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## Newsletter #7

During the first half of the year, the LIFE in Quarries has initiated new translocation actions for amphibian species. The principle is to give a little help to the natterjack toad, the northern crested newt and the yellow-bellied toad to expand in new quarries with favorable habitats.

We have also set up a new management tool for biodiversity actions in the quarry. After the first tests this spring, this tool will be improved to be optimal for the end of the project.

The month of May was an opportunity for us to organize two days of communication of the project at European level. This audience could have been initiated to the biodiversity management in quarries.

### Dissemination of LIFE in Quarries at European level

**In May, LIFE In Quarries organized two days of meetings to discuss different topics on biodiversity management in active quarries.**

#### EU WORKING GROUP

An **expert meeting** took place on May 13th in Jemelle's quarry (Lhoist Industrie). The purpose of this day was to present and discuss the progress, benefits and constraints of biodiversity management in an active quarry. The morning was devoted to the progress of the project at the general level. Our partners presented the analyzes of the ecosystem services provided by active quarries and the impact of the conservation and communication actions of the LIQ project on these services. Then, a discussion was conducted with the experts on the practical implementation of the project in the implementation of concrete conservation measures based on an innovative partnership between the private sector, the authorities, scientists, NGOs and a Natural Park.

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implemented by the project LiQ. These include the observation of a swallow colony in a sand stock that will not be exploited during the breeding season of this species.



### **Green week of the European Union**

With the aim of increasing visibility at European level, a second day of meeting was organized on May 14 at the quarry of Moha (Carmeuse). The event was part of the EU Commission's **GreenWeek 2019**, which focused on the "[Enforcement of European Legislation](#)".

It was therefore an opportunity to focus on the innovative legal aspects of the LiQ project with the development of the concept of "**dynamic management of biodiversity**" aiming to reconcile nature conservation and industrial activities.

After a working lunch, with the intervention of Pr G. Mahy (ULiège) and Prof. CH Born (UCLouvain), the guided tour of the site showed that active quarries are important steps for migration, dispersal and genetic exchanges. They are also essential as central areas of the ecological network to allow species reproduction and habitat development in densely populated areas.



### **Beginning of the translocation of the northern crested newt**

**After the beginning of the translocation of the Natterjack toad in 2018, we have just initiated the translocation of another patrimonial specie, the northern**

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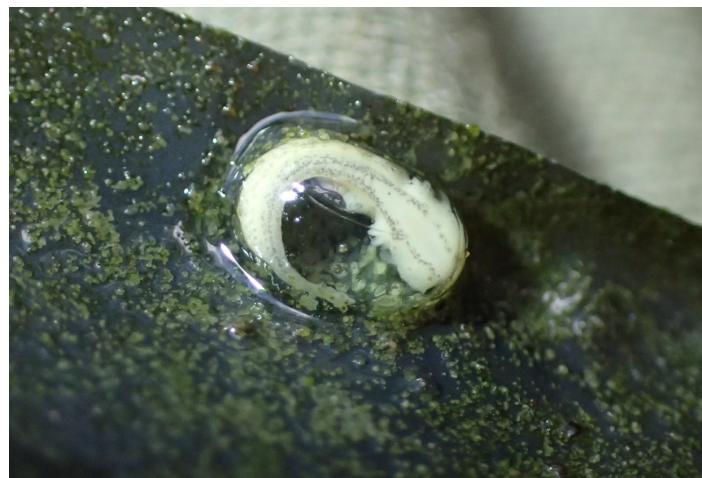
### Pertinence of the project

Among the 4 newt species present in Wallonia, the crested Newt is the rarest. The species is in sharp decline and considered threatened everywhere in Western Europe. This is explained by the destruction of its terrestrial and aquatic habitats. The disappearance of ponds and of the northern crested newt is a result of intensification of agriculture, urban expansion and the resulting densification of the road network.

If quarries may at first sight appear as surprising habitats for this species, this is not the case. The deep, permanent water points in the quarries provide ideal habitats once they are vegetated. Quarries can help to strengthen populations of northern crested newt by participating in the establishment of an ecological network favorable to the redeployment of the species in the Walloon territory.

### Selection of source populations and health assessment of source populations

The source populations that have been selected come from a radius that does not exceed 15 km around selected quarries and in the same biogeographic region. Amphibians are susceptible to several pathogens that can cause significant losses. To verify that the selected source populations are healthy, egg samples were previously analyzed by a laboratory of University of Ghent.



### Collection and transfer of eggs from source populations to selected quarries

The operation involves the placement of opaque plastic strips, attached to a stake planted on the banks. 15 tutors have been placed in each source pond to which 20 strips will be attached during the spring season. Three to four weeks after the application of the strips, they were collected and transferred to the receiving ponds. The first translocations have just begun and will continue in 2020 and in 2021. A monitoring will be set up to evaluate the success of the operation.

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## Development of a tool for managing biodiversity actions in quarry

In view of the progress of the project, it is already time to work on its durability. The team is working on the development of an integrated tool to supervise the quarries and structure the follow-up actions after the project (October 2020).

This interactive and ergonomic platform will allow each quarry to have access to:

- biological data inventoried on site
- history of actions implemented and their management;
- creation planning and management of actions over time;
- map tracking;
- specific recommendations according to the context of the quarry;
- status of real-time monitoring indicators;
- automatic and structured global reporting on an annual basis.

LIFE  
IN QUARRIES
Suivi des actions
C

Etat
 pleine  vide

Surface en eau
 < 5m<sup>2</sup>  5-25m<sup>2</sup>

Amphibien
 oui  non

Espèce cible
 A  B  C

## Rinding of young falcons!

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Sciences. 4 healthy young falcons were ringed this spring in one of the LIFE quarry!



## Quarries alive 2020 - Save the date

We are pleased to announce that the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "**Quarries alive" International Conference**" will be held at the University of Liège, Belgium, June 24-26, 2020, with the theme "Quarries as opportunity for biodiversity and ecosystem services – A European approach".

The conference aims to create a bridge between quarry and biodiversity projects. The goal is to create an interdisciplinary gathering to exchange experiences from scientific research projects, technical engineering approaches and innovative pilot-studies focusing on the enhancement of biodiversity in quarries. This international conference will be a unique opportunity to highlight the "LIFE in Quarries" project and its accomplishments on site.

We welcome all researchers, practitioners, stakeholders, as well as policy makers, to take part to this conference and share their knowledge. We challenge all actors of the quarrying activity, from ecologists to industrial stakeholders or NGOs working on fulfilling the demand for sustainable exploitation of resources.

Please visit the conference website <http://www.gembloux.ulg.ac.be/qa2020/> for regular updates or contact us: [quarriesalive2020@uliege.be](mailto:quarriesalive2020@uliege.be)

Thank you for your interest, for any questions or additional information, do not hesitate to contact us or follow us on our website and social networks.



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