

# The metaproject « Peatbogs »

## Restauration of bogs, mires and heathland habitats



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### Starting situation in 2000

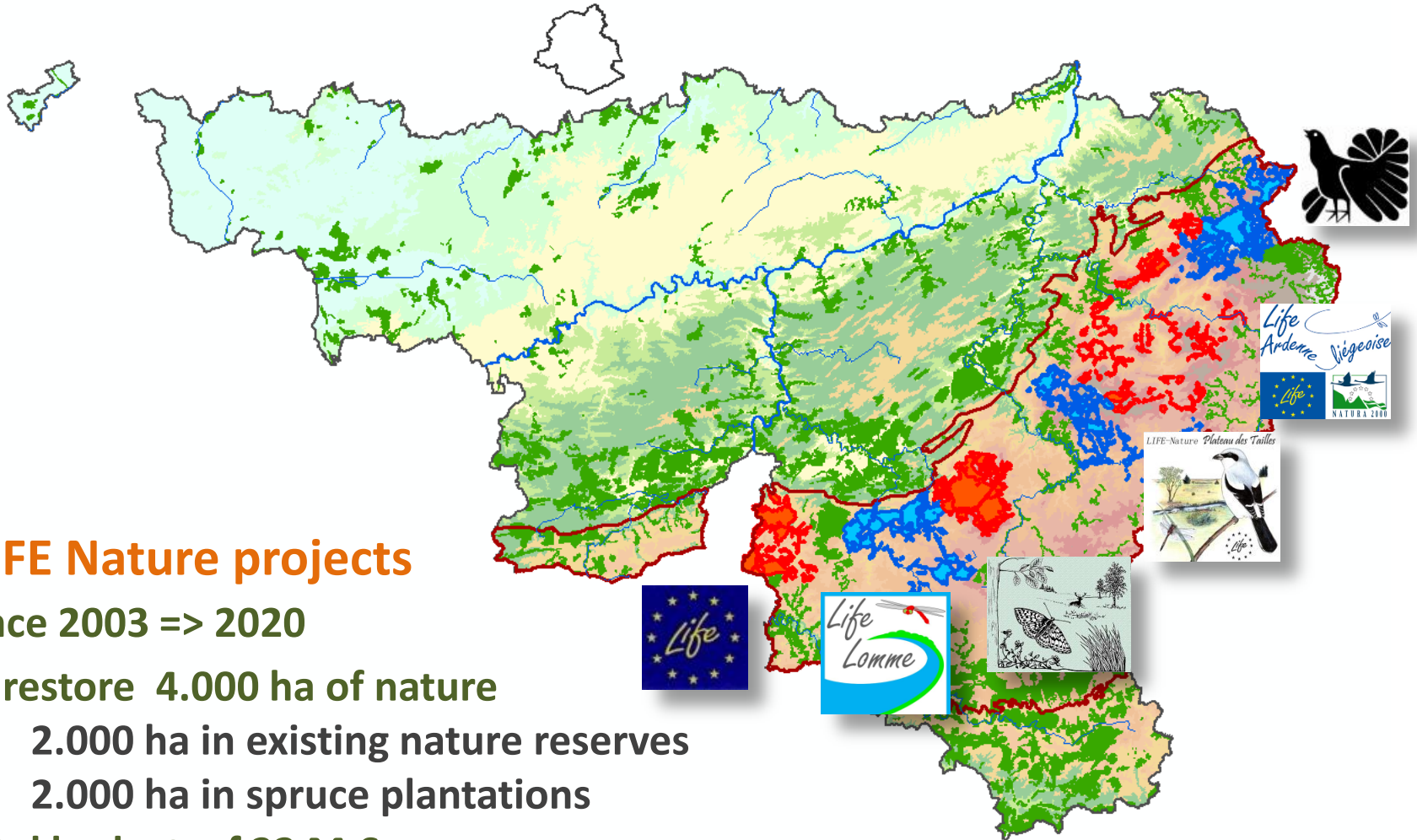
- > 90% of area decrease for bogs, mires, wet heatlands, ...
  - Historical peat extraction in Ardenne
  - Since one century, drainage for spruce plantations



- 5.000 ha of nature reserves but in very bad conservation status  
=> Ambitious projects of restoration of peatbogs

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### Six LIFE Nature projects

- Since 2003 => 2020
- To restore 4.000 ha of nature
  - 2.000 ha in existing nature reserves
  - 2.000 ha in spruce plantations
- Total budget of 22 M €
- > 125 man\*year

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### Elimination of spruce plantations

**Aims : 1.300 ha**

**Results : > 2.000 ha**



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## Restoration of bogs, mires and heathland habitats



### Regeneration of wet heathland vegetation



Areas degraded by drainage with purple moor grass

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### Regeneration of wet heathland vegetation



> 400 ha restored  
> 700 ha grazed



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### Rewetting the peatbogs



- > 10.000 pools
- > 50 km of dikes
- > 700 km of blocked drains







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Very impressive results for natural biotopes



> 6.000 ha restored and protected



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Very impressive results for peatbogs species



*Boloria  
aquilonaris*



*Gallinago gallinago*



*Aeschna subartica*



*Lycopodiella inundata*



*Utricularia australis*

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### Wider benefits

- **Awareness of the public and private owners**
  - Abandonment of silvicultural speculations
  - Enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- **Development of new restoration techniques**
  - Investment in adapted equipment
  - Very specialized external operators are now available
- **Integration of actions by other sources of financing**
  - Rural development plan in and outside Natura 2000 sites
- **Ecotourism promotion should still be enhanced**
  - Field infrastructures, activities, links with local economy still need to be developed in a concerted way ...

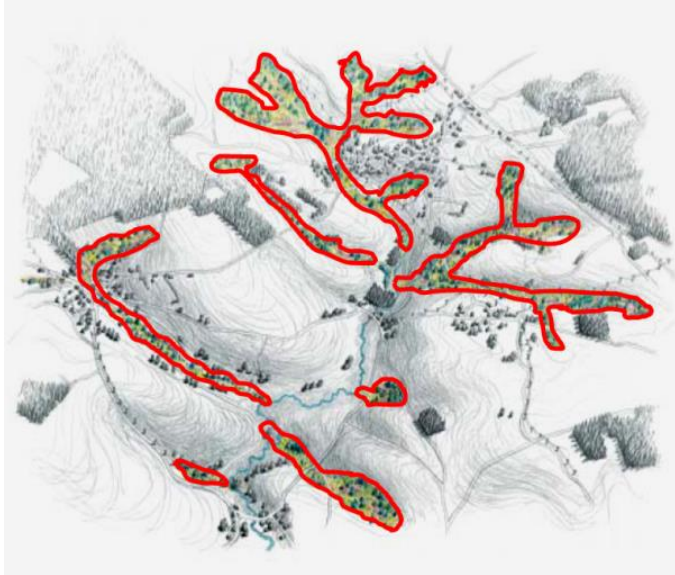


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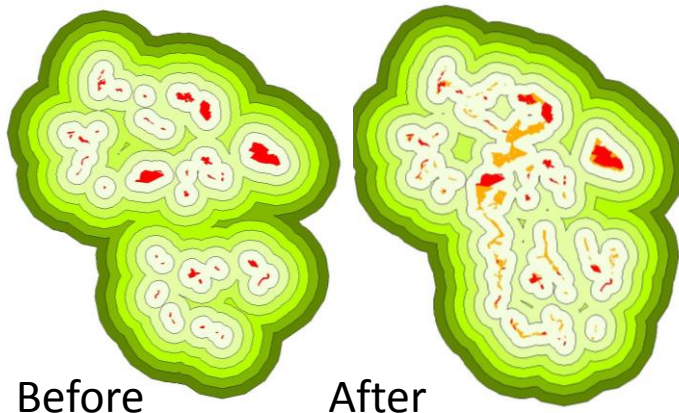


### Reasons for success and lessons for upscaling



Maximise and concentrate the actions  
(5 to 10.000 ha)

- Strongest networks of target species populations (sources for colonisation)
- Optimize management / monitoring (concentration of human and technical resources)
- Facilitate ecotourism infrastructure (hiking, nature observation, ... keeping quiet areas for nature)
- Allow to develop teams of skilled managers and local empowerment



Before

After

Sharing experience and knowledge  
between projects



**Thank you for your attention**

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