



Newsletter 31 August 2021

Welcome to the third Life MICA newsletter

This newsletter is published twice a year. Of course you can also find the latest news on lifemica.eu. Enjoy reading!



Searching and catching in Sint-Laureins

The landscape of creeks and polders in the border municipality of Sint-Laureins houses the last large population of muskrats in East Flanders. It is important to continuously monitor this area to avoid expansion and to reduce the species. In 2021, the Flemish Environment Agency (VMM) started its control campaign here with the spring migration of muskrats at freezing temperatures. These migratory muskrats are often difficult to catch. [Read more](#)



Raccoon detected with camera trap

Camera traps are useful for tracking muskrats and coypu. The Life MICA partners have already collected more than 2000 images of muskrats. A nice advantage for the muskrat control is that other invasive species can also be seen on the camera images. A raccoon was spotted in the De Luysen area (Limburg, Flanders) in May. [Read more](#)

Dragonflies and damselflies as indicators for biodiversity

The month of June was dominated by dragonflies and damselflies for the Life MICA employees of the Institute for Nature and Forest Research (INBO). An important part of the Life MICA project is monitoring biodiversity in the project areas. This data can help to estimate the impact of muskrats, coypu and their impact on nature. In Flanders, birds, plants and dragonflies are monitored in the De Luysen nature reserves in Bree (Limburg) and in the East Flemish creek area in Sint-Laureins. [Read More](#)



Video: Open day at the project site Aschauteiche

The German project site Aschauteiche organized a virtual open day on 2 July. Aschauteiche is a sustainable fishpond culture in Germany with almost natural lakes. About 10 years ago the coypu settled there. At this location, the Life MICA project aims to assess the impact of coypu on biodiversity and test smart live traps. On the video (in German) you can see more about the activities at the project site and the characteristics of the area. [Also read the whole article](#)



We are always looking for interesting news, photos and videos from the project. Send your contributions to info@lifemica.nl

LifeMICA.eu

Life MICA is an international cooperation with the goal to reduce coypu and muskrat population to a manageable size in order to prevent damage to waterways, biodiversity and plant life.

