

LIFE-IP ZENAPA at a glance

At the end of 2016, “LIFE-IP ZENAPA - Zero Emission Nature Protection Areas” was approved by “LIFE”, the EU-funding programme for environment, conservation and climate policy. ZENAPA takes up the challenge of bringing the German energy revolution (Energiewende) into conformity with most diverse requirements for climate protection, conservation of nature and species. The project aims at CO₂eq neutrality of protected areas and neighbouring counties, implementing national and European climate protection aims (CAP 2020 and CPP 2050) in consideration of national and European biodiversity and bio-economy strategies. The IfaS – institute for applied material flow management, a Trier university institute located at Environmental Campus Birkenfeld, is in charge of project coordination.

The integrated project within LIFE sub-programme “climate” disposes of a budget of 17 million Euros, of which 8 million are funded by the EU. The remaining balance is raised by project partners and four co-financers (Berlin Senate, KSB AG, OIE AG and Nature and Environment Foundation of Rhineland-Palatinate). The project has started on the 1st of November 2016 and is scheduled to run for a period of eight years. The project duration is structured in three stages with duration of 2.5 years for the first and last stages, and 3 years for the second.

A consortium of 16 partners, which includes 8 federal states of Germany and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, contributes to the implementation of project measures and realization of project objectives. The project area includes 11 large-scale protected areas (national parks, biosphere reserves, nature- and geo parks) and bordering counties and the model municipality of Rhaunen, thus covering more than 10 % of total the surface area of Federal Republic of Germany.

In essence, ZENAPA will develop 12 climate protection masterplans, one for every partner region, which deliver a tailored action plan for energy efficiency, renewable energies and nature conservation that has to be implemented by the partners within the period of eight-years. This planning process is supplemented by elaborating a more detailed implementation planning with so-called “**strategic biodiversity and climate protection concepts**”. They are based on energy upgrade of residential areas, according to the methodology of the KfW programme “Energy-efficient Urban Redevelopment”. These concepts are developed for 90 municipalities and districts and will deliver the technical and economic preparation for an implementation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energies, district heat systems and in this context measures for nature protection and biodiversity on a district level.

In addition, ZENAPA will ensure that each of the project partners will have local **manager in charge of climate change mitigation**, who is assigned to coordinate project management efforts of ZENAPA and the implementation process in the partner regions.

ZENAPA also aims to implement a series of actions in targeted regions not only by respective project partners but also by public sectors, private companies, food services, agriculture, tourism and especially local residents. In order to drive this forward and to achieve a wide range of stakeholders in the project area, each partner conducts various **campaigns** related to the topics under the project. This process is supplemented by the development and implementation of innovative **financing models** (e.g. revolving funds, Maar & Moor futures, etc.) and of newly established **locally operating energy companies**. This will lead to the fact that generated added value is kept in the region. The development of regional funds as well as the “**certification model: protection of climate and species**” set up major pillars for financing of measures implemented by different stakeholders within local areas of project partners.

The implementation process of LIFE-IP ZENAPA is continuously accompanied by various measures in **capacity building**, training and public relations work. These measures shall stimulate the establishment of an information and competence network, which will serve for an exchange of experiences and mutual learning. Moreover, cooperation among the partners is aimed to be striven for mutual development of additional complementary Actions to ZENAPA.