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Life in Quarries - Newsletter #3

Let's get into action now!

The winter break was an opportunity for the LIFE team to meet with the quarry operators of the first phase to discuss action plans for the 3 upcoming years. The objective of these meetings was to review all the proposed actions in order to confront them with the quarry operational aspects.

A first list of actions was proposed with a purely naturalistic point of view. In this way, the confrontation with the industrial aspects made it possible to retain a series of actions which can be carried out from a technical point of view.

All the actions selected were then planned together with the quarry operators depending on the availability of machinery and working hours for the LIFE project. Indeed, a majority of the temporary nature actions will be implemented using the machines and the personnel from the quarries itself. This man-time, machine time and raw materials spent for the LIFE actions are valued in the total budget of the project, representing the financial contribution of the quarry sector, which represents up to 20% of overall budget without any cash flow.

At present, 14 action plans have been proposed and planned in close collaboration with the 1st phase quarry operators. The work is thus being launched in the participating sites with a constant support of the LIFE team for the 3 upcoming years (2017 to 2019).

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Initiating the 2nd phase with 3 new companies on board

The main objective of the LIFE in Quarries project is to demonstrate that the management of biodiversity can be included in the daily activity of a quarry. The project is structured in different phases to reveal and confirm this demonstrative character. While the objective of the first phase is to define, test and validate good practices, the second phase of the project aims to prove the replicability of actions on other quarry sites.

This summer, naturalist inventories are therefore initiated on the 10 first quarries of the 2nd phase to identify the biological potential in order to propose adequate action plans.

The LIFE project gathers now 15 private companies working together for biodiversity in 24 quarry sites distributed across the Walloon region.



Installation of notice boards at quarry entrance

The 24 quarries currently involved in the project LIFE in Quarries can now be identified thanks to the presence of specific notice boards at the entrances to the sites.



Annual visit of NEEMO



Last April, we had the visit of representatives of NEEMO (organism responsible for monitoring LIFE projects). We have reviewed the overall progress of the project and visited the first realizations tested at the quarry Les Petons (Solvay - Yves-Gomezée).

Working towards an autonomous management of biodiversity

Since the LIFE project is limited in time, it is essential to anticipate the continuity of actions with a progressive pick-up biodiversity management by the quarry itself. As such, specific training modules are organized during the project. The first training module towards environmental and / or quarry managers was organized in two parts (2x2 days). A first theoretical module held on 15 and 16 May 2017 at ULg - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech was followed by some practice (12-13 June) with field visits and work on biodiversity management plans.



Past anniversaries

75 years of Fediex - Seminar "Nature and Biodiversity"

The seminar « Nature and biodiversity » organized in the framework of the 75 years of Fediex took place on Friday the 23rd of June at Carrières de la Warche (Nelles-Frères, Malmedy). No less than 200 participants representing the political authorities, the local, regional and federal administrations, the quarry sector and national and European associations, attended this event and had the opportunity to learn more about the LIFE project and/or get an update of its progress. More info [HERE](#).

25 years of the LIFE programme

The 21st May 2017 was the 25th anniversary of the Natura 2000 Directive and the LIFE program. To celebrate this event, the Walloon LIFE projects

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On this occasion, the LIFE in Quarries project has welcomed about 20 persons for a walk in the quarry Les Petons (Solvay - Yves-Gomezée) to illustrate the interest of active quarries for biodiversity and examples of concrete actions of the LIFE.



Thank you for your interest in our project. Please follow us on our website and social medias for any question or additional information.



Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech
Université de Liège



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Rue Edouard Belin 7, B-1345 Mont-Saint-Guibert

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