

The **LIFE programme** is the EU's funding instrument for the environment. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value.

LIFE began in 1992 and to the third phase of the programme (2000-2006) has co-financed more than 3100 projects across the EU, contributing approximately €2.2 billion to the protection of the environment.

The current phase of the programme, LIFE+, runs from 2007-2013 and has a budget higher than €1.7 billion. The European Commission launches one call for LIFE+ project proposals per year under three components of the programme: *LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity*, *LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance*, and *LIFE+ Information and Communication*

ReSCWe project has been submitted for financing to 2009 Call for proposal, component LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity supporting projects that contribute to the implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives, the Natura 2000 network and that contribute to the EU's goal of halting the loss of biodiversity.