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic.

The project presented in the box opposite is an example of a successful LIFE Nature project from the Czech Republic.



Restoration of thermophilous habitats in the Moravian Karst (RUPICOLOUS) LIFE04/NAT/CZ/000015

The RUPICOLOUS project achieved its strategic objectives of restoring priority habitats which included sub-Pannonic steppic grasslands, Pannonic white oak woods, Pannonic oak-hornbeam forests, lime-alder forests on slopes, screes and ravines, and calcareous scree. Project results exceeded original targets and land acquisition helped to safeguard the expansion of priority plant species, such as *Echium russicum* and *Pulsatilla grandis*, both of which are listed as Annex II species. Key conservation action to improve dry grassland habitats and white oak woodlands involved reducing threats from invasive species. LIFE's work here focused on reducing risks caused by black locusts and common ash, which were eliminated over 56 ha (more than double the original goal of 25 ha). Other interventions (over a smaller 2 ha area), focused on removing Norway spruce in order to help restore lime alder forests on project sites covering slopes, screes, ravines, calcareous areas and montane levels in lower parts of the valley. Natural succession of target species, both here and throughout the project area was encouraged by planting seedlings of oak, lime tree, sycamore and common maple. Traditional grazing was also successfully re-established to maintain the grasslands and woodlands. These practical habitat restoration actions have provided a firm foundation to ensure the future sustainable management of thermophilous habitats in the Moravian Karst. Ongoing sustainability will also be assisted by the LIFE project's achievements in raising awareness among local stakeholders about the habitats' value and important maintenance requirements.

Key communication tools created for this integral aspect of the LIFE project's work included leaflets, a brochure and DVD, all of which are available on the project's website that provides further information about this ground-breaking LIFE project in from Czech Republic at <http://psh.ecn.cz/index2.htm>

Information and Communication



The projects funded under this component aim to disseminate information and raise the profile of environmental issues. They also provide training and awareness-raising on the prevention of forest fires.

In the Czech Republic, one project has started in 2010 under this LIFE+ component. The general objective of the project is to enhance the development of effective communication and support targeted dissemination of information as a means of solving selected problems related to nature conservation and landscape protection in the NUTS II region of Moravia-Silesia. The project's total investment amounts to €0,8 million, of which the European Union will contribute 50%. The project will be implemented by the Moravian-Silesian Region over a 48 month period.

A short description of this ongoing project is presented in the box opposite. Further information, including the results, will be provided in due course.



Unified information and communication system for nature conservation in NUTS II Moravia-Silesia (INFOMS) LIFE08/INF/CZ/000443

The INFOMS project aim to: eliminate conflicts and identified problems that arise during the implementation of Natura 2000 in the Moravia-Silesia region (in relation to communities and landowners) by improving communication and information exchange between key participants of nature protection and increasing the number of institutions involved from the public and non-profit sectors. It also aims to enhance awareness of nature conservation and landscape protection among priority target groups in order to reduce the frequency with which nature conservation laws are broken.

The project expects that communication will be targeted at some 50 communities and hundreds of land owners and tenants in the protected areas. The intention is to include more than 300 organisations in information flows and involve more than 10 organisations in co-operation schemes. Finally, the project expects to achieve a 30% decrease, compared to 2008, in unauthorised tree felling, in flora and fauna biotope damage in small-scale protected areas, and in disturbance of animals and erosion, as a result of illegal motocross.

For further information:
<http://infoms.kr-moravskoslezsky.cz>

How to find out more about LIFE and LIFE projects



By surfing on the LIFE website

The LIFE website provides a wealth of information on the LIFE programme: <http://ec.europa.eu/life/>

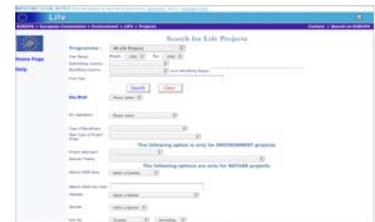


By searching on the LIFE projects database

For further information on LIFE projects in the Czech Republic or LIFE projects in general, please consult the online LIFE projects database.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

The easy-to-use database is the authoritative source of information on all on-going and closed LIFE projects. The database also provides information on the beneficiaries, their contact details, and the projects' websites.



By contacting the National Contact Point for the Czech Republic

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Nature & Biodiversity projects in the Czech Republic

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Restoration of thermophilous habitats in the Moravian Karst (RUPICOLOUS)	LIFE04 NAT/CZ/00015	http://psh.ecn.cz/index2.htm		10/2004 → 12/2007
Preservation of alluvial forest habitats in the Morávka river Basin (MORAVKA)	LIFE06 NAT/CZ/000121	http://www.life-moravka.cz		01/2007 → 12/2010
Active protection of the SCIs with thermophilous habitat types and species in Lounské Středohoří hills (Lounské Středohoří Steppe)	LIFE09 NAT/CZ/000363	N/A		01/2011 → 06/2016
Integrated protection of rare butterfly species of non-forest habitats in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (Butterflies CZ-SK)	LIFE09 NAT/CZ/000364	N/A		01/2011 → 12/2015

Information and Communication projects in the Czech Republic

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Unified information and communication system for nature conservation in NUTS II Moravia-Silesia (INFOMS)	LIFE08 NAT/CZ/000443	http://infoms.krmoravskoslezsky.cz		01/2010 → 12/2013