Life in Quarries project
Belgian extractive industry

Belgian association of non-energy extractive industries

Production of aggregates (limestone, sandstone, porphyry, sand, gravels, marine aggregates), lime, dolomie, ornamental stones

Key figures 2014 – Fediex members

- Extraction: 57.1 millions T
- Direct Employment: 2,840
- 85 sites
A quarry: from the operator perspective...

1. Topsoil removal

2. Blasting

3. On-site transportation

4. Crushing, screening

5. Rehabilitation
From the biologist point of view...

3. Temporary ponds

2. Screes

4. Invasives?

5. Rehabilitation

1. Cliffs
Deliberate capture or killing of protected species is prohibited
How can we make these 2 animals live together?

Temporary Nature

Dynamic management of biodiversity
To develop the biodiversity potential of active quarries in Wallonia

i. Raising awareness
ii. Best practices dissemination
iii. Training of workers and employees in the quarries

Branch agreement «Quarries and Biodiversity »
Between the extractive sector and the Walloon authorities – signed in May 2012 – extend until 2020

Scientific support to guarantee the quality and the credibility of the action plan
Why a Life project?

To show that:

a *dynamic management of protected species* on active extractive sites is beneficial to biodiversity... and to our activity!

To develop our actions with:

- concrete actions on the extraction sites
- a scientific expertise
- important communication tools
- a legal expertise
From 2015 selection of the **LIFE program**:  

“EU’s financial instrument co-financing environmental action projects”  

**Duration:** 5 years  [2015 – 2020]  

**Funding:** 5 millions → Co-financed by EU and RW  

**Implementation:** human and material resources from the quarries  

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![Pie chart showing the distribution of funding sources:  
EU 56%, Quarry sector 21%, Wallon region 20%, Partners 3%]
An innovative partnership: multi-sectorial collaboration

“Industry – Public Authority – University – NGO”
The 3 pillars of the project

**On-site demonstration**
- Test & validate of best practices
  - Dynamic management of biodiversity in the framework of extraction plans

**Legal analysis and support**
- Finding an incitative framework:
  - Long term effect of the project

**Communication**
- To the sector and its stakeholders:
  - Large diffusion of project actions and results
The 3 pillars of the project

On-site demonstration

- Demonstrate that biodiversity management is possible in active quarries
- Maximize ecosystem services
- Site-specific action plans implemented based on biological inventories, extraction plans, and legal constraints
- Progressive implementation and assistance on site towards full autonomy of quarry

Test & validate of best practices
Dynamic management of biodiversity in the framework of extraction plans
On-site demonstration

Phase I  [2015 - 2018]
Implementing biodiversity management plans in 14 quarries in Wallonia

Phase 1

2016
- Inventories
- Tests

2017
- Actions

2018
- Actions
- Monitoring

2019
- Monitoring

2020
On-site demonstration

Phase I [2015 - 2018]
Implementing biodiversity management plans in 14 quarries in Wallonia
The 3 pillars of the project

On-site demonstration

Phase II [2018 – 2020]
Validate biodiversity management plans in at least 12 additional quarries

Phase 1
2016
Inventories
Tests

2017
Inventories
Actions

2018
Monitoring
Actions

Phase 2
2016
Inventories

2017
Actions

2018
Actions

2019
Inventories

2020
Monitoring

Actions

Actions
The 3 pillars of the project

**On-site demonstration**

**Phase II [2018 – 2020]**
Validate biodiversity management plans in at least 12 additional quarries

**Diffusion** of good-practises in EU (FR, DE, NL...)
The 3 pillars of the project

On-site demonstration

Coherent management of biodiversity in active quarries

Dynamic management of temporary nature

Creation of temporary habitats ... but permanently available on site

- Creation of ponds, pioneer grasslands,...
- Installation of shelters
- Creation and refreshment of loose cliffs
- Translocation of populations (Natterjack toad...)
- ...

[Image of a sandy landscape with plants]
The 3 pillars of the project

On-site demonstration

Coherent management of biodiversity in active quarries

Dynamic management of temporary nature

Permanent nature management

Prepare restoration...

- Creation and management of long-term water bodies
- Installation of terns platforms
- Restoration and management of grasslands (mowing or grazing)
- Securing bats galleries
- Linear screes
- ....
LOT 1. Legal analysis of the concept of dynamic biodiversity management in Belgium and other EU countries

- Identify potential legal obstacles to the implementation of concrete actions involving protected species
- Comparative study of situations in other EU countries (BE, NL, FR, UK, DE, S, CH, USA)

⇒ Legislative proposal?

Deadline: July 2017
Directed by SERES (UCL, Belgium)
LOT 2. Legal support to involved quarry operators

- Compatibility of the project actions with the requirements of the extraction permits
- Legal support to involved quarries
- Support for the writing of sustainability agreements

➡ Agreement quarries / authorities: best practices ↔ legal flexibility?

Directed by P. Moërynck (Belgium)
The 3 pillars of the project

Communication tools:
- **Trainings** to the management of temporary nature
- Good practices **dissemination**
- Increased **public** awareness
- Dissemination at the EU level
- International **workshop**

To the sector and its stakeholders:
Large diffusion of project actions and results

Targeted audiences:
- Fediex quarries (manager, workers)
- Stakeholders (authorities, NGO’s, consultants, steering committees,...
- European extractive industry
- General public
Support to the project

**FEDIEX’s members**
- More than 25 sites directly involved
- International companies

**Environmental NGO’s**
- Natagora
- Parc Naturel des Plaines de l’Escaut
- Société Royale pour la Protection des Oiseaux
- Dutch Butterfly conservation
- Birdlife International
- RSPB

**Walloon authorities**

**Other associations**
- UEPG
- UNPG (France)
- Cascade (Netherlands)
Thank you for your attention !