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Belgium for Biodiversity

Conservation translocations for two amphibian species in Flanders

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AGENTSCHAP NATUUR & BOS
Vlaanderen is natuur

Life

kick-off event - LIFE Belgium for Biodiversity

11/10/2023 – Brussels, Belgium

SAPs for amphibians in Flanders

- Natura 2000 species
  - → European tree frog *Hyla arborea*
  - → Moor frog *Rana arvalis*
  - → Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*
  - → Common spadefoot toad *Pelobates fuscus*
  - → Pool frog *Pelophylax lessonae*
  - → Natterjack toad *Epidalea calamita*
  - → Common midwife toad *Alytes obstetricans*

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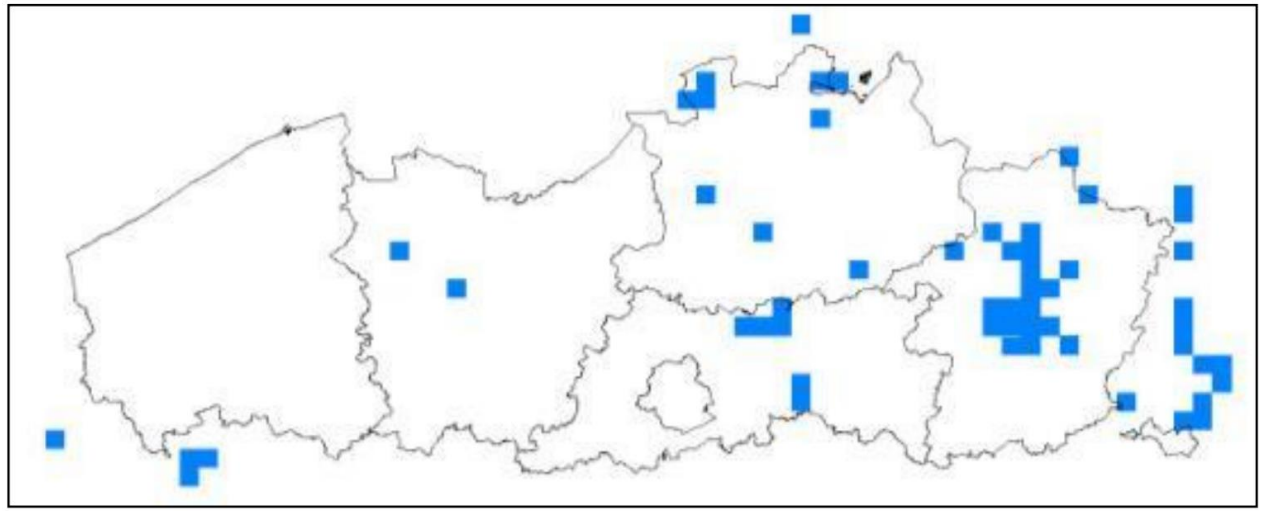
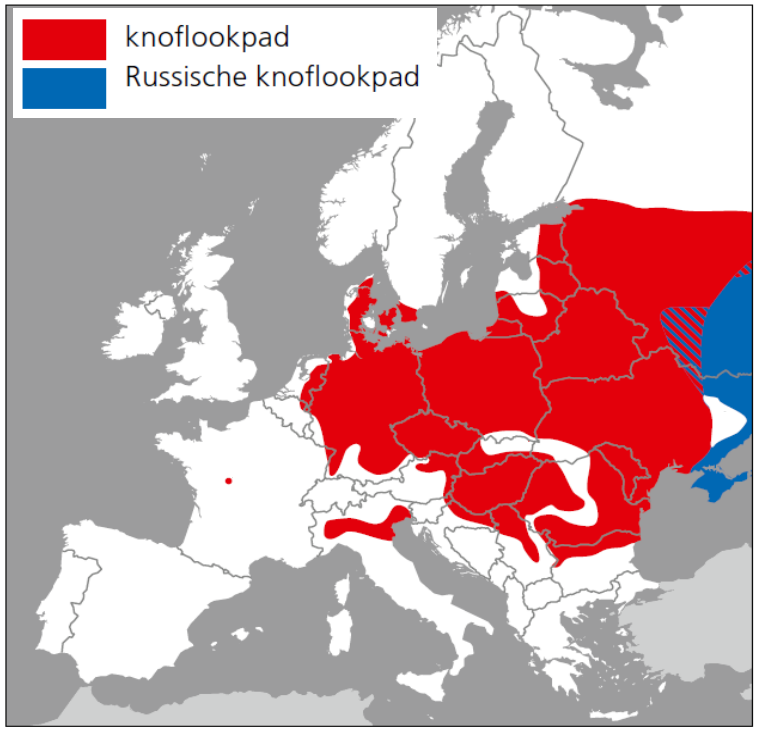
Common spadefoot toad *Pelobates fuscus*

- Current vs historical range





Common spadefoot toad *Pelobates fuscus*

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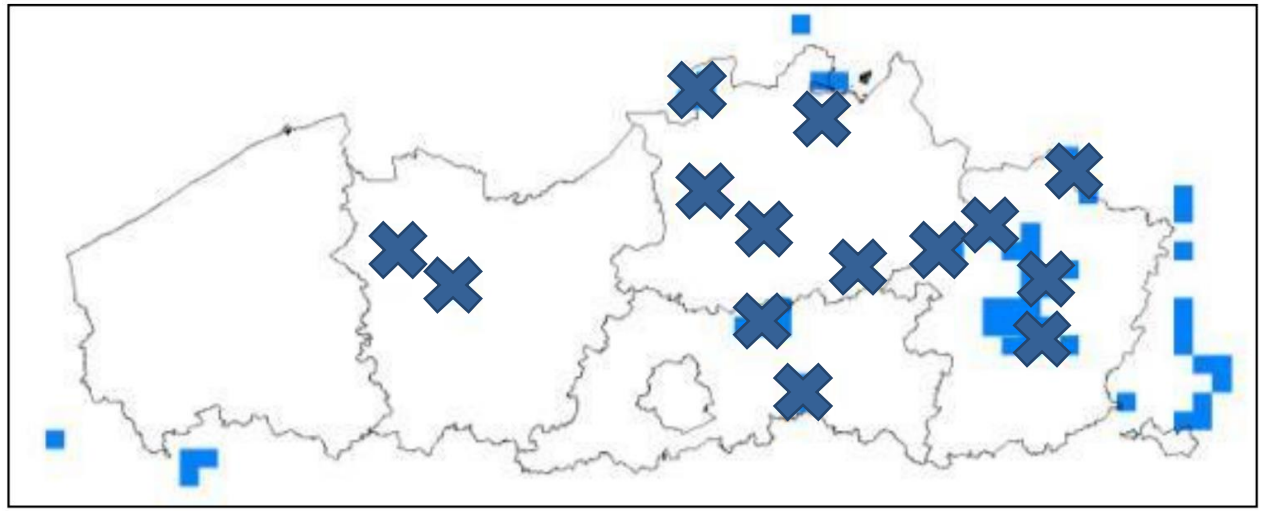

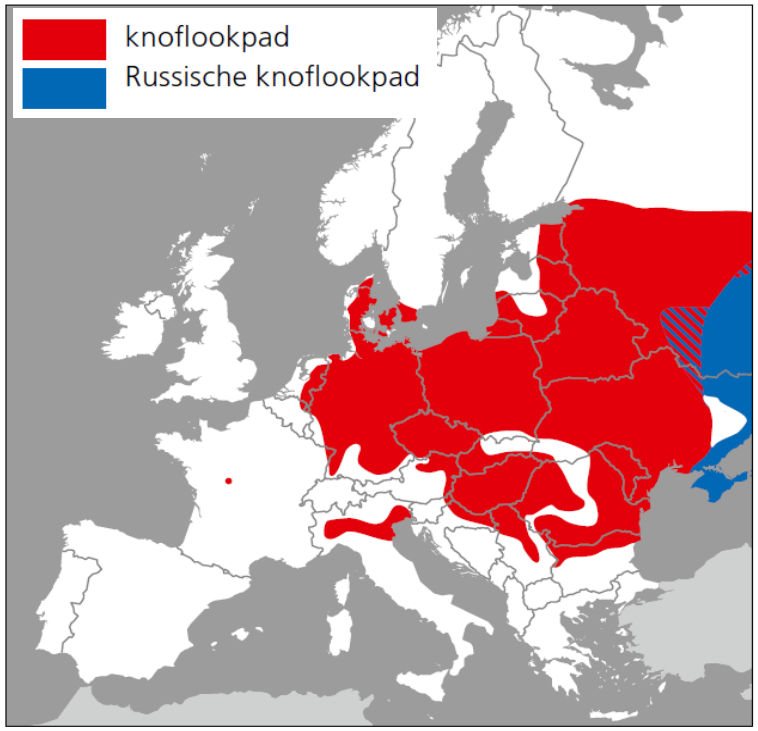

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Common spadefoot toad *Pelobates fuscus*

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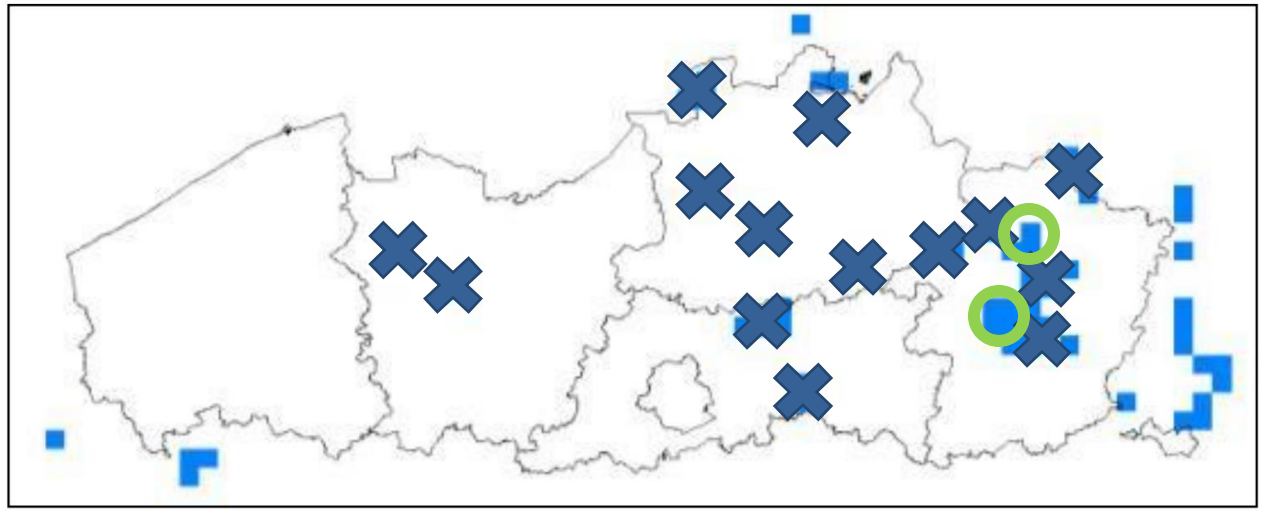

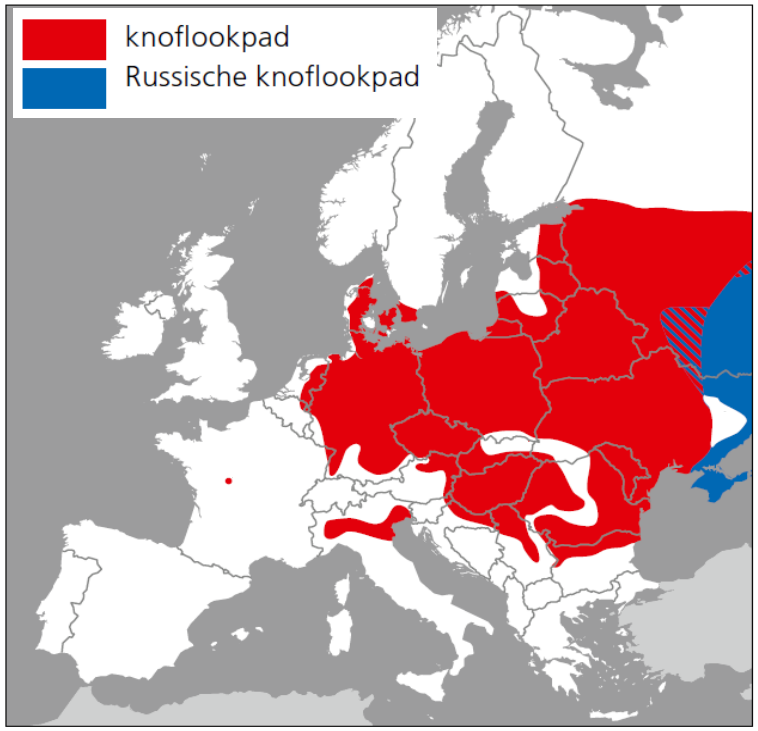

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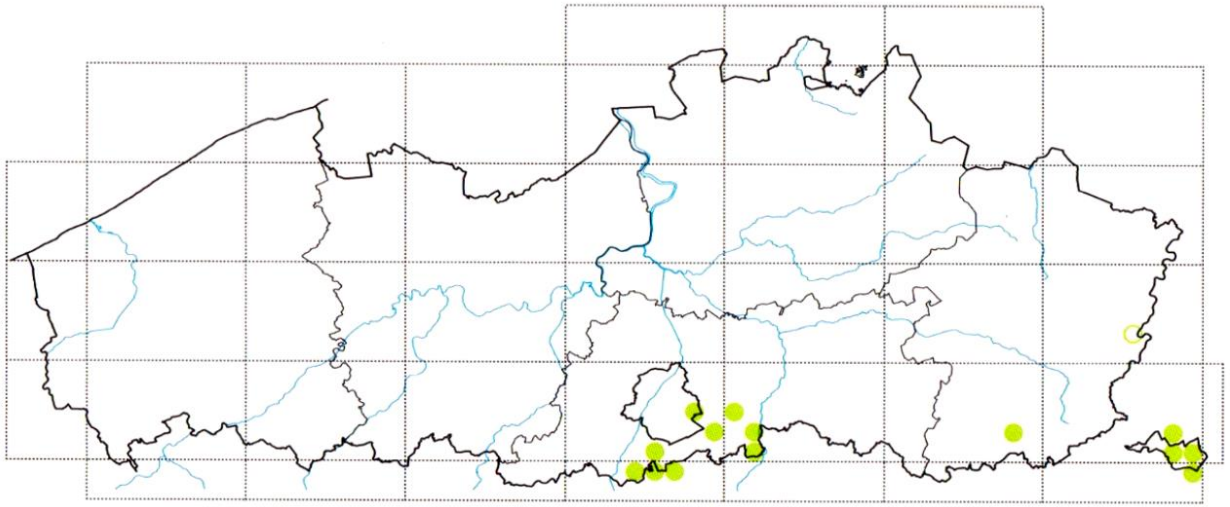
Common midwife toad *Alytes obstetricans*

- Current vs historical range



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Common midwife toad *Alytes obstetricans*

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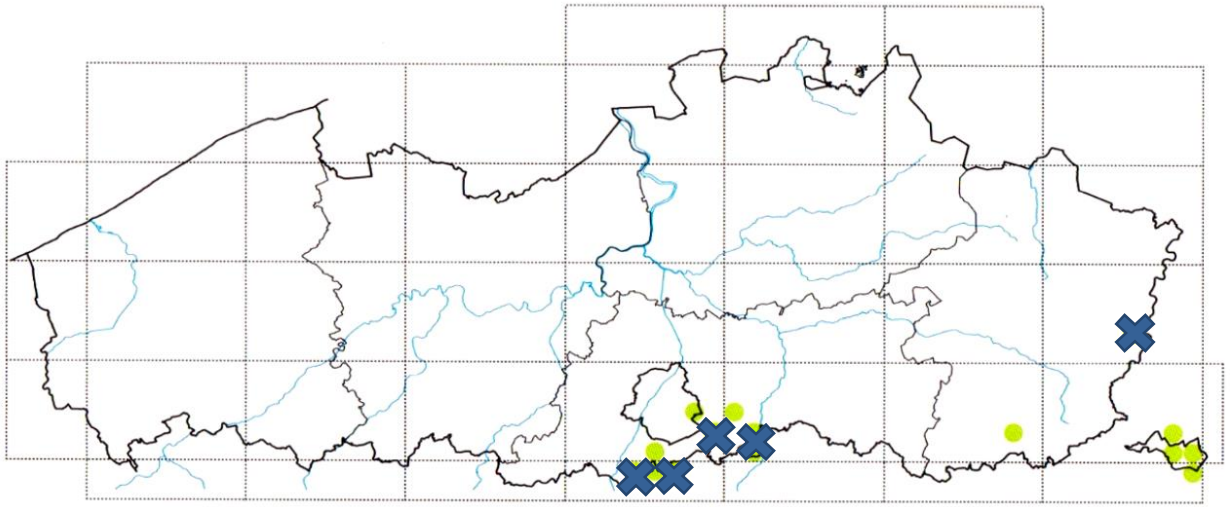

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Common midwife toad *Alytes obstetricans*

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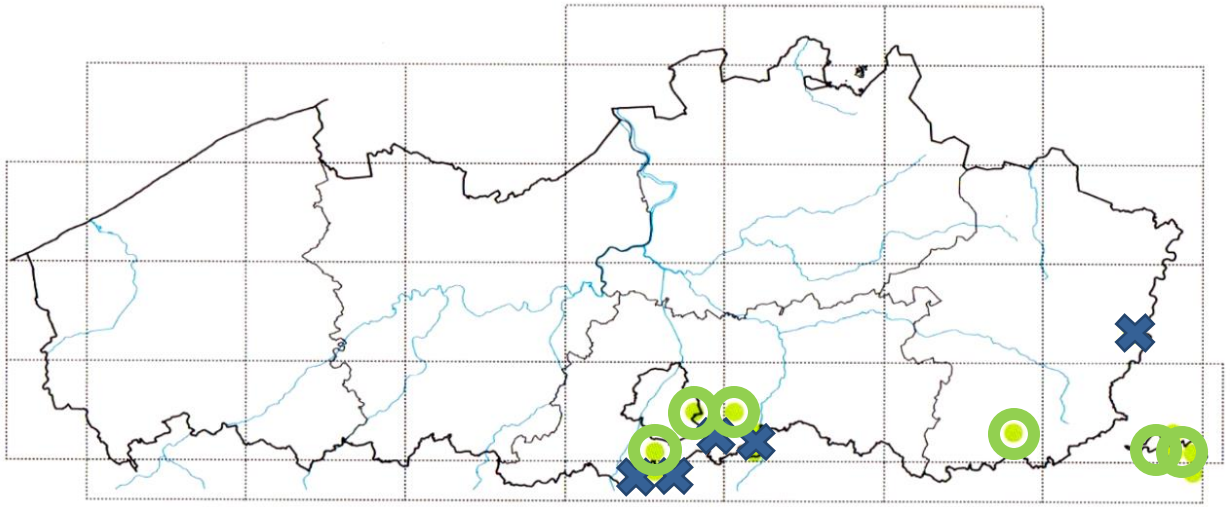

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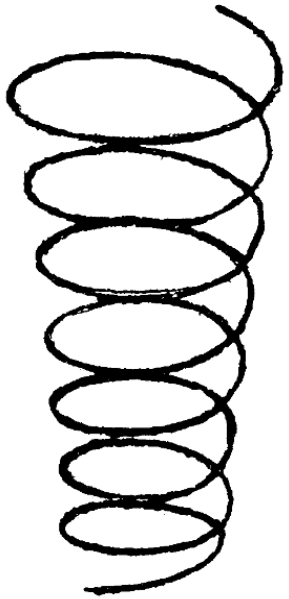
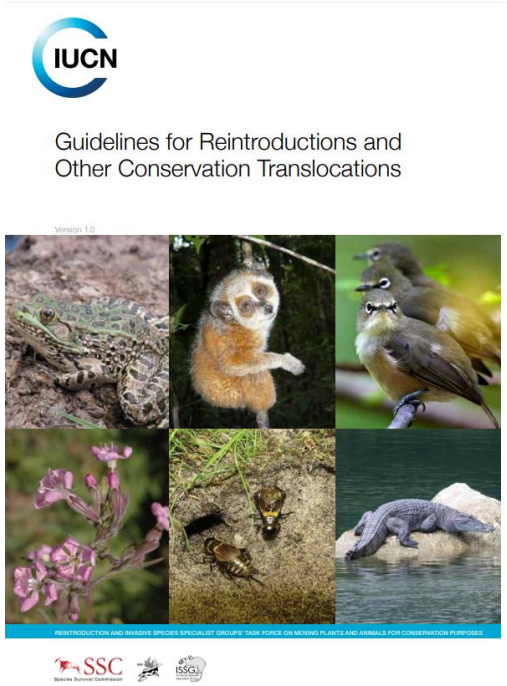
Common spadefoot toad and common midwife toad in Flanders

- → Small, disjunct and reduced distribution
- → Downward population trend
- → No colonisation
- → Low genetic diversity



Extinction vortex



Restocking

Reintroduction

Favourable conservation status

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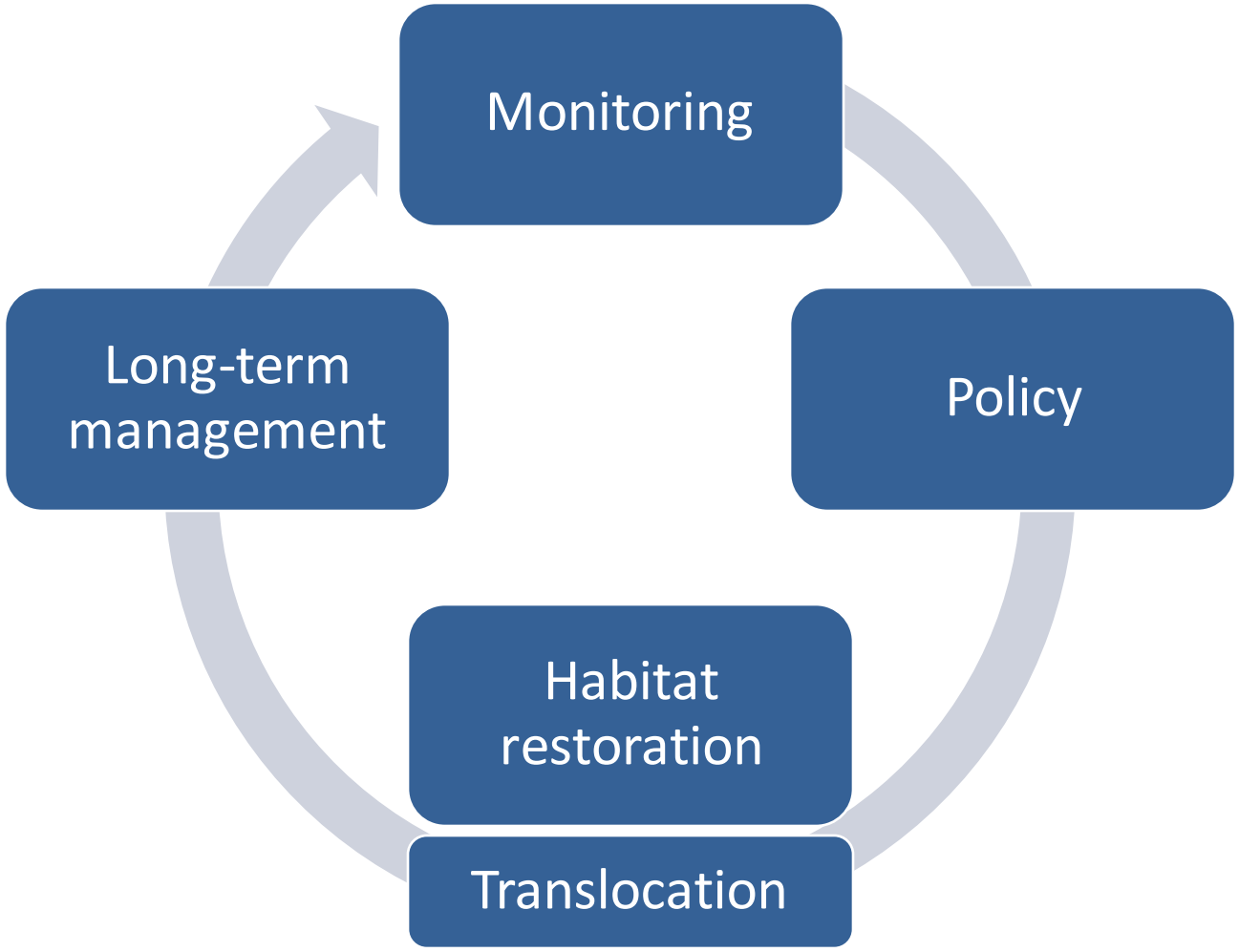
Translocations are not a standalone solution



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Captive breeding

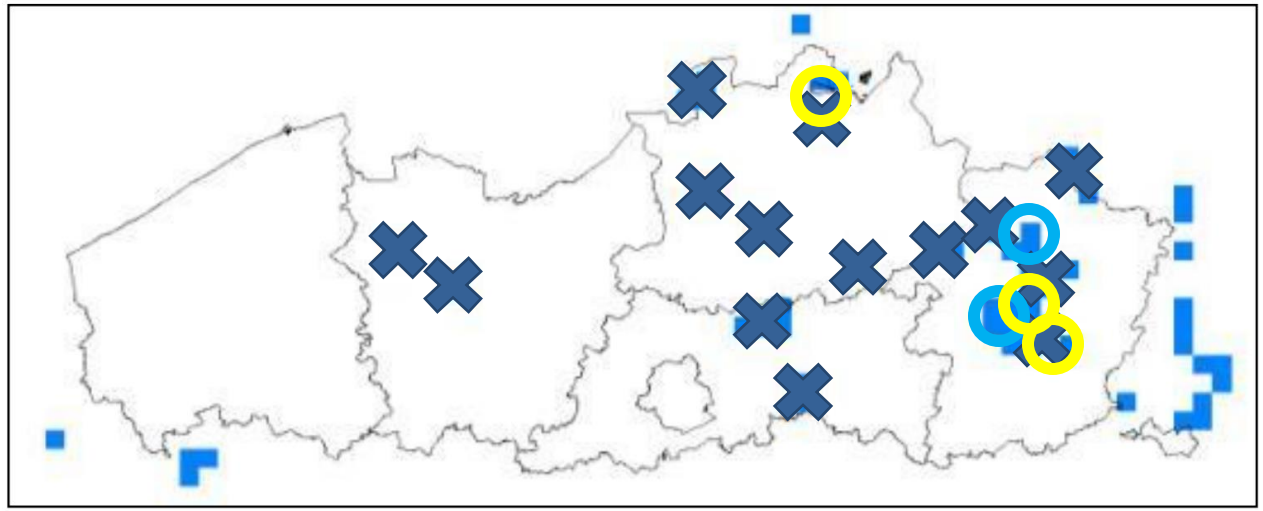
- Origin
  - Flanders, Wallonia and Netherlands
- Yearly output
  - ± 8000 larvae and juveniles

Headstarting

- Origin
  - Flanders, Netherlands, Germany (?)
- Yearly output
  - Variable → Captive breeding

Common spadefoot toad *Pelobates fuscus*

- Conservation translocations



Start project: 2 populations

Restocking: 2 populations

Reintroduction: 3 populations

Future: Habitat suitability analyses for subsequent reintroductions

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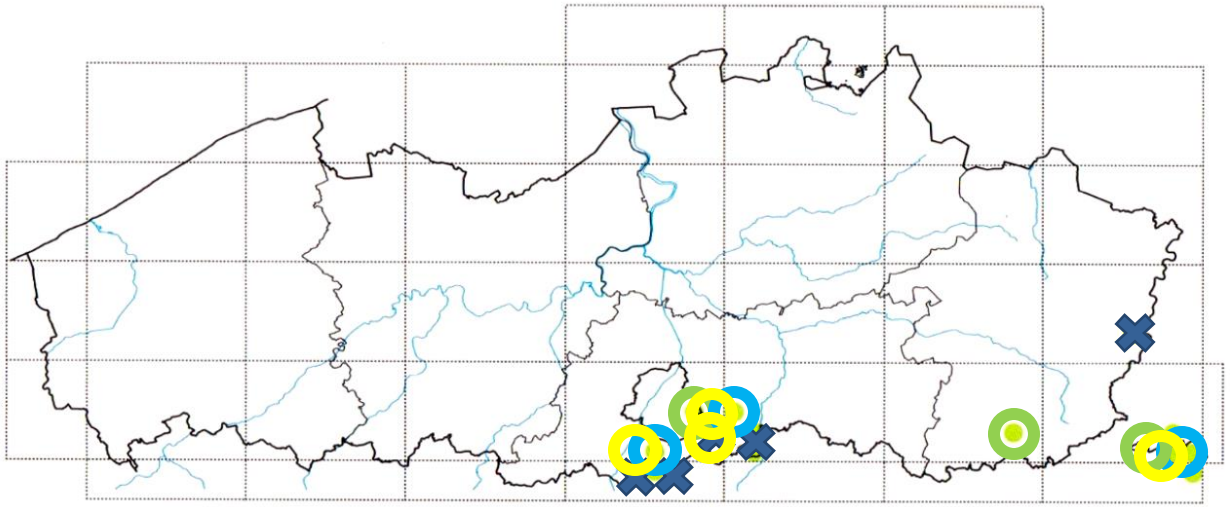
Common midwife toad *Alytes obstetricans*

- Conservation translocations



Start project: ± 6 populations

Restocking: 4 populations

Reintroduction: 4 populations

Future: Habitat suitability analyses for subsequent reintroductions

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Interim results and future

Interim results since 2020

- Adult life stages present in all reintroduced populations of both species
  → Reproduction confirmed in multiple locations
- Outreach

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Future

- Continuation of translocations
  → Recently founded populations
  → New populations

- Monitoring

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