

SECTION II. IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES TAKEN, ASSESSMENT OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS, ASSOCIATED OBSTACLES AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL NEEDS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL TARGETS

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 1.1

Related to objective 1.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Define a common Belgian methodology for the identification and monitoring of priority components of biodiversity according to EU guidelines.

Flanders and Wallonia already use biodiversity indicators closely linked to the SEBI and CBD indicators to evaluate and report on the status of biodiversity in their region upon a yearly basis (<http://www.biodiversityindicators.be>; <https://www.inbo.be/en>; <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/home/fr/a-propos.html>). The City-biodiversity index (CBI indicators) is tested in the Brussels-Capital Region.

The Statistical Office (Statistics Belgium) publishes and sends to OECD a national biodiversity indicator (% existing and threatened species).
<https://statbel.fgov.be/fr/themes/environnement/biodiversite#panel-12>.

Walloon Region

Comparison SEBI indicators versus Walloon indicators:
<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatortsheets/INSTIT%204.html>.
See also page 330 of the state of environment report 2017.

In the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy, the European commission has drawn up a list of indicators to monitor and assess environment performance. The table in the following link gives the corresponding Walloon indicators.

<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatortsheets/INSTIT%203.html>

Flemish Region

Besides the yearly report on the biodiversity indicators giving the information on the conservation status and trends of habitats and species, coverage of protected areas and areas with nature-based management, the "Natuurrapport 2014: toestand en trends ecosystemen en ecosysteemdiensten" gives a comprehensive report on the status of ecosystems and ecosystem services in Flanders. For the following reporting on the conservation status, trends and threats of habitats and species under the Habitats and Birds Directives in 2019 a more focused monitoring has been developed, priorities and inventory networks were determined and methodologies were worked out. A comprehensive summary of the outcomes is expected in the course of 2019.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 1.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Define a common Belgian methodology for the identification and monitoring of priority components of biodiversity according to EU guidelines.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

Actions for harmonizing approach for monitoring of EU relevant habitats and species are being taken under the LIFE Belgium Integrated Project for Nature (BNIP).

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

À l'exception de l'indicateur pour Aichi Target 11, pour lequel existe une méthodologie commune, celle-ci reste à définir pour l'identification et la surveillance des éléments prioritaires de la biodiversité au niveau terrestre. La définition d'un petit nombre d'indicateurs et de critères d'évaluation communs, tel que prévu par la SNB, n'a pas été initié de manière coordonnée. L'application des indicateurs développés au sein de la CDB et par l'UE est examinée de manière indépendante par chaque région. Les méthodes de collecte et d'agrégation des données appliquées dans chaque région devraient être comparées.

Seule une comparaison « macro » du statut de chaque espèce dans les 4 régions a été effectué pour obtenir un statut national mais c'est un minimum (il faudrait les cartes de répartition et l'application de critères au niveau national). Quelques listes rouges ont cependant été coordonnées au niveau national, comme la liste des libellules.

Data on protected areas designation and implementation are compiled in the uniform CDDA database (UNEP/WCMC).

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/1#1.1>

Other relevant information, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP

<Text entry>

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

<https://statbel.fgov.be/fr/themes/environnement/biodiversite>

<http://www.especes.be>

<http://www.observations.be>

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken: Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

The responsibilities for biodiversity are regionalized since a long period, the political demand and resources are not aligned in time and species groups. Regional red lists occur at different periods and periodicity which makes them difficult to aggregate. However, citizen scientists observations occur at a coordinated way on www.observations.be / www.waarnemingen.be which offers an opportunity.

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 1.2

Related to objective 1.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Identify and monitor priority species, habitats, genetic and functional components of biodiversity.

Monitoring, indicators and assessments: contribution to the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) that collects data on the status and trends of biodiversity in Europe.

Flemish Region

For status and trends on main species groups: <http://www.biodiversityindicators.be>.

See also the indicators on <http://www.milieurapport.be/en/facts-figures/> and <http://www.natuurindicatoren.be>.

Monitoring and reporting

An extensive monitoring programme has been developed to monitor habitats and species of European interest and the effects of management measures in nature and forest reserves and government domains. The important role of nature organisations in monitoring has been concretised through cooperation in improving data entry and quality control on the online system “waarnemingen.be” – observation on species by thousands of volunteers are being compiled to support evaluation of trends and distributions of species in Flanders:
<https://www.natuurpunt.be/pagina/waarnemingenbe>.

Besides the yearly report on the biodiversity indicators giving the information on the conservation status and the trends of habitats and species, coverage of protected areas and areas with nature-based management, the "Natuurrapport 2014: toestand en trends ecosystemen en ecosysteemdiensten" gives a comprehensive report on the status of ecosystems and ecosystem services in Flanders.

The 2013 reports for the EU Nature directives indicated: of the 47 occurring habitats, 5 are in a favourable conservation status, and 7 habitats that have currently an unfavourable conservation status improve. For the species the picture is more diverse. Of the 59 species, 9 are in a favourable conservation status, and 14 other species improve. However, 17 species worsen, while for the remaining 28 species the conservation status is stable or data are inadequate to assess a global trend. Concerning breeding bird species: for the majority of the species, although some of them are slowly increasing in numbers, the population is actually depleted or too low and there is still a long way to go. Concerning wintering bird species most of the species show a clear negative trend during the last ten years: for 19 yearly counted wintering bird species, we can conclude that population goals are met for seven species. Numbers of four species are just below the targets. For 8 species, there is rather a large gap between actual numbers and population goals. Main pressures identified were intensive agricultural practices, pollution, urbanization, land conversion.

See composite reports INBO: Rapportage Habitatrichtlijn 2013; Rapportage Vogelrichtlijn 2013
https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/bb91caf9-6bc6-4c45-b649-68f6603be6f7/BE_20140528.doc
https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/8912c96b-d9ce-453f-bdaa-ee03de049914/BE_A12NatSum_20141031.pdf

For the following reporting on the conservation status, trends and threats of habitats and species under the Habitats and Birds Directives in 2019 a more focused monitoring has been developed, priorities and inventory networks are determined and methodologies are worked out: see

INBO publication: methodology species monitoring (in Dutch). A comprehensive summary of the outcomes is expected in the course of 2019.

Walloon Region

According to the last Natura 2000 report covering the period 2007-2012, the conservation status of habitats was considered unfavourable for 88% of the number of habitat types concerned in CBR and 96% in ABR. For forests, this is mainly due to the lack of deadwood or soil compaction. Open agro-pastoral environments suffer from overgrazing, excessive use of inputs, drainage (humid meadows), growth of woody species that leads to their closing over, conversion to crops and artificialisation. For habitats of stagnant waters and peatlands, the penalising factors are drainage (sometimes old) and eutrophication - which also affects water courses that also suffer from the artificialisation of their banks. In general, habitats are threatened by the expansion of alien species. The next Natura 2000 report will be issued out in 2019 with updated information on the status and trends of habitats and species.

<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/contents/indicatorsheets/FFH%201.html>

- The permanent inventory of the forestry resources.
- Observatory for forest health.
- Species-based data for Wallonia can be consulted on-line at the following URL (in French):
<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/especies.html?IDC=3025>.

Brussels-Capital Region

The Report on the state of the natural environment in the Brussels-Capital Region is intended to provide an objective basis for directing policy and defining the regional strategy for natural development.

Using indicators and situational inventories, it provides an update on the state of the natural environment and of biodiversity in Brussels (conservation state of habitats and species, main threats assessment). It also evaluates the impact of current nature and biodiversity policies. It is intended for political and administrative decision-makers and the other actors – who are numerous – whose activities affect nature conservation. (Source: Brussels Environment, 2012 and ICLEI Africa Secretariat, 2013. Challenges for nature in Brussels. Summary of the nature report).

Information on species-based data for the Brussels-Capital Region can be found at:
http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/NARABRU_20120910_FR_150dpi.pdf (French)
http://documentatie.leefmilieubrussel.be/documents/NARABRU_20121004_NL_150dpi.PDF (Dutch).

The Statistical Office (Statistics Belgium) publishes and sends to OECD a national biodiversity indicator (% existing and threatened species).

<https://statbel.fgov.be/fr/themes/environnement/biodiversite#panel-12>.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 1.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Identify and monitor priority species, habitats, genetic and functional components of biodiversity.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

X Measure taken has been effective

- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

The detailed list of all evaluated species disappeared from the Statistics Belgium site but it's available on request at steven.dubaere@economie.fgov.be. Latest update databank of > 5000 species is available as a file in annex.

The site www.species.be gives the list of known species in Belgium, with a link to supplementary information as red list status or protection status if available.

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/1#1.2>

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken: Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Statistics Belgium ceased to publish the full list of species status in 2018. This is due to a lack of cooperation between administrations. Statistics Belgium has a separate agenda, biodiversity and the publication of detailed species date being of lower priority compared to global aggregated indicators.

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 2.1

Related to Objective 2.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Investigate And Monitor The Effects And Causes Of Activities And Processes, Including New And Emerging Risks, That Threaten Components Of Biodiversity In Belgium

Flemish Region

Monitoring and reporting of pressures is published in the 2-yearly reports NARA and MIRA.

The State of the Environment Report (SOER) on the Flemish Region provides:

- a description, analysis and assessment of the actual environmental state
- a description, analysis and assessment of the actual environment policy
- a description of the expected environmental development in case of both unchanged and alternative policy, according to a number of relevant scenarios.

Main pressures remain land degradation and conversion for urbanisation and infrastructure enhancing fragmentation of green open areas, intensive agricultural practices with fertilizer and pesticides uses, impacts on eco-hydrological systems by changes in water courses, water pollution, drainage; soil erosion; air pollution and NOx depositions.

Walloon Region

The 2017 State of environment report for Wallonia mentions pressures such as land artificialization, land fragmentation, land degradation, and other land use changes, simplification and standardistaion of agricultural habitats, water catchment, wood exploitation, fertilizer and

pesticides uses, waste water, water pollution, water eutrophication, drainage, soil erosion, soil compaction, the lack of deadwood in forests, overgrazing, invasive alien species, climate change etc. <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/home.html>

Fragmentation and artificialization: Wallonia is a territory which is particularly fragmented by artificialised areas. The development of transport networks has made it possible to connect towns and villages and has facilitated the gradual artificialisation of rural areas, mainly at the expense of agricultural areas. In 2015, artificialised land occupied at least 1,756 km² (or at least 10.4% of Walloon territory), compared to 1,260 km² in 1985. In the space of 30 years, artificialised land has therefore increased by 39.3%, corresponding to an average growth rate of 16.5 km²/year. In order to achieve a "no net land take" by 2050, Wallonia would need to adopt binding numerical targets relating to land take, at the risk of seeing the sustainable use of the territory relegated to secondary importance compared to other concerns (see Territ 2 of SER Wallonia 2017). Between 2001 and 2007, the average level of fragmentation of the Walloon territory increased by 5.4%, with the average value of the Jaeger index moving from 90 ha to 85 ha, whereas the median value of the index remained stable (15 ha). The contrasting evolution of the mean and median is a sign of localised deterioration of ecological connections within areas which were initially barely fragmented. It is primarily the conversion of permanent grasslands into annual crops or temporary grasslands that accounted for the increase in fragmentation between 2001 and 2007 (see Territ 3 of SER Wallonia 2017). Between 2000 and 2013, total water abstractions decreased by 39% mainly due to a 44% reduction in the quantities of water used by industry (see Res 2 of SER Wallonia 2017).

Timber Harvest: In Wallonia, over the period 2001 - 2011, the harvested volumes of timber represented 110% of the increase, which is higher than the equilibrium threshold (see res 5 of SER Wallonia 2017).

Fertiliser consumption in Wallonia: Between 1995 and 2014, the average amount of mineral nitrogen (mineral N) applied to Walloon agricultural soils decreased by -18.4 % while the average amount of mineral phosphorus decreased by -64.5%. However, in 2014, the amounts of mineral N applied in Wallonia were almost twice as high as the European average, whereas the opposite was true for mineral P. Average inputs of organic N from livestock manure have been declining since 1995 by 14.8% (see Agri 5 of SER Wallonia 2017).

Plant protection products (PPPs) With 5.6 kg of a.s. sold per hectare of utilised agricultural area (UAA), the level of use of PPPs in Belgium was above the EU-28 average (2.3 kg/ha of UAA). Between 2004 and 2014, with the exception of potatoes, application rates per hectare showed a relatively stable trend between 2004 and 2014(see Agri 6 of SER Wallonia 2017).

Between 1993 and 2015, pollutant loads in water courses of C, N and P from runoff to soils, urban waste water discharges, industrial discharges and inputs by cattle decreased. Simulations show that more than 61% of total inputs came from diffuse inputs by runoff to soils (agricultural and non-agricultural), while 27% came from urban waste water discharge and 8% from industrial discharges. Between 1994 and 2013, the industrial pollutant loads discharged into water courses decreased from 16% to 94%, depending on the substance. This development is the result of the application of a waste water discharge tax, the phasing-out of the most polluting activities and measures taken by industry to clean up and improve certain processes (see water 4 of SER Wallonia 2017).

Eutrophication of water courses (see Water 5 of SER Wallonia 2017): Water quality has improved due to various factors, including:

- the reduction of phosphorus fertiliser inputs in agriculture (-65% between 1995 and 2014);
- the reduction of industrial pollutant loads;
- the reduction of domestic pollutant loads, in particular following the ban on phosphates in detergents;

- the compliance of treatment plants in tertiary treatment;
- However, this overall improvement was characterised by one-off variations, mainly linked to:
- the increase in water courses flows in some years (e.g. 2012) which diluted the pollution;
 - diffuse inputs (runoff, eroded soil particles) which are larger in rainy years;
 - a local increase in industrial phosphorus discharges (uncontrolled spillages).

Unsustainable erosion on more than one third of agricultural land (see soil 3 of SER Wallonia 2017): As regards agricultural land, soil losses in 2015 exceeded 5 t/ha on 35% of their total area, and 10 t/ha on 9% of their total area. The observed trend seems to indicate an improvement, since the shares of agricultural area with soil losses above 5 t/(ha.year) and 10 t/(ha.year) declined by 21% and 45% respectively over the period 2006 - 2015. However, on the ground, no improvement is confirmed at this stage.

Longitudinal fragmentation of water courses: In Wallonia, an inventory of obstacles to the free movement of fish has been organised since 1997. It defines the degree to which obstacles can be crossed and establishes a priority plan for their removal or management, based on the quality of upstream fishing waters and implementation opportunities. By November 2016, 4,789 obstacles had been inventoried. Of these, 15% were considered impassable, 18% were considered major and 24% significant, and 2% (116 obstacles) had been removed or managed. The most interventions were made in the sub-basins of the Meuse upstream, the Ourthe, the Meuse downstream and the Moselle (see FFH focus 2 of SER 2017).

Atmospheric deposition of sulphur and nitrogen pollutants: Estimates show that in 2013, less than 1% of Walloon forest areas were still affected by atmospheric deposition exceeding the acceptable critical load of acidifying compounds; other semi-natural ecosystems no longer showed an area exceeding the critical load for these pollutants. As regards eutrophying nitrogen, the situation for forest ecosystems has improved considerably: since 1990, the area of forest affected by critical load exceedances has gradually fallen, to 1.3% in 2010, although it rose again to 8% in 2013 (mainly due to the decrease in water flow in the soil³ over the period 2009-2013). For other semi-natural ecosystems, particularly oligotrophic environments which cannot tolerate excess nitrogen (even in small quantities), the situation has remained problematic: 93% of these open environments (heaths, fens, bogs, etc.) were still affected by exceedances of critical loads of eutrophying nitrogen in 2013. Significant exceedances (loads of eu (ha.year)) were still recorded, particularly in the northern part of the Sambre-et-Meuse line (see FFH4 of SER 2017).

Invasive alien species: Of the 37 species listed in the EU regulation on IAS, 14 are now naturalised in Wallonia (with various distribution patterns), 16 are absent but likely to become established in the near future, and 7 are occasionally sighted but will probably never settle (as they are not adapted to our climate). The most widespread species from the regulation in Wallonia are northern raccoons, signal crayfish, spinycheek crayfish, topmouth gudgeon, floating pennywort and parrot feather watermilfoil.

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For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 2.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Investigate and monitor the effects and causes of activities and processes, including new and emerging risks, that threaten components of biodiversity in Belgium.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

X Measure taken has been effective

- Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Le suivi de la destruction et de la fragmentation des habitats est approprié. Les principales sources de pollution sont surveillées de manière adéquate et leur ampleur diminue progressivement. Le programme opérationnel belge « Fonds européen pour la pêche » pour la période 2007-2013 vise à promouvoir le développement d'une pêche durable. Une surveillance générale post-commercialisation adéquate des OGM nécessiterait une adaptation des réseaux de surveillance environnement existants.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/2#2.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 2.2

Related to objective 2.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Investigate and monitor the effects of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Belgian National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

To prevent or limit severe damage to the environment, society and economies, climate adaptation strategies for affected systems must be developed at national, regional and local level. In 2010, Belgium adopted its national climate adaptation strategy. It has 3 objectives:

- to improve the coherence between existing adaptation activities in Belgium (assessing the impacts of climate change, vulnerability to climate change and adaptation measures already implemented);
- to improve communication at national, European and international levels;
- to initiate a process to develop a national action plan.

The Strategy summarizes the expected impacts of climate change in Belgium in several areas including biodiversity and gives an overview of the adaptation measures that have already been made in these areas as well as two cross-cutting areas: research and international cooperation. This strategy has initiated the process of developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The NAP was adopted in 2017 and complements the existing Flemish, Brussels Capital, Walloon and Federal adaptation plans:

- provide clear and concise information about the adaptation policies (at regional and federal level) and their implementation in Belgium;
- identify national adaptation measures that will strengthen cooperation and develop synergies between the various governments (federal, regions).

It contains 11 measures that need to be taken at national level in order to strengthen cooperation and synergies between the different entities on adaptation, one measure address the link between climate change impacts and biodiversity (measure 5: “Take climate change into account in risk analysis for invasive alien species”).

The different levels of government (Federal Government, Wallonia, Flanders and Brussels-Capital) have carried out studies in order to prepare their Federal/Regional adaptation plans.

Regional studies have led to the development of regional climate projections and provided information on sectoral vulnerability to future climate conditions.

For more information on the Belgian National Climate Adaptation Strategy and the National Adaptation Plan, see: <https://www.cnc-nkc.be/en/wg-adaptation>.

Flemish Region

The Flemish Region has published in 2013 the regional plan for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change (Het Vlaams Klimaatbeleidsplan 2013-2020). Measures for nature development and restoration of ecosystems contributing to adaptation and mitigation are also included. Plan and information documents (in Dutch) are available on:
<http://www.lne.be/themas/klimaatverandering/klimaattips/klimaattips/wat-doet-de-vlaamse-overheid/vlaams-klimaatbeleidsplan>.

Main measures related to nature:

- Measure 3.1 Connect and extend nature areas to make them more robust, eg LIFE project ‘LIFE SPARC’ (“Space for Adaptating the River Scheldt to Climate Change) in the Schelde river: <https://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/project/sparc-space-adapting-river-scheldt-climate-change>; SIGMA plan: <https://sigmaplan.be/en/>
- Measure 3.3 and 3.4 Adaptation of nature and forest and green spaces development and management practices
- Measure 3.5 Adaptation of management of road verges
- Measure 3.6 Climate adaptation in development of species protection programmes
- Measure 3.7 Research and monitoring of impact of climate change on species: <https://pureportal.inbo.be/portal/files/13848084/Natuurindicatoren2017.pdf>
- Measures 3.8 and 3.9: Ecosystem based adaptation: <https://www.ruimtelijkeordening.be/studies/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/9012>

Progress reports on implementation of the Climate plan of Flanders – in Dutch:
https://www.lne.be/sites/default/files/atoms/files/VORA2016-2017_Adaptatie.pdf

More research is being carried out on the impact of climate change on changes in migration of species, changes in species compositions of vegetations, and impact on site management practices:.

Eg INBO: studies and reports on climate change issues and nature (in Dutch).

Such as Impact on forest vitality:

[\(in Dutch\)](https://pureportal.inbo.be/portal/files/12937745/Sioen_etal_2017_Bosvitaliteitsinventaris2016.pdf)

The draft of the new Climate plan for Flanders 2021-2030 was recently submitted for principal approval and advisory process.

Walloon region

Wallonia has updated its climate policy through the new Air-Climate-Energy Plan (PACE). This plan was adopted by the Walloon Government in April 2016. The 2016-2022 PACE contains 142 measures to reduce emissions of air pollutants, improve air quality, mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. Different sectors are concerned: agriculture, industry, transport, household, ...

The PACE is the main instrument to implement the Climate Decree adopted by the Walloon Parliament in February 2014. It should enable Wallonia to respect the emissions budgets fixed every 5 years by the Walloon Government.

<http://www.awac.be/index.php/en/thematiques/politiques-actions/plan-pace>

Several of its measures should have positive impacts on biodiversity:

- ADAP09 Appuyer, soutenir et pérenniser le financement des réseaux de suivi et d'alertes sur les espèces exotiques envahissantes pouvant être favorisées par les changements climatiques
- ADAP10 Maintenir et restaurer les tourbières et zones humides en Wallonie
- ADAP03 Poursuivre la lutte contre l'érosion du sol
- ADAP07 Poursuivre les missions d'évaluation et de surveillance de l'OWSF et combler les lacunes de connaissance
- ADAP08 Encourager les initiatives pour une sylviculture durable et respectueuse du fonctionnement naturel de l'écosystème
- A02 Réduire l'usage des pesticides
- A07 Mettre en place les nouvelles réglementations imposées par la Politique agricole commune
- A08 Maintenir les stocks de carbone existants
- A09 Gérer les forêts wallonnes dans le but de favoriser leur adaptation aux changements climatiques

Impacts of climate change on birds (see SOER2017 FFH Focus 3): The influence of climate change on birds communities of species can be analysed using the Community Temperature Index (CTI). It is the average of the mean breeding range temperatures of each species in the community, weighted by the abundance of each species in the community. In Europe, the evolution of the CTI is correlated to a return northwards by 37 km of the communities between 1990 and 2008. In Wallonia, the CTI showed a slight upward trend of 0.027. In Wallonia, the CTI showed a slight increase very similar to the European average (0.026). In peaty environments of the Ardenne plateaus were characterised by a greater increase in the CTI, which could indicate a more marked influence of climate change on the avifauna of these environments. An indicator of climate impact on bird populations has recently been developed. It is based on the ratio between the populations of species predicted to be favourably influenced by global warming and likely to extend their natural range, and those predicted to be affected and for which a contraction in their range is expected. At the European level, the indicator has risen sharply over the last 30 years, suggesting a growing impact of climate change on bird populations. In Wallonia, the indicator shows an increase since 2001, followed by a possible stabilisation that began in 2009. Several species owe their current regression at least in part to a change in climate; the progression of other species is probably also linked to this.

Federal level

The federal government has conducted a study to analyse the contribution it can make to climate change adaptation (available on www.climatechange.be).

The federal contribution to the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (https://www.climat.be/index.php/download_file/view/1628/1207/), adopted on 28 October 2016, aims to pursue a coordinated adaptation policy at the federal level. The federal contribution identifies 12 federal adaptation actions to meet the needs of: building capacity to assess, anticipate and respond to risks associated with the consequences of climate change (improved knowledge); anticipating and limiting risks and maximizing the potential benefits of climate change.

The actions proposed under this contribution aims to integrate climate change adaptation in two sectors: transport and crisis management. Cross-cutting measures, related to the coherent integration of adaptation in different domains/policies and to awareness and understanding of the issues, are also identified.

A mid-term evaluation (https://www.climat.be/index.php/download_file/view/2562/1207/) of the implementation of the federal contribution to the National Adaptation Plan was conducted for the period 2016-2018. A final evaluation is planned for 2020.

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences develops through the Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models and the Scheldt estuary (www2.mumm.ac.be/coherens/applications.php) and with funding of development cooperation (CEBioS) a mathematical model to better understand fragile ecosystems such as coastal areas and mangroves in Asia and Latin America in order to be better able at developing integrated management plans taking into account the protection of sensitive areas.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 2.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Investigate and monitor the effects of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

X Measure taken has been effective

- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

L'étude et la surveillance des menaces des changements climatiques sur la biodiversité est satisfaisante.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/2#2.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 2.3

Related to objective 2.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Investigate the potential impact on biodiversity of the internal trade (legal and illegal) of live animals and plants at a Belgian level and potentially adapt relevant regulations, including market regulation when appropriate.

Federal level

Reviewing/update of existing legislation to prevent introduction of IAS in Belgium (which will lead to an import/export ban of some IAS at federal level, ban of introduction of IAS into the environment in Brussels (art. 77 and 75 Ord. nature), etc.),

The Federal law on nature conservation of 12 July 2012 (modifying the law of 12 July 1973) foresees a number of provisions on IAS (regulate, suspend or prohibit the import, export and transit of non-indigenous plant and animal species and their remains). In implementation of this law, Pest Risk Assessments have been prepared in 2013 for 21 species.

The federal and regional governments agreed on continuing the state membership of IUCN.

A Belgian expert group was set up to identify the obstacles to tackle illegal wildlife trade in Belgium and to propose means of action. This group has handed over its conclusions to all competent administrations.

Others

WWF-Belgium endeavors against the illegal species trade: baseline studies, training, position papers, awareness events, etc.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 2.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Investigate the potential impact on biodiversity of the internal trade (legal and illegal) of live animals and plants at a Belgian level and potentially adapt relevant regulations, including market regulation when appropriate.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La surveillance des espèces exotiques envahissantes est intégrée dans les relevés régionaux concernant la biodiversité; elle est aussi bien étudiée sauf pour les invertébrés (moustiques, frelons asiatiques, etc.).

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/2#2.3>.

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 3.1

Related to objective 3.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: At least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through the development of effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and are integrated into the wider landscapes.

Action 3.1.1

Flemish region

Extensive participatory process and consultations on Natura 2000 management programme and conservation objectives and implementation with other authorities and stakeholders aim to enhance the integration of species and habitat protection into land and water use policies and spatial planning. Specific cooperation agreements have been developed with each of those actors.

Consultation has been established with other administrations and with stakeholders on regional level and on-site level. The designation acts including the conservation objectives and priority measures were adopted by the Government of Flanders and have been published in October 2014: http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/naturbeleid/natuur-en-natura-2000/natura_2000/Aanwijzingsbesluiten

These objectives and measures have been screened in other plans with the aim to include adjustments for contributing to the implementation of the nature objectives: water, spatial planning and land use policies, existing nature and forest management plans. Consultations on site level with all relevant actors are now ongoing to develop the management measures for the implementation of the conservation objectives and establish divisions of tasks. On the basis of the new subsidy system for nature management and the new format of the nature management plan – approved in 2017 – land owners and users can obtain technical and financial support from the Agency for Nature & Forests. The subsidy system provides subsidies for keeping stand-still of biodiversity, providing public access to their sites, carrying out appropriate management measures to realise the nature objectives allocated to their site and for monitoring, designating site as nature reserve. The higher the ambition to implement the objectives the higher the subsidy level being obtained. The new format of nature management plan is meant for all types of green spaces with nature values.

See info on nature management plan: [Fact sheet on nature management plan and subsidies](#)

Data on relevant surfaces (end of 2018):

- nature and forest areas with recognised reserve status (= strict protection): 29.500 ha (2,22% of Flanders)
- Natura 2000 surface: 166.322 ha (12,3%) composed of 38 sites under Habitat directive, 24 sites under Birds directive – without counting overlapping surfaces
- Flemish Ecological Network: 92.976 ha
- certified forest: 23.894 ha
- total surface covered with ‘effective nature management’ based on an approved management plan: 88.888 ha
- surface of “nature” agri-environment agreements 9.690 ha

Taking into account the total surface (counting overlapping surfaces only once!) of areas designated with a status with legal nature protection regulation (Natura 2000, Flemish Ecological

Network), the areas with approved nature management plan, certified forests – these cover together 16,6% of the land surface of Flanders.

Including the longer term nature agri-environment agreements including nature-based management measures – a surface of 17,3% is reached. But it should also be mentioned that as some Natura 2000 also include roads, some villages or other building sites this total surface is over-estimated. At the other hand large areas of industrial zones are under nature development and management practices in the framework of the Green Deal Biodiversity@Business and these surfaces have not yet been measured.

<http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/>

Brussels-Capital Region

The Regional Nature Plan (in development) foresees the following measures:

- * Promote the participative management of public green spaces.
- * Adopt an operational action plan for the conservation and the development of the Brussels ecological network.
- * Install a ‘nature facilitator’ service aimed towards the developers of plans and projects.
- * Promote good management practices of the green spaces.
- * Adopt multifunction management plans for all regional parcs.

Walloon Region

In January 2019, 1,3% of the Walloon territory is under strict nature protection status (réserves naturelles domaniales et agréées (RND et RNA), zones humides d'intérêt biologique (ZHIB), cavités souterraines d'intérêt scientifique (CSIS), les réserves forestières (RF)). These are central areas designated for priority species and habitats protection. Natura 2000 covers 13,11% of the Walloon territory (220 994 ha for 240 sites).

In Wallonia, we have other effective area-based conservation measure such as areas under « pro sylva », forests areas under hydromorphe soils protection, forests areas benefiting from biodiversity conservation management plans. If we add these to the Natura 2000 network and strict nature reserves, avoiding any double counting, 16,6% of the Walloon territory is under Protected area or OECM (Aichi target 11).

If we take Forest certification (PEFC) into account (17,7% of the Walloon territory in 2017) and avoiding any double counting, we get up to 26% of our territory which is under protected area, OECM and sustainable management. This later does not correspond to Aichi target 11 as forest certifications primary goal is not biodiversity conservation, but is still interesting to mention.

Others

NGOs such as Natuurpunt, Natagora, WWF-Belgium and others contribute significantly to the implementation of this action / objective by the purchase of important surfaces to turn them into nature reserves and foresee an adapted management.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 3.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: At least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through the development of effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and are integrated into the wider landscapes.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

C'est pratiquement 15,1% du territoire belge qui est désigné Natura 2000 (ce réseau comprenant des sites marins et terrestres). Seul un faible pourcentage des sites Natura 2000 (3,5%) bénéficie d'un plan de gestion approprié; on regrette également que la gestion différenciée des autres sites naturels ne soit pas d'application partout et la majorité d'espèces et types d'habitats se trouvent encore dans un état de conservation non-favorable.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/3#3.1.1>

Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken: Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Enhancing full participation of land owners and users to take up responsibility for conserving the natural values on their private land requires time to build trust and understanding. The regular and extensive consultations with various groups of actors at regional and at site level, negotiations for division of tasks, capacity building and provision of technical support requires an enormous deployment of personnel and financial resources.

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 3.2

Related to objective 3.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: At least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through the development of effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and are integrated into the wider seascapes.

Federal level

As mentioned above, the Federal authorities are competent for the environmental policy in the Belgian part of the North Sea. About 35.85% at sea are designated as Natura 2000 sites.

The sustainable management of human activities at sea is the ultimate goal for the North Sea Vision 2050 developed in 2017 and was used to develop the new Marine Spatial Plan (2020-2016). The 'MMM' (Marien Milieu Marin) act of 20 January 1999 on the protection of the marine environment and on the organisation of the marine spatial planning in sea areas under Belgian jurisdiction establishes the legal basis for the protection of the Belgian part of the North Sea

against sea-related pollution and for the conservation, restoration and development of nature. The Marine Spatial Plan (Royal Decree of 20 March 2014) includes all marine protected areas (Vlaamse Banken, SBZ1, SBZ2, SBZ3 and the ‘Baai van Heist’). In 2018 management plans for the Natura 2000 sites (all area’s except ‘Baai van Heist’) in the Belgian Part of the North Sea were adopted. One Natura 2000 area designated in 2005, the Vlakte van de Raan, was nullified by the Court of Justice in 2008 but it remained at the European list of Sites of Community Importance. In the new Marine Spatial Plan (2020-2026) a solution was included for this area, and the designation of an enlarged MPA ‘Vlakte van de Raan’ is proposed.

In Belgium, the Marine Environment Service of the Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment is responsible for supporting the national implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD - 2008/56/EC). The Belgian transposition of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive took effect in the Royal Decree of 23/06/2010 concerning the marine strategy for the Belgian sea grounds.

In 2012, the initial assessment of the environmental status and the environmental impact of human activities was elaborated, as well as the description of a good environmental status. Furthermore, a number of environmental objectives and related indicators have to be established. In 2014, a monitoring programme was established and implemented. Finally, in 2016, the programme of measures was adopted and implementation of the measures started.

The definition of good ecological status and environmental objectives for the Belgian marine waters have been defined in 2012, in response to the Articles 9 and 10 of the MSFD, and was reviewed in 2018. For each of the 11 descriptors defined by the directive, among which descriptor 1 on biodiversity and descriptor 2 on exotic species, indicators and objectives are defined to achieve the good ecological status.

Belgium is a Party to the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic. OSPAR plays a crucial role as a regional cooperation structure in the implementation of the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD; Directive 2008/56/EC), introduced by the European Parliament and of the Council on 17 June 2008. Belgium contributed to the OSPAR Intermediate Assessment 2017 (see <https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/intermediate-assessment-2017/>).

Belgium has undertaken an assessment of the Marine Environment, implementing the MSFD, that describes 11 qualitative descriptors for determining Good Environmental Status (GES). There is a synergy between the processes of OSPAR and the MSFD, and Belgium has used some of the OSPAR Intermediate Assessment outcomes, and indicators, for its national MSFD implementation. The draft of the assessment was submitted to a public consultation procedure from 15 May to 15 July 2018 (see <https://www.health.belgium.be/nl/openbare-raadpleging-de-gezondheidstoestand-van-onze-noordzee>).

Belgium is currently updating its marine spatial plan, that takes not only account of human activities, but also of biodiversity related issues. The plan was submitted to a public consultation procedure from 29 June to 28 September 2018 (see <https://www.health.belgium.be/nl/openbare-raadpleging-het-marien-ruimtelijk-plan-voor-het-belgische-deel-van-de-noordzee-2020-2026>).

Action 3.2.1

Federal level

North Sea: The ‘MMM’ (Marien Milieu Marin) act of 20 January 1999 on the protection of the marine environment in sea areas under Belgian jurisdiction establishes the legal basis for the

protection of the Belgian part of the North Sea against sea-related pollution and for the conservation, restoration and development of nature.

The Marine Spatial Plan (Royal Decree of 20 March 2014) includes all marine protected areas Vlaamse Banken, SBZ1, SBZ2, SBZ3 and the ‘Baai van Heist). In 2018 management plans for the Natura 2000 sites (all area’s except ‘Baai van Heist’) in the Belgian Part of the North Sea were adopted. One Natura 2000 area designated in 2005, the ‘Vlakte van de Raan’, was nullified by the Court of Justice in 2008 but it remained at the European list of Sites of Community Importance. In the new Marine Spatial Plan (2020-2026) a solution was included for this area, and the designation of an enlarged MPA ‘Vlakte van de Raan’ is proposed.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 3.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: At least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through the development of effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and are integrated into the wider seascapes.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

C'est pratiquement 15,1 % du territoire belge qui est désigné Natura 2000 (ce réseau comprenant des sites marins et terrestres). Seul un faible pourcentage des sites Natura 2000 (3,5 %) bénéficie d'un plan de gestion approprié; on regrette également que la gestion différenciée des autres sites naturels ne soit pas d'application partout et la majorité d'espèces et types d'habitats se trouvent encore dans un état de conservation non-favorable. La surexploitation ne constitue pas une pression majeure sur les écosystèmes terrestre et marins. Par contre, une stratégie pour le milieu marin sera adoptée d'ici 2014 et celle ci devrait aussi se pencher sur la préservation des stocks de poissons.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/3#3.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 3.3

Related to objective 3.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ecosystems, their resilience and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing, *inter alia*, a green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems.

Flemish Region

Restoration of natural flood plains and river borders in the estuary of the Schelde and the IJzer, and other main river systems, restoration and nature development of nature and forest zones on military areas, sustainable management of nature and forest areas.

To realise the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and of species of European interest wide spread restoration and nature re-development projects have been carried out mainly through LIFE projects (in the period 2014-2018 about 22 LIFE projects by public authority and/or NGOs ongoing) and will be further initiated through the implementation plan for Natura 2000 and the Prioritised Action Framework. Under the EU 2014-2020 Rural Development programme 2 subsidy packages supported investments for Natura 2000 and (re-)afforestation projects.

Through afforestation projects and restoration of peatlands and wetlands contribution to fixation of carbon is enhanced.

Nature development projects are initiated to restore and extend natural values and develop infrastructure for public access. 19 projects are finalised – covering more than 6,000 ha realised natural surface, 11 projects are ongoing – having mainly focus on Natura 2000 objectives.

Walloon Region

The restoration of degraded ecosystems occurs mainly within LIFE-projects and habitat restoration projects within protected areas; an example are the LIFE-projects in relation to the peaty plateaus having a positive impact on the water quality, water circle and water reservoirs.

Walloon working group on restoration gathering representatives from the administration, stakeholders, landowners, ...

The Walloon rural development program 2014-2020: permet de soutenir la mise en œuvre de mesures à destination des secteurs agricole et sylvicole ainsi qu'en faveur de l'environnement et du développement économique des zones rurales. Il entend améliorer la compétitivité des secteurs agricole et sylvicole, renforcer la complémentarité entre ces secteurs et l'environnement et favoriser un monde rural dynamique, en améliorant la qualité de vie et en aidant à la création d'emplois. Parmi les 17 mesures du programme, au nombre de 17, la mesure 7.6 « Restauration de pelouses, de landes et d'habitats situés en Natura 2000 et dans la structure écologique principale (SEP) » a pour objectif de soutenir les investissements nécessaires à la restauration et à l'entretien des habitats typiques de certaines zones situées dans la structure écologique principale dont fait partie Natura 2000.

Brussels-Capital Region

Connectivity in the urban context is a concern in the Brussels Capital Region since 2002, when the Green and Blue Network programs were established.

The initial Green Network Program intends to gradually build a network of green spaces (parks, woods, forests and gardens) linked together by green corridors (green avenues, road and railway embankments, etc). The program emphasizes the cohesion and continuity of green spaces and semi-natural areas in the urban environment. Its purpose is to integrate the scenic, aesthetic, social, recreational and ecological functions of green spaces and develop their interconnectivity. One of the prime objectives of the Green Network Program is to increase biodiversity through the creation and adapted management of green areas.

The initial Blue Network Program aims to have an integrated, durable and ecologically justified management of open waterways in Brussels. The "blue network" is made up of small rivers, ponds

and marshes. It is dedicated to the enhancement of natural values and biodiversity while maintaining the access of the public to the areas concerned.

The nature conservation order foresees in the writing of a nature report as support of the regional planning tool for Nature (The Nature Plan) that has been established for 5 years (2016-2020).

The first nature report states the following: re-establishing proper connectivity between and within the different zones and making it possible for species to move from one zone to another according to their needs (looking for food, breeding, migrating, etc.) is a key challenge in the urban setting.

Ecological corridors therefore need to be established or improved, in particular between the Natura 2000 sites. Connectivity could make use of existing facilities such as public parks and the Green Trail, the implementation of previous initiative (Green and Blue Network), private green spaces in residential districts and the open spaces within housing blocks, wasteland sites and the green spaces associated with roads and other transport infrastructure. Where there are extensive tracts of natural land, the construction of appropriately sized wildlife crossings over the busiest roads is a necessary to these measures.

Nature knows no administrative boundaries, so collaboration between the local and regional authorities on either side of the regional boundaries would be beneficial, as would the development of a metropolitan vision.

The Brussels Nature plan adopted on 14 April 2016, amongst the 27 measures, promote the multi-functionality of areas while preserving biodiversity at the same time. Jumping on the already existing blue and green networks, this plan promotes the development of the Brussels ecological network aiming at reconnecting areas of value. This Brussels Ecological Network is made of central, development and linking zones. If the central areas have an active protection status, (natural reserve or Natura 2000 status), the so-called development areas are under urbanistic pressure. Some of those areas already have the status of green areas under the regional plan soil assignment (like regional or municipal parks) which give them a certain level of protection. But most of them are private garden/property (building areas) with no strong protection status. The Nature will target those areas in priorities for consolidating the Brussels ecological network and has already developed ad-hoc and ready to use tools like the referential for a sustainable management of green public parks and the eco-potential tool that targets real state and building promotor to maximize the integration of biodiversity into their project.

Federal level

In 2012, the increase of the ecosystem resilience is one of the underpinning elements of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Directive (Belgische Staat 2012. Omschrijving van Goede Milieutoestand en vaststelling van Milieudoelen voor de Belgische mariene wateren. Kaderrichtlijn Mariene Strategie – Art 9 & 10. BMM, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, Brussel, België, 34 pp.).

In 2016 a new Royal Decree on the designation and management of protected areas in the Belgian Part of the North Sea was adopted. This decree has to improve the implementation of the Birds- and Habitat Directives in the Belgian Part of the North Sea. The adoption of this decree was followed by the adoption of conservation objectives and of the management plans for the Marine Natura 2000 sites.

Action 3.3.1

Green Infrastructure development

In 2017 an overview of green infrastructure related measures and projects was compiled upon notification of the EU: <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/countries/gi/belgium>.

Flemish Region

Main implementation policies and actions for GI:

The Flemish Ecological Network (Vlaams Ecologisch Netwerk, VEN) is based on the Spatial Structural Plan Flanders (Ruimtelijk Structuurplan Vlaanderen), while the Nature Decree (Natuurdecreet) deals with the regulation of the VEN. The VEN comprises large natural units and large natural units in development and will comprise 125,000 ha. It partly overlaps with Natura 2000. An Integral Connecting and Supporting Network (Integraal Verwevend en Ondersteunend Netwerk, IVON) buffers, supports and connects these core natural areas. The government of Flanders uses positive incentives to promote ecological quality of these supporting areas (Agentschap Natuur en Bos, n.d.).

The Agency for Nature and Forest and the Department for Environment (“Omgeving”) Flanders issued guidelines for the design of a local green vision, to support municipalities in integrating green space into urban structures in order to take advantage of the multiple benefits (Agentschap Natuur en Bos, 2016a).

Other planning processes contributing to restoration and development of GI include the designation of Natura 2000 sites with the establishment of conservation objectives and priority measures, species protection programmes identifying specific habitats within and outside Nature 2000 sites. Natura 2000, and nature areas (reserves and domains of the regional and local authorities) form core areas of the ecological network. Several measures under the Rural Development Programme include nature development and restoration in Nature 2000 sites, re-afforestation and forest management measures, agri-environment schemes for species protection measures and nature-oriented management of grasslands, hedges and borders.

Spatial planning policy includes development of green-blue network systems between and within rural and urbanised areas and their city parks. A new long-term vision on Urban Greenery and Urban Forestry is currently under development by the Agency for Nature and Forests. The vision should inspire the many stakeholders involved and lead to a strategy which seeks to drastically increase the amount, quality and linkages of nature and greenery in the built environment (urban and peri-urban). The strategy should change business-as-usual mind-sets and improve mainstreaming of GI in many other policy areas. Ultimately, it should lead to choosing the GI options and variants in urban and spatial planning, transport infrastructure, etc.

Flanders published a Restoration Prioritisation Framework in 2016 (Prioriteitenkader voor ecosysteemherstel in Vlaanderen), as required under the EU Biodiversity Strategy Target 2 (Action 6a) (Agentschap Natuur en Bos, 2016b).

Examples of main projects:

- The Hoge Kempen National Park is Belgium's only national park. It contributes to the social cohesion and regeneration of a former coal mining region that was at risk of economic decline. Innovative approaches to developing the park's infrastructure have helped balance economic and biodiversity objectives, providing 400 jobs and direct annual economic benefits of EUR 20 million (European Commission, 2017).
- The ‘Nature in your neighbourhood’ programme in Flanders promotes greening elements in urban and residential areas, as well as research on improvement of local life through public and private green space (European Commission, 2017). The project call for local authorities to invest in innovative greening projects is available at: <https://www.natuurenbos.be/projectoproep-groen>
- Yearly project call for co-financing of nature management and restoration measures to contribute to the realisation of the Natura 2000 conservation objectives: <https://www.natuurenbos.be/beleid-wetgeving/subsidies/natuurprojectovereenkomst>

- Examples at local level include: subsidies for schools to green the school play grounds (<http://www.pimpjespeelplaats.be/>); stimulating actions for development of greening buildings and immediate surroundings, as implemented for example by the City of Antwerp: <https://www.antwerpen.be/nl/info/52d5051f39d8a6ec798b47e4/een-geveltuin-aanleggen#!>
- All LIFE Nature and Biodiversity projects contribute to restoration and development of the nature areas and often connectivity zones between nature sites, and thus contribute to Green Infrastructure development. An example of a relevant project is LIFE Oostkustpolders - Grassland restoration in the East Coast polders (07/2013-12/2019), whose main objective is the large-scale restoration of typical grassland habitats in the polders of the eastern Belgian coast (Natuurpunt, n.d.). A new LIFE Clima project, SPARC, has been approved for the development of natural flooding areas in the Schelde river basin supporting climate adaptation by restoring and enhancing green infrastructure.
- The Sigma plan is a multifunctional project that aims to protect Flanders against flooding of the Schelde and tributary rivers and at the same time boost natural values, recreation and economy (Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV and Agentschap Natuur en Bos, n.d.). Twelve newly created floodplains were effective during storms in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Parts of the natural areas surrounding the Schelde are being restored and designated as Natura 2000 areas. In total, around 4000 ha of nature will be restored until 2030 (Agentschap Natuur en Bos, 2016a).
- Nature development in the harbour area of Antwerp: The Strategic Plan for the Antwerp harbour areas describes how GI should contribute to reaching several objectives, including European nature goals, developing the harbour and protecting against floods (Agentschap Natuur en Bos, 2016a).
- The Interreg '2B Connect' project is committed to increase biodiversity on industrial sites in the cross-border region of the Netherlands and Belgium. A more nature friendly design and management of these sites will create stepping stones and corridors for plants and animals. '2B Connect' supports companies by providing the necessary tools.
- The Sonian forest near the centre of Brussels is divided in several smaller entities which are separated by major roads. The 'LIFE+ OZON' project reconnects the natural habitats across the three Belgian regions by constructing several wildlife crossings. In 2015, three new ecotunnels were constructed under the ring road and 18 existing tunnels were restored in order to allow a passage for animals. In 2016, the construction of a 60 m wide wildlife crossing started and in 2017 the project will end with the construction of a 24 km ecofence
- A transboundary project developed an ecoduct structure restoring connectivity between nature sites of Flanders and Netherlands: <https://www.natuurenbos.be/persnieuws/nieuws/feest-op-het-ecoduct>
- The City of Lommel and an organisation of companies initiated a project to develop the open spaces in the industrial zone into natural green areas to support green infrastructure and to enhance butterfly populations in their surroundings. The project area is being extended continuously and also includes educational activities with schools: <http://www.locdevlinder.be/>
- The city of Genk participates in the Horizon 2020 project COproductioN with NaturE for City Transitioning, INnovation and Governance (CONNECTING) which aims to co-develop the policy and practices necessary to scale up urban resilience, innovation and governance via nature-based solutions. An open innovation ecosystem approach bringing together city governments, SMEs, academia and civic society will be used to co-produce usable and actionable knowledge in all cities.
- Antwerp is one of the cities participating in the EnRoute project (Enhancing Resilience of Urban Ecosystems through Green Infrastructure) implemented in the framework of EU MAES, which runs from 2017 until 2018. The project aims to introduce the MAES

approach into the local policy arena, connecting the governance levels horizontally and vertically, with a view to contributing to the further deployment of GI in cities and in urban contexts. In the “city labs”, the URBAN-MAES framework will be implemented using local data, involving local stakeholders in the process and focusing on specific issues (Maes *et al.* 2017).

- ‘Green Deals on Business@Biodiversity’ launched in 2018 as agreements between (private) partners and the Government of Flanders. They support companies, NGOs, knowledge institutions and other organisations in initiatives for greening their surroundings. More than 100 companies already subscribed.
- Other projects for nature development integrating objectives for nature, recreation and tourism include:
 - Bosland: <http://www.bosland.be/>
 - Parkbos Gent: <http://www.parkbos.be/situering-en-site>

Walloon Region

Many measures contribute to the green infrastructure in the Walloon region via tools and measures in place to preserve and restore natural habitats (threatened habitats as well as the more common ones):

- * agri-environmental measures
- * PEFC certification of forests
- * 'Plans Communaux de Développement de la Nature', delayed mowing, River contracts
- * agreements with the private sector (quarries, electricity companies, railroad companies ...)
- * the natural zones, green spaces and forests under the ‘Code wallon de l’Aménagement du Territoire, de l’Urbanisme et du Patrimoine’
- * catalogue of actions of the ‘réseau Wallonie nature’
- * the new Air-Climate-Energy Plan (PACE). Walloon strategy to adapt to climate change
- * some agreements with the quarries, energy... sectors.
- * Landscape Plateform paysage DGO4: www.plateformepaysagedewallonie.be. Landscape charter in Natural parcs.

The Water Code and some resulting plans and programs:

- * the ‘Plans d’Assainissement par Sous-bassin Hydrographiques’ PASH define the decontamination and clean up regime for the relevant areas
- * the programme for the sustainable management of nitrogen is the application of the Nitrate Directive (part of the Water Framework Directive)
- * les plans de gestion par bassin hydrographiques
- * les PARIS (programmes d’actions sur les rivières par approche intégrée et sectorisée): projet visant à intégrer les exigences diverses de la DCE, de NATURA 2000, de la Directive Inondation, ... dans la gestion courante des cours d’eau en planifiant les interventions à réaliser à court et à moyen terme.

Brussels-Capital Region

The Regional Nature Plan foresees the following measures:

- * to ensure an adequate protection and management of the sites with a high biological value and to ensure the implementation of the ecological network
- * to develop an integrated vision for the preservation and restoration of (ancient) agricultural zones and sites
- * to implement the management plans within the protected sites the different policy levels competent for the ecological management of public green spaces should adopt a common language
- * to develop and implement plans for the multifunctional management of green spaces

The Blue Network Programme: this programme aims to have an integrated, durable and ecologically justified management of open waterways in Brussels. The "blue network" is made up of small rivers, ponds and marshes. It is dedicated to the enhancement of natural values and biodiversity while maintaining the access of the public to the areas concerned.

A new Plan for water management adopted by the BCR in 2017 for the period 2016-2021 is in line with this programme (See chapter II, item 4.4 on water management).

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 3.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ecosystems, their resilience and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing, *inter alia*, a green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

C'est pratiquement 15,1% du territoire belge qui est désigné Natura 2000 (ce réseau comprenant des sites marins et terrestres). Seul un faible pourcentage des sites Natura 2000 (3,5 %) bénéficie d'un plan de gestion approprié; on regrette également que la gestion différenciée des autres sites naturels ne soit pas d'application partout et la majorité d'espèces et types d'habitats se trouvent encore dans un état de conservation non-favorable. La surexploitation ne constitue pas une pression majeure sur les écosystèmes terrestre et marins. Par contre, une stratégie pour le milieu marin sera adoptée d'ici 2014 et celle ci devrait aussi se pencher sur la préservation des stocks de poissons. Des stratégies régionales et le Plan national d'adaptation aux changements climatiques sont en cours d'élaboration; il s'agira de veiller à ce que les mesures d'adaptation aux changements climatiques (et dans la mesure du possible ces mesures devraient utiliser la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques) n'affectent pas la biodiversité et que l'adaptation de la biodiversité à ces changements soient bien prise en compte.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/3#3.3>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 3.4

Related to objective 3.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Develop and implement action plans so as to ensure the maintenance or rehabilitation of our most threatened species to a favourable conservation status.

Flemish Region

For the protection and management of species a new Executive law for species protection was adopted 15th May 2009 that includes horizontal measures for the management and protection of species with specific attention to species of European interest. For the development of species protection programmes a format, procedure and prioritization of species was prepared.

The evaluation of the status of biodiversity in Flanders and the follow-up of the implementation of this policy plan are carried out by means of 21 biodiversity indicators, which are closely linked to SEBI European biodiversity indicators. The indicators are published and regularly updated on the biodiversity indicators website (www.biodiversityindicators.be), on the website of the plan and on the environment indicators website (www.milieurapport.be). Pages in English are available.

- From the 2013 Habitats directive report:

More than 50% of the species assessed (34 of 59) are in very unfavourable status of conservation, 10 species (16%) in a moderate status and for 6 species (10%) there are not enough data for evaluation. Only 9 species, 3 amphibians, 1 fish and 5 bat species have a good status of conservation. Comparing with 2007 this indicates that 14 species improved in status but at the same time the status deteriorated for another 17 species. The assessment for the 2018 reporting is ongoing but provisional data showed for some species groups further improvement.

- Review of the Red List Species: <https://www.inbo.be/en/search-flanders-red-lists>:

- Overview: <https://www.inbo.be/nl/naturindicator/rode-lijststatus-groep>
Presently, there are validated Red Lists available for amphibians, breeding birds, butterflies, higher plants, dragonflies, ladybugs, ground beetles, moths, reptiles, grasshoppers, wood-dwelling beetles, water bugs, freshwater fish and mammals. For the calculation of this indicator only the recently validated Red Lists are used.
Of the 2,624 species on the validated Red Lists, 182 species, or 7%, have disappeared from Flanders in the course of the last century. Of the remaining 2,442 species, almost one in three are 'Seriously endangered', 'Endangered' or 'Vulnerable'. Their populations have declined sharply over the research period (differently according to species groups) and / or have reached a critical minimum so that the species is about to disappear. This is the case, for example, for the strawberry butterfly, the hazel mouse, the garlic pad and the gray bunting. The Red List status differs greatly between the different species groups. The category 'Regional extinct' varies from 27% in the case of butterflies to around 4% in the breeding birds and 0% in the case of reptiles.
The disappearance or decline of species is a consequence of various factors such as the deterioration of the surface suitable habitat, the fragmentation of the habitat and declining habitat quality. Also species from the agricultural area are increasingly on the Red List.
- Red List assessment of Breeding birds in 2016: of 161 species assessed against IUCN categories: RE - Regional Extinct 6 (3,7 %), CR – Serious Endangered 25 (15,5 %) - EN- Endangered 16 (9,9 %), VU - Vulnerable 20 (12,4 %), NT – almost endangered 25 (15,5 %), LC – not endangered 67 (41,6%) DD – not enough data 2 (1,2%).

Operational Plan of the Agency for Nature and Forests

The objectives and projects implement the vision to realise more and better nature, forests and green spaces and to bring nature to the heart of people in the middle of society (See: http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Over-ons/Missie_en_visie.aspx).

On policy implementation for species protection: development of 4 protection programmes for prioritised species or species groups per year, to be adopted by the minister competent for nature, after consultation with actors and stakeholders. End of 2018 there are 17 species protection programmes adopted and being implemented. <https://www.natuurenbos.be/SBP>

Main impacts identified include: agricultural practices, urbanization and infrastructure development inducing fragmentation of open green areas, use changes and degradation, climate change, fertilizer and pesticides.

For many species the required restoration and maintenance of their living habitats also need action outside protected areas or Natura 2000.

Actions are undertaken to inform the public on the protected species as well as on the procedures to follow when species caused damages to private property: (info in Dutch)
<https://www.vlaanderen.be/nl/natuur-en-milieu/dieren/beschermde-diersoorten>

Belgium also signed the Coalition of the Willing for pollinators:

<https://promotepollinators.org/2016/12/12/signing-of-the-declaration-on-the-coalition-of-the-willing-on-pollinators/>

For the follow-up of the processes under the Coalitions' work and for the implementation of the EU Strategy on Pollinators, a Belgian Pollinators working group has been established to enhance initiation and follow-up of restoration and conservation of pollinators, compile the actions undertaken and exchange knowledge and expertise.

Flanders also supports the yearly event of European Land Owners organisation on the Bee Award:
<https://www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/bee-award>

Antwerp port area

With the authority of the port of Antwerp and the NGO Natuurpunt a site-specific species protection programme for the Antwerp port area was developed in 2011 and formally approved in 2014: <http://www.portofantwerp.com/nl/natuur>. The objective is to preserve and manage up to 5% of the port area, about 600 ha, as suitable habitat for the species of European importance. In the course of 2019 the implementation will be evaluated and the programme will be revised for the next 5 years.

Walloon Region

Species status

Red list species: According to the red lists drawn up for different groups of species, 31% of the animal and plant species studied are threatened with extinction¹ at the Walloon level and almost 9% have disappeared from the regional territory. For fish, reptiles, day butterflies and dragonflies, more than half of the species are in an unfavourable situation. (see SOER 2017 FFH5).

Species of Community interest according to Natura 2000: For the period 2007 - 2012, the conservation status of species was considered unfavourable for 63% of the number of species concerned in the Continental biogeographical region and 71% in Atlantic biogeographical region. Among the pressures exerted on species, the most frequently identified are agricultural intensification (affecting more than 3/4 of species), the fragmentation of favourable habitats and the resulting loss of connectivity, the incidence of pollution (especially eutrophication⁵), land take⁶ (especially in the Atlantic area) and intensification of forestry (especially in continental areas) (see SOER2017 FFH6).

Common birds: The populations of common birds in Wallonia are generally in long-term decline: -25% between 1990 and 2015. Of the 75 species considered, 15 were significantly increasing over the period, 18 were stable, 41 were declining and one species showed an uncertain trend. Farmland birds showed the most marked decrease (-47%). The woodland bird curve shows a moderate decline (-11%) with a trend which may have been reversing since 2011. As regards generalist species, populations have fallen to a level 20% below the 1990 average population size (see SOER2017 FFH8).

Bats: The populations of the bats being monitored (15 taxa) almost tripled between 1995 and 2016. Of the 13 representative taxa, 12 were significantly increasing and 1 taxon showed an uncertain trend (the latter, the Western barbastelle, is a very rare forest species in Wallonia, and moreover, barely present underground in winter). The most striking increase was in the populations of Geoffroy's bat, the Greater mouse-eared bat, and the Greater Horseshoe bat. Long-eared bats showed the most moderate increase. These apparent increases are very encouraging but should be qualified: they could reflect the improvement in prospecting techniques and the amplification of observer networks. Furthermore, the total numbers remain low and far removed from those observed in the 1950s, prior to the significant decline recorded in the second half of the 20th century. A study has reported major changes in the composition of bat populations in Wallonia by comparing the results of ringing campaigns for bats wintering between 1939 and 1952 with the results of winter counts between 1995 and 2008: the specific diversity within hibernation sites decreased by half between these periods (see SOER2017 FFH9).

Badger: No significant variations were observed between 2010 and 2016, reflecting population stability.

Species action plans

Action plans are ongoing for the sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*), the adder (*Vipera berus*), the Natterjack Toad (*Bufo calamita*) and 3 butterflies (LIFE papillon) (*Euphydryas aurinia*, *Lycaena helle* and *Lycaena dispar*).

An integrated LIFE project also foresees several action plans:

- Amphibians: *Bombina variegata*, *Alytes obstetricans*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Rana lessonae*
- Bats: *Barbastella barbastellus*
- Reed birds: *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, *Locustella lusciniooides*
- Farmland birds: *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus pygargus*

And part of the implementation of action plans on mammals (*Barbastella barbastellus*) and amphibians (*Bombina variegata*, *Alytes obstetricans*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Rana lessonae*) and 2 plant species (*Luronium natans* et *Bromus grossus*).

Sand Martin: a LIFE project « Quarries » takes measure for several swallow specie, including the sand martin: <http://www.lifeinquarries.eu/actions/#mesurestemporaires>.

A reintroduction program for *Lyrurus tetrix* is also undergoing in the Hautes Fagnes since 2017.

- Pour ce qui concerne les gestionnaires cours d'eau, toutes catégories confondues, de nombreuses passes à poissons ont été réalisées au cours des années passées.
- La problématique de la libre circulation des poissons est aussi prise en compte dans le cadre du renouvellement des permis/concessions/autorisations des centrales hydroélectriques.
- Opérations de rempoissonnements d'espèces migratrices (saumon atlantique et de truite de mer) ;
- Hirondelle de rivage : Le Life in « Quarries » qui favorise différentes espèces dans les carrières dont l'Hirondelle de rivage :
<http://www.lifeinquarries.eu/actions/#mesurestemporaires>.
- plan d'action Hirondelles (essentiellement rustiques et de fenêtres), avec la mise en œuvre de différentes actions sur 5 communes pilotes en 2017.

- Concerning the black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), although no action plan has been drafted recently, reintroduction of individuals have taken place in the Hautes Fagnes in 2017 and 2018.

The coordinated regional law about nature

A new coordinated regional law about nature was adopted in March 2012, consisting of 119 articles and 8 annexes, with the general aim of contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity. Measures taken under this nature law are intended to:

- maintain or restore to a favourable conservation status natural habitats and species of fauna and flora of community and regional interest;
- contribute to the establishment of an ecological network in Brussels;
- contribute to the integration of biodiversity in an urban context.

This regional law requires the elaboration of a regional plan for nature, which should be adopted at the latest two years after the coming into force of the law (articles 6 and 8 to 11). It also foresees the elaboration of more specific action plans (art. 6 and 12 to 14). These action plans would aim at:

- the improvement of the conservation status of natural species and habitats.
- the struggle against biodiversity threats such as invasive alien species.
- the encouragement of sustainable use of biodiversity components.

http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/uploadedFiles/Contenu_du_site/News/Ord_Nature_Natuur_2012.pdf?langtype=2060

Regional Plan for Nature

The Regional Plan for Nature foresees to “Take active protection measures for plant and animal heritage species” and to develop and implement action plans for the restoration and development of species population with a regional of community interest. This implies that by 2016, BCR will work and adopt action plans in order to improve the conservation of:

- swallows and swifts, or more broadly, species of regional interest nesting in buildings. Subsidies have been given to municipalities and association in order to protect and promote swallows and swifts;
- species of wetlands and aquatic environments (ponds action plan) and more specifically for amphibians and yellow iris. Subsidies have been given to municipalities and association in order to protect and promote aquatic environment. Two new regional natural reserves in the Neerpede valley have been officially designated for a better protection of the aquatic environment;
- pollinators action plan. The strategy is under construction based on an ongoing monitoring process.

Federal level

The harbour porpoise

As part of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, an environmental objective has been defined for the harbour porpoise in the Belgian part of the North Sea. This objective aims to reduce by 2020 the annual bycatch levels of this species to levels below 1.7% of its population size (which is also the OSPAR Ecological Quality Objective EcoQO).

Bee Health, Our Health: Federal Bee Plans

In 2013, a specific plan dedicated to the preservation of pollinators, in particular, bees, has been carried out. It includes about 30 actions and measures which deal with six main issues: the risk assessment and management for pollinators (including pesticides risk analysis), the integration of

pollination in other policies and measures (including economy), the orientation of markets in favour of pollinators (in the broader framework of biodiversity and ecosystem services), the monitoring of honey bees and wild bees, animal health policy and the traceability of hives (for honey bees only).

This first plan established a collaboration methodology between policy makers, researchers and civil society in general. A “bee governance” at federal and national levels through which concrete actions could be carried out but that needed a follow-up for several long-term projects. That is why the federal government adopted a second Federal Bee Plan 2017-2019. This plan has 4 objectives: assist the bee-keepers, better understand the causes of bee decline, better control the risks for bee health and engage all the stakeholders.

www.health.belgium.be/fr/le-plan-federal-abeilles-2017-2019-0

Action 3.4.1

Flemish Region - see above on species protection programmes

Implementation of Species Protection Programmes: Development and implementation of action plans, contracts with land owners for species protection measures under the Rural Development Programme (meadow birds, hamster, farmland birds), financial support for bird rehabilitation centres, research for re-introduction projects (e.g. fish and amphibian species).

Priority species of European concern have been listed for development and implementation of species action programmes – policy aim to have 4 new programmes adopted per year.

Brussels-Capital Region

The Regional Nature Plan foresees the following measure: to develop and implement action plans for the restoration and development of species population with a regional or community interest, with priority given to wetland and aquatic species.

Walloon Region

Chapter II of the law on the conservation of nature protects a list of animal and plant species. The law on the conservation of nature allows also that municipalities take more stringent measures for the protection of animal and plant species. This could be a good way to protect particular sites such as the migration routes of amphibians. Unfortunately, municipalities rarely use this possibility.

Action plans for species are running for the sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*), the common European adder (*Vipera berus*), the natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), the marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) and the yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*).

More localised actions are implemented for the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and the whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*).

Other projects aim to improve the status of threatened populations of fish species.

Several LIFE-project and restoration projects are favourable to populations of threatened species (three butterfly species are also targeted: *Euphydryas aurinia*, *Lycaena helle* and *Lycaena dispar*). Study and scientific monitoring in order to restore populations of the Atlantic salmon; inventory of obstacles for fish circulation in the hydrographical network, etc.

Federal level

As part of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, an environmental objective has been defined for the harbour porpoise in the Belgian part of the North Sea. This objective aims to reduce by 2020 the annual bycatch levels of this species to levels below 1.7% of its population size (which is also the OSPAR Ecological Quality Objective EcoQO).

Data links for status and trends on main species groups:
<http://www.biodiversityindicators.be>
<https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/de-staat-van-instandhouding-van-de-soorten-van-de-habitatrichtlijn>
<https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/oppervlakte-beheerovereenkomsten-met-natuurdoelen>

Data links for information on projects:
<http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/>

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 3.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Develop and implement action plans so as to ensure the maintenance or rehabilitation of our most threatened species to a favourable conservation status.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des plans d'action pour la conservation *in situ* des espèces sont développés et mis en oeuvre dans les Régions ou sont en préparation, c'est toutefois 20% à 70% des espèces qui sont menacées en fonction des groupes.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/3#3.4>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 3.5

Related to objective 3.5 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Adopt an integrated strategy for *ex situ* conservation of biodiversity together with measures for its implementation.

Ex-situ conservation: European and international projects through universities and scientific institutions: e.g. KU Leuven and the INIBAP project on bananas strains (see below), ENSCONET or the European native seed conservation network through the National Botanic Garden of Belgium (www.ensconet.eu); Universiteit Gent and the Belgian Co-Ordinated Collections of Microorganisms (BCCM), a member of the World Federation of Culture Collections.

The Laboratory of Tropical Crop Improvement (**KU Leuven**) focuses its research on breeding tropical crops by integrating conventional breeding with molecular breeding, functional genomics and phenotyping. The Laboratory also actively contributes to safeguarding biodiversity. It hosts the Bioversity International office in Belgium.

The improvement of the livelihood of subsistence farmers in the tropics through sustainable agriculture by acting as a bridge between fundamental research on model plants and applied research in support of the improvement of tropical crops, with special emphasis on banana and plantain.

The International Transit Centre hosts the world banana collection consisting of nearly 1544 accessions. This is conserved under *in vitro* conditions (medium term), as a cryopreserved collection and lyophilized leaf collection. Therefore a MOU was signed between Bioversity International and KU Leuven.

European zoos keep approximately 6500 animal species in their collections. About 400 species, of which 250 are listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List, are closely monitored and managed within European Endangered Species Breeding Programmes (EEPs) and European Studbooks (ESBs) under auspices of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). Generally, these populations are managed to minimise inbreeding and to retain as much genetic diversity of the wild population as possible.

To be able to successfully manage these breeding programmes all zoos collect as much data as possible from all individual animals in their collection, to ultimately allow the construction of a reliable pedigree. Such pedigree information is usually collated and maintained in a studbook by a dedicated studbook keeper. **Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp** staff members, for example, maintain the European studbooks for the Mexican military macaw, the Eurasian black vulture and Fischer's Turaco, and collect the pedigree records for Okapi, Bonobo, Congo peafowl and Golden-headed lion tamarins in a global studbook.

Pairi Daiza has been a member of EAZA (the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums) since 1994, which groups 400 institutions. The initiation objective was to promote international cooperation for the conservation of endangered species, including establishment in the EEP programmes. Pairi Daiza actively participates in about 40 of these programmes; including the European sea eagle (Red Sea) and the Siberian cranes. For more information, see: www.eaza.net.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 3.5 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Adopt an integrated strategy for *ex situ* conservation of biodiversity together with measures for its implementation.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Un groupe de travail national a été mis en place pour coordonner les nombreux projets de conservation *ex situ* entrepris à l'échelle du pays.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/3#3.5>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 3.6

Related to objective 3.6 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Take measures to minimise the impact of the identified processes and activities threatening biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Flemish Region

Stricter control on the use of impact assessments of new developments allow to introduce more general measures in the projects to reduce pressures on environment and nature as regulated through the environment permits procedures. Enforcement of existing environmental law and imposed restrictions on emissions, land use changes and water use also contribute to reducing pressures. Consultations are ongoing to integrate the value of ecosystems and ecosystem services in the Environmental impact assessment procedure and regulation.

For the assessments of projects/plans/programmes with possible impacts on Natura 2000 and the relevant natural values an online system has been developed for a scoping of possible effects and to identify whether further studies of impact may be required:

<https://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/passendebeoordeling>.

Pollution

The Decree on integrated water management contains concrete requirements with respect to riparian zones along water bodies with specific requirements on soil cultivation, use of pesticides and manure use. Water quality in general terms improved, although the required levels are not yet reached for all chemicals in all water ways: <http://www.vmm.be/water/kwaliteit-oppervlaktewater>.

The Manure Decree and implementation programme MAP 5 transposes the European Nitrate Directive action program (for the period 2015-2018) into Flemish legislation and contains the required regulations on distance rules for manure use, timing of manure use and other requirements (slope slopes, snow cover, green cover, residual nitrate in soil (soil and crop specific values), mandatory advise on manure use in horticulture) and overall reduction measures of manure chemicals. Excess fosfates and nitrates in soil pose the main problems for effective revering of habitats and the related ecosystem functions:

https://www.vlm.be/nl/.../Mestbank/.../MAP5/MAP5_deel_1_algemeen_deel.pdf

Compared to the previous MAP the regulations are stricter with lower levels that can be permitted taking into account vulnerability of environmental (especially eco-hydrological) and natural values: www.vilt.be/map-5-is-een-duidelijke-verstrekking-van-de-wetgeving.

<http://www.milieurapport.be/nl/feitencijfers/sectoren/landbouw/>

Stricted enforcement of the follow-up of lower levels of manure release is especially important for vulnerable Natura 2000 habitats and habitats of species for which a specific Programmatic Approach on nitrogen was set up: <https://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/pas>.

The use of pesticides and herbicides by local authorities in public domains or parks is forbidden since January 2004. Pesticide reduction programmes in agricultural practices are promoted through stimulating measures under the Rural Development Programme and codes of good practices.

<http://www.milieurapport.be/nl/feitencijfers/milieuthemas/verspreiding-van-pesticiden/druk-op-oppervlaktewater-door-pesticiden/druk-op-het-waterleven-door-gewasbescherming-seq-en-seq/>

Fragmentation

Due to high urbanised character and highly concentrated transport infrastructure in Flanders fragmentation of green open spaces forms one of the main pressures for ecological connectivity and biodiversity. The construction of green bridges (also known as wildlife overpasses) is one of the responses of the Flemish government to address this issue. Experiences on establishing green bridges show that it is a complex process with a high variety of stakeholders and interests, which can make progress slow and laborious, besides sometimes requiring very high financial investments. In the first phase attention was given to enhance awareness for the main actors at regional and local level and set up partnerships: <https://www.lne.be/beleid-over-ontsnippering>

Several projects have been carried out for the defragmentation of roads dividing important natural areas by construction of ecoducts, and on river systems by installations resolving fish migration barriers (till now 53% of the barriers on main rivers solved).

One of the largest ecoducts have been contracted, with EU co-financing under LIFE project OZON, for re-connecting 2 main parts of the Soniën Forest:

<https://www.natuurenbos.be/projecten/vlaams-brabant/ozon>

Climate change

The publication of the Policy Plan of Flanders on Climate Change also includes measures related to nature and values of ecosystems. In studies on valuation of ecosystems services contribution of ecosystems and of green spaces in cities on air quality and on absorption capacity of CO₂ delivers arguments on the role of healthy ecosystems and more green spaces for adaptation and mitigation to climate change. Such data help to initiate more projects on greening the environment and on restoration of ecosystems.

The Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO) and the universities of Antwerp and Ghent assessed the value of the Natura 2000 network in Flanders. The 166,000 hectares of protected areas in Flanders were shown to provide, among others, the following benefits: more than 34 million tons of CO₂ stored each year, 4,000 to 8,000 tons of fine dust eliminated from the air each year, 16 million m³ of water purified each year, a gain of 2100 healthy life years (for about 1.8 million people), and 26 to 43 million visitors annually. The authors concluded that the Natura 2000 areas in Flanders have a total value for society of EUR 800 million to 1.2 billion. This is considered an underestimate given the fact that only 11 of the known 36 ecosystem services were taken into account. The study is now being revised based on new data and mapping of ecosystem services.

https://pureportal.inbo.be/portal/files/8636883/Meiresonne_Turkelboom_2015_BiodiversiteitAlsBasisVoorEcosysteemdienstenInVlaanderen.pdf

Based on new data and maps more projects are stimulated through yearly project calls with financial support. Through such afforestation projects and restoration of peatlands and wetlands the contribution to fixation of carbon is enhanced.

Walloon Region

Several general measures are implemented in different frameworks to reduce pressure on the ecosystems:

- the law on nature conservation
- one of the objectives of the Water Code ('Code de l'Eau') is to prevent supplementary degradation as well as to preserve and enhance the state of the aquatic ecosystems as well as the wetlands depending on them
- the 'Circulaire Biodiversité en Forêt'
- the new Forestry Code
- agri-environmental measures
- the agricultural conditionality
- The Environment Code and certain resulting dispositions:
 - * the environmental permit and 'permis unique'
 - * environment impact assessments as foreseen in the Environment Code

- The evaluation of incidences is imposed for all plans and projects that could affect a Natura 2000 site in a significant way.

Pollution

List of Walloon tools and measures in place for pollution:

- The Forestry Code forbids the utilisation of pesticides. The only exceptions are defined by the Walloon government to combat certain diseases or invasive alien species that threaten the indigenous fauna and flora.
- The Forestry Code also offers the possibility to impose the utilisation of vegetal oil for chain saws and other forestry exploitation tools.
- The use of herbicides is forbidden in some public areas such as parks, waterways, ponds and lakes, road verges and ditches.
- The Water Code and some resulting plans and programs:
 - * the 'Plans d'Assainissement par Sous-bassin Hydrographiques' define the decontamination and clean up regime for the relevant areas
 - * the programme for the sustainable management of nitrogen is the application of the Nitrate Directive (part of the Water Framework Directive)
- 159 municipalities have signed the 'Plan Maya' thereby committing themselves 1) to put in place a plan to reduce the use of pesticides and 2) to manage green spaces more ecologically.
- In the framework of the implementation of the Walloon decree on soil management, an inventory of (potentially) polluted soils is currently in development.
- The Walloon authorities have elaborated a pesticides reduction programme to further decrease their use.
- The Walloon Nitrogen sustainable management plan.

See also 'Etat de l'environnement wallon' (<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be>).

Brussels-Capital Region

Land use planning

One of the most important threats to biodiversity in Brussels is urbanization. The integration of biodiversity in land use policy is not easy. Nevertheless, the Regional plan of soil allocation (PRAS) indicates the sites where nature conservation has the priority. A distinction is even done between high nature value areas and other nature areas. The plan assigns allocations to areas it defines. Requirements in relation to all areas and each type of assignment are enacted. But these provisions do not confer a protected status on areas of ecological interest: some acts and works are banned but nothing is required in terms of maintaining the biological value of the site or type of management. In addition, the scope of protection varies depending on the assignment in question. However, there are eight assignments likely to confer protected status, small but real, to sites of ecological interest (Green areas, Green areas of high biological value, Park areas, Areas of sports or outdoor recreation, Cemeteries areas, Forest areas, Areas of easements on the edges of woods and forests, Agricultural areas).

This plan was updated in 2013. See: <http://www.pras.irisnet.be/PRAS/>

Pollution

- A very strict legislation is in place concerning the use of pesticides in public green spaces. In public regional green spaces: no use of pesticides or very restricted. A new regional plan for avoiding the use of pesticides has been adopted for the period 2018-2022:
<https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/espaces-verts-et-biodiversite/action-de-la-region/le-programme-regional-de-reduction-des>.

- Water pollution is gradually removed thanks to the actions taken in the framework of the water plan.
- The Regional Nature Plan foresees also the following measure: to develop an integrated vision for the preservation and restoration of (ancient) agricultural zones and sites.
- Large efforts to reduce GES and pollutants that cause acidification are made in the framework of air quality and air plans. In 2016, the Brussels-Capital Region has adopted a new plan to improve structurally the air quality and to combat climate change (Air Climate Plan of the Brussels-Capital Region). This plan groupes the strategy, the priorities and the actions to be implemented by the region to fulfil the European and international obligations concerning air quality. Moreover, the region has adopted in 2013 the Brussels Code for Air, Climate and Energy (Code Bruxellois de l'Air, du Climat et de la maîtrise de l'Energie, COBRACE), which integrates all the necessary measures concerning air quality, climate and management of the energy consumption. Through the COBRACE, the Brussels-Capital Region engages itself to reduce the emissions of atmospheric pollutants such as the precursors of tropospheric ozone, acidifying and eutrophying substances, greenhouse gases, persistent organic pollutants, etc.

Fragmentation

The concept of green and blue network was introduced in 1996 in the Regional Development Plan and partly implemented in the 2001 Regional Designated Land Use Plan (PRAS). The green and blue network aims to rebalance regional disparities in the distribution of green spaces and improve connectivity between these spaces to allow for the dispersal and migration of wildlife. The green network translates the concept of green continuity by proposing the delimitation of a series of landscaped, social and / or environmental relay sites. It is based on the creation of new parks and gardens in deficit inner city green spaces, restoration and development of the quality of existing green spaces ("relay sites") and the establishment of physical connections between them ("green continuities"). Its implementation should help mitigate the effects of the assignment in building areas of certain fallow land previously in land reserve areas. (Source: Nature Report of the Brussels-Capital Region, 2012)

In order to enable the public to discover urban nature, Brussels Environment has created a trail over 60 km in length. It consists of vegetation-lined tracks linking the different green spaces. The Green Trail travels all round the Region. (Source: Brussels Environment, 2012, and ICLEI Africa Secretariat, 2013. Challenges for nature in Brussels. Summary of the nature report).

The Regional Nature Plan foresees the following measure: reduce the fragmentation of biodiversity by finding ways to allow the fauna to move across transport infrastructure (ecoducts and ecotunnels for example).

Federal level

Pollution

The Pesticide Reduction Programme was adopted by the Federal Government (PRPB) in 2005 aims to reduce the adverse impact of pesticides. The PRPB has been running until the end of 2012.

From 2013, the NAPAN (Nationale Actie - Plan d'Action National) has been established as the Belgian national action plan for pesticide reduction as requested by the EU directive 2009/128. It includes the federal plan (FRPP: Federal Reduction Plan for Pesticides) replacing the PRPB, and the plans from the three regions. Each of these plans comprises both specific actions and actions carried out jointly with the other members of the NAPAN Task Force. It aims at reaching the objectives of reducing risks linked to pesticides as defined in the EU Directive 2009/128/CE establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

Throughout the 2005-2012 programme, federal authorities managed to develop and ensure major stakeholders' participation e.g. by establishing a Council and organising direct consultation of specialists who use pesticides. This high level of participation is kept in the 2013-2017 programme and extended to all national competences.

The 2005-2012 programme was an opportunity for federal authorities to deliver reliable and balanced information on the risks relating to the use of pesticides, e. g. through the websites and by publishing thematic booklets. Putting neutral information at disposal in an active way is also a major issue of the 2013-2017 programme, in which it is notably scheduled that such information shall be provided compulsorily in all places where products for amateur use are on sale. Such a balanced information should help raising awareness of non-professional users of pesticides to the consequences of this use on biological diversity and ecosystem services.

Federal authorities delivered key strategic information for public risk management, such as the amounts of pesticide products sold. This aspect, which had not been fully achieved at the end of the 2005-2012 programme, will be amplified in the 2013-2017 programme through the development of a key index scorecard for the issue of pesticide use. Those indexes will tackle the problem according to the DPSIR system (Driven forces, Pressure, State, Impact, Response). Another feature of the 2013-2017 programme is the development of specific follow-up tools for public health purposes, such as health monitoring of professional users of plant protection products.

Programme coordination is provided by the federal services in charge of product standards, making it possible to achieve many structural changes in the issue of pesticide use through legislation modifications. This major asset has resulted in significant progress, such as the 'Phytolice' (compulsory knowledge certificate for users, sellers and professional advisors of plant protection products), or the splitting of the plant protection product market into a market for professional users and a market for non-professional users.

Finally, throughout the period 2005-2012, the federal programme has contributed to enhance dialogue at several levels (citizens, professional/civilian associations, government, etc.) on numerous issues relating to pesticides. This dialogue capacity will certainly prove useful in the future, notably for tackling delicate issues about pesticides and for which scientific evidence is insufficient, such as for instance the issue of bee population decline, the emergence of certain chronic diseases among farmers, the 'cocktail effect' of pesticide residues in food.

Some of the measures foreseen to be implemented at the national level are the following:

- By 2017, harmonization of methods, standards and reports on water (surface & underground) contamination by pesticides at regional, national and European level.
- Ensure that non-professional users of products receive balanced information at the point of sale regarding the right conditions of use, the risks to public health and the environment.

North Sea

- The objective of the OSPAR strategy 'Hazardous substances' is to reduce the concentration of hazardous substances to background levels by 2020.

- In 2012, the "Good Environmental Status" and associated objectives for the descriptors "Eutrophication" and "pollution were defined and agreed (Belgische Staat 2012. Omschrijving van Goede Milieutoestand en vaststelling van Milieu doelen voor de Belgische mariene wateren. Kaderrichtlijn Mariene Strategie – Art 9 & 10. BMM, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, Brussel, België, 34 pp.).

Climate change

A federal plan to adapt to climate change will be finalised in 2014.

Others

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences develops through the Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models and the Scheldt estuary a mathematical model to better understand fragile ecosystems such as coastal areas and mangroves in Asia and Latin America in order to be better able at developing integrated management plans taking into account the protection of sensitive areas.

WWF-Belgium launches projects around sustainable agriculture, wood import: partnerships, financing, governance, awareness.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 3.6 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Take measures to minimise the impact of the identified processes and activities threatening biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 X Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des stratégies régionales et le Plan national d'adaptation aux changements climatiques sont en cours d'élaboration ; il s'agira de veiller à ce que les mesures d'adaptation aux changements climatiques (et dans la mesure du possible ces mesures devraient utiliser la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques) n'affectent pas la biodiversité et que l'adaptation de la biodiversité à ces changements soient bien prise en compte.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/3#3.6>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 3.7

Related to objective 3.7 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Several joint initiatives have been undertaken to tackle the issue of invasive alien species:

- Development of black grey and alert lists of invasive alien species based on a standardised impact assessment protocol (ISEIA) (see: <http://ias.biodiversity.be>), and Risk assessment protocols (Harmonia+ <http://ias.biodiversity.be/harmoniaplus>).

- Consultation of plant and breeding sectors to increase awareness and understanding of the issue and identification of the most appropriate measures.
- Research projects relating to IAS are funded by the Belgian Science Policy Office: Alien Alert, Invaxen, Diars, INPLANBEL, Alien Impact, Ensis and TrIAS. The TrIAS project is aimed at dynamically, from year to year, track the progression of alien species, identify emerging species, assess their current and future risk and timely inform policy in a seamless data- driven workflow. One that is built on open science and open data infrastructures. By using international biodiversity standards and facilities, TrIAS ensures interoperability, repeatability and sustainability. This makes the process adaptable to future requirements in an evolving IAS policy landscape both locally and internationally.

Awareness raising on invasive alien plants in the horticultural sector at national level (federal + Regions): Life+ project "AlterIAS" (ALTERnatives to Invasive Alien Species, www.alterias.be): development of public awareness tools (brochure on alternative plants to IAS, DVD, development of a code of conduct on invasive alien plants in Belgium ...).

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform works on IAS by facilitating science-policy processes on invasive alien species: 1) Facilitating a Belgian Community of Practice on invasive alien species; 2) Actively participating in the implementation of the EU Regulation on IAS in Belgium; 3) Being a partner in Belgian initiatives related to invasive alien species; 4) Contributing to publications on invasive alien species. The Belgian Biodiversity Platform is a member of the EU Scientific Forum on IAS, a member of the Belgian Scientific Council on IAS, and an observer in the National Committee on IAS. It works in close collaboration with the National Scientific Secretariat on IAS. Furthermore, the Belgian Biodiversity Platform is an active member of international networks (INVASIVESNET, Alien Challenge Cost-Action, Alien CSI Cost Action).

A new LIFE project has been introduced by the 3 regions (LIFE RIPARIAS) and, if successful, will be coordinated by Brussels Environment. Main objectives of the project are to provide *ad hoc* monitoring and decision tools for managers + field pilot project.

Flemish Region

The Agency for Nature and Forests developed a first strategy including a special instrument for invasive alien species; to conduct an invasive species policy focussed on awareness and prevention, as well as combating IAS when necessary, taking also into account control actions and horizontal needs (such as policy framework, communication and knowledge / research).
<https://www.natuurenbos.be/beleid-wetgeving/overlast-schade/invasieve-exoten>

Assessments end of 2017 indicated that there are min. 89 exotic species in Flanders identified as 'signal/problematic species': Min. 41 will become invasive, most being plants (16 species), fish (5 species), mammals (4 species), crayfish type (4 species) and birds (4 species). Besides there are already 38 species identified as being invasive.: <https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/aantal-uitheemse-en-invasieve-uitheemse-soorten-op-een-signaallijst>.

Experience and knowledge have been gathered through participation in the INTERREG project INVEXO with the Netherlands (<http://www.invexo.be/>), the INTERREG-project Rinse (<http://www.rinse-europe.eu/>) and the LIFE project ALTERIAS (<http://www.alterias.be>). In cooperation with the Research Institute for Nature and Forests and the NGO Natuurpunt the development of an early warning system is ongoing and collected information over the last 6 years. http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Natuurbeleid/Soortenbeleid/Overlast_schade/doorn_soorten.aspx.

Identification tools for the species and procedure for submitting observations are available at <https://www.natuurpunt.be/pagina/waarschuwingsysteem-invasieve-exoten>. Observations on species including IAS can be entered by anyone on <https://waarneming.be/>.

On the IAS webpage of Ecopedia, an interactive knowledge web system developed by the Supporting agency for Nature & Forests, information is provided on the species and on the main measures that can be taken: <https://www.ecopedia.be/pagina/exoten>.

This cooperation between ANB-INBO-Natuurpunt (organising the volunteer groups) established a large citizen-science programme for mobilising volunteers for monitoring IAS, to provide information and raise awareness amongst field workers and the public and to streamline the process from reporting to management intervention. The current system is already being used for various response projects in Flanders, including control of invasive aquatic plants, ruddy duck, Pallas squirrel, quarantine insects, American bullfrog, giant hogweed and Chinese muntjac. Introduction pathways for the appearance of IAS in Flanders have been investigated, indicating that 'escaping' from botanical garden, zoos, aquaria and garbage from gardens are a main pathway:

<https://www.inbo.be/nl/natuurindicator/introductiewegen-van-uitheemse-soorten-vlaanderen>.

It is prohibited to introduce animals and plants without a permit (Forest Decree) in both public forests and forest reserves. The introduction of alien animal species is prohibited, and there is a legal base for measures to control and eradicate alien animal species. Measures can also be taken to control or prohibit the transport of animal species and their carcasses (Decree on nature conservation). A decision describes what species of fish can be used as fish bait (only native fish species are allowed). See also chapter I, number of alien species.

The Decision of the Flemish Government of 21.04.1993 already prohibits the introduction into the wild of non-native animal species, unless a special permit is being granted. An integrated and updated executive law for species protection is submitted for approval. This law includes the basis for the prevention and control of invasive species. In the new act on species protection and species management this prohibition has been confirmed: in article 17, Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 15 mei 2009 met betrekking tot soortenbescherming en soortenbeheer (BS: 13/08/2009), in short 'Soortenbesluit'). Some exceptions to this rule apply: specimens of plant species that are cultivated in the frame of Legal forestry, agriculture or horticultural activities or in the frame of garden or park management: specimens of fish reared in closed waters that guarantee that specimens can not move to open waters.

To allow reducing negative impact on native biodiversity of IAS in the wild, to mitigate or to restore, the Flemish minister responsible for the Environment can take measures (articles 28, 29, 30 and 31 of the 'Soortenbesluit'). The following actions are possible: * actions for increasing awareness including facilitating codes of conduct; * doing, letting do, or enforcing of specific management and control; * making agreements with local governments and/or organisations aiming at local actions; and * limiting or prohibiting transport, trade and possession. Information is published on the website: <http://www.natuurenbos.be/Exoten> (incl. species fact sheets).

Several research programmes include monitoring, assessment of impacts and development of control, mitigation and/or eradication programmes:

- . assessment of the risks posed by the muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) and coypu (*Myocastor coypus*) not only to dikes, crops and vegetation but also to local fish, amphibians, breeding bird species,
- . monitoring and eradication of exotic plant species in nature and forest areas under management,
- . project for removal of floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) from watercourses,
- . monitoring and inventory of fish occurring in inland waters including alien fish species.

There is a program in which rare, colonial and introduced breeding bird species are being monitored in Flanders on longer term. Among them, alien breeding bird species as the lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*), the Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), the barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*), the Nile (Egyptian) goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*), the mandarin duck (*Aix galericulata*), the ring-necked parakeet (*Psittacula krameria*) and the monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) are being monitored. This program is called the ‘Bijzondere Broedvogels Vlaanderen Project’ (Flemish Special Breeding Bird Project). Meanwhile, some alien bird species are also monitored within the framework of the common breeding birds monitoring scheme, notably Canada and Egyptian goose.

Walloon Region

In the Walloon Region, 375 exotic species of ornamental plants and 21 exotic species of vertebrates were considered as naturalised in 2011. Of these, 29 species of plants and 11 species of vertebrates are known to cause considerable environmental damage and are mentioned on the black list. Several exotic species of mammals have established themselves in the Walloon Region in recent years. The number of naturalised species seems to increase over time, although the observed changes (compared with the previous estimations) could also be the reflection of more rigorous field observation efforts or the evolution of scientific knowledge.

Preventive and control actions against invasive alien species are coordinated through a dedicated interdepartmental unit (CiEi) that has been established in 2009 within the strategic plan of the Administration. This unit is in charge of the following tasks:

- Identify priority pathways and develop preventive and regulatory measures accordingly, including guidelines for plantations, soil movement, green waste management, etc.
- Prepare a coherent legislative framework to regulate preventive and control actions against invasive alien species in Wallonia.
- Set up an early warning system in cooperation with the other regions in the country and nature conservation NGOs.
- Identify and disseminate best practices for the management of invasive alien plants and animals.
- Coordinate control action plans against priority species like giant hogweed, Japanese mosquito, Canada goose or muskrat.
- Conduct studies to assess non-native species invasiveness in the field and compile information for risk analyses of priority species.
- Communicate and develop capacity building actions towards field managers and the general public.

Nature Parks, many River Contracts and cities which have either a Municipality Plan for Nature Conservation or a ‘Roadside management plan’ actively manage invasive alien species at a local scale.

The introduction of non-indigenous species or indigenous species of non-indigenous origin in nature is forbidden except for species used for agriculture and forestry.

Brussels-Capital Region

The reintroduction and the intentional release in nature of invasive animal and plant species listed in annex IV of the ordinance of the 1st March 2012 in relation to nature conservation is forbidden (art. 77, 1st §). The sale, the transfer for free or against payment, the exchange and the purchase of one of these species are also forbidden (art. 77, 2nd §).

Article 78 of this ordinance allows the Brussels Government to take measures against these species.

The intentional release in nature of non-indigenous strains of indigenous animal and plant species and the intentional release in nature of non-indigenous animal and plant species are both subject to permission (art. 75, 2nd §).

Several research programmes already include monitoring and assessment of impacts e.g. on parakeets, naturalised water birds and plants. Some management actions are already in use (e.g. Egyptian goose in parks).

In addition, the Regional Nature Plan foresees the following measure: to optimize the management of invasive alien species

Priority is given to prevention and sensibilisation of the public and the professionals. In a second phase follows the screening and first intervention actions followed, when needed, by actions to control and reduce the populations.

Federal level

At the national level, resulting of a collaboration between the federal and regional authorities, a code of conduct in relation to invasive plants has been elaborated in the framework of the AlterIAS-project (Alternatives for invasive plants).

Action 18 of the second Federal Plan for Sustainable Development is devoted to biodiversity and focuses on sectoral integration of biodiversity in key federal sectors (transport, economy, development cooperation and scientific policy). The Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors addresses IAS.

Actions foreseen in this action plan include:

- Economy: the consultation of key sectors in order to increase awareness and understanding of the issue and the identification of the most appropriated measures (such as e.g. labelling, substitution, information, etc.) and the review, actualization and extension of existing legislations at federal level to prohibit the import / export / transit and detention of some IAS in Belgium.
- Science: the establishment of an early warning system on IAS and the development of a system based on molecular barcoding to identify organisms of policy concern (including IAS) for use by Transport.
- Transport: the control and management of ballast water.

The Belgian Law of 20.01.1999 (MMM law) forbids the intentional introduction of non-indigenous species in the marine environment without special license (Art. 11, §1).

A royal decree will be adopted in the second part of 2009 to implement the Council Regulation dealing specifically with alien species in aquaculture (708/2007/CE) with regard to marine species.

The Royal Decree of 9 April 2003 foresees measures related to the commercialisation of species listed in annex A (excepted for specimens bred in captivity, with CITES certificate).

In 2012, the “Good Environmental Status” and associated objectives for the descriptor “invasive species” was defined and agreed (Belgische Staat 2012. Omschrijving van Goede Milieutoestand en vaststelling van Milieudoelen voor de Belgische mariene wateren. Kaderrichtlijn Mariene Strategie – Art 9 & 10. BMM, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, Brussel, België, 34 pp.).

Species introduction in marine areas

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5), sector transport: The risk of species introduction in marine areas was

considered during the development of the federal maritime policy, including through appropriate application of appropriate instruments.

Federal law on nature conservation

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5), sector economy: a legal framework aiming at preventing the introduction of IAS in Belgium is in preparation: The Federal law on nature conservation of 12 July 2012 (modifying the law of 12 July 1973) foresees a number of provisions on IAS. In implementation of this law, Pest Risk Assessments have been prepared in 2013 for 21 species. This legal framework aims to regulate import, transit and detention of non-indigenous invasive species that are assumed to be detrimental to native species in Belgium (based on a simplified environmental impact assessment protocol) and that are not yet established in Belgium (or isolated). It will be in line with the new EU regulation related to invasive alien species. Other examples of implementation include: the education of key sectors to invasive species; awareness raising on invasive alien plants in the horticultural sector at national level (federal and regional) – Life+ project “AlterIAS” : Development of public awareness tools such as the update of the brochure “SOS invasions”, a new brochure on alternative plants to IAS, a DVD, the development of a code of conduct on invasive alien plants in Belgium, etc.

List of invasive alien species in Belgium and Alien Alter project

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5), sector Science policy: as a contribution to the set-up of an early warning system, an alert list of invasive alien species in Belgium has been elaborated based on a standardised impact assessment protocol (ISEIA). It was carried out as a collective effort by the Belgian Forum on Invasive Species, which is maintained by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform. It is not exhaustive and will be progressively completed. Species profiles including description, habitat preferences and detrimental impact are currently in development. See: <http://ias.biodiversity.be>. The Alien Alter project is in progress: this scientific project aims to develop an integrated risk assessment on biodiversity, public health and crop protection protocol.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 3.7 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Si des actions communes positives ont été développées depuis 2007 pour mieux contrôler les risques posés par les espèces exotiques envahissantes, une stratégie cohérente nationale doit encore être finalisée et mise en place au niveau belge.

Pathways of unintentional introduction and spread for species of Union Concern have been identified and prioritized. Based on the results of the prioritization, a policy decision was made in 2018 to proceed with developing the following action plans:

- 1) action plan on introductions of pets, garden and pond plants, aquarium plants and animals, and terrarium plants and animals from private ownership,
- 2) action plan on introductions through recreational use of freshwater, and
- 3) action plan for contamination of sediment transports.

Action plans and all the measures to be taken have not been officially endorsed yet but they will be before the end of 2020.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/3#3.7>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 3.8

Related to objective 3.8 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Define the framework and the conditions to ensure no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Flemish Region

The regulation as stated in art. 6 of the 'Habitats Directive' has been taken over in the Nature Decree art 36 - stating that any plan or project likely to compromise, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, achieving the conservation objectives of a protected site, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications. In case of significant expected impact on a Natura 2000 site despite potential mitigation measures, the plan or project can be authorized only with the prior grant of an exemption granted by the Government under the following cumulative conditions:

- there is no other alternative solution less damaging to the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;
- the realization of the plan or project is justified for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature;
- compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected or enhanced are prescribed.

An on-line scoping system has been developed for preliminary screening to assess possible impacts of a project or plan in a specific site:

<https://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be/passendebeoordeling>.

For forests a general regulation exists concerning procedural steps for permits for felling trees depending on surface of forest and age of the trees, and the required compensation by re-afforestation or monetary compensation: <https://www.natuurenbos.be/bomenkappen>.

Walloon Region

Environment impact assessment and the principle of compensation are included in the Law on Nature conservation: LCN art 29§2. The Environment code includes environment impact assessments articles. The Code for territorial development (CoDT art. D.II.45§3) also includes the principle of compensation.

In order to achieve a "no net land take" by 2050, Wallonia would need to adopt binding numerical targets relating to land take, at the risk of seeing the sustainable use of the territory relegated to secondary importance compared to other concerns. The 1999 Regional Spatial Development Plan (SDER), currently in force, recommends combating housing dispersion, making areas intended for urbanisation more dense, recycling land which is currently abandoned, and protecting the natural resources of the soil and subsoil. This document is currently under review.

Brussels-Capital Region

Framework of the compensatory measures in the case of projects or plans affecting the integrity of a protected site

The 'Habitats Directive' states that any plan or project likely to compromise, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, achieving the conservation objectives of a protected site, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications (art. 6). In case of significant expected impact on a Natura 2000 site despite potential mitigation measures, the plan or project can be authorized only with the prior grant of an exemption granted by the Government under the following cumulative conditions:

- there is no other alternative solution less damaging to the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;
- the realization of the plan or project is justified for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature;
- compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected or enhanced are prescribed.

The European requirement for an appropriate assessment was implemented as follows by the new ordinance on nature conservation: "Any plan or project requiring a permit, authorization or approval, not directly connected with or necessary to the ecological management of the [protected] site but likely to affect significantly, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to [...] an appropriate assessment of its implications on the site in view of the [protected] site's conservation objectives." (Art. 57, § 1). In the Brussels-Capital Region, this concept will now apply both for Natura 2000 sites (art. 57 to 64) and for natural and forest reserves (art. 65). The appropriate assessment shall include at least the information and factors referred to in Annex VIII of the ordinance on nature conservation (Art. 57, §2).

(Source: Nature Report of the Brussels-Capital Region, 2012)

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 3.8 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Define the framework and the conditions to ensure no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/3#3.8>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.1.1

Related to objective 4.1.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Identify and promote good practices involving the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Flemish region

- forest FSC certification: more than 22.000 ha of forests, and controlled marketing of timber: <https://www.houtverkopen.be/fsc-boscertificering>
- agri-environment schemes – in the period 2017-2018 covering more than 20.000 ha for the different types of measures such as flower rich grasslands, grasslands for birds, cultures for support of species, protecting nesting and breeding sites of grassland birds, natural borders to prevent erosion, measures to prevent water pollution, ...
- introduction of certification of Wildlife Estate label: promoting conservation and sustainable use of wildlife on private estates - http://www.wildlife-estates.eu/current_labels.php
- pilot projects to use biomass remains from site management into various production processes such as paper or cardboard products, chips for heating, materials for isolation of buildings, ...

Walloon Region

Examples of implementation:

- In 2012, a charter has been signed between the Quarries sector and the Walloon Nature Minister; This charter aims to promote biodiversity development in quarries in Wallonia. Best practices guide for quarries after their exploitation.
<http://www.fedex.be/charte-carrieres-et-biodiversite>
- Forest certification In the Walloon Region, PEFC certified forests cover nearly about 54% of the Region's forest areas. The owners engage themselves voluntarily to diversify their forest, to maintain dead wood, to maintain patches where trees can grow old, etc. This means that 17.7% of the Walloon territory is developed sustainably, even though the primary objective is not the conservation of biodiversity. Nearly 91% of certified forest land belongs to public landowners.
- The agri-environmental programmes consist of agri-environmental measures (AEM) which are part of the second pillar of the CAP "Rural Development". They aim to encourage the voluntary implementation of conservation and environmental improvement actions (surface water and groundwater, soil, landscape, biodiversity, climate, etc.) in agricultural areas.
- Late mowing of road embankments.
- The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC requires integrated water management for each river basin district in order to enable all water bodies to achieve good status (or good potential) by 2015, with a possible extension to 2021 or 2027. Achieving this objective mainly depends on the implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). These include a catalogue of measures to be applied to improve water quality.

Federal level

The federal and regional administration are working to the development of a web platform (BiodiversiTTree) setting together existing websites which recommend sustainable purchases (ex: "guides des achats durables") including sustainable use of biodiversity (see further on BiodiversiTTree and the #BeBiodiversity strategy).

Another example of implementation is the adoption of a sectoral agreement in the wood sector to stimulate the production and sell of sustainable wood products.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.1.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Identify and promote good practices involving the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
X Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.1.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.2

Related to objective 4.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Sustainable products, consumption and production policies.

Flemish region:

- establishment of general knowledge and advisory centre for sustainable consumption:
<https://www.mvovlaanderen.be/thema/duurzame-consumptie>
- FSC forest certificates – see above
- sustainability criteria for external contracts
- criteria for sustainable food production in agricultural sector (bio-agriculture)

Walloon Region

Sustainable production and consumption is included in several tools in Wallonia:

- PEFC certification
- “Circulaire relative aux aménagements dans les forêts soumises au régime forestier” est également un outil visant la gestion des forêts publiques.
- The Forest Code of which one of the objectives is to safeguard biodiversity.
- In forests, the use of the « fichier écologique des essences » : l’adaptation du traitement à l’essence permet d’optimiser la gestion sylvicole, mais également d’améliorer le fonctionnement de l’écosystème et notamment les cycles des éléments minéraux et de l’eau, et la diversité biologique du sous-bois.

A pre-condition for sustainable forest management is that, in the long term, timber harvesting does not exceed increase. In Wallonia, over the period 2001-2011, the harvested volumes represented 110% of the increase, which is higher than the equilibrium threshold. For deciduous species as a whole, 66% of the increase was harvested, corresponding to a capitalisation. However for coniferous trees, the exploitation exceeded the growth volumes due to the intensive exploitation of spruce, for which the harvest rate reached 150%. The high proportion of spruce in the current

harvest is a consequence of massive plantations made by private owners between the 1950s and 1970s.

- The Water Code: one of its objectives is to prevent any additional degradation to preserve and enhance ecological conditions of wetlands.... (« prévenir toute dégradation supplémentaire, de préserver et d'améliorer l'état des écosystèmes aquatiques ainsi que, en ce qui concerne leurs besoins en eau, des écosystèmes terrestres et des zones humides qui en dépendent directement »).
- Agri-environmental schemes:
https://www.natagliwal.be/sites/default/files/kcfinder/files/Autres_doc/Tableau-MAEC-2014-2020-FR-180219-DEF.pdf
- Organic farming: Between 1990 and 2015, the number of farms converted to organic farming increased 29-fold to 1,347 in 2015, or 10.5% of the total number of farms in Wallonia.
- The cross-compliance principle in agriculture
- Maya plan for pollinators.
- Guideline for biodiversity in quarries.
- Public procurement measures related to paper purchase, invasive alien species, etc.
- asbl ECOCONSO aims to encourage environmental-friendly consumption habits (<http://www.achatsverts.be/>).

In 2015, the Walloon Government adopted a Plan to reduce food waste by 30% by 2025 called «REGAL», <http://www.wallonie.be/fr/actualites/plan-regal-la-lutte-contre-le-gaspillage-alimentaire-sorganise-en-wallonie>.

A sustainable development plan will be developed for the administration of the Walloon Region. It will contain 7 axes (among others: consumption, public tenders, ...) and 16 objectives. The Sustainable development department (SDD) was set up in July 2012 by the Walloon Government. It is under the General Secretariat of the Walloon Administration. The SDD undertakes several tasks in order to move towards a more sustainable region:

- It contributes to the regional policy on sustainable development and to the integration of the SDGs in the activities and actions of the Walloon government and the public services of Wallonia;
- It works to improve the sustainability of public services (through the development and implementation of the 2nd Plan of sustainable development) ;
- It contributes to the international commitments for sustainable development;
- It acts as the National Focal Point of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The department mainly works through the following macro-policies:

- Walloon SDS;
- Public purchase;
- Alliance Work Environment
- Internal action plan
- Advisory unit

In Wallonia, the Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme 2013-2017 was adopted by the Walloon Government in 2013. It includes 37 measures of strictly regional competence. The main measures relate to:

- certification of the knowledge of professional users of plant protection products (PPPs);
- raising awareness among non-professional users of good gardening practices;
- public information;
- monitoring of poisonings and exposures;

- protection of the aquatic environment and drinking water;
- protection of specific areas;
- handling and storage of PPPs for professional use;
- integrated pest/weed management.

The degree of implementation of the 37 measures in the PWRP 2013-2017 varies. The objectives have been achieved, or are close to being achieved, for 54% of the measures and are ongoing for 38% of them, while for 8% of them the objectives have not been achieved at all. The prohibition on the use of PPPs in public spaces ("zero phyto"), one of the flagship measures of the PWRP 2013 - 2017, has been in force since 01/06/2014. However, PPPs can still be used by way of derogation for a period of 5 years, i.e. until 31/05/2019, under certain conditions. The Walloon municipalities are obliged to keep a register of the use of PPPs and to transmit this annually to the SPW. On the basis of these data, in 2015, 25% of Walloon municipalities were "zero phyto", compared to 14% in 2014.

Of the 100 pesticides examined in groundwater between 2011-2014, 9 were responsible for most of the pollution. These 9 molecules were all herbicides. Of these, 4 were banned (atrazine, diuron, bromacil and simazine) and 2 were from banned molecules (desethylatrazine and BAM). Due to the regular placing on the market of new active substances and the transfer time (soil-groundwater) of certain pesticides within groundwater bodies, prevention and monitoring cannot be abated.

Brussels-Capital Region

Much efforts are made in the field of sustainable food and supply chain:

<http://www.sustainablecity.be/themas/sustainable-consumption>.

The Good food strategy and the regional plan for circular economy adopted by the government will also promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

Federal level

- #BeBiodiversity strategy and its communication campaign (see further)
- development of the BiodiversiTee (in collaboration with the 3 regions) (see further)

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Sustainable products, consumption and production policies.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 X Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Le Groupe Directeur « Modes de production et de consommation durables » du CCPIE est le lieu privilégié pour une concertation étroite entre le fédéral, compétent pour que les produits mis sur le marché soient de plus en plus respectueux de l'environnement et de la santé publique, et les Régions, compétentes pour l'utilisation de ces produits une fois sur le marché (sauf en ce qui

concerne la protection du consommateur et les pratiques du marché). L'impact sur l'environnement est pris en compte, ici, dans toutes les étapes de vie du produit: de sa conception et fabrication, à sa distribution, son utilisation et son élimination. Il s'agit donc d'un processus sur le long terme. Le « Plan produits 2009/2013: vers une politique de produits intégrée » a été adopté en 2009.

En Belgique, les achats publics portent sur plus de 10% du Produit Intérieur Brut. Pour favoriser les achats verts auprès des administrations publiques, les autorités publiques fédérales et Régionales ont mis en place depuis 2005 des politiques pour que les marchés publics soient durables. Les spécifications à respecter concernent notamment les achats de bois, fournitures papier, produits de nettoyage, peintures, vernis, véhicules, espèces exotiques, service traiteur lors d'événements). Des guides méthodologiques³¹ ont été mis en ligne pour conseiller les « acheteurs publics ». L'idée de « marchés publics verts », gagne en popularité et des critères de biodiversité sont repris de manière croissante.

Toutefois, les achats écologiques ne représentent encore qu'une petite partie des achats des administrations. Par ailleurs, de nombreuses administrations montrent l'exemple et ont déjà obtenu le label EMAS ou le Label Ecodynamique en Région Bruxelles-Capitale. Des accords de branche ont aussi été négociés avec certains secteurs (bois, carrière, distributeur d'électricité). Par une politique « d'achats verts » et des accords de branche, les autorités publiques apportent un soutien aux entreprises privées qui promeuvent l'éco-innovation et mettent sur le marché des produits écologiques.

Les bonnes pratiques en Belgique concernant les modes de production et de consommation durables sont compilées dans le quatrième rapport national à la Convention sur la diversité biologique (2009) et le rapport européens « Biodiversity Knowledge Base – Country profile Belgium (2010) ».

Bien que non repris comme objectif stratégique ou opérationnel, la question des Ressources naturelles (input) et des Biens et services écosystémiques (output) s'est imposée à l'agenda de la mise en œuvre de la SNB, suite notamment au rapport TEEB et aux activités de la Présidence belge du conseil de l'Union européenne.

Faisant suite au plan fédéral pour l'intégration de la biodiversité dans 4 secteurs clés et aux études prospectives ci-dessus menées à la fois sur le volet consommateurs et sur le volet entreprise et reconnaissant donc que la conservation de la biodiversité et surtout l'utilisation durable de ses composantes n'est possible que si citoyens, entreprises et autorités publiques allient leurs efforts et agissent chacun à son niveau,, le fédéral a lancé, en 2017, une stratégie #BeBiodiversity dans une optique de coresponsabilité (autorités/citoyens-consommateurs/entreprises).

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.2.1

Related to objective 4.2.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Avoid or minimise the risk to biodiversity posed by production and consumption, products and services.

Flemish Region

Many different projects focussing on sustainable food production and consumption, i.a. direct selling and CSA-farming (Flemish Strategic Plan), organic farming (Flemish Strategic Plan), prevent food waste...

Projects to stimulate a circular economy: reuse and recycling of food and other organic waste, mainly in the agrofood business complex, often combined with renewable energy production.

Walloon Region

The non-profit organisation ECOCONSO promotes environment-friendly and healthy consumption patterns, among others in relation to water, gardening, pesticides, ...

Brussels Region

The Good food strategy and the regional plan for circular economy adopted by the government will promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

Federal level

La stratégie #BeBiodiversity vise à déplacer les marchés vers des produits plus respectueux de la biodiversité en faisant jouer l'offre et la demande. Cette stratégie vise donc à mobiliser les citoyens-consommateurs et les entreprises pour promouvoir un approvisionnement en matières premières durables, compatibles avec la protection de la biodiversité dans les pays d'origine.

Une campagne de communication a vu le jour en 2017 pour sensibiliser, éduquer et mobiliser les citoyens-consommateurs et les entreprises tout en leur donnant les moyens de choisir des produits et producteurs plus respectueux de la biodiversité de manière informée. Divers outils de communications et activations des réseaux sociaux sont utilisés :

- Un site web de campagne (<https://bebiodiversity.be>) a été développé qui regorge d'information mais également de gestes pour préserver la biodiversité. Quatre vidéos d'accroche ont été lancées en 2017 pour l'inauguration de la stratégie et de la campagne.
- Cinq vidéos d'animation qui expliquent, entre autres, le lien entre la consommation ordinaire et les menaces pesant sur la biodiversité et les écosystèmes ont été créées. Ces vidéos d'animation, disponibles en anglais, français et néerlandais sur la chaîne YouTube #BeBiodiversity, ont été un franc succès: elles ont été visionnées plus de 500 000 fois sur Facebook et plus de 130 000 fois sur YouTube. La vidéo « Quel est le lien entre le sushi et une tortue » a remporté le Golden Green Award au 7ème festival des Deauville Green Awards, en juin 2018.
- Pour mieux connaître les habitudes de consommation des citoyens-consommateurs et leur impact sur la nature, un quizz a été lancé fin 2018 avec pour objectifs de :
 - o continuer à sensibiliser ;
 - o commencer la phase de mobilisation notamment avec en 2019 avec une Fête des Voisins Biodiversité ;
 - o dégager des tendances de consommation
 - o mieux cibler les prochaines communications « consommateur » ;
 - o étayer la communication, influencer et mobiliser les entreprises.

Cinq animaux totem ont été choisis pour définir le profil de consommation et des petits conseils faciles à mettre en place au quotidien sont proposés.

- Après le succès de la campagne de communication auprès des citoyens, une campagne visant spécifiquement les entreprises sera lancée au début de l'année 2019. Cette campagne coïncidera avec le lancement d'un outil web aidant les entreprises à choisir et mettre en œuvre des actions en faveur de la biodiversité (BiodiversiTTree – voir ci-dessous)). Quatre entreprises pionnières (Belvas, Amanprana, Ecossem et Tilman) ainsi que la Régie des bâtiments (service public) sont partenaires dans ce projet et aide au développement des outils :

- Une page spéciale ‘entreprises’ a été développée sur notre site web de campagne (<https://bebiodiversity.be/que-puis-je-faire-en-tant-quentreprise/>)
- Des vidéos de promotions des entreprises pionnières sont lancées pour inciter d’autres entreprises à s’engager dans la préservation de la biodiversité. Elle sont disponibles sur le site web (<https://bebiodiversity.be/que-puis-je-faire-en-tant-quentreprise/>)

En parallèle, cette stratégie vise à agir au niveau de l’offre pour sensibiliser et aider les entreprises à entreprendre une démarche volontaire de préservation de la biodiversité et des services écosystémiques :

- Les entreprises et organisations qui désirent contribuer à la préservation de la biodiversité pourront compter sur le BiodiversiTTree pour les guider dans la détermination des actions : du choix des partenaires/experts qui pourront les accompagner à la valorisation des investissements réalisés pour adapter leurs terrains, infrastructures, achats et processus. Les entités fédérale et régionales ont ainsi développé pour la Belgique cette plateforme web (BiodiversiTTree) qui permet aussi l’échange d’informations mettant en avant les actions concrètes car pour mobiliser les entreprises rien de tel que des exemples réalisés par d’autres entreprises ! Cette plateforme est également un outil de sensibilisation afin de permettre à chacun de se poser des questions sur sa marge de manœuvre au sein de son organisation (www.biodiversitree.be).
- Des réflexions sur un outil pour évaluer l’impact de des entreprises sur la biodiversité sont actuellement en cours avec comme défi d’élaborer une approche scientifiquement validée pour aider les entreprises et les organisations publiques à évaluer rapidement l’impact de diverses matières premières sur la biodiversité. A cette fin, différentes études prospectives ont été menées.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.2.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Avoid or minimise the risk to biodiversity posed by production and consumption, products and services.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

See above.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.2.1>
<https://bebiodiversity.be/que-puis-je-faire-en-tant-quentreprise/>
<https://biodiversitree.be>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country’s national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.2.2

Related to objective 4.2.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: adopt biodiversity criteria in public procurement policies to prevent biodiversity loss.

For example, Federal and Regional authorities encourage the use of certified wood in public works (<http://www.guidedesachatsdurables.be>). The idea of "green procurement" is gaining popularity and biodiversity criteria are taken increasingly into account.

Flemish Region

Specific regulations and criteria are set for procurements and external contracts:
<https://overheid.vlaanderen.be/duurzaamheid>.

Walloon Region

The campaign 'Achats verts' is directed towards municipalities and public communities. It aims to implement a more ecological way of consumption within local policies and to improve purchasing practices.

The non-profit organisation ECOCONSO promotes environment-friendly and healthy consumption patterns, among others in relation to water, gardening, pesticides, ...

Federal level

Development of a federal public procurement policy to promote SFM (circular letter in 2005); a methodological guide supports federal purchasing authorities; promotion and follow-up of forest certification.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.2.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: adopt biodiversity criteria in public procurement policies to prevent biodiversity loss.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

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- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Les marchés publics verts gagnent en popularité. En plus d'être bénéfique pour l'environnement, ceci offre également un effet de levier sur l'économie. Toutefois, les achats écologiques ne représentent encore qu'une petite partie des achats des administrations.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.2.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.3.1

Related to objective 4.3.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote measures favourable to biodiversity under the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Flemish region

Agri-environment schemes (in cooperation with the administrations for land use management and agriculture)

In the framework of the Flemish programmes for rural development (2014-2020), farmers get the opportunity to sign up for agri-environmental schemes, in which they commit themselves to do more for the environment, nature and the landscape than is legally required, such as as: organic agriculture, planting and maintenance of orchards with tall fruit trees, preservation of local breeds, mechanical weed control, confusion technique in fruit cultivation, cultivation of Leguminosae, agroforestry. Schemes for field margin management and for the management of small landscape elements (pools, hedges, wooded banks), aimed at strengthening the ecological infrastructure in farmland areas, have been widely adopted by farmers. In 2011, 1,455 ha of field margins or nearly 6 times the target, have been installed and schemes for 101 ha of wooded banks and 200 km of hedges were in place. The agri-environmental schemes aimed at the development, conservation and restoration of specific farmland species and communities show varying success. The scheme for botanical management (294 ha) is, together with the scheme for nature management, one of the least popular and resulted in only 9% of the targeted 6.000 ha. On the other hand, schemes for farmland birds now occupy 964 ha. Measures for birds of arable land, new since 2010, are very popular and amount to 130 ha in 2010 and 331 ha in 2011. Schemes for the Common Hamster were stopped. Globally, 64% of the potential 1.500 ha intended for the protection of species was realised. Quantitative data on the results of these schemes are missing. Agri-environmental measures were adopted within the European Rural Development Program 2007-2013 to stimulate the on-farm conservation of 9 local sheepbreeds and 3 local cattlebreeds and fruit tree varieties.

Area under organic farming (actions supported by the administrations for agriculture and land use management)

The area under organic farming – bio agriculture – raised since 2010 with 7,300 ha. This area corresponds to about 1.2% of the total farmland area in Flanders and is getting more success as consumption attitudes are requiring increasingly more bio-based food.

Nitrogen residue in agricultural soils

The 2010 target in the Flemish Environmental Policy Plan (2003-2010) is 70 kg N/ha. The nitrogen residue decreased by 58% between 1990 and 2007 due to reduced livestock numbers, reduced chemical fertiliser use, increased processing of animal manure, increased feeding efficiency and an increased nitrogen uptake and removal associated with yield increases. In 2007 the total N residue in Flanders amounted 80 kg N/ha, excluding ammonia emissions. This is 10 kg N/ha short of the target. If the measures are continued in the next years, the target should be achieved. The nitrogen residues in Flemish agricultural soils, as well as the ammonia emissions from agricultural land use, are among the highest in Europe (EEA, 2005).

Area of high nature value farmland

About 2% (1,350 ha) of the 68,400 ha habitats of European importance in Flanders is in agricultural use. The majority are grassland habitats (1,125 ha). Besides these habitats there are also 820 ha of habitats of regional importance in agricultural use. Most of these regional important grassland biotopes are half natural permanent grasslands which are little fertilised and only used extensively. For Flanders the high nature value farmland is estimated to be 7%.

Other examples of implementation

- The Flemish Decree on integrated water management contains concrete requirements with respect to riparian zones along water bodies with specific requirements on soil cultivation, use of pesticides and manure use.
- The Manure Decree transposes the European Nitrate Directive action program (for the period 2015-2018) into Flemish legislation and contains the required regulations on distance rules for manure use, timing of manure use and other requirements (slope slopes, snow cover, green cover, residual nitrate in soil (soil and crop specific values), mandatory advise on manure use in horticulture).
- Biodiversity conservation measures e.g. on high nature value pastures prevent degradation of biodiversity rich grasslands.
- Integrated pest management in the fruit sector.
- Actions carried out are initiated to provide for a better remuneration of collective environmental goods through direct payments and cross compliance in the framework of the EU Common Agricultural Policy on the one hand.
- Agri-environment measures support to restore the connectivity between sites by nature oriented management of broadened borders and small landscape elements, to enhance habitat quality of species dependent on agricultural landscapes by botanical grassland management and provision of fauna food cultures, to prevent erosion problems. End of 2018 the total surface of implemented agri-environment measures comes to 9.690 ha.

Walloon Region

Intensive agricultural production patterns are responsible for various pressures on the environment: soil erosion and compaction, water pollution, emissions of air pollutants, erosion of biodiversity, landscape impacts, etc. Various measures have been put in place to reduce these pressures: regulatory measures such as the cross-compliance of agricultural aids, but also voluntary measures, such as agri-environmental and climate measures (AECM) and organic farming. Some of these have recently been modified by the Walloon Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (Programme wallon de développement rural 2014-2020) in order to further develop extensive production patterns. As between 1980 and 2015, the area under permanent grassland declined by an average of 2,576 ha/year, a decrease of 23%, mandatory measures include maintaining areas of ecological interest, sensitive grasslands (in some Natura 2000 management units) and permanent grasslands.

Nitrogen5 (mineral and organic) and phosphorus fertiliser use decreased by 16.8% and 64.5% over the period 1995-2014; Over the period 1995 - 2014, the agricultural sector recorded a decrease in emissions of air pollutants (-12.5% for GHGs and -12.4% for acidifying substances) leading to a decoupling with regard to the plant production index and the UAA.

Between 1990 and 2015, the number of farms converted to organic farming increased 29-fold to 1,347 in 2015, or 10.5% of the total number of farms in Wallonia.

Wallonia has adopted a Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme 2013-2017: it includes the "zero phyto" (zero PPPs) for public space managers on 01/06/2019, the mandatory application of integrated pest management principles, etc. It is still too early to evaluate the effectiveness of these measures.

Agri-environmental measures

The agri-environmental programmes consist of agri-environmental measures (AEM) which are part of the second pillar of the CAP "Rural Development". They aim to encourage the voluntary implementation of conservation and environmental improvement actions (surface water and groundwater, soil, landscape, biodiversity, climate, etc.) in agricultural areas. In 2013, 53.7% of Walloon farmers were engaged in at least 1 AEM. The 3 most successful AEMs were the following: "hedgerows and forested strips" (30.6%), "winter soil cover" (21.5%) and "trees, bushes and isolated copses" (14.3%). Moreover, the objectives of the PwDR by AEM were achieved for 3 of them: "winter soil cover" (49,800 ha), "grasslands of high biological value" (6,690 ha, 900 breeders) and "managed field strips" (1,275 km). They were almost achieved for 6 AEM: "hedgerows and forested strips" (12,000 km), "trees, bushes and isolated copses" (124,000 elements), "natural grasslands" (13,000 ha), "extensive cereal crops" (2,865 ha), "Keeping animals belonging to threatened local breeds" (7,900 animals) and "keeping low levels of livestock" (34,100 ha). More mixed results were observed for the following AEM: "ponds" (4,040, 67% of target achieved), "grassy strips" (2,555 km, 64% of target achieved) and "strips of extensive grasslands" (737 km, 37% of target achieved). Participation in an agri-environmental action plan concerned 140 farms (1% of farms, 100% target achieved). The impact of these AEMs on water, soil and biodiversity is assessed by the reflection group on agri-environment in Wallonia. Supervision in the field is entrusted to the Natagriwal structure. The new 2014 - 2020 PwDR ensures continuity of access to the AEMs that are now agri-environmental and climate measures (AECM). It encourages greater use of targeted AEPM. Access conditions and specifications have been revised in order to simplify administration and improve efficiency on the ground, and certain amounts of aids have been reduced or increased.

Organic farms

Between 1990 and 2015, the number of farms converted to organic farming increased 29-fold to 1,347 in 2015, or 10.5% of the total number of farms in Wallonia.

Cross compliance

The aids given to farmer under the CAP are conditional on compliance with a common level of requirements. This is the principle of cross-compliance. Cross-compliance applies to the following 3 areas: (i) environment, climate change and good agricultural land conditions³, (ii) public health⁴, animal health⁵ and plant health and (iii) respect for animal welfare. In 2015, 14,254 farms were subject to administrative controls, of which 947 were also subject to on-the-spot controls. A total of 1,043 farmers were sanctioned. This resulted in a reduction in financial aids for (i) 644 farmers receiving aids under the first pillar of the CAP for a total of €566.497, (ii) 9 farmers under the second pillar of the CAP for a total of €3.017, and (iii) 390 farmers receiving aids under first and second pillar of the CAP for a total of €313.772. In addition, 27 farmers were excluded from the agricultural aid system.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.3.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote measures favourable to biodiversity under the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Dans les trois Régions, des politiques sont mises en place pour obliger ou inciter des pratiques agricoles favorables à la biodiversité; celles-ci font l'objet d'un contrôle. Cependant, l'agriculture et la pêche continuent d'exercer une pression majeure sur la biodiversité. Des stratégies de conservation des ressources génétiques doivent encore voir le jour en Belgique.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.3.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.3.2

Related to objective 4.3.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Enhance and encourage the role of farmers as biodiversity actors.

Flemish region

Farmers' stimulation and awareness raising

Awareness raising initiatives were carried out such as a code of good agricultural practices nature and biodiversity to stimulate farmers to take into account biodiversity in their operations.

Research and projects were conducted to test, demonstrate and stimulate sustainable use of biodiversity in farming context, with local projects as i.a. green farm sites, create pools, prune trees and hedges, ... The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries also financed demonstration projects with direct positive effects on the (agro-)biodiversity, such as the projects on sustainable manure use or on genetic diversity in vegetables (<http://www.zelfzadentelen.be>), where information is gathered and shared to stimulate farmers in growing their own seed of their own local varieties. Many different projects focussing on sustainable food production and consumption were carried out, i.a. direct selling and CSA-farming (Flemish Strategic Plan), organic farming (Flemish Strategic Plan), prevent food waste...

Code of good practices have been developed and are being applied or are under development:

- for nature with guidelines for the management of protected vegetation types,
- for agricultural uses based upon integration of environmental issues.

Beekeeping

Specifically focussing on the bees, the Flemish government worked on:

- a guide for good beekeeping practices for every beekeeper,
- a guide with plants for pollinators has been distributed to every community service,
- a roundtable conference on the problems of bee and beekeeping was held. Actions are followed up,
- increasing the bee-friendly area by introducing plant for pollinators as eligible green manures,
- projects on beekeeping e.g. artificial insemination to reduce Varroa-contamination.

Walloon Region

Agri-environmental schemes (see section 4.3.1).

Brussels Capital Region

The Brussels Capital Region is currently analysing the feasibility to apply agri-environment measures to promote sustainable practices towards professional farmers. Also, Article 66 of the Nature regulation of 2012 allow the Brussels Region to implement a financial mechanism to preserve natural elements (like hedge, etc.). This mechanism is currently under study through sub-contractors. Final results are expected for 2020.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.3.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Enhance and encourage the role of farmers as biodiversity actors.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Sur les exploitations agricoles, l'utilisation durable de la biodiversité est encouragée par des paiements directes accordés au titre du premier pilier de la Politique Agricole Commune qui sont conditionnés au respects de différentes normes sur l'environnement ainsi que par le biais des Mesures Agro-Environnementales (MAE) volontaires intégrées dans le deuxième pilier de la PAC par le biais des Plans de Développement Ruraux (PDR) et pour lesquels des contrats sont conclus avec les agriculteurs en Belgique. Les mesures générales sont accessibles directement tandis que d'autres plus ciblées sont accessibles aux agriculteurs après l'avis technique d'un conseiller.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.3.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.3.4

Related to objective 4.3.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the integration of biodiversity into rural development.

Flemish region

Agri-environment schemes (in cooperation with the administrations for land use management and agriculture).

In the framework of the Flemish programmes for rural development (2007-2013 and 2014-2020), farmers get the opportunity to sign up for agri-environmental schemes, in which they commit themselves to do more for the environment, nature and the landscape than is legally required, such as as: organic agriculture, planting and maintenance of orchards with tall fruit trees, preservation of local breeds, mechanical weed control, confusion technique in fruit cultivation, cultivation of

Leguminosae, agroforestry. Schemes for field margin management and for the management of small landscape elements (pools, hedges, wooded banks), aimed at strengthening the ecological infrastructure in farmland areas, have been widely adopted by farmers. Specific new schemes for farmland birds and for hamster have been introduced. A total surface of agri-environment schemes for nature objectives and for improving environmental quality aspects reached 18.464 ha for the period 2015-2017 (VLM report 2018).

Other examples of implementation:

- Reorientate the rural development policy towards the preservation of biodiversity (AGNABIO project: structural consultation between agricultural policy structures and nature policy structures, structural consultations with the agricultural sector, (<http://lv.vlaanderen.be/nlapps/docs/default.asp?id=3004>)).
- Actions carried out are initiated to provide for the integration of the preservation of biodiversity through management agreements and (contributions for by the Rural Development Programme and through management agreements on the other hand).

Walloon Region

Agri-environmental schemes (see section 4.3.1).

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.3.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the integration of biodiversity into rural development.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Sur les exploitations agricoles, l'utilisation durable de la biodiversité est encouragée par des paiements directes accordés au titre du premier pilier de la Politique Agricole Commune qui sont conditionnés au respects de différentes normes sur l'environnement ainsi que par le biais des Mesures Agro-Environnementales (MAE) volontaires intégrées dans le deuxième pilier de la PAC par le biais des Plans de Développement Ruraux (PDR) et pour lesquels des contrats sont conclus avec les agriculteurs en Belgique. Les mesures générales sont accessibles directement tandis que d'autres plus ciblées sont accessibles aux agriculteurs après l'avis technique d'un conseiller.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.3.4>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.3.5

Related to objective 4.3.5 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the sustainable use of genetic resources for food, and agriculture.

For plant genetic resources, a ‘National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources’ has been created in January 2011. The Committee is a working group that coordinates at the national level all actions and initiatives related to Plant Genetic Resources and cultivated plant biodiversity (policy coordination, management of the Belgian National Inventory of Plant Genetic Resources collections, preparation of participation in international meetings and working groups regards PGR, ad hoc items, ...) and works under the supervision of the ‘Permanent Working Group Inter-Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Policy’, the official forum where items on agriculture are structurally discussed and decided between the relevant regional (Flemish, Walloon and Brussels Capital region) and federal authorities, working in the agricultural domain.

In June 2012, Belgium officially notified its public collections to join the Multilateral System of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (see <http://www.planttreaty.org/inclusions>) and signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a European Genebank Integrated System (AEGIS, see http://aegis.cgiar.org/about_aegis.html).

In 2005, Belgium prepared its first national report to FAO on animal genetic resources: ‘Les ressources génétiques des animaux d'élevage en Belgique. Rapport national à la FAO. Contribution de la Belgique au Premier Rapport sur l'État des Ressources Zoogénétiques dans le Monde’.

http://agriculture.wallonie.be/apps/spip_wolwin/IMG/pdf/RapportNationalFAO.pdf

Flemish Region

Agri-environmental measures were adopted within the European Rural Development Program 2014-2020 to stimulate the on-farm conservation of 9 local sheepbreeds and 3 local cattlebreeds and fruit tree varieties (see also Flemish contribution on target 3).

Several organisations (non-profit associations) receive a structural subsidy to promote and preserve genetic resources (Steunpunt Levend Erfgoed vzw, Nationale Boomgaardenstichting vzw).

Herdbooks of farm animals are supported, specific attention is payed to activities aimed at controlling the degree of inbreeding within the population.

The population structure of local breeds of farm animals is systematically monitored.

Demonstration project for stimulating farmers and informing them about farm saved vegetable seeds.

A collection of Rhododendron varieties is maintained in vivo and partly by cryopreservation at ILVO (Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, <http://www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be>).

Walloon Region

An agri-environmental measure aims to protect threatened local livestock species.

A collection of ancient fruit tree varieties is managed by the Walloon Agricultural Research Centre.

Other actions undertaken to preserve or develop genetic resources: the cultivation of spelt and a barley variety, the conservation and valorisation of the genetic patrimony of the mixed type of the Belgian Blue and of the 'poule ardennaise'.

The mission of the 'Comptoir Forestier' is to collect seeds among all the major and secondary tree species and to commercialize these seeds through an annual catalogue. Priority is given to species of great economical value for the Walloon Region and to obtain a high genetic diversity.

Brussels-Capital Region

In application of the ordinance of the 1st March 2012 related to the conservation of nature, the intention introduction in nature of non-indigenous strains of indigenous animal and plant species is subject to permission (art. 75, §2).

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.3.5 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the sustainable use of genetic resources for food, and agriculture.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La Belgique est aussi fournisseur de ressources génétiques, et des stratégies nationales sur les ressources génétiques animales et végétales seront préparées au sein des 'Commissions Nationales des Ressources Phytogénétiques' et 'Zoogénétiques' mises sur pied récemment.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.3.5>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.3.6

Related to objective 4.3.6 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Reduce the impacts of pesticides on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

From 2013, the NAPAN (Nationale Actie Plan d'Action National) has been established as the Belgian national action plan for pesticide reduction as requested by the EU directive 2009/128. It includes the Federal Reduction Plan for Pesticides 2013-2017 (FRPP), and the plans from the

three Regions. Each of these plans comprises both specific actions and actions carried out jointly with the other members of the NAPAN Task Force. It aims to reach the objectives of reducing risks linked to pesticides as defined in EU Directive 2009/128/CE establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

The FRPP is coordinated by the federal agencies in charge of the standardization of products, which allows taking many structural changes related to pesticides issues through legislative changes. Examples of the measures foreseen in the federal and regional plans to be implemented at the national level are (i) the harmonization of methods, standards and reports on water contamination by pesticides, (ii) ensuring balanced information for non-professional users of products at the point of sale regarding the right conditions of use, the risks to public health and the environment, including biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Flemish Region

- The Decree on integrated water management contains concrete requirements with respect to riparian zones along water bodies with specific requirements on soil cultivation, use of pesticides and manure use. Water quality in general terms improved, although the required levels are not yet reached for all chemicals in all water ways: <http://www.vmm.be/water/kwaliteit-oppervlaktewater>.
- The use of pesticides and herbicides by local authorities in public domains or parks is forbidden since January 2004. Pesticide reduction programmes in agricultural practices are promoted through stimulating measures under the Rural Development Programme and codes of good practices.
- Impact of use of herbicides and other plant protection chemicals decreased during the last 10 years – due to restricted use of some products, better techniques for applying chemicals in agricultural practices and raising of awareness on the impacts of such products on the environment and in the food chain.

<http://www.milieurapport.be/nl/feitencijfers/milieuthemas/verspreiding-van-pesticiden/druk-op-oppervlaktewater-door-pesticiden/druk-op-het-waterleven-door-gewasbescherming-seq-en-seq/>

Area under organic farming (actions supported by the administrations for agriculture and land use management).

The area under organic farming increased to 7,300 ha. This area corresponds to about 1.2% of the total farmland area in Flanders.

Walloon Region

Organic farms: see above.

List of other Walloon tools and measures in place for this sub-objective:

- The Forestry Code forbids the utilisation of pesticides. The only exceptions are defined by the Walloon government to combat certain diseases or invasive alien species that threaten the indigenous fauna and flora.
- The use of herbicides is forbidden in some public areas such as parks, waterways, ponds and lakes, road verges and ditches.
- 159 municipalities have signed the ‘Plan Maya’ thereby committing themselves 1) to put in place a plan to reduce the use of pesticides and 2) to manage green spaces more ecologically.

In Wallonia, the Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme 2013-2017 was adopted by the Walloon Government in 2013. It includes 37 measures of strictly regional competence. The main measures relate to:

- certification of the knowledge of professional users of plant protection products (PPPs);
- raising awareness among non-professional users of good gardening practices;
- public information;
- monitoring of poisonings and exposures;
- protection of the aquatic environment and drinking water;
- protection of specific areas;
- handling and storage of PPPs for professional use;
- integrated pest/weed management.

Of the 100 pesticides examined in groundwater between 2011-2014, 9 were responsible for most of the pollution. These 9 molecules were all herbicides. Of these, 4 were banned (atrazine, diuron, bromacil and simazine) and 2 were from banned molecules (desethylatrazine and BAM). Due to the regular placing on the market of new active substances and the transfer time (soil-groundwater) of certain pesticides within groundwater bodies, prevention and monitoring cannot be abated.

See also 'Etat de l'environnement wallon' (<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be>).

Brussels-Capital Region

- A very strict legislation is in place concerning the use of pesticides in public green spaces. In public regional green spaces: no use of pesticides or very restricted. A regional program has been approved for the period 2018-2022.
- Water pollution is gradually removed thanks to the actions taken in the framework of the water plan.

Ordinance "pesticides"

The Ordinance "pesticides" of 20 June 2013 prohibits the use of plant protection products (PPP) in public places by public managers and reinforces the provisions of the ordinance of 1 April 2004. Public managers must therefore use alternative techniques for maintenance of the spaces they manage, namely: the surroundings of public buildings; the edge of roads and roads (embankments, berms, roundabouts, pavements, car parks, street trees, etc.); squares, public gardens and parks; woods and forests; the banks of rivers, ponds and lakes; all contribute to the regional green and blue network. This prohibition has come into full force on 1 January 2019.

The same ordinance prohibits the use of PPPs in protected areas with a view to nature conservation, such as nature reserves, forest reserves and Natura 2000 areas, in close collaboration with the ordinance "nature" of 1 March 2012. The ordinance pesticides also bans , for all public , the use of PPPs in the areas of protection of water catchments for human consumption, and , in line with the federal legislation, requires strict compliance to "buffer zones" (along watercourses and some impermeable or subject to trickling grounds) where the use of PPPs is prohibited in order to protect surface water and the organisms that live there.

Besides buffer zones, however, strict exemption conditions are foreseen to allow the use of some PPPs, as a last resort, to fight against invasive species defined by the ordinance nature, or to protect plant heritage of certain specifically identified pests.

Regional Programme for pesticide reduction

The Region has set up a regional pesticide reduction program (RPRP) for 2013-2017. This program defines 35 actions contributing to the reduction of pesticide use by many publics. The RPRP largely involves awareness raising, training, information and supervision of public and professional green space managers (for the establishment of a regional center for differentiated management); it also calls for the citizen participation.

The program foresees the annual organization of the Week Without Pesticides, during which many awareness events take place for the general public to reduce PPP, for ecological gardening and for preserving ordinary biodiversity.

Along the same line, the program specifies that the development of private gardens requiring no pesticides will be promoted, including through the distribution of brochures or through the call for exemplary management. These objectives appear to be particularly relevant to the regional area occupied by private gardens: nearly 32% (in 1999).

Awareness raising for the reduction of PPPs also requires adequate training of numerous relays supported by the Region, like the “Maîtres-Composteurs” or the “Maîtres-Maraîchers”. Ecological management charters of all collective vegetable gardens areas supported by the Region will also be implemented.

Monitoring programs for water quality and to detect causes of pollution have been put in place, in line with the Programme of measures of the 2009-2015 Water Management Plan.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.3.6 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Reduce the impacts of pesticides on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Le Programme de réduction des pesticides et des biocides 2005-2010 est d'application en agriculture et également pour la gestion des espaces privés, et des effets positifs sur l'environnement devraient être observés dans les prochaines études.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.3.6>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.3.8

Related to objective 4.3.8 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure that the production of plants, *inter alia* non-indigenous plants, for renewable energy does not negatively impact on biodiversity.

Federal level

Study on the biodiversity impact of the development of agro-fuels in Belgium

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5): a study evaluating the biodiversity impact of the development of agro-fuels, including genetically modified plants, in Belgium has been finalised (under funding by the federal environmental administration). This study comprises three main parts: study of the environmental (biodiversity) impacts; analysis of the socio-economic impacts; and policy recommendations.

Sustainability criteria for the use of biofuels

The development of biofuel production pathways/chains is conditioned by the application of a system of sustainability criteria (European directives on Renewable Energy and Fuel Quality 2009/28/CE published in June 2009). Those criteria represent the main measures to allow reasonable use of biofuels while limiting negative impacts on biodiversity. According to the law of 10 June 2006, which promotes biofuels in Belgium, the approval of biofuel production units is based on certain criteria, such as: (1) a short distance between biomass cultivation site and biofuel production unit; (2) the most favourable CO₂ balance; (3) the energetic efficiency of the production unit; and (4) reduced use of fertilizers and/or pesticides. Decision rules with respect to the approval of production units also take into account the global CO₂ balance, in order to assure that biofuel production leads to a significant reduction of greenhouse gases. However, apart from the use of fertilizers and/or pesticides, no biodiversity-related criteria are included in the attribution criteria.

Some permanent grasslands have been converted to biofuel crops.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.3.8 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure that the production of plants, *inter alia* non-indigenous plants, for renewable energy does not negatively impact on biodiversity.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Lors de la transposition de la directive concernant la production de biocarburant, la Belgique n'a repris que les critères environnementaux minimum préconisés, ceci devra être révisé dans les prochaines années. Les critères appliqués pour la production des biocarburants tiennent compte de critères spécifiques de biodiversité mais ces derniers n'ont pas encore été opérationnalisés par la Commission européenne.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.3.8>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.4.1

Related to objective 4.4.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the implementation of good fishing practices in the North Sea, favourable to fish protection and their habitats, including the implementation of the Common Fishery Policy.

Flemish Region

The recently reformed Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union's most important goal is laying down rules to ensure a sustainable European fishery without damaging the marine environment. An example of one of the decisions taken, is that the fish stocks will have to reach their maximal sustainable yield (MSY) where possible in 2015, but in 2020 at the latest. Now the Flemish government will have to implement or guide this implementation for the Flemish fisheries sector.

In relation to the marine fishery: continued structural and ad hoc consultations with the Department for Agriculture and Fisheries as well as with the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research on the improvement of the management of fish stocks, and the elimination of the negative effects on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems.

Codes of good practices have been developed and are being applied or are under review.

Federal level

In 2012, the "Good Environmental Status" and associated objectives for the descriptor "commercial fish species" (MSY by 20120) was defined and agreed (Belgische Staat 2012. Omschrijving van Goede Milieutoestand en vaststelling van Milieu doelen voor de Belgische mariene wateren. Kaderrichtlijn Mariene Strategie – Art 9 & 10. BMM, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, Brussel, België, 34 pp.).

Sand and gravel extraction, dredging and dumping of dredge spoil are subject to licences. Zero tolerance policy in relation to oil pollution.

Development of a cleaning policy of the North Sea through the ‘fishing for litter programme’.

Measures regulating coastal fisheries in protection of marine mammals.

Ongoing actions in order to reduce import of nutrients and hazardous substances into the North Sea.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.4.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the implementation of good fishing practices in the North Sea, favourable to fish protection and their habitats, including the implementation of the Common Fishery Policy.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des mesures sont en place afin de réguler la pêche récréative avec filets maillants en mer et protéger les mammifères marins. Il n'y a pas encore de mesures concernant les effets de la pêche professionnelles sur les espèces et habitats protégés. L'extraction de sable et de gravier, le dragage et le déchargeement des déchets sont sujet à une licence. Les mesures de gestion et de réduction des pollutions sont reprises sous l'objectif 3. Notamment, la Belgique applique une politique de tolérance zéro concernant la pollution par les hydrocarbures en mer du Nord.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.4.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.4.2

Related to objective 4.4.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure that recreational and sport fishing practices at sea and inland waters respond to ecological management objectives to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity.

Flemish Region

The recently reformed Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union's most important goal is laying down rules to ensure a sustainable European fishery without damaging the marine environment. An example of one of the decisions taken, is that the fish stocks will have to reach their maximal sustainable yield (MSY) where possible in 2015, but in 2020 at the latest. Now the

Flemish government will have to implement or guide this implementation for the Flemish fisheries sector.

In relation to the marine fishery: continued structural and ad hoc consultations with the Department for Agriculture and Fisheries as well as with the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research on the improvement of the management of fish stocks, and the elimination of the negative effects on fish stocks, species, habitats and ecosystems.

Codes of good practices have been developed and are being applied or are under review.

Walloon Region

Several measures are implemented:

- . the decree on fishing activities
- . the project 'Saumon 2000'
- . restocking projects with local varieties (trout, grayling, ...)
- . the decree on nature conservation, including Natura 2000
- . the Water Code
- . the application of the aquaculture regulation
- . awareness actions by the 'Maison de la pêche', fishing courses, ...
- . restoration of aquatic environments
- . the River contracts: their aim is to gather around the table all the concerned actors (of the valley) in order to define together an action programme for the restoration of the water courses, the adjacent areas and the water resources of the bassin
- . the working groups on water installed within some 'Plans Communaux de Développement de la Nature'

Brussels-Capital Region

The new nature ordinance regulates fishing practices with a sustainable aim (art 79-81). Article 82 regulates the subtraction of specimens out of nature.

Federal level

In 2012, the “Good Environmental Status” and associated objectives for the descriptor “commercial fish species” (MSY by 20120) was defined and agreed (Belgische Staat 2012. Omschrijving van Goede Milieutoestand en vaststelling van Milieuobjecten voor de Belgische mariene wateren. Kaderrichtlijn Mariene Strategie – Art 9 & 10. BMM, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu, Brussel, België, 34 pp.).

North Sea

Sand and gravel extraction, dredging and dumping of dredge spoil are subject to licences. Zero tolerance policy in relation to oil pollution.

Development of a cleaning policy of the North Sea through the ‘fishing for litter programme’.

Ongoing actions in order to reduce import of nutrients and hazardous substances into the North Sea.

Measures regulating coastal fisheries in protection of marine mammals.

As part of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, an environmental objective has been defined for the harbour porpoise in the Belgian part of the North Sea. This objective aims to reduce by

2020 the annual bycatch levels of this species to levels below 1.7% of its population size (which is also the OSPAR Ecological Quality Objective EcoQO).

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.4.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure that recreational and sport fishing practices at sea and inland waters respond to ecological management objectives to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

L'utilisation durable des eaux intérieures découle essentiellement de la mise en oeuvre de la directive cadre Eau, du réseau Natura 2000 et des Plans de gestions qui en découlent. Un Plan de gestion eau est en phase de finalisation dans la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale. Concernant la pêche, dans deux des trois régions, l'élevage et le rempoissonnement se font avec des souches locales (différentes espèces de poisson concernées, dont truites, ombres). La Belgique a dressé un inventaire des obstacles à la migration des poissons et des mesures pour la restauration des passages de migration sont repris dans les plans de gestion des basins hydrographiques. La connectivité des réseaux hydrographiques est en nette amélioration, notamment suite à l'amélioration de la qualité des eaux de surface.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.4.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.5.1

Related to objective 4.5.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Apply Ramsar Convention guidelines on wise use of wetlands concept as far as relevant.

Flemish Region

Implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Nitrates directive to protect aquatic environment and to reach good ecological status.

The Government of Flanders is striving to improve water quality and quantity in protected areas by way of an integrated approach of the water policy. The main objective of the Flemish water policy is to obtain a good state of the water systems, an objective which it shares with the European Water Framework Directive. Biodiversity indicators used to monitor progress towards water objectives are the following:

Defragmentation of rivers (carried out in cooperation with the administration of waterways and local authorities).

The fragmentation of watercourses by weirs and sluices, together with the degradation of water and habitat quality, is an important problem for the conservation of aquatic species, in particular fish. In 1996, Benelux countries announced their intention of achieving free fish migration in all water catchments by 2010. This target was incorporated in the Flemish Decree on Integrated Water Policy and the Flemish Environmental Policy Plan (2003-2010). An evaluation of the Benelux situation shows that restoration is in progress, but far too slow to achieve the 2010 target. The target is postponed and synchronised with the European Water Framework Directive. In recent years the restoration was focused on a priority network of rivers of about 3.000 km. By the end of 2009, 171 of the 789 barriers (22%) along this network had been dealt with. Review and additional inventories of the barriers also made a classification: 45 barriers in 1st priority, of which 14 or 31% has been solved; and 682 registered barriers in 2nd priority of which 109 or 16% has been solved. If this trend shown from the data of 2012 continues the removal of fish barriers will not reach the present target. Obstacles to a swifter achievement are lack of budget and work force and social complications. Meanwhile, migratory fish species are recovering slightly, probably as a result of improving water quality.

http://indicatoren.milieuinfo.be/indicatorenportal.cgi?lang=en&detail=567&id_structuur=54

Trend of ecological status in watercourses: the fish index

According to the Water Framework Directive the objective of good and high ecological quality should be defined for each water type in terms of biotic scores for phytobenthos, macrophytes, invertebrates and fish. At this moment the dataset for Flanders is limited to invertebrates and fish. The score system used for fish is the IBI (Index of Biotic Integrity). This index evaluates different metrics of the type specific fish community. Results are available for two periods: 1995-1999 and 2000-2004. No sampling point reached the minimum standard of good ecological status in 1994-1999, while only one sampling point out of the 250 reached this standard after 2000. In the period 2003-2008 not one measurement point was encountered with an excellent score of the fish index and the proportion of measurement points with a good fishing community is very small (5 %). Following the same trend in the future, the goal of 2015 will not be reached.

http://www.natuurindicatoren.be/indicatorenportal.cgi?lang=en&detail=678&id_structuur=60

Biological quality

In the assessment of the biological quality of water is an index that is based on the presence or absence of aquatic macroinvertebrates and other biological quality elements are monitored. During the measuring campaign of 2011, the BBI was determined at 361 measuring points. Almost 34 % were assessed as with good or very good biological quality. Both the European and Flemish legislation set to be the good ecological status or good ecological potential achieved basically by 2015. The progress to the target for macro-invertebrates is determined by another (sub)index, namely the MMIF (Multi Metric Macro Invertebrates index Flanders). In the period 2007-2011 only 19 % of water bodies scored good or better, 29 % scored moderate, 33 % inadequate and 18 % bad. For other biological quality elements is the target distance is still large. Only 6 % of water bodies sampled for macrophytes scored good and above. For phytobenthos is 7 %. For phytoplankton meets 38 % of water bodies with the standard for chlorophyll -a. Over the past two decades, the biological quality (BBI) of the Flemish surface improved slowly but steadily. The percentage of measurement locations with extremely or very poor quality decreased significantly and the percentage with moderate or good quality rose sharply. These positive developments are the result of the expansion and improvement of public water treatment and the efforts of businesses and agriculture. Substantial efforts are needed to reach the final goal.

http://www.milieurapport.be/Upload/main/0_ENG_Indicatorrapport%202012/323351_mira2012E_Surface%20water%20quality_accessible.pdf

Phosphorous concentration in rivers

According to the European Water Framework Directive a "good ecological status" should be achieved in all natural surface waters by 2015. Sufficiently low phosphorus concentrations are an important precondition for obtaining this status. In accordance with the Water Framework Directive, two target values for phosphorus have been set for each Flemish river type: one to obtain very good ecological conditions, and another to obtain good ecological conditions. These targets are a prerequisite for the recovery of aquatic communities. The indicator reports on the share of survey points where these standards are achieved. An increase in water purification capacity and the introduction of low phosphate detergents at the beginning of the 1990s resulted in improvements. Since 1998 the indicator has shown yearly fluctuations, but there is no clear increase of the number of survey points with a good or very good ecological status. Phosphorous concentrations in nutrient-poor brooks and rivers are often too high to attain a favourable conservation status for aquatic habitats and species.

Walloon Region

The Walloon Region has adopted the Water Code (Code de l'Eau) on 27 May 2004 to implement the Water Framework Directive. One of its objectives is to prevent additional degradations and to preserve and improve the state of the aquatic ecosystems as well as of the terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands depending on them. For more information on water in Wallonia, see: eau.wallonie.be.

Several measures are implemented:

- the decree on fishing activities
- the project 'Saumon 2000'
- restocking projects with local varieties (trout, grayling ...)
- the application of the aquaculture regulation
- awareness actions by the 'Maison de la pêche', fishing courses, ...
- restoration of aquatic environments
- the decree on nature conservation, including Natura 2000
- the River contracts: their aim is to gather around the table all the concerned actors (of the valley) in order to define together an action programme for the restoration of the water courses, the adjacent areas and the water resources of the basin (see below)
- the working groups on water installed within some 'Plans Communaux de Développement de la Nature'
- the river action programs by sectoral approach (PARIS) try to follow an integrated approach by planning the different interventions (for Natura 2000, the Flood Decree, etc.) in the short and the longer term

The Walloon Region has adopted the Water Code (Code de l'Eau) on 27 May 2004 to implement the Water Framework Directive. One of its objectives is to prevent additional degradations and to preserve and improve the state of the aquatic ecosystems as well as of the terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands depending on them. Some resulting plans and programs:

- the 'Plans d'Assainissement par Sous-bassin Hydrographiques' define the decontamination and clean up regime for the relevant areas
- the programme for the sustainable management of nitrogen is the application of the Nitrate Directive (part of the Water Framework Directive)

River contracts

River contracts are participative management structures whose aim is to bring together everyone working in the same water catchment basin, whether they come from a political, administrative,

financial, associative or scientific background, in order to define a programme for restoring watercourses and their surrounding areas in a consensual way. Early 2017, 14 river contracts were active. Furthermore, 236 Walloon municipalities over 262 have become partners in a river contract. The river contracts currently incorporate more than 5,000 actions, the majority of which are intended to practically preserve and improve the qualitative (physical, chemical and biological), quantitative, historical and aesthetic aspects of watercourses.

http://environnement.wallonie.be/contrat_riviere/

Some indicators (<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/home.html> will soon be in English):

The ecological status of the Walloon water bodies is assessed on the basis of biological indicators (macroinvertebrates, diatoms, fish and macrophytes), physico-chemical indicators (oxygen balance, pH, nitrogenous and phosphorus matter, specific pollutants, etc.) and hydromorphological indicators (continuity of the water course, nature of the banks, etc.). Since 2014, the chemical status of surface WBs has been assessed in Wallonia by taking into account the environmental quality standards for 45 priority substances from Directive 2013/39/EU. The chemical status of groundwater bodies is assessed on the basis of the quality standards and threshold values (25 substances) listed in Annex XIV of the Water Code (see Water 1 of SER 2017).

Biological quality of water courses (see Water 3 of SER 2017)

In 2015, 47% of the water bodies inspected had good or high overall biological quality. This finding was similar to the assessment carried out in 2011. The poorer quality water bodies were located mainly north of the Sambre-et-Meuse line where the vast majority of them had moderate to bad quality water due to greater land take, the presence of industry and intensive cropgrowing. In addition, many water courses are largely channelled or modified, resulting in a degradation of habitats and loss of biodiversity. Despite the reduction of some pollution, the increase in the rate of waste water treatment⁶ and the ecological restoration of certain water courses, ecosystems are slowly recovering.

Morphological quality of water courses (see water 6 of SER 2017)

Of the 354 surface water bodies (WBs) in Wallonia, almost 77% are classified as natural, 18% are considered to be highly modified (HMWB) (i.e. penalised by major obstacles to the movement of fish, the artificialisation of banks, excessive reservoirs or catchments, etc.) and 5% are artificial WBs (channels). These HMWBs are mainly located in the subbasins of the Scheldt-Lys, the Dendre, the Haine, the Sambre and the Meuse downstream. All WBs combined, hydromorphological quality was considered good to high for 55% of WBs and bad to moderate for 40%. This work led to the identification of priority WBs for hydromorphological restoration work. The main measures envisaged in the second River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)³ aim at restoring river functionality by concentrating efforts on the removal of major and impassable obstacles to the free movement of fish, putting in place appropriate management measures to achieve good or high ecological status in the WBs in question, via Natura 2000⁵ habitats and species (e.g. pearl mussels, graylings, barbels, etc.), and initiating actions to redirect water courses, and manage and restore riparian forest areas.

Other information on eutrophication, pollutants, etc. in water courses are available. See <http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/home.html>.

Brussels-Capital Region

The Brussels-Capital Region (BCR) adopted in 2012 a first plan for water management and a program of measures to improve water management on its territory. It includes a strategic theme

“Quantitatively restore the hydrographic network” in order to achieve the quality objectives required by the EU Directive, including environmental objectives. An operational objective aims at the recovery by surface waters of their role of supporting ecosystems. A register of protected areas was proposed, as foreseen in the “Water Framework Order” (2006) (http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/mopdf/2006/11/03_1.pdf) establishing a framework for water policy in BCR. This plan has been updated in 2016 for 6 years (2016-2021). It includes designated zones requiring special protection under specific legislation on the protection of surface water and groundwater and the conservation of habitats and species directly dependent on water areas.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.5.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Apply Ramsar Convention guidelines on wise use of wetlands concept as far as relevant.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
X Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Les milieux ouverts et humides sont les plus fragiles et bénéficient de mesure de conservation (17% des tourbières se trouvent dans un état de conservation favorable).

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.5.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country’s national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.6.1

Related to objective 4.6.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the conservation of forest biodiversity through independent credible forest certification systems that provide a guarantee for sustainable forest management.

Flemish Region

The Flemish forest policy

The Flemish forest policy is based upon multifunctional and sustainable forestry and applied through development of a management vision (<https://www.natuurenbos.be/bosbeheerplanning>) consisting of:

- specific and concrete guidelines for a close-to-nature forest management,
- a framework to assess the forest functions,
- a method for quality control,
- promotion and granting of FSC-label to forest (in 2018 about 22,177 ha were granted the FSC certificate): <https://www.houtverkopen.be/fsc-boscertificering>,

- publication of criteria for sustainable forest management and technical/financial support for the implementation of these criteria by private forest owners (see Action 4.6.2).

Walloon region

In the Walloon Region, PEFC certified forests cover nearly about 54% of the Region's forest areas. The owners engage themselves voluntarily to diversify their forest, to maintain dead wood, to maintain patches where trees can grow old, etc. This means that 17.7% of the Walloon territory is developed sustainably, even though the primary objective is not the conservation of biodiversity. Nearly 90% of certified forest land belongs to public landowners.

The external audit carried out in June 2016 as part of the PEFC forest certification process placed the DNF in non-compliance as regards the production of management plans. The DNF has been asked to take the necessary measures, under penalty of losing the PEFC forest certification for all public forests. An action plan was recently submitted and approved by the external auditor. The Forestry Code now requires that each management plan must be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment, which makes the procedure for adopting plans more complex.

Brussels-Capital region

Forest exploitation in the Brussels Capital Region is in line with the FSC and PEFC certification criteria: <http://www.foret-de-soignes.be/de-la-foret/partenaires/partenaires-economiques/>.
Federal level

Examples of implementation:

- Development of a federal public procurement policy to promote SFM (circular letter in 2005); a methodological guide supports federal purchasing authorities; promotion and follow-up of forest certification.
- An information campaign was set up to inform the public on SFM and related certification (2006 and 2007).

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.6.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the conservation of forest biodiversity through independent credible forest certification systems that provide a guarantee for sustainable forest management.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Toutes les forêts régionales et de nombreuses forêts privées bénéficient d'un label de certification de gestion durable (FSC ou PEFC).

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.6.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.6.2

Related to objective 4.6.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote nature-oriented forestry that provides a guarantee for sustainable forest management, including forest conservation.

Flemish Region

The Flemish forest policy

The Flemish forest policy is based upon multifunctional and sustainable forestry and applied through development of a management vision (<https://www.natuurenbos.be/bosbeheerplanning>) consisting of:

- specific and concrete guidelines for a close-to-nature forest management,
- a framework to assess the forest functions,
- a method for quality control,
- promotion and granting of FSC-label to forest,
- publication of criteria for sustainable forest management and technical/financial support for the implementation of these criteria by private forest owners (see below).
- incentives are provided for the use of criteria for sustainable forest management in the management planning and implementation.

Area with management according to the criteria for sustainable forest management (in cooperation with the private forest owners supported financially and technically by the Agency for Nature & Forest).

Up to 2017 the Flemish Forest Decree allows two types of management plan: limited and extensive. Limited management plans need to comply with only minimum standards, while extensive management plans need to comply with the criteria for sustainable forest management. These approximately follow the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), whose certificate can then be easily obtained – end of 2018 about 23,894 ha were granted the FSC certificate. Forest management plans were by decree compulsory for all forests larger than 5 ha. Private owners are offered the choice between limited and extensive management plans, whereas extensive management plans are compulsory for public forests. They are also compulsory for private forests located within certain nature-oriented land use planning areas. The other private owners are encouraged to develop extensive management plans through grants and forest owner groups.

End of 2018 a private forests area of 29,401 ha has an extensive forest management plan and more than 30000 ha limited. A new nature management plan system has been introduced end of 2017 with a unique format for nature management plan for natural areas, forest areas and park areas. Together with this new regulation a subsidy system has been introduced also giving opportunity to any land owner to develop a management plan indicating the level of ambition to contribute to the nature objectives allocated to their respective site – the subsidy level depends on the level of ambition indicated in the plan going from stand-still (level 1) to attaining the ‘reserve’ status of protection of natural values (level 4). All existing management plans are being revised to comply with this new system: <https://www.natuurenbos.be/bosbeheerplanning>.

Other example of implementation:

- Stimulate forest owners to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the forests (recognition and guidance of forest groups, structural consultations with the forestry sector).

Walloon Region

Some recent legal measures (new Forest Code, measures to protect the Natura 2000 network) go in the direction of improving the carrying capacity for biodiversity of the Walloon forests. The ambition of these measures remains weak to drive significant positive changes in the conservation status of forest habitats. Many tools are available to improve forest biodiversity and sustainable forest management:

PEFC certifications

In the Walloon Region, PEFC certified forests cover nearly about 54% of the Region's forest areas (see action 4.6.1).

Circulaire relative aux aménagements dans les forêts soumises au régime forestier

The 'Circulaire relative aux aménagements dans les forêts soumises au régime forestier' is a normative tool for the management planning in public forests (270,000 ha in Wallonia, including regional nature reserves); at this stage, about 65% of the forest area is covered by new management plans following this circular; the remaining area should be covered at an annual rate of 12,500 ha for the public forests and 1,300 ha for nature reserves. The 'Circulaire Biodiversité en Forêts' recommends integrating measures with a more biodiversity-friendly dimension within the objectives of forest management.

The Forestry Code

A new Forestry Code entered in force in Wallonia end 2008. The aim of the new code is to safeguard the regeneration and sustainability of forests, as well as an optimum dynamic balance between its economic, ecological and social roles. Certain objectives are imposed on both public and private land owners (choice of species appropriate to local conditions, diversification, measures favouring biodiversity, restricting clear cutting, drainage and input, reasonable opening up to the public, etc.). This code applies to around 540 000 hectares of forests. One of the objectives of the Forestry Code is to combat climate change and to preserve biodiversity. It stipulates that the sustainable development of wood(land)s and forests implies the application of certain principles such as:

- the preservation and improvement of forestry resources and their contribution to the carbon cycle
- the preservation of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems
- the preservation, conservation and improvement of biodiversity in forest ecosystems
- the preservation and improvement of the protective functions of forest among others related to the water and the soil
- the preservation and improvement of other socio-economic benefits and conditions (preservation of an equilibrium between resinous and broad-leaved trees and promotion of a mixed forest type with a diversified age composition, adapted to climate change and able to mitigate some of its effects; restriction of areas where trees are cleared; for public owners: preservation of dead, damaged or biologically interesting trees, preservation of at least 1 tree of special biological interest per 2 ha, the preservation of shrubby hedges, ban on the planting of resinous trees next to water courses; the planning tool for public forests within the Forestry Code takes measures for the promotion of biodiversity into account; the Forestry Code imposes that 3% of the broad-leaved forests with a surface of more than 100 ha are to be delimited as integral reserves)

- the use of pesticides as well as the burning of branches is forbidden in all forests.

Walloon Observatory for forest health

Opened in 2011, the Walloon Observatory for forest health (OWSF) is a powerful tool for the evaluation and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Walloon forests in the short and long terms. In the particular context of global warming and the preservation of biodiversity, OWSF proposes prompt solutions to health problems, calamities, extension pest or disease or other problems that affect Walloon forests. Health monitoring is the basic principle of the plant forest monitoring because it allows saving a problem when it is observed. Forest health is obviously considered on the whole territory as well for public forest as for private forests.

Natura 2000

About 150,000 ha of forests are included in Natura 2000; management contracts will be concluded between the authorities and the owners, to implement the objectives of each site.

Ecological tree varieties registry

The application of the 'ecological tree varieties registry' allows to optimise sylvicultural practices as well as to improve ecosystem functioning, the mineral and water cycles, and the biodiversity of the undergrowth.

Pro Silva

Pro Silva: research about and promotion of a close-to-nature sylviculture based on natural processes. Currently, the Walloon forest area managed through forestry Pro Silva is about 25,000 ha or 5% of the Walloon forest. This mode of forestry meets a lot of enthusiasm and it is hoped that by 2018, 6% of the Walloon forest (at least 80% in government forest) will be managed in this way. This is one of the objectives of the actions of the Wallonia Nature Network – catalogue of actions.

Les plans d'aménagement forestier constituent un guide pour le travail du forestier. Ils l'aident notamment à éviter la surexploitation et à assurer la multifonctionnalité des forêts. Imposés par le Code forestier à partir de 2008 pour tous les bois soumis d'une superficie supérieure à 20 ha d'un seul tenant, leur réalisation constitue en outre un des axes du Plan de progrès pour la gestion forestière(a) visant une gestion durable des forêts wallonnes.

Brussels-Capital Region

Important efforts are done to integrate biodiversity considerations in the forestry policy. The Brussels Sonian Forest covers 1,654 ha, i.e. about 10% of the regional territory (<http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/Templates/Particuliers/Niveau2.aspx?id=4720>). 112 ha are protected as forest reserves, including 36 ha as integral reserves. It belongs to the Natura 2000 network as it contains nine habitat types protected under the Habitats Directive, and benefits of a specific management plan which largely takes nature into account. The goals of the management plan are: enhance forest biodiversity, maintain or restore some of particular ecosystems, partially maintain the cathedral beech grove, secure a diversity of quality landscapes, enhance the historic and cultural patrimony, maintain the forest clean, welcome the public, satisfy public demands for recreation and provide a good cohabitation between multiples activities, limit activities that could damage the soils, inform and heighten public awareness on nature and sustainable management, protect water resources of the site, tend towards natural regeneration of forest stands. The designation of new protected areas is an offshoot of the current management plan for the Sonian Forest. Buffer zones around protected sites, weakened areas or wildlife refuges, they were

designated in 2007 to fight against forest degradations. Their status is less restrictive than the reserves. However, it imposes to limit the traffic to the paths and force masters to keep their dog on a leash. 34% of the territory of the Sonian forest, some 564 hectares are affected by this status. In addition, the management of the Sonian forest respects the criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) who gave their first attestation (IMO-FM/COC-23023) on 25 November 2003.

More recently, a multi-functional plan for the Sonian Forest has been written and will be shortly approved by the regional government. It will promote sustainable use of the forest and multifunctionality of activities. The new Brussels multi-functional management plans for the coming 24 years will allow the Sonian Forest to fully deliver the ecosystem services while reconnecting people to Nature. This multi-functional plan also promote the concept of “equipped and connected entry doors”, “contact zone” and “diffusion zones” for canalysing access of people to Natura 2000 site while preserving central zone with low access to people.

Federal level

Adoption of a sectoral agreement in the wood sector to stimulate the production and sell of sustainable wood products.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.6.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote nature-oriented forestry that provides a guarantee for sustainable forest management, including forest conservation.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Une politique de marchés publics durable qui utilise du bois issu de forêts gérées durablement est appliquée dans les régions et a été mise en place au niveau fédéral en 2006/37. Celle-ci comprend depuis 2005 une Circulaire basée sur certain nombre de critères de durabilité pour les systèmes de certification. Elle est en cours de révision, inachevée sous le Gouvernement précédent pour cause d'affaires courantes. Un guide méthodologique pour le développement de marchés publics à base de bois durable existe depuis 2006 et des formations ont été organisées en 2010 pour soutenir les autorités fédérales dans leurs achats. Le fédéral promeut et suit les débats concernant la certification des forêts. Depuis 2006, la Belgique participe aux débats européens concernant les marchés publics verts pour les aspects qui concernent le bois et les produits à base de bois. Le public belge a également été sensibilisé à la gestion durable des forêts et aux certifications lors de campagnes d'information menées en 2006 et en 2007. En 2010 - 2011, un accord sectoriel au sens de la Loi Normes de Produits a été conclu avec le secteur du bois en Belgique afin d'augmenter l'offre de bois et de produits à base de bois issus de forêts gérées durablement. Cet accord est mis en oeuvre suivant une baseline, des cibles et des objectifs quantitatifs convenus ensemble entre le secteur et les Pouvoirs publics.

Les forêts régionales et autres forêts publiques, ainsi qu'un nombre croissant de forêts privées bénéficient à l'heure actuelle d'un label de certification de gestion durable (FSC ou PEFC, les deux programmes de certification étant internationalement reconnus). Des mesures ont été prises

pour renforcer la promotion de la certification forestière étant donné que 56 % des forêts belges appartiennent à des propriétaires privés.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.6.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.6.3

Related to objective 4.6.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: protection of forest genetic diversity.

Walloon Region

The Forestry Code stipulates that the sustainable development of wood(land)s and forests implies the application of certain principles among which: all artificial regeneration actions using tree varieties which are not optimal or tolerated following the 'ecological tree varieties registry' are forbidden.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.6.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: protection of forest genetic diversity.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La diversité génétique forestière est maintenue par des coupes sélectives, éclaircies de régénération naturelle, préservation d'arbres remarquable, la préservation de peuplements forestiers remarquable sur pied en vue d'en récolter les graines, etc. Les peuplements à grains forestiers permettent de maintenir la diversité génétique des espèces vivantes.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.6.3>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.7.1

Related to objective 4.7.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote integrated management of hunting grounds in cooperation with farmers, foresters and environmental NGOs and the application of good hunting practices.

Flemish Region

Controlled hunting for wildlife management

Organised and controlled hunting in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) is promoted so that hunters can act as joint managers of the open space. Principles, criteria and indicators are being developed to evaluate the sustainability of the implementation and hunting plans and to review policies.

www.vlaanderen.be/nl/natuur-en-milieu/natuurbereidheid/erkenning-van-een-wildbeheereenheid

Walloon Region

En application de l’Article 1 de la loi sur la chasse, 50 conseils cynégétiques, couvrant l’ensemble du territoire wallon, sont reconnus par les Autorités et ont pour mission d’assurer, pour les différents types de gibier, la coordination de la gestion cynégétique sur les territoires de chasse qu’ils regroupent et qui représentent généralement plusieurs dizaines de milliers d’ha. L’objectif est d’améliorer cette gestion cynégétique en veillant à ce que les actions des différents titulaires de droit de chasse soient plus cohérentes.

Selon l’Article 1erter de la loi sur la chasse fixe pour chaque catégorie, espèce, type ou sexe de gibier et pour chaque mode et procédé de chasse, les dates de l’ouverture, de la clôture ou de la suspension de la chasse. Sur les 39 espèces de mammifères et d’oiseaux classées comme gibier, donc potentiellement chassables, la chasse n’est actuellement ouverte qu’à 16 d’entre elles. 2 espèces supplémentaires peuvent faire l’objet d’actes de destruction, moyennant une autorisation accordée aux conditions prévues par l’Article 7 de la loi sur la chasse et son arrêté d’exécution.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.7.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote integrated management of hunting grounds in cooperation with farmers, foresters and environmental NGOs and the application of good hunting practices.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La chasse est totalement interdite en Région Bruxelles-Capitale ainsi que dans la partie belge de la mer du Nord. Au sud du pays, l’augmentation des populations d’ongulés (cerfs, chevreuils et sangliers) provoquent des dégâts qui préoccupent les forestiers, agriculteurs, particuliers et scientifiques tandis que la situation semble plutôt satisfaire les chasseurs, collectionneurs de mues et promeneurs, même si les positions sont nuancées selon les situations locales. Malgré le nombre croissant d’animaux abattus, la chasse, qui constitue actuellement le premier élément de régulation des populations de cervidés et sangliers, ne parvient pas à inverser la tendance à la

hausse. Ceci malgré les mesures mises en place, telles que les plans de tir pour le cerf (depuis 1989), allongement de la période de tir pour les chevreuils et les sangliers (depuis 2004), interdiction du nourrissage dans les nouveaux baux de chasse des forêts domaniales (depuis 2006). Il est toutefois malaisé de distinguer leurs effets de ceux des autres facteurs influençant la dynamique des populations (notamment l'existence de périodes hivernales clémentes). Les chasseurs sont aussi des partenaires importants pour la gestion du petit gibier et leur recensement.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.7.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 4.7.2

Related to objective 4.7.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the involvement of hunters as biodiversity actors.

Flemish Region

Controlled hunting for wildlife management

Organised and controlled hunting in Wildlife Management Units (WMU) is promoted so that hunters can act as joint managers of the open space. Principles, criteria and indicators are being developed to evaluate the sustainability of the implementation and hunting plans and to review policies.

www.vlaanderen.be/natuur-en-milieu/natuurbepreheer/erkenning-van-een-wildbeheereenheid

Walloon Region: see 4.7.1.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 4.7.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the involvement of hunters as biodiversity actors.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La chasse est totalement interdite en Région Bruxelles-Capitale ainsi que dans la partie belge de la mer du Nord. Au sud du pays, l'augmentation des populations d'ongulés (cerfs, chevreuils et sangliers) provoquent des dégâts qui préoccupent les forestiers, agriculteurs, particuliers et scientifiques tandis que la situation semble plutôt satisfaire les chasseurs, collectionneurs de mues et promeneurs, même si les positions sont nuancées selon les situations locales. Malgré le nombre croissant d'animaux abattus, la chasse, qui constitue actuellement le premier élément de régulation des populations de cervidés et sangliers, ne parvient pas à inverser la tendance à la

hausse. Ceci malgré les mesures mises en place, telles que les plans de tir pour le cerf (depuis 1989), allongement de la période de tir pour les chevreuils et les sangliers (depuis 2004), interdiction du nourrissage dans les nouveaux baux de chasse des forêts domaniales (depuis 2006). Il est toutefois malaisé de distinguer leurs effets de ceux des autres facteurs influençant la dynamique des populations (notamment l'existence de périodes hivernales clémentes). Les chasseurs sont aussi des partenaires importants pour la gestion du petit gibier et leur recensement.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/4#4.7.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 5

Related to objective 5 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Improve the integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectoral policies.

Federal level

A federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors was adopted by the federal government in 2009. This plan is a response to the 'Second Federal Plan for Sustainable Development 2004-2008' (FPSD2) adopted by the Federal Council of Ministers on 24 September 2004. This plan is still valid until the adoption of the next plan.

The federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity was elaborated by four multi-stakeholder committees representing respectively the major actors in the field of transport, economy, development cooperation and science, as well as environment. The committees were chaired by the ministerial departments in charge of the sectoral activity concerned, while the secretariat was carried out by the federal ministry of environment.

The plan identifies, for each sector, a number of concrete actions (with identification of the responsible for the implementation, timing, etc.). The plan highlights links between actions and the relevant objectives of the National Biodiversity Strategy.

For each sector, different key areas with several concrete actions each have been identified:

Transport: maritime transport (limitation of introduction of invasive alien species), construction, use and the dismantling of ships, Belgian Railways Company.

Economy: the question of bio-energy, economic and financial (federal) instruments, access and benefit sharing, private sector involvement, sustainable use of biodiversity.

Development cooperation: traditional knowledge; capacity building; communication, education, awareness raising; environmental assessment of development cooperation activities, integration of biodiversity in policies of partner countries; ex situ conservation; climate and biodiversity.

Science policy: biodiversity integration in all research sectors, tools to improve access to data and information, mobilize scientific competences in support of sustainable development policies.

The management plans for the Natura 2000 areas in the Belgian Part of the North Sea includes a number of actions, some of them targeting specific sectors, in particular the fishery sector and the sand extraction sector.

Life project ELIA: Elia (and formerly Electrabel) have signed conventions with the Nature and Forest administration for the ecological management of areas under high-voltage electrical lines.

Flemish Region

Establishment in 2018 of Green Deal with business private sector - business@Biodiversity:
<https://www.lne.be/green-deal-bedrijven-en-biodiversiteit> - including already more than 140 participating companies

Interreg project 2BConnect promoting nature development on domains of private companies:
<https://www.2b-connect.eu/>

Walloon Region

Charter with the quarries sector for biodiversity protection and restoration purposes.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 5 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Improve the integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectoral policies.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des actions ont été menées pour intégrer la biodiversité dans les politiques sociales et économiques sectorielles; cela ne se fait toutefois pas de manière systématique, avec peu de résultats sur le terrain (voir nombre d'espèces et types d'habitats encore en « rouge » = non-favorable), et des lignes directrices mériteraient d'être élaborées.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/5>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 5.1

Related to objective 5.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote and support stakeholders involvement *inter alia* through partnerships at all levels of decision-making relating to biodiversity.

Flemish Region

Private-public partnerships and stakeholder involvement

In the short term, the Government of Flanders is increasing the number of partnerships with the private sector, organisations and citizens to strengthen the integration of nature conservation, nature restoration and the development of measures in their project management. To achieve the biodiversity ambitions of the Flemish authorities, the Agency for Nature and Forests focusses on the collaboration with partners and the integration into the policy of other entities (project examples: Bosland (<http://www.bosland.be/>), L&R-over Antwerpen, Nationaal Park Hoge Kempen, Zwin, Sigma plan, ...). One objective of the Nature & Forest policy is encouraging integrated nature management by NGOs, other private owners and local authorities. The Agency for Nature and Forests supports and facilitates partners, as well as makes them aware of their responsibility in relation to the accessibility and the sustainable use of nature, forests and green spaces. Some examples of Private-public partnerships and stakeholder involvement are given below:

- The private-public cooperation project that was established for the protection of natural and cultural heritage of the Herkenrode abbey and its surrounding areas provides a framework for the restoration of the Herkenrode classified monument as well as for the restoration and development of the natural values of the abbey garden, agricultural land and orchards. The project includes partners from the environment administration, tourism department, provincial authority and private sector.
- Private forest owners are organised in forest groups which receive technical and financial support for the development and implementation of forest management plans that take into account forest biodiversity aspects.
- Commissions have been established with the provincial river fisheries representatives and anglers groups for an integrated planning and follow up of management measures of fish populations and river systems.
- Hunters are organised in Wildlife Management Units that receive technical and financial support for the planning and implementation of hunting activities and wildlife management measures.
- With the Youth Organisation a charter was signed in 2005 describing ways and means for the use of nature sites and forest areas for their out-door activities while ensuring protection of natural values.
- The National Park Hoge Kempen integrates objectives for socio-economic activities, recreation networks and measures for biodiversity conservation and awareness raising.
- The NGO Natuurpunt sets up partnerships with private companies for nature development and species protection measures on the areas around their buildings, and developed fact sheets to enhance such practices by others.
- In consultation with the users of the Scheldt region, the Sigma projects sought suitable locations for establishing a flood control area along the Scheldt and its tributaries and combine it with new opportunities for nature. Safety and nature are the most important functions supporting the Sigma Plan. A new batch of Sigma project starts every five years. The Plan will create no less than 4000 hectares of nature (<http://www.sigmaplan.be/en/>).

Consultation process for conservation objectives (IHD)

An extensive consultation and participation process was set up with all relevant actors, both the socio-economic groups that are active in the open space in the 'IHD-discussion group' (agriculture, nature management, hunting, land owners, economic sectors and forest managers) and the relevant authorities in the 'IHD-project group'. To enable the socio-economic actors to participate in the consultation process in a professional manner, resources were also provided for capacity-building within each participating organization. The framework for the consultation process in the IHD-discussion group was set out in a letter of intent that was signed in 2009 by all organizations involved. For the implementation of the nature objectives site-specific consultation fora have been established.

http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Natuurbeleid/Natuur/Natura_2000/In_samenwerking.aspx

Cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Defence for the management of the nature areas on military domains.

The agreement includes nature areas on the various military domains covering in total about 15.000 ha in Belgium for which management plans are being developed, implementation of measures for restoration and management, and monitoring is being carried out. Part of the costs is covered by the income of wood sale. A large part of this surface is also designated as Natura 2000 for which an important LIFE-Nature project supports large scale restoration actions, mapping of habitats and species distribution, dialogue for integrated management planning that takes into account nature functions and military use. The Flemish Agency for Nature and Forest manages now about 9,500 ha of military grounds. Specific focus is given to the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 as specified in the management plans.

Business and biodiversity

The objectives of the Agency for Nature & Forests include other specific actions to enhance the integration of biodiversity concern and measures for conservation with socio-economic objectives:

- Aspects that are being explored include the development of incentive measures such as green taxes, support for land rehabilitation and restoration of nature and landscape values, support for private – public partnerships for biodiversity conservation actions
- New ways are being explored for effective integration of biodiversity into sectoral economic activities, such as improving the biodiversity content of environmental impact assessments, site management and conservation of biodiversity on domains of private companies, sustainable provision of raw materials, sustainable harvests and resource management, certification schemes...
- Consultation groups are set up between the Agency for Nature & Forests and: Drinking Water Companies, Waste Water Management (Aquafin), Waste Handling Companies (Remo), the Department Vlaamse Waterweg (Waterways) and De Scheepvaart (Shipping), Port Authorities to discuss environmental impact assessments and other approaches, finding best solutions for limited impacts and for mitigation and/or compensation measures and identify voluntary practices to enhance natural carrying capacity and ecosystem functions. For example, there is a cooperation agreement between the Agency for Nature & Forests and REMO for the implementation of an ‘Action plan for restoration and development of habitats’ on the sites of the waste management company. There is also a strategic planning process for harbour development located in Natura 2000 sites that includes actions for restoration and conservation of habitats and species.
- Consultation group between Agency Nature & Forests, the Department Natural Resources and the Quarry Companies for sand and gravel exploitation to explore relation with biodiversity values and the proposed locations for the quarries, and discuss options for finding best solutions for limited impacts in the framework of EIAs, and for compensations and rehabilitation of natural values after their exploitation. For example with the sand mining company SIBELCO a cooperation agreement was developed to restore the natural values after the sand winning.
- With the private sector in energy production from biomass ways are explored for effective production and retail of biomass from the Agency’s nature and forest areas.
- Consultation and advisory committees have been set up with several sector groups to enhance integration of biodiversity issues into their policies: agriculture, river fisheries, foresters, hunters.

Cooperation

For the realisation of Natura 2000 the establishment of cooperation with other Governments and stakeholders is crucial. In the framework of the IHD-process the establishment of engagements with the various actors was initiated. Existing cooperation programmes provide the example of good practices, such as:

- with the Ministry of Defense: with the management of Natura 2000 on military domains the investment of the project Danah is continued on a long term: <http://www.DANAH.be>
- with the authority of the port of Antwerp and the NGO Natuurpunt a site specific species protection programme for the Antwerp port area was established in 2011: <http://www.portofantwerp.com/nl/natuur>.

The objective is to preserve and manage up to 5% of the port area, about 600 ha, as suitable habitat for the species of European importance.

- in collaboration with the public administrations competent for the management of waterways, roads and railways attention is given to solve bottlenecks in connectivity so that measures that contribute to connection between Natura 2000 and other nature and forest areas are integrated in the projects or management programmes of infrastructure.
- Life-Nature projects under theme ‘Nature’ are submitted for the realization the sustainable recovery of habitats and species of European importance and improvement of the landscape and the public access of Natura 2000 sites. In addition, these projects are also important for the development of cooperation with partners in the region and in neighbouring countries (Governments, NGOs, municipalities, provinces, local associations, private owners) and for awareness raising and communication regarding Natura 2000 and biodiversity conservation. Thanks to this co-financing projects specialized equipment could also be purchased and expertise built up in restoring and managing Natura 2000 habitats that are often very vulnerable or that need large-scale overdue management.
<https://www.natuurenbos.be/projecten/algemeen>

Walloon Region

Business and biodiversity

Agreements exist with the private sector (quarries, electricity companies, railroad companies ...). Some examples of public-private partnerships:

- Elia (and formerly Electrabel) have signed conventions with the Nature and Forest administration for the ecological management of areas under high-voltage electrical lines.
- Electrabel (electricity provider) sponsors several projects including the ‘Aquascope de Virelles’, an interpretation centre on wetland areas
- Electrabel, Triodos, Vivara are partners of the nature protection organisation Natagora
- Interbrew (In-Bev, a brewery multinational) sponsors a prize for nature conservation initiatives
- Valvert (mineral water company) finances a Nature Film Festival.
- GlaxoSmithKline has a programme for the rehabilitation of wetlands around one of its site and has a public awareness programme for its staff members.
- Natagora has established partnerships with private companies for the greening of spaces around their buildings and infrastructure (nature-friendly development of sites).
- There are conventions with quarry companies for the preservation of swallow populations.
- There are rehabilitation plans set up with cement quarry companies so that sites that are not exploited anymore can be returned to natural areas.

- ECOSEM is a private company (university spin-off) specialised in the production of indigenous seeds and plants of local provenance.

- The Wallonia Nature Network - catalogue of actions foresees that by 2018, 10 sectorial charters will be established and implemented with interested partners. Sectoral charters aim to develop biodiversity-friendly practices and also to allow the concerned industries to communicate about these actions. For example, the federation of quarry (FEDIEX) signed in April 2012 and began to implement a sectoral charter on biodiversity (See: <http://www.fediex.be/uploads/File/FEDIEX%20RA%202012%20BD%20FINAL.pdf>, page 20). The Direction Nature is currently in contact with other sectoral federations: Aquaviva, Infrabel, SPAQuE and Agoria. These four charters could be signed in 2013.

Initiatives on the basis of the participatory approach

Several initiatives on the basis of the participatory approach contribute to biodiversity protection in Wallonia (see FFH17 of SER 2017) (see Action 14): In addition to river contracts, there are 9 types of Programmes As of 01/05/2016, 61% of municipalities had implemented between 4 to 6 programmes, and 10% combined 7 or 8 programmes (only two municipalities coordinated 8 programmes, none had yet coordinated all 9 programmes). The tree week, the late mowing of roadsides and the Maya Plan (Plan Maya) were at the top of the list with respectively nearly 99%, 86% and 80% participation.

Through the charter that they sign for 6 years, the Maya municipalities commit themselves to carry out improvements which benefit pollinating insects as well as awareness-raising actions. The late mowing of roadsides (16,000 km for about 3,600 ha), which had already been launched but was strengthened as part of the Maya operation, allows the flora of these areas to reach full maturity.

As regards tree week, municipalities can apply for aid for the distribution of seedlings, the creation of a green space and the planting of trees and hedges.

Among the oldest programmes, the arrangement of church lofts and bell towers for bats and birds has almost reached its 50% participation target and has been suspended.

The most recent programme promotes the gradual and continuous reintegration of biodiversity into municipal cemeteries: 53 cemeteries in 13 municipalities were awarded the Nature Cemetery label (label Cimetière Nature) in 2015.

The AlterIAS programme aims to reduce the introduction of invasive alien plants and encourages municipalities to use indigenous species.

Finally, 56 municipalities are associated with one of the 10 natural parks in Wallonia and as such are committed to protecting, managing and sustainably developing their territory through a management plan.

A municipality may draw up, in consultation with all local stakeholders, a Municipal Nature Development Plan (Plan communal de développement de la nature - PCDN) for which an annual subsidy may be requested.

Brussels-Capital Region

Numerous initiatives to increase comprehension of issues of nature and the city, and to encourage adoption of practices that facilitate their coexistence are already existing in the Brussels Capital Region. The nature plan provides for developing further informative initiatives to promote the image of Brussels - green city, nature city - and to strengthen partnerships with the numerous associations active in protection and raising awareness of nature. Participatory management of local green spaces will also be supported to encourage public adoption and involvement. In addition, conclusion of contracts of objectives between Brussels Environment, the AATL (Administration de l'Aménagement du Territoire et du Logement, Urban Planning and Housing Administration), Brussels Mobility, the municipalities, the STIB (Société des Transports Intercommunaux de Bruxelles, Brussels Intercommunal Transport Company) and the other public

parties in charge of management of public areas will be encouraged to strengthen and formalise the existing collaborations on development and management of green spaces.
(Source: Project of Regional Nature Plan in the Brussels-Capital Region, Brussels Environment, 2013)

Federal level

Business and biodiversity

See above for strategy #BeBiodiversity and BiodiversiTee.

Lancement de la plateforme belge “Business and Biodiversity” (see further).

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 5.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote and support stakeholders involvement *inter alia* through partnerships at all levels of decision-making relating to biodiversity.

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Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des partenariats avec les parties prenantes sont mis en place à différents niveaux de la prise de décision et pour la mise en oeuvre sur le terrain.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/5#5.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 5.2

Related to objective 5.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Encourage the involvement of the private sector in the protection of biodiversity, as an integral part of business planning and operations.

Flemish Region

Private-public partnerships and stakeholder involvement

In the short term, the Government of Flanders is increasing the number of partnerships with the private sector, organisations and citizens to strengthen the integration of nature conservation, nature restoration and the development of measures in their project management. To achieve the biodiversity ambitions of the Flemish authorities, the Agency for Nature and Forests focusses on the collaboration with partners and the integration into the policy of other entities (project examples: Bosland (<http://www.bosland.be/>), L&R-over Antwerpen, Nationaal Park Hoge

Kempen, Zwin, Sigma plan, ...). One objective of the Nature & Forest policy is encouraging integrated nature management by NGOs, other private owners and local authorities. The Agency for Nature and Forests supports and facilitates partners, as well as makes them aware of their responsibility in relation to the accessibility and the sustainable use of nature, forests and green spaces. Some examples of Private-public partnerships and stakeholder involvement are given below:

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Business and biodiversity – see above: Green Deal B@B established in 2018

The objectives of the Agency for Nature & Forests include other specific actions to enhance the integration of biodiversity concern and measures for conservation with socio-economic objectives:

- Aspects that are being explored include the development of incentive measures such as green taxes, support for land rehabilitation and restoration of nature and landscape values, support for private – public partnerships for biodiversity conservation actions
- New ways are being explored for effective integration of biodiversity into sectoral economic activities, such as improving the biodiversity content of environmental impact assessments, site management and conservation of biodiversity on domains of private companies, sustainable provision of raw materials, sustainable harvests and resource management, certification schemes...
- Consultation groups are set up between the Agency for Nature & Forests and: Drinking Water Companies, Waste Water Management (Aquafin), Waste Handling Companies (Remo), the Department Vlaamse Waterweg (Waterways) and De Scheepvaart (Shipping), Port Authorities to

discuss environmental impact assessments and other approaches, finding best solutions for limited impacts and for mitigation and/or compensation measures and identify voluntary practices to enhance natural carrying capacity and ecosystem functions. For example, there is a cooperation agreement between the Agency for Nature & Forests and REMO for the implementation of an ‘Action plan for restoration and development of habitats’ on the sites of the waste management company. There is also a strategic planning process for harbour development located in Natura 2000 sites that includes actions for restoration and conservation of habitats and species.

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- With the private sector in energy production from biomass ways are explored for effective production and retail of biomass from the Agency’s nature and forest areas.

- Consultation and advisory committees have been set up with several sector groups to enhance integration of biodiversity issues into their policies: agriculture, river fisheries, foresters, hunters.

Other examples of implementation

NGO Natuurpunt developed guidance sheets for various actions for nature development and conservation on domains of private companies: <https://www.natuurpunt.be/pagina/biodiversiteit-en-bedrijven>.

Walloon Region

Business and biodiversity

Agreements exist with the private sector (quarries, electricity companies, railroad companies ...). Some examples of public-private partnerships:

- Elia (and formerly Electrabel) have signed conventions with the Nature and Forest administration for the ecological management of areas under high-voltage electrical lines.
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- ECOSEM is a private company (university spin-off) specialised in the production of indigenous seeds and plants of local provenance.
- Charter with the quarries sector for biodiversity protection and restoration purposes.

Brussels-Capital Region

The Brussels-Capital Region participates actively in the Business & Biodiversity initiative led by the federal government. Some specific agreements with CITYDEV (previous SDRB) have been made in order to promote biodiversity into businesses by making pilot project for boosting ecological business parks.

Federal level

Business and biodiversity

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5): Two studies were carried out in 2012-2013 in order to better integrate biodiversity in key market players (business, consumer, civil society ...).

"Consumers and biodiversity" study: This study shows how the federal government can encourage biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services, adopting measures to alter the demand for goods and services to consumers and citizens. This study is line with the 'Biodiversity barometer' of the UEBT.

"Business and biodiversity" study: The key objective of this study is to move to sustainable consumption and production patterns by encouraging important market players to integrate biodiversity (and ecosystem services) and therefore fully explore the potential of preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources for a triple win: an economic, a social and an environmental one. In this study, biodiversity is promoted through a broader environmental approach in the context of sustainable development.

The following sectors/filières were selected (this doesn't exclude other sectors from being approached by the federal government for negotiating on appropriate measures):

- Food business value chain, i.e. the Food processing sector together with the preceding sector in the supply chain (Agriculture/Fisheries) and the subsequent sector in the supply chain (Retail)
- Chemical business value chain, i.e. the Chemical and Life Sciences sector, together with the preceding sector in the supply chain (i.a. Agriculture/Minerals extraction) and the subsequent sector in the supply chain (Retail)
- The Finance and Insurance sector and the subsequent sector in the supply chain (Retail).

The structured analysis of BES (biodiversity and ecosystem services) impacts and dependencies of the selected sample of business value chains ('filières') clearly demonstrates that:

- Each business sector has a range of BES impacts and dependencies, some more significant than others
- BES impacts and dependencies should be identified and assessed along the whole value chain
- Insight in these BES impacts and dependencies and where in the business value chain they are generated is necessary in order to identify instruments that might be most effective.

This study resulted in an open-list of suitable instruments, categorized as regulatory, co-regulatory and voluntary instruments which might be applied or supported by the federal government in the short and mid term. These instruments within the competence of the federal government are complementary to those within the competence of other institutional levels such as the regional or the EU/global -level. The final chapter identifies concrete recommendations to this end.

The outcomes of the study will serve to prepare concrete actions with the relevant stakeholders in order to promote market opportunities favourable to biodiversity (and ecosystem services).

The output of those studies was presented during a workshop in December 2013 which initiated also some positive debate with the stakeholders.

Faisant suite au plan fédéral pour l'intégration de la biodiversité dans 4 secteurs clés et aux études prospectives ci-dessus menées à la fois sur le volet consommateurs et sur le volet entreprise et reconnaissant donc que la conservation de la biodiversité et surtout l'utilisation durable de ses composantes n'est possible que si citoyens, entreprises et autorités publiques allient leurs efforts et agissent chacun à son niveau, le fédéral a lancé, en 2017, une stratégie #BeBiodiversity dans une optique de coresponsabilité (autorités/citoyens-consommateurs/entreprises).

En mars 2019, les 4 administrations de l'environnement (fédérale et régionales), des fédérations d'entreprises, les syndicats et les principales ONG du pays ont lancé la Plateforme belge « Business and Biodiversity » dont l'objectif premier est de rassembler les stakeholders et d'échanger des informations relatives aux actions/développements pris ou souhaitables par ou pour tous les acteurs du monde de l'entreprise pour préserver la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques dans leurs activités en mutualisant les ressources à disposition.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 5.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Encourage the involvement of the private sector in the protection of biodiversity, as an integral part of business planning and operations.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

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Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

L'intérêt du secteur privé pour la biodiversité augmente clairement.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/5#5.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 5.3

Related to objective 5.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure that this strategy is taken into account in decision-making and policy discussions and encourage the development and use of guidelines for the integration of biodiversity into all relevant sectoral policies.

Flemish Region

Through the establishment of the regional consultation forum on Natura 2000 the integration of the nature conservation objectives is further promoted to enhance taking up of responsibilities by the respective sectors represented for taking into account and supporting nature conservation into their own working procedures.

Brussels-Capital Region

In an urban context, where space is necessarily restricted and real estate pressure is significant, the plan also proposes approaches and tools for improving urban projects, both public and private. A “Nature Facilitator” has been established to support designers of plans and projects and advise them on planning favourable to nature and biodiversity in the city. An overall indicator (biotope area factor) has been developed to quantitatively and qualitatively evaluate incorporation of nature into plans and projects. This tool will be made available to the authorities responsible for granting environmental and town-planning permits. (Source: Project of Regional Nature Plan in the Brussels-Capital Region, Brussels Environment, 2013)

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 5.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure that this strategy is taken into account in decision-making and policy discussions and encourage the development and use of guidelines for the integration of biodiversity into all relevant sectoral policies.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des actions ont été menées pour intégrer la biodiversité dans les politiques sociales et économiques sectorielles; cela ne se fait toutefois pas de manière systématique, avec peu de résultats sur le terrain (voir nombre d'espèces et types d'habitats encore en « rouge » = non-favorable), et des lignes directrices mériraient d'être élaborées.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/5#5.3>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 5.4

Related to objective 5.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Identify in strategic planning the negative and positive effects of the different sectoral policies (land-use planning, transport, energy) on priority elements of biodiversity, and take measures to correct or strengthen these effects.

Flemish Region

Examples of implementation

EIA-procedures imposed for development projects, licenses needed for alteration of bottom relief, vegetation and hydrological system; stricter protection regimes in FEN and Natura 2000.

Protection provisions

For the screening of projects/plans with potential impact on Natura 2000 an overall approach was developed to make 'the appropriate assessment' more tailored and more accessible. For this purpose, the development of an on-line pre-screening system was initiated.

Walloon Region

The Walloon decree on environmental permits classifies establishments according to their impact on humans and the environment: class 1 and 2 activities, potentially the most polluting, require a permit, while class 3 activities, which are less polluting, only require a declaration to the municipality. In addition, class 1 projects are automatically subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA). This is a scientific study carried out by an approved office that highlights the effects of a project on the environment and health. For other projects, an EIA is required if the project is likely to have significant environmental impacts. The permits issued by the competent authorities are subject to general, sectoral, specific or full operating conditions depending on the type of activity and/or type of equipment. More over, appropriate impact assessment studies are applicable according to art. 6.3. of the habitat directive when there is a significant risk of a plan or a program on a Natura 2000 sites.

Brussels-Capital Region

Framework of the compensatory measures in the case of projects or plans affecting the integrity of a protected site

The 'Habitats Directive' states that any plan or project likely to compromise, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, achieving the conservation objectives of a protected site, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications (art. 6). In case of significant expected impact on a Natura 2000 site despite potential mitigation measures, the plan or project can be authorized only with the prior grant of an exemption granted by the Government under the following cumulative conditions:

- . there is no other alternative solution less damaging to the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;
- . the realization of the plan or project is justified for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature;
- . compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected or enhanced are prescribed.

The European requirement for an appropriate assessment was implemented as follows by the new ordinance on nature conservation: "Any plan or project requiring a permit, authorization or approval, not directly connected with or necessary to the ecological management of the [protected] site but likely to affect significantly, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to [...] an appropriate assessment of its implications on the site in view of the [protected] site's conservation objectives. "(Art. 57, § 1). In the Brussels-Capital Region, this concept will now apply both for Natura 2000 sites (art. 57 to 64) and for natural and forest reserves (art. 65). The appropriate assessment shall include at least the information and factors referred to in Annex VIII of the ordinance on nature conservation (Art. 57, §2).

(Source: Nature Report of the Brussels-Capital Region, 2012)

The Regional Nature Plan foresees the following measure: develop an indicator to evaluate the taking into account of nature into projects.

Federal level

SEA procedures include biodiversity criteria and refer to relevant national policy documents such as the Belgian Biodiversity Strategy, the CBD and biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.

Examples of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5):

Measures in fishing areas: Regarding transport, taking specific measures in fishing areas and reserves in favour of marine fauna and flora was implemented through the management plans for the Natura 2000 areas in the Belgian Part of the North Sea.

Environmental strategic assessments: Development of a SEA handbook to guide the managers of plans and programs and/or the persons in charge of the environmental assessments. The handbook includes criteria relating to the biodiversity, based on CBD guidelines. Inclusion of biodiversity components and expert consultation in implementing SEA for various plans and programs.

Inclusion of biodiversity in the directive 2001/42/CE on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as well as in the law of 13 February 2006 transposing it.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 5.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Identify in strategic planning the negative and positive effects of the different sectoral policies (land-use planning, transport, energy) on priority elements of biodiversity, and take measures to correct or strengthen these effects.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

X Measure taken has been effective

- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Politiques pour les Études d’Incidences Environnementales des Projets (EIE-Projets), les Evaluations Environnementales Stratégique des Plans et Programmes (EES-PP), et la responsabilité environnementale sont en place.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/5#5.4>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country’s national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 5.5

Related to objective 5.5 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and encourage the development and application of incentives favourable

to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including economic, fiscal and financial instruments.

Flemish Region

CAP direct payments under cross compliance to ensure compliance with i.a. biodiversity legislation and some supplementary rules (for example measures to counter erosion, obligation to maintain amount of permanent grasslands on farm level).

Code of good agricultural practices nature and biodiversity to stimulate farmers to take into account biodiversity in their operations.

Research and projects to test, demonstrate and stimulate sustainable use of biodiversity in farming context.

Local projects to i.a. green farm sites, create pools, prune trees and hedges...

The Flemish rural development program consists of support for some agro-environmental measures having direct effect on biodiversity:

- organic agriculture,
- planting and maintenance of orchards with tall fruit trees,
- preservation of local breeds,
- mechanical weed control,
- confusion technique in fruit cultivation,
- cultivation of Leguminosae,
- agroforestry.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries also financed some demonstration projects with a direct positive effect on the (agro-)biodiversity, such as the project on genetic diversity in vegetables (<http://www.zelfzadentelen.be>), where information is gathered and shared to stimulate farmers in growing their own seed of their own local varieties.

The Agency for Nature and Forests provides subsidies to:

- NGO's for acquisition of land, management of reserve areas and for infrastructure for public access to the areas
- private land owners for development and implementation of nature management plans
- local authorities for afforestation projects, development of green infrastructure in urban areas, management of nature areas.

Budget for nature

The Flemish environment authority wants to evaluate and reform potentially environmentally harm-ful subsidies. For this purpose, it is working on alternative funding and on enabling other Flemish policy areas (e.g. ecology funding) to have a greater influence on the use of resources for environmental objectives. Collaboration with other policy areas and levels of government is an important point of attention in several domains, including the various tracks to evolve towards a green economy.

Incentive measures

The objectives of the Agency for Nature & Forests include specific actions to enhance the integration of biodiversity concern and measures for conservation with socio-economic objectives. Aspects that are being explored include the development of incentive measures such as green taxes, support for land rehabilitation and restoration of nature and landscape values, support for private – public partnerships for biodiversity conservation actions.

Walloon Region

Financing of several measures of the Walloon rural development program has a direct positive effect on biodiversity:

- measures in relation to agri-environmental subsidies
- Natura 2000 remunerations for the farmers
- Natura 2000 remunerations for the forestry sector
- conservation and valorisation of the rural patrimony

Subsidies for biological agriculture.

Supplementary subsidies for agri-environmental measures in Natura 2000 sites and in the main ecological structure areas (SEP).

Subsidies for the planting of hedges, tree rows and orchards.

Subsidies attributed through the 'Plan Communal de Développement de la Nature', for delayed mowing, for the program 'combles et clochers', within river contracts, for the Maya Plan, for natural parks, for the action 'Semaine de l'Arbre', etc.

Subsidies for the regeneration of broadleaved and conifer species.

Subsidies for the acquisition of land that will be designated as nature reserve.

Dispensation of property tax and of succession and donation rights within Natura 2000.

Forestry Code: dispensation of succession and donation rights to improve the profitability of forestry production. This disposition also stimulates private owners to develop forest stands with a diversified age composition.

Moreover, the Walloon Region gives subsidies to nature associations for management or for communication and awareness purposes.

Cross compliance mechanism under the CAP.

Natura 2000:

- agricultural compensations are available to farmers; they can be cumulated with agri-environmental measures
- compensations are also available to forest owners
- restoration and acquisition subsidies are available for all Natura 2000 sites and SEP sites, for all owners and farmers
- subsidies for the management of open spaces are also available

Non-financial incentives:

- PEFC label
- BIO label

Brussels-Capital Region

The new nature ordinance foresees several cases where positive incentives may be accorded by the Government: public awareness and information (art. 4), scientific research (art. 5), protected areas management and ground purchases (art. 35, 55), management and development of urban biotopes and other key elements of the ecological network (art. 66), actions in favour of protected species (art. 72).

The Regional Nature Plan foresees among others the following measure: to co-ordinate and to guide nature support mechanisms.

Federal level

Following the adoption of the European Maritime and Fishery Fund (EMFF, 2014-2020) the Flemish administration in charge of the Fishery Policy prepared the Operational Programme. The federal administration gave input so as to facilitate the use of EMFF for the restoration of the marine Natura 2000 areas and to support the implementation of measures of the EU-Marine Strategy Directive.

The reflexion is under discussion to see how to consider this issue in particular in the preparation of the next FPSD and in a future roadmap on resources efficiency at the federal level.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 5.5 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and encourage the development and application of incentives favourable to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including economic, fiscal and financial instruments.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Un Plan fédéral d'intégration de la biodiversité dans quatre secteurs fédéraux clés 2009-2013 a été adopté fin 2009. Celui-ci identifie plus de 70 actions concrètes pour intégrer la diversité biologique au sein des secteurs de l'économie, de la coopération au développement, de la politique scientifique et des transports. Parmi les ambitions du Plan, on notera aussi celle d'encourager le développement d'instruments économiques, fiscaux et financiers pour la biodiversité (y compris pour le secteur privé).

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/5#5.5>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 5.7

Related to objective 5.7 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Consider the potential impact on biodiversity, and in particular the invasiveness of species, in making import and export decisions.

Federal level

Reviewing/update of existing legislation to prevent introduction of IAS in Belgium (which will lead to an import/export ban of some IAS at federal level, ban of introduction of IAS into the environment in Brussels (art. 77 and 75 Ord. nature), etc.).

The Federal law on nature conservation of 12 July 2012 (modifying the law of 12 July 1973) foresees a number of provisions on IAS (regulate, suspend or prohibit the import, export and transit of non-indigenous plant and animal species and their remains). In implementation of this law, Pest Risk Assessments have been prepared in 2013 for 21 species.

Species introduction in marine areas

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5): The risk of species introduction in marine areas was considered during the development of the federal maritime policy, including through appropriate application of appropriate instruments.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 5.7 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Consider the potential impact on biodiversity, and in particular the invasiveness of species, in making import and export decisions.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Un Plan fédéral d'intégration de la biodiversité dans quatre secteurs fédéraux clés 2009-2013 a été adopté fin 2009. Celui-ci identifie plus de 70 actions concrètes pour intégrer la diversité biologique au sein des secteurs de l'économie, de la coopération au développement, de la politique scientifique et des transports. Ce plan est actuellement en cours d'évaluation. Plusieurs actions concernent la réglementation en matière d'espèces exotiques envahissantes.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/5#5.7>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Objective 5.9 - Encourage the implementation of CITES with the aim of supporting conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

At the federal level a dedicated website and online application system was developed (www.citesinbelgium.be). Via this online portal, clients can apply to obtain their CITES documents, which are necessary to trade legally in CITES-listed species of animals, plants or derived products. The CITES Management Authority is enabled to analyse the applications done via the online system, thus digitalizing the whole process except for the actual issuance of the documents, which is still needed on paper, because it needs to accompany the specimen in trade. The signature on the documents is also done electronically. In order to avoid fraudulent use of the documents, a QR code is embedded on the back of the documents, providing enforcement officers as well as traders the possibility to check the veracity of the documents at hand. Nevertheless, due to the listing of the African Grey parrot at CoP17 which caused almost a doubling in the number of certificates to be issued in 2017-2018, resulted in a significant delay in the issuance of certificates. This in turn triggered some illegal sales of these animals because breeders did not want to wait for the necessary certificate.

Furthermore, for the implementation of CITES in Belgium, negotiations are ongoing to sign a formal agreement for cooperation between the federal and the regional level.

Several training actions were undertaken by the CITES MA, both for traders and breeders (mostly in parrots and birds of prey) but also for the refuge centers as well as the local and federal police. Furthermore a team of federal inspectors was set up to undertake investigations of the breeding and trading on the Belgian territory. The same team is also competent for the controls on Invasive Alien Species as well as the European Timber Regulation (EUTR).

At the international level, Belgium is a candidate to become a permanent member of the CITES Standing Committee, after having been the alternate for Portugal for two mandates. This will be decided at CoP18. Belgium has also worked together with the European commission to submit a proposal to tighten the rules with regards to the trade in a tropical timber species for which Belgium is a big importer, which will be decided upon at CoP18.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

The effective implementation of CITES contributes towards the achievement of Aichi Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 5.11

Related to objective 5.11 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Integrate biodiversity values into national (federal and regional) policies, programmes, planning processes and reporting systems, and develop an approach to support incorporation into national accounting if needed.

Flemish Region

Decision-making in spatial planning, land use changes and development projects have to take into account the values of biodiversity; to support the procedures guidances for impact assessment have been developed, for Natura 2000 an on-line screening system of projects is being developed based on new scientific knowledge on impacts by various threat factors and on maps of habitats and distribution of species that form the basis for the management planning of nature areas. The Agency for Nature and Forests further enhances the valuation of nature, forests and green spaces: with ecological, economic and monetary valuations additional arguments are developed to ensure appropriate assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services values in evaluation studies of development projects, and to enhance integration of the costs and benefits of forests, nature and green spaces in the decisional process.

In the framework of the economic function of nature and forest reserves, the Agency for Nature and Forests tries to better understand the market principles in order to be able to give the sector a better insight in the consequences of the different policy options.

Some project examples: cost-benefit analyses of the conservation objectives in the framework of Natura 2000, capacity-building and case studies on ecosystem services, eco-hydrological studies, valuation of green structures in cities, ...

Study report (in Dutch) 'Raming van de baten geleverd door het Vlaamse Natura 2000-netwerk' and English summary.

Study reports on ecosystems and values of the Research Institute:
<https://www.inbo.be/nieuws/natuurrapport-ecosysteemdiensten-verschenen>.

Development of online tool: The Nature Value explorer focuses on pragmatic methods that value these ecosystem services and helps planners, land managers and policy makers to map nature's socio-economic importance: <https://www.natuurwaardeverkenner.be/#/>

Walloon Region

The Environment Code ('Code de l'Environnement') integrates dispositions in relation to biodiversity. Following the first principle of the Environment Code, the environment encompasses all natural spaces, landscapes, resources and environments as well as the air, the soil, the water, the diversity and the biological balances. It stipulates that the environmental policy of the Walloon Region relies on preventive action. Its second principle states that the Region and the other public authorities are in charge of the environment and that they have to guarantee its preservation or, if necessary, its restoration. These principles are also to be followed when the other policies of the Region are developed and implemented.

The Environment Code stipulates which projects are subject to an environmental impact assessment.

The Nature and Forest Division is consulted for the environmental and related permits.

CoDT: Code for territorial development

The article D.II.23 of CoDT list all the different zones in land planning such as the ones which are not subject to urbanization (nature area, green space area, forests areas, agriculture area, park areas).

Le CoDT prévoit la possibilité d'inscrire en surimpression au plan de secteur des « périmètres de liaison écologique » (art. D.II.21 et R.II.21.6 du CoDT): ce périmètre «vise à garantir aux espèces animales et végétales les espaces de transition entre leurs biotopes. Les actes et travaux soumis à permis peuvent y être soit interdits, soit subordonnés à des conditions particulières de protection». This is only applied in a very few cases.

Le Code du Patrimoine réglemente le classement de sites faisant l'objet de mesures de protection. Certains sites de grand intérêt biologique figurent à l'inventaire des sites classés.

One of the objectives of the Water Code ('Code de l'Eau') is to prevent supplementary degradation as well as to preserve and enhance the state of the aquatic ecosystems as well as the wetlands depending on them.

The river action programs by sectoral approach (PARIS) intend to follow an integrated approach by planning the different interventions (for Natura 2000, the Flood Decree, etc.) in the short and the longer term.

The Walloon strategy to adapt to climatic changes will encompass a section on biodiversity. It will take biodiversity into account when designing and applying the numerous adaptation measures.

Several measures of the Air-Climate Plan take biodiversity into account:

- determine the critical loads of nitrogen, heavy metals, persistent organic substances, etc. and take action when levels are exceeded
- facilitate the migration through an adequate ecological network
- preserve the role of forests and natural spaces
- take measures to prevent erosion, for example by planting hedges

One of the five objectives of the Forestry Code is to combat climate change and preserve biodiversity.

Biodiversity is one of the issues analysed in the reports on the state of the Walloon environment.

A Nature Code is foreseen by the 'Direction Générale Agriculture, Ressources naturelles et Environnement'. Discussions are currently ongoing to include new measures related to Nature (in particular Natura 2000) in the 'Code Wallon de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Urbanisme, du Patrimoine et de l'Énergie' and in the 'Walloon Rural Development Program'.

Brussels-Capital Region

Vision expressed in the Regional Nature Plan: 'the ambition of the Brussels-Capital Region at the horizon 2050 is that of a region where all the forms of nature have their place, from the most spontaneous to the most managed ones, and where the inhabitants are aware of the value of and show respect for the natural patrimony, while investors and the public authorities consider it as an asset for the attractivity and the sustainable development of the city.'

Objective 7 of the Regional Nature Plan states: 'the Brussels-Capital Region intends to continue its actions in the framework of the stimulation of and the support to the scientific research related to nature in the city, and will focus more particularly:

- on the evaluation of the state of conservation of the natural habitats and the species present on the regional territory;
- on the development of the ecological network within the region;
- on the integration of biodiversity in the urban context and on the evaluation of the ecosystem services.'

Federal level

Some measures of the federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors are focussed on this issue, in particular in the economy and science policy sectors (see action 5).

The reflexion is under discussion to see how to better integrate biodiversity values in particular in the preparation of the next federal plan for sustainable development. The Second Federal Plan for Sustainable Development 2004-2008 (FPSD2) was adopted by the Federal Council of Ministers on 24 September 2004. Action 18 is devoted to the preservation and maintenance of biodiversity and actions 19 and 20 deal with forests and marine waters. It was extended until the adoption of the next plan. A new Federal Plan for Sustainable Development for 5 years is being prepared, which will include the federal long term vision for sustainable development adopted in 2013 by the government, and will be based on the outcomes of the federal reports on sustainable development. Some specific measures and actions related to biodiversity and ecosystem services should be included. A pre-project is in preparation and must be further discussed in May 2014.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 5.11 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Integrate biodiversity values into national (federal and regional) policies, programmes, planning processes and reporting systems, and develop an approach to support incorporation into national accounting if needed.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La valeur socio-économique de la biodiversité commence seulement à être reconnue. Si un certain nombre d'actions sont prises, cela ne se fait toutefois pas de manière systématique et des lignes directrices mériteraient d'être élaborées. Un certain nombre d'acteurs clés, notamment privés, ne se sentent pas encore concerné par la biodiversité.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/5#5.11>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 6.2

Related to objective 6.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: By 2014, ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

In order to prepare the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) in Belgium, a study was issued by the four competent authorities, and to identify and evaluate the possible consequences for the Belgian national legislation and regulation, as well as for Belgian stakeholders, resulting from this implementation. Two stakeholders' dialogues were organised in May 2012 and April 2013 in view of Belgian ratification by summer 2014. This study is publicly available and can be found on the Belgian CBD CHM:
<http://www.biodiv.be/implementation/cross-cutting-issues/abs/20130321-final-report-np-abs-be.pdf>. Preliminary results of that study were also presented by Belgium during ICNP2.

Based on the results of the study, a phased approach was adopted by the relevant Belgian regional and federal authorities for the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Its purpose was to maintain the necessary flexibility in order to allow integration of future developments that will result from ongoing European and global discussions, while still allowing a timely ratification.

Belgium ratified the Protocol on 9th August 2016.

Simultaneous to and after the ratification process, the competent authorities discussed and prepared the needed legal measures to implement the provisions of the Protocol. Several additional actions were taken to consult stakeholders (workshops, interviews, questionnaire).

A political agreement on the shared competences of the competent authorities was achieved in November 2016. According to this agreement, the three regions and the federal authority were to develop separate sets of legal measures implementing provisions of the Protocol covered by their competences.

The different pieces of legislation are at distinct levels of development and adoption.

CEBioS/RBINS has undertaken several information workshops to scientists at RBINS, the Africa Museum and Meisje to inform them about the Nagoya Protocol, the EU regulation implication towards how to handle the acquisition and use of genetic material in the collections.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 6.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: By 2014, ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Belgium ratified the Nagoya Protocol on 09.08.2016. Its implementation in Belgium is coordinated within a contact group.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/6#6.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 6.4

Related to objective 6.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: By 2020, create operational mechanisms to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Belgium participates in relevant international discussions and has subscribed to several processes concerning traditional knowledge. Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be recognised in access and benefit-sharing arrangements. The participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in appropriate forums should be supported. Furthermore, the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge will be integrated into those Belgian development cooperation or scientific cooperation projects that target indigenous and local communities as primary stakeholders.

Flemish Region

The Flemish Fund for Tropical Forests is particularly emphasising this aspect.

Walloon Region

Example of a measure applied in the Walloon Region: promote the use of the Ardennais horse for several actions within vulnerable environments.

Federal level

The federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5) addresses traditional knowledge. Actions foreseen in this action plan with regard to traditional knowledge are the following:

- collect ethno-botanic data for central Congo,
- cultivate useful plants in the botanical garden of Kisantu,
- valorisation of useful mushrooms in Eastern Congo,
- valorisation of the ‘Prélude’ database of medicinal plants.

Belgian Development Cooperation projects that aim to support indigenous communities in partner developing countries.

Actions by CEBioS at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences for example included:

1. the valorisation of orally transmitted knowledge and the identification, mapping and vulgarisation of the most common local plants, their vernacular names and habitats in DR Congo through the publication of a vulgarization lexicon in order to provide a resource to local rangers and other users for habitat monitoring and protection. Since 2014 2 lexicons have been published in this series:
 - Houenahou, T.; Assede, E.; Habiyaremye Muhashy, F.; Sogbohossou, E.; Kouton, M.; Ondjè Agbani, P.; Houinato, M. Yaoitcha, A. Gbeffe, A. 2017 - La Réserve de Biosphère de la Pendjari (Bénin). Guide & lexique pour le suivi des parcours naturels : Habitats, Faune et Feux. IRSNB. 142pp.
 - Habiyaremye Muhashy, F. et Nzigidahera B., 2016 – Habitats du Parc National de la Kibira (Burundi) Lexique des plantes pour connaître et suivre l’évolution des forêts du secteur Rwegura. IRSNB. 144pp.
2. Projects on medicinal and edible mushrooms based on information from the local population have been undertaken in Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo. This has resulted in the establishment of a network for mycologists for scientists and practitioners in the three countries, funded by ARES (<https://mycorgl2016.jimdo.com/r%C3%A9seau/>)
3. In Burundi, Niger and Bénin projects were promoted to include the traditional healers in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This resulted in Burundi in the establishment of a MoU between traditional healers and the researchers at the University of Burundi.

Within the existing legal framework, conceiving the ‘bundle of rights’ as an innovative mechanism of allotment of tangible and intangible rights on biological resources and related data (see MOSAICS project and ‘bundle of rights’ concept).

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 6.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: By 2020, create operational mechanisms to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La Belgique participe à la création de mécanismes opérationnels pour protéger les connaissances, les innovations et les pratiques des communautés autochtones et locales incarnant des styles de vie traditionnels pertinents pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable de la biodiversité.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/6#6.4>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 7.1

Related to objective 7.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Compile and synthesise existing data and information and disseminate this knowledge to a wider audience.

Invasive alien species

Invasive alien species: the Belgian Forum on Invasive Species (moderated by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform) is participating in the Daisie project (Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe (<http://www.europe-alien.org/>) and is actively contributing to the development of IAS information systems for national and international use.

Taxonomy (including access to natural history collections)

Three Belgian scientific institutions participate in the EDIT and SYNTHESYS projects financed by the European Union. Belgium was founding member of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and its federal and federated scientific institutions are involved in several relevant international projects.

Flemish Region

Reports of research studies can be consulted on:
<http://informatiecentrum.inbo.be/imis.php?page=start>
<http://www.vmm.be/pub>
<http://www.inverde.be/kennis-en-publicaties>

For status and trends on main species groups: <http://www.biodiversityindicators.be>.

Communication on Natura 2000

For the general communication on Natura 2000 and about the process for establishing the conservation objectives an online newsletter was developed – http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Natuurbeleid/Natuur/Natura_2000/Nieuwsbrief.aspx.

The preparation of an umbrella website Natura 2000 was initiated in collaboration with the INBO.

Walloon Region

'Etat de l'environnement wallon'

The elaboration of an annual report on the status of the Walloon environment is an obligation by decree since 12.02.1987. The reports on the status of the Walloon environment lead to the annual publication of the 'Tableau de Bord de l'Environnement' which gives, based on about sixty indicators, an evolving vision on the environmental situation. Each 5 years the 'Tableau de Bord de l'Environnement' is complemented by a more complete and analytical report. Aim of this report is to follow up the evolution of the environmental situation, to analyse it in relation to the pressures and executed actions, and to compare it with the fixed objectives. Biodiversity is one of the elements analysed by these reports (<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be>).

Portal on biodiversity in the Walloon Region

700 species, 500 biotopes and 2,000 sites of high biological value. For every habitat and species, a description, the legislation, the ecology and the status are provided for (<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be>).

Brussels-Capital Region

The Report on the state of the natural environment in the Brussels-Capital Region is intended to provide an objective basis for directing policy and defining the regional strategy for natural development.

Using indicators and situational inventories, it provides an update on the state of the natural environment and of biodiversity in Brussels (conservation state of habitats and species, main threats assessment). It also evaluates the impact of current nature and biodiversity policies. It is intended for political and administrative decision-makers and the other actors – who are numerous – whose activities affect nature conservation.

(Source: Brussels Environment, 2012, and ICLEI Africa Secretariat, 2013. Challenges for nature in Brussels. Summary of the nature report)

Information on species-based data for the Brussels-Capital Region can be found at:

http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/NARABRU_20120910_FR_150dpi.pdf (French)

http://documentatie.leefmilieubrussel.be/documents/NARABRU_20121004_NL_150dpi.PDF (Dutch).

Federal level

Species register

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5), sector Science policy: a centralized, hierarchically structured and annotated catalogue of eukaryotic species was developed, which includes all eukaryotic species of Belgium.

Clearing-house mechanism

The Belgian CHM has continued to support the exchange of relevant information for this target through the national CHM website (<http://www.biodiv.be>). In collaboration with the Swiss CHM, InforMEA and UNEP a tool (DART) is under development to facilitate the reporting obligations on the implementations of national and the EU biodiversity strategies by Parties, as well as to the CBD and related Conventions. It will focus on using indicators for the Aichi Targets and the SDGs. The Belgian CHM is an active member of the EC CHM network. The work of the Belgian CHM, coordinated by the CEBioS programme, was recognised during the first CHM award at COP13 of the CBD where it received the third price for the existing CHMs.

Others

Development of a Living Planet Report for Belgium: synthesise existing data and information and disseminate this knowledge to a wider audience.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 7.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Compile and synthesise existing data and information and disseminate this knowledge to a wider audience.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des efforts ont été consacrés à la compilation des données et informations existantes et à leur diffusion vers un public cible constitué principalement des preneurs de décision.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/7#7.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 7.2

Related to objective 7.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote and encourage research that contributes to the knowledge and understanding of Belgium's biodiversity and ecosystem services and their values.

Financing of scientific research contributing to the best knowledge on, and understanding of biodiversity, ecosystems services and functions, their value and their socio-economic benefits.

The first phase (2012-2017) of the recurrent framework programme for research, BRAIN-be (Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks, see: <http://www.belspo.be/BRAIN-be/>) has been approved in 2012. It allows, through the funding of research projects based on scientific excellence and European and international anchorage, to meet the needs for scientific knowledge of the federal departments and to support the scientific potential of the Federal Scientific Institutes. One of the 6 thematic areas of this framework programme is "Ecosystems, biodiversity, evolution"; the integration of biodiversity issues is also taking into account in some of the other axes.

Biodiversity research

Belgian universities and scientific institutions are involved in many European-funded research projects on biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. See the CORDIS

database (<http://cordis.europa.eu>) as well as in many projects funded by the Belgian science policy office (see biodivERsA database). Belgium is a founding member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and has organized national stakeholders in this process through Communities of Practice on Ecosystem Services (BEES network: <http://www.BEEScommunity.be>) and the Belgian Community of Practice on Biodiversity and Health (COPBH).

Science policy and research (policy)

The Belgian science policy office is a member of the BiodivERsA project (2009-2014). BiodivERSA is a European network involving 21 major research funding agencies (belonging to 15 European countries) with significant research funding in the field of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity. Most members are represented on other fora which discuss and recommend requirements for European biodiversity research: including the CBD (SBSTTA), Diversitas, the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) and the European Science Foundation (ESF). Recommendations from these fora are often made without a formal mechanism to ensure connection with the strategies, priorities and budgets of national research funding agencies. BiodivERSA contributes to setting up such a mechanism, to achieve an efficient trans-national research co-operation in the field of biodiversity research funding. With the aim of contributing to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, BiodivERSA allows the funding agencies to collate existing activities, compare future strategies and recommendations of consultative bodies, and systematically explore opportunities for future collaboration. BiodivERSA also contributes to better coherence and increased synergies between the national programmes of cooperation with developing countries in the field of biodiversity research funding. Furthermore, the Belgian Biodiversity Platform participates in the EPBRS network (European Platform for Biodiversity Research and Strategy).

Flemish Region

To streamline and support coordination of monitoring of species by volunteer groups of NGOs monitoring blue prints and methodologies and common data bank systems have been developed: <https://www.natuurpunt.be/pagina/waarnemingenbe>.

Importance of biodiversity for ecosystem services

The Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest published a report focussing on biodiversity as a basis for ecosystem services in Flanders. For each ecosystem service they addressed, the authors gave a definition, underlined the contribution of biodiversity, illustrated the interaction between functional biodiversity and the ecosystem service, gave the actual trend, and proposed measures to strengthen the ecosystem service and the underlying biodiversity. The report (in Dutch) is available at: <http://www.inbo.be/files/bibliotheek/90/240790.pdf>.

Enhancing knowledge on habitats and species of European interest and the conservation objectives

In the scientific research priority attention was given to enhancing knowledge on habitats and species of European interest and the conservation objectives: scientific basis for the determination and evaluation of regional objectives G-IHD and site objectives S-IHD; methodology for a calibration model to optimize the distribution of the objectives over the various Natura 2000 sites and to evaluate effects of the implementation of the objectives on socio-economic processes; development of an on-line system for the pre-screening of the appropriate assessment; scientific basis for the determination of reference values for main effects groups; basis to use population-genetic principles for the analysis of bottlenecks on connectivity between areas and to determine

favourable reference values; cost-benefit analysis of Natura 2000; development of plans and methodology for the monitoring of habitats and species.

A new GIS-related database system has been developed to enhance exchange of knowledge and progress of work on the implementation of the nature objectives in the framework of Natura 2000. An interactive tool on knowledge about habitats, species, management practices,... has been developed as a tool for exchange of knowledge and capacity building: <https://www.ecopedia.be/>.

Walloon region

Research in relation to biodiversity is integrated in other framework programmes like the one on forestry research as well as other research projects linked to different elements of the environment (forests, hunting and fishing, biodiversity and nature, water, ...).

Brussels-Capital Region

Objective 7 of the Regional Nature Plan (in development) states: ‘the Brussels-Capital Region intends to continue its actions in the framework of the stimulation of and the support to the scientific research related to nature in the city, and will focus more particularly:

- on the evaluation of the state of conservation of the natural habitats and the species present on the regional territory;
- on the development of the ecological network within the region;
- on the integration of biodiversity in the urban context and on the evaluation of the ecosystem services’.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 7.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote and encourage research that contributes to the knowledge and understanding of Belgium’s biodiversity and ecosystem services and their values.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 X Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des efforts ont été consacrés à la promotion de la recherche de base contribuant à la connaissance et compréhension des concepts de biodiversité et à la recherche relative aux avantages socio-économiques de la biodiversité.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/7#7.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 7.3

Related to objective 7.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: develop adequate monitoring methodologies and biodiversity indicators.

Flemish Region

An extensive monitoring programma has been developed to monitor habitats and species of European interest and the effects of management measures in nature and forest reserves and government domains. Cooperation in monitoring of species has been established with NGO's through the system of waarnemingen.be.

Monitoring and reporting

"Nature report 2007: State of nature in Flanders: data for policy" gives a comprehensive reporting of the conservation status and the trends of habitats and species. For the following reporting in 2019 a more focused monitoring is being developed, priorities and inventory networks are determined and methodologies are worked out. The reports are being finalised for submission mid-2019.

Brussels-Capital Region

Since its creation in 1989, Brussels Environment - IBGE is responsible for the monitoring of biodiversity in the Brussels-Capital Region. The studies and projects undertaken to this end fall within one of the following programs:

- the information and monitoring network for assessing the state of the environment by using bio-indicators (ISEEBru)
- monitoring Natura 2000
- the management assessment
- the permanent forest inventory

To meet the need to better coordinate the existing initiatives for monitoring and tracking between them, and to develop them, Brussels Environment – IBGE has developed with INBO (Research Institute for Nature and Forest) a monitoring strategy for biodiversity monitoring in the Brussels-Capital Region. The result, presented in the form of a comprehensive report (Van Calster & Bauwens 2010), deals in particular with:

- priorities in the information needs
- development of data collection
- planning for data processing, analysis and reporting

(Source: Nature Report of the Brussels-Capital Region, 2012)

Based on that, this quinquennial monitoring plan has been adopted by the regional government. Including monitoring of management of the regional green spaces this monitoring plan will allow the efficacy of the actions implemented to be evaluated.

(Source: Project of Regional Nature Plan in the Brussels-Capital Region, Brussels Environment, 2013)

Walloon Region

The "State of Environment Report - Wallonia 2017" (SOERW 2017) presents an assessment of the environmental situation and performance of Wallonia through a compilation of environmental, socio-economic, administrative and health indicators. This latest publication is part of a series of reports on the state of the Walloon environment that have been published regularly for 35 years. The diversity of the data collected, their monitoring over time, their validation, processing, analysis and dissemination make these reports remarkable documents in Wallonia.

The assessment of the state of the components of the environment makes it possible to identify ongoing deterioration and degradation, monitor the evolution of this degradation, implement appropriate responses or estimate the effectiveness of measures already taken.

The Biodiversity (Fauna, flora and natural habitats) set of indicators in the SOER provides an overview of the state of biodiversity in Wallonia and provides insight into the main trends.

<http://etat.environnement.wallonie.be/home/home-en.html>

Furthermore, an extensive monitoring programme is in place to monitor habitats and species of European interest in accordance with the EU Nature Directives.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 7.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: develop adequate monitoring methodologies and biodiversity indicators.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La mise au point de méthodologies de surveillance et d'indicateurs de la biodiversité au niveau national reste lacunaire.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
[<Add link>](#) [<Add file>](#)

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/7#7.3>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 7.4

Related to objective 7.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services and assess the values of such services.

Flemish Region

Some valuation and related studies:

An example of an economic valuation study of a habitat is the one carried out on the value of the Heverleebos-Meerdaalwoud in 2000. Putting together direct values (economic use: wood, mushrooms, other forest products, hunting permits, drinkable water, recreation, ...), indirect values (ecological use: carbon sequestration, pollution break down, noise absorption, mitigation of erosion, habitat for fauna and flora, ...), optional values (such as tourism) and existential values

(intact natural landscapes, rare and threatened species, aesthetics, ...) led to a yearly total value of more than 24 million euro for this forest of 2,000 ha, equalling more than 12,000 euro per hectare and per year. A Dutch summary of this study is available at:
http://www.econ.kuleuven.be/ete/downloads/SUMMARY_VLINA1.pdf.

Other examples of related research projects are ECOFRESH (ECOsystem services of FRESHwater systems, <http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/projects/ecofresh.e.pdf>, final report: http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/Reports/ECOFRESH_FinRep_2012_AD_2.pdf), ECOPLAN (Planning for Ecosystem Services, a conference was held on 31.05.2013: http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=*ECOB&n=76239), VOTES (Valuation Of Terrestrial Ecosystem Services in a multifunctional peri-urban space, <http://www.votes-project.be>). The latter project investigates how the values of ecosystem services are likely to change under different scenarios. The issues of trade-offs, transfer, communication and distribution of ecosystem services are examined under economic, social and environmental perspectives with the local community and stakeholders. Development of new and/or adaptations to existing policy instruments is suggested, which implement the developed methodology into decision-making processes.

Studies on mapping and valorisation of ecosystem services ongoing. Based on this study, indicators may be developed.

The "nature value explorer"

The website <http://www.natuurwaardeverkenner.be>, called the "nature value explorer", is a calculation tool to value ecosystem services and can help everyone who wants to map the socio-economic importance of ecosystems. The calculated figures inform policy makers of the gain or loss of welfare resulting from the impact of a project or policy on the delivery of ecosystem services.

Importance of protected areas

The Flemish Institute for Technological Research and the universities of Antwerp and Ghent investigated the value of the Natura 2000-network in Flanders. They found out that the 166,000 hectares of protected areas in Flanders had among others the following benefits: more than 34 million tons of CO₂ stored each year, 4,000 to 8,000 tons of fine dust eliminated from the air each year, 16 million m³ of water purified each year and a gain of 2100 healthy life years (for about 1.8 million people), between 26 and 43 million visitors yearly. The experts concluded that the Natura 2000-areas in Flanders have a total value of 800 million to 1.2 billion euro for society. And this is still an underestimation given the fact that only 11 of the known 36 ecosystem services were taken into account. The report (in Dutch) is available at: http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Natuurbeleid/Natuur%20en%20Natura%202000/Natura_2000/Waarom/Voordelen.aspx.

For the summary in English:

<http://www.natuurenbos.be/~/media/Files/Themas/Natuur/Natura%202000/abstract%20estimate%20benefits%20Natura%202000%20-%20EN.pdf>.

Walloon Region

The only legal text in Wallonia that specifically uses the concept of ES is a Walloon Government Decree regulating hedge planting.

The Wal-ES platform, which brought together the Public Service of Wallonia and Walloon universities, aimed to develop tools for public decision making using the concept of ES and to support initiatives around this concept. During its pilot phase from mid-2014 to mid-2016, Wal-ES defined a conceptual framework clarifying the concept of ES and a framework guiding their assessment. A typology of ESs adapted to the Walloon context has been set out and a database of available information and a website have been developed. This platform is no longer active.

In line with the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, a mapping and assessment of ESs at the regional level are in progress. An environmental and socio-economic impact assessment tool for rural land development projects based on the concept of ES has been developed. It allows local actors to be taken into account while ensuring the multifunctionality of the agricultural territory.

Unfortunately, only one project has applied the recommended actions until now.

Further work of Wal-ES is necessary to make it possible to accompany projects for the evaluation of ESs in Wallonia and the development of decision-making support tools that can be used by local and regional stakeholders (e.g. analysing the costs/benefits of infrastructure for regulating runoff, mud flows and erosion, analysing the contributions of green infrastructure to socio-economic development in land-use planning, carrying out a comparative analysis of brownfield site development scenarios, etc.).

Of the 400 species of bees present in Belgium (399 species of wild bees and bumblebees), only the honey bee *Apis mellifera L.* produces honey. In our regions, about 75% of the flowering plants reproduce thanks to pollinators (mainly wild bees, with the honey bee contributing no more than 15% of the pollination of crops). In Wallonia, the economic value of pollination can be worth several hundred million euros per year (see SOER2017 FFH 7).

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 7.4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services and assess the values of such services.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/7#7.4>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 7.6

Related to objective 7.6 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Improve our knowledge of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Flemish Region

Valuation of ecosystem services

The website <http://www.natuurwaardeverkenner.be>, called the "nature value explorer", is a calculation tool to value ecosystem services and can help everyone who wants to map the socio-economic importance of ecosystems. The calculated figures inform policy makers of the gain or loss of welfare resulting from the impact of a project or policy on the delivery of ecosystem services.

Importance of protected areas

The Flemish Institute for Technological Research and the universities of Antwerp and Ghent investigated the value of the Natura 2000-network in Flanders. They found out that the 166,000 hectares of protected areas in Flanders had among others the following benefits: more than 34 million tons of CO₂ stored each year, 4,000 to 8,000 tons of fine dust eliminated from the air each year, 16 million m³ of water purified each year and a gain of 2100 healthy life years (for about 1.8 million people), between 26 and 43 million visitors yearly. The experts concluded that the Natura 2000-areas in Flanders have a total value of 800 million to 1.2 billion euro for society. And this is still an underestimation given the fact that only 11 of the known 36 ecosystem services were taken into account. The report (in Dutch) is available at: http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Naturbeleid/Natuur%20en%20Natura%202000/Natura_2000/Waarom/Voordelen.aspx.

For the summary in English:

<http://www.natuurenbos.be/~media/Files/Themas/Natuur/Natura%202000/abstract%20estimate%20benefits%20Natura%202000%20-%20EN.pdf>.

Importance of biodiversity in the city

The Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests launched an inventory of the benefits of green in the city. The inventory identified not less than 14 ecological, social and economical benefits: climate mitigation, climate adaptation, air quality, noise mitigation, water management, human fitness and health, city agriculture, social cohesion, recreation and tourism, nature education, biomass, better housing and higher estate values, attractiveness to businesses. The inventory also shows the high costs when there is not enough city green. Full report and summary, both in Dutch, are available at: <http://www.natuurenbos.be/nl-BE/Naturbeleid/Groen/Investeer%20in%20groen.aspx>.

Federal level

Valuation of Belgian ecosystems

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5), sector Science policy: Assessing the socio-economic value of biodiversity in Belgium. A BEES (Belgium Ecosystem Services) cluster was carried out with the aim to identify, stimulate, structure and focus research on ecosystem services in Belgium. This cluster materializes through a series of workshops covering different aspects of research including those developed and ECOFRESH (ECOsystem services of FRESHwater systems, <http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/projects/ecofresh.e.pdf>, final report: http://www.belspo.be/belspo/ssd/science/Reports/ECOFRESH_FinRep_2012_AD_2.pdf) and VOTES (Valuation Of Terrestrial Ecosystem Services in a multifunctional peri-urban space, <http://www.votes-project.be>). The latter project investigates how the values of ecosystem services are likely to change under different scenarios. The issues of trade-offs, transfer, communication and distribution of ecosystem services are examined under economic, social and environmental perspectives with the local community and stakeholders. Development of new and/or adaptations to existing policy instruments is suggested, which implement the developed methodology into decision-making processes.

The BEES cluster has evolved into a community of practice open to all actors (now about 60 people) involved in the integration of ecosystem services into policy, business, management and the Belgian society. The BEES community (<http://www.beescommunity.be>) promotes the development and exchange of experiences, best practices, concepts and methodologies. A "BEES book" containing the contributions of many actors BEES community has been edited. The BEES community is hosted by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform secretariat.

The BEES Community is an open and flexible network that interfaces between different societal actors. The BEES community is open to all potentially interested organizations (policy, business,

NGO's, science, consultancy, civil society,...). It was among others set up as a result of the BEES (BElgium Ecosystem Services) cluster of the Belgian Science Policy and the project 'BElgium Ecosystem Services - A new vision for society–nature interactions' (final report available on: http://www.belspo.be/belspo/SSD/science/Reports/FinalReport_BEES%20ML.pdf).

The BEES Community has the following objectives:

- Develop ecosystem services concepts, tools and practices that help to adapt human activity and clarify ecosystem thresholds in order to preserve the actual and potential well-being of present and future generations; and to stop ecosystem and biodiversity degradation and improve their status.
- Develop mainstreaming & policy tools to promote the integration of ecosystem services concepts in policy and management, business and society.
- Facilitate capacity building, exchange of expertise and experience: including methodologies and transfer of knowledge on Belgian ecosystem services to policy and share the needs from policy makers on this issue, to enable involvement of Belgian actors in national and international initiatives and build the capacity to conduct assessments of ecosystem services.
- Provide overviews of state of the art knowledge and best practices

On 27.04.2012, a conference on The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity in Belgium was organised in Brussels. The programme and presentations are available at <http://www.teebelgium.be/page/show/7>. The themes and presentations of previous workshops are available at <http://www.teebelgium.be/page/show/4>.

Financing of scientific research contributing to the best knowledge on, and understanding of biodiversity, ecosystems services and functions, their value and their socio-economic benefits.

The first phase (2012-2017) of the recurrent framework programme for research, BRAIN-be (Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks, see: <http://www.belspo.be/BRAIN-be/>) has been approved in 2012. It allows, through the funding of research projects based on scientific excellence and European and international anchorage, to meet the needs for scientific knowledge of the federal departments and to support the scientific potential of the Federal Scientific Institutes. One of the 6 thematic areas of this framework programme is "Ecosystems, biodiversity, evolution"; the integration of biodiversity issues is also taking into account in some of the other axes.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 7.6 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Improve our knowledge of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des efforts ont été consacrés à la recherche relative aux avantages socio-économiques de la biodiversité.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/7#7.6>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 7.7

Related to objective 7.7 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Improve the science-policy interface in biodiversity and promote actor participation.

Improve the links and communication between research and policy

The science-policy interface has been improved through the establishment of Communities of Practices (CoP) at national level in support of the recently established Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), such as the communities of practice BEES (BElgium Ecosystem Services, see below, - and its working group BE-MAES for the mapping of ecosystem services), Invasive Alien Species, the Belgian Community of Practice on Biodiversity and Health (COPBH).

Science policy and research (policy)

The Belgian science policy office is a member of the BiodivERsA project (2009-2014). BiodivERSA is a European network involving 21 major research funding agencies (belonging to 15 European countries) with significant research funding in the field of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity. Most members are represented on other fora which discuss and recommend requirements for European biodiversity research: including the CBD (SBSTTA), Diversitas, the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) and the European Science Foundation (ESF). Recommendations from these fora are often made without a formal mechanism to ensure connection with the strategies, priorities and budgets of national research funding agencies. BiodivERSA contributes to setting up such a mechanism, to achieve an efficient trans-national research co-operation in the field of biodiversity research funding. With the aim of contributing to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, BiodivERSA allows the funding agencies to collate existing activities, compare future strategies and recommendations of consultative bodies, and systematically explore opportunities for future collaboration. BiodivERSA also contributes to better coherence and increased synergies between the national programmes of cooperation with developing countries in the field of biodiversity research funding. Furthermore, the Belgian Biodiversity Platform participates in the EPBRS network (European Platform for Biodiversity Research and Strategy).

Promote actor participation

Six stakeholders dialogues/debates between Federal and Regional administrations, political cells on environment and main stakeholders were organised; two on ABS issues (2012, 2013), one on "Recent achievements and steps forwards for biodiversity in Europe and internationally" (2011), one on "Updating the National Biodiversity Strategy until 2020" (2013), one during a study dedicated to the integration of biodiversity in the business sector (June 2012), one at the end of 2 studies on the integration of biodiversity in key market players (business and consumers, but also civil society) (December 2013). A public consultation was organised in 4 languages (EN / FR / NL / DE) on the pre-project of update of the NBS (May-July 2013).

Flemish Region

The yearly implementation plan includes an overview of research projects to gather new information for guiding policy planning or development or review of measures for biodiversity conservation. Research covers the following main thematic aspects: distance to target to conservation objectives, spread-densities-habitat dependencies of species (groups), ecohydrology and relations to flooding and droughts and pollution, impact of climate change, impact of various effect groups on habitats and species of European interest, effect of control measures on main invasive species, species and population modelling and population dynamics of game species and relation to hunting pressures, population genetics, priorities for defragmentation and impacts on migration and population dynamics.

Federal level

BRAIN-be

At the federal level, the recurrent framework programme for research, BRAIN-be (Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks) has been approved in 2012. It allows, through the funding of research projects based on scientific excellence and European and international anchorage, to meet the needs for scientific knowledge of the federal departments and to support the scientific potential of the Federal Scientific Institutes. One of the 6 thematic areas of this framework programme is 'Ecosystems, biodiversity, evolution'; the integration of biodiversity issues is also taken into account in some of the other axes.

The Belgium Ecosystem Services (BEES) Community

Given the importance assigned to the subject, a Belgian community of practice was launched on ecosystem services (April 2012). The Belgium Ecosystem Services (BEES) Community (<http://www.beescommunity.be/en/>) is an open and flexible network that interfaces between different societal actors. The BEES community is open to all potentially interested organizations (policy, business, NGO's, science, consultancy, civil society, ...). It was among others set up as a result of the BEES (BELgium Ecosystem Services) cluster of the Belgian Science Policy and the project 'BELgium Ecosystem Services - A new vision for society–nature interactions' (final report available on: http://www.belspo.be/belspo/SSD/science/Reports/FinalReport_BEES%20ML.pdf).

The BEES Community has the following objectives:

- Develop ecosystem services concepts, tools and practices that help to adapt human activity and clarify ecosystem thresholds in order to preserve the actual and potential well-being of present and future generations; and to stop ecosystem and biodiversity degradation, and improve their status.
- Develop mainstreaming & policy tools to promote the integration of ecosystem services concepts in policy and management, business and society.
- Facilitate capacity building, exchange of expertise and experience: including methodologies and transfer of knowledge on Belgian ecosystem services to policy and share the needs from policy makers on this issue, to enable involvement of Belgian actors in national and international initiatives and build the capacity to conduct assessments of ecosystem services.
- Provide overviews of state of the art knowledge and best practices

On 27.04.2012, a conference on The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity in Belgium was organised in Brussels. The programme and presentations are available at <http://www.teebelgium.be/page/show/7>. The themes and presentations of previous workshops are available at <http://www.teebelgium.be/page/show/4>.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 7.7 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Improve the science-policy interface in biodiversity and promote actor participation.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des efforts ont été consacrés à l'amélioration des liens et de la communication entre le secteur de la recherche et la politique, et à la promotion de la participation des acteurs.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/7#7.7>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 7.8

Related to objective 7.8 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote research on the effects of GMOs and products of synthetic biology on biodiversity and on related socio-economic aspects, and on methodologies to assess these.

Federal level

A workshop entitled 'Vision on the evaluation of socio-economic impact of genetically modified organisms in food: evaluation of the socio-economic impact of GMOs' was organized in Brussels by the Federal Public Service health, Food Chain Safety and Environment on 29.03.2010. Further information and report:

www.health.belgium.be/eportal/Environment/BiodiversityandGMO/GMOs/19069120?backNode=9222.

Belgian delegates and experts were invited to participate in +/- 13 weeks (in 2011 and 2013) international online discussions relative to socio-economic considerations of LMOs in the context of the Cartagena Protocol. One delegate of the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment was invited by the Secretariat of the Protocol, on the basis of her participation in the online forum, in an international workshop on the issue in New Dehli (November 2011). The discussions were aimed at reaching a common ground of international understanding of Art. 26.1 of the Protocol (dealing with this issue), before developing some kind of international guidance to implement this article.

Belgian delegates and experts are also presently participating (in the context of the ESEB, European GMO Socio-Economic Bureau) in the development of consensual documents on methodologies for the evaluation of socio-economic implications of the cultivation of LM plants in the EU.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 7.8 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote research on the effects of GMOs and products of synthetic biology on biodiversity and on related socio-economic aspects, and on methodologies to assess these.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des efforts ont été consacrés à la recherche visant l'étude des effets des OGM sur la biodiversité et sur les aspects d'ordre socioéconomique y afférents.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/7#7.8>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 8

Related to objective 8 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Involve the community through communication, education, public awareness and training.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness activities are undertaken by all 3 regions and by the federal administration, as well as by numerous stakeholders (universities, scientific institutions, NGOs, provincial and local authorities) each in their field of competence.

A national coordination group (the 'CEPA contact group' under the Belgian Steering Committee 'Biodiversity Convention') has been set up for the exchange of information and the coordination of activities relating to public awareness. One of its main tasks is to identify activities for the International Day on Biological Diversity on 22 May (see www.biodiv.be/implementation/ibd).

Numerous Belgian governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic entities, scientific institutions, private companies and other actors celebrated the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) through a diverse set of events and activities. A non-exhaustive overview of Belgian IYB activities can be found in the official Belgian report to the CBD 'Overview of Belgian celebrations in the framework of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity': <http://www.cbd.int/iyb/doc/celebrations/iyb-Belgium-FinalReport2.pdf>. Additional information is available on the following webpage: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/country/?country=be>.

Development of national coordinated CEPA actions on the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

Several actions were carried out in this context: yearly celebration of the International Biodiversity Day; promotion of public engagement towards biodiversity conservation, e.g. through the national engagement campaign 'I give life to my planet'

(<http://www.jedonnevieamaplanete.be>), creation of an online educative kit for schools (<http://jedonnevieamaplanete.enclasse.be>), press releases. Numerous Belgian governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic entities, scientific institutions, private companies and other actors celebrated the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) through a diverse set of events and activities. The CBD National Focal Point presents an overview of the diverse Belgian IYB activities that took place in Belgium's final report of the International Biodiversity Year (<http://www.cbd.int/iyb/doc/celebrations/iyb-Belgium-FinalReport2.pdf>).

Involve the community through education and training.

Trainings on the theme of biodiversity were organized at different levels. At the federal level, training cycles were provided, in partnership with the CBD National Focal Point team, to: the "underwriters" of the Ducroire / Delcredere (Belgian Export credit agency, 2010-2011); the Federal Directorate General for Development Cooperation (2011), the members of the SNCB Group (B-holding, Infrabel, Tucrail, Eurostation) (2012), the Maritime Transport and the DG for the Environment (2012), the EMAS federal network coordinating the environmental management of the federal institutions (2012), the FPS Economy (2012), the FPS for Public Health, Food Security and Environment (2014), and the secondary school teachers (yearly from 2011 to 2014). The training workshops were especially adapted to the needs of the participants with a special focus on their professional activities.

Flemish Region

Introduction of use of new types of media through facebook, twitter.

Use of ecopedia as online information system.

Local events and activities in nature areas with enhanced public access to promote awareness on value of nature for healthy environment, food, human health and recreation, ...

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 8 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Involve the community through communication, education, public awareness and training.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Suivant l'Eurobaromètre, il reste de nombreux progrès à accomplir pour changer l'attitude des citoyens. Des efforts et budgets croissants sont consacrés à des actions d'information, sensibilisation et éducation en matière de biodiversité, et ce, vers tous les acteurs.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/8>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 8.1

Related to objective 8.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Strive to include biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as the ecosystem approach in educational programmes.

Flemish Region

Specific school programmes MOS (Environment at School) and education projects by the Division for Nature and Environment Education of the Department.

Walloon Region

Different organisms provide educational school programmes in relation to nature conservation. The ‘Institut d’eco-pédagogie’ organises additional training courses for teachers on how to get in touch with nature. The ‘Réseau Idée’ assists schools to integrate activities aiming for the discovery of and sensitisation on nature and the environment. The Walloon Region finances and distributes pedagogic kits on different themes related to the environment and the natural heritage. The ‘Centres de Dépaysement et de Plein Air’ (CDPA), established by the French Community, conduct training and education activities in relation to the environment for schools.

Brussels-Capital Region

Regional centres for ecology initiation receive funding to develop training programs for schools. Communication actions for schools also exist.

The biodiversity theme is integrated in the general education and public awareness programmes of the Brussels Institute for Environmental Management (brochures, leaflets, presence at fairs and other public events, actions oriented towards families, schools, citizens, etc.). The Institute has a well-developed website with extensive information in French and Dutch (<http://www.ibgebim.be>). Financial and logistic support is given to NGOs for awareness and educational programmes. Among others, there is a programme called “Nature in the garden” which helps city dwellers develop a nature-based approach to their gardening practices (<http://www.natureaujardin.be/>)

The Regional Nature Plan foresees the following measure: improve the support to NGOs that are active in the field of public awareness and education.

Partnership with Perspective Brussels has been signed to promote biodiversity into school with 5 or 6 pilot projects to illustrate best practices. A brochure has also been published for schools to explain them how they can integrate biodiversity into educational courses and within the school.

Federal level

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences participates in the ‘sciences congress’ that provides training on biodiversity for science teachers.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 8.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Strive to include biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as the ecosystem approach in educational programmes.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

Measure taken has been effective

Measure taken has been partially effective

Measure taken has been ineffective

Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Les écoles et universités reprennent progressivement la biodiversité dans leurs programmes.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/8#8.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 8.2

Related to objective 8.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote understanding of the importance of biodiversity and improve knowledge of Belgium's biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Flemish Region

The Agency for Nature and Forests uses a varied set of tools to make every inhabitant of Flanders aware of biodiversity, including website, newsletter and brochures as well as information sessions and consultations but also new social media twitter and facebook:

- increases the impact of its public awareness activities through integration and the collaboration with partners and other entities (support of target groups, collaboration projects with the private sector, structural consultations with focus groups, ...)
- as a good host, the Agency wants to open up its green spaces as much as possible in a way that they can be experienced by everybody (ADAGIO project)
- supports and facilitates partners, as well as makes them aware of their responsibility in relation to the accessibility and the sustainable use of nature, forests and green spaces, as well as about the extent in which they can be experienced
- executes enforcement actions to obtain respect for nature, forests and green spaces
- applies a communication strategy to strengthen the social and political basis for biodiversity

Cooperation in the new TV series 'Wild van dieren' and 'PlattelandsTV' for educational and awareness purposes of the general public on specific aspects of species and site conservation issues.

Activities undertaken by the visitor centres of the Agency for Nature and Forests and provincial authorities.

Financial support for Nature/Environment NGO's for awareness and educational programmes. Organisation/participation in events related to biodiversity: outings, conferences, markets, fairs, ...

Public consultation and brochures on the Environment & Nature Policy Plan, Press conferences such as for the launch of Nature Reports NARA and Environmental and Nature Reports MIRA, newsletters, booklets and leaflets, brochures on the main domains of the Agency, website of the Agency with links to various topics on nature conservation issues (<http://www.natuurenbos.be>), development of apps with specifics on nature sites, the habitats and the species you may see there, special attractions of views, birdwatch towers, etc.

NGO's such as WWF, Natuurpunt, Natagora, Greenpeace, Goodplanet, etc. play an important role in awareness raising and educational activities:

- publish their newsletters and brochures on the biodiversity of the reserves and other areas they manage, on species or ecosystems they want to get attention for, on their campaigns, ...
- organise continuous awareness activities and guided tours in nature areas, management activities in reserve areas, youth training sessions on identification of species and nature education, training of volunteer groups for species monitoring and management.

Walloon Region

Several actions to raise awareness on biodiversity are undertaken:

- awareness campaigns by the administration (many brochures, media campaigns, informative sessions, etc.)
- the website 'La biodiversité en Wallonie': <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6>
- the network of 'Centres Régionaux d'Initiation à l'Environnement' (CRIE) is made of centres for environmental education and awareness; their actions are mainly (but not exclusively) oriented towards school children aged 6-12
- one of the objectives of the natural parks is to inform their visitors and raise awareness on biodiversity
- most LIFE projects include public awareness activities
- naturalists' associations organise public awareness and education activities oriented towards nature conservation (e.g. excursions, visits of nature reserves, management of nature reserves, publications, etc.) or towards specific thematic areas (e.g. forests, quality of watercourses, etc.)
- through partnerships such as the river contracts, 'Plans Communaux de Développement de la Nature', the road verges operation, the 'Semaine de l'Arbre', etc.
- through the 'Plan Maya' on bees and pollinators
- the TV program 'Jardin extraordinaire' of the French Community addresses nature and biodiversity topics from Belgium and worldwide
- other associations such as GAWI (integrated and biological fruit production) and CARI (protection of pollinators) receive support from the Walloon Region to raise awareness on biodiversity
- the right to access environmental information is integrated in the Environment Code ('Code de l'Environnement'); one of the objectives is to make the environmental information readily available through websites and other technological means

- Nature associations also conduct communication campaigns
- L'asbl Natagriwal: Organise des séances d'information pour les propriétaires et gestionnaires forestiers et agricoles;
- International Nature Film Festival <http://www.festivalnaturenamur.be/>; Born in 1995, the Finn is now the meeting place for the lovers of nature and beautiful images, bringing together each year more than 35.000 spectators and visitors of all backgrounds! With it's three international competitions - photos, home movies and professional films - and it's many outdoor activities, it is now placed among the 5 biggest European events of the kind, bringing together each year photographers and filmmakers from around the world.

Brussels-Capital Region

Regional centres for ecology initiation receive funding to develop training programs for schools. Communication actions for schools also exist.

The biodiversity theme is integrated in the general education and public awareness programmes of the Brussels Institute for Environmental Management (brochures, leaflets, presence at fairs and

other public events, actions oriented towards families, schools, citizens, etc.). The Institute has a well-developed website with extensive information in French and Dutch (<http://www.ibgebi.be>). Financial and logistic support is given to NGOs for awareness and educational programmes. Among others, there is a programme called “Nature in the garden” which helps city dwellers develop a nature-based approach to their gardening practices (<http://www.natureaujardin.be/>) Public consultation and information campaigns for biodiversity action are organised (e.a. on the extension of protected areas in forests).

Objective 7 of the Regional Nature Plan states: ‘the Brussels-Capital Region intends to continue its actions in the framework of the stimulation of and the support to the scientific research related to nature in the city, and will focus more particularly:

- on the evaluation of the state of conservation of the natural habitats and the species present on the regional territory;
- on the development of the ecological network within the region;
- on the integration of biodiversity in the urban context and on the evaluation of the ecosystem services’.

The Regional Nature Plan foresees the following measures:

- promote the participative management of public green spaces
- develop a global communication strategy in relation to nature and biodiversity
- install a ‘nature facilitator’ service aimed towards the developers of plans and projects
- promote good management practices of the green spaces
- improve the support to NGOs that are active in the field of public awareness and education
- install a ‘nature task force’ to strengthen the partnerships and coordination with the field actors
- formalise the ‘nature partnerships’ between the field actors and the Brussels-Capital Region by the signing of targets contracts

Federal level

Some examples of recent publications:

- booklet '366 tips voor de biodiversiteit / 366 gestes pour la biodiversité' was published in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity and will be reprinted for the third time in 2013. Based on this booklet, the European Commission published the booklet '52 tips for biodiversity' in several languages.
 - booklet 'Levend water! Biodiversiteit en Natura 2000 in het Belgische deel van de Noordzee / Une eau vive ! Biodiversité et Natura 2000 dans la partie belge de la mer du Nord' (2012)
 - booklet 'Een mariene strategie voor de Noordzee / Une stratégie marine pour la mer du Nord' (2012)
 - booklet Something's moving at sea (2014)
- Somewhat less recent publications that have been edited or reprinted several times and are still very much asked for by schools, administrations, press, etc.:
- booklet 'Biodiversiteit in België: een overzicht / La biodiversité en Belgique: un aperçu' (a new edition is scheduled in 2013)
 - booklet 'Biodiversiteit in België: van vitaal belang / La biodiversité en Belgique: une question vitale' (a new edition is scheduled in 2013)
 - booklet 'Biodiversiteit in België: de opmars van exoten / La biodiversité en Belgique: SOS invasions' (a new edition is scheduled in 2014)
 - booklet 'Bezint eer je met hout begint - FSC en PEFC voor een verantwoord bosbeheer' / FSC et PEFC : le bois certifié ! Un petit conseil avant d'acheter ?'
 - booklet 'Bombybook, biodiversifieer je met Bombylius / Bombybook, biodiversifiez-vous avec Bombylius'
 - booklet 'Bombylius helpt de planeet / Bombylius protège notre planète'
 - booklet 'Stop de verspreiding van invasieve waterplanten / Halte à la prolifération de plantes aquatiques invasives'

- several folders, brochures, dvd's and a website were developed during the AlterIAS LIFE project (ALTERnatives to Invasive Alien Species, see: <http://www.alterias.be/>) in collaboration with the Regions
- several actions were put in place in accordance to the Bees federal plan (see also http://www.jedonnevieamplanet.be/fr/biodiversite/publications_66.aspx)

Campaigns

The engagement campaign ‘I give life to my planet’ is a close collaboration between the Belgian CBD National Focal Point, based at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the Ministry for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and the Environment and several partners at the regional, provincial, local and NGO-level. The campaign has for objective to engage people in favour of biodiversity, by stimulating individuals to take small and simple steps that will have long-term positive effects. The campaign presents practical tools, relevant information and useful contacts to motivate people who want to take action. People can commit themselves via an engagement form or a website. The campaign, originally launched in 2007, was reactivated in 2010 during the International Year on Biological Diversity and will be up and running at least during the entire Decade for Biodiversity 2011-2020: <http://www.ikgeeflevenaanmijnplaneet.be/> / <http://www.jedonnevieamplanet.be>. This unique concept incites people to sign in a special form and online about their personal involvement to preserve and promote biodiversity in their own environment. This concept also allows to keep statistics about the outcome of such a campaign. Up to now, almost 24,000 people have committed themselves to execute more than 87,000 actions for biodiversity.

Participation in fairs and other public events

The federal Ministry of Environment and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences both participate regularly in fairs and public events in order to disseminate information and raise awareness on biodiversity.

Exhibitions

In 2010, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences opened a new permanent exhibition hall on ‘biodiversity in cities’. During the following years, it will dedicate several renovated halls to biodiversity.

At the request of a member of the European Parliament (MEP), Catherine Bearder - ALDE group, the Belgian National Focal Point for Biodiversity (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences) coordinated an exhibition (9-11 July 2018) in their headquarters. Main objective was to raise awareness on the issue of wildlife traffic among the members and collaborators of the European Parliament. An evening event and a press conference were organised during the exhibition.

Collaboration of the following partners: Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), Botanic Garden Meise, WWF-BE, WWF-EU, World Conservation Society (WCS), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), TRAFFIC, Brussels Airport Company, project Barcoding of Organisms and tissues of Policy Concern (BOPCO), project Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (CEBioS), CITES Management Authority (FPS Environment), Greenpeace, Liège University, Belgian Customs.

The exhibition consisted of three main sections (1. What is wildlife trade and traffic, 2. Scale and impacts, 3. Solutions and recommendations) and two case studies (1. Bushmeat, from bush to plate / 2. Wood: from forest to home).

Some results/conclusions:

- * More than 1500 staff members of the European Parliament and their colleagues visited the exhibition during the three days.
- * More than 90 specimens were on display.
- * Working towards the exhibition, a broad collaboration was set up: creation of new and tightened collaborations between all the involved actors to enhance synergies and efficiency.
- * The development of the exhibition also fits in the awareness project conducted with Brussels Airport Company (ongoing).
- * The requesting MEP and her staff were impressed and very grateful for the successful exhibition. Work has been intensified in the framework of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.

A special event (Bee Party) was organised in July 2010 to celebrate the IYB. Theme of the event was the (unsuspected) importance of pollinators in our daily lives. More than 4,100 people visited the event that took place at the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences. Through 22 info stands, 29 organisations and NGO's presented their work to promote pollinisation and products that depend on it. The event had a special section to showcase public awareness activities on the importance of pollinators that were organised in developing countries with funding by the Ministry of Development cooperation (see below). The same day a special seminar was organised on the taxonomy of African pollinators and the related manual that was published in the ABC-Taxa series. Another scientific conference dedicated to bees took place in June 2013.

Capacity building

The CHM partnership initiative contains a special Public Awareness component for partner countries. Between 2009-2013, 13 small projects to raise public awareness in partner countries have been implemented in 9 countries thanks to the support of the Belgian Development Cooperation.

In 2009 a special call was launched to enable partner countries to prepare public awareness activities for the International Year on Biodiversity 2010 on the importance of pollinators and their recent decline. 3 projects in Burundi, Benin and Cameroun were selected. The projects consisted of 2 phases: first a research phase in 2009 on the importance of pollinators in the specific country; second, a public awareness phase on the results of the study with a special event during the International Day on Biodiversity in 2010.

In 2011 a special call was launched to assist partner countries to research possible indicators for Aichi Target 1 and do a baseline study on these indicators. Three projects (Benin, Cameroun and Madagascar) were selected and successfully concluded in 2012. For more information on the indicators and the baseline studies: http://www.biobiodiv.be/cooperation/chm_coop/chm-partnering/public_awareness/results-chm-public-awareness-calls/results-chm-public-awareness-call-2011.

- > La stratégie #BeBiodiversity vise à déplacer les marchés vers des produits plus respectueux de la biodiversité en faisant jouer l'offre et la demande. Cette stratégie vise donc à mobiliser les citoyens-consommateurs et les entreprises pour promouvoir un approvisionnement en matières premières durables, compatibles avec la protection de la biodiversité dans les pays d'origine.

Une campagne de communication a vu le jour en 2017 pour sensibiliser, éduquer et mobiliser les citoyens-consommateurs et les entreprises tout en leur donnant les moyens de choisir des produits et producteurs plus respectueux de la biodiversité de manière informée. Divers outils de communications et activations des réseaux sociaux sont utilisés :

- Un site web de campagne (<https://bebiodiversity.be>) a été développé qui regorge d'information mais également de gestes pour préserver la biodiversité. Quatre vidéos d'accroche ont été lancées en 2017 pour l'inauguration de la stratégie et de la campagne.
- Cinq vidéos d'animation qui expliquent, entre autres, le lien entre la consommation ordinaire et les menaces pesant sur la biodiversité et les écosystèmes ont été créées. Ces vidéos d'animation, disponibles en anglais, français et néerlandais sur la chaîne YouTube #BeBiodiversity, ont été un franc succès: elles ont été visionnées plus de 500 000 fois sur Facebook et plus de 130 000 fois sur YouTube. La vidéo «Quel est le lien entre le sushi et une tortue» a remporté le Golden Green Award au 7ème festival des Deauville Green Awards, en juin 2018.
- Pour mieux connaître les habitudes de consommation des citoyens-consommateurs et leur impact sur la nature, un quizz été lancé fin 2018 avec pour objectifs de :
 - o continuer à sensibiliser ;
 - o commencer la phase de mobilisation notamment avec en 2019 avec une Fête des Voisins Biodiversité ;
 - o dégager des tendances de consommation
 - o mieux cibler les prochaines communications « consommateur » ;
 - o étayer la communication, influencer et mobiliser les entreprises.

Cinq animaux totem ont été choisis pour définir le profil de consommation et des petits conseils faciles à mettre en place au quotidien sont proposés.

- Après le succès de la campagne de communication auprès des citoyens, une campagne visant spécifiquement les entreprises sera lancée au début de l'année 2019. Cette campagne coïncidera avec le lancement d'un outil web aidant les entreprises à choisir et mettre en œuvre des actions en faveur de la biodiversité (BiodiversiTTree – voir ci-dessous)). Quatre entreprises pionnières (Belvas, Amanprana, Ecosem et Tilman) ainsi que la Régie des bâtiments (service public) sont partenaires dans ce projet et aide au développement des outils :
 - o Une page spéciale ‘entreprises’ a été développée sur notre site web de campagne (<https://bebiodiversity.be/que-puis-je-faire-en-tant-quentreprise/>)
 - o Des vidéos de promotions des entreprises pionnières sont lancées pour inciter d'autres entreprises à s'engager dans la préservation de la biodiversité. Elles sont disponibles sur le site web (<https://bebiodiversity.be/que-puis-je-faire-en-tant-quentreprise/>)

En parallèle, cette stratégie vise à agir au niveau de l'offre pour sensibiliser et aider les entreprises à entreprendre une démarche volontaire de préservation de la biodiversité et des services écosystémiques :

- Les entreprises et organisations qui désirent contribuer à la préservation de la biodiversité pourront compter sur le BiodiversiTTree pour les guider dans la détermination des actions : du choix des partenaires/experts qui pourront les accompagner à la valorisation des investissements réalisés pour adapter leurs terrains, infrastructures, achats et processus. Les entités fédérale et régionales ont ainsi développé pour la Belgique cette plateforme web (BiodiversiTTree) qui permet aussi l'échange d'informations mettant en avant les actions concrètes car pour mobiliser les entreprises rien de tel que des exemples réalisés par d'autres entreprises ! Cette plateforme est également un outil de sensibilisation afin de permettre à chacun de se poser des questions sur sa marge de manœuvre au sein de son organisation. (<https://biodiversitree.be>)
- > Formations ‘Biodiversité et services écosystémiques’ vers divers publics cibles (entreprises, délégués syndicaux notamment comme relais auprès de leur entreprises, organisations publiques ...) et divers secteurs (économie, mobilité-transport (maritime, ferroviaire), EMAS). Ces formations ont connus un vif succès et ont permis, dans un premier temps, de mieux comprendre les concepts de biodiversité et de services écosystémiques. La démarche

visait aussi à permettre de mieux appréhender les relations et les dépendances entre le groupe cible et la biodiversité afin de pouvoir identifier les mesures pour minimiser les impacts négatifs, ainsi que les opportunités potentielles à saisir.

La thématique « Biodiversité et entreprises » est appréhendée de deux façons :

- En mettant l'accent sur la biodiversité locale dans ou autour de l'entreprise : en préservant la faune et la flore locales, l'entreprise se concentre sur le développement de bonnes relations avec les entités voisines, associations ou clients, sur son image, sur les questions de santé. Dans certains cas, l'entreprise peut en retirer des avantages sur le plan économique. On songe ici au principe des toitures vertes isolantes, aux installations de recyclage de l'eau, à l'exploitation forestière responsable, à la pêche et à l'agriculture durables, etc.
- En axant la politique de l'entreprise sur les chaînes de production dont elle fait partie : en effet, bien souvent, les décisions prises par une entreprise ont un impact non pas sur la biodiversité locale mais sur la biodiversité présente ailleurs dans le monde. Il est ainsi possible de limiter les impacts de la chaîne de production sur la biodiversité, notamment via l'utilisation de matières premières durables (soja, sucre obtenus via des pratiques culturelles durables) ou, indirectement, via une diminution des émissions / pollutions, qui constituent une menace pour la biodiversité. C'est dans ce contexte que la biodiversité s'inscrit dans le cadre plus large de la responsabilité sociétale des entreprises. Les entreprises engagées qui disposent par exemple d'un système de gestion de l'environnement, peuvent, par le biais de cet instrument et sur une base systématique, suivre les évolutions en la matière.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 8.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote understanding of the importance of biodiversity and improve knowledge of Belgium's biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 X Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Suivant l'Eurobaromètre, il reste de nombreux progrès à accomplir pour changer l'attitude des citoyens. Des efforts et budgets croissants sont consacrés à des actions d'information, sensibilisation et éducation en matière de biodiversité, et ce, vers tous les acteurs.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/8#8.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 8.3

Related to objective 8.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Raise awareness among, and provide thematic training courses for the sectors that impact directly or indirectly on biodiversity, including the private sector, using language tailored to the specific nature of the target sector.

Flemish Region

Awareness campaigns on the needs to involve all sectors in the conservation of nature values:

- organisation of awareness campaigns such as in relation with port development, transport infrastructure, military domains
- activities of awareness-raising on the use of indigenous material for forestry
- activities of awareness-raising for fishery societies on good fishery practices and standing waters management for fishermen
- trainings for hunters on good hunting practices, big-game licence, ornithology
- information sessions for stakeholders, other administrations and local authorities on Natura 2000 and the process for development of conservation objectives
- training sessions for local authorities for the management of parks and green spaces
- organisation of project calls for afforestation projects, Natura 2000 management actions, competition for the best project idea for greening cities, ...

Federal level

Training cycles

CEBioS and RBINS organised training sessions on the implications of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol for scientists at federal scientific institutes and staff of Development cooperation.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 8.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Raise awareness among, and provide thematic training courses for the sectors that impact directly or indirectly on biodiversity, including the private sector, using language tailored to the specific nature of the target sector.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
X Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des formations à destination des divers secteurs fédéraux qui ont un impact important sur la biodiversité sont implementées.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/8#8.3>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 9.1

Related to objective 9.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure that the national strategy is supported by effective legislation and improve its enforcement.

Flemish Region

Nature decree – been revised to include also the forest decree aspects – including the principles for biodiversity conservation, derogation system.

Executive law on species protection including the list of protected species, derogation procedures on protection, procedures for development of species protection programmes.

New nature management plan procedure and format, and new executive law on subsidies to support development and implementation of nature management plan.

Law on hunting and procedures for permits, game species and hunting seasons, wildlife management units and requirements.

Law on inland fisheries.

Walloon Region

The law on the conservation of nature is the overarching legislative tool for biodiversity protection purposes, including species and habitats protections statuses, derogation systems etc.

- The Walloon environmental code adds to the nature Law on issues related to environmental impact assessments and the right to access to environmental information.
- The Territorial development code (CoDT) includes the “proportionate compensation” principle for urban projects in its art. D.II.45§3.
- One of the objectives of the Water Code is to prevent any degradation, to preserve and improve aquatic ecosystem condition as well as the need in water of these ecosystems and other terrestrial ecosystems.
- The law on hunting specifies notably the game species, hunt seasons for each species, and related hunting means.

Brussels-Capital Region

The coordinated regional law about nature

A coordinated regional law about nature was adopted in March 2012, consisting of 119 articles and 8 annexes, with the general aim of contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity. Measures taken under this nature law are intended to:

- maintain or restore to a favourable conservation status natural habitats and species of fauna and flora of community and regional interest;
- contribute to the establishment of an ecological network in Brussels;
- contribute to the integration of biodiversity in an urban context.

This regional law requires the elaboration of a regional plan for nature that has been approved in April 2016. This plan foresees the elaboration of more specific action plans (art. 6 and 12 to 14).

These action plans would aim at:

- the improvement of the conservation status of natural species and habitats.
- the struggle against biodiversity threats such as invasive alien species.
- the encouragement of sustainable use of biodiversity components.

http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/uploadedFiles/Contenu_du_site/News/Ord_Nature_Natuur_2012.pdf?langtype=2060

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 9.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure that the national strategy is supported by effective legislation and improve its enforcement.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

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- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

De gros efforts de coordinations ont permis une ratification et une transposition plus rapides de la législation environnementale européenne ces dernières années. Les procédures EIE et EES sont désormais d'application, même si cela s'avère complexe à mettre en oeuvre au regard des composants liés à la biodiversité; elles sont cependant encore trop méconnues des autorités publiques, des responsables de planification, des entreprises et du public : des actions d'information doivent continuer. L'article 6.3-4 de la directive Habitat prévoit que des mesures compensatoires doivent être prises pour assurer la continuité du réseau Natura 2000 si pour des raisons impératives d'intérêt public majeur un projet ayant des impacts négatifs doit néanmoins être réalisé. Les infractions liées à l'environnement font désormais l'objet de poursuites systématiques dans certaines Régions. L'application de la législation sur la responsabilité environnementale est encore à ses débuts. L'une des principales difficultés dans le processus de mise en application concerne l'évaluation des dommages causés à la biodiversité. Des formations spécifiques pour les magistrats devraient être mise en place pour améliorer leurs connaissances tant juridiques du droit de la biodiversité que techniques et scientifiques (ceci est prévu en RW). En matière de biosécurité, un fondement légal univoque et la mise en place de procédures pour l'évaluation scientifique des risques se fait dans un système commun aux différents niveaux de pouvoir. Ce système, datant de 1997, et basé sur une législation européenne renforcée depuis 2001, devrait être actualisé. Par ailleurs, pour tenir compte de la reprise des demandes d'autorisation, ce système d'évaluation des risques devrait être renforcé et réorganisé.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/9#9.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 10.3

Related to objective 10.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: All climate change, biodiversity and desertification cooperation projects funded by Belgium should be assessed to ensure that they are mutually supportive of the objectives of the three Rio conventions.

Federal level

Examples of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5) sector Development cooperation:

Environmental sustainability toolkit

A toolkit was launched: "environmental sustainability toolkit" for all projects and programs of the Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 10.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: All climate change, biodiversity and desertification cooperation projects funded by Belgium should be assessed to ensure that they are mutually supportive of the objectives of the three Rio conventions.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Les projets de coopération sur le changement climatique, la biodiversité et la désertification financés par la Belgique ne sont pas encore évalués pour s'assurer qu'ils soutiennent mutuellement les trois conventions de Rio.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/10#10.3>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 11.3

Related to objective 11.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Make best use of Belgian expertise to support implementation of the Convention in developing countries.

Belgium participates as a member institution (RBINS) to the Consortium of Scientific Partners of the CBD. The Consortium has as main goal to assist the CBD to give training to Parties on needs and priorities expressed by them.

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the Belgian Development Cooperation have continued to strengthen technical and scientific capacities for the implementation of the CBD in developing countries.

The framework strategy has been agreed at the end of 2012 between the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGD) and RBINS for a ten years period (2014-2023), with the aim to build scientific and technical capacities for a more effective implementation of the CBD in the partner countries of the Belgian Development cooperation. The main achievements of the five-year programme 2014-2018 included i.e. the improvement of the exchange of information on biodiversity and the training of scientific and technical staff both in developing countries and in Belgium. A framework agreement between the Directorate-General for the Environment and

RBINS also includes the capacity-building of federal actors, for a better integration of biodiversity in their activities.

The Belgian Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) partnership with African countries provides for the building of capacities and for the transfer of technologies for the development of CHM websites, in collaboration with the European Community CHM (EC CHM) and other European countries. The websites are developed using the web content management system 'EC CHM Portal Toolkit'. During the period 2014-2018, 506 persons followed training workshops on the use of the CHM tool through national or regional workshops or training in Belgium. Many trainees also participated in follow-up trainings organised by their national focal some months after the initial training, financed by CEBioS. These training took place in 14 of the countries where CEBioS can work but also in 10 Arab speaking countries and 3 francophone countries through South-south cooperation projects with Morocco or Benin.

The result of this were the 3rd price for Belgium during the CHM Awards at COP13, first price for Burundi and 3rd price for Morocco for existing CHM and 3rd price for Guinea-Bissau for new CHM during COP14.

Belgian capacity building programme within the Framework Agreement with Belgian Development Cooperation (Royal Museum for Central Africa). Through this programme, the Department of African Biology is providing travel grants to African researchers in several fields. The ABIC (African Biodiversity Information Centre) has provided individual training in diverse taxonomic groups or access to the natural history collections of the RMCA to more than 140 African counterparts since 2005. The RMCA also organizes group training in biodiversity data management, ichthyology, fruit fly pest and wood biology on a regular basis. Several North-South collaborations between the RMCA and African institutions conduct research, including aspects on knowledge transfer, on biodiversity related issues in western, Central and Eastern Africa.

Through CEBioS, the GTI capacity building programme has enabled 68 visits to Belgium to receive taxonomic training or to use the expertise and collections of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. Furthermore, 110 taxonomists and para taxonomists participated in training workshops in developing countries. Eight manuals in the ABC-Taxa series have been produced in the reporting period. More information on these manuals can be found on the ABC-Taxa website: <http://www.abctaxa.be>.

Seen the importance of monitoring of changes in ecosystems and habitats towards management decisions or external factors a special programme was started in 2009 to monitor changes in habitats and to support research towards monitoring. One of the activities is the monitoring of vegetation changes in national parks in DR Congo, Burundi and soon Benin. Part of this programme within CEBioS consists of training park rangers in how to include/integrate habitat changes in their normal monitoring missions. Another activity is the monitoring and modelling of sea currents in Delta's to predict implications of human activities on among other the biodiversity in Vietnam, Peru and Bénin. Through this programme more than 380 people received training in the reporting phase. Four lexica were produced. A tool for a sea monitoring modelling project with IRHOB (Benin) won the third place for the D4D price in 2018.

A new part of the programme was Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV). Under this part partner countries were stimulated to develop indicators and baselines for their NBSAPs. A total of 26 projects were implemented and resulted in 12 policy briefs (including from other parts of the programme of CEBioS, <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/docs/publications/policy-briefs>).

The Flemish Inter University Council-Cooperation for development, VLIR-UOS, is supporting institutional cooperation in 20 partner countries where environment is an important issue, and with a strong component on research and capacity building in the field of biodiversity

(<https://www.vliruos.be/en/projects/20>), as well as several ICP master programmes at Flemish universities for students from developing countries related to environmental issues.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 11.3 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Make best use of Belgian expertise to support implementation of the Convention in developing countries.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Développement en cours d'un toolkit pour évaluer l'impact environnemental des projets de coopération au développement; acteurs cibles et phasage avec le cycle des projets initiés restent à clarifier. Plusieurs programmes de renforcement des capacités en matière de biodiversité sont financés par la Belgique sur le long terme. La Belgique ne promeut pas encore suffisamment l'intégration de la biodiversité et de la biosécurité dans les plans de développement des pays partenaires.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/11#11.3>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 12

Related to objective 12 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Influence the international agenda within biodiversity-related conventions.

Since the adoption of the NBS, Belgium continued to be involved at the forefront of the biodiversity-related conventions and actively participate in all important meetings. The negotiating team of the Belgian Presidency has contributed to the success of the 12th, 13th and 14th Conference of Parties to the CBD especially on matters related to Synergies between Conventions, Marine, Capacity building and Technical and scientific cooperation, Financial Mechanism and more.

The development of DART in partnership with the EU, Switzerland and UNEP (InforMEA and WCMC) to assist parties to use reporting from one MEA towards the reporting of other MEAs has continued and will be finalised in 2019.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 12 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Influence the international agenda within biodiversity-related conventions.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La Belgique continue à jouer un rôle majeur pour assurer la cohérence entre les conventions liées à la biodiversité en 2011-2012, notamment grâce à sa participation au bureau du SBSTTA.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<Add link> <Add file>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 13.2

Related to objective 13.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Support efforts of developing countries to combat illegal logging and associated illegal trade as well as their efforts to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (redd+).

Federal level

Forestry

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5), sector Development cooperation: the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) file for Democratic Republic of Congo was prepared and several projects have been launched around the forestry and forest management, both bilateral and multilateral or under indirect cooperation.

The Belgian science policy office finances the project COBIMFO aiming at: (i) providing a baseline reference data on the C-balance and biodiversity in pristine and intervened dense tropical forests of the Congo Basin and (ii) increasing understanding in the relationship between both variables as a function of forest management and degradation:
<http://www.belspo.be/belspo/fedra/proj.asp?l=en&COD=SD/AR/01A>.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 13.2 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Support efforts of developing countries to combat illegal logging and associated illegal trade as well as their efforts to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (redd+).

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
X Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

La politique d'achat fédérale a amorcé un dialogue animé au niveau national et international, toujours en cours actuellement, et qui a entraîné une sensibilisation du secteur et du grand public, soutenue entre autres par des campagnes d'information. Un accord sectoriel ambitieux a été signé avec le secteur. La mise en application d'une politique d'achat de bois durable dans les services publics fédéraux et régionaux est difficile à imposer. Pour garantir une application efficace, en mesure d'engendrer des changements de comportement significatifs dans le secteur concerné et auprès du grand public, il faudrait disposer de plus amples moyens. Six Accords de Partenariat ont été conclus avec des pays exportateurs de bois. D'autres accords sont en cours de négociations et un certain nombre de pays supplémentaires ont exprimé leur intérêt par rapport à la démarche. Le processus est long, complexe et ambitieux, notamment lors de la mise en oeuvre d'un système de vérification de la légalité du bois.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/13#13.2>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 14

Related to objective 14 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the commitment of cities, provinces and other local authorities in the implementation of the biodiversity strategy 2020.

Flemish Region

Cooperation with local authorities is organised through the provincial administrations.

Walloon Region

Municipalities have an essential role to play in taking biodiversity into account outside protected areas. In particular they have the possibility of setting up various environmental programmes in their territory with the financial and/or logistical support of Wallonia.

In addition to river contracts, there are 6 types of programmes: The tree week, the late mowing of roadsides, the Maya Plan, the label Cimetière Nature, Nature parks and PCDN,

The tree week, the late mowing of roadsides and the Maya Plan (Plan Maya) were at the top of the list with respectively nearly 99%, 86% and 80% participation.

- Through the charter that they sign for 6 years, the Maya municipalities commit themselves to carry out improvements which benefit pollinating insects (planting of melliferous plants, drafting of a plan to reduce pesticides and a plan for the differentiated management of green spaces, support for beekeepers) as well as awareness-raising actions.

- The late mowing of roadsides (16,000 km for about 3,600 ha), which had already been launched but was strengthened as part of the Maya operation, allows the flora of these areas to reach full maturity.
- As regards tree week, municipalities can apply for aid for the distribution of seedlings, the creation of a green space and the planting of trees and hedges.
- The most recent programme promotes the gradual and continuous reintegration of biodiversity into municipal cemeteries: 53 cemeteries in 13 municipalities were awarded the Nature Cemetery label (label Cimetière Nature) in 2015.
- 56 municipalities are associated with one of the 10 natural parks in Wallonia and as such are committed to protecting, managing and sustainably developing their territory through a management plan.
- A municipality may draw up, in consultation with all local stakeholders, a Municipal Nature Development Plan (Plan communal de développement de la nature - PCDN) for which an annual subsidy may be requested. The coordination of all programmes can be facilitated by hiring or retaining an eco-counsellor for whom the municipalities can benefit from an annual subsidy.

Brussels-Capital Region

The coordinated regional law about nature and the regional plan for nature

A coordinated regional law about nature was adopted in March 2012, consisting of 119 articles and 8 annexes, with the general aim of contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity. Measures taken under this nature law are intended to:

- maintain or restore to a favourable conservation status natural habitats and species of fauna and flora of community and regional interest;
- contribute to the establishment of an ecological network in Brussels;
- contribute to the integration of biodiversity in an urban context.

This regional law has required the elaboration of a regional plan for nature, adopted in April 2016. It also foresees the elaboration of more specific action plans (art. 6 and 12 to 14). These action plans would aim at:

- the improvement of the conservation status of natural species and habitats.
- the struggle against biodiversity threats such as invasive alien species.
- the encouragement of sustainable use of biodiversity components.

http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/uploadedFiles/Contenu_du_site/News/Ord_Nature_Natuur_2012.pdf?langtype=2060

Municipalities are often cited as partners or to be consulted for the implementation of these plans and measures.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 14 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Promote the commitment of cities, provinces and other local authorities in the implementation of the biodiversity strategy 2020.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
 Measure taken has been partially effective
 Measure taken has been ineffective
 Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

<Text entry>

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/14>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 14.1

Related to objective 14.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Encourage local authorities to develop and implement local biodiversity strategies and related action plans.

Flemish Region

Cooperation with local authorities is now organised through the provincial administrations.

Walloon Region

Municipality plans for Nature development (PCDN): A municipality may draw up, in consultation with all local stakeholders, a Municipal Nature Development Plan (Plan communal de développement de la nature - PCDN).

Brussels-Capital Region

The coordinated regional law about nature and the regional plan for nature

A coordinated regional law about nature was adopted in March 2012, consisting of 119 articles and 8 annexes, with the general aim of contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity. Measures taken under this nature law are intended to:

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This regional law has required the elaboration of a regional plan for nature, that has been approved in April 2016. It also foresees the elaboration of more specific action plans (art. 6 and 12 to 14). These action plans would aim at:

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- the encouragement of sustainable use of biodiversity components.

http://www.bruxellesenvironnement.be/uploadedFiles/Contenu_du_site/News/Ord_Nature_Natuur2012.pdf?langtype=2060

The objectives of the plan are:

1. Improvement in access of Brussels residents to nature, so that every Brussels resident has an accessible and inviting green space of over 1 hectare less than 400 metres from his/her residence, and one of less than 1 hectare less than 200 metres away.

2. Consolidation of the regional green network; preservation of the green nature of the Region and strengthening of the coherence of the Brussels ecological network, to provide the conditions necessary for proper functioning of the ecosystems and expression of a high degree of biodiversity, benefitting the quality of life in the city and the attractiveness of the Region.
3. Incorporation of nature issues into plans and projects; improved consideration of nature and the green network in plans and projects, including those outside protected areas.
4. Extension and support of ecological management of green spaces; improved management of public areas and assurance of consistency between the approaches of the numerous managers.
5. Reconciliation of accommodation of wildlife and urban development; maintenance or reestablishment of natural habitats and species in a favourable state of preservation as well as reduction of nuisances by problematic species.
6. Raising awareness of and mobilising Brussels residents on behalf of biodiversity; development of an overall communication strategy, in an understanding with those involved in the field, that will identify the key messages to be transmitted and the audiences to be targeted as a priority. The objective also aims to promote respect for public green spaces and their facilities.
7. Improved governance with regard to nature; developing cross-disciplinary and consistent approaches by facilitating meetings and exchanges between those responsible for management of green spaces and the public area and those involved, publicly and privately, in development and planning in the Region.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 14.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Encourage local authorities to develop and implement local biodiversity strategies and related action plans.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

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- X Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

<Text entry>

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/14#14.1>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 15

Related to objective 15 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure the provision of adequate resources for biodiversity.

Investigate financing possibilities for biodiversity:

Belgium is working on the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation; it participates in the reflection on the mobilisation of additional financial resources under the CBD to increase funding for

biodiversity related activities, both nationally and globally. Belgium also makes extensive use of the possibilities of co-financing through European projects.

Walloon Region

In 2015, 86% of the monitoring network was spent on air and water quality monitoring and control measures. These budgets increased steadily until 2011, mainly because of the monitoring requirements imposed by the various European directives and the emergence of new problems, however, since 2011, it is decreasing.

Financing of several measures have a direct effect on biodiversity:

- Measures in relation to agri-environmental subsidies
- Natura 2000 remunerations for the farmers and for the forestry sector
- Conservation and valorisation of the rural patrimony
- Dispensation of property tax and of succession and donation rights within Natura 2000.
- Life programs: since 1992, more than 55 millions euros were invested in 21 programs
- Subsidies for biological agriculture.
- Supplementary subsidies for agri-environmental measures in Natura 2000 sites and in the main ecological structure areas (SEP).
- Subsidies for the planting of hedges, tree rows and orchards.
- Subsidies attributed through the 'Plan Communal de Développement de la Nature', for delayed mowing, hedges, for the program 'combles et clochers', within river contracts, for the Maya Plan, for natural parks, for the action 'Semaine de l'Arbre', etc.
- Subsidies for the regeneration of broadleaved and conifer species.
- Subsidies for the management of open spaces
- Subsidies for the acquisition of land that will be designated as nature reserve.
- Forestry Code: dispensation of succession and donation rights to improve the profitability of forestry production. This disposition also stimulates private owners to develop forest stands with a diversified age composition.
- Moreover, the Walloon Region gives subsidies to nature associations for management or for communication and awareness purposes.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 15 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Ensure the provision of adequate resources for biodiversity.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Peu de moyens spécifiques sont alloués pour la mise en oeuvre des différents objectifs de la Stratégie nationale. Des moyens humains et financiers pour des actions concrètes initiées par chaque niveau de pouvoir vont croissants et permettent de mettre en place des mesures sur le terrain. La Belgique a largement recours aux possibilités de co-financements européens. Les contributions volontaires à la CDB sont modestes mais croissantes. Les contributions volontaires et actions concrètes dans le cadre du Protocole de Carthagène sont inexistantes.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).
<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/15#15>

Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan

Action 15.1

Related to objective 15.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: By 2020 at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for biodiversity from all sources (including possible innovative financial mechanisms) should increase substantially compared to the average annual biodiversity funding for the years 2006-2010.

The Rio Marker system was not designed to provide accurate information on expenditures. For this reason, Belgium will not use this system for reporting on its biodiversity-related expenditures and is reflecting on possible alternative methodologies to the Rio Markers based on the OECD/DAC CRS. In this respect Belgium recalls the CBD COP X/3 decision which states in paragraph 12: "Invites the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/DAC) to revisit the Rio Markers with a view to providing methodological guidance and coherence in support of paragraph 7, indicator 1(a)". Belgium believes that an alternative methodology needs to be discussed at the international level so that it can be adopted and applied by all.

Federal level

Study on federal financial mechanisms

Example of implementation of the Federal plan for the sectoral integration of biodiversity in four key sectors (see action 5): a study has been conducted to identify possible federal mechanisms that could be designed for financing federal actions to integrate biodiversity in other sectors (fiscal measures, establishment of a biodiversity funds, etc.). Several discussions took place to better implement the outputs of this study.

For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes

Related to objective 15.1 of the National Biodiversity Strategy: By 2020 at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for biodiversity from all sources (including possible innovative financial mechanisms) should increase substantially compared to the average annual biodiversity funding for the years 2006-2010.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above

Des moyens humains et financiers pour des actions concrètes initiées par chaque niveau de pouvoir vont croissants et permettent de mettre en place des mesures sur le terrain.

Relevant websites, web links and files (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://be-tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/national-strategy/implementation/15#15.1>