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British birds, bogs and fish amongst green projects to benefit from over €18.5m of EU funds

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A conservation project to prevent the extinction of East Anglia's black-tailed godwit, a restoration plan for the lowland raised bog habitats across the West Midlands and a project to improve conservation of twaite shad in the river Severn and river Teme are amongst the latest UK projects to be part-financed by the Commission's LIFE programme. They will share €14.8m of EU funds. A further two UK environmental projects were awarded nearly €3.7m of EU funding to tackle over use of pesticides and prevent food waste, totalling more than €16.6m.

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The focus of the LIFE Blackwit UK (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5938) project is to improve the conservation status of the black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*) in East Anglia which is listed as "near threatened" in the IUCN Red List (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>). The RSPB coordinated project (in partnership with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust) will focus on recovering the UK breeding population of the sub-specie *L. l. limosa* whose conservation need is greatest. The two main breeding sites for the birds are in the Fens, specifically the Nene and Ouse Washes, and it is hoped the necessary population stability will be reached by the third year of the project.

Total budget: €2,797,653 (EU contribution €1,678,592)

Natural England's Marches Mosses BogLIFE (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5865) project aims to improve the conservation status of the UK's third largest lowland raised bog. The Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses SAC cover an area of 949.2 ha on the border of England and Wales. This LIFE project will restore 665 ha of habitat to achieve a more sustainable, resilient and better functioning active raised bog and better water quality, in line with the UK's Prioritised Action Framework Priority Measures.

Total budget: €7,141,352 (EU contribution: €5,356,014)

LIFE-Shad Severn (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5866) project will undertake work on the River Severn and River Teme to remove artificial barriers and significantly improve access for the population of the twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*) to quality spawning and nursery habitat. The project led by The Severn Rivers Trust will also re-establish 253 km of fish's former natural range in the two rivers which will significantly improve the conservation of the fish. The project is expected to lead to the transfer of replicable actions to instigate similar projects across the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Continental and Boreal bio-regions of the EU.

Total budget: €22,223,989 (EU contribution: €7,778,396)

Under a separate funding stream of the LIFE programme, two UK environmental projects will receive nearly €3.7m of EU funding to tackle over use of pesticides and prevent food waste.

The Laser Fence (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5789) project coordinated by Liverpool's John Moores University aims to develop and demonstrate an innovative and cost-effective technology to keep animals away from agricultural land. The laser fence technology, known as Agrilaser, is as an alternative to chemicals or electric fences will be tested at locations in Scotland and Spain. It addresses animal welfare concerns and will help stop the loss of biodiversity due to the poisoning of non-target species, either directly or via food chains.

Total budget: €3,135,928 (EU contribution; €1,777,985)

TRiFOCAL London (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=5832) is a waste and resources action programme which will pilot a communications campaign in London to encourage sustainable food systems in cities. It will engage with all 33 London Boroughs, 1,000 hospitality and food service outlets (including customers), 20 community groups and 24 schools. The campaign will focus on food waste, healthy and sustainable eating and the recycling of

unavoidable food waste. It is expected to lead to a 20% reduction in the per capita tonnage of avoidable food waste generated by Londoners. It is estimated that by rolling out this package of work across the top 22 cities in Europe a reduction of over 1 million tonnes of food waste could be achieved within five years.

Total budget: €3,201,132 (EU contribution: €1,920,678)

The UK funding announcement is part of a total €323.5 million going towards EU projects in areas of covering environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity as well as environmental governance and information.

Background

Since 1992, LIFE has co-funded some 242 UK projects with a total budget of €566.9m of which the EU contribution amounted to €261.5m (£235.1m)

LIFE website (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>)

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