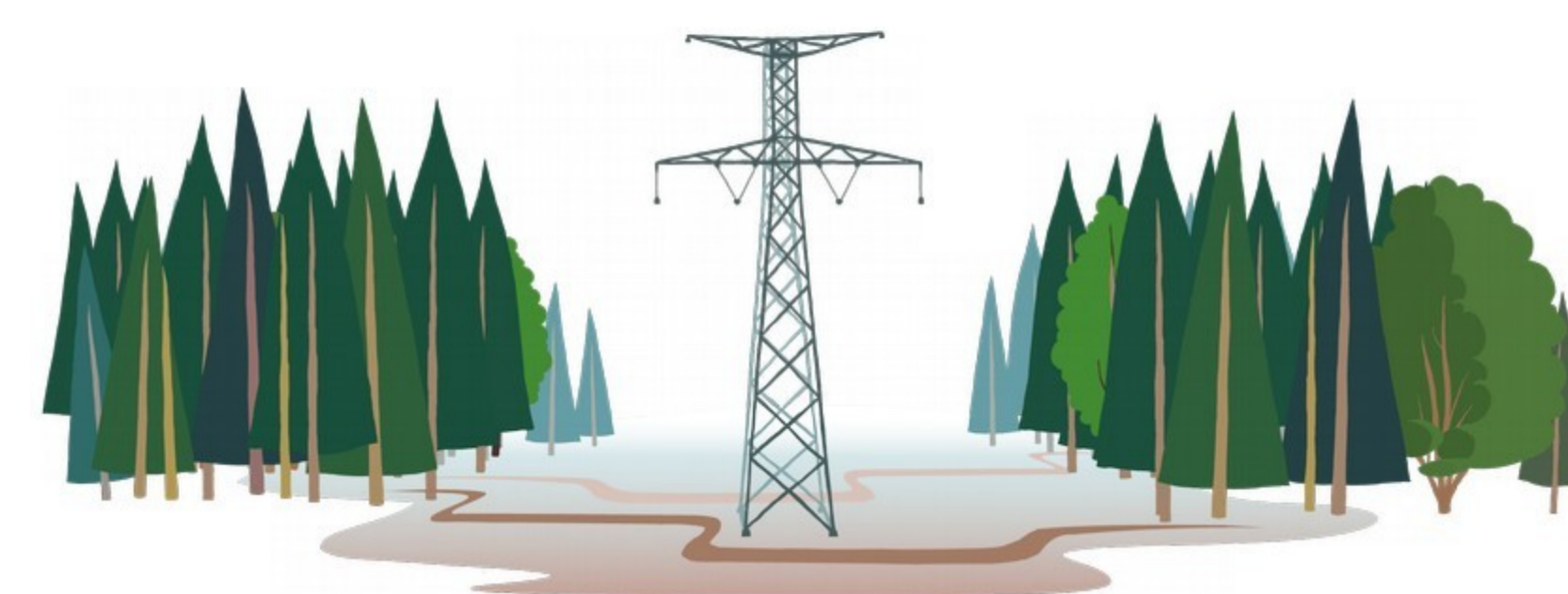


Implementing local actions for biodiversity and extend in Europe : a feedback from the LIFE Elia-RTE project

Context

---> Vegetation management in forest areas is a key issue for **Transmission System Operators (TSO)** running the high tension network.
---> For a long time, vegetation under overhead lines has been cut regularly by rotary-slashing or manually with a chainsaw.



A innovative project for biodiversity

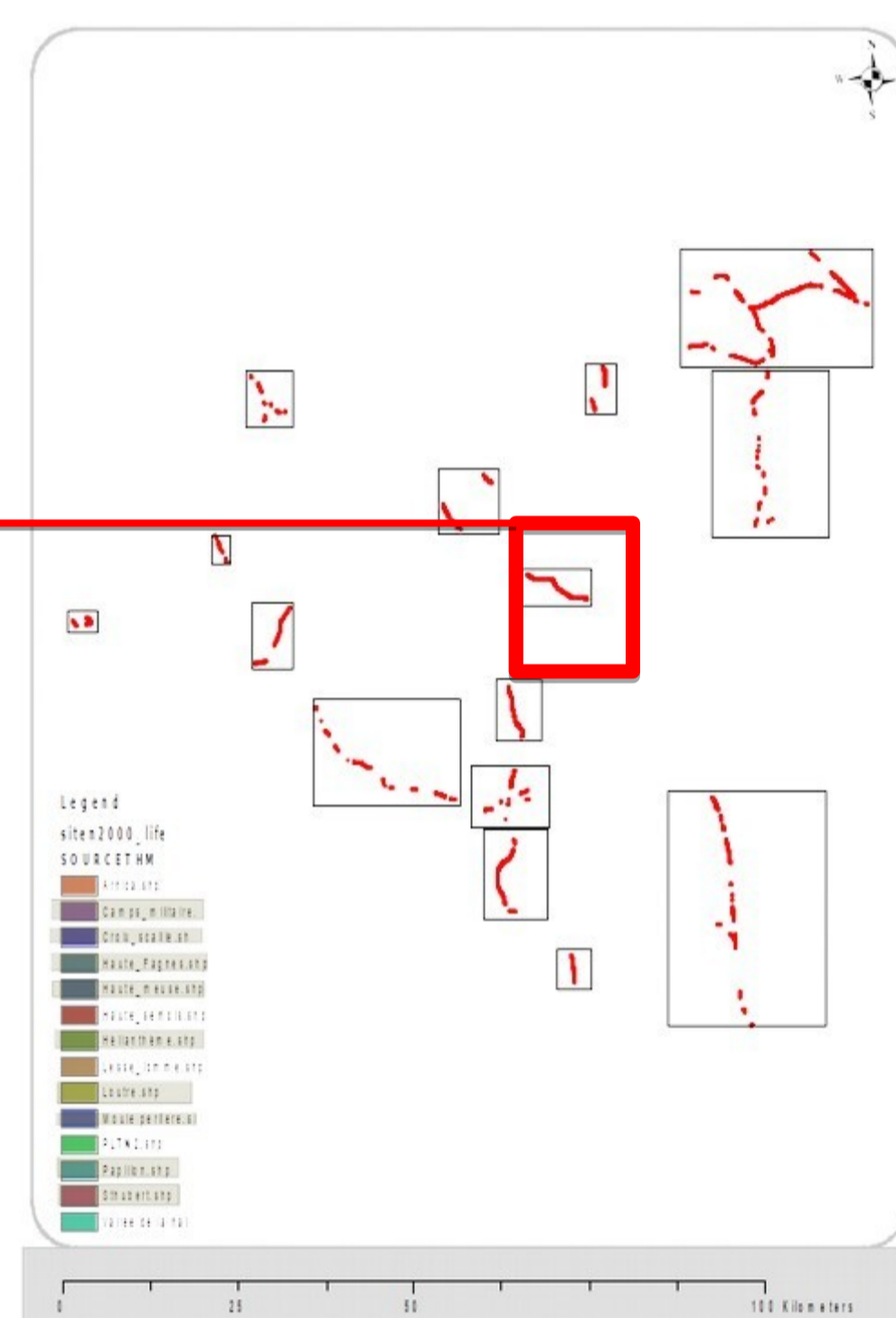
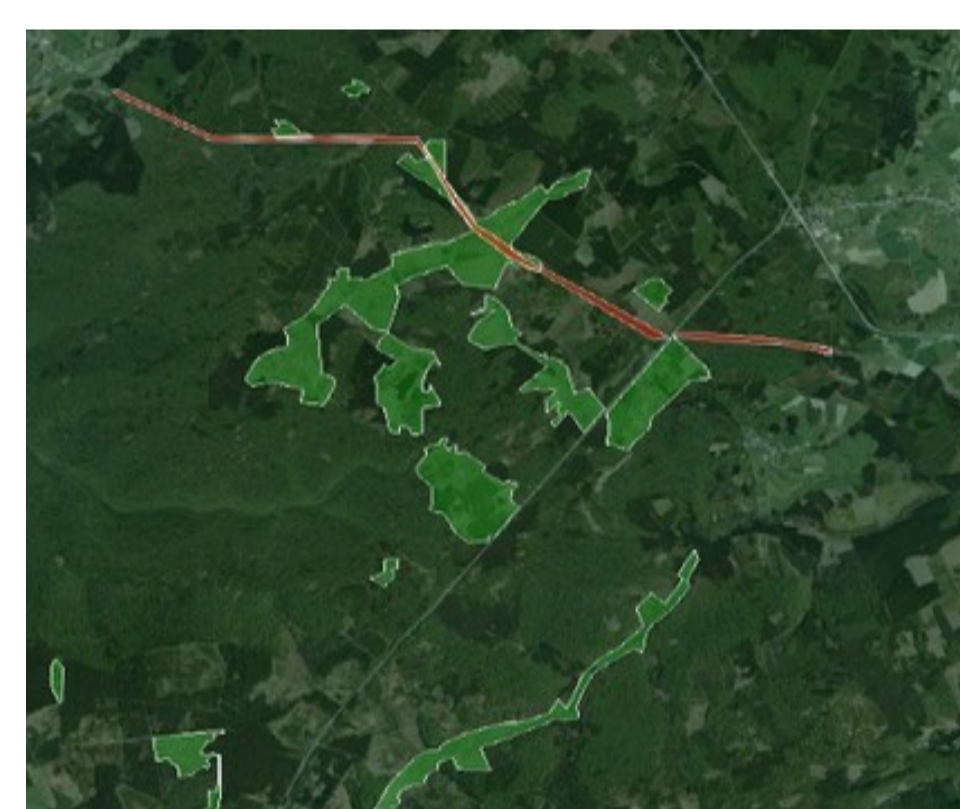
---> The **LIFE Elia-RTE** project implemented alternative methods to ensure electrical safety while enhancing biodiversity

- * 3 M€ funded by EU (LIFE+ program), the Walloon Region, RTE (French TSO) and Elia (Belgian TSO)
- * 6,5 years project
- * 7 actions carried out on site
- * 28 sites in Belgium (300 ha) and 7 sites in France (60 ha)



In colour : previous LIFE projects
Red lines : stretches of the LIFE Elia-RTE

HT line connecting two sites of a previous LIFE project restoring peatlands

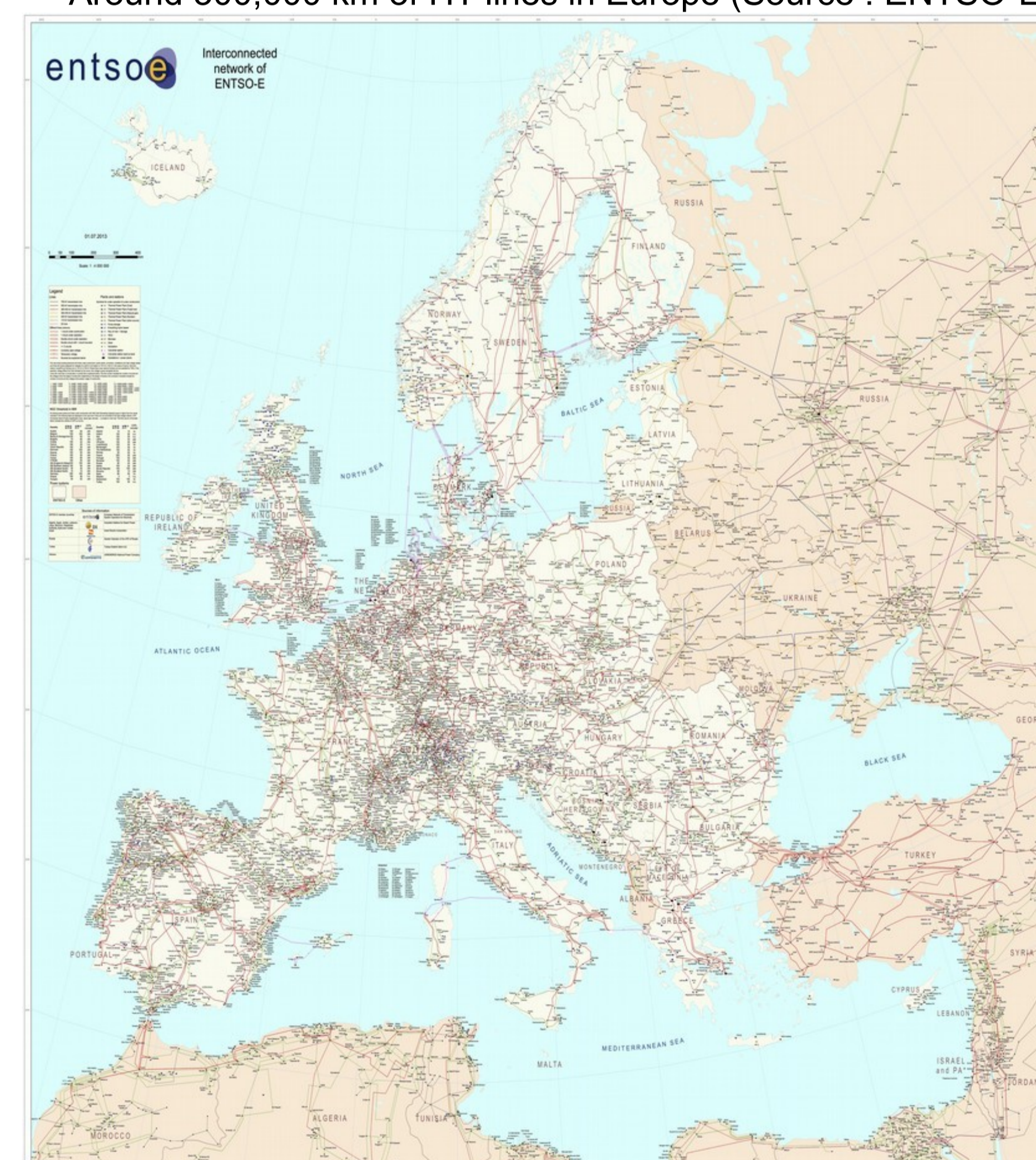


Connectivity : from local to global

---> High-tension lines are transformed into ecological corridors
---> Connectivity is improved for animal and vegetal species at :

- * local level (ponds, structured forest edges...)
- * regional level (natural habitats, nature reserves...)
- * European level (Natura 2000 network)

Around 300,000 km of HT lines in Europe (Source : ENTSO-E)



Working at spreading ideas in Europe

---> Networking actions are part of the LIFE Elia-RTE : sharing experiences
---> Contacts with TSO :
* meetings with TSO in 14 countries
* organization of a visit on site in Belgium (6/2015) with 40 participants from 17 countries
---> Working with TSO European body : ENTSO-E
* presentations of the project to 2 working groups
* contribution to newsletter
* position paper in progress
---> Presenting the project at CIGRE sessions (Paris, Tel Aviv)
---> Writing a vade-mecum compiling vegetation management best practices throughout Europe



<http://www.life-elia.eu/en/>



Towards EU objectives

By creating green corridors for biodiversity, the LIFE Elia-RTE project provides solution to Member States to meet 2 main EU objectives :

- * integrating 20% of **renewable energy** in the grid by 2020 (-> which implies renovation of existing lines and creation of new lines)
- * halting the loss of biodiversity with the **Natura 2000 network** (-> which focus on species and natural habitats)