

Experiences and findings of the LIFE Elia-RTE project

RGI workshop IVM

29th April 2021 | Johan Mortier



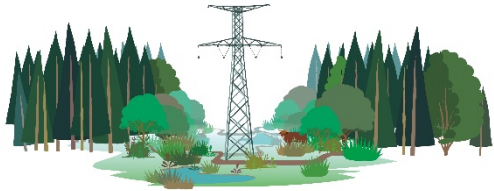
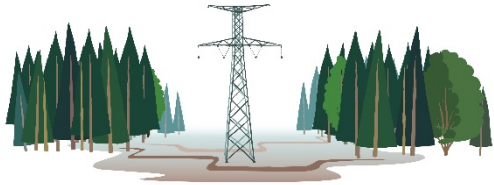
LIFE Elia - RTE project : OHL through forest and N2000

Budget : 2,5 M€, went to 3,2 M€

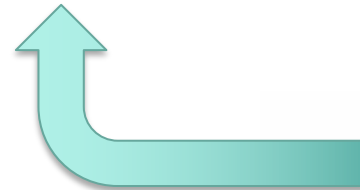
LIFE + Biodiversity

- * **Inside & outside** Natura 2000
- * Innovative
- * European dimension

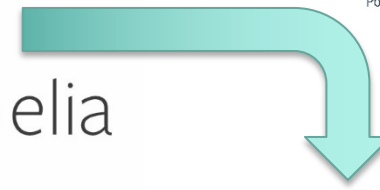
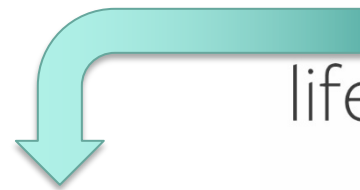
- * EU (36 %), 1,1 M€
- * Région Wallonne (B, 25 %), 0,8 M€
- * Elia (B, 24 %), 0,4 0,9 M€
- * RTE (F, 15 %), 0,2 0,4 M€



315ha



Multi-partner approach
Improving biodiversity
Security of supply
Safety



life

elia



period : 9/2011 – ~~8/2016~~ 12/2017

team : 6, went to 7 (5,2 FTE)

www.life-elia.eu

Life Elia-RTE – 7 types of actions

1. Forest edges

- From U to V section
- Planting or “restoring” (cheaper)

2. Orchards

- Local wild species (apple, pear)

3. Natural habitats EU Directive

- Peat (code 71XX) – retain water
- Moor or heath (code 40XX) – remove soil
- Poor meadow (code 62XX, 65XX) – mow

4. Meadows (without fence)

5. Grasslands (with fence)

- Farming : sheep, cows, horses

6. Reducing invasive species

- Less then expected

7. Ponds

- Wet areas
- “Quick win”



Life Elia - RTE – 7 phases

(**TSOs** almost never own the land!)

a. Cartography (vegetation)

b. Agreements with local stakeholders

c. Implementation : tender, realisation, control

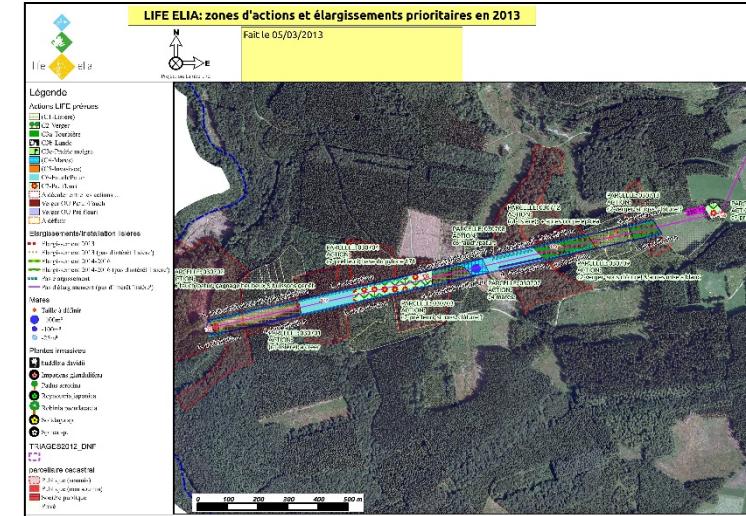
d. Management plan: objectives, maintenance



e. Management

f. Biological indicators

g. Valorisation in communication



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Elia's own "Life2" : what, why

Realise around 325 hectares according to the current LIFE-Elia principles

React positively to propositions to participate in other stretches

Continue in Wallonia, start in Flanders

For five years: 1/2018 – 12/2022

No subsidies anymore

Arguments on which the decision was based

Positive image : relations with authorities, local communities, acceptability of overhead lines (and future projects)

Improved **security of overhead lines** (reduced risk due to vegetation staying lower)

Internal training of patrollers, improved **competencies** in relation to vegetation, becoming **proud** to be on the job

ROI : 3 to 13 years (with WACC of 5 %)

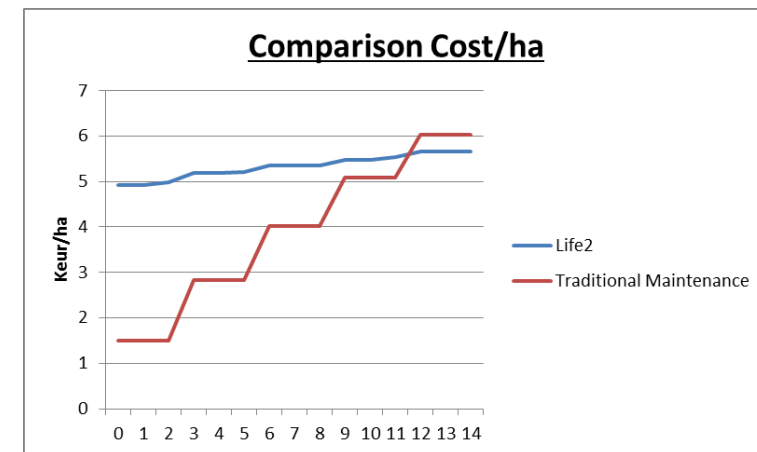
"Life 2", financial elements (2018 – 2022)

(After-Life : 0,4 M€ ; mandatory)

New realizations under lines : 0,7 M€

Expertise (cartography, conventions, management): 1,4 M€

Follow-up of bio-indicators and communication : 0,3 M€



Elia's own "Life2" : where are we now

140 ha redeveloped by the end of 2020

Evolutions these last years :

- Changes in working procedures :
 - Maintenance of large stretches of OHL through forested areas given to contractor : increasing demand of Life
 - Maintenance by LiDAR technology : reduced need of Life because of reduced cutting of corridors
- More time consuming legislation in Flanders
- More demanding owners
- More owners for the same surfaces, more stakeholders implied to agree with

Using the same 7 phases approach in other efforts :

- Greening of parcels of towers in agricultural areas,
- Creation of green screens (trees, hedges, ...) to improve integration
(substation, tower or line)



Thank you

