
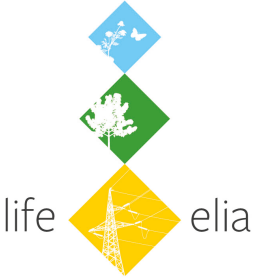


Rte
Réseau de transport d'électricité

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

Gaëlle Vervack – Environment Department (ELIA)
Elodie Jaussaud – Dialogue & Environment Department (RTE)

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%
 - Walloon Region 32%
 - European Commission 46%
- ❖ September 2011 – August 2016 (5 years)
- ❖ Partners

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

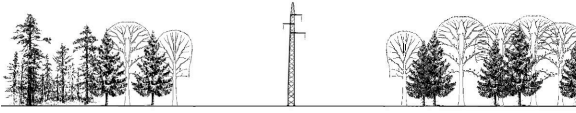
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Actions on corridor management

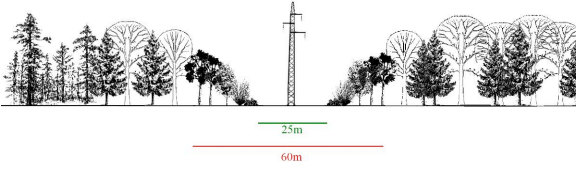
To develop and restore 130 km of forest corridors


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

Current management




LIFE+ management

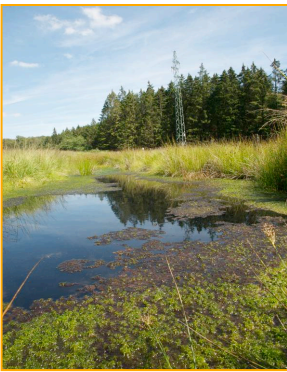



 Réseau de transport d'électricité

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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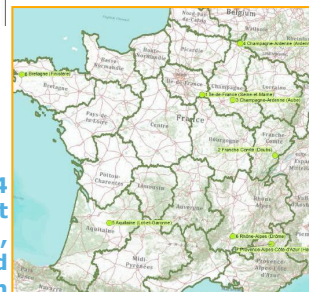
Location of the actions



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

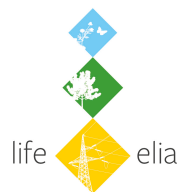


- ❖ Experiment with new solutions for vegetation management, in order to preserve and develop biodiversity
- ❖ Improve acceptance of our infrastructures through better integration in the environment
- ❖ Gain the confidence of the European Commission and benefit from its financial support for implementation 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

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