

# Life in Quarries project



Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech  
Université de Liège



## 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...

## 4. Crushing, screening



## 3. On-site transportation



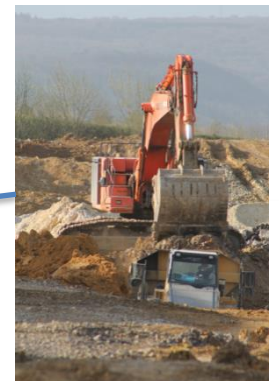
## 5. Rehabilitation



## 2. Blasting



## 1. Topsoil removal



# From the biologist point of view ...

## 3. Temporary ponds



## 4. Invasives?



## 5. Rehabilitation



## 2. Screens



## 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**



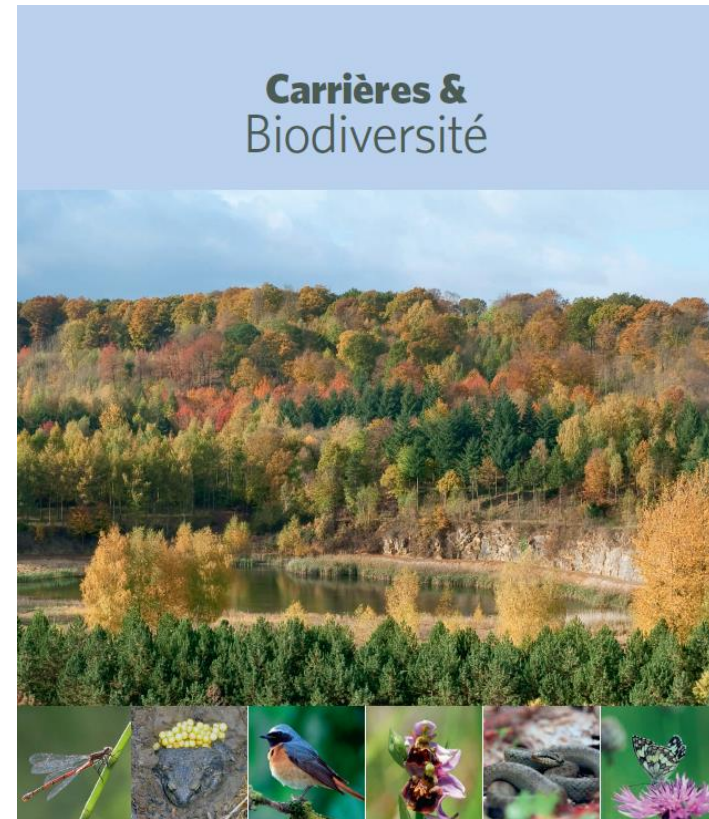


## To develop the biodiversity potential of active quarries in Wallonia

- 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** :

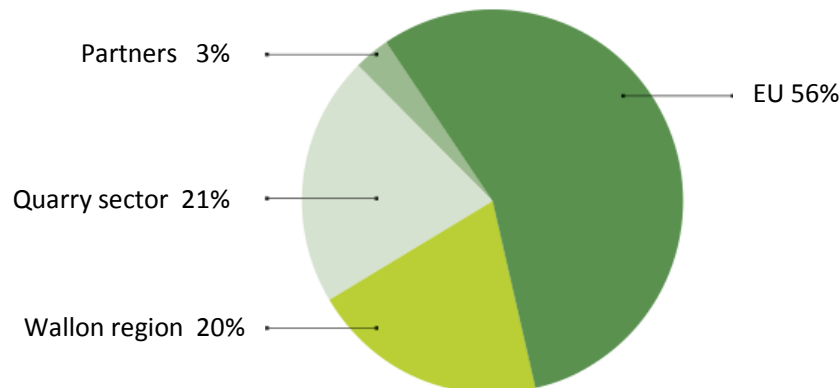
“EU’s financial instrument co-financing environmental action projects”

**Duration:** 5 years [2015 – 2020]

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



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





## An innovative partnership: multi-sectorial collaboration

“ Industry – Public Authority – University – NGO ”



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Wallonie



# 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

### Test & validate of best practices

Dynamic management of biodiversity in the framework of extraction plans

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



towards full autonomy of quarry

# The 3 pillars of the project

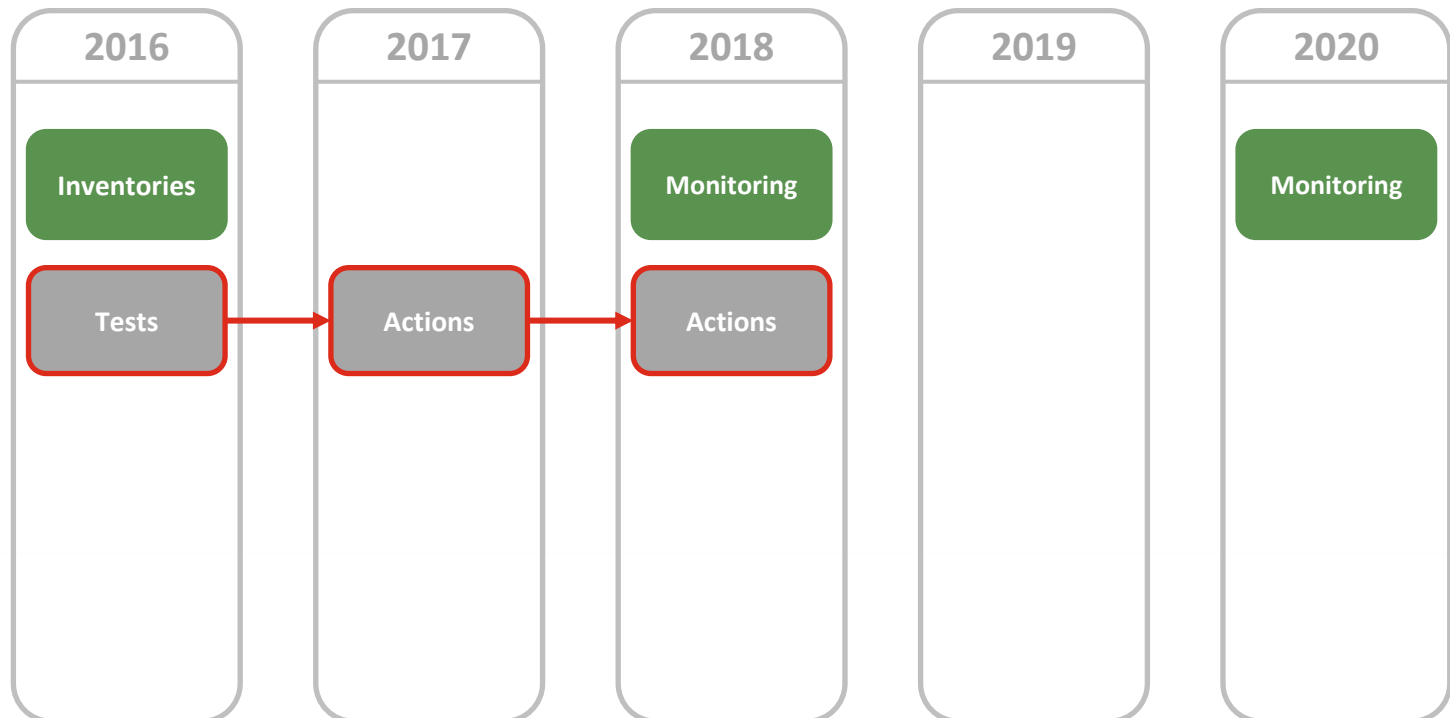


## On-site demonstration

### Phase I [2015 - 2018]

Implementing biodiversity management plans  
in 14 quarries in Wallonia

Phase 1





# The 3 pillars of the project

## On-site demonstration

### Phase I [2015 - 2018]

Implementing biodiversity management plans  
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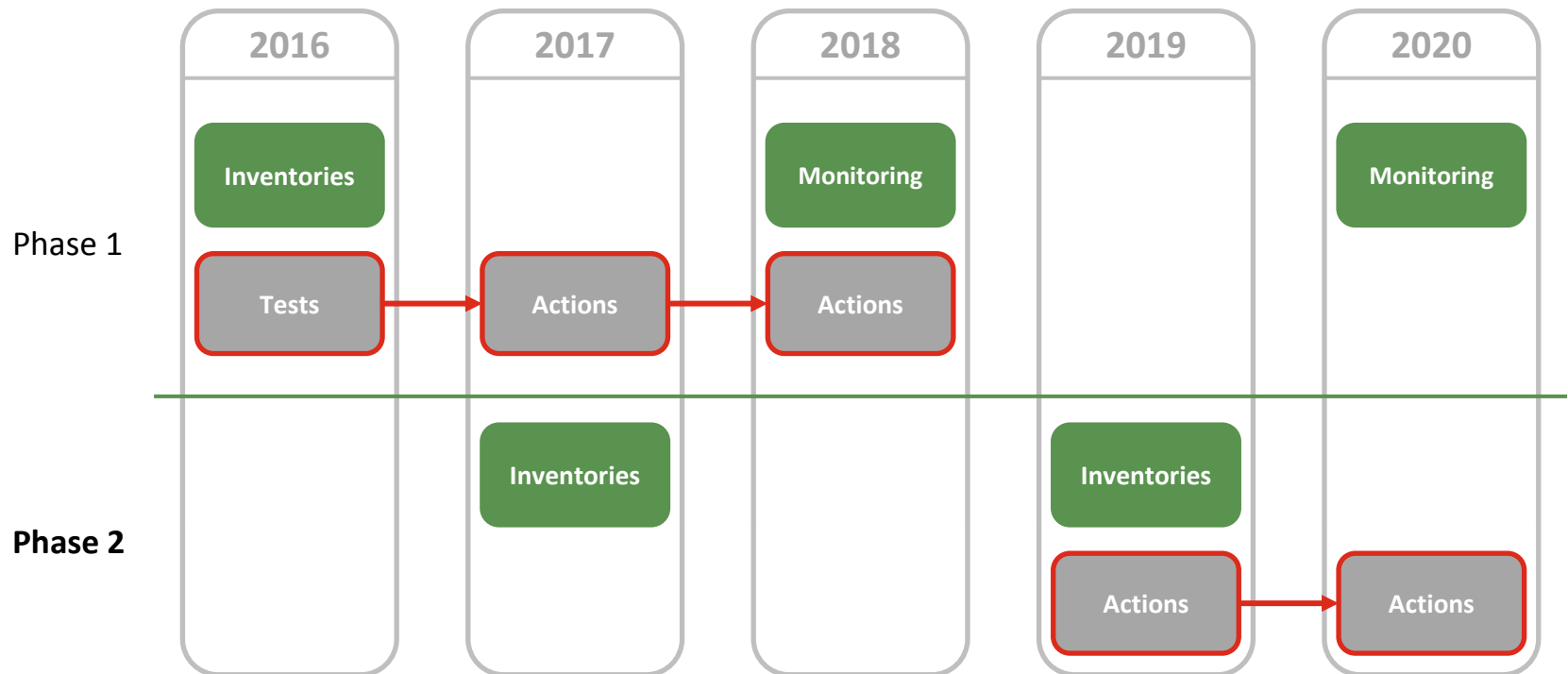


# The 3 pillars of the project

## On-site demonstration

### Phase II [2018 – 2020]

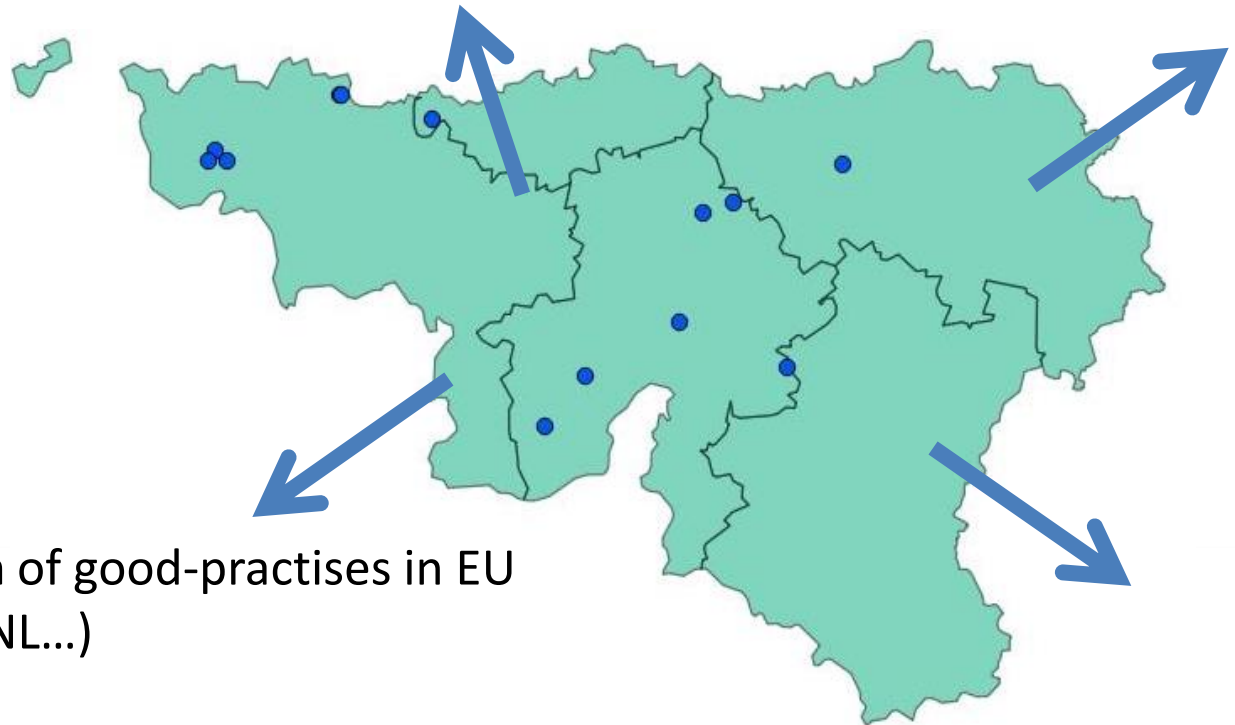
Validate biodiversity management plans in at least 12 additional quarries



## 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...)
- ...



# The 3 pillars of the project

## On-site demonstration

### Coherent management of biodiversity in active quarries

Dynamic management of temporary nature

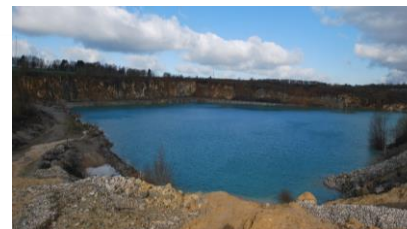


### Permanent nature management



*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
- ....



# The 3 pillars of the project



## Legal analysis and support

## Finding an incitative framework: Long term effect of the project

### **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)



## Legal analysis and support

**Finding an incitative framework:**  
Long term effect of the project

### **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

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

### Communication tools :

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

### Targeted audiences:

- Fediex quarries (manager, workers)
- Stakeholders (authorities, NGO's, consultants, steering committees,...)
- European extractive industry
- General public

## **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)



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**Thank you for your attention !**

