

LIFE + is a financial instrument supporting environmental policy of the European Community, adopted for the first time in 1992. The LIFE + program is divided into three major areas of action: Nature and Biodiversity, Environmental Policy and Governance, Communication and Information.

The program funds pilot projects, innovative, aimed to integrating environment issues with planning and development of area. Grants are awarded to the best projects, especially high-demonstration.

The conservation actions in the LIFE + Nature are those "necessary to maintain or restore natural habitats and populations of species of wild fauna and flora in satisfactory condition." LIFE-Nature contributes to the implementation of Community Directives "Birds" (79/409/EEC) and "Habitats" (92/43/EEC) and, in particular, the establishment of the European network of protected areas - Natura 2000 - for management and conservation "in situ" (in the wild) species of fauna and flora of the most valuable habitats of the European Union.

Natura 2000 is the main instrument of EU policy for the conservation of biodiversity. It is an ecological Network that is widespread throughout European Union, established under directive 92/43/ CEE "Habitat" to ensure the long-term maintenance of natural habitats and species of flora and fauna, threatened or rare in EU

The areas that make up the Natura 2000 are not strictly protected reserves where human activities are excluded, the Habitats Directive aims to ensure the protection of nature considering economic, social and cultural needs of local areas "(Article 2). Private individuals can be owner of Natura 2000 sites, ensuring a sustenable ecological and economical management.

For more information click on the Natura 2000 network Italian: <a href="http://94.86.40.85/home\_it/menu.html?mp=/menu/menu\_attivita/&amp;m=Rete\_Natura\_2000.html&amp;lang=it">http://94.86.40.85/home\_it/menu.html?mp=/menu/menu\_attivita/&amp;m=Rete\_Natura\_2000.html&amp;lang=it</a>