

PORTUGAL (PT) (4 projects – 6.4 million)

LIFE Nature & Biodiversity (2 projects – 3.9 million)

Protecting endemic Azores plants from extinction (LIFE VIDALIA)

Action is needed to prevent the extinction of two endemic plant species in the Azores: the Azores bellflower, *Azorina vidalii* (an evergreen shrub), and *Lotus azoricus*, a flowering leguminous plant. LIFE VIDALIA will introduce new ways of controlling invasive plants and rodents, which threaten these coastal species on three islands. It will also improve plant nursery protocols to facilitate reintroductions and increase knowledge of the endemic plants. Longer term, the aim is to replicate the best practices developed on all nine islands of the Azores.

Overcoming barriers to safeguard the wolf (LIFE WolFlux)

A sub-population of wolves south of the Douro river is fragmented and isolated from the rest of the Iberian wolf population by geographic, ecological and social barriers. These wolves could die out without action to address threats and allow different packs to mingle and breed. LIFE WolFlux is addressing conflicts with animal husbandry, poaching and the danger of fires at wolf rendezvous and breeding sites. It will also increase availability of wild prey (e.g. roe deer). Developing a strategy to promote wolf tourism and related activities to support the local economy should help increase tolerance of and positive attitudes towards wolves in this part of Portugal.

LIFE Environment & Resource Efficiency (1 project – 1.1 million)

Reducing the environmental footprint of footwear (LIFE GreenShoes4All)

The European footwear industry is moving towards greener manufacturing. As part of the LIFE GreenShoes4All project, the Centro Tecnológico do Calçado in Portugal will guide international efforts to quantify and harmonise environmental credentials within the footwear sector. It will notably roll out a Product Environmental Footprint methodology to reduce the burden the sector places on natural resources, plastic waste and greenhouse gas emissions. The added transparency provided by these measures could better inform consumers of the environmental impact of the shoes they buy, fostering a market for ecological shoe designers.

LIFE Climate Change Adaptation (1 project – 1.4 million)

Saving water in a historic Portuguese city (LIFE AGUA DE PRATA)

Water is a scarce resource in the historic Portuguese city of Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Climate change is making it even more precious. LIFE AGUA DE PRATA will address this challenge by sustainably re-using water from wells and springs that previously served a Roman aqueduct. The aqueduct will be adapted to distribute water to around half of the city's green areas. This will save around 120 000 cubic metres of treated surface water and further savings are expected through a campaign to promote more efficient use of water in residents' gardens. The city's green

spaces will be adapted to include natural features that can improve their ability to withstand heat waves and extreme rainfall.