



Flanders
State of the Art

Best Practice for Managing Muskrat, a Semi-Aquatic Invasive Rodent, in Flanders

Emma Cartuyvels, Tim Adriaens, Kristof Baert, Frank Huysentruyt

RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NATURE AND FOREST

1905 Introduction in Europe in Prague

1928 Introduction in



1930 Permit of farms is revoked

1938 Royal Decree

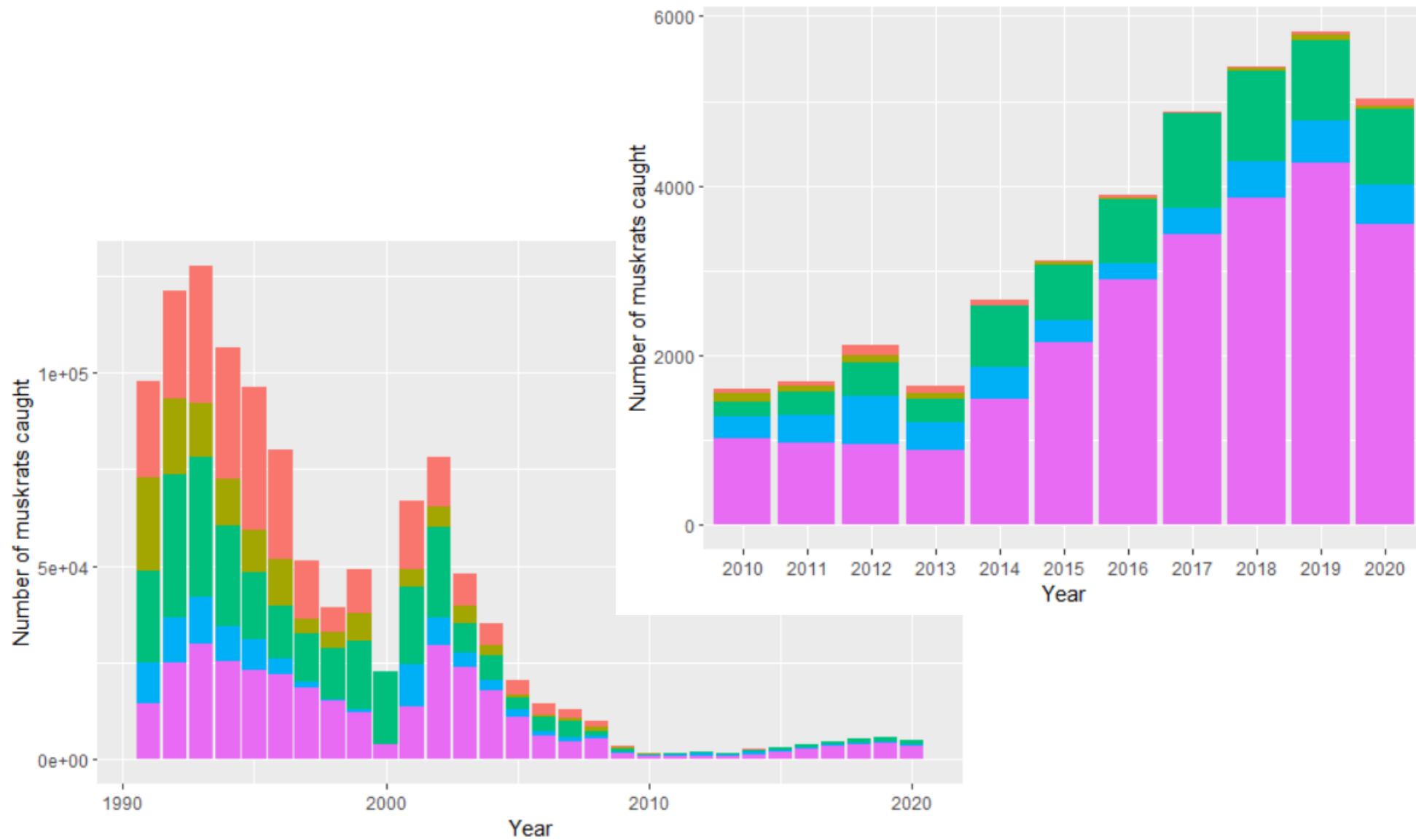
1952 Start organized
management

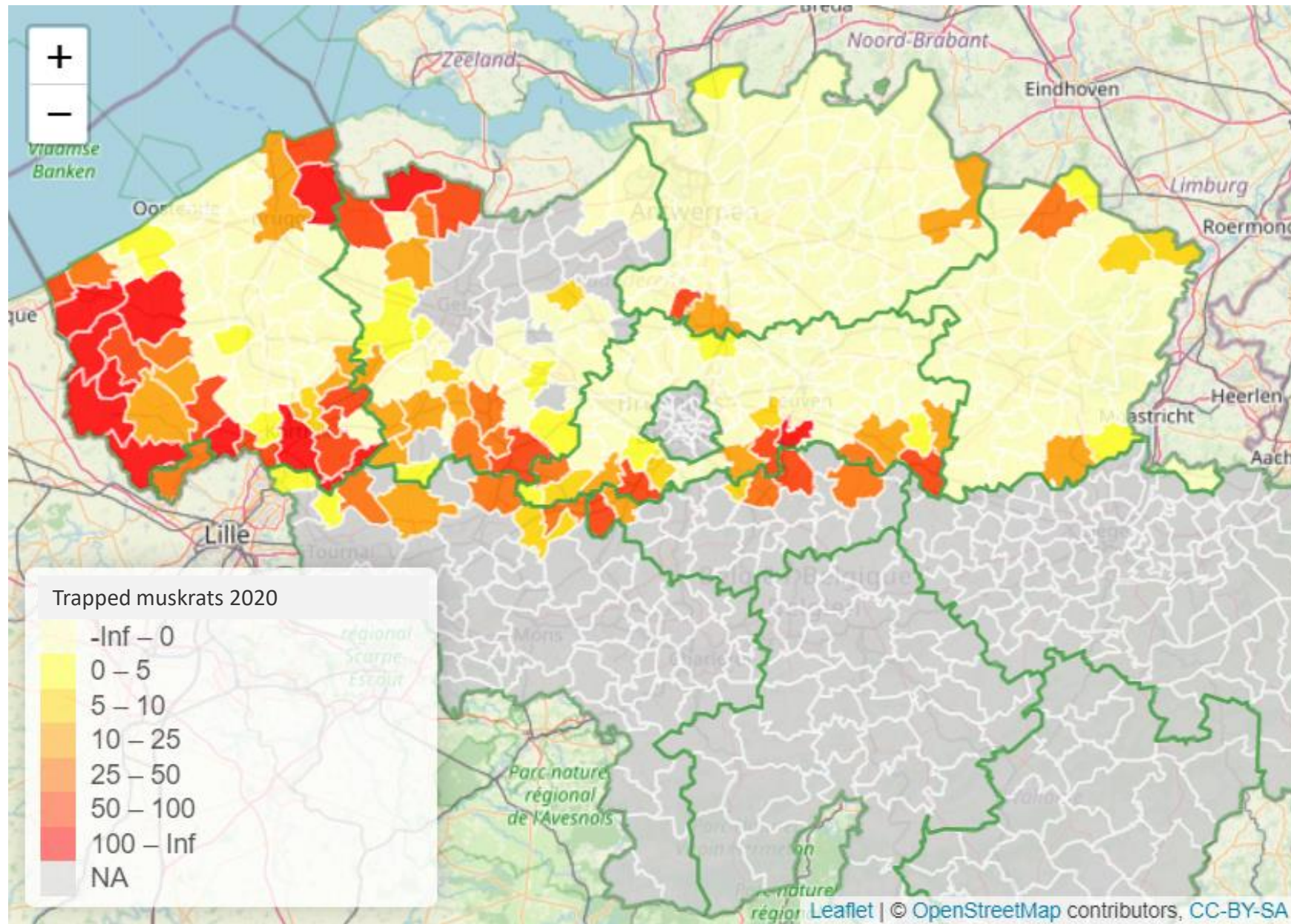


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Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

- ▶ European Union <> Canada <> Rusland (<> United States)
- ▶ Certified traps for each species
- ▶ Muskrat
 - Killing traps: irreversible unconsciousness under 180s (3min)
 - Above water Conibear, under water any type of clamp
 - All other traps only permitted as exceptions, i.e. under specifically defined conditions
- ▶ Bycatch to be prevented as much as possible

Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on IAS

“The list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern”



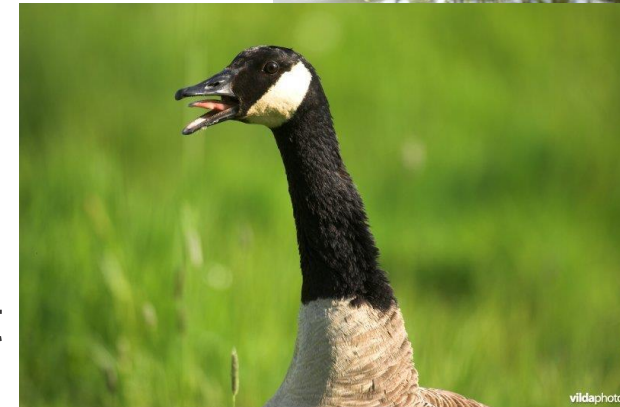
Prevention

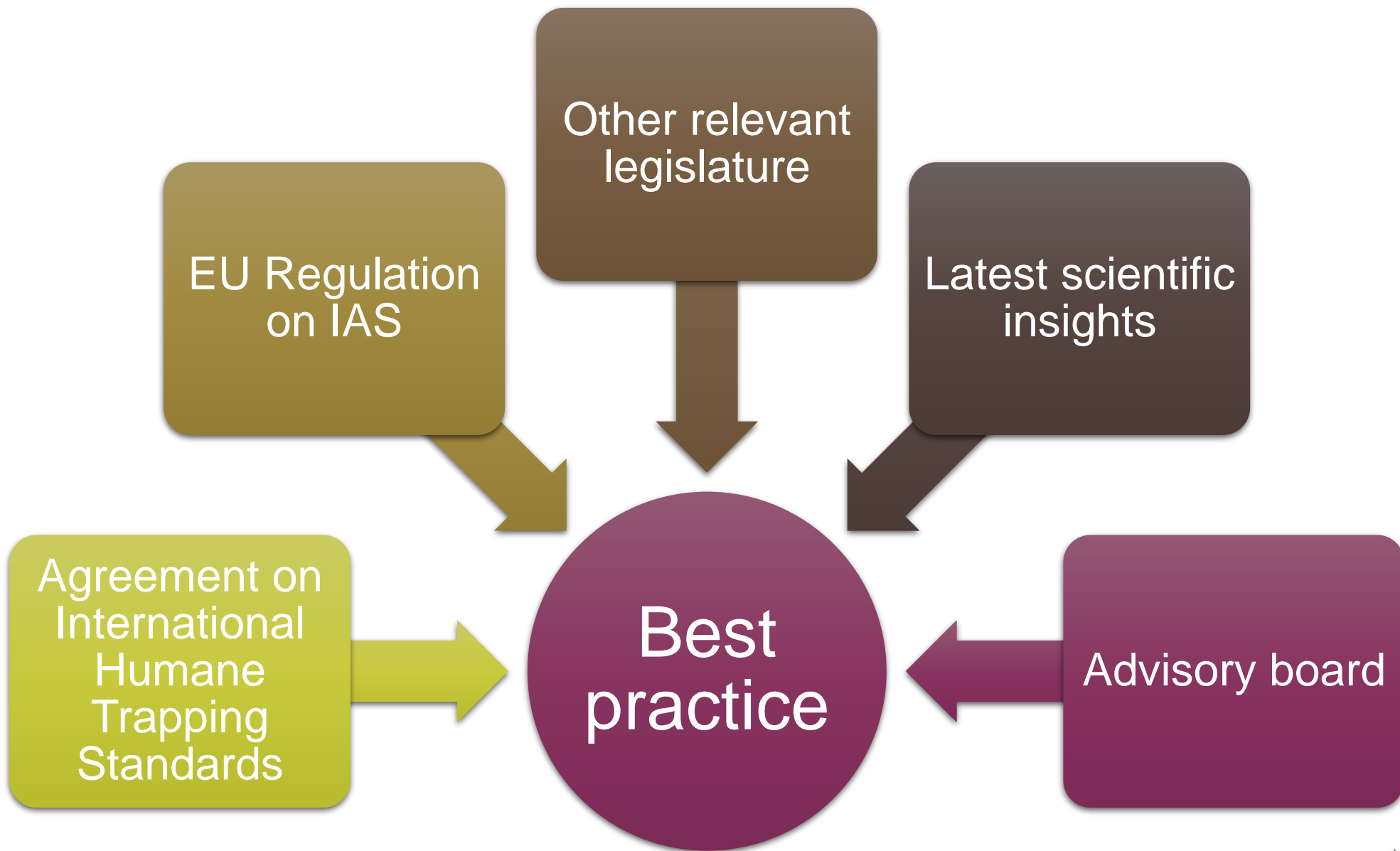


Rapid detection
and eradication



Management





Major principles: active management



Major principles: active management vs. passive management

- ▶ Passive control to protect the borders (i.e. traps laid out at fixed distances)
- ▶ From february 1st until april 15th (spring migration)
- ▶ Maximum 1km from border Wallonia, the Netherlands or France
- ▶ Where an important influx of muskrats is observed



Specifics per trap

Trap type	When	Minimum follow-up	Period
Conibear	Standard	Each week	3 weeks
Ground trap	Under water: standard	Each week	3 weeks
	Above water: exceptionally	Each week	3 weeks
Bait trap	Exceptionally + during spring migration	Each week	3 weeks
Funnel trap	Exceptionally + during spring migration	Twice a week	2 weeks
Cage trap	Under water: Exceptionally + during spring migration	Twice a week	2 weeks
	As life trap: Exceptionally	Every 24h	3 nights
Artificial burrow	During spring migration	Twice a week	2 weeks

Major principles: checking efficiency

- ▶ All provinces and teams
- ▶ By a separate control team
- ▶ 1 km of waterway
- ▶ The process takes 3 days:
 - 1st day: traps are put in place
 - 2nd day: captured muskrats are removed and traps are put in place again
 - 3rd day: captured muskrats and traps are removed
- ▶ To diminish the muskrat population in time there should not be more animals caught during control than following standard:
 - 3 muskrats (control between 1/1-31/3)
 - 5 muskrats (control between 1/4-30/6)
 - 6 muskrats (control between 1/7-30/9)
 - 5 muskrats (control between 1/10-31/12)

Major principles: registration

▶ Registration

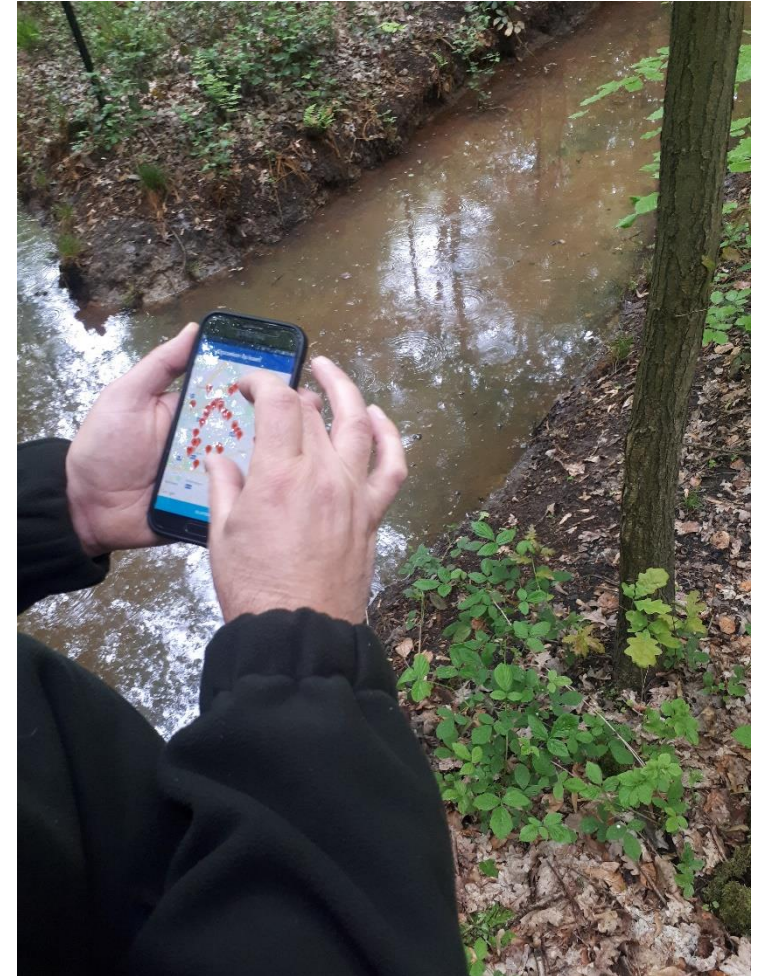
→ Trap type

→ Placement date and duration

→ Location: coordinates in WGS84

→ Follow-up dates and (by-)catches per species

→ Reported monthly



Any questions?



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