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Newsletter #4

The **LIFE in Quarries** project brings together scientists and the quarry sector around the common goal of developing biodiversity management within daily quarry activities.

At this stage, **15 private companies** open the doors of **24 active quarries** and actively contribute to this project for a period of 5 years (2015-2020) structured in different phases to reveal and confirm the demonstrative nature of the project:

- 1. A first phase (2016-2018) aims to define, test and validate good practices in **14 pilot quarries.** These sites are currently finalising their first year of concrete conservation actions;
- A second phase (2017-2020), will demonstrate the replicability of the actions in 10 additional quarries. At this stage, the proposed actions are being discussed on their feasibility to be implemented from 2018 onwards;
- 3. A third phase (2019-2020) will welcome additional quarries and disseminate the good practices on a European scale.



Dynamic management of biodiversity : legal stakes

The concept of Dynamic Management of Biodiversity (DMB), developed within the framework of

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extractive operations.



So far the concept appears technically realistic from an ecological point of view, with the strict respect of good-management practices to be included in daily activities. However **legal stakes** are essential to seize this opportunity of co-development of biodiversity and industrial activity, being interesting ecologically, economically and socially.

Within the framework of the LIFE in Quarries project, an ambitious legal study is currently being finalized to analyze the compatibility of the DMB concept with the requirements of international, European and Walloon law.

Preliminary results seem positive to progress on this path. The conclusions will be disseminated more widely upon completion of the study.

Didactic videos being finalized

After a shooting season in the quarries involved in the project, the videos are being finalized.

A general clip is planned in order to raise awareness of the general public to biodiversity stakes in active quarries and the conservation actions carried out under the LIFE in Quarries project.



Five technical clips are produced in priority for the quarry personnel as didactic support detailing the technical aspects of the conservation actions for the following habitats:

- 1. pioneer ponds;
- 2. the loose cliffs;
- 3. shelters and scree;
- 4. pioneer grasslands;
- 5. permanent water bodies.

These video clips will be released early 2018, we will keep you updated!

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The project is being discussed at European level:

1. Meeting of the **European Working Group** on Tuesday 12th december 2017

LIFE IN QUARRIES EU Working group

BRUSSELS - 12 December 2017

This working group has the objective to a**nnually bring together European stakeholders** concerned by the progress and outcomes of the LIFE in Quarries project. This group is made up of representatives from the European Commission, conservation NGOs (Birdlife, IUCN), international quarry companies and extractive federations from other EU countries.

2. Presentation of the project progress at the "**Raw Materials Week 2017**" in Brussels (More details <u>here</u>)



Training modules towards biodiversity management

As the LIFE duration is limited, it is essential to **anticipate the continuity of the conservation actions** with a gradual transfer of biodiversity management to quarry personnel. In order to ensure the success of this management, it is essential to raise awareness at all levels of quarry companies.

After a first module (may/june 2017) for **operations / environment managers**, a second module was organized on 15/12/2017 for **top managers** after a Fediex board meeting. This module consisted of a presentation by Prof. G. Mahy (ULiège) to raise awareness of the management of participating companies on the following points:

- 1. Business Ecosystem Concept;
- 2. Presentation of the biological objectives of the project and its challenges;
- 3. Link between business ecosystems and biodiversity.

A third training module will be organized from January 2018 onwards to raise awareness of **on-site quarry workers** with specific pratical training sessions in all participating quarries.

Best wishes from the LIFE in Quarries team for a happy and healthy New Year !



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