Life+ Elia-RTE sustainable corridor management continued afterwards (Life2)

NRDC webinar
Sustainable corridors
June 19th 2020
Overhead lines (OHL) in forests and N2000

Transmission System Operators: Elia (Belgium), RTE (France)

OHL through forests and N2000 areas (bird-, habitat-EU Directives)

TSOs nearly never own the land under OHL

Always in a multi-partner approach with the aim to improve biodiversity

Always in respect of security of supply and safety

Fullfilling a societal mission: corridors help in halting biodiversity loss (instead of seeing them as no man’s land)
a. Cartography (vegetation)

b. Agreements with local stakeholders

c. Implementation: tender, realization, control

d. Management plan: objectives, maintenance

e. Management of the corridor

f. Biological indicators

g. Communication
In short: over a period of 15 years, the mean cost of classic maintenance (cutting anything that grows every 3 years) is more costly than this sustainable management (taking into account the different actions distributed as done in the Life+ Elia-RTE project).
Cost for Life2 based on realities of Life+ Elia-RTE works (in €)

(final cut-down before new management not included)
(no subsidies)

| cost personnel (including everything), daily : | € 400,00 |
| Cost works per hectare (based on CBA) : | € 1.766,66 |
| Profit in comparison on cutting, per hectare, over 15 years : | € 5.726,81 |

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<th>FTE / y</th>
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<th>actual tariff period</th>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>After-Life du Life Elia actuel</td>
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<td>cartography</td>
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Elia’s own “Life2” : what, why

- Realize around 420 hectares according to the current Life-Elia principles
- React positively to propositions to participate in other stretches
- Continue in Wallonia, start in Flanders
- For five years : 1/2018 – 12/2022
- No subsidies anymore

Arguments on which the decision was based

- **Positive image**: better relations with authorities, with local communities near OHL, better acceptance of OHL (and future projects)
- Improved **security of overhead lines** (reduced risk due to vegetation staying lower)
- Internal training of patrollers, improved **competencies** in relation to vegetation, becoming **proud** to be on the job
- ROI : 3 to 13 years (with WACC of 5 %)

(After-Life : 0,4 M€ ; mandatory)
New realizations under lines : 0,7 M€
Expertise (cartography, conventioning, mgmt): 1,4 M€
Follow-up of bio-indicators : 0,2 M€
Communication : 0,1 M€
Acceptance of OHL in EU context

GD Energy

30% of energy from green sources - 2030

GD Environment

Natura 2000 network for biodiversity

Creation of networks
Renovation of networks

LIFE Elia-RTE
electrical safety and biodiversity

Protected nature areas (slowly but steadily)
Others picked up the Life Elia-RTE ideas: Flemish Nature Administration (re-create original biotope of heath)

Corridor of 18 km length and 65 m wide (117 ha)

Management plan: 26 years

200 - 400 sheep grazing instead of regular elimination of all growth

Agreement with 130 owners (100 k€ +) 50 k€ / year

Doubling a 30 km 380 kV OHL Maaseik - Zutendaal

Foto schapen