

LIFE11 NAT/LU/000858

Second Progress Report

covering the project activities from 1/05/2015 to 30/04/2016



lifeeislek

RESTORATION OF WETLANDS
AND ASSOCIATED ENDANGERED SPECIES
2012-2017



Reporting date: 30 April 2016

Project acronym: LIFE Eislek



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère du Développement durable
et des Infrastructures
Département de l'environnement

LIFE Project Number

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LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym

**Restoration of wetlands and associated endangered species in the
 Eislek Region (LIFE Eislek)**

Project Data

Project location	Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, zones Natura 2000 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vallée de la Woltz et affluents de la source à Troisvierges »(LU0002001) • Vallée de la Tretterbaach et affluents de la frontière à Asselborn » (LU0002002) • Vallée de l'Our de Ouren a Wallendorf Pont (LU0001002) • Vallée de la Tretterbaach (LU0001003) • Weicherdange - Breichen (LU0001004) • Vallée supérieure de la Wiltz / Derenbach - Weischent (LU0001005) • Vallée supérieure de la Sûre / Lac du barrage (LU0001007) • Wilwerdange - Conzefenn (LU0001033) • Troisvierges - Cornelysmillen (LU0001038) • Hoffelt - Kaleburn (LU0001042) • Troine / Hoffelt – Sporbaach (LU0001043)
Project start date:	01/09/2012
Project end date:	31/08/2017
Total Project Duration (in months)	60
Total budget	1,766,775€
EC contribution:	883,387€
(%) of eligible costs	50%

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary	natur&ëmwelt – Fondation Hëllef fir d’Natur	
Contact person	M. Patrick Losch, president	Mme Mireille Molitor project coordinator
Postal address	5, rte de Luxembourg L-1899 Kockelscheuer	Antenne nord: 2, Kierchestrooss L- 9753 Heinerscheid
Telephone	00352 29 04 04-1	00352 26 90 81 27-35
Fax:	00352 29 05 04	00352 26 90 81 27-33
E-mail	patrique.losch@online.lu	m.molitor@naturemwelt.lu
Project Website	www.naturemwelt.lu	www.life-eislek.lu

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2 List of key words and abbreviations

ACT	Administration du Cadastre et de la Topographie
AGE	Administration de la Gestion de l'Eau
ANF	Administration de la Nature et des Forêts
ASTA	Administration du Service Technique de l'Agriculture
CA	Chambre d'Agriculture
CNDS	Comité Nationale de Défense Sociale
COL	Centrale ornithologique
CRP-GL	Centre de Recherche Public- Gabriel Lippmann
DEMNA	Département de l'Etude du Milieu naturel et agricole
EAP	Environmental Action Program
EC	European Commission
Feld-AG	Arbeitsgruppe Feldornithologie- ornithological working group
FGE	Fonds pour la Gestion de l'Eau
GIS	Geographical Information System
LIST	Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (former CRP-GL)
MA	Ministère de l'Agriculture
MAE	Mesure agro-environnementale
MDDI	Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures
MIGR	Ministère de l'Intérieur et à la Grande Région
MNHN	Musée nationale d'histoire naturelle
n&ë asbl	natur&ëmwelt association sans but lucrative
n&ë HFN	natur&ëmwelt Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PDR	Programme du développement rural
PVA	Perte sur la valeur d'avenir
SAC	Special areas of conservation
SICONA	Syndicat Intercommunal pour la Conservation de la Nature
SIDEN	Syndicat Intercommunal de Dépollution des Eaux résiduaires du Nord
SPA	Special protection areas
UCL	Université Catholique de Louvain
ULB	Université Libre de Bruxelles

3 Executive summary

3.1 General progress

The project is now well into the second half of its duration and can present good results for most of the actions. The project team will now focus primarily on actions, for which delays were encountered.

- Most of the **Preparatory actions** are completed. The technical planning of the concrete actions is an on-going process that will continue until the end of the project. Difficulties encountered on the elaboration of methods for several actions have mostly been solved, so that the project can proceed faster now. The Life team has started to contribute intensively to the "Plans de gestion" of the N2000 areas lying in the project zone. This action requires a high input of time. The result will be a working document that will be used by the team continuously even after the project's end. The grazing management of the parcels of n&ë was adapted to the target species during the first half of the project.
- **Land purchase** is completed at 80%. Many parcels lying in the core zones of the distribution range of our target species were purchased. The network of n&ë can be enlarged, which in turn allows a better management of land.
- **Concrete conservation actions** are reaching interesting results. Most of these are largely above their initial targets. Especially action C1, which shows important results due to the consultation of low pressure machinery for wetland restoration. As the planning of actions C2 and C3 has well progressed, their implementation will advance remarkably in the next year. All the other actions are continuing in a good pace as planned in the Grant Agreement. The details are given in the technical progress part.
- **Monitoring** has shown important results primarily for *L. helle*, for which the distribution in Luxembourg was hardly known before the beginning of the project. All three target species were proven to be present to a large degree on sites managed by n&ë, proving the importance of our restoration works. Other rare bird and butterfly species were observed during monitoring as well. At the end of the project, an analysis of the monitoring over the whole project duration will be made.
- The **public awareness and dissemination of results** was very successful concerning the publication of articles related to the project. We get the impression that the subject is of interest in the public as well as the specialised press. Our "chantier nature" as well as the guided tours were very successful as well. The presence at fairs in the region provides another tool to inform people about the LIFE project and its objectives. In September 2015, a workshop and seminar of the Bourignon on soil management was a great success at the agricultural and public level.
- The **overall project operation and monitoring of the project progress** was complicated at times due to a change of personnel during the project duration. However, the team has worked well together to cover the gaps and the project was able to catch up with delays. The Life team has furthermore managed to build up a network of connections that are very beneficial for the planning and the implementation of all the foreseen actions. These include contacts to all the major institutions in Luxembourg and

their expertise, contacts to other Life projects with similar goals and contacts with land managers in Luxembourg as well as neighbouring countries such as the MNHN, the ANF, Life projects Rur&Kall (DE) and Papillon (BE).

3.2 Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable

The project objectives are still the same as in the application form. Some adjustments had to be made with the various problems encountered along the way. None of these adjustments has a serious impact on the overall aim of the project. On the contrary, some of the adjustments are a lot more ambitious than the original action foreseen in the application. For example, the remeandration project has changed from the introduction of a few simple deflectors to a project planned by an engineering office and executed in a rigorous way. The planning of this complex action and the application for additional funds were possible only because of the Life project.

Most of the objectives have already been or will be surpassed. During the duration of the project, the academic team has taken every opportunity to implement additional measures in accordance with our project. We were able to secure additional funds for some aspects of the project, increasing the overall impact of the LIFE Eislek project in Luxembourg.

The timing of the implementation has been quite good so far. Actions that could not be concluded in the foreseen timeframe will nevertheless be completed before the end of the project. No substantial change in the work plan has occurred so far.

3.3 Problems encountered

All the problems encountered during the project are explained in detail in the technical progress part. None of these problems are sufficiently important to endanger the overall project objectives. The project requested minor changes to the grant agreement at the EC, which were readily granted. The academic team has discussed any problems encountered and searched for solutions, which were generally found.

4 Administrative part

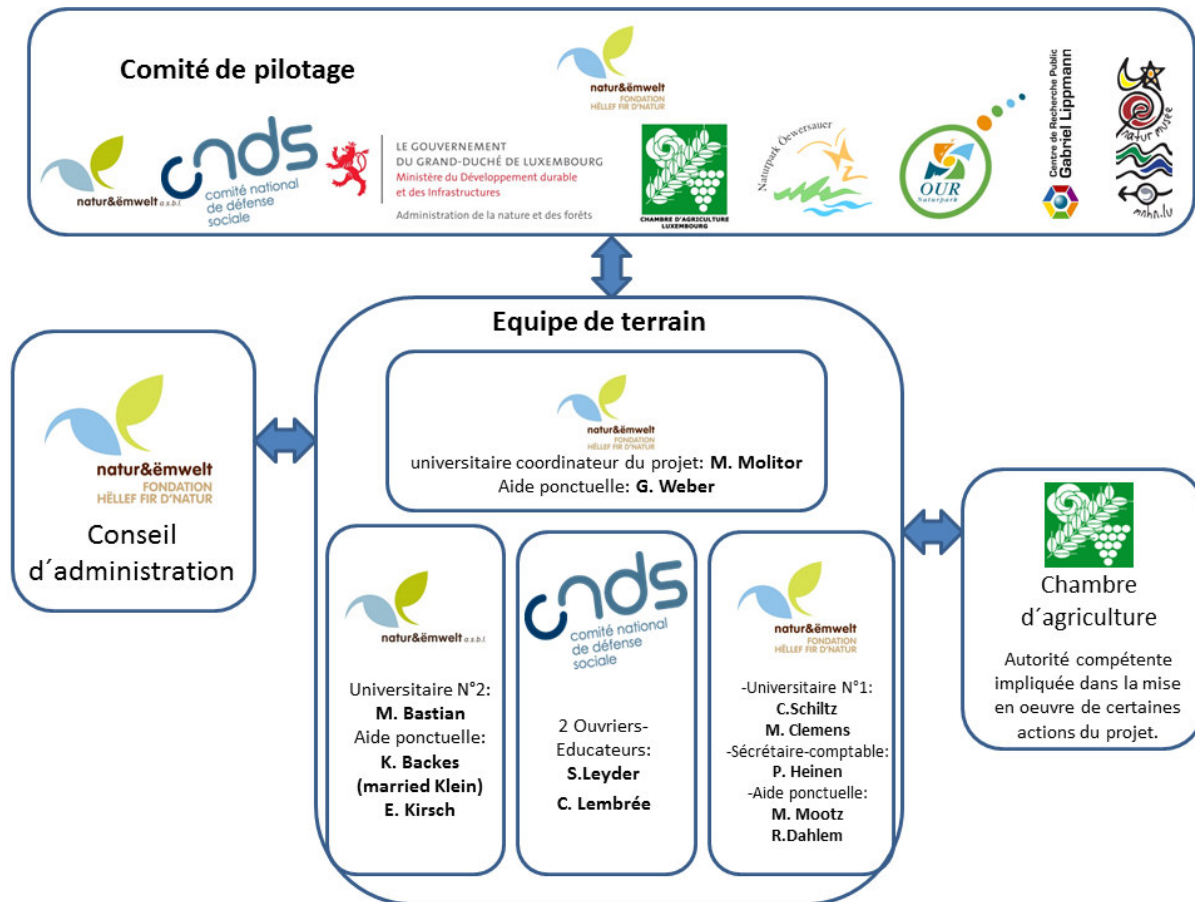
→ Coordination of the project

This subject is covered in F1 below: Gestion administrative et financière du projet.

→ Changes in the project management structure

No change in the management structure has occurred so far. Some personnel changes have occurred during the project duration. These were explained in the midterm report. Further information will also be given in F1.

→ Organogram



→ Reports

The reports handed in up to now:

- Inception report (April 2013)
- Progress Report (April 2014)
- Midterm Report (April 2015)

→ Extension of project duration

An extension of the project is currently not foreseen.

5 Technical part

5.1 Technical progress per task

Action A1: Etablissement d'un programme d'actions de restauration des habitats des espèces cibles

→ Expected results:

- La réalisation d'un inventaire systématique des composants de l'habitat naturel des espèces cibles, vis-à-vis de leurs exigences écologiques dans le périmètre du projet :
- L'intégration des données récoltées dans un système d'information géographique;
- Elaboration d'un programme d'actions reprenant:
 - o les zones de travail prioritaires
 - o les menaces qui pèsent sur ces zones prioritaires
 - o les actions prioritaires à y mettre en œuvre afin de contrecarrer ces menaces

→ Budget: 54.000€

→ Budget already spent: 39.041,98€ (72.30%)

→ Activities and Outputs: Action completed since 2014.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x																	
Planning revised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x												
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x												

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Milestones	Deadlines	Progress
Personnel Nomination	01.09.12	Completed → F1
Action Programme	01.09.13	Completed → GIS

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays**

n&ë HfN applied for the shapefile with the current MAEs, but the action has not been successful yet. This problem has been detailed extensively in the mid-term report. The MDDI was contacted repeatedly on this subject but has not been able to help clarify the situation

Without the information contained in this shapefile, the project coordinator does not possess information on the current MAEs which makes the first contact with landowners more difficult but does not prevent the actions in themselves.

In discussions with different NGO's in our neighbouring regions, we realised that we were not the only ones confronted with this problem. Apparently, the Belgian project beneficiaries couldn't get the shapefile with the MAE neither from the administration of the region of Wallonia. The project is then wondering if the European Commission can provide additional information on how to deal with this recurrent problem in nature conservation?

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE: not applicable**

→ **Perspectives**

The data obtained through the mapping of the project area can still be used for measures to be carried out after the completion of the project.

Action A2: Planification technique des actions de restauration des habitats des espèces cibles

→ **Expected results:**

Planification technique détaillée de toutes les actions de conservation concrètes.

→ **Budget:** 38.310 €

→ **Budget already spent:** 26.596,81€ (69.43%)

→ **Activities and Outputs**

Landowners, affected by the implementation of concrete actions, are contacted and convinced to allow restorations on their land.

Other stakeholders like hunters, fishermen, abutting owners etc. are consulted as well. Their position is analysed accurately to find the solution offering satisfaction to the majority.

To plan concrete actions, contact with the concerned authorities, such as municipalities, the water management administration and the nature and forest administration, is necessary throughout the project. Many actions require authorisations that are applied for at the responsible administrations and municipalities.

For each restoration type, best practice examples in Luxembourg and the border regions are visited and the results discussed with the responsible entity/person of the implementation. The Life team discusses the different technical options and chooses the best solution for the site to be restored.

Regular meetings with the head of CNDS-Naturaarbechten took place at least every 2-3 weeks in order to discuss the planning and the advancement of the works as well as potential problems/bottlenecks. Restoration sites are shown to the foremen of CNDS, employed through the project and/or the contractor(s) to discuss best practice for each site.

For each purchase and service, we look for the best price-service-ratio. The concrete measures are guided and controlled by the academic team of the project.

Action C1:

The very successful collaboration with the subcontractor Meyer-Luhdorf, a German firm specialized in nature restoration and management activities, is continuing. The sites to be mown in 2015 were visited on the **25.06.15** with Mr Meyer and the LIFE team and details of the implementation were discussed site per site.

The collaboration with M. Pint and M. Siebenaller, two local farmers willing to accept the mulched wet material from the meadows, was also continued in 2015. The mulch will be composted and then incorporated into the soil in order to improve the humus content in their fields.

A first experiment on the removal of willow shrubs by pulling out the roots with the help of a cable winch was planned. Until now, willows were cut at the surface by motor saw. This technique asked for a regular maintenance by brushcutter in the following years to repress the shoots.

A meeting with mycology specialists took place on the 4.11.15 to determine old willows valuable as support for fungi to exclude them from shrub removal actions.

On the 27.10.15, a meeting with a contractor (Mr Mayer) took place to plan the amelioration of the access to conservation sites.

Action C2:

(1) Restoration of a water course

This action had a lot of preliminary events leading up to the current situation. These are listed in detail in the mid-term report.

The analysis of the consultancy firm Stream and River Consult ("**note de faisabilité**" 19.12.14) showed that the site Léresmillen (inside LU0002002 & LU0001003) is the most suitable site for a restoration.

To better understand the water system and to get more information on the water quality, we gathered all available information concerning the old river bed, valley profile and fishing data. Additionally, we made several water analyses and electro-fishing in collaboration with the LIFE Unio team to complete the existing data. LIST provided us the data about the IBGN monitoring on macro-invertebrates. Richard Dahlem, an expert on vegetative associations who has done the "Biotopkataster" inventory of the municipality of Wincrange, was contacted to receive more details about sensitive areas that should not be touched by eutrophic water (tall sedge swamps).

The costs of the planned remeandration works are, however, a lot higher than the costs of a simple introduction of natural materials as originally planned in the application. The estimated costs of about 72.000€ for 320m can only partly be covered by the Life Eislek project. To accomplish the ambitious project, we looked for other sources of funding complementary to the LIFE project. We were informed that our project was eligible for funds from the "Fonds pour la gestion de l'eau" (FGE). Considering that the site is part of the management plan of the AGE, we have good chances of receiving funds at a high percentage. However, the FGE can fund public associations with only 50%, whereas they can fund communities at up to 100%.

A meeting with the community of Wincrange took place on the **16.04.15** including a presentation of the results achieved in the Life project so far and the remeandration project at Léresmillen. The community had no objections to the project and is willing to advance the budged outside life as it can have positive impacts on inundation problems downstream.

The site was also visited with the ANF on the **04.06.15** to hear their opinion on the project. After initial concerns on a pioneer project, that is very visible to the public, they were convinced that a remeandration at this site could be a good opportunity to gain some experience on the restoration of river beds.

A meeting with Philippe Luty, the department head of the AGE, Service Régional Nord was organised on the **16.07.2015**. It was decided to ask the consultancy firm "Stream and River Consult" to go further with the planning of the remeandration of the site Léresmillen. Contrary to the local firms asked for a bid, this firm has an outstanding knowledge of watercourse restoration work and has largely proved its competence in the LIFE Environment "WALPHY" project and is therefore familiar with the special framework of a LIFE project. A bid was asked and approved by natur&ëmwelt on the **11.08.15**. The study (called "esquisse") was received in **November 2015**.

A meeting with the AGE, the community, a representative of the "partenariat de rivière" and the Life project took place on the **26.01.2016**. Here, the consultancy firm "Stream and River Consult" presented their study ("esquisse") on how to restore the old meanders of the Tretterbaach at the site Léresmillen. The College of Alderman encouraged the project and gave the approval of introducing a request for supplementary funding via the "Fonds pour la gestion de l'eau" ("délibération communale").



Presentation of the study "esquisse" by Stream and River Consult for AGE, the College of Alderman of the municipality of Wincrange, a representative of the partenariat de rivière and the Life project on 26.01.2016.

The meeting on the **30.11.15** with Philippe Luty allowed us to discuss the different requirements and the exact procedure of the FGE application. The request for the supplementary fund (part "elaboration de projet") was introduced on the **28.01.2016** by the municipality of Wincrange, we received the acknowledgement of its receipt on the **16.03.2016**. Correspondent to the

procedures of the FGE, the placement of order was given on the **24.03.16**. The confirmation for funding was given on the **25.03.16** by the FGE.

The consultancy firm "Stream and River Consult" is now busy with preparing a detailed mapping of the topography of the site and the detailed planning of the new riverbed. We expect the results of this detailed study ("**avant-projet et projet**") in **May 2016**. A second request for supplementary funding (part "**travaux de restauration et de renaturation de cours d'eau**" & "monitoring") can be introduced after a second approval by the entire municipal council ("**délibération communale**"). As the municipality and the local representative of the AGE strongly support the project, which in addition is fully in line with the Luxembourgish management plan asked by the EU Water Framework Directive, there is no reason why delays should occur in the approval procedure of the FGE. We are confident that the remeandration can be implemented after the collective vacation of the building sector in **September 2016**.

All documents related to the preparation of the action C2 part Restoration of a water course (Léresmillen) are available in the appendix 1.

The College of Alderman insisted that the local municipal council were somewhat sceptical in financing nature conservation actions and that the best way to convince them is to insist on the touristic and recreational benefits of the measure. Our room for manoeuvre in action E1 is quite narrow. That's why we chose to look for a second complementary funding as the FGE doesn't fund touristic infrastructures. An application was therefore introduced at the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) in the context of their corporate social responsibility strategy called "Blue water project" (appendix 2).

As several sources may fund this complex action, we are aware that a special attention by the LIFE team and all implicated actors will be essential to avoid double funding.

(2) Drain removal/ disabling of trenches

The site retained for this measure is called Kiirchermillen (inside LU0001038& LU0002001). The ancient meadow has been drained with a series of trenches and planted by non-indigenous spruce trees in the late '50s. The forest was clear-felled in 2007 (INTERREG III "Réseau Eco") and an extensive grazing project with Galloways implemented after receiving the authorisation of conversion of spruce forests into grasslands. However, the draining effect of the trenches was not diminished by the "stuffing" action of the cows. The trenches were so deep in some places that the cows avoided to cross them. Additionally the site tended to be invaded by shrubs, because the animals avoided the inaccessible parts of the pasture.

The site was visited with two potential contractors to discuss best practice in a very inaccessible site. Only one contractor submitted a bid. The other one explained that he would not be able to execute this difficult action following our instructions. It was decided to do the placement of order to fill the trenches partly by congesting them at several points with soil from onsite. In order to get enough soil, the digging of two semi-natural ponds was decided.

The site was visited with the forest and nature ranger and a request for authorisation was introduced at the MDDI. We got the nature conservation authorisation on the 21.09.2015.

Action C3:

The action follows its normal course without any particularities. We continue with the already explained stages:

- Application for authorisation from the MDDI concerning the conversion of spruce forests into grasslands.
- Stock taking of timber volume of the forest and/or defining of area to be milled. Site visit with timber merchants/contractors/CNDS.
- Giving order to the most suitable merchant and transmission of the specification sheet for contractors.

Action C4

(1) Hay transfer

In 2015, no hay transfer was executed due to the lack of suitable couples of "source" and "receptor" parcels. We are now busy with the planning of a hay transfer at the site called Rittefenn (inside LU0002001) following the same procedure as previously implemented.

(2) Rhizome transplantation

The last rhizome transplantations were explained in the midterm report. It was decided not to plan any in 2016 but to concentrate on elaborating a suitable method for propagation by seeding.

(3) Seeding

We still encounter problems with the germination of the seeds of *Polygonum bistorta*. Several overwintering treatments were tested, but unfortunately the success is not promising. Germination rates are still too low to adopt this method as best practice. We go on with testing and improving our strategy, compiling and analysing all the results of previous experiments. However, in order to meet our objectives, we will be forced to go on with the well-established rhizome transplantations, even if the related expenditure of human labour is much higher than with seeding. In 2016 we test the germination of seeds kept dry and dark since the collection date and then treated 4 weeks at 4°C mixed with wet sand. The seeds were then sown very densely in situ at several sites. The detailed experimental set-up is explained in action C4.

In order to improve our understanding of *Polygonum bistorta*, the Life project continued the collaboration with the MNHN (meetings took place on 29.09.15 & 22.03.16). Considering that SICONA is busy with a reintroduction strategy of bistort at several sites in their area as well, the

collaboration with their organisation was maintained and several exchanges about success rates were made. Results are presented in action C4.

Action C5

In 2015-16, the action followed its normal course without any particularities. We managed to plan and execute the last plantings.

Action C6

- cattle shelter

The cattle shelter is in operation since December 2013 and CNDS is largely satisfied with the infrastructure. In winter 2014-2015, a problem with a broken drip rail, that wasn't identified until very late, caused severe damage to the pasture at the entry of the shelter. A solution was worked out including the repair of the drip rail as well as the installation of bovine boards.

- cattle transport

The cattle transport was bought in 2014.

- fences and troughs

Since November 2012, a large project on the installation of fences and troughs at the Sporbaach and later at the Trëtterbaach was planned by the LIFE Eislek team. Since this project overstrains the financial capacities of the Life project, a financial contribution was applied for at the ASTA (loi agricole: "investissements non-productifs") and ANF ("Fond pour l'Environnement").

Innumerable meetings took place with all the concerned stakeholders, but unfortunately we couldn't manage to overcome the many obstacles standing in our way. A detailed list of all the meetings and explanations to all the problems encountered is appended in the letter we wrote to the Luxembourgish Minister of Environment on the 11.12.15 to complain about the upsetting outcome of this action (cf. appendix 3). It is obvious that AGE and ANF had different points of view in this matter and that they were at that moment not willing to find a way out of their bureaucratic narrowness although the two administrations underlie the same Minister with one goal: to implement the Waterframe Directive and the two directives linked to N2000. We did not receive an official answer yet, but we discussed the matter unofficially with several higher functionaries. Apparently, they could finally find an agreement so that no more difficulties should occur if we ask for an authorisation to install fences and troughs. The problem of insufficient water quality is overcome by attaching a note to the authorisation containing a water analysis at the concerned site and a warning that it is not recommended to use the water as source for cattle.

This unexpected complications represent a real drawback and cost us a lot of time and energy. We decided to abandon the very ambitious project initiated outside the LIFE project and switch to

a more modest action as it was anyway foreseen in the Life project. We want to make sure, indeed, that the Life objectives are not threatened by a too ambitious and energy taking action.

A meeting with a subcontractor took place on the 16.02.16 concerning the planning of two cattle bridges and a solar powered pump. The two bridges will be installed on parcels owned by n&ë and grazed by sheep. The sheep do not seem to cross the river cutting the parcel into two, so that a bridge will improve their mobility and provide a better management of the sites. The solar powered pump will also be installed on a parcel of n&ë and will serve 30 cows kept by the tenant on our parcel and the adjacent parcel in his own possession. It will allow us to fence out the river in order to establish a migration corridor for *L. helle* and a feeding or even breeding habitat for the two targeted bird species.

Action C7

Preparation of action C7 is completed but we are still waiting that the new law concerning MAEs is voted. Several reasons are responsible for severe delays in adopting the text at EU and national level. We follow the development closely to be prepared for the moment the law comes into force (for the progression of the new law, see app. 4). Several discussions with CA and ASTA allowed us to stay in touch with recent progress. Nevertheless, the implementation of the action is further complicated by the fact that MA refuses to transmit the shapefiles of existing MAEs.

In order to reach some objectives, we switched our strategy to conclusion of "biodiversity contracts" (appendix 5) in sites where a need for extensification was identified.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Milestones	Deadlines	Progress
Planning of restoration techniques	01.02.16	Continuing action, no major delays at present.

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: explained above

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays: explained above

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE: explained above



Preparation visit with Stream and River consult, AGE and Partenariat de rivière.



Meeting with the local volunteers in order to discuss planned actions.

Action A3: Contribution à l'élaboration de plans de gestion des sites Natura 2000 du périmètre de projet

→ Expected results:

Un plan de gestion des sites Natura 2000 de la zone de projet permet une approche programmatique pour assurer de manière durable le maintien et la restauration de l'habitat de nos espèces cibles.

→ **Budget:** 21.000 €

→ **Budget already spent:** 14.789,80€ (70.43%)

→ Activities and Outputs

The article 37 of the « Loi modifiée du 19 janvier 2004 concernant la protection de la nature et des ressources naturelles » states « Pour chaque zone Natura 2000, le Ministre prend les mesures de conservation nécessaires impliquant, le cas échéant, des plans de gestion appropriés spécifiques aux zones,... ». Despite this, in 2015 the prioritised action framework for Luxembourg had to admit that only 27% of the plans were completed (18 of 66 sites in total). Only one site inside our project area has had a management plan up to now (Conzefenn).

Due to several warnings from the European Union to the severe delays on the delivery of the management plans concerning most N2000 sites by the Luxembourgish Government, the ANF was forced to reconsider its elaboration strategy. They decided to switch to a standardised structure and to submit an abbreviated form (plans de gestion abrégés) of all 66 designated sites until the end of 2016. A special task force was named inside the ANF in order to accelerate the work. Some of the management plans are now directly elaborated by them, some plans are elaborated by NGO's or planning offices.

Until recently, we collaborated very intensely with the elaboration of the 4 plans related to the municipality of Wincrange. Here we did a lot of preliminary works in collaboration with the planning office TR – Engineering. After the change in strategy by ANF, the before mentioned planning office is no longer implicated in the elaboration of any plans in our project area. This decision was quite surprising for us, but finally this new strategy is much more effective and practically orientated than the way we had to work before. We therefore appreciate the new mode of functioning and actively support the new task force. The Life team had a very active exchange with the ANF and several meetings were organised (10.11.15, 1.12.15, 12.01.15, 1.02.16 & 25.02.16).

As requested by Mr Simon Goss (EC) and Tom Andries (External Monitoring Team - Neemo EEIG) during their project visit in September 2015, we enlarged our contribution to the management plans of all 10 N2000 sites in the project area (the plan for "Conzefenn" is already completed). In fact, the application document of the Life project does not provide details on which plans we

wanted to work on. The text sometimes mentions “a plan” and sometimes “the plans”. Initially, we planned to contribute only to the 4 plans in the municipality of Wincrange. Due to the imprecision in the application, we consented to expand our contribution to the plans of all N2000 sites in our project area.

During the period covered by this report, the team of the Life Eislek project has contributed to the elaboration of the management plans for the Natura 2000 sites in Wincrange, Troisvierges, Our, Sauer and Weicherdange.

Site Name	Site Code	Contribution LIFE Eislek	Advancement
Vallée de la Woltz et affluents de la source à Troisvierges	LU0002001	Parts Cornelysmillen & Fooschbaach, rest for 2016.	20% Will be sent to the commission by the 20/12/2016 at the latest
Vallée de la Tretterbaach et affluents de la frontière à Asselborn	LU0002002	Yes	80% Will be sent to the commission on the 1/07/16
Vallée de l'Our de Ouren a Wallendorf Pont	LU0001002	Yes	100% Has been sent to the commission on the 19/04/16
Vallée de la Tretterbaach	LU0001003	Yes	80% Will be sent to the commission on the 1/07/16
Weicherdange - Breichen	LU0001004	Yes	100% Has been sent to the commission in January '16
Vallée supérieure de la Wiltz / Derenbach - Weischent	LU0001005	Foreseen in autumn 2016.	30% Will be sent to the commission in September '16
Vallée supérieure de la Sûre / Lac du barrage	LU0001007	Yes	70% Will be sent to the commission on the 1/07/16
Wilwerdange - Conzefenn	LU0001033	No	Completed in October 2006, but not yet adopted.
Troisvierges - Cornelysmillen	LU0001038	Yes	20% Will be sent to the commission by the 20/12/2016 at the latest
Hoffelt - Kaleburn	LU0001042	Yes	80% Will be sent to the commission on the 1/07/16
Troine / Hoffelt – Sporbaach	LU0001043	Yes	80% Will be sent to the commission on the 1/07/16

Due to our knowledge of the area and the experience of managing sites within the area, the academic team has been of considerable help to the different actors charged with the elaboration of the plans.

Two additional meetings took place on the **12.01.16** & **24.03.16** to contribute to the elaboration on the designation dossier of the national nature reserves "Hautbellain-Fooschtbaach" and "Troisvierges-Cornelysmillen".

BIVER Gilles, attaché de Gouvernement of the Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures, Département de l'Environnement, assured us that the plans, once they are send to the European Union, can by adopted by a simple "Arrêté ministériel". Therefore, no delays should occur.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Products	Deadlines	Progress
Management plan Natura 2000	1.09.16	All management plans for Luxembourg will be sent to Brussels in an abbreviated version until end of 2016.
Milestones	Deadlines	Progress
Adoption of the management plan N2000	31.08.2017	/

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification

Prolongation of the elaboration period of the Natura 2000 management plans from the 1.09.16 to the end of 2016.

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays

The management plans of all the Natura 2000 sites in Luxembourg have to be handed in to the EC by 2016. Therefore, the new strategy worked out by the ANF in 2013 concerning the adoption of a more land user orientated approach will not be carried out in a first phase. In order to be able to finalise all plans in time, abbreviated plans containing measures at the territorial level will be drafted for all Natura 2000 sites first. In a second phase, the landowners will be consulted and the more concrete measures will be elaborated. The abbreviated plans are supposed to be easy to consult and should simplify the procedures. For this reason, the round

table discussion has not taken place as planned in autumn 2014 but has been postponed to a not yet defined date. However, a management plan will be adopted before the end of the project.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE:** not applicable

→ **Perspectives**

The “Bureau du Nord” of n&ë HfN will be able to advise local land users concerning land lying within the boundaries of the Natura 2000 network in the Eislek. Furthermore, n&ë HfN owns land in the network and has experience in its management. This experience will help the consultation of concerned individuals.

Action A4: Etablissement de plans de pâturages et/ou de fauche des réserves naturelles

→ Expected results:

Le plan de pâturage permettra:

- de mettre en place une gestion adaptée et durable de 135ha de terrains à haute valeur biologique
- de répondre aux exigences écologiques des espèces cibles
- de soutenir les exploitants dans l'exécution d'une gestion conservatoire optimale des sites
- d'apporter un bénéfice important envers les espèces cibles et leurs habitats.

→ Budget: 25.360 €

→ Budget already spent: 17.829,61€ (70.31%)

→ Activities and Outputs

The analysis and adaptation of existing lease agreements to assure their compatibility with restoration goals for target species is completed. New contracts concerning sensitive areas are concluded with respect to the goals of our target species.

In order to plan the details of the grazing of the wandering shepherd, several meetings with Florian Weber and CNDS took place (approximately twice a month) during the season 2015.

The planning of the grazing season 2016 has been discussed exhaustively with the shepherd Florian Weber during a meeting on the 2nd of February 2016.

The working conditions on the farm of Florian Weber have considerably improved through the construction of a new sheep shelter as well as a forage shelter outside the village of Lieler. Until now, the family farm was located in the centre of Stockem, farm buildings were obsolescent and insufficient for sheltering the pregnant sheep during adverse weather conditions. The new infrastructure allows the farmer to separate sick sheep and to better control birth progresses. The two different races "blackface sheep" and "Moorschnucken" are kept separately in two detached parts of the shelter. Every race is subdivided into small herds in separate boxes to guarantee best practice in animal welfare. The take-over of the farm by Florian & Myriam Weber after the retirement of his mother, Andrea Weber, and the new high-performance settlement shall improve the collaboration with natur&mwelt and allow more flexible grazing of highly sensitive nature reserves. It was a pleasure to assist at the inauguration of the new buildings on the 11.03.16 in presence of the State Secretary of Environment, Mr Camille Gira, representatives of ANF, representative of the municipality of Clervaux and other important personalities at local and national level.

The ANF will cease the collaboration with Florian Weber in the matter of grazing of the former surface mining areas designated as N2000 sites in the Minette Region of Luxembourg after the season 2016. The loss of 150ha of very poor quality surfaces but eligible for biodiversity contracts are a big drawback for the farm. We met with the ANF on the 9th of March 2016 in order to find replacement areas in other parts of the country to avoid financial bankrupt of the highly valuable farm for nature conservation. The ANF liberated some financial budgets to mandate a specialized consulting firm to find different solutions for the Weber family (outside-life action). The next meeting should take place in May 2016 to discuss the results of the investigations of the consulting firm with the farmer, ANF and n&ë.

Several meetings were organised with the ANF concerning management on sites belonging to the state, respectively private sites, where the state is implicated in a management concept: Moulin de Bigonville (13.05.15), Martelange Brouch (20.10.15), Schleif (19.11.15 & 15.12.15), Emeschbaach (23.02.15).

A close examination of land, owned by n&ë and leased to our three most important tenants, CNDs, Weber and Naturhaff, revealed 38,01ha highly valuable grasslands managed accordingly to our goals but considered as ineligible for direct payments by ASTA, as it is not recognised as agriculturally managed land. Due to the request of the European Commission formulated in the letter of the 17.12.15, we asked for recognition of the n&ë parcels by writing a letter on the 18th of January to Mrs Anne Peschon, department head of ASTA explaining our case (cf. appendix 6). The answer by ASTA (18.02.16) states that not the owner of the parcel but the farmer managing the land has to formulate the request for incorporation of the parcels into the pool of agriculturally managed land. All three farmers answered accordingly to the demand of ASTA. The parcels will be controlled by the "unité de contrôle" of ASTA during summer 2016.

An exchange with the ANF, who has had the same problem, are quite disillusioning. Indeed, ASTA motivates its systematic refusal by the following argument: to be eligible for payments, the parcels have to be conform to cross compliance criteria. These criteria primarily insist on three aspects: the surface of shrubs has to be inferior to 50% of the requested surface, surfaces have to correspond to an agricultural usability & the surface represents a traditional agriculturally useful area (source: cross compliance guidelines for Luxembourg appendix 7). Despite of being sure that all three criteria were fully respected, some farmers collaborating with ANF wouldn't get justice. ANF had the impression that double standards were applied in order to avoid payments for grasslands containing more than just Raygrass species. We will closely follow the developments of this matter.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x				x				x			
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x				x							

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Products	Deadlines	Progress
grazing plan	31.12.13	Completed

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays: no delays, the schedule is on time

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE

Funding of a specialised consulting firm to accompany the Weber family facing a severe loss of resources after the ANF's decision to cease their collaboration in the south of Luxembourg.

→ Perspectives

The grazing plan will be kept up to date each year and the management will be adapted corresponding to the results of monitoring of the pastured sites (D2).

→ Photographs



Inauguration of the new sheep shelter.



"Blackface sheep" in small herds in a separate box.



Meeting with ANF, n&ë and experts of MNHN and SICONA to discuss the management of Martelange Brouch.

Action A5: Travaux préparatoires au monitoring des espèces cibles dans le périmètre du projet

→ Expected results:

Une méthodologie de monitoring élaborée sur base des données disponibles et en concertation avec les responsables du programme de biomonitoring national.

→ Budget: 21.140 €

→ Budget already spent: 14.636,28€ (69.24%)

→ Activities and Outputs

Networking activities related to monitoring and exchange of data with partners are enumerated in action F3.

A close coordination with people in charge of “biomonitoring national” and with the Centrale ornithologique is essential. A regular contact over phone and email, especially before and after the monitoring season, takes place. This enables to coordinate monitoring and exchange results to prevent double efforts and loss of information.

We kept the shapefiles up to date, made analyses about habitat quality of sites, population connectivity and trends and evaluated monitoring efforts.

A complete briefing took place with all the volunteers and professionals implicated in the monitoring of the Life project. Maps for field work and standardized field data entry forms were printed and distributed.

1) Butterfly monitoring

A special meeting dedicated to butterfly monitoring took place on 27.01.16 with LIST.

As a reminder: the national monitoring scheme is quite recent and split into two categories:

- Global survey with 30 transects randomly distributed over Luxembourg since 2010. The results contributed to the two last reports on European grassland butterflies.
- Targeted monitoring of the 4 habitat directive species, including *L. helle*:
 - * 2010-2015: priority on the actualisation of the national distribution of the species by semi-quantitative survey in appropriate sites.

- * 2016: extension to a quantitative protocol by using transect counts or 'Pollard walks' (Pollard, 1977) in appropriate sites giving the possibility to evaluate population trends. Continuation of actualisation of the national distribution of the species by semi-quantitative survey in appropriate sites.

The LIFE project largely contributed to each of the above-mentioned categories within the borders of our project area since spring 2012.

Information gathered at the 4th international symposium on Future of Butterflies in Europe, in Wageningen, the Netherlands, hosted by the Dutch Butterfly Conservation (De Vlinderstichting) from the 31st of March to April 2nd 2016 enabled us to deepen our knowledge on butterfly monitoring.

Recently, we designed 25 transects according to Van Swaay et al. (2015) for *L. helle* in Luxembourg which will be monitored each year from 2016 on. The data will be recorded in the national monitoring database administered by the MNHN. LIST will be in charge of integrating the data to the national biodiversity indicators and help us to assess the data in the framework of our LIFE project.

Additionally, in 2016, we will implement a strategy to look for eggs and caterpillars according to the methodology described by Bernhard Theißen (2014). We hope that this methodology will help us in years with adverse weather conditions. Images of *L. helle* can only be recorded at good weather conditions. In years like 2015, where the weather prevents monitoring of images, egg and/or caterpillar count could provide an alternative.

2) Bird monitoring

The bird monitoring scheme in Luxembourg is in place since many years and the methodology is well established since the beginning of the project. No special adaptations were needed nor did problems occur.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x																		
Planning realised	x	x	x	x																		

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action: not applicable

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays

The action has been finalised within the time limits.

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE

On the 16.03.16, the LIFE Eislek team was invited by LIST to assist at a meeting about the possibility of the publication of a new butterfly atlas for Luxembourg. Indeed, the first atlas published by Marc Meyer is 35 years old and did not cover all the species present in Luxembourg. Thanks to numerous volunteers and the recent efforts of the national butterfly monitoring scheme, a total of 99.291 observations have been gathered, among them 7.894 before 1981 and 91.437 from 1981 on. The assessment of existing butterfly data would permit to present the actual distribution per species including effective and modelling maps, the distribution trends, habitat requirements in Luxembourg, conservation efforts in Luxembourg, red lists ...

The LIFE Eislek project will contribute to the atlas by:

- gathering supplementary observations on *L. helle*, *Boloria eunomia*, *Boloria selene*, *Lycaena hippothoe* and other species specially linked to mountainous wetlands.
- formulate a chapter about the conservation efforts for the above-mentioned species.

→ Perspectives

The planning of the monitoring and elaboration of best practice will serve future monitoring of butterfly and bird species.

- References:

Pollard, E. (1977). A method for assessing changes in the abundance of butterflies. *Biological Conservation*, 12, pp.115-134.

Bernhard Theißen (2014). Der Blauschillernde Feuerfalter (*Lycaena helle*) im Life+Projekt „Rur & Kall – Lebensräume im Fluss“. *Oedippus* 29, pp. 5-13.

Van Swaay, C., Regan, E., Ling, M., Bozhinovska, E., Fernandez, M., Marini-Filho, O.J., Huertas, B., Phon, C.-K., Kőrösi, A., Meerman, J., Pe'er, G., Uehara-Prado, M., Sáfián, S., Sam, L., Shuey, J., Taron, D., Terblanche, R., and Underhill, L. (2015). Guidelines for Standardized Global Butterfly Monitoring. Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, Leipzig, Germany. *GEO BON Technical Series* 1, 32 pp.

Meyer, M. & A. Pélles, (1981). Atlas provisoire des Insectes du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg. Lepidoptera, 1ère partie. *Travaux scientifiques du Musée d'histoire naturelle de Luxembourg* 1: pp.1-147.

Action B1: Maîtrise foncière

→ Expected results

L'objectif principal de l'action est la reconstruction d'un maillage de biotopes au départ de sites sur lesquels nous avons déjà la maîtrise foncière.

En fonction des disponibilités estimées dans les 11 sites NATURA 2000, le projet assurera la maîtrise foncière de 30 hectares, répartis selon nos estimations:

- Achats de +/- 5 ha de coupes à blanc de résineux.
- Achats de +/-10 ha de prairies humides à l'abandon.
- Achats de +/-2 ha de prairies embroussaillées.
- Achats de +/-5 ha de prairies humides drainées.
- Achats de +/-3 ha de structures paysagères boisées au sein d'une matrice agricole intensive.
- Achats de +/-3 ha de prairies intensives.
- Achats de +/-2 ha de terres labourables.

→ **Budget:** 463.600 €

→ **Budget already spent:** 367.488,95€ (79.23%)

→ Activities and Outputs

During the last period, our land purchase strategy was continued and some negotiations could come to a successful end. Despite the fact that land pressure is extremely high in Luxembourg, parcels are generally very small and prices are increasing drastically, we have been able to progress.

The procedure for each acquisition is still identical with the steps enumerated in the midterm report.

Meetings of the administrative council of n&ë HfN are held regularly to discuss progresses and validate the potential purchases (02.06.15, 13.07.15, 15.09.15, 12.10.15, 19.11.15, 12.01.16, 18.02.16, 22.03.16).

The Life team informed the acquisition committee of n&ë HfN about recent developments in negotiations, price evolution, etc. (22.04.16).

The 12.10.15 & the 28.10.15, the LIFE Eislek met the task force of the administrative council, relative to the land purchase and management strategy of n&ë Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur.

Additionally, contact with volunteers involved in acquisitions is held every 6 to 8 weeks.

The new acquisitions will complement the land owned by n&ë HfN and each parcel will be managed to benefit the environment.

Maps with the location of the purchased parcels are available in the appendix 8. The notary acts are provided in the appendix 9.

The law on the “protection de la nature et des ressources naturelles” from the 19th January 2004 is currently in revision. One point that was discussed in this context was the possibility to create private nature reserves. The NGO has strived for an alternative regulation concerning the subsidies for management of land for nature conservation. However, the MDDI has decided to remain with the current system of conventions in which a certain budget is reserved each year for the management of land owned by n&ë. The efforts made by n&ë in this context are not related to Life but are a political discussion on the approach of financing management on privately owned land for nature conservation.

Overview of the results of action B1

Habitat type	Objective (ha)	signed acts (ha)	acts in progress (ha)	%of objective	Outside Life
clear-cuttings	~5.00	3.29	0.00	65.78	
fallow wetlands	~10.00	4.74	0.00	47.40	1.54
wet meadows	~2.00	0.53	0.47	50.00	
drained wetlands	~5.00	2.26	0.00	45.20	
wooded structures	~3.00	1.53	0.00	51.00	
intensively used lands	~3.00	6.32	0.40	224.00	
acres	~2.00	0.27	0.00	13.35	4.20
others	/	3.92	0.00	/	
TOTAL	30.00ha	22.86	0.87	79.10%	5.74ha

Detailed table of acquisitions

ID	ETAT	Zone du projet	Gestion / Action	Date	Surface totale (ares)	Prix total achat+acte	PART LIFE
1	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C4, C6, C7	10.04.2013	35,40	3712,00	1856,00
2	Acte signé	O-Wincrange	C5	10.04.2013	26,60	10440,00	5220,00
3	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C3	11.09.2013	231,90	32929,74	16464,87
4	Acte signé	O-Troisvierges / Cornelysmillen	C1	24.09.2013	34,80	7350,90	3675,45
5	Acte signé	Conzefenn	C3	16.12.2013	43,50	4946,57	2473,29
6	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C1, C6	18.12.2013	46,20	5492,93	2746,47
7	Acte signé	Sure	C1, C6, C7	27.12.2013	54,40	4829,66	2414,83
8	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Sporbaach	C1, C3	25.02.2014	274,13	18981,93	9490,97
9	Acte signé	O-Troisvierges	C5	29.04.2014	45,52	2074,84	1037,42
10	Acte signé	Conzefenn	C1	03.07.2014	18,00	2174,99	1087,50
11	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C1, C2, C4, C5, C6, C7	01/07/2014 & 23/09/2014	678,43	162048,48	81024,24
12	Acte signé	Wiltz	C1	05.08.2014	7,60	1773,66	886,83
13	Donation signée	Sure	C3	15.10.2014	27,30	506,29	253,15
14	Acte signé	Sure	C1	22.10.2014	8,70	1049,39	524,70
15	Acte signé	Breechen	C1, (C4)	23.10.2014	133,80	9932,49	4966,25
16	Donation signée	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C7	25.11.2014	9,40	524,24	262,12
17	Acte signé	Sure	C1, C4	23.12.2014	14,30	1744,24	872,12
18	Acte signé	Wiltz	C1, C4	20/01/15	51,20	5050,09	2525,05
19	Acte signé	Wiltz	C1	03/02/15	11,35	1537,26	768,63
20	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C3, C6, C7	26/02/15	119,73	17967,28	8983,64
21	Acte signé	Conzefenn	C1, C6	23/03/15	101,60	8576,23	4288,12
22	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C3	06/05/15	50,00	8656,34	4328,17
23	Acte signé	Sure	C6, C7	11/05/15	54,40	5681,26	2840,63
24	Acte signé	Sure	C1, C4	11/05/15	25,80	2499,36	1249,68
25	Acte signé	Our	C2, C7	09/07/15	11,52	1602,85	801,43
26	Acte signé	O-Troisvierges	C1	02/07/15	18,50	1760,75	880,38
27	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C1	24/08/15	66,00	3956,88	1978,44
28	Acte signé	O-Troisvierges / Cornelysmillen	C1/C3	11/09/15	30,60	2624,27	1312,14
29	Acte signé	O-Troisvierges	C3	11/09/15	34,50	2619,98	1309,99
30	Acte signé	Our	C2, C7	11/09/15	21,00	2728,92	1364,46
	Mesurage	O-Wincrange	C5	09/03/16	-	470,05	235,03
	SOMME Acte signés				2286,18	336243,87	168121,94
31	Bail emphytéotique en cours	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C7, C6	2016	40,90	500,00	250,00
	Acte d'échange agricole en cours	O-Wincrange	C5	2016	0,00	500,00	250,00
	Acte en cours	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C7, C6	2016	20,50	3575,00	1787,50
	Acte en cours	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C7, C6	2016	26,30	4500,00	2250,00
	SOMME Acte en cours				87,70	9075,00	4537,50
	SOMME LIFE				2373,88	345318,87	172659,44
32	Bail emph. En cours	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C1, C6	2014	154,28	500,00	0,00
33	Acte signé	O-Wincrange / Tretterbaach	C5, C6	2014	420,45	208122,75	0,00
	SOMME HORS LIFE				574,73	208622,75	104311,38

Type of habitat purchased for each Natura 2000 area

Habitat \ N2000 site	Our	Tretterbaach	Breichen	Wiltz	Sure	Conzeffenn	Cornelysmillen	Kaleburn	Sporbaach	O-Troisvierges	O-Wincrange
6510	0.20										
BK10		1.81									0.43
BK11		2.06	0.62	0.35	0.63		0.34				
nono		16.54	0.70	0.33	1.26	1.65	0.30		1.06	1.01	0.24

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Milestones	Deadlines	Progress
Acquisition of 30ha	31.12.16	79,10% completed

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays

1) The LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Guidelines for applicants 2011, state on page 31 that "Any land purchase payments, compensation payments or lease payments to public bodies are not eligible". We could not find any comparable article in the 2011 common provisions.

154.28a within the project area and owned by the municipality of Wincrange have been secured with a notarial long-term lease act. The municipality agreed on a symbolic prize, the only costs were relative to the notarial act.

Could the European Commission please clarify the juridical situation, in order to check if we are allowed to include the surfaces and/or the cost occurred in our technical and/or financial report?

2) An acre of 420.45a within the project area was part of a larger sale in 2014. The negotiation for this large purchase were carried out and the parcels (except for the acre) were purchased over the Life budget. The LIFE budget, however, was barely sufficient to cover the expenses of the acre, the budget would then have been completely utilised, allowing no other purchases although other sales agreements were already concluded. Due to the unique opportunity, the responsible of the Life project bought the site with the help of a special funding outside life from the "Fond pour l'environnement" managed by the MDDI. One condition was that the site will serve as an area for compensation measures ("surface pool" to be installed with the new nature conservation law which is in preparation). Indeed, the management actions will take place before the end of the project but will not be financed by LIFE funds. So far, we considered this surface as "outside life" and did not include the surface in our results. Could the European Commission please indicate whether we would be allowed to do so?

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE

The farm house and the adjacent shelters at Léresmillen were bought with the overall sale, but are not eligible for Life and were therefore bought on the own budget of n&ë HfN. As mentioned in the midterm report, the building will be resold with a part of the surrounding land. Recently a preliminary sale agreement was signed with a young couple covering the buildings and 2ha of land bought by the Life project. The next weeks will show if this agreement will turn to a sale. If so, we will have to downgrade our results accordingly.

→ Perspectives

n&ë HfN is provided with a yearly budget by the MDDI for the acquisition and management of land. The land acquired through Life Eislek will be managed according to the measures worked out by the project during and after the project's duration.

→ Photographs



Purchase of an intensely mowed grassland along the Tretterbaach near Asselbornermühle.



Purchase of a clear felling along a tributary of the Woltz near Basbellain.



Purchase of a fallow land parcel at the Tretterbaach near Sassel.

Action C1: Restauration de zones humides à l'abandon et/ou embroussaillées

→ Expected results:

L'action C1 réalisera la restauration de 10 ha de prairies humides à l'abandon et/ou embroussaillées.

→ Budget: 145.080€

→ Amount already spent: 117.693,71€ (81.12%)

→ Activities and Outputs

1) Equipment

All the equipment foreseen in the budget has been purchased at this stage of the project.

2) Restoration actions

Restoration actions are being carried out in the areas designated after the mapping of action A1 and are indicated in the project's GIS system. The work is carried out by the foremen and their teams and is planned and controlled by the project coordinators. The goals set in the application form have been largely surpassed, mainly due to the hiring of low pressure machines for mowing and shrub removal in wetlands. The managed areas of the last season are in the appendix 10.

3) Improving accessibility to restoration sites

Funds for the construction of cattle bridges have been relocated to finance the improvement of accessibility to restoration sites (C6), modification granted in the letter from the 17.12.15. The access route to Déifeburen, a site entertained by CNDS, has been fixed in three locations. On the lowest part of the route, water accumulated and passage became difficult, the bulge was filled with gravel for reinforcement. Further along, the passage into the nature reserve was impossible with large machinery. The solution was the excavation of soil, the hole was lined with fleece and filled with gravel. In the nature reserve, the botanically most interesting part was no longer accessible as the parcel is divided by a small stream. A ford was constructed using large stones from a local quarry.

The large complex Wahlhausen-Sauerwisen, the last occupied habitat of *Lycaena helle* on the Our has received two new drives to allow efficient working by CNDS. Evacuation pipes had to be installed in the drives as the neighbouring agricultural parcel is drained by ditches running on the interference of the two parcels as well as along the access road. Again, the soil was excavated to a depth of about 20cm, covered with fleece and reinforced with gravel.

Overview of results of action C1

Action	Objective	Results	Total	% of objective
Removing shrubs	10ha	7.18ha	30.13ha	301.29%
Restorative mowing		22.95ha		

Restoration of neglected wetlands for each Natura 2000 site (in ha)

N2000 site Habitat	Our	Tretterbaach	Breichen	Wiltz	Sure	Conzefenn	Cornelysmillen	Kaleburn	Sporbaach	O-Troisvierges	O-Wincrange
BK08 (national habitat code: standing water bodies)							0.02				
BK10 (national habitat code: Calthion meadows)	0.07	0.30					0.94				
BK11 (national habitat code: fallow wetlands, spring swamps, fens and small sedge fens)	0.04	4.71	0.11	0.33	0.12	0.02	7.86	0.11	0.01	1.50	0.12
none	0.06	1.37		0.21	0.77	0.02	3.45		0.06	0.08	0.04

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled					x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	
Planning realised		x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x							

→ **Indicators used to test the performance of the action**

During the monitoring of the restored sites (D2), we will observe whether there is an improvement in the habitat for the target species.

→ **Technical and/or financial modifications and justification**

Some additional equipment, especially brushcutters and chainsaws, were necessary to assure effective working by CNDS. The additional material was affordable as the budget was not depleted after purchase of the planned equipment.

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays**

No delays, the objective of the action will be largely exceeded, mainly due to the additional mowing and milling through *Pistenbullys* over large areas.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE**

Cornelysmillen was mown on a large scale by a low pressure mower (2.4ha) in a part of the area treated already in 2014. A second cut in the consecutive year was necessary to reach the desired effect as could be observed in a neighbouring parcel mown by CNDS in previous years. A second site Am Dall was mown for the first time this year (2.2ha). The costs for these actions were taken over by the land management budget of n&ë HfN.

The project coordinators are in regular contact with the ANF concerning land management of parcels owned by the state within the perimeter of the project. The aim is to insert these parcels into the network of land managed accordingly to our target species.

Furthermore, we are in contact with Natagora considering *L. helle* populations on the Belgian border.

→ **Perspectives**

The action foresees a first management of sites no longer suitable to our target species because they are overgrown by shrubs or disturbance species. After a first treatment, they will be included into the rotational management plan for the land owned by n&ë HfN.

→ Photographs



The site Cornelysmillen after the second restorative mowing by a converted Pistenbully in 2015.



The site Helzen Am Dall after restoration mowing in 2015.



Rolling of the gravel for reinforcement.



The inlet to Déifeburen



The old bridge leading over the stream is no longer passable



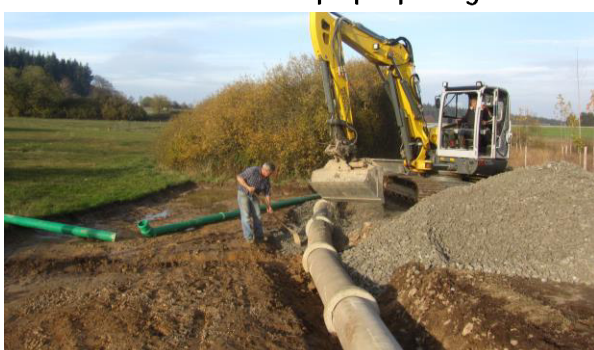
The new ford with large stones is a durable solution.



The inlet to the parcel Wahlhausen is regularly flooded and does not allow proper passage.



The same inlet with the new installation.



Drainage pipes were necessary to evacuate the water from the drainage ditches.



The new inlets will facilitate mowing in the nature reserve.

Action C2: Restauration hydrique de zones humides asséchées

→ Expected results:

L'action C2 réalisera l'enlèvement et le remblayage de 500 mètres de drainages et la restauration de cours d'eau à hauteur d'un minimum de 1,5 kilomètre sur une surface de la plaine alluviale de 15 hectares (site CORNELYSMILLEN).

→ Budget: 96.675€

→ Amount already spent: 60.383,63€ (62.46%)

→ Activities and Outputs

1) Restoration of a water course

The restoration of the water course at Léresmillen is currently in planning → A2.

The restoration project requires trunks and stools for stabilisation of the new river bank. Alder stems were purchased from a forester. Stools from spruces were purchased from a contractor, charged with the clearing of a wind blast. The concrete works of the remeandration project are planned for September 2016.

2) Removing drains

The works on the draining trenches at Kiirchermillen (cf. A2) were carried out at the end of October 2015. We decided to dig two ponds in order to gain enough soil to fill at least the deepest parts that posed a danger for the cattle that kept the clear-felling open. Since the water can no longer be evacuated into the stream, the site will become wetter with time and the remaining trenches will no longer be active.

Overview of results of action C2

Type of restoration	Objective	Results	% of objective
Removing drains	500m	587m 1ha	117%
Restoration of water course	1,5 km 15ha	70m 0.5ha	4,6%

Hydrological restorations for each Natura 2000 site (in ha)

N2000 site Habitat	Our	Tretterbaach	Breichen	Wiltz	Sure	Conzefenn	Cornelysmillen	Kaleburn	Sporbaach	O-Troisvierges	O-Wincrange
none		0.5					1				

→ **Time Schedule**

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled				x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	
Planning revised								x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	
Planning realised					x							x		x								

→ **Indicators used to test the performance of the action**

Action D2: Monitoring des actions de restauration hydrologique.

→ **Technical and/or financial modifications and justification**

An application was made to the FGE concerning the financing of the remeandration project at Léresmillen. An additional financial source was necessary due to changes in the planning (→ A2).

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays**

The additional delay concerning the renaturation was explained in the midterm report. The benefit of changing the site and thus profiting from additional funds from the FGE provides the possibility of a better control of the action outcome. The significant delay in time is due to the more complicated planning. Instead of relying on a simple introduction of deflectors, we now have the opportunity to carry out a well-planned remeandration at one of the hotspots of the project area. The site of the action had to be changed as well and the remeandration will cover only a length of about 300m. Considering the increased amplitude of the measure planned at the new site, we reckon that even with a length of 300m, it will have a similar impact as a remeandration with the means foreseen in the application form on 1.5km. Therefore, we are not planning to restore additional sites but plan to concentrate on one well planned measure instead.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE**

Additional budget for the remeandration project has been applied for at the FGE (→ A2).

→ **Perspectives**

At the end of the project, this action will be finalised but monitoring will continue in order to observe the development of the sites. Management will be adapted to the new situation.

→ **Photographs**



The ditches at the site were rather deep and posed a danger for the cattle.



Two ponds were dug to excavate soil to fill up the ditches.



The soil from the ponds was used to fill up the trenches.



The results are visible after only a few months.



Bird's eye view onto the new ponds.



The ditches are clearly visible in the landscape.

Action C3: Restauration de zones humides enrésinées

→ Expected results:

Les résultats attendus de cette action sont la conversion d'au moins 5 ha de plantations en résineux vers des milieux favorables à nos espèces cibles.

Un ensemble de 15 hectares d'anciennes coupes à blancs seront nettoyés en vue de la restauration des prairies à bistorte (action C4).

L'objectif de l'action « restauration de zones humides enrésinées » est donc de 20ha.

→ **Budget:** 106.550€

→ **Amount already spent:** 68.383,63€ (64.79%)

→ Activities and Outputs

Conversions of conifer plantations in wet areas are carried out in the areas chosen after mapping (A1). The works are carried out by forestry companies or by CNDS and are planned and controlled by the coordinator. Maps with details are in the appendix 11.

Overview of results of action C3

Type of restoration	Objective	Results	% of objective
Felling of conifers	5ha	1.99ha	40%
Clearing	15ha	9.86ha	66%
TOTAL	20ha	11.85ha	59%

Reconversion of conifer plantations into grassland for each Natura 2000 site (in ha)

N2000 site Habitat	Our	Treterbaach	Breichen	Wiltz	Sure	Conzefenn	Cornelysmillen	Kaleburn	Sporbaach	O-Troisvierges	O-Wincrange
none		1.93				0.57	4.12	0.42	1.07	0.93	

The sites for action C3 are not a habitat but will be restored to create new habitats. The aim is a conversion of spruce plantations into extensively used wet grasslands. The sum of the areas is less than in the overview because parcels are only counted once, even if more actions (felling and clearing) have taken place onsite.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x			x	x				x									

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Monitoring of the development of the sites is carried out to follow the reestablishment of grasslands suitable to our three target species. The target species for each site depends on the situation.

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays

No major drawbacks, the action is within the time limits.

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE: not applicable

→ Perspectives

At the moment, another 2.2ha of deforestation is foreseen for the summer/autumn 2016 as well as 2ha of clearing cut sites.

The clear-cuttings will be finished at the end of the project, the sites will be added to the management schedule of n&ë HfN for grazing or mowing to ensure the development into the desired ecosystem.

→ Photographs



Milling of a clear-cut, that lay fallow for the past years with the aim to re-establish wet grasslands.



The site Rittfenn after milling, a marginal strip will build a border to the surrounding agricultural land.



The site Hinter Krauch after milling. The removal of the stubs will allow us to mow the site to keep it open.

Action C4: Restauration de prairies à bistorte et de mégaphorbaies

→ Expected results:

Les résultats attendus de cette action sont la restauration d'un minimum de 10 hectares de prairies à bistorte à travers les méthodes décrites ci-dessus.

→ **Budget:** 42.600€

→ **Amount already spent:** 29.804,97€ (69.97%)

→ Activities and Outputs

The biology of *P. bistorta* is not very well known which renders the elaboration of a methodology for propagation difficult. Therefore we decided to work with the MNHN to get a scientific basis for this action. The MNHN has contributed through manpower and the utilisation of their infrastructure and knowledge for genetic analysis. The finances for this study came from their proper budget. Additionally, the SICONA, which works on bistort as well, has provided manpower for the collection of the material for genetic analysis in their populations outside of the project area of LIFE Eislek.

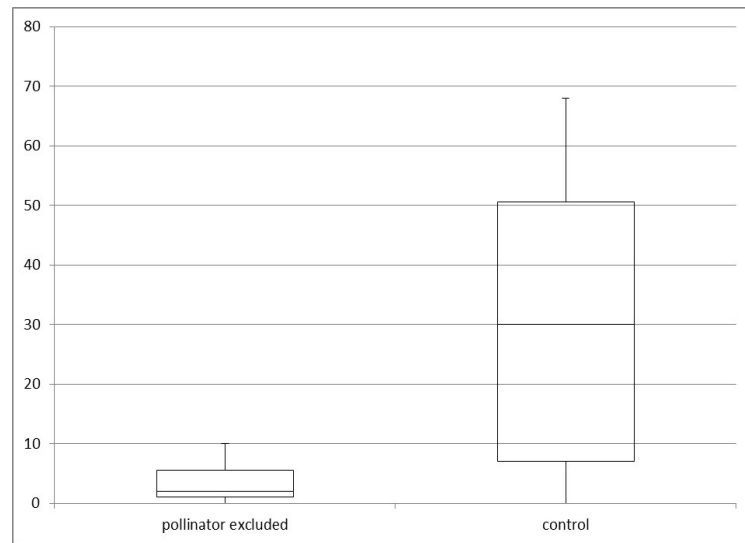
Population genetic structure of *Polygonum bistorta*

In collaboration with the "Unité de recherche Biologie des populations et Evolution" of the "Centre de recherche du MNHN", a study on the genetic structure of *P. bistorta* was carried out in 2015/16. The protocol with the details of this study is in the appendix 12. The results show that the bistort spreads primarily through its rhizomes, building clones. Therefore genetic diversity is limited on the small scale. Genetic diversity is low in the tested populations, but nevertheless important for adaptation. Therefore we should take this into consideration when founding new populations.

Pollination biology

With the same objective, a pollinator exclusion experiment was carried out in 2015. The study comprised 38 plants located at two different sites. Half of the plants were covered with gaze before anthesis, the other half acted as control. The control plants were covered with gaze after pollination to catch all the seeds.

Grain quality seems to be good with a mean value of 30 seeds per flower head in the control sample. The exclusion of pollinators through the use of gaze has led to a diminution in ripened seeds with a mean value of 3 seeds per flower head. We conclude that *P. bistorta* relies on pollinators for sexual reproduction.



Results of the pollinator exclusion experiment.

The study will be expanded in 2016 to test for self-compatibility. In addition to the two treatments described above, a third group will be hand-pollinated using pollen from the same flower head and a forth group will be hand-pollinated using pollen from another plant (collecting pollen from a plant at a certain distance to avoid clones).

1) Hay transfer

No hay transfer was carried out since the last report.

2) Rhizome transplantation

It was decided not to do rhizome transplantations in 2016 and to focus on developing a method for the more time efficient seeding option.

3) Seeding

In July 2015, 2kg seeds were collected in four different populations. The seeds were dried and kept in the dark over winter. A further 400g of seeds were left over from 2014. Considering the results of the germination experiments described in the midterm report, the seeds from the different donor areas were mixed and kept in the fridge at 4°C with moist sand. After four weeks, the seeds were removed from the fridge, sieved and weighed.

Four sites were chosen for this action (appendix 13):

- Cornelysmillen- Geisbrék (milled in 2014 and mown in 2015)
- Fooschtbaach (milled in 2015)
- Rittefenn (milled in 2015)
- Breitwies (deforested and milled in 2013, mown in 2015)

On advise of the MNHN, the method for seeding was adapted compared to previous years. On each site, three areas with favourable microhabitats (considering primarily water-level) were chosen, providing a total of 12 locations. At each of the 12 locations two squares (with a side length of ~60cm) separated by about half a meter were hoed, removing the vegetation. Thus, the seeds were spread onto bare soil. 200g of wet seeds (corresponds to ~100g dry seeds) were dispersed in each square, enough to cover the soil almost entirely.

Overview of results of action C4

Type of restoration	Objective	Results (ha)	% of objective
Rhizome transplantation	10ha	3.69	
Seeding		4.53	
Hay transfer		1.33	
	Total	9.55	96%

Bistort meadow restoration for each Natura 2000 site (in ha)

Habitat \ N2000 site	Our	Tretterbaach	Breichen	Wiltz	Sure	Conzefenn	Cornelysmillen	Kaleburn	Sporbaach	O-Troisvierges	O-Wincrange
BK11 (national habitat code: fallow wetlands, spring swamps, fens and small sedge fens)							1.43			0.27	
none		1.61				0.21	4.32				

Most of the sites for action C4 are not a habitat but will be restored to create new habitats. The aim is the restoration of bistort meadows. The sum of the areas is less than in the overview because parcels are only counted once, even if more actions (rhizomes & hay transfer/seeding) have taken place onsite.

Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled				x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	
Planning realised				x				x	x			x	x			x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Monitoring of the sites (D2) will show whether the bistort will be able to colonise the habitats chosen by the project coordinators. The aim is the elaboration of a protocol for the most cost-efficient method.

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays: not applicable

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE

The MNHN was consulted in order to get a more scientific background for the questions asked on behalf of bistort propagation. The budget for the work carried out by the institution was covered by their own finances.

→ Perspectives

The Life project allows us to work out best practice methods that we will be able to use in the future. Through dissemination actions we want to provide help to other projects working on *L. helle* or *P. bistorta*.

→ Photographs



Population genetic structure: collecting samples of bistort leaves for genetic analysis.



Pollinator exclusion experiment: the gaze prevents the access of pollinators to the flower heads.



Pollinator exclusion experiment: counting the ripened seeds of heads with and without pollination.



Seeding: the soil is hoed to minimise competition for the bistort seeds.



Seeding: the seeds are spread onto the bare soil in squares with a side length of about 60cm.



Seeding: at each of 12 locations, two squares were seeded in close proximity.



Seeding: the seeds were spread to cover the soil almost entirely and were then treaded down.

Action C5: Plantation de structures ligneuses

→ Expected results:

L'action permettra de planter 7.000 plants d'espèces indigènes de haies et d'arbres isolés.

→ **Budget:** 40.490€

→ **Amount already spent:** 31.642,01€ (78.15%)

→ **Activities and Outputs**

The best sites for planting measures were designated during the mapping of the project area (A1). The work is done by CNDS and controlled by the academic team. The best planting time depends on the weather conditions. The maps with the planting locations are in the appendix 14.

Overview of results of action C5

Species	Objective	Results	% of Objective
Hedges	7.000 plants		7107
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>		300	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>		1150	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>		435	
<i>Rosa canina</i>		400	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>		225	
<i>Crataegus spec.</i>		2935	
<i>Acer campestre</i>		625	
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>		200	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>		135	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>		100	
<i>Viburnum spec.</i>		25	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>		50	
<i>Euonymus spec.</i>		25	
Divers		502	

TREES (10-12 cm circumference)			
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		5	
<i>Quercus robur</i>		21	
<i>Prunus avim</i>		8	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		24	
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>		15	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>		3	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>		1	
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>		1	
Divers		28	
	TOTAL:	7223	103%

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled						x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			
Planning realised				x		x	x			x	x			x	x							

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action: not applicable

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays

The action is within the time schedule.

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE

The budget set for this action was set too low, therefore several plantations were financed via other projects: "Journée nationale de l'arbre" (brochure in appendix 17: publications), a yearly national campaign collecting funds to plant trees (750 plants) and two compensation projects (1800 + 502 plants).

→ Perspectives

The maintenance of the planted structures will be assured by n&ë HfN in collaboration with CNDP.

→ Photographs



Planting at Léresmillen with funds gathered for the “Journée nationale de l’arbre”.

Action C6: Acquisition et installation d'infrastructures relatives au pâturages

→ Expected results:

L'action aboutira à :

- Construction d'un abri pour bétail.
- Mise en place de 5 passages à bétail.
- Aménagement de 5 abreuvoirs.
- Aménagement de 12.500 mètres de clôtures.
- Achat de 500 mètres de clôtures amovibles.

→ Budget: 221.550€

→ Amount already spent: 179.358,19€ (80.96%)

→ Activities and Outputs

1) Material

In the last year, only material related to the building of fences (esp. posts and wire) was purchased for the project.

2) Construction of the cattle shelter

As explained in A2, additional work had to be carried out at the shelter. Due to a broken drip rail, the cows walked steadily through soaked soil and therefore the site did not look conform to our goals. The broken drip rail was repaired and the soil of the entry area was covered with special bovine concrete boards to assure that no erosion problems can occur adjacent to the shelter. The cattle shelter has an impact on 28.50ha of land owned by n&ë and rented to CNDS Naturaarbechten for grazing by the Galloways. Additionally, the hay bales of 4.90 hectares mown by CNDS are stocked in the infrastructure. Thus the construction of the cattle shelter has an effect on 33.40ha of land managed for nature conservation.

3) Fences

1.53km fences were set up over the last year (appendix 15). This part of the project is currently in the focus and two large projects are executed at the moment. New lease agreements were set up for the parcels purchased at Léresmillen, in this context, several fences have to be set up or renewed. Another project is located on the borders of the Wiltz. Here, a part-time farmer has purchased a complex and is interested in a collaboration with the project concerning the management in accordance with the requirements of *Lycaena helle*. Part of the installation of the fences will be taken over by the project, therefore the complex is subdivided into different

blocks and sensitive sites are grazed only with low pressure at the end of the season. The grazing plan is worked out in accordance with the land owner and the Life team.

4) Troughs

The installation of a solar powered pump is currently in planning (A2).

5) Cattle bridges

Two simplified cattle bridges were installed by CNDP for sheep grazed sites (appendix 15). These were set up at very low costs and did not rely on external assistance. The order for two cattle bridges has been placed. They will be set up in 2016 at Cornelysmillen and Am Dall. The budget, that will be free from this part of the action, will be used to improve the access to several parcels mown in the context of the project (C1).

Overview of results of action C6

Type of action	Objective	Résultats	% of l'objective
purchase diverse equipment	/	in progress	/
drill	1	1	100%
cattle shelter	1	1	100%
fences	12,5km	8.21km	66%
removable fences	500m	0	0%
energizer	5	1	20%
trough	5	0	0%
metallic doors	10	0	0%
cattle bridge	5 [3 replaced by access optimisation (C1)]	2	100%
cattle truck	1	1	100%

Fences set for each Natura 2000 area (in m)

N2000 site Habitat	Our	Treterbaach	Breichen	Wiltz	Sure	Conzefenn	Cornelysmillen	Kaleburn	Sporbaach	O-Troisvierges	O-Wincrange
6510							91				
BK08 (national habitat code: standing water bodies)								44			
BK11 (national habitat code: fallow wetlands, spring swamps, fens and small sedge fens)		948		914			909				
none		3624			1098		581				

→ **Time Schedule**

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled				x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x	
Planning realised				x				x				x										

→ **Indicators used to test the performance of the action**

Milestones	Deadlines	Progress
Construction of cattle shelter	1.11.13	finished

→ **Technical and/or financial modifications and justification**

Only two cattle bridges, rather than the 5 foreseen in the application are necessary in the project area. However, we realised a deficit in the accessibility of sites managed in the context of the project (C1). In the email of the 18th November 2015, we asked for a redistribution of financial resources. In the letter from the 17th December 2015, the relocation of funds was granted by the EC.

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays**

The action is within the time schedule.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE**

2.67km fences were set up in the project area outside Life.

→ **Perspectives**

The installed infrastructures will be used to graze nature reserves in the future. Fences on private properties will have a 10 year convention to guarantee their maintenance.

→ **Photographs**



Installation of boards at the entrance of the shelter to prevent the erosion of the soil due to the trampling of the Galloways.



Installation of posts for the construction of a fence in Breitwies by CNDs:



Attaching of wire to the posts by CNDs at the site Schleef.



Action C7: Suivi et conseil d'exploitants agricoles travaillant au sein de zones Natura 2000

→ Expected results:

La plateforme d'échange encourageant la communication intense entre les deux secteurs aboutira à la consultation de 50 exploitations agricoles travaillant des terres au sein de la zone de projet et la conclusion de 50 ha de contrats d'extensification supplémentaires.

→ **Budget:** 13.080€

→ **Amount already spent:** 9.694,61€ (74.12%)

→ Activities and Outputs

Consultation on and the signature of extensification programmes, essentially Biodiversity Contracts were executed along the areas of interest defined in Action A1, essentially around core *S. rubetra* habitats and along *L. helle* habitats. Some existing programmes have been readapted both in geometry and in management practice, especially concerning *L. helle* habitats.

Consultations with 18 agriculturists have taken place up to now. Seasons 2013-2015 saw the realization of 24.61 hectares of new biodiversity contracts and/or re-adaptations of existing programmes. For the current season 14.83 hectares of new contracts are in the signing procedure, essentially with the agriculturist WEBER for sites in O-TROISVIERGES / CORNELYSMILLEN and the agriculturist HOSINGER on the site of LERESMILLEN along the TRETTERBAACH. 8.14 hectares of adaptations of old contracts will also be made during the season 2016 and are also in the signing procedure (appendix 16).

Special efforts have recently been made to establish contact with farmers from Hachiville, which are still owners of *L. helle* habitats around this village.

During the last visit of Mr Simon Goss and Mr Tom Andries, we mentioned that a conspicuous amount of parcels in our project area initially covered by grasslands were ploughed. The pastures or meadows are then either resown with ryegrass seed mixtures or converted into acres for crops like corn or cereals.

In order to understand the legal framework, we investigated the current practice. The ASTA explained that it was forbidden to plough permanent grasslands except with a special permission which is given by the Ministry of Agriculture. However, our observations show that this phenomenon is not an exception but daily practice. The farmers were asked at a certain reference date to indicate if their grassland was "permanent" or "temporary". The farmers mostly classified their grassland as "temporary", even if, in reality, it had been permanent grassland for decades. They reckoned that this answer would be in their favour. The SER (Service

d'économie rurale) is in charge of collecting the applications relative to direct payments of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) ("Flächenantrag"). In this application, the farmers have to indicate the type of occupancy for each surface they manage. Temporary grasslands have to be ploughed every five years, otherwise, the surface will automatically receive the status of permanent grassland. In this case, a special permission is needed if the farmer wants to plough his land. After five years, the SER informed all the farmers who had indicated "temporary grasslands", that they reached the end of the 5 year period. In order to keep all the options concerning the management of their lands, the farmers decided to plough and thus avoid the more restrictive "permanent grassland" status. This system is responsible for the loss of many hectares of valuable permanent grasslands. The exact extent of this problem is not known. The Life Eislek project does not get tired of repeating that this is a completely underestimated problem at every available occasion. Until now, we did not get any constructive reply because the biodiversity conservation strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture is very poor and the lobbying work of NGOs and stakeholders is too weak to counter. It makes no sense to file a lawsuit because the practice is completely legal.

Overview of results of action C7

Type of action	Objective	Results	% of objective
consultation of agriculturists	50 agriculturists	18	36%
extensification programs	50 ha	47.58	95.16%

Extensification programs for each Natura 2000 area (in ha)

Habitat \ N2000 site	Our	Treterbaach	Breichen	Wiltz	Sure	Conzefenn	Cornelysmillen	Kaleburn	Sporbaach	O-Troisvierges	O-Wincrange
6410	0.98										
6510		2.23									
BK10 (national habitat code: Calthion meadows)		3.90									0.57

BK11 (national habitat code: fallow wetlands, spring swamps, fens and small sedge fens)		10.38					7.86		1.23		
none	0.46	13.02					2.02		1.14		3.80

→ **Time Schedule**

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Planning revised									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Planning realised									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

→ **Indicators used to test the performance of the action:** not applicable

→ **Technical and/or financial modifications and justification:** not applicable

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays**

The payment of aids concerning rural development is fixed by law and incorporates two parts (1) biodiversity contracts and (2) MAEs. The proposal of the "Plan du développement rural 2014-2020" has not yet reached legal status. We put all our efforts into the realization of biodiversity contracts.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE:** not applicable

→ **Perspectives**

The aim is to build up a good connection to local land users that will be kept up after the end of the project.

Action D1: Monitoring des populations des espèces cibles

→ Expected results

Le suivi des espèces cibles en début de projet permettra de déterminer les effectifs des populations et de localiser précisément les habitats de ceux-ci.

Le suivi de l'impact du projet sur les espèces ciblées permettra à l'équipe de terrain de confirmer la validité des moyens employés pour traiter les menaces définies dans les formulaires B2d ou au contraire de remettre ces moyens en question et d'en développer de nouveaux.

À la fin du projet, les scientifiques de l'équipe de terrain seront en mesure de quantifier les progrès accomplis, en termes d'effet sur les espèces ciblées.

→ **Budget:** 34.800€

→ **Amount already spent:** 25.869,70€ (74.34%)

→ Activities and Outputs

1) Equipment

All the equipment for this action has been purchased at this stage of the project.

2) Monitoring

The scientific monitoring of all three target species started in 2013 and has since been carried out on a yearly basis throughout the entire project area by the academic staff. For the two bird species, the database was quite good at the beginning of the project. Monitoring has continued as before.

For *L. helle*, monitoring so far was focused on a qualitative study: what is the distribution range of the butterfly in Luxembourg? From 2016 on, the method will be changed to a quantitative study with transect walks: what is the trend of the species in the distribution area? A more detailed description of the methods, study areas and results is provided in the appendix 17.

In the midterm report, we explained that we requested an adaptation of three N2000 habitat zones to the occurrences of *L. helle*. Two of the three adaptations have already been implemented: LU0001038 Cornelysmillen to the north in the valleys of Woltz & Rénkebaach, LU0001003 Tretterbaach to the north in the valley of Helzenerbaach and to the south in the valley of Brakelsbaach (maps were provided with the midterm report). The two concerned sites have already been N2000 bird areas, so that the overall N2000 area was not enlarged. The fourth requested adaptation is not yet within the N2000 network, therefore it will be more difficult to implement the enlargement.

→ **Time Schedule**

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled				x				x				x				x				x		
Planning realised				x				x														

→ **Indicators used to test the performance of the action:** not applicable

→ **Technical and/or financial modifications and justification:** not applicable

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays**

The monitoring, especially of *L. helle*, is highly dependent on weather conditions. 2015 was a very poor butterfly year and monitoring provided us with hardly any new discoveries.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE**

Ever since, the Life Eislek project has been able to rely on a number of volunteers, who contribute to the scientific monitoring both inside and outside the Natura 2000 network. Thanks to the work of these volunteers, new populations of *L. helle* and several sites that were previously unknown have been discovered outside the Natura 2000 network. Similarly, the Life Eislek project has benefitted from the contribution of numerous volunteers of the Centrale ornithologique's field ornithology group, which have been helping with surveys both inside and outside the Natura 2000 network.

→ **Perspectives**

The results of the monitoring will lead to a better knowledge of current distributions and also, in the case of *L. helle*, a better understanding of population dynamics and metapopulation interconnectivity. This, in turn, will lead to a much better management and more targeted application of direct measures and hopefully lead to a successful long-term conservation. The Life project has already contributed to a vastly improved data and knowledge exchange with other conservation bodies in surrounding countries (Gerhard Reuter, aves-ostkantone; Bernhard Theißen, Biologische Station StädteRegion Aachen e.V. - Life Rur und Kall; Alexander Rauw, Natagora - Life Papillons; Philippe Goffart, *L. helle* expert) and should continue to do so in the future. This provides an excellent base for an improved coordination between the regions and allow for a more effective conservation effort.

The monitoring will also help to gain a better understanding of the successfulness of the direct actions carried out as part of the Life Eislek project.

Action D2: Monitoring des parcelles fauchée/ pâturées et vérification de la bonne exécution du plan de pâturage

→ Expected results:

Monitoring de 135 ha de terrains pâturés et/ou fauchés.

Adaptations éventuelles du plan de pâturage/fauche élaboré dans le cadre de l'action A4.

Management du pâturage/de la fauche orienté vers l'atteinte des objectifs de conservation des sites.

→ **Budget:** 26.600€

→ **Amount already spent:** 18.706,73€ (70.33%)

→ **Activities and Outputs**

The monitoring of the sheep and Galloway grazing (April- October) takes place in two forms since 2013:

- Meetings every two or three weeks with shepherd Weber and CNDS (Meetings were held in 2015 on : 11/05/2015, 25/05/2015, 17/06/2015, 08/07/2015, 13/08/2015, 21/09/2015, 26/10/2015 and in 2016 on 09/03/2016)
- Visiting the grazed sites with or without Weber/CNDS
- Consultation and visiting of the sites managed by NATURHAFF

Monitoring of the grazed sites is based on the results of the monitoring season 2013-2014 as documented in "Bilan du pâturage 2013/ Plan de pâturage 2014" (cf. Appendix Midterm report). The collected observations from the seasons 2013, 2014 and 2015 are used to define the grazing plan for the following year. Some observations deriving from the season 2015 are:

- A better and more coordinated management of the grazing due to a stricter respect of the monthly planning and itinerary has been achieved.
- Due to the late grazing of the more sensitive sites (after August), after the main reproductive period of *L. helle* is over, more remnants of grazing were observed. The solution is the division of some of these sites into "thirds" allowing grazing at an earlier period in the year. A strict respect of the planning and of the limits inside the sites will be necessary.
- Some sensitive sites were not grazed on purpose during the last season to evaluate the impact in the next monitoring season.
- Positive impacts in grazing management were observed for some sites, where either the habitat of *L. helle* or its presence have improved during the last seasons (cf photographs).

The density of sheep on the sites was significantly reduced in 2015. New sites were added to the rotation and the itinerary of the sheep herd. In 2016, the grazing plan will be adapted to the new

situation of the shepherd depicted in section A4. CNDS's Galloway grazing was coordinated to reduce the impact on sensitive sites. Some sites have been contracted to other farmers due to a reduction of the herd size.

The improvement of the habitats of our target species are closely linked to the monitoring results of the target species. The results of action D1 will allow us to quantify the improvement of the conservation status of the 3 target species of the project. Abundance assessments of these 3 species are made annually. The indicator used to evaluate the conservation status of the 2 bird species is the amount of breeding pairs. The indicators used for *Lycaena helle* are:

- Quality of the habitat (surface, density of host plant, length of the south-orientated shrub/forest edge, ...)
- Connectivity of the habitat network (number of sites situated next to each other, total habitat surface compared to surface of the matrix, distance between occupied sites, proportion of occupied sites, ...)
- Intensity of perturbations (grazing, mowing, wild boar,...)

Exhaustive results of this analysis will be presented with the final report in 2017.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled				x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x					
Planning realised	x	x		x	x			x	x			x	x			x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

This action is used to test the performance of action A4 and C1.

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays

No problems, the schedule of this action is on time.

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE: not applicable

→ Perspectives

The monitoring and revision of site management during the Life project will lead to a better planned management of the sites of n&ë HfN after the project.

→ Photographs



Site along the Stauwelsbaach (Cornelysmillen), where 3 areas of conifer plantation restorations have been added to the herd's itinerary and were grazed in the early season.



L. helle habitats (Cornelysmillen) that were not grazed for two successive seasons (2014 and 2015), and where *L. helle* was observed during the monitoring season 2015

Monitoring des actions de restauration hydrologique (action hors LIFE)

The development of the site Kiirchermillen consequently to the closing of the ditches was followed the months after execution by the academic team.



Some areas of the site Kiirchermillen have become considerably wetter after filling up the ditches. The water gathers primarily where the ditches have been before. The stream does not flow in the thalweg, the deepest point is probably where the ditches were before.



The can also be followed from the air, using drones for photographing the development.

The site Léresmillen, where the remeandration project is planned for September 2016, will be monitored before implementation and after implementation to get an idea of the impact of the measure. The planning office "Stream and River Consult" will carry out a monitoring of structural characteristics such as sediments and vegetation as well as functional characteristics such as electric fishing, macroinvertebrates and temperature. Additionally we have foreseen an analysis of water quality at the site of the remeandration project before the practical implementation to be compared with the data obtained after the works were carried out.



The site Léresmillen before the works. The rectification of the river bed is clearly visible.



The Tretterbaach further downstream, old meanders can be used as model for the project.

Monitoring des actions de restauration des prairies à bistorte et des mégaphorbiaies (action hors LIFE)

1) Rhizome transplantation

The results of rhizome transplantations were positive, the method is well understood and can easily be implemented. A more detailed description of method and results was provided with the midterm report. The test field will be further followed during the last two seasons of the project to get an idea on the development of the transplanted sites and the propagation of the bistort.

The disadvantage of rhizome transplantations is the labour intensity when the action is carried out on a large scale. That is why we concentrate in the project on elaboration a complementary less labour intensive method using the seeds of *P. bistorta*.

2) Seeding

So far the results for seeding were poor, we are therefore still in the process of elaborating a successful and cost effective protocol. The sites where seeds were sown are followed each year.

3) Hay transfer

The hay transfer was successful and the establishment of the desired flora is documented each year.

4) Outside Life: *Sanguisorba officinalis*

Monitoring of *S. officinalis* showed very good results. Largely over 50% of the plants were found one year after planting.



The receiving site of the hay transfer a former acre at Léresmillen, 2 years later. The site has well developed and should further improve in the years to come.



The rhizome transplantation on the former acre at Léresmillen was also successful.

Action D3: Evaluation de la restauration des fonctions écosystémiques et de l'impact socioéconomique des actions du projet

→ Expected results:

Une étude relative à l'impact socio-économique des actions du projet sur la population et sur l'économie locale, ainsi que ses effets sur la restauration des fonctions écosystémiques présenté sous forme de rapport remis avec le rapport final.

→ Budget: 8.900€

→ Amount already spent: 2.711,82€ (30.47%)

→ Activities and Outputs

A meeting with the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology took place on the 20th April 2016 to discuss the content of this study. They proposed to set up a study with a student in the context of a thesis. The planning is only in the beginning so that no further information can be given at this stage.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled																				x	x	x
Planning realised																						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Products	Deadlines	Progress
Study on socio-economic and ecosystem impacts	31.08.17	First contact with LIST.

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays: not applicable

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE: not applicable

→ Perspectives: not applicable

Action E1: Actions d'information et de sensibilisation du grand public

→ Expected results:

L'action E1 créera et permettra d'organiser:

- 1 identité graphique du projet
- 1.500 dépliant de présentation du projet
- 4 panneaux explicatifs, 4 panneaux roll-up
- au moins 20 panneaux de chantiers
- au moins 10 visites guidées de sites à l'occasion des journées mondiales de l'eau, des journées mondiales des zones humides, et de la campagne de sensibilisation "En Daag an der Natur"
- 6 chantiers nature
- 1 caillebottis
- 2 événements
- au moins 15 articles de presse.

→ Budget: 610.050€

→ Amount already spent: 25.229,07€ (4.14%)

→ Activities and Outputs

1) Materials

10 additional provisional signs (corrugated PVC signs) were ordered to set up at construction sites in order to inform people on on-going works of the Life project.

The display boards and walking boards will be set up in the context of the remeandration project at Léresmillen. As mentioned in action A2, additional funding for touristic infrastructures was applied for at RBC in the context of their campaign "Blue Water Day" (appendix 2). We decided to set up a didactic walk in an area, in which Life has carried out a number of actions and where potential habitats for all three target species are present. The walk is an additional loop, of about 3km, to the Escapardenne trail, setup in the context of an Interreg project by natur&ëmwelt in collaboration with partners. The trail will be an option to walkers of the Escapardenne trail or can be walked as an individual trail. It can also serve as a didactic trail for schools or other guided tours. The trail is planned to be set up in parallel to the remeandration project (fall 2016) and an inauguration with the community is planned after the works have been concluded. A meeting was held with the nature park Our (9.02.16) to inform them about the walk that will be installed in their area of activity.



The walking trail planned at Lèresmillen in the context of the remeandration project.

2) Events

An important part of the dissemination actions are the guided tours through nature reserves managed by the project. In 2015, two tours were organised, a visit at Cornelysmillen, where we caught butterflies on the 14th of June. The second visit was on birds and took place on the 30th of August. Following the appeal of the EC, a tour was organised on the Natura 2000 day, which was a Thursday. However, the tour was cancelled because no one signed up for it. Therefore, we believe that people are not keen on activities in the evening of workdays. It would be easier to reach people on the Natura 2000 day if it was held on a weekend.

One “Chantiers nature” was organised during the last year in the project area by the project coordinators as part of the “Fit by Nature” programme of n&ë (10.10.15).

Furthermore, Life Eislek has participated at several fairs, markets and other events:

- 31.05.15: Lernfest (Landakademie), Wincrange
- 30.06.15: Knowledge market, Continental, Pannonian, Black Sea & Steppic Kick-off Seminar, Luxembourg (appendix 17: publications)
- 13.09.15: Bëschfest Munshausen

3) Press releases

The Life Eislek team has written quite a few articles concerning the project (appendix 18). Claude Schiltz met on the 9th of July 2015 with a reporter from the “Quotidien” for an interview on our project.

Press releases (june15-april16)

N°	Date	Type de publication	Nom de l'organe de presse	nom de l'article
44	juin 2015	brochure	Natura 2000 Biogeographical process	Knowledge market presentations: LIFE Eislek
45	juillet 2015	article grand publique	Quotidien	Le cuivré est de retour!
46	septembre 2015	article internet	RTL	Bëschfest zu Munzen
47	septembre 2013	article presse spécialisée	De Letzeburger Bauer	Invitation: Soigner la Terre pour nourrir les hommes
48a	décembre 2015	article grand publique	Regulus	Borby- ein Kahlschlag macht Karriere
48b	décembre 2015	article grand publique	Regulus	Fit by Nature- Gestion des biotopes sur le haut-plateau ardennais
49	août 2015	article grand publique	Telecran	Momentaufnahmen
50	octobre 2015	article presse spécialisée	Allianz	Allgemeine Bewirtschaftungsformen in ausgewiesenen Naturschutz- und Wasserschutzgebieten
51	novembre 2015	grand publique	brochure, Telecran, regulus	Journée nationale de l'arbre
52	novembre 2015	article presse scientifique	Dendrocopos Faunistik, Floristik und Naturschutz in der Region Trier (Band 42)	Verbreitung von <i>Lycaena helle</i> (Dennis & Schiffermüller, 1775) in den Luxemburger Ardennen
53	janvier 2016	article grand publique	Regulus	Entretenir pour plus de biodiversité
54	janvier 2016	article grand publique	Regulus	Acquérir pour préserver
55	janvier 2016	article grand publique	Regulus	Life pour un réseau européen: Halbzeit erfolgreich abgeschlossen
56	avril 2016	article grand publique	En Dag an der Natur	Wanderschäfer für einen Tag, Hilfe für den Blauschillernden Feuerfalter, Natur&Kultur un der Misärsbréck
57	avril 2016	brochure	Schafswanderung	Vom Stall auf die Frühjahrsweide
58	mars 2016	brochure	Reunion annuelle des collaborateurs scientifiques du musée d'histoire naturelle	Programme
59	avril 2016	brochure	Future 4 butterflies	Programme
60	octobre 2015	livre		The wet meadowland of the Eislek

Overview of results of action E1

Type of action	Objective	Results	% of objective
Graphic identity	1	completed	100%
Letter paper	/	completed	/
Flyer	1.500 ex.	completed	100%
Roll-ups	4	completed	100%
Provisional signs	> 20	20 signs were printed	100%
Display boards	4	Deadline : 30.04.16	0%
Guided tours	10	7	70%
Chantiers nature	6	5	83%
Walking boards	1	Deadline : 30.04.16	0%
Articles	15	60	>100%
Press conference	/	1	/
Radio/Television	/	2	/
Fair, markets,...	/	13	/
Introductory event	1	completed	100%
Closing event	1	Deadline: 30.06.17	0%

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

The impact of the dissemination actions and the visibility of the project will be evaluated in the socio-economic study.

Milestones	Deadlines	Progress
Introductory event	31.05.13	completed
Flyer, Roll-up's	30.04.13	completed
Display boards	30.04.16	in planning, will be put up in Sept. 2016
Walking boards	30.04.16	in planning, will be put up in Sept. 2016
Closing event	30.06.17	/

→ **Technical and/or financial modifications and justification**

A walking board of 250m was planned in the technical application form. The walking board that we are planning to install at Léresmillen will have a length of only 130m. Even though it was not foreseen in the application, we decided to work out a concept for a walking trail of about 3km incorporating the board as well as the foreseen display boards. This way we will be able to reach a higher visibility than with individual infrastructures distributed throughout the project area. We would like to relocate a part of the budget foreseen for the walking board to the implementation of a trail.

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays**

There is a slight delay in setting up the walking board and display boards as they will be part of the remeandration project at Léresmillen.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE**

Additional budget was applied for at RBC. The Royal Bank of Canada supports projects related to water quality. We have not yet received an answer to the application.

→ **Perspectives**

The experiences made during the project and the methods worked out for the different actions will be published to allow other conservationists to profit from the data. The display boards will inform the public of the main results aimed for and achieved throughout the project's duration.

→ Photographs



Life Eislek at the "Lernfest" in Wincrange.



Cutting back shrubs with the aid of volunteers.



Life Eislek at the "Böschfest" in Munshausen.

Action E2: Mise en ligne d'un site internet

→ Expected results:

A travers le site web, un nombre important d'utilisateurs pourra être sensibilisé. Le site web pourra mettre en relation les bénéficiaires du projet avec des scientifiques et des projets similaires dans la grande région et dans le monde entier.

→ **Budget:** 24.735€

→ **Amount already spent:** 19.700,66€ (79.65%)

→ Activities and Outputs

The site is updated about every two weeks with news of the works currently being carried out.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Planning realised		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

The number of visitors on the homepage and the number of views on the facebook page provide an indication of the dissemination success through internet.

Milestones	Deadlines	Progress
Website	31.12.12	finished

→ **Technical and/or financial modifications and justification:** not applicable

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays**

The planning schedule is on time.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE:** not applicable

→ **Perspectives**

The website will remain functional for five years after the end of the project.

Action E3: Actions d'information et de sensibilisation du monde agricole

→ Expected results:

L'action E3 réalisera :

- l'organisation d'au moins 4 soirées d'information ou conférences sur l'ensemble de la zone du projet
- la publication d'au moins 5 articles dans la presse spécialisée
- l'organisation d'au moins 4 visites de terrain sur l'ensemble de la zone du projet.

→ Budget: 16.315€

→ Amount already spent: 11.195,49€ (68.62%)

→ Activities and Outputs

The project has organised an information event and an on-site visit in 2015 (appendix 19):

- Workshop on arable soil in the Eislek region: On the 23rd September 2015, Lydia and Claude Bourguignon have made observations and an analysis of two soil profiles, one on conventionally managed land and one on land managed according to organic farming. The workshop was organised for professionals from the agricultural sector. 32 farmers and agricultural advisers participated at the workshop.
- On the same day, a public conference with the Bourguignons was organised in Luxembourg in collaboration with several NGOs. The themes were the importance of soil quality, the causes of its degradation and the importance of micro-organisms. They presented alternatives to conventional farming and explained how they will affect the soil. The conference was open to the public and counted 300 attendants.

An article, explaining the concrete consequences and benefits of the Natura 2000 network for farmers in a question/answer style, was printed in the "Allianz" in collaboration with the CA and private forest owners (Appendix 18: publications).

Overview of results of action E3

Type of action	Objective	Results	% of Objective
Information meetings	4	4	100%
Articles	5	3	60%
On-site visits	4	3	75%
Professional fairs	/	2	/

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Planning revised						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Planning realised						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

The impact of the dissemination actions and the visibility of the project will be evaluated in the socio-economic study.

→ **Technical and/or financial modifications and justification:** not applicable

→ **Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays:** not applicable

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE:** not applicable

→ Perspectives

The connections build up with the land users during the duration of the project will be kept up after termination of the project to improve the state of the agricultural land surrounding the managed nature reserves.

→ Photographs



Digging of soil profiles for the workshop with Lydia and Claude Bourguignon.



Several farmers and agricultural advisers participated at the workshop of the Bourguignons.

Action E4: Organisation d'un séminaire international

→ Expected results:

Un séminaire international est un événement primordial pour diffuser les résultats d'un projet et rassembler les experts relatif aux espèces cibles sur lesquelles on a travaillées.

→ Budget: 13.870€

→ Amount already spent: 6.292,00€ (45.36%)

→ Activities and Outputs

First ideas were gathered concerning the themes to be presented at the seminar and possible speakers were discussed.

→ Time Schedule

Yaer	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled																						
Planning realised																						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Milestone	Deadlines	Progress
International seminar	31.05.17	First thoughts were gathered.

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays: not applicable

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE: not applicable

→ Perspectives: not applicable

Action E5: Rapport de vulgarisation

→ Expected results:

L'action E5 mènera à un rapport de vulgarisation faisant une dizaine de pages richement illustrées. Il sera publié en français et anglais et imprimé en 500 exemplaires.

→ Budget: 16.075€

→ Amount already spent: 7.689,87€ (47.84%)

→ Activities and Outputs

This action has not started yet. The report is foreseen for the end of the project.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled																						
Planning realised																						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action\$

Products	Deadlines	Progress
Rapport de vulgarisation	30.06.17	/

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays: not applicable

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE: not applicable

→ Perspectives: not applicable

Action F1: Gestion administrative et financière du projet

→ Expected results:

Le résultat attendu est un bon déroulement du projet exécuté par l'équipe du projet, grâce à l'encadrement et l'appui du comité de pilotage.

→ **Budget:** 151.990€

→ **Budget already spent:** 104.248,59€ (68.59%)

→ Activities and Outputs

1) Personnel:

Coordinating beneficiary: natur&ëmwelt Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur

Mireille Molitor came back after a sabbatical year on the 15.09.15 and will readopt the coordination work of the project. **Michelle Clemens**, who replaced Mireille Molitor during her absence, could stay within the LIFE team thank to the half-time paternity leave of **Claude Schiltz** (26.04.15-26.04.16). The three above mentioned people share the "scientifique coordinateur" and the "scientifique N°1" posts. **Patricia Heinen** is still member of the life team and takes the position "secrétaire-comptable". **Gilles Weber** helps in diverse punctual missions.

On several occasions, the LIFE team took care of a student apprentice.

To support the LIFE team during monitoring actions, Robin Kreuz, a student apprentice from Lille University (Licence Biologie des Organismes et des populations) will give a hand in May 2016.

Associated beneficiary 1: natur&ëmwelt asbl

Mikis Bastian takes the position "scientifique N°2". **Katharina Backes** and **Elisabeth Kirsch** help in a punctual manner especially for action D1 (monitoring).

Associated beneficiary 2: CNDS-Naturaarbechten

Serge Leyder and **Cédric Lambrée** take the positions "ouvrier-educateur".

2) Comité de pilotage

A meeting of the "comité de pilotage" bringing together all project partners, MDDI & administrations took place on the 9.12.15 in Heinerscheid.

3) External monitoring team and European Commission

Mr Simon Goss and Mr Tom Andries visited our project on the 2.09.15. Regular contact by phone and mail took place with Tom Andries. Several letters between the coordinating beneficiary and the European Commission were exchanged.

4) Amendments to the Grant agreement

The analysis of the expenditures shows that natur&mwelt asbl is in an under-consumption situation of the personal budget. Indeed, the application form planned that natur&mwelt asbl would have a much more wide-ranging contribution to the project than they actually have. Their emphasis has been laid on monitoring and sensibilisation actions. The other activities were completed by natur&mwelt Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur even though their personnel budget did not foresee these costs. We were therefore thinking about a financial shift between the two partners. The exact situation will become clearer after the monitoring season 2016 were n&e asbl will achieve a lot of working hours. Could the European Commission indicate the procedure of such a modification? Is an amendment to the grant agreement necessary or is there another possibility to manage this shift, knowing that this modification does not represent a significant change to the nature or content of the project?

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Product	Deadlines	Progress
Financial audit	30.09.17	/

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: see above

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays:

The project has been affected by numerous sick leaves. Claude Schiltz got an artificial hip in 2015 and was not able to work for 4 months (January-April). Serge Leyder had a work accident in 2014 and was absent for five and a half months (October '14-April '15). Cédric Lambrée had diverse health problems and accumulated almost 10 weeks of sick leave since September 2015. We just got informed that he had to be operated on the wrist in April 2016 and will be absent for several weeks again.

We try to manage these sick leaves with philosophy but we have to admit that sometimes the work planning got mixed up. We had to be very flexible and improvise last minute solutions. We

are a little bit worried about the finishing of the last fence construction actions, which should now go on full speed. It is possible that we are forced to fall back on external assistance to accomplish all the planned works. We will keep the Commission informed about new developments.

→ **Complementary actions outside LIFE:** not applicable

→ **Perspectives:** not applicable

Action F2: Suivi du projet : évaluation de la mise en œuvre des actions

→ Expected results:

Mise en place d'un système de suivi du projet basé sur une série d'indicateurs de suivi permettant d'apprécier les résultats par rapport à des objectifs quantifiés préétablis. Les résultats attendus de cette action sont principalement une bonne exécution du projet, sans retard de délai. Cette action permettra également de mettre en évidence les difficultés particulières et d'y remédier au plus vite.

→ Budget: 5.815€

→ Budget already spent: 4.033,37€ (69.36%)

→ Activities and Outputs

Indicator	Target value	Current value	Met objectives ?
Action A1: - Programme d'action de restauration des habitats rédigé?	1	1	✓
Action A2: - Planification technique des chantiers aboutie ?	1	0	x
Action A3: Plans de gestion			
- rédigés et	11	3	x
- approuvés juridiquement ?	11	0	x
Action A4: - Plan de pâturage rédigé ?	1	1	✓
Action A5: - Méthodologie du monitoring élaborée?	1	1	✓
Action B1: - Nbre d'hectares acquis ?	30	22,86	x
Action C1: - Nbre d'hectares débroussaillés - Nbre d'hectares où une première fauche a été réalisée	10ha	7,18ha 22,95ha	✓
Action C2: - Nbre d'hectares re-humidifiés - Nbre de mètres de cours d'eau avec rehaussement du lit	15ha 1,5km	1,5 70m	x x

- Nbre de m de drains bouchés	500m	587m	✓
Action C3:			
- Nbre d'hectares désenrésinés	5ha	1,99ha	x
- Nbre d'hectares de rémanents de coupe nettoyés	15ha	9,86ha	x
Action C4:			
- Hectares de prairies à bistorte/mégaphorbiaies restaurées	10ha	9,55ha	x
Action C5:			
- Nbre de haies/arbres isolés plantées	7.000	7.223	✓
Action C6:			
- Abri pour bétail installé?	1	1	✓
- Passes à bétail installées ?	2	2	✓
- Accès aux sites de l'action C1?	3	5	✓
- Abreuvoirs installés ?	5	0	x
- Nbre de mètres de clôtures installées ?	12,5km	8,21km	x
- m de clôtures amovibles achetées ?	500m	0	x
Action C7			
- Nbre d'exploitants agricoles conseillés ?	50	18	x
- Nbre d'hectares extensifiés ?	50ha	47,58ha	x
Action D1:			
- Nbre de sites N2000 monitorés ?	11	11	✓
Action D2:			
- Nbre de ha monitorés ?	135ha	>135ha	✓
Action D3:			
-Etude réalisée?	1	0	x
Action E1:			
- identité graphique et logo de projet développés?	1	1	✓
- dépliant imprimé?	1	1	✓
- panneaux réalisés?	4	0	x
- panneau Roll-up réalisés?	4	4	✓
- Nbre de panneaux de chantiers installés	20	20	✓
- Nbre de visites guidées organisées	10	7	x
- Nbre de chantiers nature organisés	6	5	x
- Caillebotis installé	1	0	x
- Nbre d'articles parus dans la presse écrite, audiophonique et télévisuelle	15	60	✓
- Événement de lancement organisé?	1	2	

- Évènement de clôture organisé?	1	0	✓ x
Action E2			
- Site internet mis en ligne	1	1	✓
- Mises à jour régulières?	1	1	✓
Action E3			
- Nbre de soirées d'information organisées ?	4	4	✓
- Nbre de publications dans la presse spécialisée ?	5	3	x
- Nbre de visites de terrain organisées ?	4	3	x
Action E4			
- Séminaire international organisé ?	1	0	x
Action E5			
- Rapport de vulgarisation publié?	1	0	x
Action F1			
- Personnel engagé/désigné?			✓
- Nbre de réunions du comité de pilotage	5	4	x
Action F2	/	/	/
Action F3			
- Nbre de contacts avec des experts	/	31	/
- Nbre de projets visités	/	10	/
- Nbre de colloques auxquels on a participé	/	21	/
- Nbre de formations auxquelles on a participé	1	2	✓
Action F4			
- Après LIFE rédigé?	1	0	x

Area restored for each habitat type and Natura 2000 area (in ha). Each site is only counted once, even if more actions have taken place on the same site.

Habitat \ N2000 site	Our	Tretterbaach	Breichen	Wiltz	Sure	Conzeffenn	Cornelysmillen	Kaleburn	Sportbaach	O-Troisvierges	O-Wincrange
6230		0.04									
6410	5.09										
6510	3.21	1.18					3.74				
BK04							3.00				0.09
BK08 (national habitat code: standing water bodies)							0.02	0.07			
BK10 (national habitat code: Calthion meadows)		10.84									2.47
BK11 (national habitat code: fallow wetlands, spring swamps, fens and small sedge fens)		28.89	1.35	1.10	2.47	0.73	20.12		0.33	20.73	1.03
none		21.18		1.64	1.27	2.23	7.90	0.53	3.43	1.05	6.46

Total area restored for the Life project: 152.55ha.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x			x				x				x				x					x	
Planning realised	x			x				x				x				x						

Action F3: Networking avec d'autres projets et experts

→ Expected results:

Cette action vise à rassembler et élargir toutes les connaissances sur nos espèces cibles et le savoir-faire en matière de restauration de leur habitat dans l'objectif d'assurer leur protection à l'échelle de la Grande-Région et de l'Europe.

→ **Budget:** 27.850 €

→ **Budget already spent:** 12.029,71€ (43.20%)

→ Activities and Outputs

Contact with land managers in the surrounding area:

- Bernhard Theißen, project Life Rur& Kall → exchange concerning *L. helle* monitoring, distribution and management. Sharing of shapefiles to merge all the data of the subspecies of the Ardenne.
- Alexander Rauw, project Life Papillons → Visit of Life Eislek, Life Rur&Kall and Life Papillons to share experiences on *L. helle* management.

Contact with experts:

- Guy Colling, Recherche et Collections, Chef de service ff. du service Biologie des populations, MNHN & Thierry Helminger, Recherche et Collections, Chef de service ff. du service Collections végétales → population genetics of *Polygonum bistorta* and methodology of restoration of bistort meadows;
- Simone Schneider, SICONA → phytosociology of bistort meadows;
- Manou Pfeiffenschneider & Thomas Frankenberg, EFOR-ERSA → restorative mowing;
- Guy Marson & Marie Thérèse Tholl, Groupe de recherche mycologique, Société des naturalistes luxembourgeois → compatibility of removals of shrubs and conservation of rare fungi living on old Salix wood;
- Marcel Hellers, Arbeitsgruppe zum Studium der wirbellosen Tiere, Société des naturalistes luxembourgeois → contribution of the task group to the knowledge of the distribution and the ecology of *L. helle* in Luxembourg in the '80s;
- Xavier Mesthdagh & Alain Dohet, LIST → methodology of monitoring;
- Danièle Murat, ANF: restoration potential and best practice management of alluvial forests for *L. helle*.

Meetings with other projects (Life and others):

- 23.-24.09.15: Participation at the Inter-LIFE in Kasterlee (B) organised by Natuurpunt.

Visiting implementations by other projects

- 15.02.15: Visit of river restoration actions in Wallonia executed by LIFE Environment WALPHY organised by Stream and River Consult. Other participants: LIFE Unio, Partenariat de rivière, municipality of Wincrange, ANF.
- 2.04.16: Visit of top soil removal actions in favour of *Maculinea teleius* near Den Bosch (NL). LIFE+-project 'Blues in the Marshes'.

Participation at conferences:

- 27-28.05.15: 1st European Whinchat Symposium, Helmbrechts (DE). Presentation of Life Eislek (appendix 20).
- 16.10.15: "Wildtiermanagement im 21. Jahrhundert", Mersch, (L)
- 2- 5.11.2015: EBBA2 & PECBMS Workshop, Mikulov, (CZ)
- 24.11.15 : Journée thématique sur la matière organique et la biodiversité dans les sols, Lycée technique agricole, Ettelbruck, (L)
- 19.03.16 : réunion annuelle des collaborateurs scientifiques du MNHN, « Colloque sur le patrimoine naturel, la biodiversité et l'évolution », Luxembourg, (L). Powerpoint présentation of LIFE Eislek (appendix 21).
- 31.03-2.04.16: 4th international symposium on Future of Butterflies in Europe, hosted by the Dutch Butterfly Conservation (De Vlinderstichting), Wageningen, (NL). Poster presentation of LIFE Eislek (appendix 22).

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Planning realised	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action. not applicable

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays: not applicable

→ Photographs



Exchange with Bernhard Theißen and Alexander Rauw at a visit on sites of the project Life Rur&Kall.



Participation at the Inter-LIFE in Kasterlee (B)



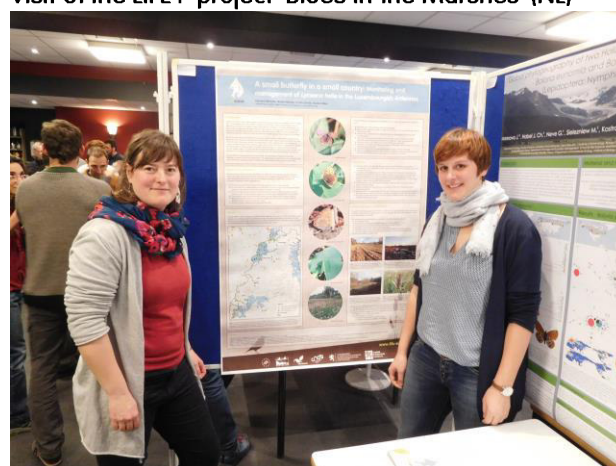
Visit of river restoration actions in Wallonia (B).



Visit of the LIFE+-project 'Blues in the Marshes' (NL)



Participation at the 1st European Whinchat Symposium (DE)



Poster presentation of LIFE Eislek at the 4th international symposium on Future of Butterflies in Europe, Wageningen, (NL).

Action F4: Plan de conservation Après-Life

→ Expected results:

L'action aboutira sur un "After-LIFE conservation plan" et un "After Life Communication plan".

→ Budget: 27.850 €

→ Budget already spent: 12.029,71€ (43.20%)

→ Activities and Outputs

This action has not started yet. The after-Life plan is foreseen for the end of the project.

→ Time Schedule

Year	2012		2013				2014				2015				2016				2017			
Trimester	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Planning scheduled																			x	x	x	
Planning realised																						

→ Indicators used to test the performance of the action

Products	Deadlines	Progress
After Life conservation plan	31.08.17	/

→ Technical and/or financial modifications and justification: not applicable

→ Major problems/ drawbacks/ delays: not applicable

→ Complementary actions outside LIFE: not applicable

→ Perspectives: not applicable

5.2 Envisaged progress until next report

The project is now on the home stretch, only 16 months of initially 60 months project duration are lying before us.

- The **Preparatory actions** are virtually all completed.
- **Land purchase** is completed at 80%. The next 12 month will permit to terminate the on-going negotiations. We expect no problems in reaching the action target.
- Most **concrete conservation actions** rise largely above the initial targets. These excellent results allow us to be reassured and concentrate on the last remaining challenges. Only C3 (spruce plantations) experiences a weak development. During the next period, we will focus more intensely on this point to try and make up leeway. C2 (the remeandration project) is the main action that will keep us busy during the next 6 months. The planning will be completed in spring / summer 2016. The river restoration will be executed in late summer / autumn 2016.
- 2016 is a crucial year for **monitoring actions**. Due to adverse weather conditions in 2015, we need to catch up the data deficit by intensifying field work in 2016. The LIFE team is therefore supported by 2 biologists from the Centrale ornithologique, a volunteer entomologist and a student apprentice. This supplementary manpower will undoubtedly help to improve our surveys. We emphasize on target species inventories on the restored sites in order to monitor the impact of the project. The switch from a semi-quantitative method to a quantitative transect methodology for monitoring butterfly species was encouraged and guided by LIST. This is a particularly beneficial development of our strategy.
- The **public awareness and dissemination of results** actions go ahead. 2016 will permit to intensify our work on the visitor management concept at Léresmillen. Indeed, a very appealing hiking trail loop of the existing Escapardenne Eisleck Trail (Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe) will be installed. The acquiring of supplementary funding, the elaboration of the information boards, the installation of the walking boards, valorisation of the relicts of the traditional irrigation system of the grasslands in the Ardennes, etc. The expansion of our guided tour strategy to the accompaniment of the shepherd during sheep herding from nature reserve to nature reserve is a full success. We are inundated with registrations.
- The **overall project operation and monitoring of the project progress** will also keep us busy during the next 12 months. The management of the numerous sick leaves and the second paternity leave of Claude Schiltz will probably require reorganisations within the project staff. Patrica Heinen announced that she will go into retirement in 2017. This is a new challenge with reference to the termination of the financial audit and the final report.

A Gantt chart is presented for each action in the technical progress part.

5.3 Impact

The impact of the project is absolutely positive. The restoration actions funded by LIFE allowed to improve the conservation status of habitats and species on several sites. The monitoring actions

identified several re-colonisations of target species and other rare species on restored sites. Especially the restorative mowing and the hydrologic works seem to have a big positive impact. The restoration works on habitats of several degraded sites turned out to be sufficiently attractive to host animals with very high ecological requirements (so as *Tringa ochropus*, *Vanellus vanellus*, ...). The monitoring season 2016 and 2017 will allow to increase our efforts in documenting these positive results.

The capital expenditures of LIFE initiated lots of efforts that would never have been executed in absence of these funds. These kick-off actions allow the recurrent management to go on, on national budgets, once the LIFE is terminated.

5.4 Outside LIFE

The costs of several actions and the manpower needed to execute some actions were underestimated in the application document. During the project, the LIFE Team has always been very flexible and tried to find the best solutions available to get a high cost efficiency. In the case where internal reorganisations were not possible, the team succeeded in applying for supplementary funding.

In the last period, this was successfully done for the remeandration action at Léresmillen, where we managed to convince the municipality of Wincrange to introduce a project proposal at the FGE. This proposal, covering the planning actions, was approved and we are now busy to work out the second application to ask for funding for the restoration works sensu stricto. The municipality advances the costs and will be refunded by the FGE once the project is successfully achieved.

In order to respond to the demand of the municipality of Wincrange, an ambitious visitor management concept at Léresmillen is in planning at the moment. Indeed, a very appealing hiking trail loop of the existing Escapardenne Eisleck Trail (Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe) will be installed, if we manage to receive additional funding. We therefore introduced an application at the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) in the context of their corporate social responsibility strategy called "Blue water project". We are sure that this supplementary action is of great additional benefit, but we are still waiting for an answer from the RBC.

6 Financial report

6.1 Costs Incurred

Summary of project costs incurred

Project Costs Incurred (19.07.16)			
Cost Category	Budget according to the grant agreement	Costs incurred within the project duration	% of total costs
Personnel	€ 910.125,00	€ 627.358,19	68,93%
Travel	€ 15.850,00	€ 14.651,34	92,44%
External assistance	€ 139.675,00	€ 60.260,78	43,14%
Durable goods - Infrastructure	€ 30.000,00	€ 54.516,52	181,72%
Durable goods - Equipment	€ 127.150,00	€ 84.619,62	66,55%
Land/rights purchase/lease	€ 405.000,00	€ 335.793,92	82,91%
Consumable material	€ 17.050,00	€ 28.237,066	165,61%
Other direct costs	€ 32.925,00	€ 18.971,57	57,62%
Overheads	€ 89.000,00	€ 35.616,77	40,02%
TOTAL	€ 1.766.775,00	€ 1.260.025,77	71,32%

The mid-term pre-financing payment was asked for in April 2015 and the request was approved by the European commission in the letter of the 7th August 2015. The credit transfer took place on the 13.08.15. natur&mwelt Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur, as coordinating beneficiary, transmitted the amounts owed to our associated beneficiaries immediately, conform to our associated beneficiaries agreements. This working capital allows us to face the investments of the second part of the project.

The general analysis of the expenditures shows that 71,32% of the budget were spend after 46 months (73,33% of the project duration). This is a very comfortable monetary situation. At first sight, no financial bottleneck is apparent. The 10% / 30.000€ rule is respected. The infrastructure costs (access way, Douglas wood) and the consumable material (expenditures on fuel for machines and vehicles provided by CNDS not budgeted so far as consumable material) are much higher that initially expected. This subject was discussed in previous reports and letters to the European Commission (6.6.13). The overheads are very carefully used until now, so that, if the 10 % / 30.000€ rule is exceeded, we can still fall back on this category by sliding some expenditures.

The more detailed analysis of the expenditures related to each partner shows that natur&mwelt asbl is in an under-consumption of the personal budget. Indeed, in the application form natur&mwelt asbl had a much more wide-ranging contribution to the project than they actually have. Their emphasis has been laid on monitoring and sensibilisation actions. The other foreseen activities that should have been executed by natur&mwelt asbl were completed by natur&mwelt Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur, even though their personnel budget did not foresee these costs. natur&mwelt Fondation Hëllef fir d'Natur is therefore in an over consumption of personnel costs and risks not to be able to pay for the team until the end of the project. We were therefore thinking about a financial shift between the two partners. The exact situation will become clearer after the monitoring season 2016 where n&ë asbl will achieve a lot of working hours.

Action nb	Short name of action	Foreseen cost	Spent so far	Remaining
A1	Etablissement d'un programme d'actions de restauration des habitats des espèces cibles	54,000.00	39,041.98	14,958.02
A2	Planification technique des actions de restauration des habitats des espèces cibles	38,310.00	26,596.81	11,713.19
A3	Contribution à l'élaboration de plans de gestion des sites Natura 2000 du périmètre de projet	21,340.00	14,789.80	6,550.20
A4	Etablissement de plans de pâturage et/ou de fauche des réserves naturelles	25,360.00	17,829.61	7,530.39
A5	Travaux préparatoires au monitoring des espèces cibles dans le périmètre du projet	21,140.00	14,636.28	6,503.72
B1	Maîtrise foncière	463,600.00	376,488.95	87,111.05
C1	Restauration de zones humides à l'abandon et/ou embroussaillées	145,080.00	117,693.71	27,386.29
C2	Restauration hydrique de zones humides asséchées	96,675.00	60,383.63	36,291.37
C3	Restauration de zones humides enrésinées	106,550.00	68,372.38	38,177.62
C4	Restauration de prairies à bistorte et de mégaphorbiaies	42,600.00	29,804.97	12,795.03
C5	Plantation de structures ligneuses	40,490.00	31,642.01	8,847.99
C6	Acquisition et installation d'infrastructures relatives au pâturage	221,550.00	179,358.19	42,191.81
C7	Suivi et conseil d'exploitants agricoles travaillant au sein de zones Natura 2000	13,080.00	9,694.61	3,385.39
D1	Monitoring des populations des espèces cibles	34,800.00	25,869.70	8,930.30

D2	Monitoring des parcelles fauchées/pâturées et vérification de la bonne exécution du plan de pâturage	26,600.00	18,706.73	7,893.27
D3	Evaluation de la restauration des fonctions éco-systémiques et de l'impact socioéconomique des actions du projet	8,900.00	2,711.82	6,188.18
E1	Actions d'information et de sensibilisation du grand public	61,050.00	25,229.07	35,820.93
E2	Mise en ligne d'un site internet	24,735.00	19,700.66	5,034.34
E3	Actions d'information et de sensibilisation du monde agricole	16,315.00	11,195.49	5,119.51
E4	Organisation d'un séminaire international	13,870.00	6,292.00	7,578.00
E5	Rapport de vulgarisation	16,075.00	7,689.87	8,385.13
F1	Gestion administrative et financière du projet	151,990.00	104,248.59	47,741.41
F2	Suivi du projet: évaluation de la mise en œuvre des actions	5,815.00	4,035.37	1,779.63
F3	Networking avec d'autres projets et experts	27,850.00	12,029.71	15,820.29
F4	Plan de conservation Après-Life	0.00	367.07	-367.07

7 Annexes

All the annexes are presented in a separate document.

Appendix 1: Action A2/C2: Remeandration project (SRC; FGE)

- Devis note de faisabilité 24.11.14
- Note de faisabilité 19.12.14
- Ppt Wincrange 16.04.15
- Devis Esquisse 14.7.15
- SRC- Esquisse 11.15
- Devis Eislek 18.12.15
- Devis Eislek Monitoring 18.12.15
- E-mail AGE (Mr Luty) 2.03.16
- Devis Eislek 18.12.15 V2 p4-1
- Délibération communale du 26.01.16
- Demande fonds introduite 28.01.16
- Accusé de réception FGE 16.03.16
- Bon de commande 24.03.16
- Devis signé 24.03.16
- Accord FGE 25.03.16

Appendix 2: Action A2/C2: RBC Application Preview

Appendix 3: Action A2/C6: Lettre MDDI

Appendix 4: Action A2/C7: Projet de loi concernant le soutien au développement durable des zones rurales

Appendix 5: Action A2/C7:

- Régime d'aides pour la sauvegarde de la diversité biologique
- Leitfaden Kontrolle Bewertung Biodiversität

Appendix 6: Action A4:

- Lettre N° Flik Peschong
- Liste lettre N° Flik Peschon
- réponse N° Flik Peschong

Appendix 7: Action A4: Guidelines cross compliance

Appendix 8: Action B1: Maps concerning the purchase of land April 2015-March 2016

Appendix 9: Action B1: Notary acts concerning the purchase of land April 2015-March 2016

Appendix 10: Action C1: Maps concerning the restoration of neglected wet meadows 2015-2016

Appendix 11: Action C3: Maps concerning the restoration of conifer plantations 2015-2016

Appendix 12: Action C4: Population genetic structure of *Polygonum bistorta*

Appendix 13: Action C4: Maps concerning the restoration of bistort meadows 2015

Appendix 14: Action C5: Maps concerning the location of plantations 2015-2016

Appendix 15: Action C6: Maps concerning the location of grazing infrastructures

Appendix 16: Action C7: Maps concerning the location of extensification parcels

Appendix 17: Action D1: Monitoring report 2015

- Shrike Monitoring 2015
- Violet copper Monitoring 2015
- Whinchat Monitoring 2015

Appendix 18: Action E1/E3: Scan of press releases

Appendix 19: Action E3: Flyer Workshop Bourgignon

Appendix 20: Action F3: 1st International Whinchat Symposium

- Whinchat Luxembourg (ppt)
- The Whinchat in Luxembourg- a lost cause (abstract)
- Letter MDDI (29.07.15) Whinchat

Appendix 21: Action F3: PPT Journée des collaborateurs MNHN

Appendix 22: Action F3: Poster Future for Butterflies in Europe