

## The LIFE+ (2007-2013)

Financial support for environment policy has to date been carried out under the LIFE III (the Financial Instrument for the Environment).

As from 1 January 2007, this programme will be replaced by LIFE+. The new Programme provides for the drafting of a **Multi-Annual Strategic Programme (MAP)**, within which **National Annual Work Programmes (NAWPs)** may be designed.

The Commission is currently drafting its first Multi-Annual Strategic Programme (MAP), in consultation with Member States. In turn, Member States shall draft their respective National Annual Work Programmes based on the MAP. The NAWPs shall be the “national guidelines” within which project proposals may be submitted to **National Agencies (NAs)**.

A draft MAP has been submitted by the Commission to Member States, inviting their views and comments for improvement. A final MAP is expected to be completed by the Commission by the end of September 2006. (A draft MAP is also being attached as a separate document).

To this end, possible stakeholders have been identified and are being invited to submit their views in the format of a questionnaire outlined further down in this document.

### Background Information

#### The General Objective of LIFE+

**“The general objective of LIFE+ shall be to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of Community environmental policy and legislation, including the integration of the environment into other policies, thereby contributing to sustainable development. In particular, LIFE+ shall support the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP, including the thematic strategies, and finance measures and projects with European added value in Member States**

#### LIFE+ shall consist of three components

##### **LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity**

- This strand will contribute to the implementation of Community policy and legislation on nature and biodiversity, in particular Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC, including at local and regional level, and support further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network, including coastal and marine habitats and species;
- Contribute to the consolidation of the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Community nature and biodiversity policy and legislation;

- Support the design and implementation of policy approaches and instruments for the monitoring and assessment of nature and biodiversity and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on them, in particular in relation to the achievement of the target of halting biodiversity loss within the Community by 2010;
- Provide support for better environmental governance, by broadening stakeholder involvement, including that of NGO's, in consultations on, and implementation of, nature and biodiversity policy and legislation.

## **LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance**

The specific objectives of this strand shall be, in relation to the objectives of the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP, including for the priority areas of climate change, environment and health and quality of life, and natural resources and wastes:

- To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments;
- To contribute to consolidating the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation and environmental policy and legislation;
- To support the design and implementation of approaches to monitoring and assessment of the state of the environment and the factors, pressures and responses that impact on it;
- To facilitate the implementation of Community environment policy, with particular emphasis on implementation at local and regional level;
- To provide support for better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including that of NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation

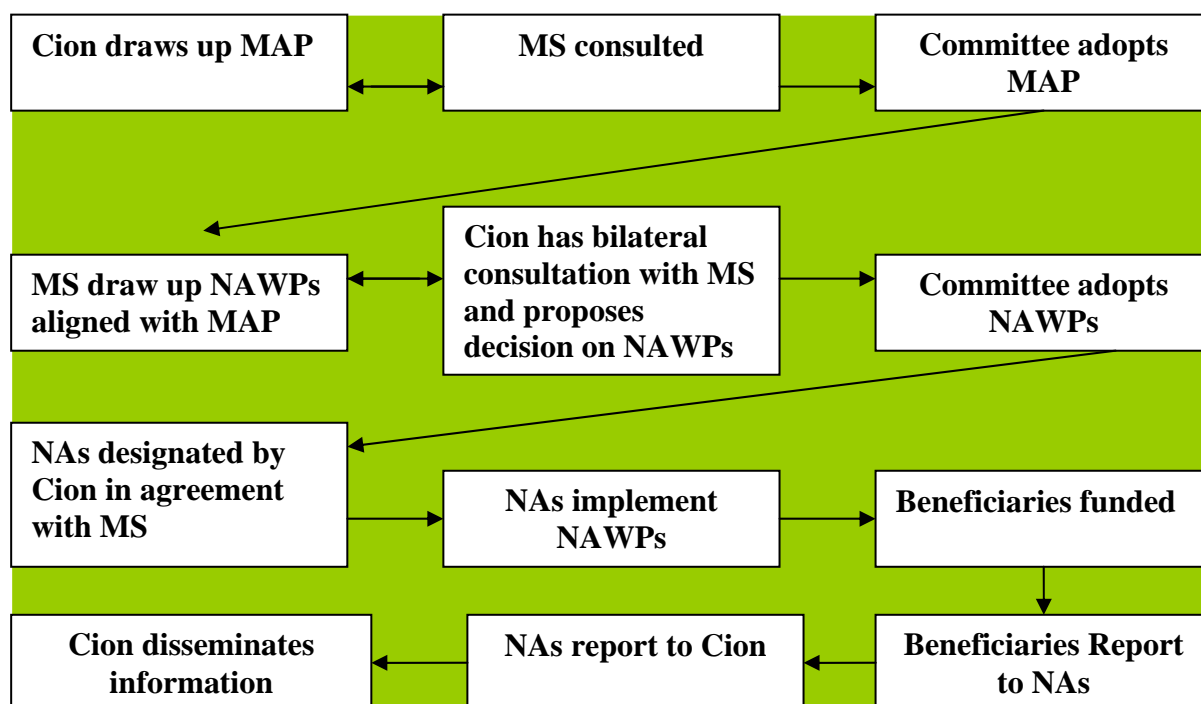
## **LIFE+ Information and Communication**

The specific objectives of Life+ Information and Communication shall be:

- To disseminate information and raise awareness on environmental issues, including forest fire prevention;
- To provide support for accompanying measures, such as information, communication actions and campaigns, conferences and training, including on forest fire prevention.

## Programme Implementation

The implementation of the Life+ programme shall be carried jointly by the Commission and the Member States. To this end at least 80% of the Budget shall be subject to **delegation** to Member States.



The Commission shall draw up a first **multi-annual strategic programme (MAP)** for 2007 to 2010 and a second multi-annual strategic programme for 2011 to 2013. These programmes shall define principal objectives, priority areas of action, type of measures and expected results.

Based on the framework of the multi-annual strategic programmes, Member States shall submit draft **national annual work programmes (NAWPs)** to the Commission for each year in the periods 2007 – 2010 and 2011 to 2013. These shall: identify priority areas taking into account identified long-term needs; outline specific national objectives; describe the measures to be financed and how they meet eligibility criteria; provide cost estimates and describe the proposed monitoring framework.

In agreement with the Commission, Member States shall designate **national agencies (NAs)** to implement the NAWPs. National Agencies shall invite project applications for the implementation of the measures as set out in the NAWP.

### Beneficiaries

Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions may receive financing through Life+

NGOs, which are primarily active in protecting and enhancing the environment at European level, may also benefit from that part of the budget which falls under central direct management (Commission) for operational activities.

## Consultation Questionnaire regarding the Multi-Annual Strategic Programme (MAP)

- Q1. Do you think the structure of MAP (included also in the downloads section <http://www.mrae.gov.mt/downloads.asp> under Life+ Consultation) as presented should be reviewed, say to make it more “user friendly” ? For example: Is the language too technical or is the text too long? Please indicate and provide possible solutions.
- Q2. Are the type of measures clear enough to be fully understood by prospective bidders?
- Q3. Having viewed the draft multi-annual strategic programme, could you identify any obvious gaps which need to feature on the programme, and under which specific component? Please submit feedback on same format of draft MAP i.e. Priority Area of action, Type of Measure, Expected Results, level of implementation.
- Q4. Is the division of tasks between the Member States and the Commission reasonable or should some tasks for example be implemented otherwise?
- Q5. Do you think that there may be overlaps with other EU funding instruments and should therefore clear delineation be sought? Please specify.
- Q6. Do you think there may be some inconsistencies/omissions with the 6<sup>th</sup> Community Environment Action Programme and its thematic strategies? Please specify

Feedback may be submitted as early as possible, but in any case **by not later than Wednesday 30 August 2006**, to Ms. Daniela Rieger at: [daniela.rieger@gov.mt](mailto:daniela.rieger@gov.mt), tel: 22952106, fax: 22952231