

**Rte**  
Réseau de transport d'électricité

**elia**  
Powering a world in progress



**LIFE Biodiversity**  
Using electricity transmission network routes as active vectors for positive developments in biodiversity



**RGI Workshop**  
**3rd October 2012**

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**Preserving biodiversity: a strong commitment for RTE**

- ❖ Preserving natural environment and biodiversity: the major focus of RTE's environmental policy
- ❖ A high potential: RTE network: 100,000 km of overhead lines, more than 15,000 km located in protected natural areas
- ❖ Strong commitments: RTE signed the French National Strategy for Biodiversity 
- ❖ Historical involvement in birdlife protection  
- ❖ Towards a better understanding of the impacts of the electrical network on biodiversity: flora and fauna inventories by specialists since 2009 
- ❖ Conducting experiments to test new ways of vegetation management to preserve biodiversity 

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## Preserving biodiversity: a strong commitment for ELIA

- ❖ General actions to promote biodiversity:
  - ❖ Origin of the "LIFE+ HV Power Lines" project
  - ❖ Study on the impact of power lines on birds, identification of risk-prone zones and lines
- ❖ Numerous specific actions, to promote biodiversity:
  - ❖ Mounting of nesting boxes for falcons on HV power lines (one hundred nesting boxes installed)



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## Preserving biodiversity: a strong commitment for ELIA

- ❖ Ecological land management on land owned by Elia:
  - ❖ Hedge planting around substations (17 substations – 12km)
  - ❖ Management of unused land, near power lines (flower meadows, forest edges, hedgerows, etc.)
  - ❖ Management actions to reduce use of herbicides for maintenance in administrative sites (no areas of bare soil, ground cover plants, etc.)
  - ❖ Management of land space occupied by pylons



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**LIFE Biodiversity ELIA – RTE: presentation** 

*Using electricity transmission network routes as active vectors for positive developments in biodiversity*

- ❖ To develop innovative techniques for the creation and maintenance of corridors under overhead lines allowing their full potential benefit for biodiversity
  - 130 km of lines in the south of Belgium
  - 8 pilot sites in 4 biogeographically different regions in France
- ❖ To demonstrate that operating an electricity transmission network with respect for biodiversity makes economic sense
- ❖ To raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity linked to linear natural habitats of:
  - ELIA and RTE personnel in charge of vegetation management
  - Others European TSOs, representing 300,000 km of network
  - General public

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**LIFE Biodiversity ELIA – RTE: presentation** 

- ❖ Total cost: €2.55m
  - ELIA 18%
  - RTE 4%
  - European Commission 46%
  - Walloon Region 32%
- ❖ September 2011 – August 2016 (5 years)
- ❖ Partners
 

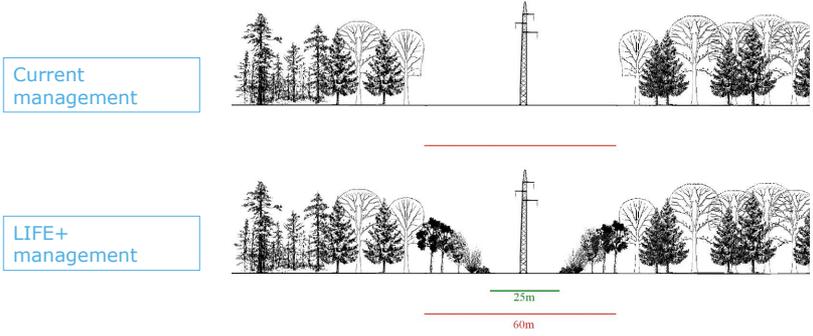
Financiers	Beneficiaries	Partners
European Commission	Solon	ONF
Walloon Region	ELIA	DNF
	RTE	
	Carah	
+ RTE's local partners		

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### Actions on corridor management

**To develop and restore 130 km of forest corridors**

- Enhancing the structure of the forest edge by planting medium-height trees, primarily local species (70 km, 210 ha).



**Current management**

**LIFE+ management**

25m  
60m

**Rte**  
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### Actions on corridor management



- Creation/restoration of peat bogs, heath & rough grassland (25 ha)




- Tackling invasive species (40 ha)
- Water level management: creation of ponds (110 ponds), building of dams, filling of drains

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## Actions on corridor management



❖ Creation of low-intensity flower meadows (20 ha)



❖ Management by mowing (20 ha) and grazing (15 km of fences)

❖ Creation of orchards (20 ha) to conserve a genetic pool of hardy species and varieties of wild forest fruit trees (apples, pears, buckthorn, medlar, etc.)

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## Location of the actions



130 km of lines in the south of Belgium



8 pilot sites in 4 biogeographically different regions in France: Atlantic, Continental, Alpine and Mediterranean



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## Final remarks: benefits of the project



- ❖ Experiment with new solutions for vegetation management, in order to preserve and develop biodiversity
- ❖ Improve acceptance of our infrastructures through better integration in the environment
- ❖ Gain the confidence of the European Commission and benefit from its financial support for implementation of practical actions to preserve biodiversity
- ❖ Reinforce our partnerships with territory players and specialists in biodiversity at local level, such as: managers of protected natural areas, regional and departmental nature conservancies, national and local hunting federations, the French National Office for Forestry Management...
- ❖ Communicate our actions in favour of biodiversity within our company, to other TSOs and to the public

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## Thanks for your attention



[www.life-elia.eu](http://www.life-elia.eu)

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