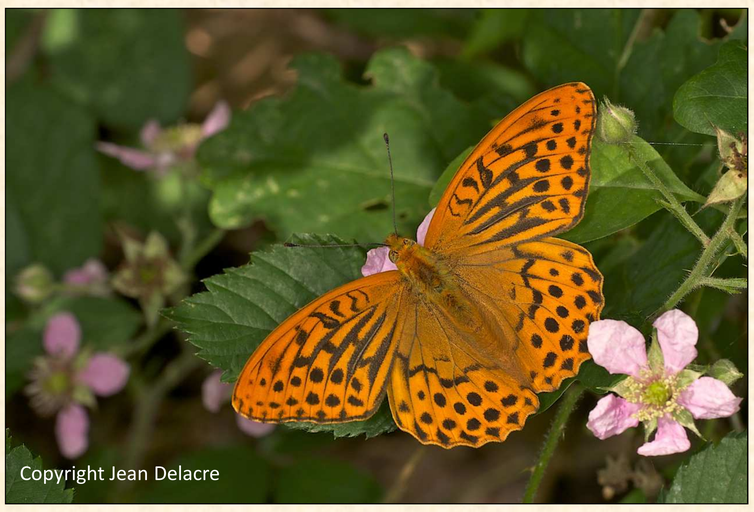
LIFE *ELIA-RTE* project
Creating green corridors under overheads lines

Evaluation of the effect of actions implemented by means of the assessment of the diversity with several biological indicators

Objectives

To establish an inventory of biodiversity present below the lines and measure the impact of management/restoration measures on flora and fauna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How ?

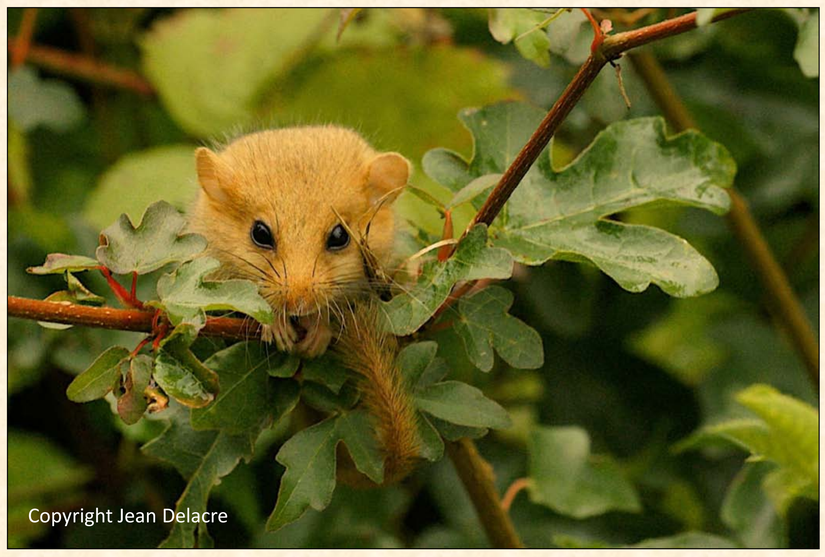
We conduct standardized inventories of vertebrates (birds, bats, amphibians and reptiles), invertebrates (butterflies and dragonflies) and vegetation. For each group, an inventory network is established, as well as the intensity of the sampling effort. This inventory network is integrated into ongoing monitoring implemented in the Walloon Region: NATURA 2000 sites, nature reserves and sites of high biological value.

The groups studied are called bio-indicators, because they are from well known biology groups (biology, systematics, distribution ...), easy to study and for which the reaction to habitat modification is known.

When and by whom ?

Inventories of birds and butterflies were made by the team at the beginning of the project (initial state) and will continue for some of them, during and beyond it, after 2016, by networks of volunteers as project partners. The census points of botanic, herpetology and for bats will be established by the team during the 3 first years of the project and will be repeated in the medium and long term.

Inventories associated with ponds will begin after digging them out at the begining of the project.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Site selection and targeted groups studied

By the linear nature of the areas concerned, the LIFE ELIA-RTE project allows linking areas with different statuses (ea Natura 2000) and thus fully contribute improving the connectivity between populations, thus integrating the logic of network environment.

The surveyed sites were chosen to represent the main natural districts of the Walloon Region. They represent the main habitats types found within the project area, with various degrees of biological value. We also choosed some sites so that they make the connection between areas already covered by an environmental monitoring (LIFE NATURA 2000, volunteers, etc..) and thus avoid redundancies.

And after ?

With hindsight and the response of different organisms to environment management under high-voltage lines, the techniques used can be validated and perpetuated in the management practices of others European power operators.

The LIFE ELIA project is co-financed by the European Commission