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Life in Quarries - Newsletter #2

As the LIFE in Quarries project celebrates its first anniversary, it is making good progress. Here is some news to keep you informed of the project's progress.



End of biological surveys

With the arrival of autumn, the season of biological inventories is coming to an end for the teams of Natagora, the Parc Naturel des Plaines de l'Escaut and the ULg team. The following groups, chosen for their indicator character, were inventoried during this first season: vegetation, dragonflies, amphibians, reptiles and birds.

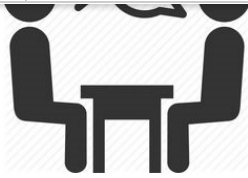
The first results are encouraging, with a significant diversity inventoried within the 14 sites, thus underlining the challenge that quarries represent for biodiversity.

A solid foundation for ambitious action plans...

Despite the winter break, the work of the LIFE team is now continuing in the office with the establishment of a detailed habitat map and the encoding of the numerous data collected during the last months. All this information will then allow the team to draw up proposals for action plans which will be analysed individually with the 14 farmers involved in the first phase of the project.

Assessment of sector awareness

A survey, in the form of an individual interview, was carried out with 102 people from various backgrounds (director, environmental officer, site manager, worker and contractor involved in the LIFE in Quarries project or not). The aim was to assess the level of

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various actions or the project.

In short, two main conclusions emerge

the sector is interested in nature in quarries and its preservation although it may represent some constraints in their eyes both in terms of quarry production and safety and legislative aspects.

Thus, the nature management plans developed during the project will take these constraints into account by reconciling nature conservation with quarrying activities. Numerous awareness-raising activities will explain these constraints and the solutions implemented to the various stakeholders and the general public.

The quarrying sector seems to be aware of certain aspects of biodiversity but a majority of respondents do not feel sufficiently informed on this subject. Communication actions will therefore help to improve everyone's knowledge through various media and channels.

This series of interviews will be repeated at the end of the project (2020), and quarrymen should feel better informed and confident about nature in quarries thanks to the LIFE in Quarries project.

We would like to thank all those who took part in the interviews, without whom this study would not have been possible.

Thank you for your interest, and if you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate [to contact us!](#)



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