

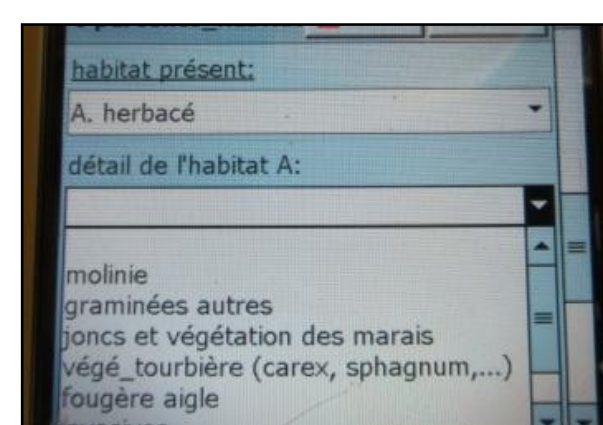
Working for biodiversity on linear infrastructures : need of appropriate and efficient tools such as mapping system and stakeholder involvement

Context

The management of high tension network by Transmission System Operators (TSO) involves a very specific task : **the management of vegetation**.

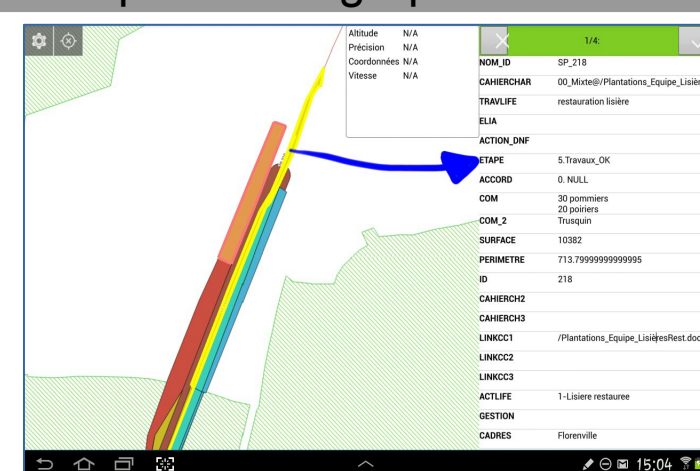
The **LIFE Elia-RTE** project developed a methodology taking biodiversity into account, described by the following steps :

1. Mapping the initial situation on site

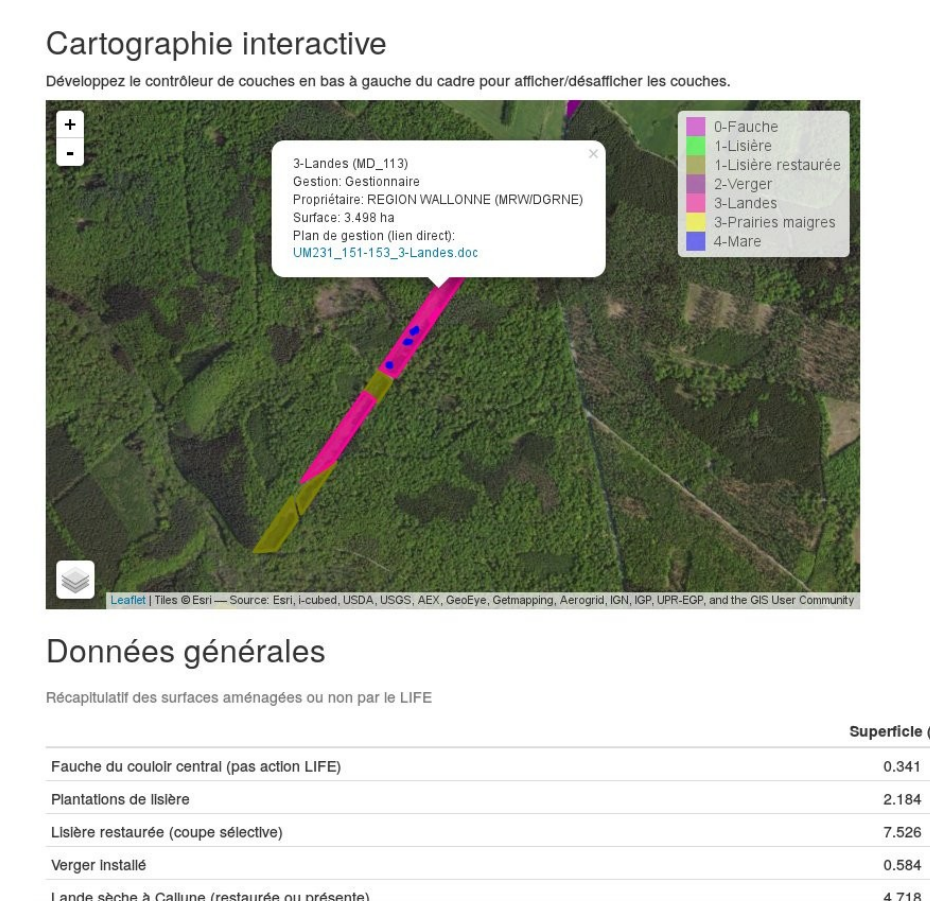


GPS provided with dictionaries

From field towards maps on Geographical Information System (GIS)



Tablet with free open source software (e.g. QGIS and QField)



2. Identifying and meeting the stakeholders

List out land owners and land managers: people, institutions, administrations, subcontractors ... and structure a database.

3. Proposing long-terms solutions that meet the goal of the TSO and the involvement of local stakeholders

These solutions should be clearly agreed by all stakeholders

4. Writing management plans

What is the goal of the management?

What are the targeted habitats and species?

Who will manage and when (frequency)?

Who is supervising?

What are the technical issues?

Who has access to the document and how?

5. Formalize a shared agreement that will be co-signed by TSO and stakeholders

Think about it!

1.

Buy a turnkey software vs. develop a specific one

Internalize vs. externalize

Plasticity of the system for future development and collaborations: proprietary vs. open format

Technologies evolve quickly!

2.

Situations are not all alike: what works here does not necessarily work there

Good personal contacts is often better than official processes

3.

Keep few solutions, the ideal one is not always possible to implement

Opportunities make it working

4.

Convenient is better than complex for non-specialists

Use new technologies and plan how to update the interface: R language, leaflet, Shiny, Markdown to produce interactive maps and automatize the production/update of documents

5.

Public agreement might be more solid than legal one

Media help for a fully recognized agreement and better understanding by broad audience

Example in Belgium – Martelange



October 2011



June 2016



August 2016



- 100-m wide corridor (2 lines)
- dense regrowth of birches and alder buckthorn
- cut the vegetation
- deep gyro-spinning of the soil
- sown a mix of local flowered meadow seeds
- contract with a local farmer
- access to agri-environmental measures

Example in France – Doubs (25)

- a new line had to be built across a forest
- a common agreement was signed by the municipality, a farmer's syndicate, the forest administration (ONF) and RTE to implement grazing (horse and later cows) under the line



LIFE Elia-RTE website
<http://www.life-elia.eu/en/>

