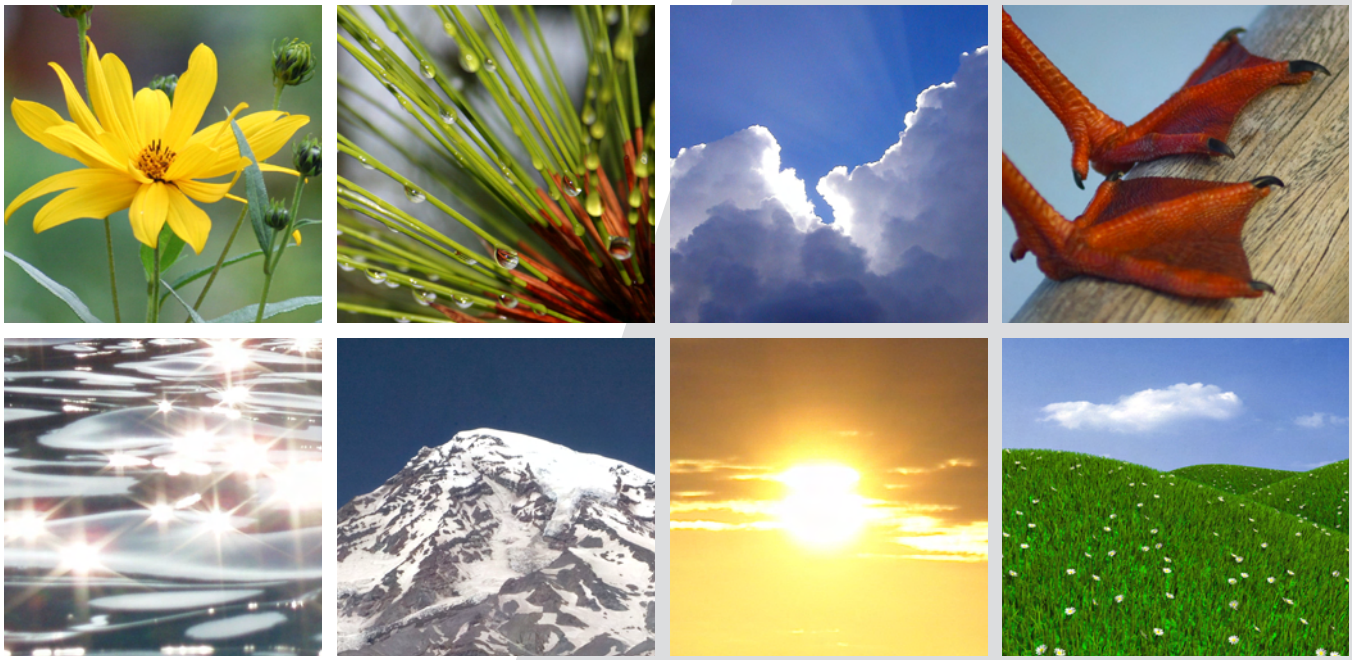
Directorate General Environment, Unit E.4. LIFE

Ex-Post Evaluation of Projects and Activities Financed under the LIFE Programme

Country-by-country analysis

Romania

July 2009



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1 Executive summary

Romania has been involved in the LIFE Programmes since 1999. A total of 40 projects have received support, of which 13 Environment and 27 Nature. Nine Nature projects were still ongoing in 2008.

The Romanian Life projects generally delivered the expected results, but their sustainability depends on the institutional capacity to carry out action plans developed within the project. The LIFE Environment projects introduced new software for air/water quality and quantity monitoring, but also brought in clean technologies for processing different types of waste. The projects were distributed over a number of themes, with natural resources and waste, and water and air being the most important.

The LIFE Nature projects focused mainly on habitat restoration (alpine sub-alpine and forest habitats, the Danube and other rivers' islands, bogs, and plain habitats) and also on species and birds. All habitat projects had an important impact on species conservation.

2 Introduction

This country report on the implementation of the LIFE Programme in Romania is part of the overall ex-post evaluation of the LIFE Programme. The evaluation was commissioned in July 2008 and covers all LIFE projects initiated in the period 1996-2006. The overall objective of the evaluation is to assess the relevance and impact of the activities and projects financed under the LIFE Programme. The evaluation comprises country studies in all Member States except Bulgaria, which has never had any LIFE projects. This report documents the analysis carried out concerning the implementation of the LIFE Programme in Romania. The ex-post evaluation focuses on assessing the effect of the LIFE Programme on Europe's nature and environment through analysing the results and impacts of LIFE projects implemented under the Nature (NAT) and Environment (ENV) components. These results and impacts have further been assessed along three main evaluation criteria:

- Effectiveness, i.e. the extent to which planned objectives have been reached;
- Sustainability, i.e. the extent to which positive impacts have continued or are likely to continue;
- Utility, i.e. the extent to which impacts address key environmental needs and priorities in the EU and for the stakeholders concerned.

3 Environmental policy overview

The National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 is the document for strategic planning and multi-annual financial programming which guides and stimulates the social and economic development of the country in relation to the principles of the EU Cohesion Policy. The National Development Plan lies at the heart of the National Strategic Reference Framework (the NSRF was approved by the European Commission in June 2007), which establishes the intervention priorities of the EU Structural Instruments and makes the connection between the priorities of the National Development Plan and those of the EU.

The NSRF includes an analysis of the environmental situation and establishes priorities until 2013, in relation to economic development. The strategic document is put into practice through operational programmes, with the environmental context being elaborated upon in the Sectoral Operational

Programme Environment. The SOP Environment for 2007 – 2013 comprises six priority axes, as presented in Appendix 4.

In December 2008 the Romanian Government approved the second "National Strategy for Sustainable Development: Horizons 2013-2020-2030". The strategy encompasses different areas of action in a structure which is similar to the 6th EAP, as detailed in Appendix 4.

4 Overview of LIFE projects in Romania

In the period 1996 to 2006, the LIFE Programme has co-financed 40 projects in Romania including 27 Nature projects and 13 Environment projects. A full overview table of the projects is provided in Appendix 61.

Table 4.1 Overview of LIFE projects 1996-2006 in Romania

	Number of projects	Total LIFE contribution (million EUR)	Main themes covered[1]	Average LIFE contribution per project (million EUR)	Average project duration (years)
Environment	13	3.6	Water (31%) Natural resources and waste, Air (each 23%)	0.2	3.2
Nature	27	7.7	Habitats (74%)	0.2	3.9

Source: Butler

The **LIFE Nature** projects co-financed by the LIFE Programme during 1996-2006 comprise mainly habitat restoration projects (alpine sub-alpine and forest habitats, the Danube and other rivers' islands, bogs, and plain habitats). In most cases the status of the habitats themselves was the focus of the projects, but in some projects the restoration was typically carried out to improve the conservation status of certain species (vipers, fish, bears, wolves and lynx) or a group of species (bats, birds, and dolphins in the Black Sea). The main type of beneficiary was public entities accounting for 52% of projects.

The **LIFE Environment** projects co-financed by the LIFE Programme introduced new software for air/water quality and quantity monitoring, but also brought in clean technologies for processing different types of waste. The main type of beneficiary was public entities accounting for 69% of projects.

[1] For the purpose of this evaluation, the LIFE projects were categorised according to the thematic structure of the LIFE+ Programme (ref. Regulation EC No. 614/2007, Annex II). The themes included for LIFE Nature: Habitat Directive, Birds Directive and Biodiversity. For LIFE Environment: Climate change, air, water, soil, forests, natural resources and waste, chemicals, urban environment, strategic approaches.

5 Effects of projects implemented

5.1 Results and impacts for Nature projects

The LIFE Nature projects in Romania heavily focused on the restoration of habitats, and some of them on species conservation. All projects for species conservation established a management plan for the species and also for the protected areas in which the targeted species live. Other measures were also undertaken, such as monitoring plans; training of staff for permanent surveillance, and increasing patrolling of the areas.

The restoration of habitats had a positive impact on the conservation of flora and fauna. Eight species with a high risk of extinction were directly targeted by the fauna projects, and about six endangered species were targeted by the flora projects. While some projects led to an increased number of the protected species individuals, others, like Romanichthys valsanicola, are still at a high risk of extinction, as it is distributed along one single river stretch. One project was located on an existing Natura 2000 site, while other nine have provided the basis for the designation of the Natura 2000 sites and have designed management plans for those sites (see Appendix 63). One of the projects encompassed all 65 thousand sq km of forest, sub-alpine and alpine habitats through identifying, mapping and describing the potential sites of community interest (SCI) and developing management plans. Case studies demonstrating the benefits of the project covered two protected national parks with a cumulated area of over 540 sq km. Several good examples of Life Nature projects are also given in Appendix 63.

Stakeholders[2] mention the following impacts of the projects: automation of the environment-related work within the decision – making process at local scale, an increased awareness for IT tools at nation-wide scale and for other local authorities, long term action plans implemented to guarantee long-term conservation of different species, management plans for natural reserves extended to other sites, comprehensive monitoring programmes are functional.

Awareness campaigns were developed during projects' implementation and some informative measures after their end (information centres, large information panels remained in place, brochures/newsletters are regularly distributed, annual events are organised in a few areas). Still though, the previous monitors[3] concluded that environment awareness of the local population remains low and further efforts are required to raise the awareness in the future.

5.2 Results and impacts for Environment projects

Out of the 13 projects, 6 focused on the development of monitoring systems and/or management plans in order to measure pollution of air or waters or to forecast flood risk effects. Three other projects introduced new/clean technologies, with some of their results being detailed in Appendix 63. The remaining three projects are scattered across different areas, envisaging protection of the karstic areas, eco-labelling and creation of an ecological food market, creation of street lanes (network) for bicycles. One project was terminated and the money recovered after OLAF's control, and is not included in the present evaluation.

[2]Interview with Country focal point, Monitoring team, Project Manager

[3] Monitoring fiches 2003 – 2008, based on monitoring missions undertaken for LIFE NAT 2002 – 2005 projects

The main results of the Environment projects are: 3 integrated computerised air monitoring systems (developed at local level, covering an area of 463 sq km and a population of over 2 million inhabitants); 1 monitoring system of hydrological data for 3 rivers (covering an area of 68,976 sq km and a population of 7.8 million inhabitants); 2 integrated management systems for 2 river basins, covering an area of over 8,000 sq km and a population of approx. 1.6 million inhabitants (of which one is a complex trans-boundary system, for the benefit of more than 1 million inhabitants); 1 natural park having in place 100 km of paths marked and arranged for tourism purposes, ecological toilets and garbage facilities in the most visited camping areas; 3 information centres at the entrances of the part where the visitors' traffic is dense (the park area is 760.6 sq km); one city with bicycle lanes, 150 bicycles with tracking systems (the total area o f the city is 38.5 sq km); 1 pilot ecological market in Bucharest; and 3 clean technologies for waste reduction (1 at local level covering an area of 50 sq km and a population of 22.8 thousand inhabitants, 1 at regional level covering an area of 32,034 sq km and a population of 1.9 million inhabitants, and 1 project at local level, but positively affecting the water quality of one river basin, covering an area of 513.5 sq km).

The prior monitoring/follow-up missions[4] showed that the newly created monitoring systems were used by the local authorities after the projects ended, mainly to review the EIA studies. The systems put in place are absolutely necessary for acquiring environment data in real time, being transformed into daily work tools. Although the monitoring/measuring of data is an important step in minimising the adverse effects of some natural phenomena, it is important that the authorities allocate resources to implement measures that would minimise the impact on population of floods or pollution, and to replicate the projects to other areas in need. Floods management became one of the top priorities of the National Administration of Land Improvements, as revealed in the Strategy for 2008 – 2012 of this institution. Pollution control is also address by the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania for the period 2013 – 2020 – 2030.

Out of the 3 projects that introduced new and/or clean technologies, one of them did not reach the desired effect in terms of product demand, while the other two led directly to the decrease of the waste quantity, improvement of soil quality or reduction of the raw material used, as per Appendix 63. As for the other projects, it is not possible to determine whether there is a direct effect of these projects on the generation of similar initiatives. For instance, street lanes for bicycles were created in many cities, other karstic areas are being protected with the prime effort of different associations, while the eco-markets are lagging behind.

6 The effectiveness of projects

Effectiveness can be assessed at two levels: The project level, which compares achievements with project objectives, and at programme level, which compares achievements with LIFE Programme objectives[5].

Concerning LIFE **Nature**, project level effectiveness varied from one project to another, but on average the respondents[6] considered effectiveness to be around the score "4", with the most effective

[4]Monitoring fiches 2006, 2007, based on monitoring missions undertaken for LIFE ENV 2003 – 2004 projects

[5] Specific objective for: LIFE Nature: To contribute to the implementation of Council Directive 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); LIFE Environment: To contribute to the development of innovative and integrated techniques and methods and to the further development of Community environmental policy.

[6] Interviews with LIFE Unit desk Officer, Monitoring team, National Focal point

projects being generally small, well-targeted projects with clear and friendly partnerships, where all involved actors are collaborating as planned and described in the project proposal. The factors influencing effectiveness are: strong partnerships; a clear separation of responsibilities within the projects; joint efforts of NGOs and public authorities for the public interest; very clearly defined objectives and targets, and an engaged, ambitious and enthusiastic project leader and team. Public institutions were more effective than the private ones, due to their experience and the better co-financing capacity.

At the programme level, the Nature projects were in line with the different EU Directives' requirements referring to habitats, species or birds, as also specified by the LIFE Unit Desk Officer. The monitoring team considers that the Romanian Nature projects contributed significantly to the conservation of priority species in the European Union.

At the project level, the degree to which **LIFE Environment** projects' objectives were met varied in a range from 1 to 4, according to the respondents, depending on the project in question. The main obstacles to gaining a high degree of effectiveness include: low involvement of the Project Managers; miscommunication and misunderstanding between the technical team and the financial team of the project; poor performance of the Consultant as regards management and dissemination; and lesser professional experience and institutional capacity.

The contribution to the achievement of the objectives at the programme level is assessed differently by the interviewees. The National Focal Point considered that the Environment projects contribute to addressing EU and/or national environmental problems and priorities to a large extent.

7 The sustainability of projects

Concerning **LIFE Nature**, the follow-up missions conducted by the monitoring team[7] provided some evidence that local authorities continue to use the projects' results in their daily work. The main factor controlling sustainability in Romania is the stability of the legal and institutional framework. The Romanian legislation was (and is) continuously adapting to the European one, and the institutional architecture has changed together with the political changes. Another very important factor is the limited capacity of the beneficiaries to ensure constant financial resources or to identify/create a financial mechanism to generate stability and sustainability.

Concerning **LIFE Environment**, the projects that developed monitoring and risk management tools under the management of public institutions created different tools intended for use in the future, and the institutions' stability was less doubtful when compared to the private ones thus leading to a greater degree of sustainability (institutional changes in the public sector do not occur often and when they do they do not usually lead to redundancies and the abandonment of on-going programmes which are taken over by the newly formed structures; and the results of the individual projects are valorised in the current activity of those institutions). The public-private partnership created within the project LIFE00 ENV/RO/000989 combined the efforts of a public authority with a large petrol company (PETROM S. A.) that created the foundation for the sustainability of project results.

Sustainability of the projects varied considerably between projects and it is not possible to make a common assessment. One of the most important factors that support sustainability is the capacity to generate marketable projects. For instance, LIFE00 ENV/RO/989 (USEDOIL) project responded to

[7] Monitoring fiches 2005 – 2006, based on monitoring missions undertaken for LIFE ENV 2000 – 2005 projects

the practical need to register and monitor used oil generation and collection; and a very simple yet useful database was developed which remained in use years after the project came to an end. However, the LIFE02 ENV/RO/461 (ENVACTCARB) project, although very successful in developing the planned technology to obtain active charcoal from xylite (as a mining waste), was far less successful in making the technology market-available, because of the low demand[8].

8 The utility of projects

The National Focal point assessed that in the absence of the Life Programme, the types of projects, problems and needs addressed through the LIFE programme would have been approached much later by Romania.

LIFE Nature projects made a good contribution to both the EU and national priorities as represented by the development of the Natura 2000 network in Romania as a new Member State, but also by supporting the management of protected areas, as specified under the *Biodiversity and Natural Patrimony Conservation Objectives of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Horizons 2013-2020-2030 and under the nature and biodiversity priority of the 6th Environmental Action Programme.* The National Focal point considered that in some cases the national priorities were related to the management of protected natural areas that were more of a regional importance (national and natural parks) than of European importance.

The implementation of **LIFE Environment** projects in Romania were designed to meet some of the thematic strategies set in the 6th EAP, especially regarding *Waste and Air,* to which development of river basins management plans were added. The projects also responded to the objectives established under the *National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Horizons 2013-2020-2030* especially for *climate change and greenhouse effects, conservation and management of natural resources, waste management,* and *reducing effects of natural disasters (such as floods).* However, it should be noted that the projects were developed based on the individual experiences and environmental responsibilities of the beneficiaries and partners; actions were determined in light of past cooperation between the partners rather than from the need to cooperate in order to work out a particular problem of the envisaged community. Since the targets established by Romania in the field of environment were set in order to meet the EU requirements (as per Appendix 63), the LIFE Environment programme represented a particularly important financial opportunity amidst the more recent support coming through the SOP Environment. In the first years of the LIFE Programme in Romania, there was more interest in developing specific projects, but it has become virtually absent since 2003.

[8] Monitoring team

Appendix 1 Comprehensive overview of LIFE Projects in Romania

In connection with the ex-post evaluation, data was extracted from the BUTLER database of the LIFE Unit. Table 1 and Table 2 below provide an overview of the information available on each project as well as the LIFE+ theme attached by the evaluation team to the project. The budget figures for LIFE co-financing do not necessarily correspond to the actual payments made.

Table 1 Overview of LIFE Environment Projects in Romania

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE99 ENV/RO/006630	Pilot procedure for elimination of nonbiodegradable organic products arising from cellulose production in order to recover the aquatic flora and fauna of the Barsa River	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	582,324	216,754		No	Water
LIFE99 ENV/RO/006697	Modernisation of a system of measurement,storage,transmission and dissemination of hydrological data to decision makers at various levels.	LIFE II	1999	2002	2003	645,376	303,180	Local authority	No	Water
LIFE99 ENV/RO/006746	A pilot system for urban environmental Impact assessment in relation with Urban planning use,using a OPEN-GIS technology and pollution level estimation procedures-ASSURE.	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	354,190	155,536	Research institutions	No	Urban environment
LIFE99 ENV/RO/006748	Development of a full system for precollection,collection and selective transport of hoseholds waste, and optimisation of the tratment channels for the generated materials,	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	817,097	349,176	Local authority	No	Natural resources and waste

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE99 ENV/RO/006764	Combined actions for the protection and the development of the APUSENI Mountains natural heritage.	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	475,161	200,931	Local authority	No	Soil
LIFE00 ENV/RO/000986	The protection of RIVER LIFE by mitigation of flood damages (RIVERLIFE)	LIFE II	2000	2001	2004	716,396	312,646	National authority	No	Water
LIFE00 ENV/RO/000987	Air Pollution Forecasting, Alert and Monitoring System on Short Time Scale, at local and regional scale, in unfavourable meteorological and topographic conditions (AIR quality FORecast and ALarming system on pollution Levels - AIRFORALL)	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	461,555	201,277	Public enterprise	No	Air
LIFE00 ENV/RO/000989	Creation of a selective collecting network for used oils in the Western (V) Region of Romania	LIFE II	2000	2001	2004	732,500	146,014	Development agency	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE00 ENV/RO/001002	Vote for bicycle, vote for a cleaner city	LIFE II	2000	2001	2004	697,104	328,078	Local authority	No	Air
LIFE02 ENV/RO/000461	Activated carbon manufacturing using xylite charcoal for environment application	LIFE III	2002	2002	2005	830,820	390,160	Research institutions	No	Natural resources and waste
LIFE02 ENV/RO/000462	Implementation of ISO 14001 - EMS, of eco-labelling and of ecological models as tools based on sustainability indicators in public administration and food markets	LIFE III	2002	2002	2005	662,772	281,900	Local authority	No	Strategic Approaches

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing budget (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	LIFE+ theme
LIFE03 ENV/RO/000539	Development of an Integrated Basin Management System in order to correlate water quality and quantity analysis with socio-economical analysis, using Open-GIS technology	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	728,032	314,391	National authority	No	Water
LIFE05 ENV/RO/000106	Air Pollution Impact Surveillance and Warning System for Urban Environment	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	1,113,477	460,239	National authority	No	Air

Table 2 Overview of LIFE Nature Projects in Romania

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	Directive (Birds, Habitats) or biodiversity
LIFE99 NAT/RO/006391	Conservation of an Euro-siberian-wood with oak (Quercus robur)	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	80,664	60,498	Regional authority	No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/RO/006394	Conservation of the Natural Wet Habitat "The Bogs of Satchinez"	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	127,450	95,587	National authority	No	Birds
LIFE99 NAT/RO/006400	Integrated Management plan for the "Small Island of Braila"	LIFE II	1999	1999	2003	190,009	142,506	University	No	Birds
LIFE99 NAT/RO/006404	"In situ" conservation of the Romanian Meadow Viper (Vipera ursinii)	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	255,877	127,939	Research institutions	No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/RO/006411	Habitat conservation in the Bucegi National Park/Romania	LIFE II	1999	1999	2002	122,968	79,929	Development agency	No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/RO/006429	Survival of Romanichthys valsanicola	LIFE II	1999	1999	2004	201,208	150,906	Research institutions	No	Habitats
LIFE99 NAT/RO/006435	Enhancement of Piatra Craiului National Park	LIFE II	1999	1999	2004	274,448	205,836		No	Habitats
LIFE00 NAT/RO/007171	Iron Gates Natural Park - habitat conservation and management	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	389,392	233,635		No	Habitats
LIFE00 NAT/RO/007174	Functional Ecological Network in central Transylvania Plain	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	600,000	450,000		No	Birds
LIFE00 NAT/RO/007187	Conservation program for Bat's Underground Habitats in SW Carpathians	LIFE II	2000	2001	2005	339,393	169,697	NGO-Foundation	No	Habitats
LIFE00 NAT/RO/007194	Conservation of the dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea waters	LIFE II	2000	2001	2004	416,631	208,315		No	Habitats
LIFE02 NAT/RO/008571	Restoration of Comana Wetland	LIFE III	2002	2002	2004	339,100	203,300		No	Habitats

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	Directive (Birds, Habitats) or biodiversity
LIFE02 NAT/RO/008573	Conservation of the natural wet habitat of Satchinez (continuation of the project 99NAT/RO/006394)	LIFE III	2002	2002	2006	243,500	146,100	Development agency	No	Birds
LIFE02 NAT/RO/008576	In situ conservation of large carnivore in Vrancea County	LIFE III	2002	2002	2006	468,588	351,441	Development agency	No	Habitats
LIFE03 NAT/RO/000026	Participatory management of Macin mountains protected areas	LIFE III	2003	2003	2006	600,000	300,000	Regional authority	No	Habitats
LIFE03 NAT/RO/000027	Restoration forest habitats from Pietrosul Rodnei biosphere reserve	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	213,470	106,735	National authority	No	Habitats
LIFE03 NAT/RO/000032	Natura 2000 sites in the Piatra Craiului National Park	LIFE III	2003	2003	2007	582,050	291,025	Park-Reserve authority	No	Habitats
LIFE04 NAT/RO/000220	Improving wintering conditions for Branta ruficollis at Techirghiol	LIFE III	2004	2004	2008	657,028	492,771		No	Birds
LIFE04 NAT/RO/000225	The forests with Pinus nigra banatica - part of NATURA 2000	LIFE III	2004	2004	2007	814,770	611,078		No	Habitats
LIFE05 NAT/RO/000155	Ecological restoration of the Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2010	824,710	412,355	Regional authority	No	Habitats
LIFE05 NAT/RO/000158	Saving Vipera ursinii rakosiensis in Transylvania	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	517,723	388,292	Training centre	No	Habitats
LIFE05 NAT/RO/000165	Conservative management of alpine habitats as a Natura 2000 site in Retezat National Park	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	512,150	256,075	Park-Reserve authority	No	Habitats
LIFE05 NAT/RO/000169	Saving Pelecanus crispus in the Danube Delta	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2010	656,928	492,696	Park-Reserve authority	No	Birds
LIFE05 NAT/RO/000170	Enhancing the protection system of large carnivores in Vrancea county	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2010	577,989	346,793	Local authority	No	Habitats

Id.	Title	LIFE generation	Funding year	Start year	End year	Total budget (EUR)	LIFE co-financing (EUR)	Beneficiary type	International partners (yes/no)	Directive (Birds, Habitats) or biodiversity
LIFE05 NAT/RO/000176	Priority forest, sub-alpine and alpine habitats in Romania	LIFE III Extension	2005	2005	2009	933,490	700,094	University	No	Habitats
LIFE06 NAT/RO/000172	Conservation, restoration and durable management in Small Island of Braila, Romania	LIFE III Extension	2006	2006	2011	978,419	489,209	Park-Reserve authority	No	Birds
LIFE06 NAT/RO/000177	Conservation and integrated management of Danube islands Romania	LIFE III Extension	2006	2006	2010	567,953	283,977	National au-thority	No	Habitats

Appendix 2 Summary tables on LIFE Environment projects in Romania

Table 3 Overview of LIFE ENV projects in Romania by year, 1996-2006

Generation	Year	Number of projects	Total budget (EUR million)	Total LIFE co-financing budget (EUR million)	Average duration (years)	Average LIFE funding per project (EUR million)
LIFE II	1996	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1997	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1998	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1999	5	2.9	1.2	3.0	0.2
	Total	**5**	**2.9**	**1.2**	**3.0**	**0.2**
LIFE III	2000	4	2.6	1.0	3.3	0.2
	2002	2	1.5	0.7	3.0	0.3
	2003	1	0.7	0.3	4.0	0.3
	2004	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	**7**	**5**	**2**	**3.3**	**0.3**
LIFE III extension	2005	1	1.1	0.5	4.0	0.5
	2006	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Total	**1**	**1.1**	**0.5**	**4.0**	**0.5**
Grand total		13	8.8	3.7	3.2	0.3
Comparative figures for all ENV projects		1,076	1,947.7	615.9	3.3	0.6

Table 4 Overview of LIFE ENV projects in Romania 1996-2006 by theme

LIFE+ theme	No. of projects	In % of total	Total budget (EUR million)	In % of total	LIFE contribution (EUR million)	In % of total
Climate change	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Air	3	23%	2.3	26%	1.0	27%
Water	4	31%	2.7	30%	1.1	31%
Soil	1	8%	0.5	5%	0.2	5%
Forests	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Natural resources and waste	3	23%	2.4	27%	0.9	24%
Chemicals	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Urban environment	1	8%	0.4	4%	0.2	4%
Strategic approaches	1	8%	0.7	8%	0.3	8%
Total	**13**	**100%**	**8.8**	**100%**	**3.7**	**100%**

Table 5 Romania LIFE ENV projects 1996-2006 according to beneficiary type

Beneficiary type	No. of projects	In % of total	Total budget (EUR million)	In % of total	LIFE contribution (EUR million)	In % of total
Public entities						
National authority	3	23%	2.6	29%	1.1	30%
Regional authority	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Local authority	5	38%	3.3	37%	1.5	40%
Development agency	1	8%	0.7	8%	0.1	4%
Intergovernmental body	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Park-reserve authority	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Sub-total	**9**	**69%**	**6.6**	**75%**	**2.7**	**74%**
Public and private enterprises						
International enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Large enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
SME Small and medium sized enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Mixed enterprise	1	8%	0.5	5%	0.2	5%
Public enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Sub-total	**1**	**8%**	**0.5**	**5%**	**0.2**	**5%**
NGOs and research						
NGO-Foundation	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Research institutions	2	15%	1.2	13%	0.5	15%
University	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Training centre	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Sub-total	**2**	**15%**	**1.2**	**13%**	**0.5**	**15%**
None indicated	1	8%	0.6	7%	0.2	6%
Total	**13**	**100%**	**8.8**	**100%**	**3.7**	**100%**

Appendix 3 Summary tables on LIFE Nature projects in Romania

Table 6 Overview of LIFE NAT projects in Romania, 1996-2006

Generation	Year	Number of projects	Total budget (EUR million)	Total LIFE co-financing budget (EUR million)	Average duration (years)	Average LIFE funding per project (EUR million)
LIFE II	1996	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1997	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1998	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	1999	7	1.3	0.9	3.9	0.1
	Total	**7**	**1.3**	**0.9**	**3.9**	**0.1**
LIFE III	2000	4	1.7	1.1	3.8	0.3
	2002	3	1.1	0.7	3.3	0.2
	2003	3	1.4	0.7	3.7	0.2
	2004	2	1.5	1.1	3.5	0.6
	Total	**12**	**6**	**4**	**3.6**	**0.3**
LIFE III extension	2005	6	4.0	2.6	4.5	0.4
	2006	2	1.5	0.8	4.5	0.4
	Total	**8**	**5.6**	**3.4**	**4.5**	**0.4**
Grand total		27	12.5	7.8	3.9	0.3
Comparative figures for all NAT projects		771	1,224.1	637.2	4.2	0.8

Table 7 Categories of LIFE NAT projects in Romania, 1996-2006

LIFE NAT themes	No. of projects	In % of total	Total budget (EUR million)	In % of total	LIFE contribution (EUR million	In % of total
Habitats Directive	20	74%	9.0	72%	5.5	70%
Birds Directive	7	26%	3.5	28%	2.3	30%
Biodiversity projects	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Total	**27**	**100%**	**12.5**	**100%**	**7.8**	**100%**

Table 8 Romania LIFE NAT projects 1996-2006 according to beneficiary type

Beneficiary type	No. of projects	In % of total	Total budget (EUR million)	In % of total	LIFE contribution (EUR million)	In % of total
Public entities						
National authority	3	11%	0.9	7%	0.5	6%
Regional authority	3	11%	1.5	12%	0.8	10%
Local authority	1	4%	0.6	5%	0.3	4%
Development agency	3	11%	0.8	7%	0.6	7%
Intergovernmental body	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Park-reserve authority	4	15%	2.7	22%	1.5	20%
Sub-total	**14**	**52%**	**6.6**	**53%**	**3.7**	**48%**
Public and private enterprises						
International enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Large enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
SME Small and medium sized enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Mixed enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Public enterprise	0	0%	0.0	0%	0.0	0%
Sub-total	**0**	**0%**	**0.0**	**0%**	**0.0**	**0%**
NGOs and research						
NGO-Foundation	1	4%	0.3	3%	0.2	2%
Research institutions	2	7%	0.5	4%	0.3	4%
University	2	7%	1.1	9%	0.8	11%
Training centre	1	4%	0.5	4%	0.4	5%
Sub-total	**6**	**22%**	**2.4**	**20%**	**1.7**	**22%**
None indicated	7	26%	3.5	28%	2.4	31%
Total	**27**	**100%**	**12.5**	**100%**	**7.8**	**100%**

Annex 1 Environmental Policy Overview

SOP Environment Priority Axes:
Priority Axis 1 "Extension and modernisation of water and waste water systems";
Priority Axis 2 "Development of integrated waste management systems and rehabilitation of contemned historical sites";
Priority Axis 3 "Reduction of pollution generated by the urban heating systems in the most affected localities";
Priority Axis 4 "Implementation of adequate management systems for nature protection";
Priority Axis 5 "Implementation of adequate infrastructure for natural risks prevention in the areas most exposed at risk";
Priority Axis 6 "Technical Assistance".

Content of the "National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Horizons 2013-2020-2030":
Climate change and natural resources are dealt together. Romania has to reduce the greenhouse effect emissions with 20% by 2020, and in the same time, to increase by 20% the energy consumption from renewable sources, increase the energy efficiency by the same percent and ensure a minimum 10% of bio-fuel consumption in the total consumption for transports. Investments will be selectively encouraged by the introduction of new production capacities for electric power based on clean technologies.

The *biodiversity and natural patrimony conservation* will be ensured through supporting the management of protected areas, including the implementation of Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 sites represent 17.84% of the country area (the country area is 237,500 sqm), including 273 sites of community importance (13.21% of the area). The concrete targets for 2015 include the increase of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites that have approved management plans, from 3 in 2006 to 240 in 2015 and the extension of these areas to 60% of the total protected areas.

While the *health* improvement measures are described in detail, the relation between environment and health is mentioned without concrete targets.

In the field of *waste*, the following objectives are mentioned and detailed:

- Romania was approved a transition period for complying with the acquis communitaire for the collection, discharge and treatment of municipal waste waters: until 2015 for a number of 263 localities with over 10,000 inhabitants equivalent (i.e.) and until 2018 for 2346 localities with 2,000 – 10,000 i.e.;
- Until 2013 will be applied the Programme for gradual elimination of evacuations, emissions and losses of hazardous waste in the aquatic environment;
- The number of historically polluted areas will be reduced in minimum 30 counties by 2015; Romania was approved a transition period for complying with the EU Directives: until 2017 for the municipal landfills, until 2009 for the temporary disposal of hazardous waste, until 2013 for the disposal of non-hazardous industrial waste. Until 2013 the quantity of disposed biodegradable waste will be reduced to 50% of the total quantity produced in 2005;
- Until 2013 useful materials from waste packages will be recovered for recycling or incineration with energy recovery (60% for paper and carton, 22.5% for plastics, 60% for glass, 50% for metals and 15% for wood);
- Romania was also approved a transition period until 2013, respectively 2017, for the observance of the emission limit values (SO2, NOx and dust) for complying with the EU Directives related to the emissions generated by the Large Combustion Plants.

Annex 2 Examples of projects

Life Nature:

- LIFE05 NAT/RO/000170 "Enhancing the protection system of large carnivores in Vrancea county and LIFE02 NAT/RO/008576 "In situ conservation of large carnivore in Vrancea County". Thanks to the LIFE-Nature funded projects the core habitats for large carnivores in western Vrancea have been identified and mapped. Most of these have already received a national protection status and are now being proposed as Natura 2000 sites. The preparation of the future management plans is also ongoing.

- LIFE02 NAT/RO/008571 "Restoration of Comana Wetland". The Comana Lake LIFE project is an example of how nature conservation and restoration can combine with the establishment of long-term sustainable use of the nature resources in a largely traditional land use economy.

- LIFE03 NAT/RO/000027 "Restoration forest habitats from Pietrosul Rodnei biosphere reserve". Two seriously threatened alpine forest habitats have been successfully restored by a LIFE Nature project located on the slopes of Mount Pietrosul Rodnei in Romania (now a proposed Natura 2000 site), where a programme of manual and scientific actions have achieved sustainable results in conserving cembra pine (*Pinus cembra*) and mugo pine (*Pinus mugo*). The conservation of other flora and fauna was also tackled through the design and implementation of a management plan for the whole Pietrosul biosphere. Over 15,000 tree seedlings were planted in the LIFE project area, exceeding the proposed objective. Monitoring work assessing the restoration activities has confirmed the high survival rate of seedlings.

Projects affecting existing Natura 2000 sites:

- LIFE04 NAT/RO/000225 The forests with Pinus nigra banatica - part of NATURA 2000;

Projects aimed to the designation of Natura 2000 sites:

- LIFE05 NAT/RO/000165 "Conservative management of alpine habitats as a Natura 2000 site in Retezat National Park" (150 sq km of alpine habitats);
- LIFE05 NAT/RO/000170 "Enhancing the protection system of large carnivores in Vrancea county"
- LIFE02 NAT/RO/008576 "In situ conservation of large carnivore in Vrancea County"
- LIFE02 NAT/RO/008573 "Conservation of the natural wet habitat of Satchinez" (continuation of the project 99NAT/RO/006394)
- LIFE05 NAT/RO/000155 "Ecological restoration of the Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park"
- LIFE05 NAT/RO/000176 "Priority forest, sub-alpine and alpine habitats in Romania"
- LIFE99 NAT/RO/006400 "Integrated Management plan for the "Small Island of Braila" (150 sq km)
- LIFE06 NAT/RO/000172 "Conservation, restoration and durable management in Small Island of Braila, Romania"
- LIFE03 NAT/RO/000032 "Natura 2000 sites in the Piatra Craiului National Park" (147.7 sq km)

Life Environment:

One of the best nominated projects for 2005 – 2006 is AIRforALL (LIFE00 ENV/RO/000987), which succeeded to develop a system that, based on remotely processed local meteorological and air-pollution data, is able to forecast ambient air quality with a high degree of accuracy 24 hours in advance of the expected adverse event, thus enabling the authorities and polluters to inform citizens and take preventive measures.

Three projects introduced new/clean technologies for the elimination of non-biodegradable organic products arising from cellulose production (LIFE99 ENV/RO/006630), for the collection storage and

processing of the used oils in the Western Region of Romania (LIFE00 ENV/RO/000989) and for the manufacturing of activated carbon using xylite charcoal (LIFE02 ENV/RO/000461). The waste was significantly reduced, the projects having a recognised important impact on environment, as follows:

- the clean technology used in the first-mentioned project realised the premises for decreasing water consumption, reusing efficiently black water, recovering 80% of it;

- the second-mentioned project led to a 90% decrease in the quantity of global used oil existing in the Western Region (through processing) and a 30% decrease in waterways pollution; for the first time in Romania it was built a region-wide used oil collecting infrastructure and created the feed-back for continuous used oil dispatching to a refinery and to other regularised activities for used oil consumption;

- the third-mentioned project was appointed as one of the best Life ENV projects in 2005 – 2006, namely ENVACTCARB; Turning this xylite into useful activated carbon leads to significant environmental benefits. These include: a reduction of beech wood deforestation, a further reduction of the greenhouse effect, a limit to the use of a waste material which adversely affects the combustion process in power plants, prevention of air and soil pollution by the powders (fly ash) resulting from the incomplete combustion of xylite at the power plants, and a decrease of wood flour and other wastes produced by wood processing, which represent precious renewable raw materials in the process of activated carbon manufacturing.