

When fencing and translocation to alternative hibernation sites is the right measure to prevent road-related amphibian decline: mass migration of *Lissotriton* and *Triturus* newts at Lake Kapszeg

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Solving wildlife - infrastructure conflicts requires the consideration of diverse strategies to find the best local solutions. Lake Kapszeg is an abandoned stretch of the River Danube in the southern part of Hungary. Today, it is protected as it supports a great diversity of natural values. In autumn, 2004, an intensive autumn migration of *Lissotriton (Triturus) vulgaris* from Lake Kapszeg to an area that is an arable field today separated from the reserve by two busy roads was detected. As building a permanent mitigation measure would have been an expensive and questionable solution, the translocation of the animals to safe hibernation sites was arranged. A 240 metre temporary mitigation measure was set up along the Kapszeg Nature Conservation Area at the appropriate section of the 5112. road between Szekszárd and Mözs from 2005. It consisted of plastic fences and buckets dug into the soil in approximately every 15 metres. The buckets were emptied two or three times a day depending on the intensity of the migration. Altogether nine amphibian taxa were recorded during the study period. Unlike most other amphibian migration corridors, where anurans predominate, the ratio of tailed amphibians was over 90% with *Triturus vulgaris* as the most common species. In the first year more than 42,000 amphibians were moved away from crossing two busy roads into a safe hibernation area along other parts of Lake Kapszeg. This number decreased to 12,000 in 2006, 8,100 in 2007 and even lower in 2008-2009. These changes seem to have two reasons, the lowering of the water table in Lake Kapszeg and the translocation of mainly juvenile newts.