

SAPOLL — A cross-border action plan for wild pollinators

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Protecting wild pollinators – that is to say wild bees, hoverflies and butterflies – is a major issue in our regions where these insects are essential to agriculture and ecosystems maintenance.

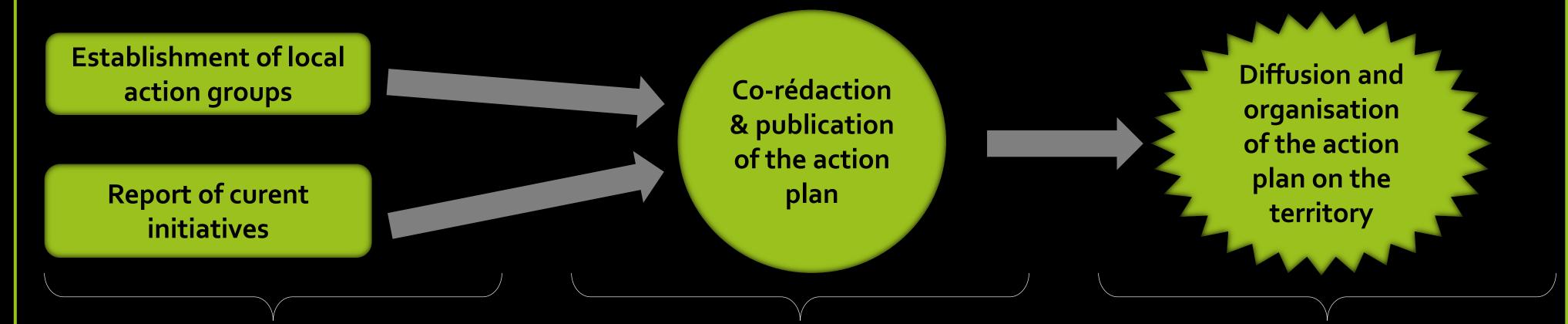
The pollinators from the France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen area are a valuable resource but are also greatly threatened. To protect these pollinators, it is necessary to develop a transborder organisation that would be able to lead coordinated actions and enhance collaboration between regions. Indeed, isolated actions from different sides of the border would have low chances to lead to the sustainable management of the pollination resource.

A cross-border action plan for wild pollinators

Where? The SAPOLL action plan concerns Wallonia, Flanders and north of France (fig. 1) and will be adapted to the local context of each region.

Who? This project gathers 8 partners that are universities, associations and public services (fig. 1). The action plan will however be made together with local people (citizens, stakeholders, business managers and managers of natural areas).

What? This plan will encourage the development of actions for pollinators conservation and spread adapted scientific and didactic information.



A pilot project: In order to respond to the needs of politicians and managers of natural areas, a pilot project is established by the Département du Pas-de-Calais. The aim is to set up favourable measures for pollinators on roadsides whilst assessing financial and technical constraints (fig. 2,3,4).

2017-2018

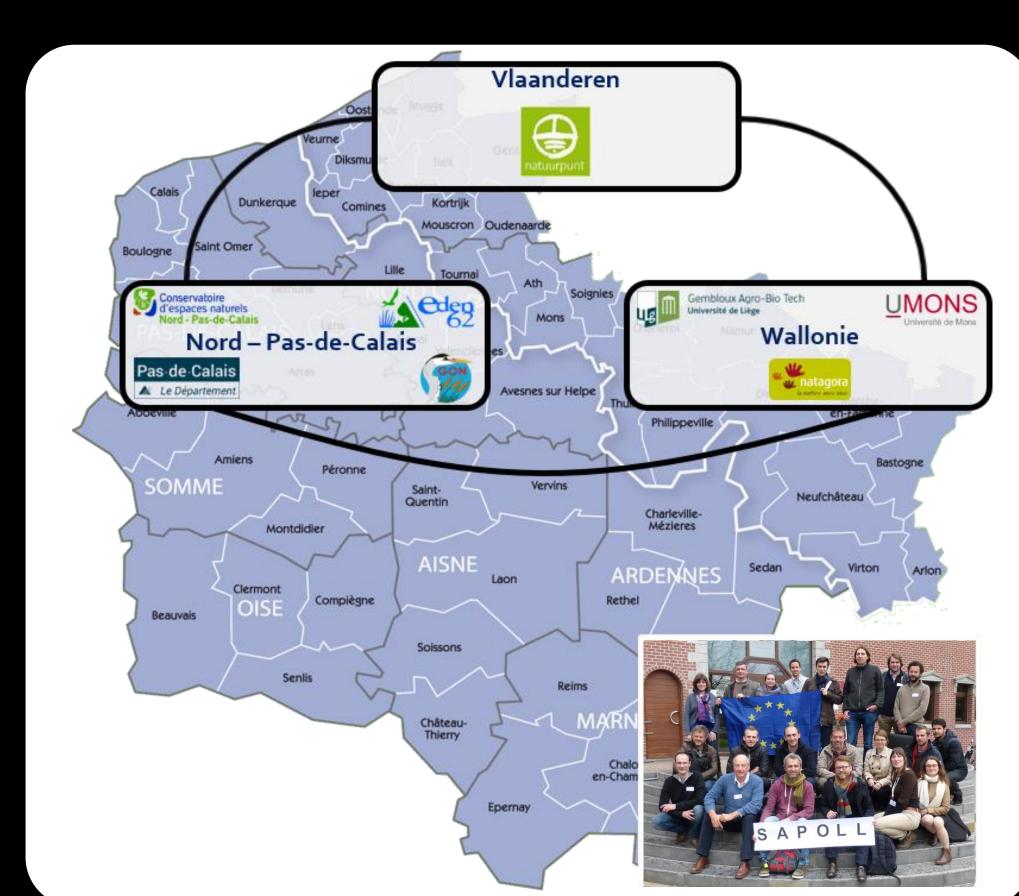




Fig.3 The implantation of a meadow on the roadsides

near Arras (59, France).





2016-2017







Fig.4 The SAPOLL project focuses on 3 main groups of pollinators that are the wild bees (A: the bumblebee Bombus pascuorum; B: the solitary bee Colletes daviesanus), the hoverflies (C: the mimetic fly Volucella bombylans) and the butterflies (D: the "map" butterfly Araschnia levana).

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The SAPOLL project also organises additional actions which will facilitate the sharing of skills and the homogenisation of knowledge. Indeed, scientific knowledge, expertise in awareness raising or naturalist skills are very heterogeneous on the cross-border territory.

Communication and awareness raising actions

Field excursions and guided tours in natural



Fig.5 A natural reserve with orchids and othe flowering plants. Natural reserves can be very good spots to observe wild pollinators.





Promotion of citizen sciences and diffusion of management tips



Fig.6 A male of Anthophora plumipes on someones' finger. Participating to citizen sciences is a good way to get to know pollinators.

Installation of insect hostels & distribution of kits in schools



plants nearby

Reconnection of naturalist networks

The naturalist network in the cross-border area will be interconnected and homogenised through the animation of working groups and training courses.



during an excursion organized by the walloon pollinator working group. Working groups are a good opportunity for citizens to learn entomology.

Fig.9 Volunteers observe a wild bee captured Fig.10 A naturalist giving courses on wild bees identification. The sharing of entomological knowledge is enssential to guaranty the conservation of wild pollinators

Thanks to this naturalist community, the monitoring of pollinators will be improved and will continue for a long time!

Monitoring of pollinators

This action is essential to evaluate the pollinators healthy on the cross-border territory and distinguish high-priority areas for conservation.



Fig.11 An example of a database with apoids data. It is essential to work with a common database to study pollinators of the cross-border area. The transborder database that we will implement will support scientific investigations related to the SAPOLL project.

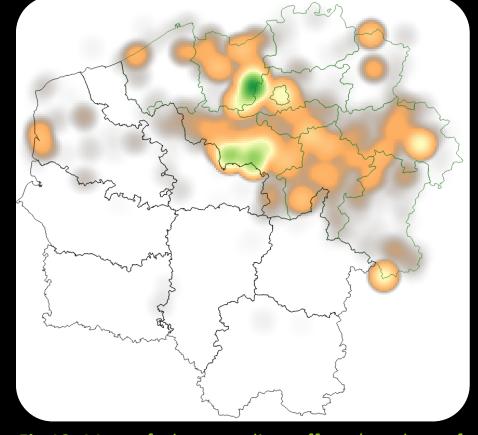


Fig.12 Map of the sampling effort (number of recoded data since 2000) for bumblebees in the cross-border area. We need to identify undersampled areas in the SAPOLL region in order to organize pollinators sampling and to improve our knowledge at local scale.

The monitoring carried out in the SAPOLL project will allow us to get enough information to point out the pollinators hotspots in the region and to prioritize conservation actions.

SAPOLL













