

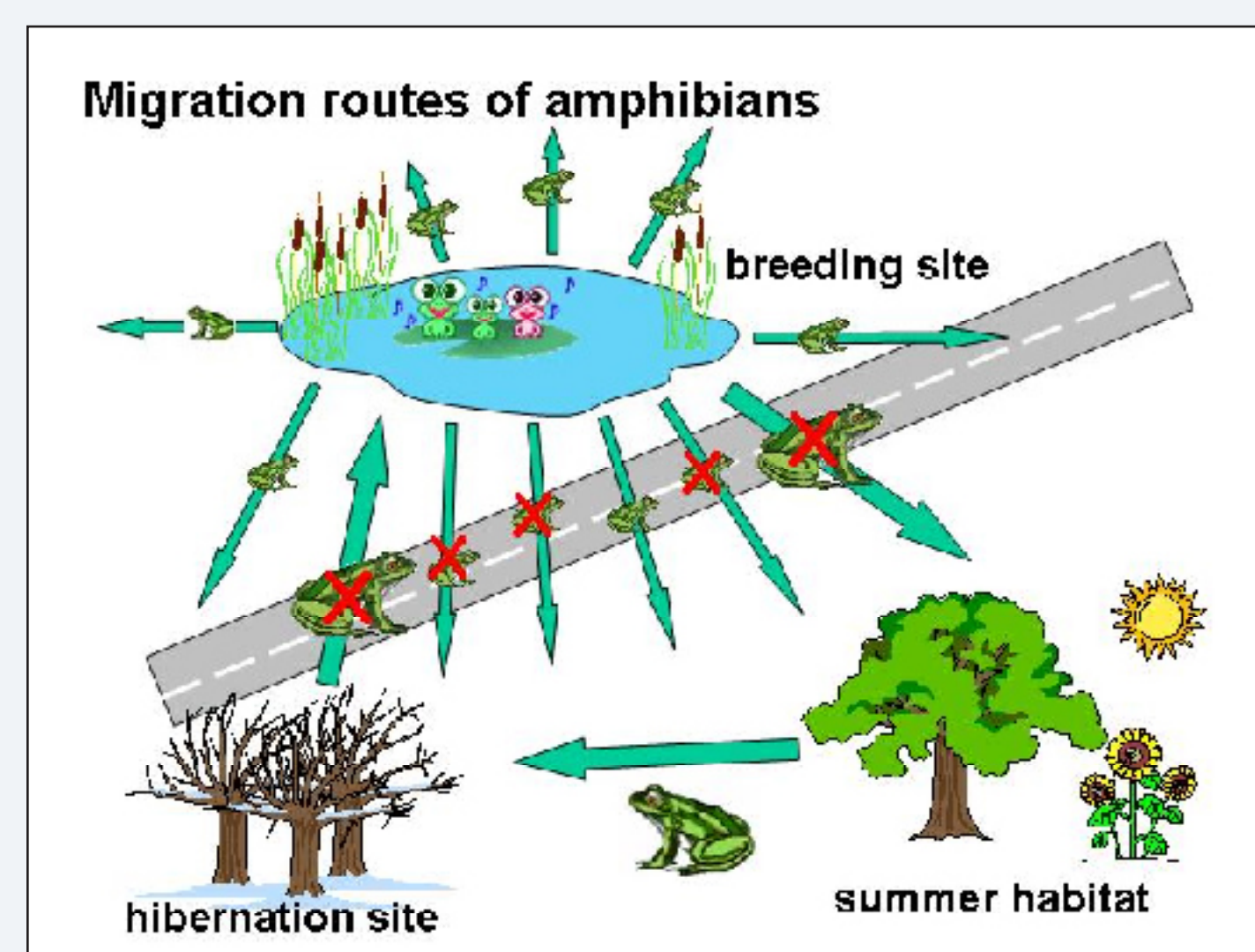
AMPHIBIENSCHUTZ



The problem

The importance of volunteers for the amphibian protection on roads in Carinthia

On the way to and from their breeding sites lots of migrating amphibians are killed by cars, when they have to cross roads.



The solution

The best solution would be the installation of tunnels and permanent drift fences to prevent the amphibians from reaching the lane and help them to safely cross the road underneath. As this method is a very expensive one, the mostly used method to protect the migrating amphibians is to build up a temporary drift fence to stop the amphibians before crossing the road and lead them to the pitfall traps, consisting of buckets dug into the ground. Now the trapped animals need assistance to be carried across the road and to be set free again on the other side. In Carinthia this kind of assistance is mainly provided by volunteers.

Situation in Carinthia

In Carinthia there are 149 road stretches with amphibians crossing known in spring 2005, 68 of them were protected with temporary drift fences of a total length of 42 kilometers.

That means 42 kilometers which need to be built up and taken away again every spring and which need to be checked at least once a day over a period of 4 to 6 weeks (35 days in average).

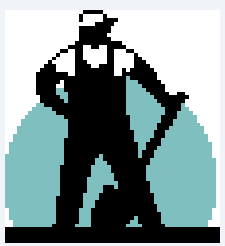
Contribution of volunteers

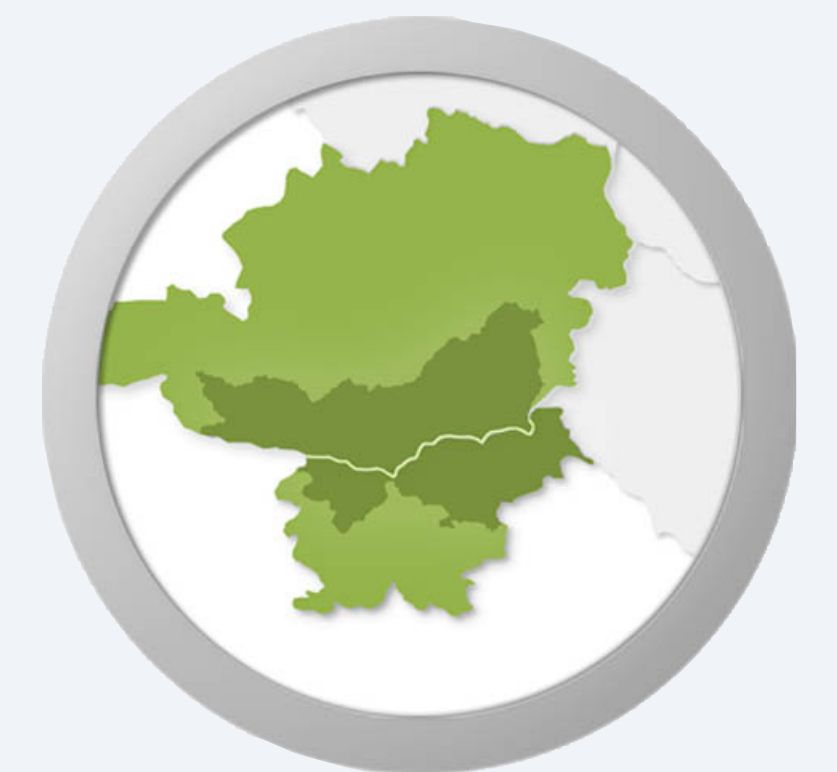
From our data and personal experience we know that the installation of 100m drift fences takes at least six hours, the removal about one hour. The checking of the fence and carrying trapped animals across the street takes approximately half an hour per 100m drift fence, depending on the numbers of animals caught.

This means that in spring 2005 in total the extrapolated amount of 2940 hours of work was necessary to build up and take off the fences and additional 7350 hours for carrying the amphibians to the other side of the road.

The work of building up and removing the fences is frequently done by workers of the road administration or communities, but the lion's share of the honorary work is done by private persons (about 500 volunteers in total).

This impressive effort is an important contribution to the conservation of the endangered amphibian species in Carinthia!

Work	Hours of work	Done by
Installation and removal of drift fences 	2940	Road administration, communities, private persons
Checking of drift fences 	7350	Private persons



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co-financed by the
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Carinthian government.

