



Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

and

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

**PRIORITISED ACTION FRAMEWORK (PAF)
FOR NATURA 2000 IN WALLONIA (BELGIUM)**

For the EU Multiannual Financing Period 2014-2020

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A. Introductory overview of Natura 2000 network for territory

A.0 Preamble

This PAF is developed in the current state of scientific knowledge on the habitats and species of Community interest.

This knowledge is not exhaustive. Indeed, part of the SCIs still needs precise mapping and knowledge about the dynamics of the habitats and the species is constantly evolving.

However, current knowledge has established an initial diagnosis of the conservation status (see 2013 report Article 17 of the Habitats Directive). On this basis it is possible to set out priorities and actions to improve significantly the conservation status of these habitats and species.

To achieve these objectives, it is necessary to identify the human and financial resources. These are estimated and clearly exceed the resources currently available. The actual implementation of the program will depend on funds that can be generated at both regional (Wallonia) and European level.

This PAF is a vision that sets goals and priorities. It will be implemented according to available resources and, where appropriate, adjusted in light of new scientific knowledge and intrinsic evolution of habitats and species of Community interest.

A.1 Short introduction to the habitat types of Annex I and species of Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I and migratory bird species for which Natura 2000 sites are designated

Concerning the Habitats Directive, two biogeographical regions are present in Wallonia, the Atlantic and the Continental.

In the Atlantic region, 27 habitats of Annex I of the Habitats Directive are present in Wallonia including 8 priority habitats (6110 , 6120 , 6210 , 6230 , 7220 , 9180 , 91D0 , 91E0). The Atlantic region in Wallonia is home to 22 species under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

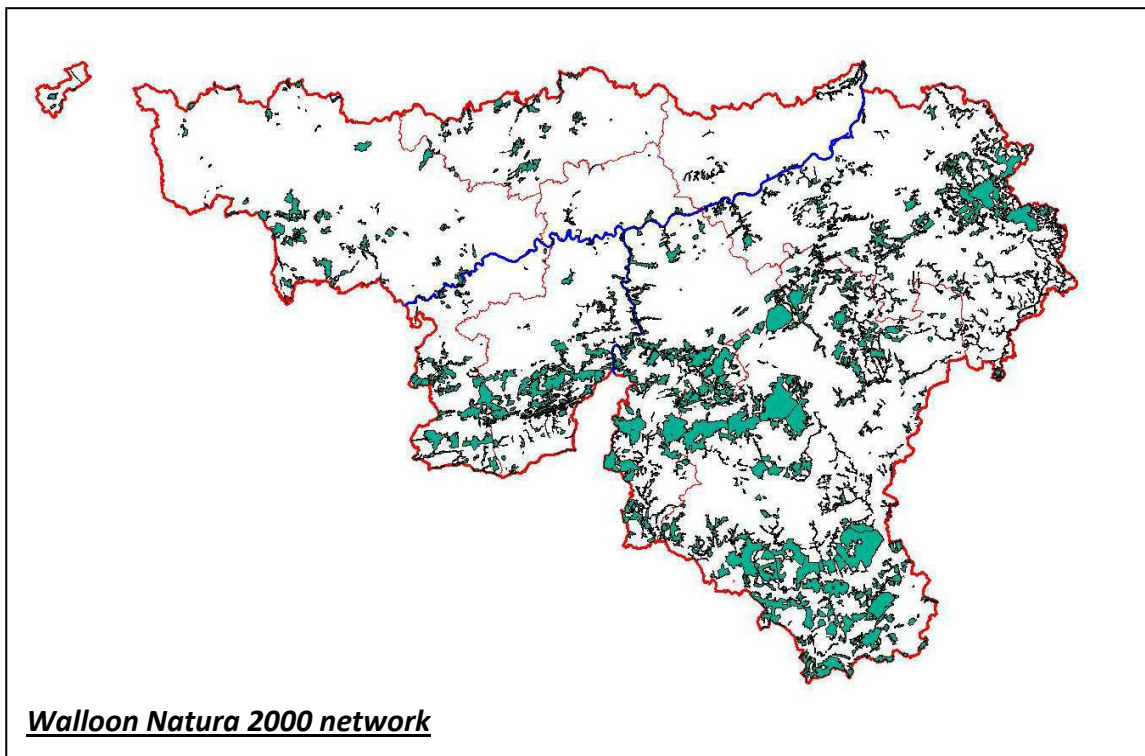
In the Continental region , 41 habitats of Annex I of the Habitats Directive are present in Wallonia including 10 priority habitats (6110 , 6120 , 6210 , 6230 , 7110 , 7220 , 8160 , 9180 , 91D0 , 91E0) . The Continental region in Wallonia is home to 28 species under Annex II of the Habitats Directive .

Concerning the Birds Directive, there is no partition between biogeographical regions. In Wallonia, 48 Annex I species are considered to be regularly seen (i.e. annual). A further 12 species are also considered SPA-trigger species under Article 4.2 . Of this total, 21 are breeders, 24 are both breeding and wintering/migrating species and 15 are only migrating or wintering species.

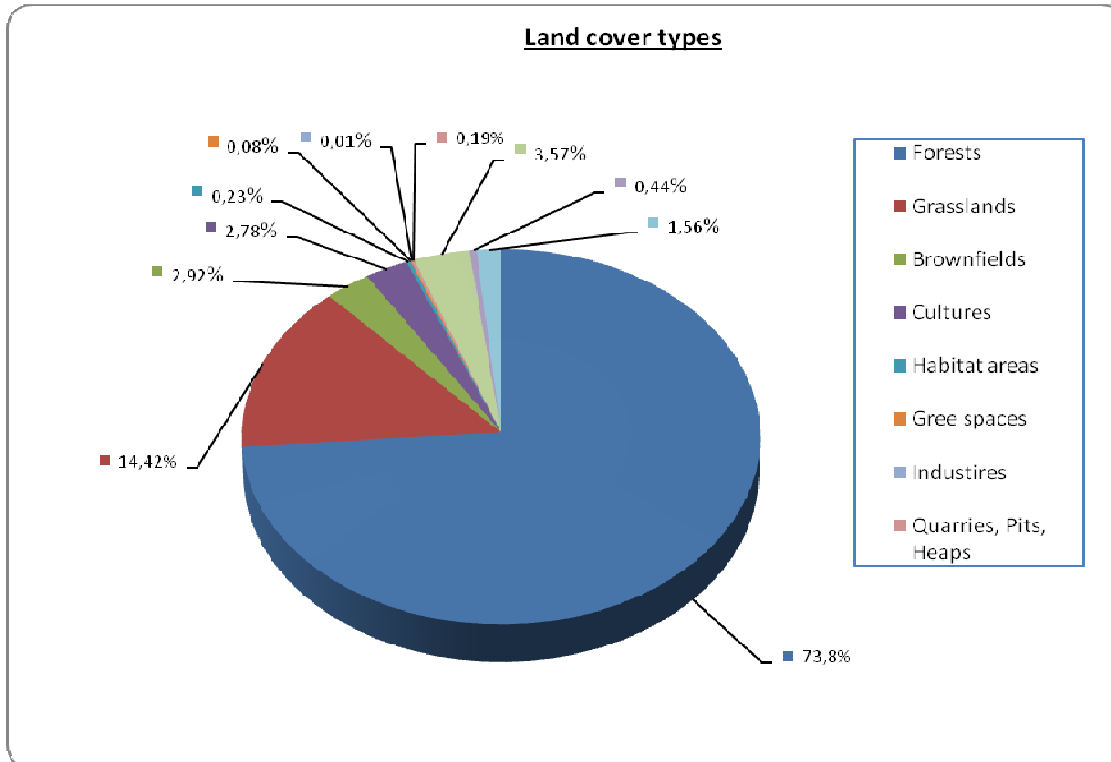
A.2 Number and area of Natura 2000 sites

Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)	Total SCI : 240 Total SCI area (km ²) : 2,209.49 Terrestrial SCI are (km ²) : 2,209.49 % of regional area : 13 %
Reference to Commission Decisions on SCIs	<u>Atlantic Region - Commission Decision:</u> 2011/63/EU of 10 January 2011 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a fourth updated list of sites of community importance for the Atlantic biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2010) 9666) <u>Continental Region - Commission Decision:</u>

	<p>2011/64/EU of 10 January 2011 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a fourth updated list of sites of community importance for the Continental biogeographical</p> <p><i>Link to Decisions at</i> http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/biogeog_regions/index_en.htm</p>
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	<p>Total SAC sites : 59 Total SPA area (km²) : 253,51.1873 Terrestrial SPA are (km²) : 253,51.1873 % of regioanal area : 1.5 %</p>
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	<p>Total SPA sites : 59 Total SPA area (km²) : 253,51.1873 Terrestrial SPA are (km²) : 253,51.1873 % of regional area : 1.5 %</p>
Total Natura 2000 terrestrial area	<p>Total Natura 2000 sites: 240 Total Natura 2000 area (km²): 2209,49 % of regional area: 13 %</p>
Total Natura 2000 marine area	<p>0 km²</p>



A.3 Main land use cover and ecosystem categories for Natura 2000 sites



B. Status of the Habitats and Species

B.1 Most recent assessment of conservation status of species and habitat types for territory

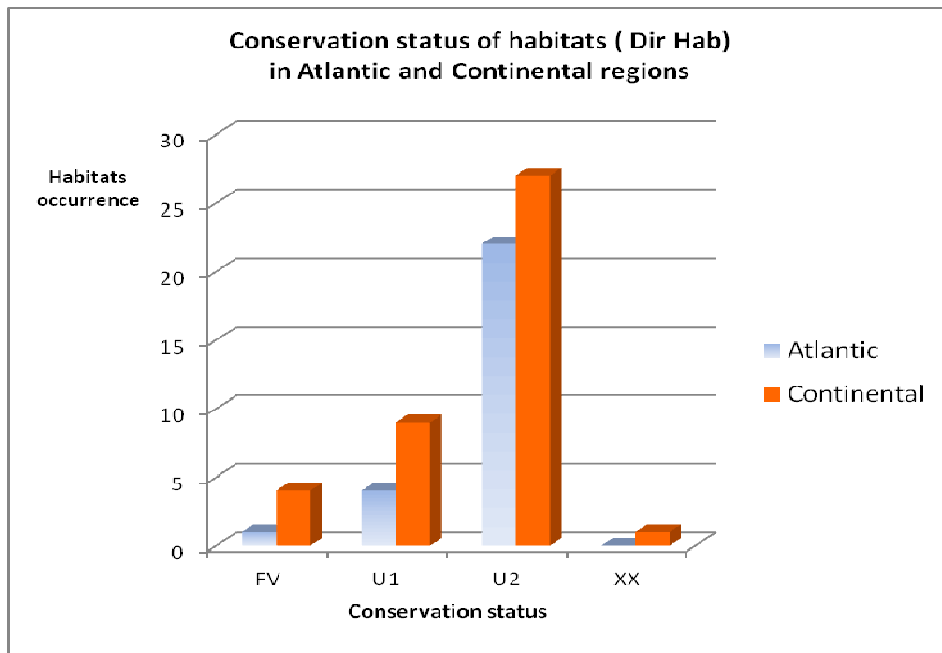
B.1.a Habitat and species of Habitats Directive

Data from the 2013 report of article 17 of habitats’ directive
 (More : <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/rapportage.html?IDC=5803>)

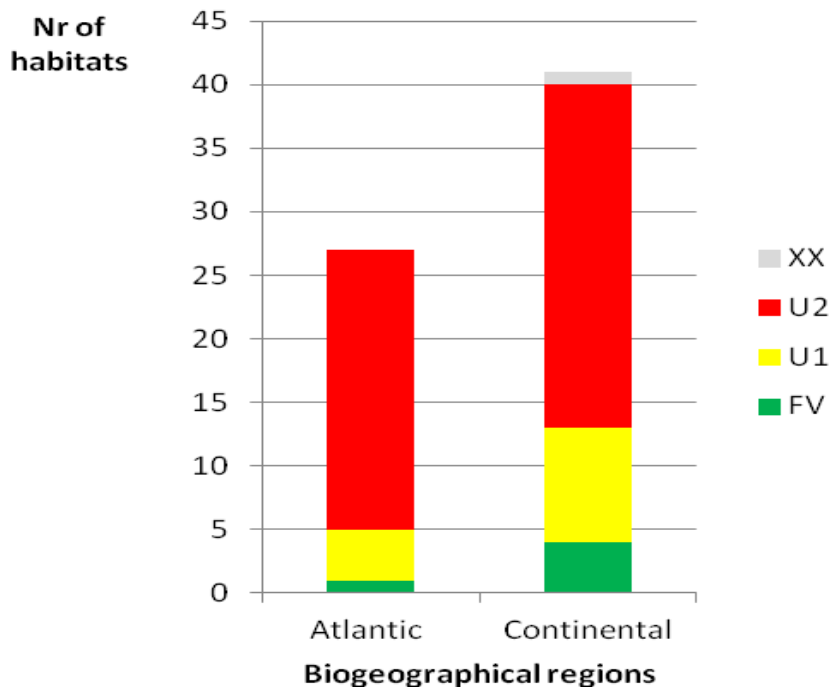
Biogeographic region	HABITATS					SPECIES (Annexe II)				
	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA
Atlantic (Wallonia)	1	4	22	0		3	5	10	4	
Continental (Wallonia)	4	9	27	1		5	9	13	1	
Wallonia*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	

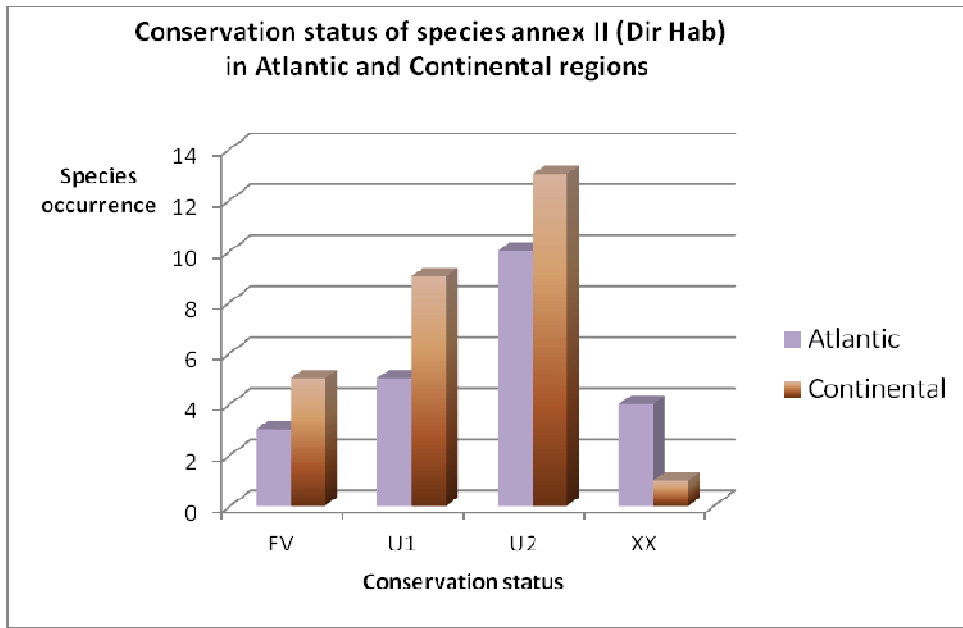
The sum has no sense since there hasn’t been any evaluation at the Walloon level

FV – Favourable; U1 – Unfavourable inadequate; U2 – Unfavourable bad; XX - Unknown; NA – Not reported

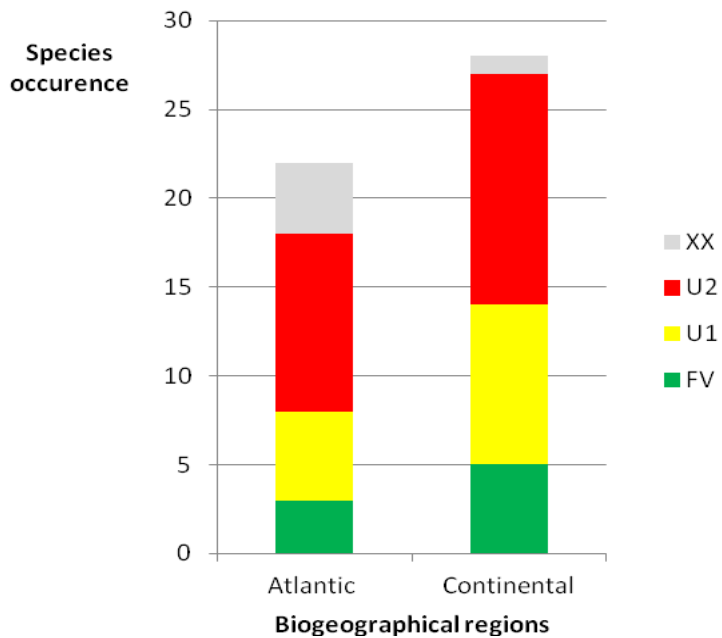


**Conservation status of habitats (Dir. Hab.).
Comparison between Atlantic and
Continental regions.**



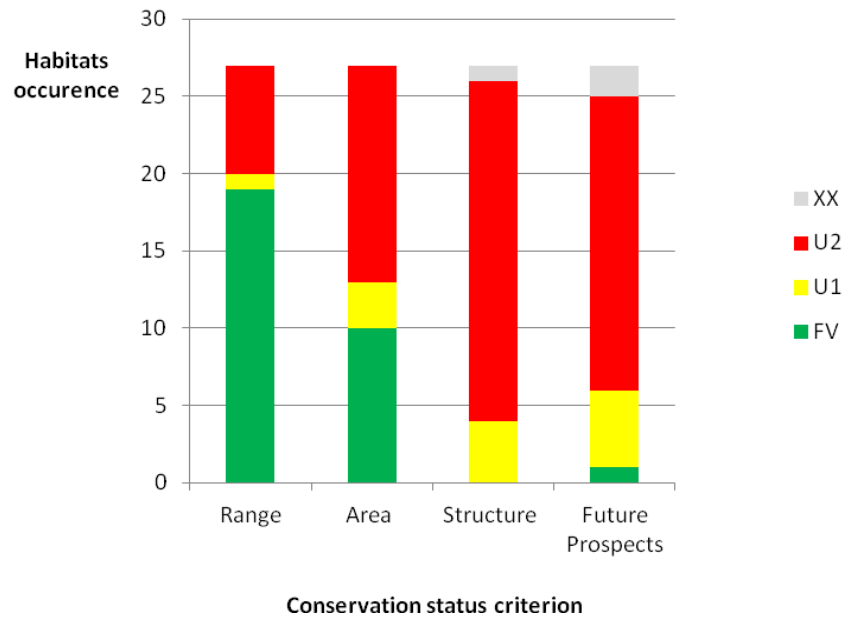


**Conservation status of species annex II (Dir. Hab.).
Comparison between Atlantic and Continental
regions.**

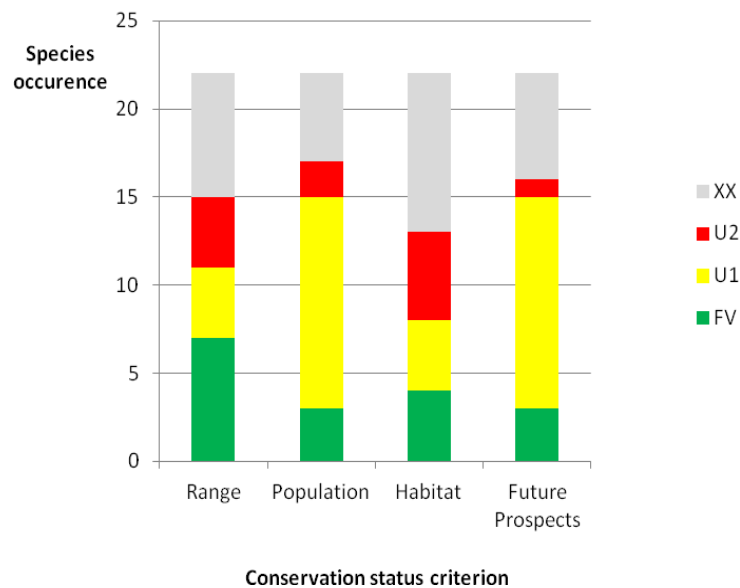


Atlantic / Belgium Art. 17 report 2013	HABITATS					SPECIES (Annexe II)				
	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA
Range	19	1	7			7	4	4	7	
Area / Population	10	3	14			3	12	2	5	
Structure / Habitat	0	4	22	1		4	4	5	9	
Future Prospects	1	5	19	2		3	12	1	6	

Conservation status criteria for habitats
in Atlantic region

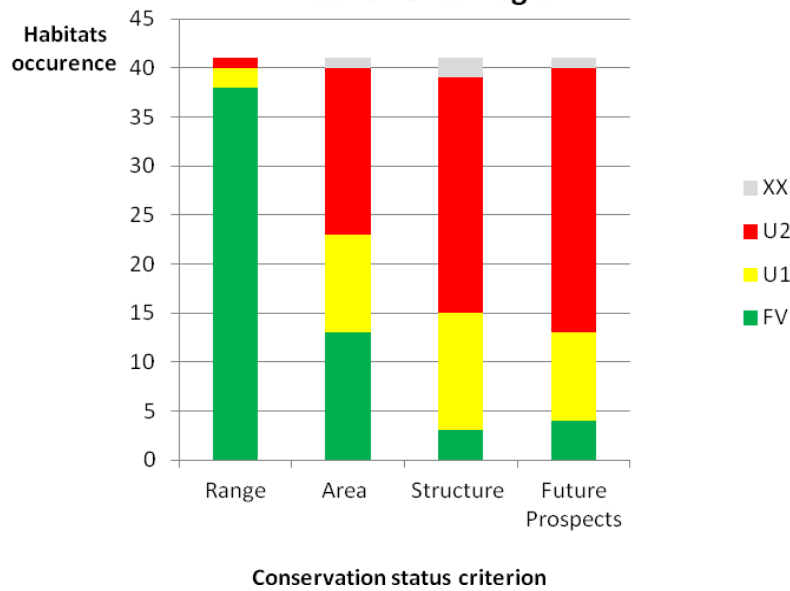


Conservation status criteria for species
in Atlantic region

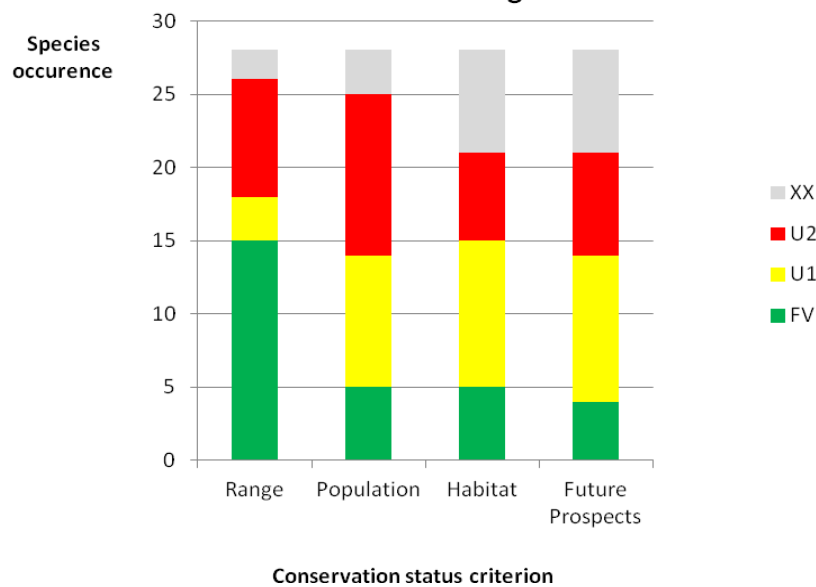


Continental / Belgium Art. 17 report 2013	HABITATS					SPECIES (Annexe II)				
	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA
Range	38	2	1			15	3	8	2	
Area / Population	13	10	17	1		5	9	11	3	
Structure / Habitat	3	12	24	2		5	10	6	7	
Future Prospects	4	9	27	1		4	10	7	7	

Conservation status criteria for habitats in Continental region



Conservation status criteria for species in Continental region



B.1.b Bird species of Birds Directive

Data from the 2013 report of article 12 of birds' directive

As a whole, 161 species considered for Bird Directive Article 12 reporting are regular breeders in Wallonia. At the beginning of the last reporting period (2007, when latest fieldwork for the Breeding Bird Atlas of Wallonia was conducted), long-term population evolutions were positive for 60 % of these species. This positive evolution concerned especially raptors, most waterbirds, some forest birds and some rare species. Reasons behind these positive changes were sometimes unknown or not understood, but conservation measures certainly showed some impacts. For example, raptor populations affected by PCB contaminants recovered after the ban on most dangerous pesticides. Another example is provided by piscivorous birds for which legal protection and conservation of the breeding habitat resulted in impressive population increases.

On the opposite, 30 % of the breeding species showed long term decline. As elsewhere in Europe, long distance migrants and farmland birds were showing negative global evolution.

Recent (< 12 years) population trends are more negative than long-term (30 years) comparisons (figure below). This is because several increasing population levelled-off recently, after a rapid increase at the end of the XXth Century, like the raptors and most breeding waterbirds. Some species even showed a reversed trend (Grey Heron, Great Crested Grebe, Tengmalm's Owl...).

		Long-term trends (compared to the 70')		
		Decline	Stable	Increase
Short-term trends (last 12 years)	Unknown	2	4	6
	Increase	7	1	23
	Stable	16	8	55
	Decline	23	3	13

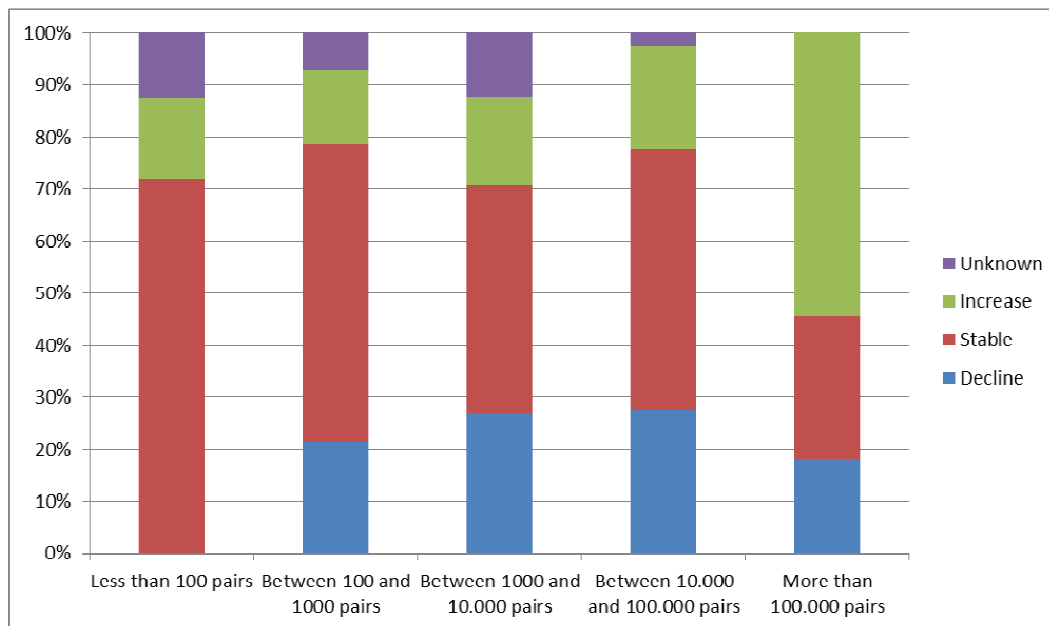
Comparison of long-term trends with shorter-term trends for the 161 regular breeding species in Wallonia. Numbers indicate the number of species in each category. 71 species show a degradation of their population trends on the short-term (mostly because they varied from "increase" to "stable").

An unexpected result of the Bird Directive Article 12 reporting is the clear decline in several species associated with coniferous plantation forest. These species have shown a rapid increase in Wallonia after the introduction of Pine and Spruce forest since mid-XIXth Century. Now, they are showing a short-term decrease. Reasons for this change remains to be elucidated.

As already shown at the continental level, most Annex I species are in more favourable conservation status than 30 years ago. However, this improved status cannot be related to SPA creation, as this has only been recently activated, but more to species-specific actions or to a more favourable status at the European level (raptors, Black Stork, ...).

This relatively good news must not hide the fact that 14 species are critically endangered in Wallonia; either because of very small and fragile breeding population or because long-term continuous decline, like Hazel hen (*Bonasia bonasa*), Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) or Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*).

Another characteristic of bird population change in Belgium is the fact that the proportion of declining species is higher in relatively common species (figure below).



Short-term trend of the population according to the abundance class of breeding species in Wallonia.

About wintering birds, most data are available through winter waterbird census that have been organized for almost 50 years. Long-term trends are positive for most species (ducks, gulls, herons...). Only species strictly linked to a specific habitat (wet meadows) are declining. However, since the early 2000, most waterbird trends are showing a levelling-off or even a decrease.

This could be explained by a change in food resources, like in the Meuse river, a major waterbird site in winter, where food conditions are drastically changing due to the impact of invasive mollusks (Pigneur et al., 2014) but it is also possible that climate change is also driving a northward shift in wintering range for some duck species, which in consequence are less common in Wallonia, (Lehikoinen et al., 2013).

As a general conclusion, wildbird populations in Wallonia are showing contrasting evolutions. Even if birds in Wallonia were not suffering a widespread biodiversity crash during the last 30 years, continuous pressures and multiple threats are affecting populations. A worrying fact is that, despite changes in environmental politics, short-term trends are not better than long-term situation. Bird populations monitoring is highly needed to ensure a continuous assessment of these changes.

B.2 Overall assessment of conservation status by Habitat category / species group

Data from the 2013 report of article 17 of habitats' directive

(More : <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/rapportage.html?IDC=5803>)

B.2.1 Habitats

➤ **Forest habitats :** Except for bog woodlands (91D0) in the Atlantic Region, forest habitats have a favourable assessment with regards to their current range, as it fits to their natural distribution. Most forest habitats on dry soils (incl. beech forests) and oak-hornbeam forests get a favourable area assessment, unlike habitats linked to riparian or wet conditions, which have suffered important deforestation, substitution (exotic plantations) and/or environment degradation in the past. Structures & functions assessments are unfavourable (U1 or U2) for all habitats. Lack of dead wood is the most unfavourable criterion; a low tree species diversity and drainage (for wet habitats) are also common unfavourable factors for structures and functions, while invasive alien species and soil compaction appear to be increasing. Future prospects are however improving for some parameters in certain parts of the territory because legal measures have been or will be taken in public forests and in Natura 2000 sites.

- **Meadows** (6410, 6510, 6520) : Range is large and favourable (Fv) for all agricultural habitats, except for *Molinia* meadows in Atlantic Region (U2). Nevertheless, area assessments are bad (U2), as favourable reference areas are much higher than current values ; furthermore, destructions of large habitats surfaces still take place due to agriculture intensification. Structure & functions are also considered as bad (U2): flora composition is unfavourable and disturbance indicators are too important on a large part (> 25 %) of the habitats area.
- **Heaths and grasslands** (2330, 4030, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6210, 6230, 5130) : Most heaths and grasslands have a favourable (Fv) range. Area assessments are generally bad (U2), as the favourable reference (and historical) areas are much higher than current values. This parameter is however better for dry heaths (4030 - Fv) and *Nardus* grasslands (6230 – U1), which benefited from restoration (incl. Life projects). Structures & functions are also bad (U2) for nearly all habitats: most species still have a bad status – even deteriorating in some cases. Life projects and other restoration and management actions enabled improvement of the conservation status for some habitats (incl. calcareous grasslands 6210), but progress to favourable conservation status (incl. favourable CS of typical species) takes time and needs recurrent management.
- **Peaty habitats** (4010, 7110, 7120, 7140, 7150, 7230) : For most habitats (except 7150), range is favourable (Fv). Wet heaths (4010) and degraded raised bogs (7120) have a favourable area assessment, yet, despite recent restoration, other habitats suffer from too low areas, mainly due to drainage activities undertaken in the past, which degraded or destroyed large surfaces of peaty habitats. Though actions have been undertaken in several Life projects and permitted general improvement, structures & functions remain bad (U2) at regional level.
- **Rocky habitats** (8150, 8160, 8210, 8220) : Range is generally favourable (Fv) for rocky habitats as it fits to their natural distribution. However, most habitats have unfavourable assessments (U1 and U2) for area and structures & functions. Indeed, important areas of these habitats have been destroyed or degraded in the past and still undergo pressures linked to the construction/securing of major transport infrastructures and the opening of quarries. Nevertheless, an important potential would be available by an adequate restoration of abandoned quarries and the management of temporary habitats during exploitation.
- **Running water habitats** (3260, 3270, 7220) : Running waters have favourable range and area assessments : definition of habitat 3260 includes all rivers and water courses, while the *Cratoneurion* (7220) distribution and area are close to their historical values. Structure & functions are assessed using WFD methods. They are considered as favourable in the Continental region, and unfavourable in Atlantic region (U2 for 3260, U1 for 7220). Water courses quality should improve in the future due to measures linked to WFD. (NB : Conservation status of habitat 3270 could not be assessed as locations of muddy banks vegetations are very badly known in Wallonia).
- **Standing water habitats** (3130, 3140, 3150, 3160): Standing water habitats have bad (3130, 3140, 3150 Atl) or inadequate (3150 Cont, 3160) conservation status. Ranges and areas of oligotrophic to mestrophic waters (3130) and hard oligo-mestrophic waters (3140) are lower than their favourable reference values, particularly in the Atlantic region. Structures and functions are unfavourable (U1 or U2) for all habitats, due to several pressures on standing waters, including changes in hydrological regime, introduction of exotic species, eutrophication, natural siltation, drying, filling or increased recreational use.

B.2.2. Species of Habitat Directive annexes.

- **Plant species** : Except for two species with favourable conservation status, all plants have either inadequate or bad status. Four species (or species groups) are in a worrying situation; they are found in very threatened habitats such as alkaline fens, oligo-mesotrophic waters, dry or wet heaths or, in the case of *Bromus grossus*, endangered by the abandonment of traditional cultivation practices. Wallonia has a particular responsibility for this latter species, as it is almost endemic to the Walloon territory.
- **Molluscs** : The conservation status of the medicinal Leech (*Hirudo medicinalis*) and the Burgundy snail (*Helix pomatia*) are considered as "unknown" in the Walloon Atlantic region because of the lack of surveys for these species in this region. The status of the Burgundy snail is considered as favourable in the Continental region. *Vertigo moulinsiana*, a small gastropod living in wetlands, presents an inadequate conservation status in both regions, mainly due to the small sizes and isolation of populations and to various threats to their habitats. Both river bivalves (*Unio crassus* and *Margaritifera margaritifera*) are in unfavourable situation.
- **Insects** : Three insect species have a favourable conservation status in the 2013 report : the Orange-spotted Emerald (*Oxygastra curtisii*), the Great Copper (*Lycaena dispar*) and the mottled Scale (*Callimorpha quadripunctaria*). Lack of knowledge leads to an Unknown status for the Willowherb Hawk-moth (*Proserpinus proserpina*). The 9 remaining species have an unfavourable status. 5 of them are in a bad conservation status : 2 butterflies (the Marsh Fritillary - *Euphydryas aurinia* - and the Large Blue - *Maculinea arion*), 1 dragonfly (the Large White-face Darter - *Leucorrhinia pectoralis*), and 2 beetles (the Stag Beetle - *Lucanus cervus* – in the Atlantic region, and the Cerambyx Longicorn - *Cerambyx cerdo* – in the Continental region).
- **Amphibians** : The Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) is the only amphibian with a favourable conservation status in Wallonia. All other species have inadequate or bad status. 4 species are in a worrying situation: the Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*), the Midwife Toad (*Alytes obstetricans*), the Natterjack Toad (*Bufo calamita*) and the Yellow-bellied Toad (*Bombina variegata*). The latter is currently subject to a breeding and reintroduction plan, while the other species are targeted by local measures (creation of adapted ponds in various locations in Wallonia). Nevertheless, these measures are insufficient to reverse the general trend and need to be reinforced and extended. The colonisation dynamic of *Bufo calamita* and *Alytes obstetricans* should be enhanced and considered as an opportunity for temporary recreation of habitats in civil works such as in quarries and in industrial zones. Green Frogs (*Rana lessonae* and *R. kl. Esculentae*) have an inadequate status (U1), mainly due to the introduction of the Marsh Frog (*Rana ridibunda*) which hybridizes and competes with native species. Furthermore, the difficulties of determining Green Frogs on field make their status unclear.
- **Reptiles** : All species have an unfavourable conservation status. The Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*), whose sparse populations are only found in Belgian Lorraine, is in precarious situation (U2). The status of the Smooth Snake (*Coronella austriaca*) is considered as "bad" (U2) in the Atlantic region and "inadequate" (U1) in the Continental region where it is still fairly widespread.
- **Bats** : In the Continental region, among the 18 bats species, 5 are in a favourable conservation status, 4 are inadequate and 4 are bad. The conservation status of the 5 remaining species could not be assessed. The overall trends are generally rather positive. In the Atlantic region, the situation differs slightly: 5 species in a favourable, 4 in an unfavourable, 3 in a bad status ; 3 unknown. Trends are also rather positive.
- **Other mammals** : The general condition of non-flying mammals is rather low. In the Continental region, on 6 species, only 1 (the Beaver – *Castor fiber*) is in favourable condition, 4 have an inadequate conservation status and 1 is in bad condition (the Otter – *Lutra lutra*). In the Atlantic region, the picture is worse since all species have a bad conservation status.

B.3 Overview of pressures and threats to species and habitats

Category of pressure / threat	HABITATS		SPECIES	
	Actual pressures	Future threats	Actual pressures	Future threats
Agriculture ; Forestry	++ ; +	++ ; +	++ ; +	++ ; +
Fishing, hunting and collecting	+	+	+	+
Mining and extraction of materials	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
Urbanisation, industrialisation and similar activities	+	+/-	+	+/-
Transportation and communication	+	+/-	+	+/-
Leisure and tourism (other than above)	+	+/-	+	+/-
Pollution and other human impacts/activities	++	++	++	++
Human induced changes in wetlands and marine environments	+	+	+	+
Natural processes (biotic and abiotic)	++	++	++	++

++ very high pressure/threat ; + high pressure/threat; +/- medium pressure/threat

C. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES

C.0 Stratégie nationale de la Belgique pour la biodiversité 2006-2020

The Strategy is the Belgian answer to the formal obligation under the CBD and also takes the other commitments made at European and international level into account. It offers a framework for policy-making and further development of actions. It includes the existing Regional and Federal frameworks and action plans and it supports their integration and fine-tuning. It aims at giving strategic political orientations in order to allow actors for biodiversity in Belgium to work in partnership to contribute nationally and internationally towards the achievement of the target of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2020. This will be achieved by ensuring a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, while also taking into account the other biodiversity agreements where relevant. The Strategy pays particular attention to creating more coherence and filling the gaps existing in Belgian instruments and optimizing integration of biodiversity concern at national and international level.

The Strategy has a vision and a general objective that are in line with the CBD Strategic Plan and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 :

Vision: *"By 2050, our Biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides - our natural capital - are valued, conserved, appropriately restored and wisely used for their intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human well-being and economic prosperity, so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided".*

General objective: *"Contribute nationally and internationally to the achievement of the 2020 target of halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services, and restoring them insofar as feasible, while stepping up our contribution to averting global biodiversity loss".*

The strategy spells out a range of 15 priority strategic objectives and 85 operational objectives to guide the development of actions by the competent regional and federal authorities. Following the recommendations to update the NBS, the content of the chapter on implementation and follow-up of the NBS has been fully reshaped in the revised NBS and some other parts have been somewhat adapted to fully reflect the commitments to meet the CBD Aichi targets and the new EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

Many different actors have an active role to play in the implementation of the Strategy :

ministries and administrations, advisory and consultative bodies, research institutes, NGOs, information centres, individuals and community groups, etc. Several actions will have to be performed simultaneously in different sectors and - after further consultation and coordination - on several administrative levels.

More : <http://www.biodiv.be/implementation/docs/stratactplan/>

C.1 Relevant legal provisions

This paragraph identifies the legal texts directly or indirectly with the implementation of Natura 2000 in the Walloon Region.

- The Birds Directive: Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)

- The Habitats Directive : Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
- The EU Water Framework Directive : Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy
- Law of 12 July 1973 on the conservation of nature as last amended by the Decree of 22 December 2010, including art. 25 to 31 bis;
- Decision of the Walloon Government on the selection of the SCI to integrate the Walloon Natura 2000 network dated September 26, 2002
- Complementary decision on the selection of the SCI to integrate the Walloon Natura 2000 network, taken by the Walloon Government on February 4, 2004
- Complementary decision on the selection of the SCI to integrate the Walloon Natura 2000 network, taken by the Walloon Government 24 March 2005
- Notice published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 30 July 2004 and erratum published on September 7, 2004 on Natura 2000
- Notice published in the Belgian Official Gazette February 23, 2011 to supplement the Natura 2000 review published July 30, 2004
- Decision of the European Commission (Decision C (2004) 4032) establishing the SCI list for the Atlantic biogeographical region dated 7 December 2004 and subsequent decisions on the updates to this list sites:
 - o 2009/96/EC of 12 December 2008 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a second updated list of sites of Community importance for the Atlantic biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2008) 8119)
 - o 2008/23/EC of 12 November 2007 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a first updated list of sites of Community importance for the Atlantic biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2007) 5396)
 - o 2004/813/EC of 7 December 2004 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, the list of sites of Community importance for the Atlantic biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2004) 4032)
- Walloon Code of Planning , Heritage and energy in particular Articles 84 , 12 and 452/27
- Law of 28.02.1882 on Hunting
- Walloon Government Order of 23 October 2008 laying down detailed preventive rules for Natura 2000 sites
- Walloon Government Order of November 8, 2012 on allowances and subsidies in the Natura 2000 sites, in the Natura 2000 network candidate sites and in the main ecological structure
- Ministerial Order of February 15, 2010 establishing the model forms referred to the Walloon Government Order of October 23, 2008 laying down detailed preventive rules for Natura 2000 sites
- Walloon Government Order of 24 March 2011 laying down general preventive measures for Natura 2000 sites and for the Natura 2000 network candidate sites

- Walloon Government Order of 19 May 2011 laying down the types of management units that may be defined within a Natura 2000 site as well as prohibitions and specific preventive measures that are applicable
- Walloon Government Order of 20 November 2003 concerning the consultation prior to the development of active management contracts and the recognition of the failure of active management
- Walloon Government Order of 4 March 2010 appointing the members of the Conservation Commission of Arlon, Dinant, Liege, Malmedy, Walking, Mons, Namur, Neufchâteau under the Law of 12 July 1973 on the Conservation of Nature
- Walloon Government Order of 17 October 2013 organizing the obligation to close grazed lands bordering rivers and amending various provisions
- Walloon Government Order of 13 March 2014 amending the Walloon Government Order of 19 May 2011 laying down the types of management units that may be defined within a Natura 2000 site as well as prohibitions and specific preventive measures that are applicable – first decision
- Walloon Government Order setting conservation objectives for the Natura 2000 network
- Decree of 26 March 2014 amending the Law of 12 July 1973 on the conservation of nature with regard to the reimbursement of travel and subsistence and the duration of the appointment of members of the Commissions of conservation of Natura 2000 sites and Annexes IIa, IIb, VIa, VIII, IX and XI
- Ministerial Order of 27 March 2014 laying down the procedures for reporting conservation area and for marking of dead trees, trees of biological interest conservation area in Natura 2000 and in the Natura 2000 network candidate sites
- Walloon Government Order of 30 April, 2009 on the designation of Natura 2000 site :

BE32014	Vallée de la Haine en amont de Mons
BE33015	Bois d'Anthisnes et d'Esneux
BE33062	Vallée de l'Our et de ses affluents
BE34031	Bassin moyen de l'Ourthe occidentale
BE34062	Bassin du Ruisseau du Messancy
BE35002	Vallée de l'Orneau
BE35036	Vallée du Biran

- Walloon Government Order of 23 January 2013 on the designation of Natura 2000 site :

BE31008	Carrière de Dongelberg
BE32006	Bois d'Enghien et de Silly
BE32015	Canal souterrain de la Bête Refaite
BE32016	Forêt de Mariemont
BE32022	Trou des Sarrazins à Loverval
BE32023	Vallée du Ruisseau d'Acoz
BE32033	Sources de la Hante
BE32041	Trou aux Feuilles
BE32042	Vallée du Ruisseau d'Erpion
BE32045	Vallée de l'Aubrecheuil
BE32046	Vallée du Piéton
BE32047	Vallée de la Thure

BE33001	Sources du Geer
BE33013	Bois de la Neuville et de la Vecquée
BE33016	Basse vallée de la Vesdre
BE33020	Affluents du lac d'Eupen
BE33023	Vallée de la Soor
BE33024	Vallée de la Helle
BE33025	Fagnes du Nord-Est
BE33028	Vallée de l'Ambève du Pont de Targnon à Remouchamps
BE33029	Basse vallée de la Lienne
BE33030	Vallée de l'Ambève de Chêne au Pont de Targnon
BE33031	Bois de la Géronstère
BE33032	Fagnes de Malchamps et de Stoumont
BE33033	Vallée du Wayai et affluents
BE33035	Plateau des Hautes-Fagnes
BE33045	Sources de la Warchenne
BE33048	Vallée de la Lienne et affluents entre Les Trous de Bras et Habiémont
BE33052	Ma Campagne au sud de Malmedy
BE33066	Grotte Jaminon
BE33067	Bois de Staneux
BE34011	La Calestienne entre Hotton et Oppagne
BE34017	Fagnes de Bihain
BE34021	La Calestienne à Marche en Famenne
BE34032	Bassin inférieur de l'Ourthe occidentale
BE34034	Sources du Ruisseau de Tavigny
BE34040	Vallée de Villers-la-Bonne-Eau
BE34043	Bassin de la Semois du Maka à Bouillon
BE34044	Vallée du Ruisseau des Aleines
BE34045	Forêts de Muno
BE34059	Vallées de l'Eisch et de Clairefontaine
BE34069	Mare de Frassem
BE35001	Etangs de Boneffe
BE35007	Forêts et lac de Bambois
BE35013	Bois calcaires de Nettinne
BE35014	Bois de Famenne à Waillet
BE35033	Vallée du Ruisseau d'Alisse
BE35043	Vallée du Ruisseau de Saint-Jean
BE35046	Vallée du Ruisseau de Gros Fays
BE35047	Vallée du Ruisseau de Rebais
BE35048	Vallée du Ruisseau de la Goutelle
BE35049	Vallée du Ruisseau de Fairoul

C.2 Progress and perspectives for management planning for the sites

Progress in establishing conservation objectives	Order of the Walloon Government on conservation objectives has been subject to public consultation between December 2012 and February 2013 and adopted on 13 March 2014. It specifies for each habitat and species of Community interest, the conservation objectives at the regional level and in each Natura 2000 site.
% of sites with plans completed	35%
% of sites with plans in preparation	65%
% of sites with no plans	0%
Link to web sites with plans & any guidelines	<p>http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/natura-2000.html?IDC=829</p> <p>http://geoportail.wallonie.be/geoviewer/?configContext=natura2000_ep&codeSiteNatura=BE3XXXX#BBOX=-23681.30619761237,353350.6978663958,-109415.31936330544,187447.77436288202</p>
More background information on plans and comment on other instruments/approaches for management planning, information on and plans for particular sectors (e.g. forestry etc.)	<p>In the Walloon Region, the Natura 2000 sites are covered by management measures at different levels :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general prohibition of the deterioration of natural habitats and the disturbance of the species for which the sites have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant; • General preventive management measures (general prohibitions) are applied to all sites before their designation as SACs . They are also applied off-site to avoid the deterioration of the natural habitats and significant disturbance of the species for which the site has been designated ; • The SACs are delimited in management units in which particular prohibitions and other specific preventive measures are applicable ; <p>For More :</p> <p>http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/consnat/cons001.htm (Articles 28 and 28a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Walloon Code of Planning, Heritage and Energy (Articles 84, 12 and 452/27) submits to the authority’s planning permission the clearing or the modification of the vegetation of any area in which the Government considers protection. These areas are explained in Article 452/27 and are related to habitats and species of community interest. <p>For More :</p> <p>http://dgo4.spw.wallonie.be/DGATLP/DGATLP/pages/DGATLP/Dwnld/CWATUPE.pdf</p> <p>All the foregoing constitutes a passive management of Natura 2000 sites. It is therefore insufficient for the restoration in a favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. Effective or active management is encouraged through Life programs, plans for managing natural reserves (state and private), forest management plans, restoration actions and management conducted by public and private actors on public funding (regional and EAFRD).</p>

C.3 Relevant government and non-governmental plans

- Wallonia Nature Network

The Wallonia nature network federates ongoing activities and new biodiversity activities in order to build a mesh consisting of both areas of great biological interest and more common areas in which nature finds its place in harmony with human activities. It is presented as a catalog of practical actions carried out by local actors.

- Species action plans

Four action plans have been prepared for reptiles and amphibians and their implementation is in progress. These plans concern the common European adder, the natterjack toad, sand lizard, the yellow-bellied toad.

Each of these plans includes an inventory of current and past presence of the species in Wallonia and in the neighboring regions, the identification of their status, the description of the ecological requirements of the species, the identification of threats, strategic and operational objectives and measures to implement. Identification of implementation steps and evaluation are also part of the action plans. Regarding the yellow-bellied toad since the species was almost extinct, the recovery of the species is carried out through larval rearing and release of juveniles. Other action plans aim to the restoration and the preservation of sites.

Furthermore, in the framework of a LIFE project, action plans are being prepared for three threatened butterfly species : the marsh fritillary, the large copper and the violet copper.

- Forest management plans :

The forest management plan is a study and a document that relies on the sustainable management of the forest. From a thorough analysis of the natural environment, the management plan provides strategic and operational objectives and proposes an action plan for a specified period.

More: <http://environnement.wallonie.be/amenagement/index.htm>

- Biodiversity circular

This circular was adopted to promote the development of biodiversity in the public forests. It consists of a catalog of measures aimed to encourage or enforce.

More : <http://environnement.wallonie.be/publi/dnf/normes.pdf>

- Invasive action plan

Public Service of Wallonia and many partners have teamed up to provide assistance in the identification, validation and submit as soon as possible observations of emerging invasive species to the manager.

More : <http://www.alterias.be/en/>

- Agri-environmental measures (AEM)

The objective of the Walloon agri-environmental program aims to minimize the negative impacts of agriculture on the environment (pesticide management, protection of surface water and groundwater, ...) while maximizing its positive impacts (management of the rural landscape, contribution to the maintenance of biodiversity subservient to some agricultural practices, maintaining specific habitats, ...), this ensuring a viable farming economically and socially. For this, the program offers a range of measures adapted to agricultural and environmental context of the region.

More : http://agriculture.wallonie.be/apps/spip_wolwin/article.php3?id_article=59

- Late mowing plan

The number of municipalities signed the Convention on the late mowing roadsides now stands at 219. In 2012, an awareness brochure was achieved. 120,000 copies have already been distributed to different partners.

More : <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/le-fauchage-tardif.html?IDC=3659>

- Roofs and steeples Conventions

Operation " Roofs & Steeples ", launched in 1995, aims to protect a number of animal species in the attics and steeples of buildings. Public Service of Wallonia provides grants to participating municipalities to achieve the necessary arrangements.

More : <http://environnement.wallonie.be/dnf/comblesetclochers/>

- **Rivers contracts**

A River Contract aims to bring together the stakeholders of the valley so as to define consensually a restoration program of the river, its surroundings and water resources of the basin. Are invited to participate to this process politicians, administrative, teachers, socio-economic actors, associations, scientists...

More : http://environnement.wallonie.be/contrat_riviere/contrats.htm

- **Remediation plans by subwatershed**

Remediation plans by subwatershed are specific plans that include the mapping of geographical areas corresponding to different wastewater treatment systems. They ensure consistency in the regional design treatment and clarify the membership of each parcel to a defined sanitation area.

More : <http://www.spge.be/fr/plans-d-assainissement-pash.html?IDC=2017>

- **Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES)**

As part of the new European strategy for the conservation of biodiversity , the Member States, with the assistance of the European Commission, mapping the ecosystems and their services and assess the state of their territory (2014) , evaluate the economic value of these services , and promote the integration of these values into accounting systems and reporting at EU and Member States (2020) .

More :

http://www.google.be/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CD4QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fetat.environnement.wallonie.be%2Fdownload.php%3Ffile%3Duploads%2Frapportsetudes%2FDossier%2520scientifique%2520SE_RW_VF%255B1%255D.pdf&ei=xHGTUsLWGsVBOgWYvICQBA&usg=AFQjCNEUEN1kbATam2zAlth0l0MBZwU_FQ&sig2=rG15_aWlONKwAyaLQWs_g

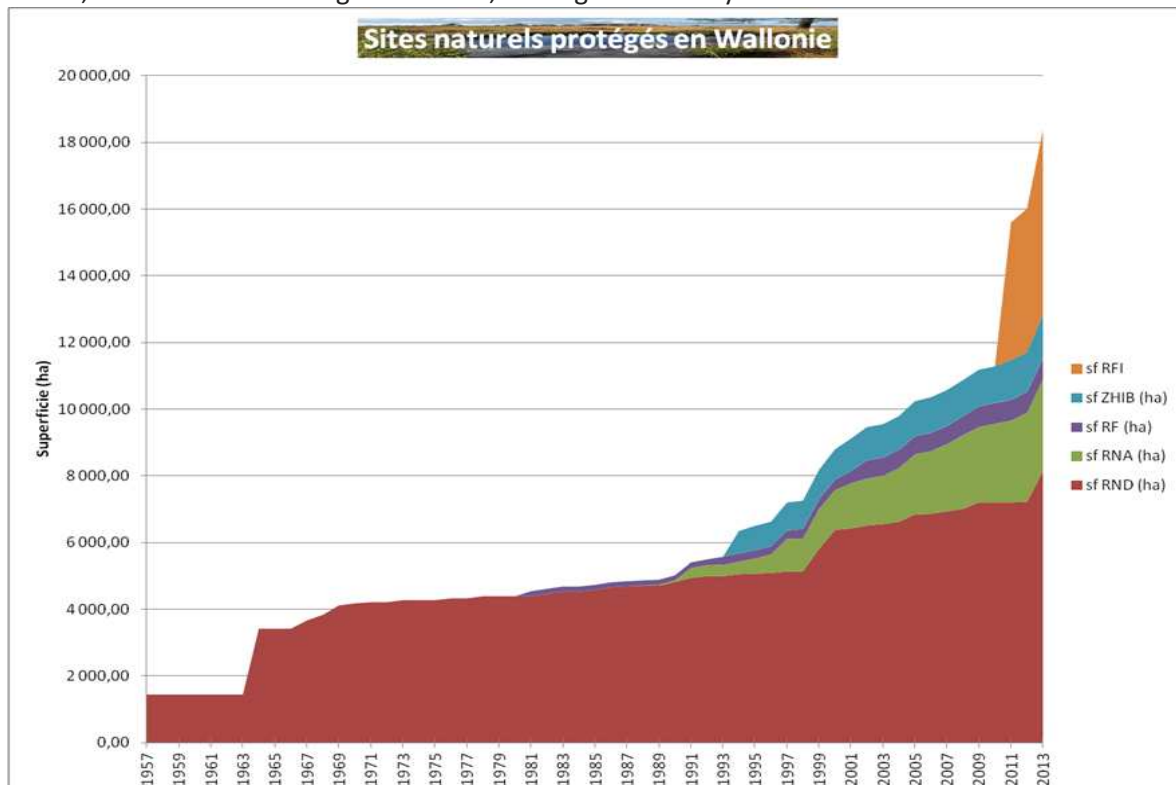
- **Sites of great biological interest**

Sites of great biological interest are the heart of the main ecological structure: they contain rare or threatened populations of species and habitats and are characterized by a high biodiversity or an excellent conservation status. They are essential for organizing the framework of the ecological network and to establish the foundations of a deliberate policy of nature conservation.

More : <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/sgib-sites-de-grand-interet-biologique.html?IDC=824>

- **Natural reserves**

The Law of the nature conservation of 12 July 1973 provides different types of status of protected areas for the central areas : the state natural reserve, the authorized natural reserve, the Forest reserve, the wetland of biological interest, underground cavity of scientific Interest.



Evolution of protected areas (according to the nature conservation Law) and of integrated reserves (according to the forest Code)

More: <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/reserves-naturelles-co.html?IDC=825>

- **Spatial Plan**

The spatial plan identifies land uses. The Walloon Code of Planning , Heritage and Energy defines the activities and acts that may be admitted in each area of the plan especially including natural area, forest area and area of green spaces

More : <http://developpement-territorial.wallonie.be/PDS.html>

Remarkable trees and hedges

A census of remarkable trees and hedges was performed for all 262 Walloon municipalities Result : more than 25,000 remarkable trees and hedges. Each is described according to its location, health status, size and its relevance (landscaping , exceptional size, biological curiosity, historical, folk/religious, geographic reference) . This work represents a real tool for the protection of the heritage. Indeed, these hedges, rows or isolated remarkable trees are protected.

More : http://environnement.wallonie.be/dnf/arbres_remarquables/index.html

- **Natural parks**

New parks now cover 48 Municipalities . They aim for the protection and enhancement of natural heritage and remarkable landscapes. Education and public information is one of their missions whose importance is growing.

More : <http://www.fpnw.be/>

- **Maya Plan**

The Maya plan aims to save the bees and pollinating insects in Wallonia through reconstruction of spaces rich of honey plants, support for young beekeepers, research on bee diseases, late mowing. Many municipalities are involved.

More: <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/plan-maya.html?IDC=5617>

- **Municipal development plans of Nature**

The municipal development plans of nature are based on a voluntary and coordinated approach for territorial development in relation to the ordinary and extraordinary nature.

The projects are varied from one municipality to another and many partners participate. They affect different forms of awareness and concern all areas that constitute a territory.

More : <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/pcdn.html?IDC=3158>

D CURRENT EXPERIENCE WITH USE OF EU FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

D1 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Provide a summary of allocations under relevant provisions of rural development fund for Natura 2000 management, (as well as other relevant national/regional financing)

Fund	Provision	Level of Use*
EAFRD	213 Natura 2000 agricultural payments	8 900 000 € (estimation of average yearly expenditure based on applications for aid submitted by farmers) VS
	224 Forest Natura 2000 payments	567 000 € (estimation of average yearly expenditure based on applications for aid submitted by forest owners) VS
	214 agri-environment	238 243 940 € (estimation of average yearly expenditure based on applications for aid submitted by farmers) VS
	225 forest-environment measures	NU
	323 Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	1 520 000 € (estimation based on budget spent for restoration and management of habitats and species of community interest) MI
Other relevant (national/regional) payment schemes for Territory		
-	<i>Voluntary conservation measures payments (100 % Walloon budget) :</i>	141 700 € MU
-	<i>Voluntary restoration actions : (100 % Walloon budget)</i>	290 000 € MU
Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund:		
<u>Agricultural and forest related conservations measures</u>		
General conservation measures		
<p>Since January 13, 2011, general conservation measures are applicable in all Natura 2000 sites. These measures are organized in a gradual system of prohibitions, authorizations and notifications of possible activities in a Natura 2000 site :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act prohibited: such acts cannot be performed unless an exemption from the Inspector General of the Department of Wildlife and Forestry. - Act subject to authorization : to perform this act, authorization is submitted to the Director of the Foreign Service of the Department of Wildlife and Forestry. If the request is valid, the activities can be carried out. 		

More :

- Walloon Government Order of 24 March 2011 laying down general preventive measures for Natura 2000 sites and for the Natura 2000 network candidate sites :
<http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/consnat/cons045.htm>
- Terms : <http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/consnat/cons046.htm>

Particular conservation measures

Particular and specific conservation measures will also be applied in SCAs when designated. These measures are organized into 11 main units of management. They are also organized in a gradual system of prohibitions, authorizations and notifications

Examples of measures :

- Prohibition of grazing and mowing between November 1 and June 15 (for grassland of species habitats);
- Spreading any mineral or organic fertilizer in native forests of great biological interest is subject to authorization.

More : Walloon Government Order of 19 May 2011 laying down the types of management units that may be defined within a Natura 2000 site as well as prohibitions and specific preventive measures that are applicable : <http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/consnat/natura019.htm>

Compensatory allowances

Conservation measures to protect habitats and species of community interest induce costs that should be compensated. Different compensatory allowances are provided to affected farmers and forest owners:

€ 40 / hectare of forest

€ 100 / hectare common grassland

€ 440 / hectare of priority open grassland (habitat or species of community interest)

€ 900 / hectare of extensive bands

More : Walloon Government Order of November 8, 2012 on allowances and subsidies in the Natura 2000 sites, in the Natura 2000 network candidate sites and in the main ecological structure :
<http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/consnat/natura020.html>

Incentives

For the management of Natura 2000 sites as well as their restoration, voluntary actions are encouraged by subsidies:

- Grants for early cut of resinous
- Grants to restore grasslands and heaths
- Other restoration and management of habitats or species of community interest
- Grant for land purchase related to nature conservation

More : Walloon Government Order of November 8, 2012 on allowances and subsidies in the Natura 2000 sites, in the Natura 2000 network candidate sites and in the main ecological structure :
<http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/consnat/natura020.html>

Payment of agri-environmental measures

Voluntary measures are encouraged to allow the integration of nature in agricultural practices. These concern hedgerows and wooded strips, ponds, grass strips, natural grasslands grassland of high biological value...

More : <http://wallex.wallonie.be/index.php?doc=10680&rev=10058-19>

Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered:
 Barriers to the success of the project are of several types :
 - Late implementation of Natura 2000 financing measures; result : use of funds 3 years after the notification of EAFRD
 - Insufficient Walloon budgets, particularly those related to the restoration of habitat and species of community interest
 - lack of or insufficient staff for mapping activities, controls, communication, awareness, training, etc..
 - Insufficient communication (on conservation objectives and measures) to local actors
 - The relative involvement of stakeholders.

** Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use*

D.2 European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

Provide a summary of allocations under Axis 1-4 of EFF used for Natura 2000 management, (as well as other relevant national/regional funding)

Fund	Provision	Level of Use*
EEF	Axis 1 to 4	NU
Other (national/regional) payment schemes for Territory		NU
Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund: /		
Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered: /		

Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

D.3 Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund

Provide a summary of allocations under relevant provisions of structural funds used for Natura 2000 management, (as well as other relevant national/regional funding)

Fund	Provision	Level of Use*
ERDF	Category 51	NU
	Category 55	NU
	Category 56	NU

INTERREG				
Acronym	Walloon operators	Contact persons	Total amount	ERDF amount
INTERREG IVA Grande Région				
Pacte Haute Sûre	Parc naturel Haute-Sûre Forêt d'Anlier	Donatien Liesse 063/608084 donatien@parcnaturel.be	545000	272500
Patrimoine Bassin Chiers *	Réserves naturelles RNOB (Natagora)	Joelle Huysecom 0474/545264 joelle.huysecom@natagora.be	907400	453700
Contrat de rivière de l'Our	Verwaltungskommission des Naturparks Hohes Venn - Eifel	Xavier Janssens 080/440303 xavier.janssens@hautes-fagnes-eifel.be	928400	464200
Réseau Parc Naturel	Parc Naturel des 2 Ourthes	Vincent Van der Heyden 061/210400 vincent.vanderheyden@pndo.be	60570.04	3423.92
	Parc Naturel de la Haute Sûre Forêt d'Anlier	Donatien Liesse 063/608084 donatien@parcnaturel.be	60570.04	3423.92
	Au Pays de l'Attert asbl	Sylvie HUBERT 063/227855 sylvie.hubert@attert.be	60570.04	3423.92
	Commission de gestion du Parc Naturel Hautes Fagnes-Eifel	Xavier Janssens 080/440303 xavier.janssens@hautes-fagnes-eifel.be	55570.01	923.9
Restau Eco *	Parc Naturel des deux Ourthes Houffalize	Nathalie Claux 061/210402 nathalie.claux@pndo.be	528000	264000
	RNOB	Philippe Collas philippe.collas@natagora.be	136800	68400
	Parc Naturel Haute-Sûre Forêt d'Anlier	Donatien Liesse 063/608084 donatien@parcnaturel.be	33200	16600

INTERREG IVA France Wallonie Vlaanderen				
Sous programme tripartite				
BIPS*	Ville de Mouscron	Christophe Deneve 0497/527733 christophe.deneve@mouscron.be	223185	111592.5
	Ville de Comines-Warneton	Françoise Declercq 056/561076 francoise.declercq@publilink.be	175485	87742.5
	Ville d'Estaimpuis	Laure André 056/481377 laure.andre@estaimpuis.be	178685	89342.5
	Hainaut Développement	Alexis Canon et Muriel Glaude 065/342500 hainaut-developpement@hainaut.be	70435.8	35217.5
Dostrade	IDETA	Frédéric Banse 069/789812 0476/899723 banse@ideta.be	17800	8900
	Contrat rivière Escaut-Lys	Aline de Meester 0492/703275 ademeester@crescautlys.be	122540	61270
	Parc naturel des Plaines de l'Escaut	Rheinold Leplat 069/779871 rleplat@plainesdelescaut.be	67318	33659
Sous programme franco-wallon				
APBM*	NATECOM	Jean-Claude Bougard 064/341765 fa492159@skynet.be	87236	43618
	CARAH	Christophe Bauffe 068/264603 bauffe.c@skynet.be	431745.54	215872.77
PNTH	PNPE	Rheinold Leplat 069/779871 rleplat@plainesdelescaut.be	162500	81250
INTERREG IV EUREGIO Meuse-Rhin				
HABITAT*	Parc naturel Hautes Fagnes Eifel	Charlotte Bontinck 080/44,03,91 charlotte.bontinck@hautes-fagnes-eifel.be	256480.14	128240.07
	Administration communale de Oupeye	Dykmans eric 04/2670756 0477/449160 e.dykmans@oupeye.be	570911.17	285455.59

Note: Projects marked with * are those specifically focused on biodiversity. Others include other actions

European Social Fund (ESF)	NU
<p>Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund:</p> <p>More :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.interregemnews.eu/fr/lettre-dinformation/interreg-euregio-meuse-rhin-14-automne-2013/cinq-questions-a-frans-hornesch-du-projet-habitat/126/ • http://www.interreg-lorraine.eu/index.php?id=404 • http://www.chainedesterrils.eu/interreg-terril-mine-nord-fr-50-143-0-1_presentation.htm • http://www.interreg-vallees-ardenne.eu/ • http://www.bipsweb.eu/fr/default.aspx • http://dostrade.eu/wakka.php?wiki=PagePrincipale • http://www.plainesdelescaut.be/interregmodedemploi/interreg-iv-et-le-pnth • http://naturpark-our.lu/index.php?id=28;lang=fr;project=16 • http://crhs.eu/index.php?id=23;lang=fr • http://www.granderegion.net/fr/autres-cooperations-interregionales/a11_reseau_des_parcs_naturels/ 	
<p>Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered:</p> <p>Lack of staff, lack of skills and lack of knowledge of the mechanisms related to these funds led to low utilization.</p> <p>Wallonia focuses on other types of European funds for which there is already a certain tradition (Life, EAFRD, ...).</p>	

Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

D.4 LIFE+

Provide a summary of allocations under LIFE+ for Natura 2000 management,

Fund	Provision	Level of Use*
LIFE+	Nature and Biodiversity	70 331 113 € (period 2002-2013) VS
<p>Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under this fund:</p> <p>Restoration of peatland, calcareous grasslands, heathland, reedbeds, hay meadows and extensive agricultural areas and populations of species (Otter, pearl mussel, 3 butterflies). 18 Life projects of which 6 are still in progress. Since 2002, the Walloon projects contributed to restore so far of about 9,000 ha and ha to acquire 1,500. 4 Life projects were voted "Best LIFE project".</p>		
<p>Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered:</p> <p>Life projects have given a new dimension to the implementation of the restoration measures of the natural heritage in Wallonia. They also helped to develop a wide variety of restoration and management technics. The afterlife was sometimes difficult to manage because of lack of anticipation of means to ensure a recurring management. But overall the positive role played by these projects management is unquestionable.</p>		

Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

D.5 Other key funding sources

Fund	Level of Use*
7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7)	NU
Public/Private Partnership financing schemes	Unknown funds from Privates and public organizations : Spa Monopole, Elia, Natagora, Ardenne et Gaume, other NGOs, individuals MU
Use of innovative financing	NU
Other (specify)	/
<p>Summary of key Natura 2000 related measures being undertaken under fund:</p> <p>Preservation of water catchment areas The areas surrounding the water catchment are strictly regulated in order to avoid their pollution. More : http://www.nitrawal.be/43-protection-captages.htm</p> <p>Participation to Life projects Different organizations are involved in the Life projects through a partnership. More: http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/projets-life.html?IDC=3260</p> <p>Voluntary restoration projects Private or public, and managers can receive subsidies for the restoration, management and acquisition in the Natura 2000. This is cofinanced by EAFRD More : http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/consnat/natura020.html</p> <p>Management of natural reserves Natura NGOs receive an annual grant to the ordinary management of their approved natural reserves. They undertake these activities with the help of volunteers. Extraordinary work is also supported by the regional financing. More: http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/reserves-naturelles-co.html?IDC=825http://www.natagora.be/index.php?id=nos_actions</p> <p>Communication The NGO “Bérinzenne” has developed for years, various awareness tools related to Natura 2000. These tools are relayed throughout the Walloon region in the regional centers for Environment initiation. More: http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/l-asbl-domaine-de-berinzenne.html?IDC=3706&IDD=685 http://www.crie.be/-Contacts-.html?lang=fr</p>	
<p>Key lessons learnt and obstacles encountered:</p> <p>Public/private partnership is weakly used. The next steps for the implementation of Natura 2000 should focus on this aspect in order to involve the whole community in the effort of the relics preservation of habitats and species of Community interest.</p>	

Where estimates are available they should be provided. Otherwise indicate as VS Very significant; MU Moderate Use; MI Minor use; NU No use

E Current estimate of financial needs for management of Natura 2000 for the territory

Estimate of financial needs, according to article 17 of habitats directive and article 12 of birds directive, integrates:

- Restoration costs including administrative and planning costs, land purchase, technical restoration operations, allowances for loss of value, infrastructure costs...
Estimates are based on similar Life projects costs in Wallonia and could be implemented through new Life projects and EAFRD funds.
- Recurrent management costs including grazing, mowing, ponds management, cropping extensification, nature-friendly forest management (forest edges, dead wood, old trees...), hedges maintenance, invasive alien and problematic native species control, as well as allowances for loss of yearly income
These estimates integrate among others agri-environmental measures and EAFRD funds.
- Monitoring costs including methodology development, set up and carry out of field data collecting (mapping, inventories), database development and management, data analysis, reporting...
These estimates integrate maintaining and reinforcement of existing team and a dedicated Life project.
- Assessment and updating of PAF.
- Administrative management and control in the NATURA 2000 network, landowners and farmers support. These estimates integrate maintaining and reinforcement of existing team.
- Communication and awareness-raising.
- Touristic infrastructure development and maintenance.

The following table shows the itemized costs. For restoration and management, costs are presented by type of environment – in this table, the term “habitats” combines habitats of Community interest and habitats for the species.

Items	Estimated costs (€)
Restoration	
Open terrestrial habitats (agricultural)	19 000 000
Open terrestrial habitats (non agricultural)	14 300 000
Forest habitats	8 600 000
Aquatic habitats	7 800 000
Infrastructure for species (chiroptera)	1 300 000
Total restoration	51 000 000

Recurrent management	
Open terrestrial habitats (agricultural)	71 000 000
Open terrestrial habitats (non agricultural)	15 700 000
Forest habitats	11 600 000
Aquatic habitats	1 900 000
Cropping (habitats for species)	8 000 000
Invasive species management	2 100 000
Tax benefits (exemption from property tax and inheritance tax and gift tax)	14 260 000
Total recurrent management	124 560 000
Monitoring	31 000 000
PAF assessment and updating	80 000
Administrative management and control in the NATURA 2000 network	31 213 000
Communication and awareness-rising	4 900 000
Touristic infrastructure development and maintenance	4 200 000
Total amount	246 953 000

F STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR NATURA 2000 FOR THE TERRITORY FOR PERIOD 2014-2020

F.0 Preamble: Development of tools for the implementation of Natura 2000

Tools will be developed for the implementation of priorities developed below, taking into account the most pressing and the most delicate issues. These tools will be directly implemented for some critical habitats and species where there is need for urgent action or when the intervention has a real cost / effectiveness ratio.

- Need to get a state of the current situation and monitoring methodology for lesser known habitats and species in the distribution / space / area occupied / state population distribution.
- Development of effective tools for storage, processing, retrieval of newly collected data and pre-existing biological data
- Actions in- and outside the Natura 2000 network for the most threatened and / or well represented outside the network habitats; development of awareness tools, management guides, training of actors, direct contact with stakeholders, development of voluntary and / or legal financial instruments, in collaboration with stakeholders. Agreements with private and public landowners and / or managers sectors : farmers, carriers, private enterprises (industrial zones), administration (transport network and waterways managers, municipalities, military. Revision of some existing tools to make them more efficient and enable them to focus on priorities. Development of innovative financial tools (public private partnership (PPP) in particular) - concerned outside the network : agricultural habitats (with farmers), rocky and sandy habitats (with the quarry sector), standing waters, forest habitats (with the private owners), implementation of tools for developing and improving the quality and biological connectivity cords woody riparian
- For exceptional habitats outside Natura 2000 network, opportunity of a direct purchase and establishment of a protection status and appropriate management. Ex.: meadows of high biological value such as nards, calcareous grasslands, Atlantic peaty birch.
- Development and implementation of concrete action plans for rare and little extended habitats (habitats where the action is particularly urgent) like Atlantic xeric sand calcareous grasslands (6120), Atlantic heathland (4010, 4030), Alkaline fens (7230), rainforests (91F0) to avoid a strong contraction of their range.
- Establishment of the conservation objectives for Natura 2000, identification, contact and awareness of principal actors; implementation of management plans in priority areas
- Development of a periodic system of assessment of the effectiveness of the tools and management measures ; followed by identifying obstacles and tools to avoid them.

These tools could be developed in collaboration or taking into account what is being done in the neighboring country and neighboring regions (Flanders, Brussels-Capital Federal; France, Luxembourg, Germany).

F.1 Summary of priorities for period (and expected outcomes), for priority habitat types and species having regard to the to the need for to measurable progress on the nature sub-target under EU 2020 biodiversity strategy and for ensuring good functioning of Natura 2000 network (SACs + SPAs)

➤ **Calcareous grasslands (6110, 6210)**

Significant areas have already been restored by Life projects. The main priorities are to improve their connectivity and to have an efficient management of restored areas in order to enhance structure

and function quality. For instance, quarries are seen as important potential sites to maintain species assemblages during the exploitation process and to manage and to extend new core areas in abandoned quarries

Expected outcomes :

- Increased areas in an outside the network : at least + 153 ha for 6210 ; + 20 ha for 6110
- Efficient management of 95 % of areas in- and outside the network, taking account of threatened species.

These outcomes will also benefit the following species : *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Maculinea arion*, *Coronella austriaca*, *Lullula arborea*, rocky habitats (8160, 8210) and *Juniperus* formations (5130)

➤ **Xeric sand calcareous grasslands (6120)**

This habitat is very rare in Wallonia. It is necessary to ensure the safeguarding of existing areas and to increase surfaces and connectivity. A Life project is currently being carried out to achieve restoration in Continental area. In Atlantic region, measures must be implemented in order to safeguard habitat patches and, if possible, increase surfaces. For instance, quarries are seen as important potential sites to maintain a certain proportion of pioneer stages during the exploitation or to extend or to install new core areas

Expected outcomes :

- Maintain habitat in existing locations, incl. outside Natura 2000 sites (Atlantic)
- Strengthen typical species populations ;
- Increased areas : + 50 ha ;
- Management of 100 % of areas in and outside the network
- Coordination of the dynamic management of xeric grasslands in landscapes like in quarries.

➤ **Nardus grasslands (6230)**

Nardus grasslands are encountered in 2 main situations in Wallonia. The largest surfaces are located in a military camp (inside a NATURA 2000 site), but, in most of its distribution area, the habitat is patchily distributed within an agricultural or forest matrix. Many of these patches are threatened by agriculture intensification, lack of management and reforestation, and *Arnica* relict populations have lost much genetic diversity and germination potential. Priority should be set to maintain and enlarge patches in existing locations in order to ensure minimal functional surfaces and connectivity. Life projects are currently being carried out to achieve restoration of this habitat in the Continental Region, but efforts should be made throughout the habitat's range.

Expected outcomes :

- Maintain and enlarge patch size in existing locations (inside and outside military camp)
- Reinforcement of *Arnica* populations through cultivation and seed sowing
- Efficient management of 90 % of currently unmanaged areas
- Increase areas : + 120 ha

These outcomes will also benefit *Euphydryas aurinia*

➤ **Raised bogs (7110)**

Restoration of raised bogs has already been initiated in Continental region, thanks to several Life projects. However, the habitat surface is still much lower than its potential extension due to former drainage and planting on peaty soils, especially in the Hautes Fagnes area. Moreover, in some restored habitats, hydrologic conditions still need to be improved.

Expected outcomes :

- Continue improving hydrologic conditions in already restored areas
- Increase surfaces by specific restoration, in degraded raised bogs invaded by *Molinia* and in coniferous plantations on peaty soils : + 100 ha

These outcomes will also benefit *Tetrao tetrix* and to *Leucorrhinia pectoralis*

➤ **Petrifying springs with tufa formation (7220)**

These very particular habitats are linked to very small areas and cannot be extended. They are especially sensitive to trampling, forest harvesting activities (incl. compaction), and to eutrophication. The priority is to ensure a high protection on these areas and their surroundings, e.g. by buying concerned lands if necessary (inside and outside the NATURA 2000 network).

Expected outcomes :

- Maintain existing locations of the habitat and improve its quality.

➤ **Calcareous screes (8160)**

Natural calcareous screes are found at the foot of high rocky outcrops. They have become rare due to infrastructure building and securing in many major valleys. They are also linked to quarries (abandoned and active ones). They undergo several pressures and threats, including tree or invasive species development, missing or wrongly directed management, quarries rehabilitation or their use as fill stones. Quarries are seen as important potential sites to maintain species assemblages during the exploitation process and to manage and extend new core areas in abandoned quarries.

Expected outcomes :

- Improve structures and functions, incl. strengthen typical species populations, both inside and outside Natura 2000 Network
- Raise habitat surface areas in quarries and improve network connectivity

This would thus encompass collaboration with the quarrying sector.

➤ **Slopes, screes and ravines forests (9180)**

Slope forests are naturally dispersed habitats, located on steep slopes. Measures in Natura 2000 sites should enhance conservation status of the habitat inside the network. But their potential extension and connectivity could be increased through restoration in areas where they have been replaced by coniferous plantations or through management and dynamic evolution in abandoned quarries. It is also important to prevent their destruction outside the network.

Expected outcomes :

- Maintain habitat in existing locations, incl. outside NATURA 2000 sites
- Increase areas by restoration from coniferous plantations and in abandoned quarries : + 50 ha

➤ **Bog woodlands (91D0)**

Restoration of bog woodlands is already in progress in Continental region, due to several Life projects and to the interdiction of drainage on peaty soils. However, the habitat surface is still much lower than its potential extension. And, in restored areas, hydrologic conditions still need to be improved. The habitat is very rare outside Ardenne and in the Atlantic Region. Only one patch of habitat is known in this region and located outside the network. Measures must be taken in order to identify and safeguard habitat patches outside the network.

Expected outcomes :

- Identify and maintain all locations of the habitats (especially outside Ardenne)
- Increase areas by restoration in existing/potential locations via Life projects and by avoiding coniferous replanting after harvesting of *Picea* stands on peaty soils : + 300 ha
- go on restoring hydrologic conditions

These outcomes will also benefit *Tetrao tetrix*

➤ **Alluvial forests (91E0)**

There is a need to restore connectivity of alluvial forests on Walloon territory. Surface areas of this habitat will probably grow in Natura 2000 sites due to the interdiction of coniferous replanting in 12 meters buffers around water courses. But the extension of the habitat surface is very small compared to its potential extension and it plays an important role in ecological network and water quality. Active restoration is thus needed to improve connectivity of riparian forests, both inside and outside the network. Moreover, in some river basins, habitat 91E0 undergoes invasion of its

undergrowth by invasive alien species, such as *Fallopia* sp., *Impatiens glandulifera* or *Solidago Canadensis*.

Expected outcomes :

- maintain existing locations
- Best possible control of invasive alien species
- increase surfaces and connectivity by restoration from exotic plantations and by planting tree lines along water courses in agricultural areas : + 500 ha

These outcomes will also benefit *Oxygastra curtisii* (Ourthe valley), *Castor fiber*, *Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Lutra lutra*.

F.2 Summary of priorities for other habitats and species covered by nature Directives having regard to the need for to measurable progress on nature sub-target under EU 2020 biodiversity strategy (Habitats and Birds Directives) and for ensuring good functioning of Natura 2000 network (SACs + SPAs)

A. Monitoring

A.1. Context

Data used for Article 17 reporting and for the setting of priorities in this document come from different sources.

Walloon administration takes directly charge of different inventories and mapping activities, including :

- detailed mapping and flora inventories of habitats in Natura 2000 sites (Département d'étude du milieu naturel et agricole - DEMNA)
- mapping and inventories in a network of high biological value sites (SGIB), inside and outside the Natura 2000 network (DEMNA).
- survey and monitoring of particular taxonomic groups : butterflies, dragonflies, aquatic molluscs, fishes (DEMNA)
- part of the inventories led for the Water Framework Directive (DEMNA).
- Walloon permanent forest inventory (Département de la Nature et des Forêts -DNF)

Administration (DEMNA) is also responsible for analysis and aggregating data collected by other bodies :

- maps and species surveys of Life and Interreg projects
- conventions with NGO's and universities (for birds, reptiles, amphibians, chiroptera, and other mammals)
- online-encoding (via website biodiversite.be) by networks of volunteer naturalists – only data validated by experts can be used
- historic and more recent data coming from published sources

However, some of the actions are not yet achieved or cannot be carried through with the current rate of progress. Data are thus still incomplete, and there is a need for a systematic and periodical monitoring plan for some species and habitats.

A.2. Monitoring priorities

The main priorities in completing monitoring are :

- Validation of definition of species habitats
- Development of methodologies for periodical assessment of :
 - o habitats surface. These methodological needs concern particularly : sampling plans for widely distributed habitats (e.g. dry heaths in Continental region, ponds, grasslands, riparian forests...), methodologies for the detection of rare habitats outside the network (rocky and sandy habitats, heaths in Atlantic region...).

- habitats structures and functions. These methodological needs concern particularly : completing forest inventories for rare forest habitats, setting up validated inventories (mainly collecting flora information) for open habitats.
- species distribution and populations, particularly for *Cladonia*, *Bromus grossus*, *Hirudo medicinalis*, *Vertigo moulinsiana*, *Unio crassus*, *Leucorhina pectoralis*, *Rhodeus sericeus*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Rana lessonae*, *Rana esculenta*, *Chiroptera*, *Lutra lutra*
- Development of efficient and integrated database systems to encode and analyse data's, incl. maps, species inventories, follow-up of habitats and species restoration, perturbations and destruction
- Staff training for the use of developed tools
- Reinforcing existing staff for the collection, encoding, validation and treatment of data
- Continuing existing conventions and setting up new ones with NGO's and Universities collecting some species data : birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals including chiroptera...
- Ensuring efficient animation of volunteer groups collecting species data ; this includes data validation by expert groups.

A.3. Expected outcomes :

- Substantial improvement of distribution, surface and population data of habitats and species for which information was insufficient in the 2013 report.
- Substantial improvement of assessment (incl. structures and functions) quality for Article 12, Article 17 and Standard Data Forms.
- Walloon conservation strategy can be re-evaluated and, if needed, re-oriented
- Most locations of threatened species and habitats are known and priority measures can be taken in these locations if needed.

B. List of target habitats and species

➤ **Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands (2330)**

This habitat is mainly located in 2 different areas : abandoned sand quarries of the Atlantic Region (Brabant and Haine Bassin) and a military camp in the Continental Region. The Atlantic locations of this habitat are highly endangered by the lack of management, which allows sand stabilisation and colonisation by shrubs, trees and invasive species (indigenous and exotic). Human activities also threaten some of these patches (motocross, filling of quarries, urbanization). The objective is to have an active restoration of the remaining patches, to enlarge them and improve their connectivity, in order to ensure the survival of their typical species. All restored areas should then be managed recurrently.

Expected outcomes :

- Ensure efficient protection of remaining patches, especially in the Atlantic Region
- Restore actively in the Atlantic region (e.g. in abandoned sand quarries), in order to get higher surfaces and improve connectivity – the objective could be to increase current area from 18 ha to a total of 50 ha or higher.
- Ensure a recurrent management of existing and restored areas to avoid colonisation by forest and invasive species.

These outcomes will benefit habitat 4030 (see below). They will also benefit *Lacerta agilis*.

- **Standing waters bodies (3130, 3140, 3150, *Lurionium natans*, *Leucorhina pectoralis*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Bombina variegata*, *Bufo calamita*, *Alytes obstetricans*, *Rana lessonae*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Acrocephalus arundinacea* and *Locustella luscinioides*)**

The main reasons for unfavourable conservation status in aquatic habitats are due to pollution of water accelerating natural eutrophication processes coupled with inadequate management practices and, especially for 3150 water bodies in the Atlantic Region, the invasiveness of exotic species. In Continental Region, there is a need for improvement of 3130 water bodies, threatened by water pollution, inadequate management practice, leisure fishing or aquaculture. Habitat 3140 is linked to very particular conditions of substrate and of water quality, clarity and depth, which makes it very sensitive to changes in these parameters.

Furthermore, some species inhabiting stagnant waters suffer from a lack of sufficient high-quality pond networks in many regions, in particular *Lurionium natans*, *Leucorhina pectoralis*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Bombina variegata*, *Bufo calamita*, *Alytes obstetricans* and *Rana lessonae*.

Habitats and species are also threatened by invasive alien species, such as *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, *Crassula helmsii*, *Elodea* spp., *Ludwigia grandiflora*, *Myriophyllum* spp., exotic fishes and crayfishes, *Rana ridibunda*, *Lithobates catesbeiana*, *Ondatra zibethicus* or *Myocastor coypu*.

There is an urgent need for restoration of significant areas of standing water bodies, in order to improve structures and functions and species populations inside and outside the Natura 2000 network. Abandoned quarries and temporary water bodies during exploitation in quarries provide also a large potential especially for habitat 3140. There is also a need to reinforce species populations through the creation of new water bodies on appropriate soils, with a good quality water supply and appropriate management of pond banks and control of fish populations.

Moreover, some bird species are still too rare and present tiny populations in Wallonia because of too small areas of reedbed habitats in a condition sometimes too dry, in particular *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Acrocephalus arundinacea* and *Locustella luscinioides*. Development of new habitats is to be promoted by the creation of new marshlands, completed by appropriate restoration and management of existing reedbed areas.

Expected outcomes :

- increase of stagnant water bodies surface (1000 ponds and 100 ha of reedbeds)
- restoration and adequate management of at least 75 % of the 3150 water bodies in Natura 2000 sites in the Atlantic Region ;
- restoration and adequate management of reed beds and bank vegetation ;
- restoration and adequate management of at least 75 % of the 3130 water bodies in Natura 2000 sites in the Continental Region ;
- Best possible control of invasive alien species populations ;
- rotational creation of ponds and pools for specialised habitats and species (3140, *Leucorhina pectoralis*, *Bombina variegata*, *Bufo calamita*, *Alytes obstetricans*, *Rana lessonae*, *Triturus cristatus*, ...)
- the status of species is maintained or improved.

These outcomes will also benefit *Rana esculenta*, *Rana temporaria*, *Rhodeus cericeus*, *Lutra lutra*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Egretta alba*, *Porzana porzana*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas querquedula*, *Vertigo moulinsiana*.

- **Habitats on peaty and semi-peaty soils (4010, 7140, 7150)**

Restoration of all these habitats is already in progress in Continental region, in the framework of several Life projects. However, the conservation status of these habitats is still unfavourable. The main objective should now be to ensure management (mainly grazing and mowing ; turf stripping) of these habitats on the long term : avoid reforestation, *Molinia* invasion...

It is also important to ensure conservation and enlargement of patches in areas currently not concerned by Life projects, in order to avoid a range size reduction and to ensure connectivity for

typical species. Particularly, in Atlantic region, the remaining patches are very rare and the surface is much lower than the habitat's potential extension.

Expected outcomes :

- Enhance conservation status via efficient and long-term management on restored areas : mainly grazing and mowing, but also turf-stripping...
- increase surfaces and connectivity in areas currently not concerned by Life projects, especially in Atlantic Region (4010-7150) where the objective could be a twofold increase.

These outcomes will also benefit *Lycopodiaceae* species, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Asio flammeus*, *Tetrao tetrix*, *Lanius excubitor*, and habitat 3160

➤ **Dry heaths (4030)**

In Continental region, significant areas have been restored through Life projects. The main objectives should thus be to ensure management (mainly turf stripping, controlled burning or grazing) on the long term : avoid reforestation, *Molinia*, *Pteridium* or *Deschampsia* invasion...

It is also important to ensure conservation and enlargement of patches in areas currently not concerned by Life projects, in order to avoid a range size reduction and to ensure connectivity for typical species. Particularly, in Atlantic region, the remaining patches are threatened by reforestation, urbanization, invasive species, eutrophication...

Expected outcomes :

- increase surfaces and connectivity in areas currently not concerned by Life projects, especially in Atlantic Region where the objective could be 150 ha.
- Enhance structures and functions via efficient and long-term management in restored areas : mainly turf-stripping, burning or grazing...
- Maintenance or improvement of species status through rotational management to maintain continuing mosaics of various heath stages

These outcomes will benefit *Lycopodiaceae* species, *Lacerta agilis*, *Coronella austriaca*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Tetrao tetrix* and *Lullula arborea* ; they will also benefit habitat 2330 (Atlantic Region) and 6230 (Continental Region).

➤ **Juniperus formations (5130)**

Current areas are extremely small and mainly consist of senescent populations without regeneration. The main objective is to enlarge the patches and to ensure the long-term existence of populations. An action plan (*Plan d'Action Genévrier*) is in progress. 3000 *Juniperus* cuttings from indigenous populations are currently in a nursery but still need to be re-introduced in existing patches and in previous localities (restored by Life projects on calcareous grasslands and heaths) to improve the habitat network.

Expected outcomes :

- Enhance structure and functions (*Juniperus* density and age pyramid) via efficient and long-term management, incl. planting.
- Increase surfaces and connectivity : at least 4 times existing surfaces, e.g. via planting on restored soils.

➤ **Mountain Hay meadow, Hay meadows, Molinia meadows (6410, 6510, 6520, *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Crex crex*, *Saxicola rubetra*)**

All these habitats are highly endangered due mainly to the intensification of agriculture (fertilization, frequent mowing, sowing of competitive species, overgrazing) and drainage (6410). Inside the Natura 2000 network measures should enhance conservation status of the habitats but for 6510 a large part of the surface is located outside the network. The main objectives must be at least to prevent further destruction and intensification of the existing patches of habitats e.g. by buying the most valuable

ones, by creating protected areas, and by the use of incentive measures. Active restoration should be carried out e.g. by extensification of practices, by sowing of characteristic species or sod-cutting, in order to get back to 1994 surfaces.

Expected outcomes

- Prevent surface reduction of existing habitats patches by buying lands, creating protected areas, using incentive measures.
- Increase surfaces and connectivity: at least + 100 ha (6410), + 500 ha (6510), + 50 ha (6520).
- Enhance structures and functions (number and cover of characteristic species) by appropriate management of 50 / 75% of existing surfaces (6510 / 6410 and 6520) ;
- Maintain relict populations of *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Crex crex* and *Saxicola rubetra* through appropriate management (rotational or very late mowing/grazing with refuge areas).

These outcomes will also benefit *Lycaena dispar*, *Chiroptera*, *Lanius* spp.

➤ **Rocky habitats (8150, 8210, 8220)**

Rocky habitats are linked to natural outcrops, but also to quarries, either abandoned or active. They undergo several pressures and threats, including roads and railway building/securing, quarrying activities, tree and invasive species development or rock climbing. While habitats linked to natural outcrops need to be conserved, quarries are seen as important potential sites to maintain species assemblages during the exploitation process and to manage and extend new core areas in abandoned quarries.

Expected outcomes :

- Improve structures and functions, incl. strengthen typical species populations, both inside and outside Natura 2000 Network
- Improve network connectivity

This would thus encompass collaboration with the quarrying sector.

Appropriate management in quarries will also benefit species such as *Bufo calamita*, *Alytes obstetricans*, *Lacerta agilis*, *Coronella austriaca*, *Bubo bubo* and *Falco peregrinus*.

➤ **Alkaline fens (7230)**

Though this very rare habitat is mainly located inside the network it is still endangered due to insufficient surfaces, water eutrophication, past drainage, lack of appropriate management (invasion by reed, reforestation...).

Expected outcomes:

- increase surfaces and connectivity : + 40 ha.
- Enhance structures and functions via efficient and long-term management in restored and existing areas (mainly mowing).
- Enhance water quality by preventing further eutrophication

➤ **Old acidophilous oak woods (9190)**

These birch and oak forests are located in both Atlantic and Continental regions. Their current area is much lower than their potential extension, mainly due to exotic plantations. Wet subtypes have also been widely drained. One objective should be to maintain remaining locations, especially outside the main distribution area, but it is also necessary to get viable ecosystems (surface and connectivity) by restoring habitat after harvesting of stands on semi-peaty soils (Ardennes) and on podsolized sands (Lorraine and Atlantic Region), and to restore hydrologic conditions where soils have been previously drained. Restoration will probably be facilitated by the legal prohibition to drain semi-peaty soils in forests (*Code Forestier*). Moreover, these habitats are often spatially close to habitats 4010, 4030 and 91D0.

Expected outcomes :

- Ensure to save current locations, especially isolated ones
- Increase areas and connectivity by restoration from exotic plantations on semi-peaty and podzolised soils : at least 400 ha
- Restore hydrologic conditions

➤ **All forest types (9110, 9120, 9130, 9150, 9160, 9180, 9190, 91D0, 91E0, 91F0, *Lucanus cervus*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Picus canus*)**

The main reason for unfavourable conservation status in forest habitats is poor structure and functions, and particularly the lack of dead wood and of old trees (trees with biological interest). Legal measures taken in Natura 2000 sites and in public forests should progressively improve forests quality. But some habitats are widely located outside the network and in private lands. Measures, e.g. incentives, should thus also be taken to promote increased amounts of dead wood and old trees throughout the territory, especially in areas less intensively covered by the Natura 2000 network, in order to ensure connectivity for species linked to these elements, incl. *Lucanus cervus*, *Myotis bechsteinii* and *Picus canus*.

Another source of concern for some forest habitats is the development of invasive alien species - particularly *Prunus serotina*, already widely present in the Atlantic Region, and appearing in some Continental areas.

Expected outcomes :

- Get progressively larger amounts of dead wood and old trees throughout territory (incl. outside Natura 2000 sites) to ensure an efficient network of these elements in forests
- the status of *Lucanus cervus*, *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Picus canus* is maintained or improved.
- Best possible control of invasive alien species, particularly *Prunus serotina*

These outcomes will also benefit *Cerambyx cerdo*, *Barbastellus barbastella*, *Aegolius funereus*, *Glaucidium passerinum*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Dendrocopos medius*.

➤ **River species (*Margaritifera margaritifera*, *Unio crassus*, *Coenagrion mercuriale*, *Lampetra planeri*, *Cottus gobio*, *Lutra lutra*)**

The bad or unfavourable conservation status of some river species is linked to insufficient water quality (eutrophication with lowering of concentration of dissolved oxygen, high sediment load due to inappropriate management in the upper watershed...) and modification of bank and river vegetation and profile. This is true in particular for *Margaritifera margaritifera*, *Coenagrion mercuriale*, *Lutra lutra* in the continental region and *Unio crassus*, *Lampetra planeri* and *Cottus gobio* in the Atlantic region.

Moreover, habitats and species are threatened by several invasive alien species such as exotic molluscs, crayfishes, catfish, *Procyon lotor* or *Ondatra zibethicus*, *Myocastor coypu*.

Expected outcomes:

- appropriate management of river beds, best possible control of invasive alien species and improvement of water quality
- the status of species is maintained or improved

These outcomes will also benefit *Oxygastra curtisii*, *Rhodeus sericeus*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Castor fiber*, *Lutra lutra*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Unio crassus*, *Lampetra planeri* and *Cottus gobio*.

➤ **Wet grasslands and mires species (*Lycaena helle*, *Saxicola rubetra*)**

The conservation status of many wet grasslands and mires species is unfavourable due to insufficient habitat network resulting from habitat degradation and fragmentation. Important efforts have been undertaken or are underway to densify the network by alluvial grasslands and mires restoration and by introduction of very extensive management (rotational grazing/mowing) in several regions in Ardenne and Lorraine as part of Life projects (Croix-Scaille, Plateau des Tailles, Haute-Lesse, Haute-

Lomme, Our basin, Haute-Semois...), but there is a need to extend these to other regions, e.g. the Haute-Ourthe, Haute-Sûre, Rulles and Vierre basins.

Expected outcomes:

- increase of favourable habitats surfaces (+ 250 ha)
- appropriate management of existing habitats
- the status of species is maintained or improved.

These outcomes will also benefit *Vertigo moulinsiana*, *Lycaena dispar*, *Crex crex*, *Lanius collurio*, *Gallinago gallinago*.

➤ **Farmland species (*Bromus grossus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Emberiza calandra*).**

One plant nearly endemic to Wallonia, *Bromus grossus*, is in a very precarious situation and could disappear without a specific conservation program. This should be launched through incentives to farmers for extensive management of winter-sown cereal fields, especially spelt fields, a frugal cereal generally cultivated on poor soils, in which *Bromus grossus* can thrive under appropriate conditions (self-produced cereal seeds infested by seeds, low fertilisation levels, low or no phytocide use).

Moreover, four bird species breeding in cereal crops have low or declining populations, namely *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus pygargus* and *Emberiza calandra*. They need to pursue special conservation programs, in particular through the agri-environment scheme with the creation of grass field-margins, fallow, set-aside or winter stubbles and nest protections (for harriers).

Expected outcomes :

- increase of extensive management in cereal crop regions (1000 ha of headlands)
- appropriate protection of detected nests (harriers)
- the status of species is maintained or improved.

These outcomes will also benefit *Cricetus cricetus* and migrant birds like *Falco columbarius*, *Charadrius morinellus*, *Asio flammeus*, *Anthus campestris*, *Emberiza hortulana*.

➤ **Chiroptera (*Rhinolophus spp.*, *Myotis spp.*, *Barbastella barbastellus*)**

Though their populations have lightly increased during last decade, they are still too low to be viable on the long term. There is a need to pursue actions already undertaken, such as securing winter and breeding roosts, reducing biocides impact (helminthicides, insecticides), improving biotopes quality (light pollution, hedges and tree lines network, organic farming, mitigation measures around road infrastructure...).

Expected outcomes :

- increase the number of winter and breeding roosts : + 100 (50 winter, 50 breeding)
- improve the quality (incl. structure) of agricultural landscape around roosts
- improve the status of species.

These outcomes will also benefit *Lanius spp.* and habitat 8310.

F.3 Strategic priorities in relation to investments in Natura 2000 linked to green tourism and jobs, to support climate change mitigation and adaptation or other ecosystem benefits, for research, education, training, awareness and promotion of co-operation (including cross-border) linked to Natura 2000 management

The following text is taken from the Walloon books of habitats of Community interest (Cahiers d'habitats d'intérêt communautaire - forthcoming)

➤ **Ecosystem services and habitats of Community interest**

Aside hay meadows (6510, 6520), beech and oak-hornbeam forests (9110, 9120, 9130, 9160), which contribute to the achievement of production services, most other habitats of Community interest

occupy land with very specific ecological conditions. In these habitats, primary production conditions are more difficult and opportunities for the restoration of regulating and cultural services are important. For instance, peaty, semi-peaty, very wet and alluvial soils draw a substantially continuous network of areas where restoration of habitats conservation status responds simultaneously to the objectives of nature conservation, to the economic interest of the owners and to the requirements of restoration of ecosystem services for the entire community.

In areas of steep slopes and superficial soils, economic speculation, if any, should take into consideration the risk of erosion and carbon build-up with old trees and dead wood.

Wallonia has a wide potential for restoration. Important areas of marginal soils are equally occupied by either exotic trees plantations or by intensive farming. A significant portion of these areas are candidates for restoration actions that should maximize the biological interest through the restoration of conservation status and ecosystem services.

➤ **Production services**

Only hay meadows (6510, 6520) and common forest habitats (9110-20-30-60) contribute significantly to production services ; hay meadows for the production of food (meat, milk) through the hay for livestock, and hardwood forests for the wood production. Another part of the open areas which are managed by grazing and / or mowing also contribute to the production of food.

The production of drinking water is dependent on good quality streams even if it is always treated (eg. Gileppe and Nisramont). Aquifers depend on the land uses that store water or slow evacuation, such as bogs, hardwood forests, natural open areas or woodlands in floodplain areas.

➤ **Regulating services**

Habitats of Community interest relating to peaty, very humid and alluvial soils are certainly those playing an essential role in both carbon storage, regulation of risks of flooding and erosion. They also have a large influence on water quality. The role of grass strips and wooded strips in riparian ecosystems, such as tall herb communities or riparian willow and alder woodlands, is no longer to demonstrate. Numerous studies have documented the largely positive economic impact of these natural infrastructures in landscapes deeply modified by human activities (eg Nisbet et al., 2011).

➤ **Cultural services**

As for regulation services, habitats of Community interest are the origin of many cultural services. Although many natural sites in Wallonia would deserve more highlighting particularly through interpretive centres and discovery activities; surface water, semi- natural and natural open habitats and native forests are widely used destinations in leisure activities and tourism. Forest environments in general are used for jogging, hiking or family walks that are essential for physical and mental health (eg Colson. Al 2009). The presence of natural or semi- natural open areas increases the attractiveness either by the landscape openness they offer, or by the intrinsic nature of the habitats concerned when media interpretation exist.

In the Walloon rural landscapes dominated by urban or intensive activities areas, these ecosystems provide diversification and heterogeneity that are essential to characterize the historical, cultural and social dimensions of landscapes.

➤ **Quantitative and monetary evaluation**

Many evaluation methods are implemented to better estimate the importance of ecosystem services that are not subject to market as the majority of production services. These methods are based on two main approaches based on data reported by recipients of services or activities revealed by their preferences. If only some of the identified benefits are monetarily evaluable, many studies (eg UK NEA 2011) reveal the importance of regulatory services (including water-related) and especially the reality of cultural services.

G Description of key measures to achieve priorities

G.1 General Priority Measures for Natura 2000

G.1.a General Priority Measures for Natura 2000

Type of activity	Description of measure	Target species/habitats/sites	Potential Financing sources*
2	Mapping, inventories, assessment	All sites (+ continued inventories of all NATURA 2000 species)	Regional public
5	Preparation of designation acts and management plans for protected areas and action plans for species and habitats	All sites + SGIB (High biological value sites) + protected areas + Rhinolophus hipposideros (+ other species with action plans)	Regional public
7	Public consultation	All sites	Regional public
8	Updating designation acts, management plans and strategies	All sites + SGIB (High biological value sites) + protected areas	Regional public
11	Staff	All sites + SGIB (High biological value sites) + protected areas	Regional public
12	Restoration, management...for habitats	Cfr type 12 in G1.b and G1.d	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
13	Restoration, management... for species	Cfr type 13 in G1.b and G1.d	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
15	Management schemes and agreements with owners and managers : agri-environmental measures, forest-environmental measures, aqua-environmental measures	Cfr type 15 in G1.b and G1.d	Regional public, EAFRD
16	Compensations for rights foregone and loss of income		Regional public, EAFRD
17	Monitoring and surveying		Regional public, Life
23	Land purchase	Cfr type 23 in G1.b and G1.d + for chiropterans, caves and roost sites (if opportunities)	Regional public, Life, Private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)

24	Infrastructure for restoration		Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)
20	Communication networks, newsletters and awareness-raising and information materials, updating internet webpages		Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)
25	Information for public access, interpretation, observatories and kiosks,		Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)

*Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources

G.1.b Priority Measures for Natura 2000 agricultural and forest habitats and species

Type of activity	Description of measure	Target species/habitats/sites	Potential Financing sources*
12	Conservation management measures for habitats : restoration works	2330, 4010, 4030, 5130, 6110, 6120, 6210, 6230, 6410, 6510, 6520, 8150, 8160, 8210, 8220, 9180, 9190, 91D0, 91E0	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
12	Conservation management measures for habitats : management and preparation of management plans	2330, 4010, 4030, 5130, 6110, 6120, 6210, 6230, 6410, 6510, 6520, 8150, 8160, 8210, 8220, 91E0	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
13	Conservation management measures for species : restoration works	Bromus grossus, Lucanus cervus, Lycaena helle, Euphydryas aurinia, Rhinolophus sp., Myotis sp., Barbastella barbastellus, Circus aeruginosus, Circus cyaneus, Circus pygargus, Emberiza calandra, Saxicola rubetra, Lacerta agilis	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
13	Conservation management measures for species : management and preparation of management plans	Bromus grossus, Lucanus cervus, Lycaena helle, Euphydryas aurinia, Rhinolophus sp., Myotis sp., Barbastella barbastellus, Circus aeruginosus, Circus cyaneus, Circus pygargus, Picus canus, Emberiza calandra, Saxicola rubetra, Lacerta agilis	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)

14	Conservation management measures in relation to IAS	2330, 4030, 6110, 6210, 6430, 8160, 8210, 9120, 9160, 9190, 91E0, 91F0	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
15	Agri-environmental measures	2330, 4010, 4030, 6110, 6120, 6210, 6230, 6410, 6510, 6520, Bromus grossus, Lycaena helle, Euphydryas aurinia, Rhinolophus sp., Myotis sp., Barbastella barbastellus, Circus aeruginosus, Circus cyaneus, Circus pygargus, Emberiza calandra, Saxicola rubetra, Lanius sp., Gallinago gallinago, Crex crex	Regional public, EAFRD
15	Forest-environmental measures	9110, 9120, 9130, 9150, 9160, 9180, 9190, 91D0, 91E0, 91F0, Lucanus cervus, Rhinolophus sp., Myotis sp., Barbastella barbastellus, Picus canus	Regional public, EAFRD
16	Compensation for rights foregone and loss of income	In Natura 2000 sites, all habitats and species	Regional public, EAFRD
17	Monitoring and surveying	All habitats and species	Regional public, Life, EAFRD
23	Land purchase	2330 (atlantic), 4010 (atlantic), 4030 (atlantic), 6110, 6120, 6230, 6410, 6510, 6520, 91D0, 91E0, Lycaena helle, Euphydryas aurinia, Saxicola rubetra	Regional public, Life, Private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)
24	Infrastructure for restoration: fences	2330, 4010, 4030, 5130, 6110, 6120, 6210, 6230, 6410, 91D0, Lycaena helle, Euphydryas aurinia, Circus aeruginosus, Circus cyaneus, Circus pygargus, Saxicola rubetra	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)

24	Infrastructure for restoration: other restoration and management infrastructure	2330, 4010, 4030, 5130, 6110, 6120, 6210, 6230, 6410, 6510, 6520, Lycaena helle, Euphydryas aurinia, Rhinolophus sp., Myotis sp., Barbastella barbastellus, Saxicola rubetra	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)
20	Communication networks, newsletters and awareness-raising and information materials, maintaining internet pages	All habitats and species concerned by action plans	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)

**Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources*

G.1.c Priority Measures for Natura 2000 marine and coastal habitats and species

Type of activity	Description of measure	Target species/habitats/sites	Potential Financing sources*
/	/	/	/

**Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources*

G.1.d Priority Measures for Natura 2000 wetlands habitats and species (including peatlands)

Type of activity	Description of measure	Target species/habitats/sites	Potential Financing sources*
12	Conservation management measures for habitats : restoration works	3130, 3140, 3150, 7110, 7140, 7150, 7230	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
12	Conservation management measures for habitats : management and preparation of management plans	3130, 3140, 3150, 7110, 7140, 7150, 7220, 7230	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
13	Conservation management measures for species : restoration works	Margaritifera margaritifera, Unio crassus, Leucorhina pectoralis, Coenagrion mercuriale, Lampetra planeri, Cottus gobio (atl.), Triturus cristatus, Bombina variegata, Bufo calamita, Alytes obstetricans, Rana lessonae, Botaurus stellaris, Ixobrychus minutus, Circus aeruginosus, Luronium	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)

		natans, <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> , <i>Locustella luscinioides</i> , <i>Lutra lutra</i> , <i>Myotis dasycneme</i> (hunting grounds, migration routes)	
13	Conservation management measures for species : management and preparation of management plans	<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> , <i>Unio crassus</i> , <i>Leucorhina pectoralis</i> , <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> , <i>Lampetra planeri</i> , <i>Cottus gobio</i> (atl.), <i>Triturus cristatus</i> , <i>Bombina variegata</i> , <i>Bufo calamita</i> , <i>Alytes obstetricans</i> , <i>Rana lessonae</i> , <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> , <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> , <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> , <i>Lurionium natans</i> , <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> , <i>Locustella luscinioides</i> , <i>Lutra lutra</i> , <i>Myotis dasycneme</i> (hunting grounds, migration routes)	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
14	Conservation management measures in relation to IAS	3140, 3150, 3260, 3270, <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> , <i>Unio crassus</i> , <i>Rana lessonae</i> , <i>Alytes obstetricans</i> , <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
15	Agri-environmental measures	3150, <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> , <i>Unio crassus</i> , <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> , <i>Triturus cristatus</i> , <i>Alytes obstetricans</i> , <i>Rana lessonae</i>	Regional public, EAFRD
16	Compensation for rights foregone and loss of income	In Natura 2000 sites, all habitats and species	Regional public, EAFRD
17	Monitoring and survey	All habitats and species	Regional public, Life, EAFRD
23	Land purchase	3130, 3140, 3150, 7110, 7140, 7220, 7230, <i>Leucorhina pectoralis</i> , <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> , <i>Triturus cristatus</i> , <i>Bombina variegata</i> , <i>Bufo</i>	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)

		calamita, Alytes obstetricans, Botaurus stellaris, Ixobrychus minutus, Circus aeruginosus, Lurionium natans, Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Locustella luscinioides	
24	Infrastructure for restoration : fences	7220, Margaritifera margaritifera, Unio crassus, Leucorhina pectoralis, Coenagrion mercuriale, Triturus cristatus	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (interreg)
24	Infrastructure for restoration : restoration and management infrastructure incl. water crossing, infrastructures for water level management...	3130, 3140, 3150, 7110, 7140, 7150, 7220, 7230, Margaritifera margaritifera, Unio crassus, Coenagrion mercuriale, Lampetra planeri, Botaurus stellaris, Ixobrychus minutus, Circus aeruginosus, Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Locustella luscinioides, Lutra lutra, Myotis dasycneme (hunting grounds, migration routes)	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)
20	Communication networks, newsletters and awareness-raising and information materials, maintaining internet pages	All habitats and species concerned by action plans	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)

*Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources

G.2 Other priority measures

G.2.a Priority Measures for securing ecosystem benefits of Natura 2000, especially in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation

Type of activity	Description of measure	Target species/habitats/sites	Potential Financing sources*
5	Scientific studies and investigations	4010, 7110, 7140, 9110, 9120, 9130, 9150, 9160, 9190, 91D0, Lycaena helle, Leucorhina pectoralis, Unio crassus, Margaritifera	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)

		margaritifera, Sphagnum sp., Euphydryas aurinia, Tetrao tetrix	
5	Preparation of management plans, strategies and schemes	All sites + SGIB (High biological value sites) + protected areas	Regional public
8	Review of management plans, strategies and schemes	All sites + SGIB (High biological value sites) + protected areas	Regional public
15	Forest-environment measures	All forest habitats	Regional public, EAFRD
17	Monitoring and surveying	All habitats 4010, 7110, 7140, 9110, 9120, 9130, 9150, 9160, 9190, 91D0, Lycaena helle, Leucorrhinia pectoralis, Unio crassus, Margaritifera margaritifera, Sphagnum sp., Euphydryas aurinia, Tetrao tetrix	Regional public, Life, EAFRD
18	Risk management (fire, flooding)	3130, 3150, 3160, 3260, 3270, 4010, 4030, 5130, 6110, 6210, 7110, 7120, 7140, 7150, 9160, 9190, 91D0, 91E0, 91F0 + associated species	Regional public, Life, private sources, EAFRD, ERDF (Interreg)

**Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources*

G.2.B Priority Measures for promoting sustainable tourism and employment in relation to Natura 2000

Type of activity	Description of measure	Target species/habitats/sites	Potential Financing sources*
21	Training and education	All sites	<i>Regional public, municipality sources, private sources, ERDF, Life</i>
22	Facilities to encourage visitor use and appreciation of Natura 2000 sites	All sites	Regional public, municipality sources, private sources, ERDF, Life
25	Infrastructure for public access, interpretation, observatories and kiosks, etc.	All sites	Regional public, municipality sources, private sources, ERDF, Life

**Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources*

G.2.c Priority Measures to promote innovative approaches in relation to Natura 2000

Type of activity	Description of measure	Target species/habitats/sites	Potential Financing sources*
15	<p><u>Main ecological structure (PES)</u></p> <p>Voluntary management and restoration measures (ecological network) and compensation. For instance, in quarries, transport networks, industrial zones, airports, golf course,...</p>	In and out Natura 2000 sites; all habitats and species	EAFRD, Life, Regional public
23	<p><u>Ecological consolidation</u></p> <p>Land purchase, including compensation for development rights</p>	In and out Natura 2000 sites; all habitats and species	Private sources, Regional public, EAFRD
24	<p>Infrastructure needed for habitat or species restoration</p>		
15	<p><u>Surface of ecological interest:</u></p> <p><i>The goal of surface of ecological interest is to improve the conservation status of the fauna and flora, while providing other environmental benefits.</i></p> <p>Voluntary management and restoration measures in area of ecological interest</p>	In and out Natura 2000 sites; all habitats and species	Private sources, Regional public, EAFRD
	<p><u>Temporary nature :</u></p> <p><i>integration of the nature in all activity sectors "Nature all around." Use of the Public/Private Partnership financing schemes to enhance and coordinate the restoration/management habitats and species of community interest.</i></p> <p><i>The objective is to increase the home potential of wildlife in all the Region in accordance with stakeholders (quarries,</i></p>	In and out Natura 2000 sites; all habitats and species	Private sources, Regional public, EAFRD

12	<i>transport networks, city parcs, ...) creating habitats in order to establish a green infrastructure.</i>		
	Conservation management measures for habitats (temporary nature)		
13	Conservation management measures for species (temporary nature)		

*Funding sources: EAFRD; ERDF, EFF; ESF, LIFE, National public, Private sources

G.3 Summary table of priority measures per habitat type and species

Feature (habitat type or species)	Conservation status (code from HD Article 17 report or BD Article 12 report)	Pressures and threats (codes from HD Article 17 report or BD Article 12 report)	Priority measure (from section G of PAF, possibly by coding)
Habitats (<i>wallon data only!</i>)			
2330	U2(atl), U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, I01, E01.02, C01.01.01	2; 5; 8; 12; 14; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
3130	U2(atl), U2(con)	H01, I01, H04.02, F02.03, F01, H02	2; 5; 8; 12; 16; 17; 18; 23; 24
3140	U2(atl), U2(con)	A08, H01, H02, K02.03, K02.04	2; 5; 8; 12; 14; 15; 16; 17; 20; 24; 25
3150	U2(atl), U1(con)	H01, I01, K01.03, K02.02, H02	2; 5; 8; 12; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 23; 24
4010	U2(atl), U2(con)	K02.01, G05.07, J03.02, J02.07, I02	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16; 17; 18; 23; 24
4030	U2(atl), U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, G05.07, I01, H04.02	2; 5; 8; 12; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 23; 24
5130	U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, G05.07, I01, K04.01	2; 5; 8; 12; 16; 17; 18; 24
6110	U2(atl), U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, G05.07, I01, E03.03	2; 5; 8; 12; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 23; 24
6120	U2(atl), U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, G05.07, E03.03, C01.01.01	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
6210	U2(atl), U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, G05.07, I01, H04.02	2; 5; 8; 12; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 24
6230	U2(atl), U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, G05.07, B01.02, I02	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24

6410	U2(atl), U2 (con)	A2.01,A2.03, A04.01,A.08, J02.07	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
6510	U2(atl), U2 (con)	A02.01,A02.03, E01.01, A4.01, E02.03	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
6520	U2 (con)	A02.01,A02.03, E01.01, A4.01, A04.03	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
7110	U2(con)	J02.07, H04.02, H04.01, K02.01, J01	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 16 ; 17 ; 18 ; 23 ; 24
7140	U2(con)	G05.07, J03.02, J02.07, H02.06, H01	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 16 ; 17 ; 18 ; 23
7150	U2(atl), U2(con)	K02.01, G05.07, J03.02, J02.07, H04.02	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 16 ; 17 ; 18 ; 24
7220	U1(atl), FV(con)	G05.01, H01.05, H01.08, J02.02, J02.04	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 16 ; 17 ; 18 ; 23
7230	U2(con)	K02.01, G05.07, B01.02, A03.03, J02.05	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 16 ; 17 ; 23 ; 24
8150	U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, C01, E03.03, D01	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16; 17; 20; 24; 25
8160	U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, C01, E03.03, D01	2; 5; 8; 12; 14; 15; 2; 5; 8; 16; 17; 20; 24; 25
8210	U2(atl), U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, C01, I01, G01.04.01, D01	2; 5; 8; 12; 14; 15; 16; 17; 20; 24
8220	U2(atl), U2(con)	J03.02, K02.01, G05.07, C01, D01	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16; 17; 20; 24; 25
9110	U2(con)	B02.04, B07, F03.01.01, G05.07, K04.05	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17; 5
9120	U2(atl), U1(con)	B02.04, B07, F03.01.01, G05.07, I01	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17
9130	U2(atl), U1(con)	B02.04, B07, F03.01.01, G05.07, I01	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17; 5
9150	U1(atl), U1(con)	B02.04, B07, F03.01.01, G05.07, K04.05	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17
9160	U1(atl), U1(con)	B02.04, B07, F03.01.01, G05.07, I01	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17
9180	U1(atl), U1(con)	B02.04, F03.01.01, G05.06, G05.07, K04.05	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17
9190	U2(atl), U2(con)	B02.04, F03.01.01, G05.07, I01, J02.07	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17; 18
91D0	U2(atl), U2(con)	F03.01.01, G05.07, I02, J02.07, K04.05	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17; 18; 23
91E0	U2(atl), U2(con)	B02.04, B07, G05.07, I01, K04.03	2; 5; 8; 12 ; 15 ; 16 ; 17; 18; 23
91F0	U2(con)	B02.04, B07, G05.07, I01, K04.03	2; 5; 8; 12; 15; 16 ; 17; 18

Species (<i>wallon data only!</i>)			
Sphagnum spp.	U2 (Atl), U1 (Con)	H04.02, J02.07.02, H01.09, B01, J02.10	2; 5; 8; ;16; 17; 18
Bromus grossus	U2 (Con)	A02.01, A02.02, A06.01.01, A07, A10.01	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17;20
Luronium natans	U2 (Con)	H01, J02.13, K02.03, K02.04	2; 5; 8; 13; 16; 17;20; 23
Margaritifera margaritifera	U2 (Con)	A02.01, I01, K05, H01.05, H01.08, A04.01	2; 5; 8; ;13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
Unio crassus	U2 (Atl), U1 (Con)	A02.01, I01, K05, H01.05, H01.08	2; 5; 8; ;13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
Coenagrion mercuriale	U1 (Con)	A02.03, A04.01, H01	2; 5; 8; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
Leucorrhinia pectoralis	U2 (Atl), U2 (Con)	K02.01, K03.05, I02, H01	2; 5; 8; ;13; 16; 17; 23; 24
Lycaena helle	U1 (Con)	A04.01, B01, H01, K02.01, M01.03	2; 5; 8; ;13; 15; 16; 17; 20; 23; 24;
Euphydryas aurinia	U2 (Con)	F03.01.01, J03.02, K02.01, K05.01, M01.03	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17; 20; 23; 24;
Lucanus cervus	U2 (Atl), U1 (Con)	A10.01, B02.04, B07, G05.06, J03.02	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17;
Cottus gobio	U1 (Atl), FV (Con)	E01, H01.08, J02.02, J03.02.01	2; 5; 8;
Lampetra planeri	U2 (Atl), FV (Con)	E01, H01.08, J02.02, J03.02.01, J02.11	2; 5; 8;
Alytes obstetricans	U2 (Atl), U2 (Con)	J03.02.02, J03.01, J02.03.01, I02, H01.05	2; 5; 8; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 23
Bombina variegata	U2 (Con)	J03.02.02, E04.02, F03.02.01, G04.02, M01.02	2; 5; 8; 13; 16; 17;20; 23
Bufo calamita	U2 (Atl), U2 (Con)	J03.01, K01.03, M01.02, E02	2; 5; 8; 13; 16; 17;20; 23
Rana lessonae	U1 (Atl), U1 (Con)	I01, K01.03, K03.05, H01, M01.03, D01	2; 5; 8; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17;
Triturus cristatus	U2 (Atl), U2 (Con)	J02.01.03, H01, I02, A02.01, A04.03	2; 5; 8; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
Lacerta agilis	U2 (Con)	B01, D01, K02.01, F03.02, A10.01	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 20; 25
Barbastella barbastellus	U2 (Con)	A07, A10.01, B02.01.02, B02.04, J03.02	2; 13; 15; 23; 24
Myotis bechsteinii	XX (Atl), XX (Con)	A07, B02.02, B02.03, B02.04, J03.02	2; 5; 8; ;13; 15; 23; 24
Myotis dasycneme	U2 (Atl), U2 (Con)	A02.01, G01.04.03, H06.02 , J03.02	2; 5; 8; ;13; 15; 23; 24
Myotis emarginatus	U1 (Atl), U1 (Con)	A07, G01.04.03, J03.02	2; 5; 8; ;13; 15; 23; 24
Myotis myotis	U2 (Atl), U1 (Con)	A07, E06.02	2; 5; 8; ;13; 15; 23; 24

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	U2 (Atl), U2 (Con)	A07, A10.01,E06.02,H06.02	2; 5; 8; ;13; 15; 23; 24
Rhinolophus hipposideros	U2 (Con)	A07, A10.01,E06.02,H06.02 , J03.02	2; 5; 8; ; 5; 13; 15; 23; 24
Lutra lutra	U2 (Atl), U2 (Con)	D01.02, D01.05, G01.01, J03.02	2; 5; 8; ;13; 24
Botaurus stellaris	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 16; 17; 23; 24
Ixobrychus minutus	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 16; 17; 23; 24
Circus aeruginosus	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
Circus cyaneus	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17;24
Circus pygargus	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17;24
Tetrao tetrix	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; ;17
Picus canus	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17;
Gallinago gallinago	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 15; 16; 17;
Lanius collurio	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 15; 16; 17;
Lanius excubitor	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 15; 16; 17;
Crex crex	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 15; 16; 17;
Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 16; 17; 23
Locustella luscinioides	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 16; 17; 23
Saxicola rubetra	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17; 23; 24
Emberiza calandra	Data still being analyzed	Data still being analyzed	2; 5; 8; 13; 15; 16; 17;

H: Monitoring, evaluation and updating of PAFs

Data used for Article 17 reporting and for the setting of priorities in this document come from different sources.

Walloon administration takes directly charge of different inventories and mapping activities, including :

- detailed mapping and flora inventories of habitats in Natura 2000 sites (Département d'étude du milieu naturel et agricole - DEMNA)
- mapping and inventories in a network of high biological value sites (SGIB), inside and outside the Natura 2000 network (DEMNA).
- survey and monitoring of particular taxonomic groups : butterflies, dragonflies, aquatic molluscs, fishes (DEMNA)
- part of the inventories led for the Water Framework Directive (DEMNA).
- Walloon permanent forest inventory (Département de la Nature et des Forêts -DNF)

Administration (DEMNA) is also responsible for analysis and aggregating data collected by other bodies :

- maps and species surveys of Life and Interreg projects
- conventions with NGO's and universities (for birds, reptiles, amphibians, chiroptera, and other mammals)
- online-encoding (via website biodiversite.be) by networks of volunteer naturalists – only data validated by experts can be used
- historic and more recent data coming from published sources

However, some of the actions are not yet achieved or cannot be carried through with the current rate of progress. Data are thus still incomplete, and there is a need for a systematic and periodical monitoring plan for some species and habitats.

Monitoring priorities

The main priorities in completing monitoring are :

- Validation of definition of species habitats
- Development of methodologies for periodical assessment of :
 - o habitats surface. These methodological needs concern particularly : sampling plans for widely distributed habitats (e.g. dry heaths in Continental region, ponds, grasslands, riparian forests...), methodologies for the detection of rare habitats outside the network (rocky and sandy habitats, heaths in Atlantic region...).
 - o habitats structures and functions. These methodological needs concern particularly : completing forest inventories for rare forest habitats, setting up validated inventories (mainly collecting flora information) for open habitats.
 - o species distribution and populations, particularly for *Cladonia*, *Bromus grossus*, *Hirudo medicinalis*, *Vertigo moulinsiana*, *Unio crassus*, *Leucorhina pectoralis*, *Rhodeus sericeus*, *Cobitis taenia*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Rana lessonae*, *Rana esculenta*, *Chiroptera*, *Lutra lutra*
- Development of efficient and integrated database systems for the encoding and analysing of data, incl. maps, species inventories, follow-up of habitats and species restoration, perturbations and destruction
- Staff training for the use of developed tools
- Reinforcing existing staff for the collection, encoding, validation and treatment of data
- Continuing existing conventions and setting up new ones with NGO's and Universities collecting some species data : birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals including chiroptera...

- Ensuring efficient animation of volunteer groups collecting species data ; this includes data validation by expert groups.

Expected outcomes :

- Substantial improvement of habitats and species monitoring.
- Walloon conservation strategy can be re-evaluated and, if needed, re-oriented
- Most locations of threatened species and habitats are known and priority measures can be taken in these locations if needed.

PAF updating

The Walloon Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 will be evaluated and, if necessary, updated accordingly on the one hand with the results of the evaluation according article 17 of the Habitats Directive and article 12 of the Birds Directive and on the other hand with the outcomes of Nature conservation strategy led by the Walloon government.