



Romania

This document provides an overview of LIFE in Romania. It showcases success stories and ongoing initiatives, indicates how to find further information on the projects and provides a list of ongoing and recently closed projects in Annex.



Overview

Since the launch of the LIFE programme by the European Commission in 1992, a total of 51 projects have been financed in Romania. Of these, sixteen focus on environmental innovation, 34 on nature conservation and one on information and communication. These projects represent a total investment of €31.3 million, of which €17.9 million has been provided 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 its three components: Nature and Biodiversity, Environment Policy and Governance, and Information and Communication. Since October 2008, the Commission has approved eleven LIFE+ projects in Romania: three under the LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance component, seven under the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity component and one under the LIFE+ Information and Communication component.

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



Between 1992 and 2006 (i.e. during the LIFE I, II and III programmes), the LIFE Environment component (now called Environment Policy and Governance) co-financed 13 projects in Romania. This represented a total investment of €8.1 million, of which €3.4 million was contributed by the European Union.

The projects covered several themes, such as clean technologies; water management at the scale of the river basin, industrial and municipal waste management; air quality; risk assessment and pollution control; urban planning; sensitive area management; and ecolabelling. National and local authorities were the main beneficiaries, as well as development agencies, public enterprises, and research institutions. The average duration of the projects ranged from 30 to 45 months.

Three projects have started in Romania under the LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance programme. These represent a total investment of €2.5 million, of which the European Union is contributing €1.1 million. One project is focusing on an integrated water management system at the scale of the river basin; another is aiming to reduce the amount of natural resources used as raw materials; while the third project is raising awareness of EU policy on waste, and its implementation in the Balkan region, using Romania and Bulgaria as case studies. The projects are being implemented by a development agency, a national authority and a research institution. The project duration foreseen is between 36 and 41 months.

Presented in the box opposite is an example of a successful LIFE Environment project in Romania.



Air Pollution Impact Surveillance and Warning System for Urban Environment (AIR-AWARE) LIFE05/ENV/RO/000106

This LIFE project successfully applied the AIR-AWARE decision-making tool, which is now used by local authorities in

Bucharest to predict the impact of air pollution episodes and improve overall air quality through better planning and urban development policies. AIR-AWARE provides visual and user-friendly data on a GIS platform on the current status of atmospheric pollution by measuring chemical contaminants in the air and reviewing bioindicator species in the city's parks. Using current monitoring data and weather forecasts, short-term effects of acute pollution episodes can be calculated and the population informed, thereby enabling suitable measures to be taken.

Reducing air pollution in Bucharest is expected to lead to a reduction in the incidence of air-born diseases, the public health costs of which amounted to € 4.4 million in 2003, according to an Environmental Status Report issued by the Bucharest Municipality in 2004. The report estimates that about 10% of this figure can be attributed to air pollution. The implementation of AIR-AWARE's pollution prevention plan is expected to reduce the air contamination load by 50%, leading to annual savings in excess of €175 000.

Maps of contaminants provided by AIR-AWARE will be used to update the Bucharest Urban Zoning Plan.

Furthermore, the beneficiary believes that the system can easily be replicated in at least 20 other 'hot spots' - very polluted urban areas identified by the Romanian authorities in the country's EU accession negotiation documents.

For further information:
<http://life-airaware.inmh.ro/>

Nature and Biodiversity



Between 1992 and 2006 (i.e. during the LIFE I, II and III programmes), the LIFE Nature component (now called Nature and Biodiversity) co-financed 27 projects in Romania. These projects represented a total investment of €13.3 million, of which €8.4 million was contributed by the European Union. LIFE Nature projects in Romania comprised mainly habitat restoration projects (alpine, sub-alpine and forest, islands, bogs, Danube and Lower Prut plains and wetland habitats), but also aimed at the conservation of certain species (large carnivores, bats, the meadow viper, dolphins, *birds*). Parks, national and regional authorities, and research institutions accounted for nearly 80% of the project beneficiaries. Other types of beneficiaries included development agencies, NGOs, universities, training centres and local authorities. Project durations ranged from 24 to 63 months.

Seven projects have been co-financed under the LIFE+ programme. These represent a total investment of €5.5 million, of which the European Union will contribute €4.10 million. The projects focus mainly on the conservation of habitats (in the Semenici and Calimani-Gurghiu mountains and in the Transylvanian plateau) and species (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and *Aythya nyroca* at key sites in Romania and Bulgaria, *Ursus arctos* species in Eastern Carpathians, *Aquila pomarina* and bats in Transylvania). The beneficiaries include regional authorities and NGOs and the projects have a duration of between 36 and 48 months.

Presented in the box opposite is an example of a successful LIFE Nature project in Romania.



Improving wintering conditions for *Branta ruficollis* at Techirghiol (Branta ruficollis Techirghiol) LIFE04/NAT/RO/000220

A key objective of this LIFE project was to ensure maximum protection for *B. ruficollis* and its habitats. This was achieved with the

designation of Lake Techirghiol and the surrounding area as a Ramsar site and Special Protection Area (SPA). A new management plan was also put in place for the species and its habitats. Another objective of the project was to maintain the population of red-breasted geese at no less than 15 000 individuals present in the key area of south Dobrogea in January. This objective was only partially achieved. At Techirghiol Lake the number of geese during the projects wintering seasons was much smaller than in previous years. Possible reasons for this include a wider dispersion of the geese in the wintering area (climate change), or an overall reduction in the population.

Some of the main achievements of the project included: the halting of degradation of roosting habitat; the assurance of safe feeding conditions on 27.7 ha of purchased land (the target was 30 ha); the raising of awareness of local stakeholders of the importance of Lake Techirghiol for the protection of the *B. ruficollis* population and for the sustainable development of the area; national and international cooperation to protect one of the rarest geese species in the world and to secure its future in this wintering, staging and breeding area. Thanks to the Red-breasted Goose International Working Group, a National Action Plan for *B. ruficollis* was also put in place in Romania and the existing International Species Action Plan was revised and updated. Drafts of National Work Plans for Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine were also drawn up.

Agro-environmental schemes were established with local farmers, which involved land lease and purchase. To encourage eco-tourism, a bird-watching tower was built. The main socio-economic benefit came from the installation of a gravitational evacuation system to maintain the lake's salinity. This system ensures the continued production of the famous Techirghiol therapeutic mud, which is one of the local community's most valuable assets.

For further information:
<http://www.savebranta.ro/>



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

To date the European Commission has approved one project under the LIFE+ Information and Communication component in Romania. Its main objective is, over a 36 month period, to conduct an awareness-raising campaign to promote the production and consumption of green products. Its total budget amounts to €1.3 million, of which the European Union will contribute €0.6 million. The project will be implemented by the University of Bacau.

The objectives of the project are presented in the box opposite. More detailed information (including results) will be provided in due course.



Promoting green products (GREEN-PRO) LIFE08/INF/RO/000507

The main objective of this LIFE project is to conduct an awareness-raising campaign to promote the production and consumption of green products – those products that conform to the EU's eco-label scheme and other environmental protection related tools and initiatives (e.g. EMAS, Energy Star, Carbon Neutral).

The project plans to: study the Romanian market to identify and catalogue existing green and non-green products; provide information on and promote green products through an internet portal; raise awareness amongst consumers of green products; implement an information campaign using TV broadcasts, a DVD movie, leaflets, e-newsletters and advertorials in order to inform producers/distributors of the financial benefits of green products; organise workshops on the benefits of the green market; provide training on green procurement for private and public sector organisations; assess different green products and reward the best ones; and identify and assess attitudes and awareness of consumers to green products in order to better understand the reasons for successes and failure.

For further information:
<http://www.greenpro.ub.ro>

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/>

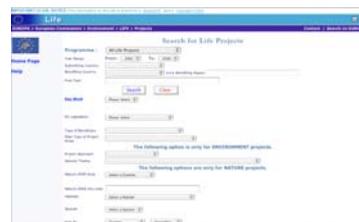


By searching on the LIFE project database

For further information on LIFE projects in Romania or LIFE projects in general, please consult the online LIFE project 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 Romania

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD)



Name: Ms. Nicoleta DOBRE
Address: 12 Libertatii Blvd - District 5
RO - Bucharest 040129
Tel/Fax: +40 21 311 71 54
E-mail: nicoleta.dobre@mmediu.ro
Website: http://www.mmediu.ro/programe_finantare/life/life.htm

Recent Environment Policy & Governance projects in Romania

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Development of an Integrated Basin Management System in order to correlate water quality and quantity analysis with socio-economical analysis, using Open-GIS technology (DIMINISH)	LIFE03 ENV_RO_000539	http://www.lifediminish.ro/		12/2003-> 12/2006
Air Pollution Impact Surveillance and Warning System for Urban Environment (AIR-AWARE)	LIFE05 ENV_RO_000106	http://life-airaware.inmh.ro/		11/2005-> 10/2008
Waste Network for sustainable solid waste management planning and promotion of integrated decision tools in the Balkan Region (BALKWASTE)	LIFE07 ENV_RO_000686	http://www.balkwaste.eu/		01/2009-> 12/2011
Application of industrial ecosystems principles to regional development (ECOREG)	LIFE07 ENV_RO_000690	http://www.nisp-ecoreg.ro/default.aspx		01/2003-> 12/2005
Integrated system for protect and analyse the status and trends of water threatened by nitrogen pollution (CLEANWATER)	LIFE09 ENV_RO_000612	N/A		10/2010-> 03/2014

Recent Nature & Biodiversity projects in Romania

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Conservation of the natural wet habitat of Satchinez (continuation of the project 99NAT/RO/006394) (Satchinez II 30/9/2005)	LIFE02 NAT_RO_008573	http://www.apmtm.ro/lifesatchinez/		10/2002 -> 09/2005
Participatory management of Macin mountains protected areas (Macin Mountains 30/6/2006)	LIFE03 NAT_RO_000026	http://www.muntimacin.ro (not accessible to public)		07/2003 -> 06/2006
Restoration forest habitats from Pietrosul Rodnei biosphere reserve (Piedrosul Rodnei 1/6/2007)	LIFE03 NAT_RO_000027	http://www.icassv.ro/life_pietrosu/index.htm		06/2003 -> 06/2007
Natura 2000 sites in the Piatra Craiului National Park (Piatra Craiului II 1/7/2007)	LIFE03 NAT_RO_000032	http://www.pcr.ai.ro/		07/2003 -> 07/2007
Improving wintering conditions for Branta ruficollis at Techirghiol (Branta ruficollis Techirghiol)	LIFE04 NAT_RO_000220	http://www.savebranta.ro/ (under maintenance)		07/2004 -> 12/2007
The forests with Pinus nigra banatica - part of NATURA 2000 (Pinus nigra banatica)	LIFE04 NAT_RO_000225	http://www.pinusnigrabanatica.ro/		07/2004 -> 07/2007
Ecological restoration of the Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park (Lower Prut Floodplain)	LIFE05 NAT_RO_000155	http://www.luncaprut.ro/		11/2005 -> 10/2010
Saving Vipera ursinii rakosiensis in Transylvania (Saving Vipera u. rakosiensis)	LIFE05 NAT_RO_000158	http://crim.ro/2007/05/15/proiecte/saving-vipera-ursinii-rakosiensis-in-transylvania.html		01/2005 -> 04/2010
Conservative management of alpine habitats as a Natura 2000 site in Retezat National Park (Retezat National Park)	LIFE05 NAT_RO_000165	http://retezat.ro/		10/2005 -> 12/2008

Saving Pelecanus crispus in the Danube Delta (Pelecanus crispus Romania)	LIFE05 NAT_RO_000169	http://www.dalmatianpelican.ro/		11/2005 -> 03/2010
Enhancing the protection system of large carnivores in Vrancea county (Carnivores Vrancea II)	LIFE05 NAT_RO_000170	http://www.carnivoremari.ro/		11/2005 -> 11/2009
Priority forest, sub-alpine and alpine habitats in Romania (Forest-Alp NATURA 2000)	LIFE05 NAT_RO_000176	http://www.lifenatura2000.ro/		01/2005 ->01/2009
Conservation, restoration and durable management in Small Island of Braila, Romania (RESTOREWETLANDS)	LIFE06 NAT_RO_000172	http://www.bmb.ro/		09/2006 -> 10/2010
Conservation and integrated management of Danube islands Romania (GREENDANUBE)	LIFE05 NAT_RO_000177	http://www.ostroaveledunarii.ro/		09/2006 -> 08/2010
Preserving management of the habitat 8310 from the Site Natura 2000 Semenic - Cheile Carasului (PMH8310SN2000SCC)	LIFE07 NAT_RO_000680	http://www.salvatililiecii.ro/		01/2009 -> 12/2011
Cross-border conservation of Phalacrocorax pygmeus and Aythya nyroca at key sites in Romania and Bulgaria (GREEN BORDERS)	LIFE07 NAT_RO_000681	http://www.green-borders.eu		01/2009 -> 12/2012
Best practices and demonstrative actions for conservation of Ursus arctos species in Eastern Carpathians, Romania (URSUSLIFE)	LIFE08 NAT_RO_000500	http://www.carnivoremari.ro/		01/2010 -> 12/2013
Conservation of Aquila pomarina in Romania (CAPR)	LIFE08 NAT_RO_000501	http://www.pomarina.ro/		01/2010 -> 12/2013
Securing favorable conservation status for priority habitats from SCI Calimani-Gurghiu (SFC Calimani-Gurghiu)	LIFE08 NAT_RO_000502	http://www.lifemures.ro/		01/2010 -> 12/2012
Bat conservation in Padurea Craiului, Bihor and Trascau Mountains (Bat-Conservation-RO)	LIFE08 NAT_RO_000504	http://www.batlife.ro/		01/2010 -> 12/2013
Tarnava Mare SCI: Saving Transylvania's Important Pastoral Ecosystems (STIPA)	LIFE09 NAT_RO_000618	N/A		10/2010 -> 09/2013

Recent Information and Communication projects in Romania

Project Title	Project Number	Website	Click on the icon to read the project summary	Project duration
Promoting green products (GREEN-PRO)	LIFE08 INF_RO_000507	http://www.greenpro.ub.ro/		01/2010 -> 12/2012