

The African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*) in Flanders (and also a bit in Wallonia)

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Vlaanderen
is natuur

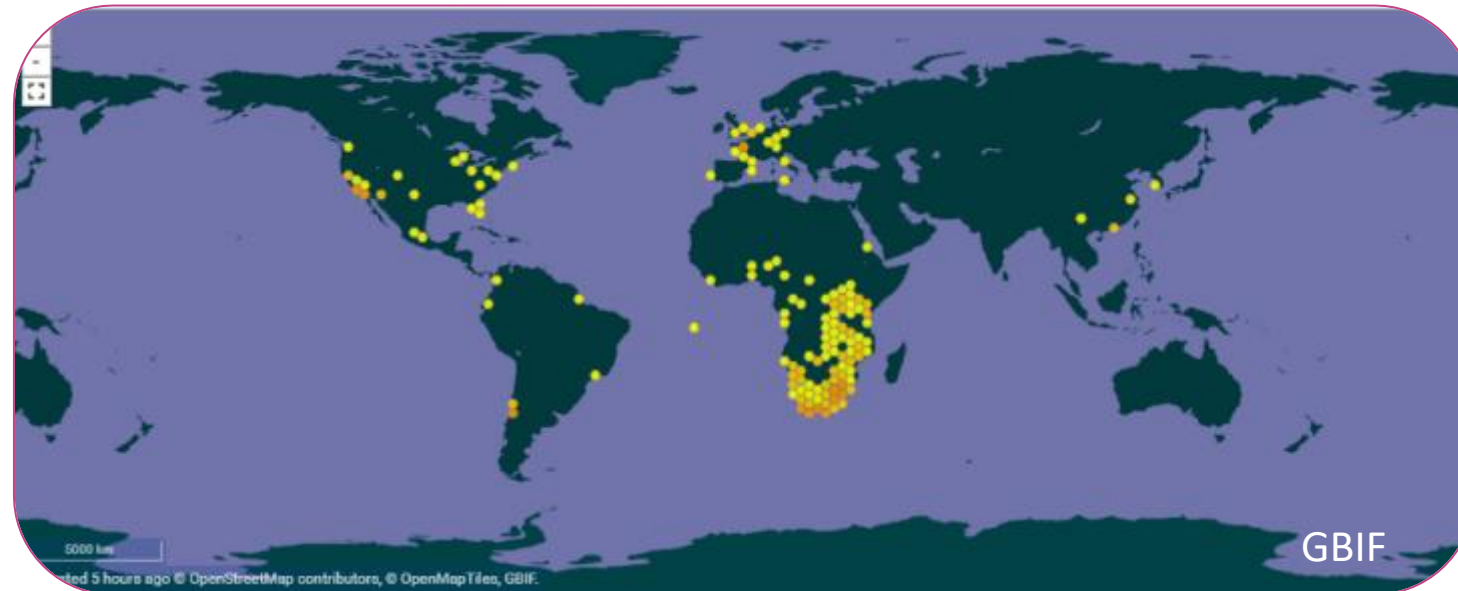


Vlaanderen
is wetenschap



Impacts on biodiversity

- Generalist and opportunistic carnivore
- Competition for space and food resources
- Vector of pathogens (Bd, ranavirus, etc.)
- Potentially toxic to predators
- Increases water turbidity $\Rightarrow$ (a)biotic change



Impacts on biodiversity

List of IAS of European Union concern
→ since 2 August 2024



Rapid Response in 2023 with Quicklime



Vlaanderen
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Vlaanderen
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Adriaens et al. 2023; Everts et al. 2026

- barriers
- drainage
- captures
- and...

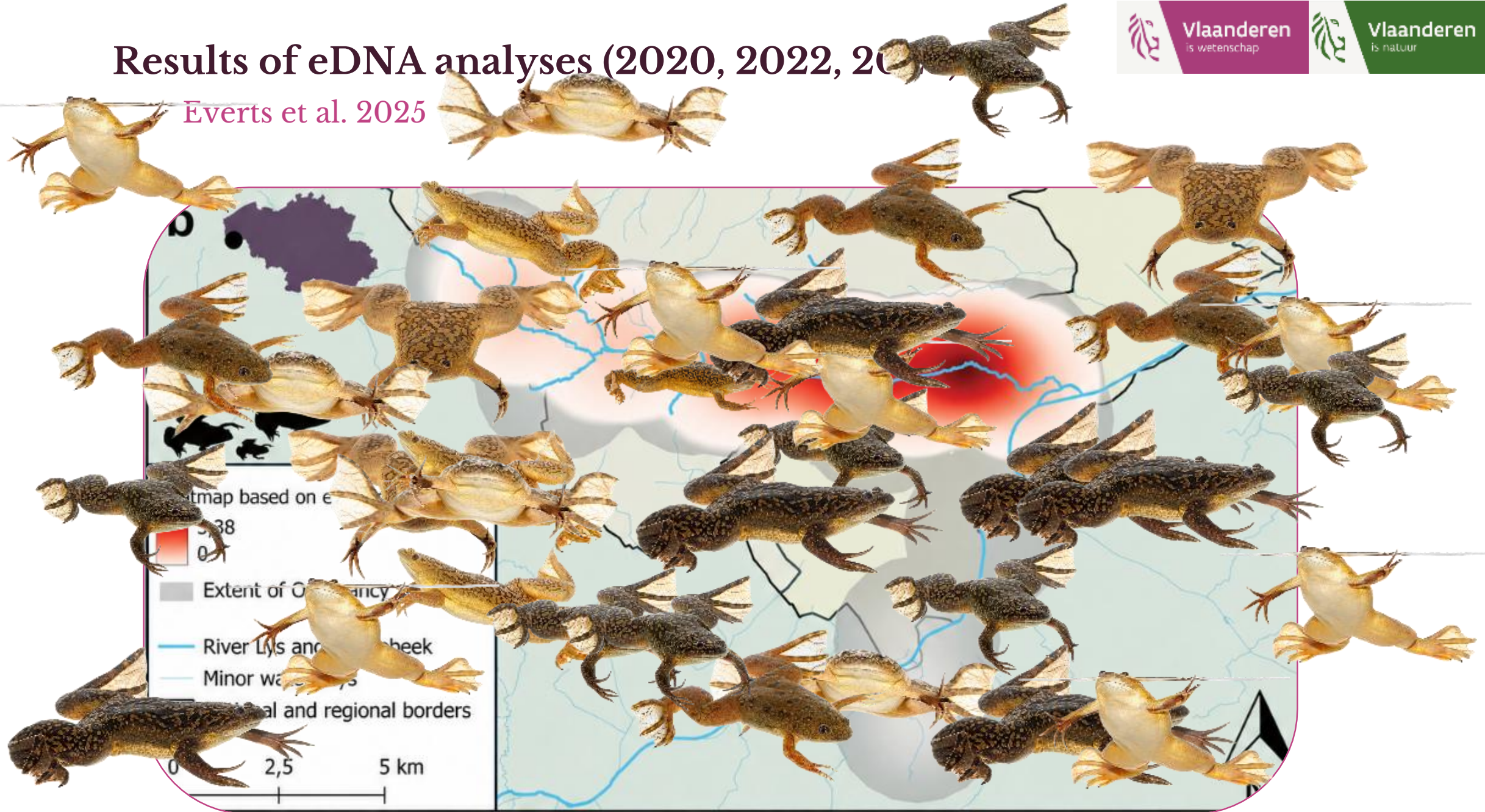


Rapid Response in 2023 with Quicklime



Results of eDNA analyses (2020, 2022, 2023)

Everts et al. 2025



Interreg
France Vlaanderen



IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026: collaboration between Flanders and Wallonia

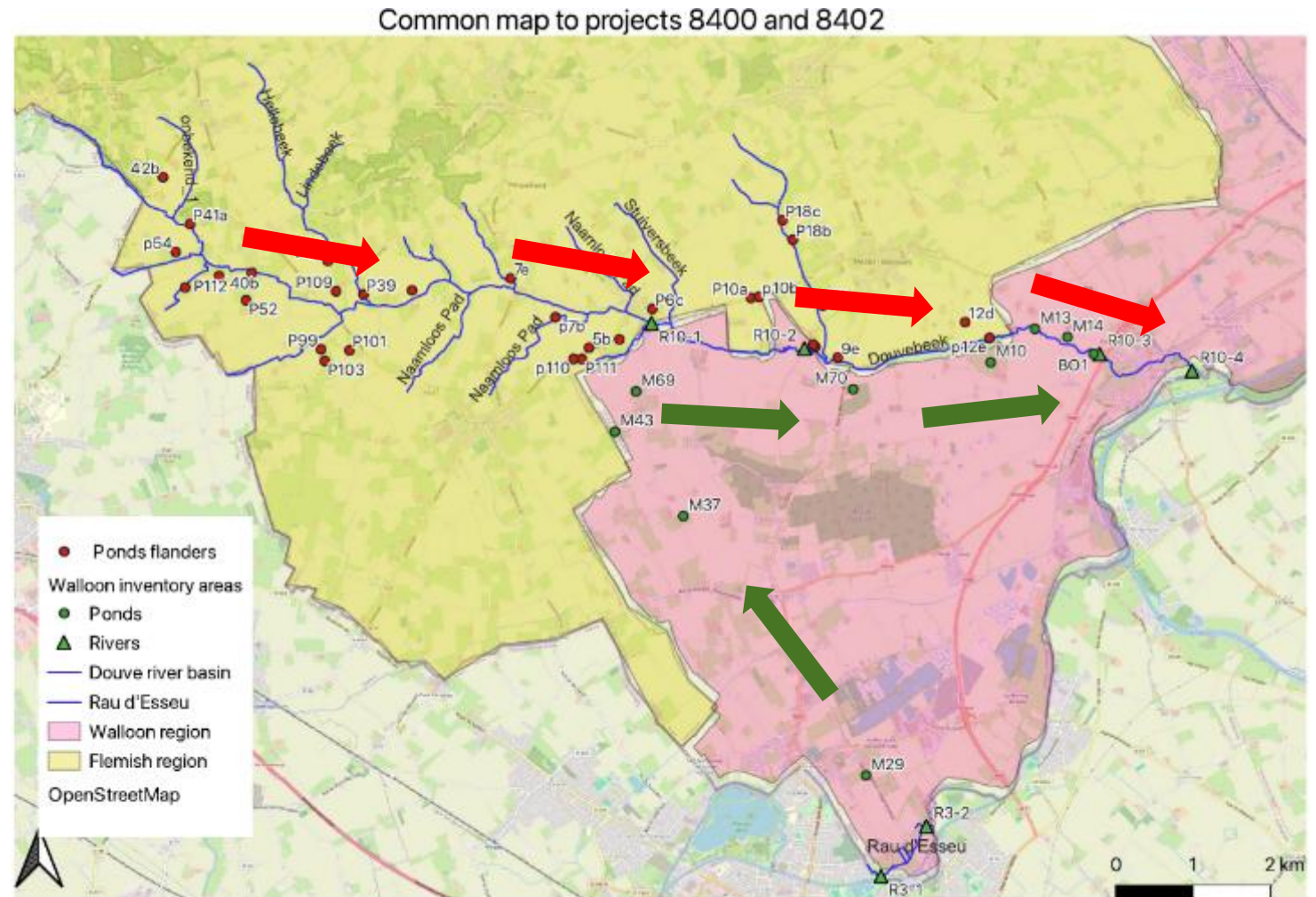


- Financial support:



IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026: ponds

- priority: breeding ponds (to avoid larvae)
- then push away from Ijzer bassin



IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026: ponds



daily intensive trapping with fykes
(until 3 days without *X. laevis*)
+
eDNA sampling before and after
eradication



IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026: ponds

Flanders

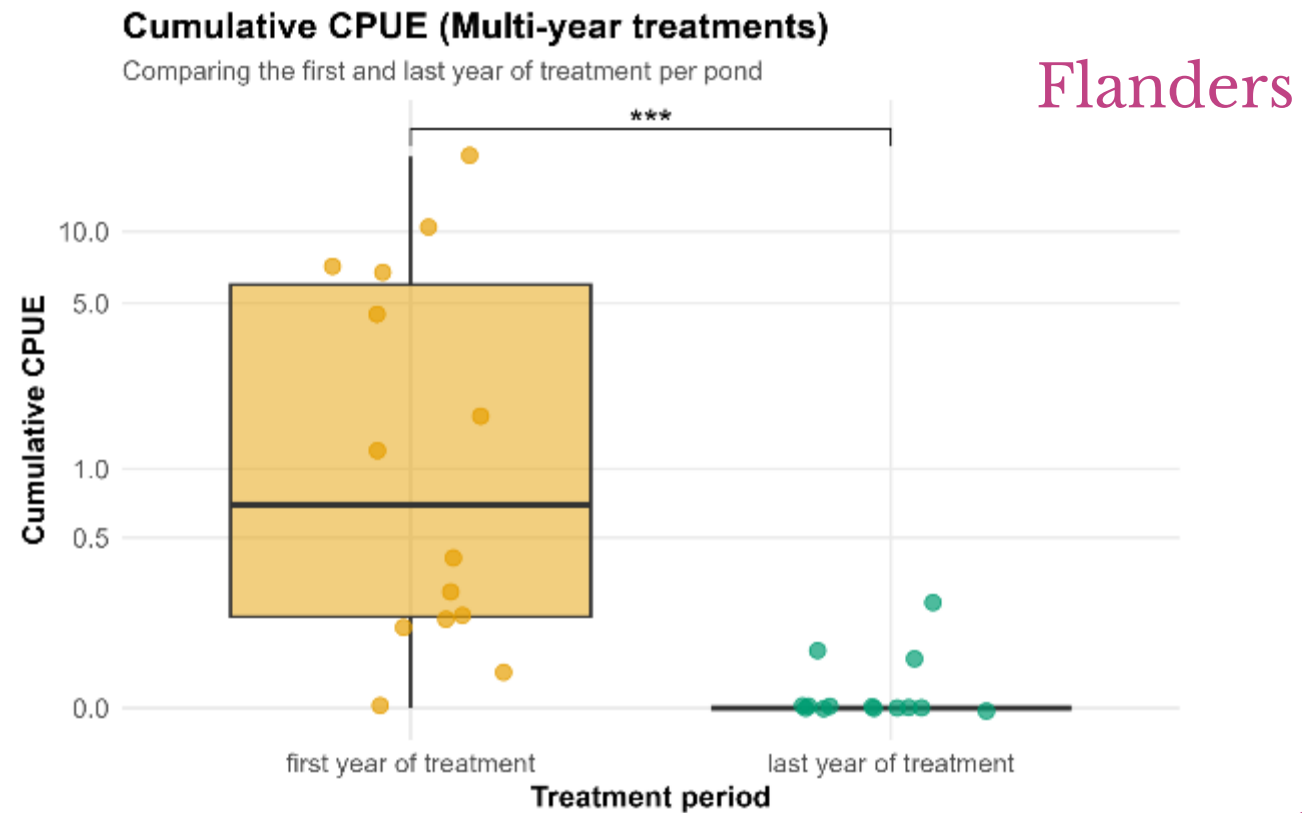
- 32 ponds planned, 1 added
 - 23 ponds treated (10 included Xenopus)
 - 5 dried up
 - 4 no access
 - 1 fuel incident
- total captures: 1.585
 - 436 larvae
 - 1.074 juveniles
 - 75 (sub)adults

Wallonia

- 9 ponds planned, 6 added
 - 4 ponds treated + 6 partly (8 included Xenopus)
 - 3 dried up
 - 1 no access
 - waiting for approval
- total captures: 3.265
 - 3046 larvae (M14)
 - 125 juveniles (M14)
 - 94 (sub)adults



IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026: ponds

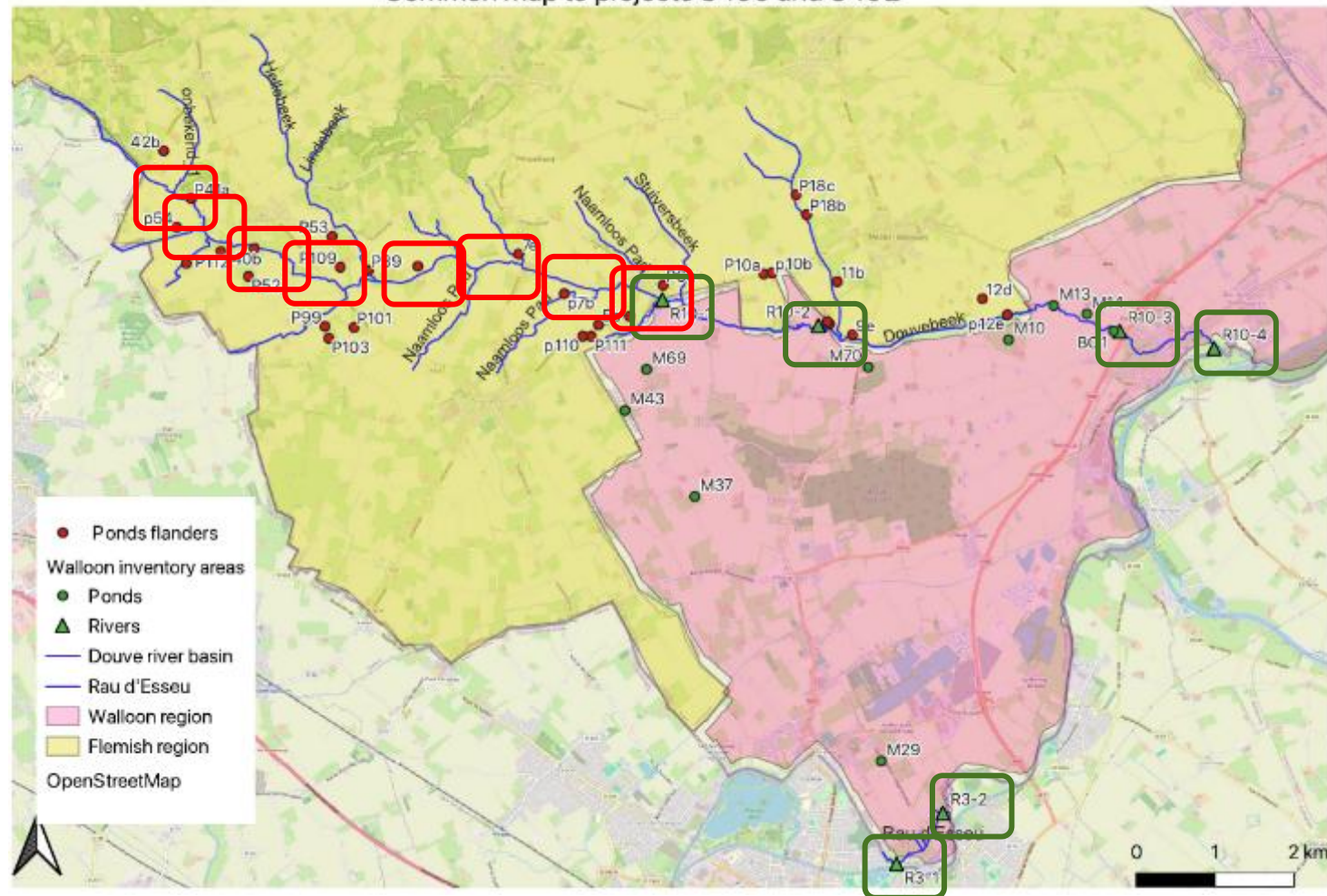


IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026: Douve

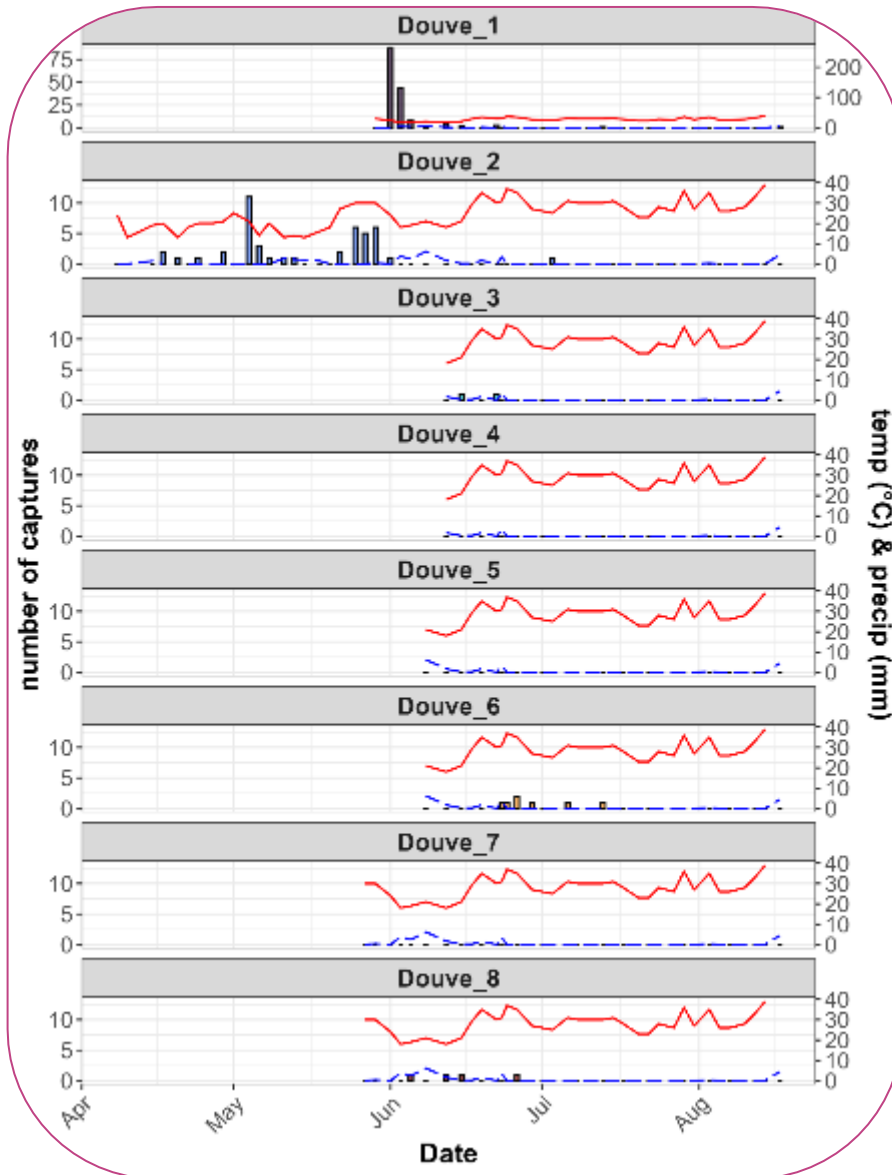
- 8 fykes with wings upstream the Douve
- check every 2 days from march till octobre



Common map to projects 8400 and 8402



IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026: Douve



Flanders

- total captures: 213
 - 0 larvae
 - 2 juveniles
 - 211 (sub) adults

Wallonia

- total captures: 251
 - 0 larvae
 - 1 juveniles
 - 250 (sub)adults

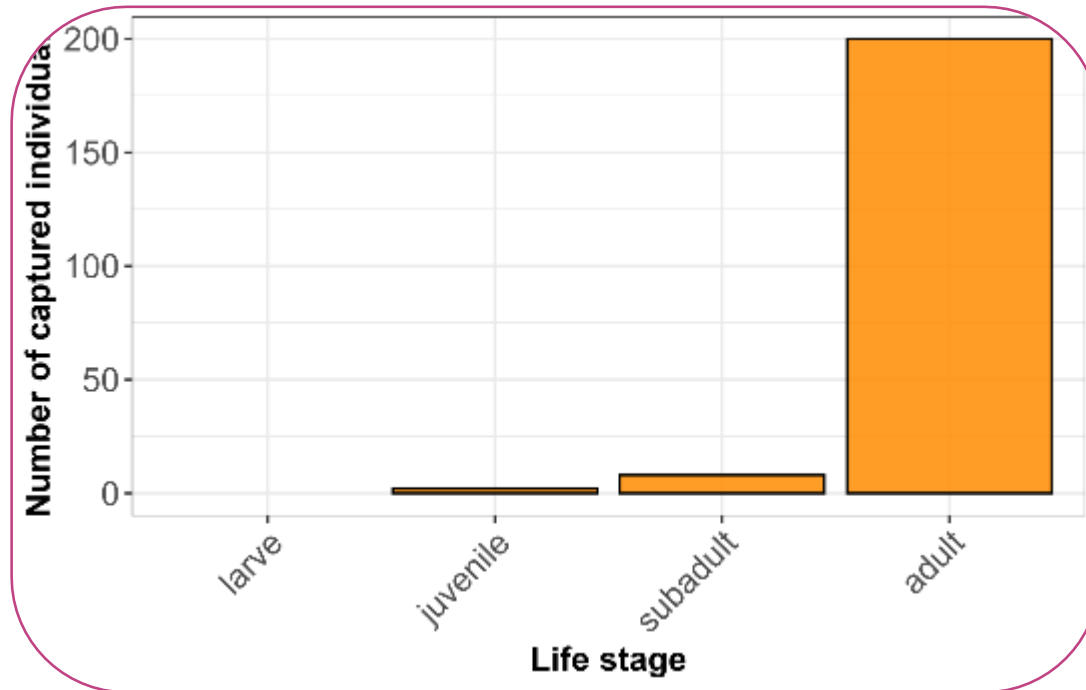
⇒ capture numbers decline

⇒ we need more data

⇒ take into account other variables :
temperature, precipitation, water level,
seasonality, nearby hot spots

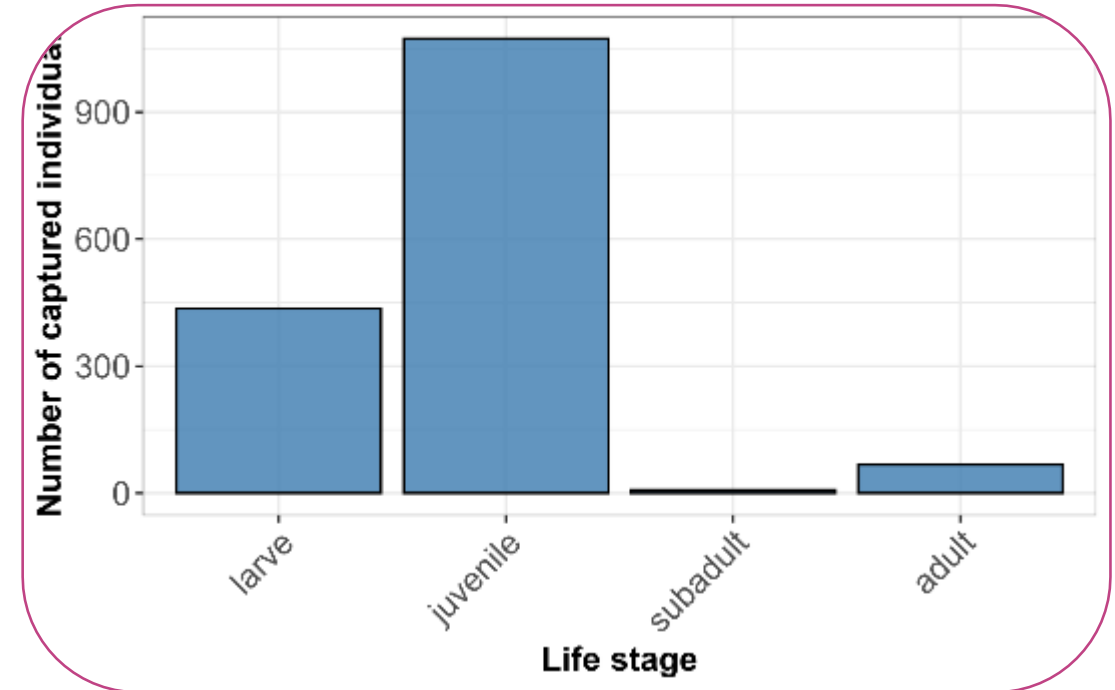
IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026

- corridor trapping (Douve):



- Douve → migration by adults
- supported by data of barriers
- but breeding in river possible!

- intensive fyke trapping (pond):



- ponds → preferred breeding sites
- long reproductive period:
 - eggs: april - aug
 - larvae: july and november (overwintering as larvae possible)

IUCN Rapid Response fund 2026: barriers



Flanders

- 5 ponds
- total captures: 10
 - 3 inside (2 ponds)
 - treatment too early?
⇒ 2nd round in early ponds!
 - barrier quality?
 - 7 outside (4 ponds)
 - 4 in (almost) same bucket → discovery of extra colonized pond!
- all adults!
- explanation: migration less frequent than expected or eradication starts to help?

Wallonia

- 1 pond
- total captures: 0
 - stopped

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Lessons learned:

- **Fyke** **procurement**
- **By-catch** **and** **debris** **in** **Douve**
- **Short** **eradication** **window**
- **bucket** **and** **barrier** **maintenance**
- **Water-level** **Douve**
- **Field** **capacity**
- **Site** **constraints:** **Pollution** **and** **unexploded** **WWII** **ordnance**
- ...

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Next moves:

- continue trapping in Douve and ponds (second round)
- wait for eDNA analysis to clarify all field results
- development “Xenapp” → link with exotenportaal and GBIF
- built project proposal IUCN for next year
- SWO ANB-INBO experiments with fish predators





Thank you for your
attention!