



Natura 2000: European directives for the protection of habitats and species - the Walloon approach -

Presentation given as part of the Preparatory Workshop for the
2019 QCBS Symposium

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A close-up photograph of several purple flowers, likely Pasqueflowers (Pulsatilla), growing in a field of green grass under a clear blue sky. The flowers have distinct petals and yellow centers.

Context

Concepts

N2000 in Belgium

Implementation in Wallonia

Sites selection

Designation process

Network management

A stakeholders network

Conclusions and links



Context

CITES 1973



Habitats Fragmentation

Benelux, 1970/82/83

Species decline

Loss of connectivity

Bern Convention 1979

Intensification of practices

Erosion of Biodiversity

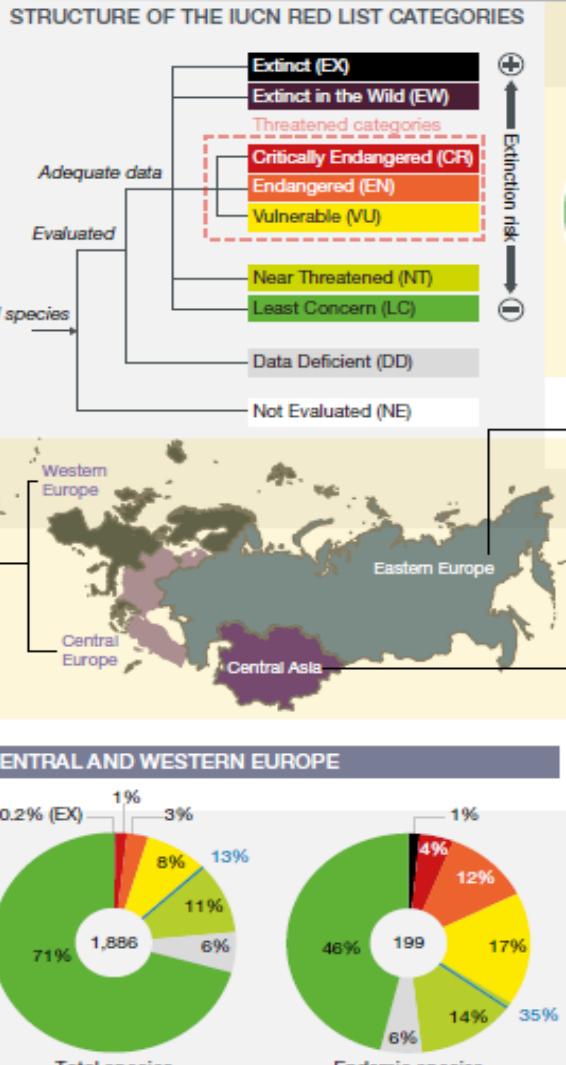
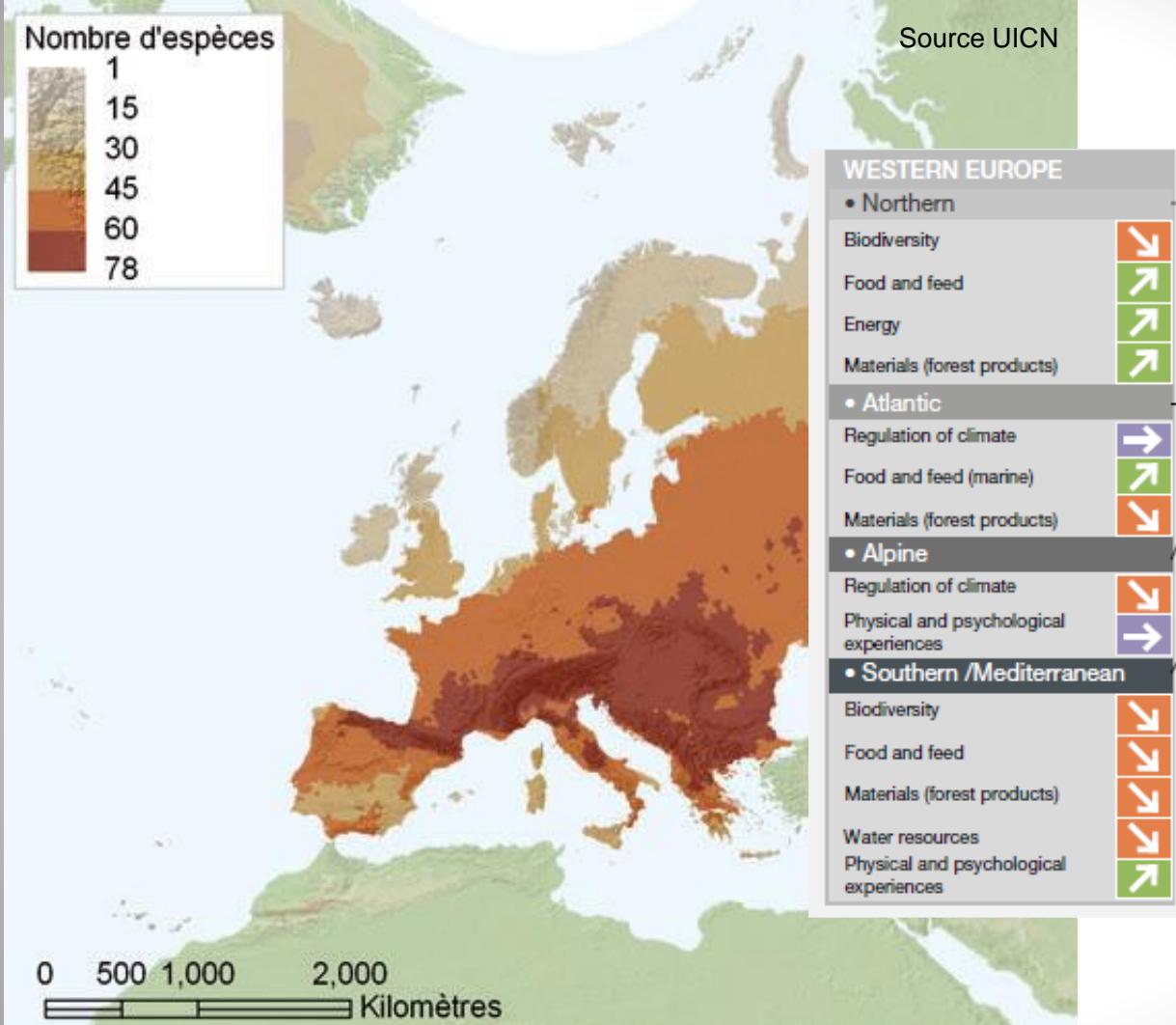
Rio de Janeiro
1992

Alien species

B	1
O	9
N	7
N	9

Isolation of populations

RAMSAR.
1975





Natura 2000 Network

Birds Directive

Birds Directive 2009/147/CE, on the conservation of wild birds

Habitats Directive

Habitats Directive 9/43/CEE, on the conservation of natural habitats and

SPA

SPA Special Protection Areas for Birds

SCI

SCI Sites of Community Importance

Approval of management plans

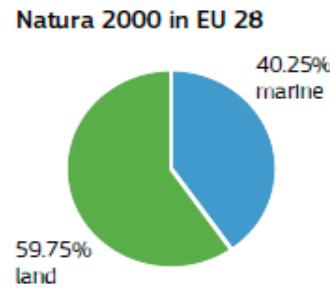
Approval of management plans

SAC

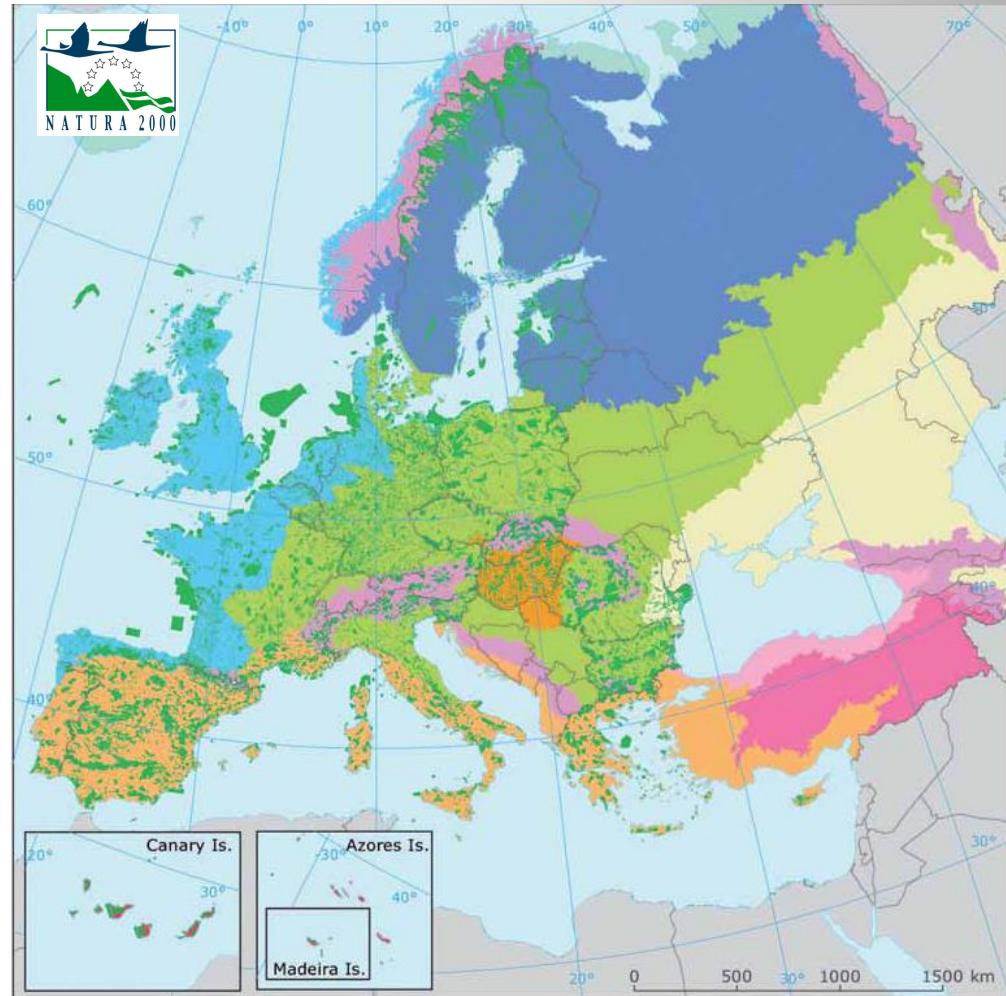
SAC Special Area of Conservation

Factsheet:

- 27.863 sites by the 28 EU
- +/- 1,336.000 km²
- +/- 18% of EU land territory



- The widest Nature Network in the world



NATURA 2000: Concept

1. *Nature « human admitted» ≠ Nature in a glass case*

General objective:

- Foster the maintenance of biodiversity in line with sustainable development. (Economic, social, cultural and regional requirements)



Specific objective:

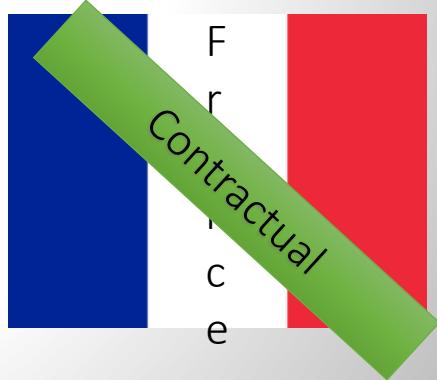
- Ensure the maintenance or, where appropriate, the restoration in **a favorable conservation status** of natural habitat types and habitats of species as well as populations of Community interest.

NATURA 2000: Concept



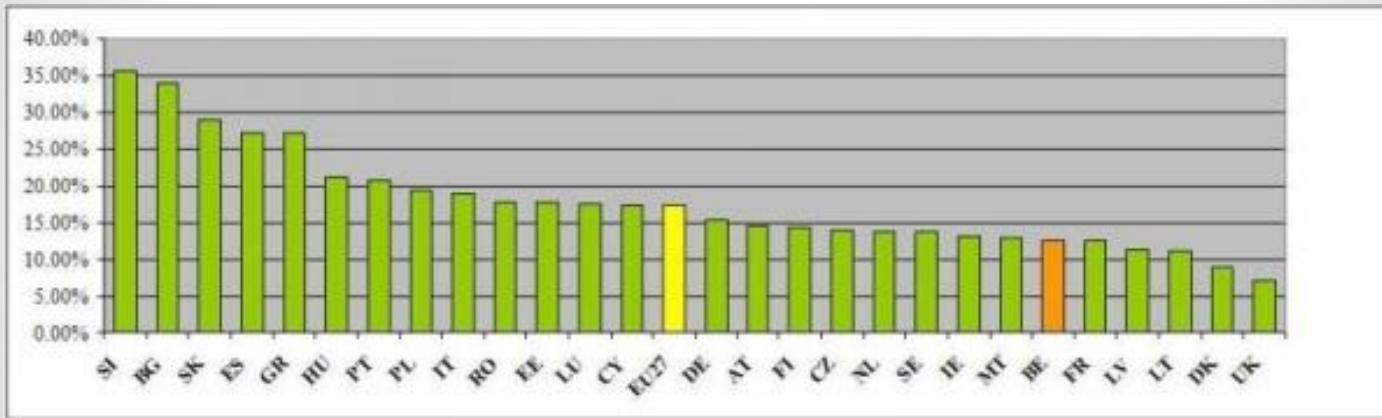
2. EU -> Obligation of results, freedom for means

Each member state is free to adopt its own approach which must guarantee the objective of the Directive





% of national territories in Natura 2000

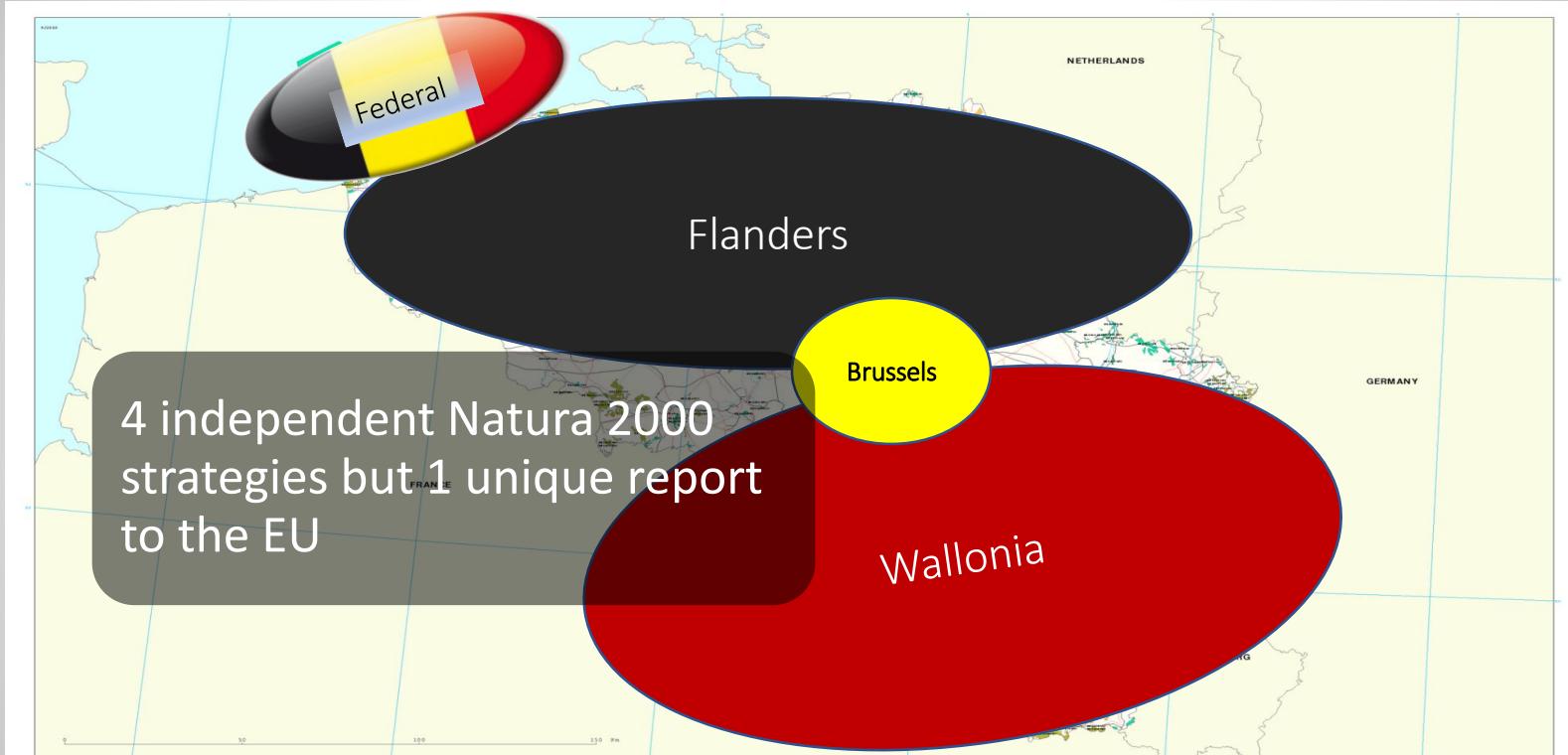


European average: 18%

Belgium: 12,5%

Wallonia : 13%

The Natura 2000 Network in Belgium



NATURA 2000: BELGIUM



European Environment Agency



Source: © European Environment Agency and the National Environment Agency of the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences
– Ramsar sites = wetlands
– IBA = Important Bird Areas
Valid until Natura 2000 data for 2010
Data: © European Environment Agency
Presentation: Low level Area of Natura 2000

Implementation in Wallonia



- ✓ Transposition of European Directives into legal Walloon provisions

- ✓ Integration of Natura 2000 in Nature Conservation Act of 1973

Implementation Strategy



Negotiations?

Contracting?

Regulatory?

Scientific requirements?

Partnership?

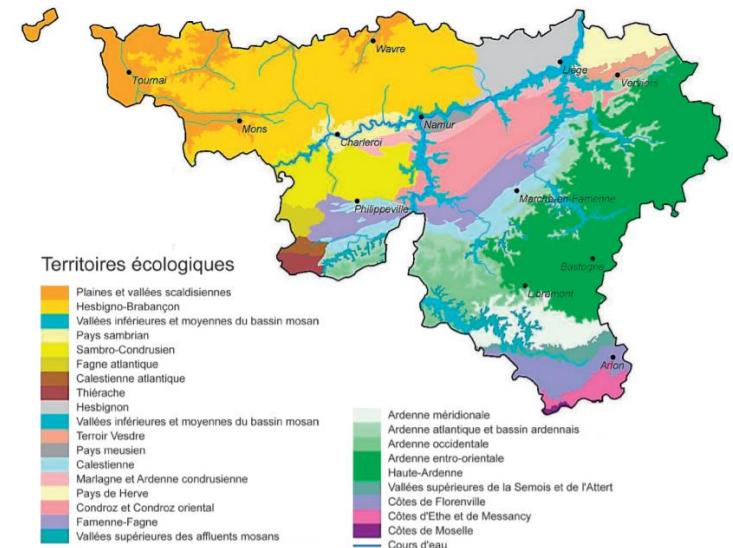
Coercition?

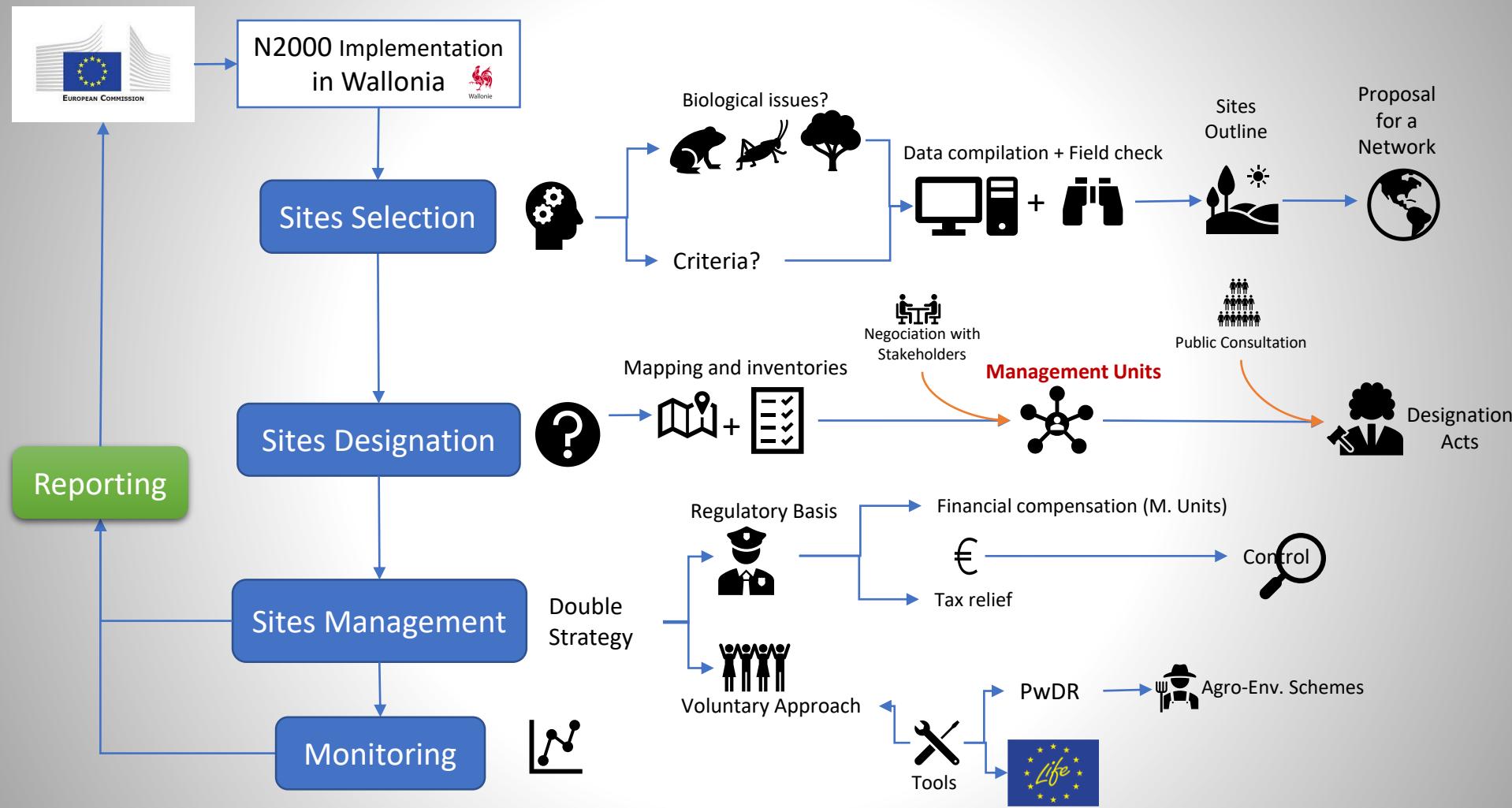
► The Walloon Approach

Wallonia

Main features:

- 16.844 km²
- High population density (201.6 hab/km²)
- 262 municipalities
- Varied topography (50 to 700 m)
- 18.000 km of watercourses
- 33% of wooden land (550.000 ha)
- 45% agricultural areas(760.000 ha)
- 2 biogeographical regions
- 8 ecological territories





Sites selection

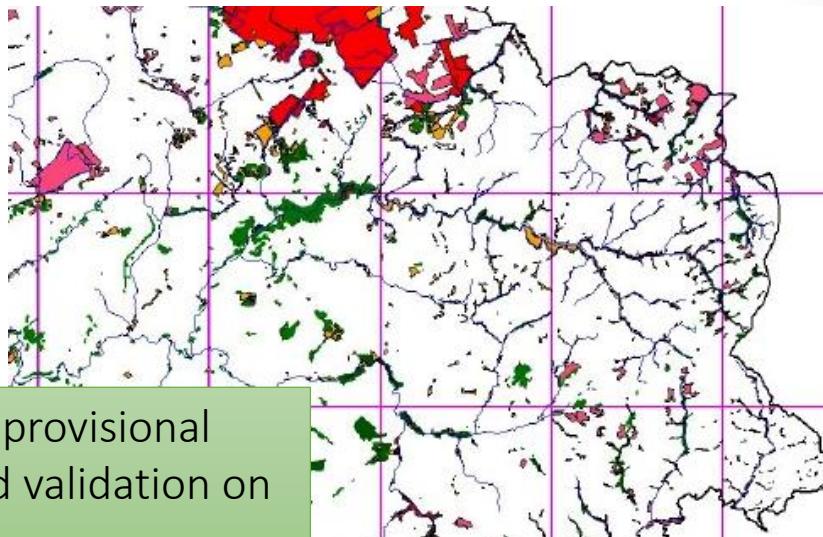
2 different types of criteria were used:

- Biological criteria (lists of habitats and species)
- Landscape criteria to create network consistency

- ✓ Natural Habitats: Annex VIII
- ✓ Species : Annex IX + Birds Annex XI



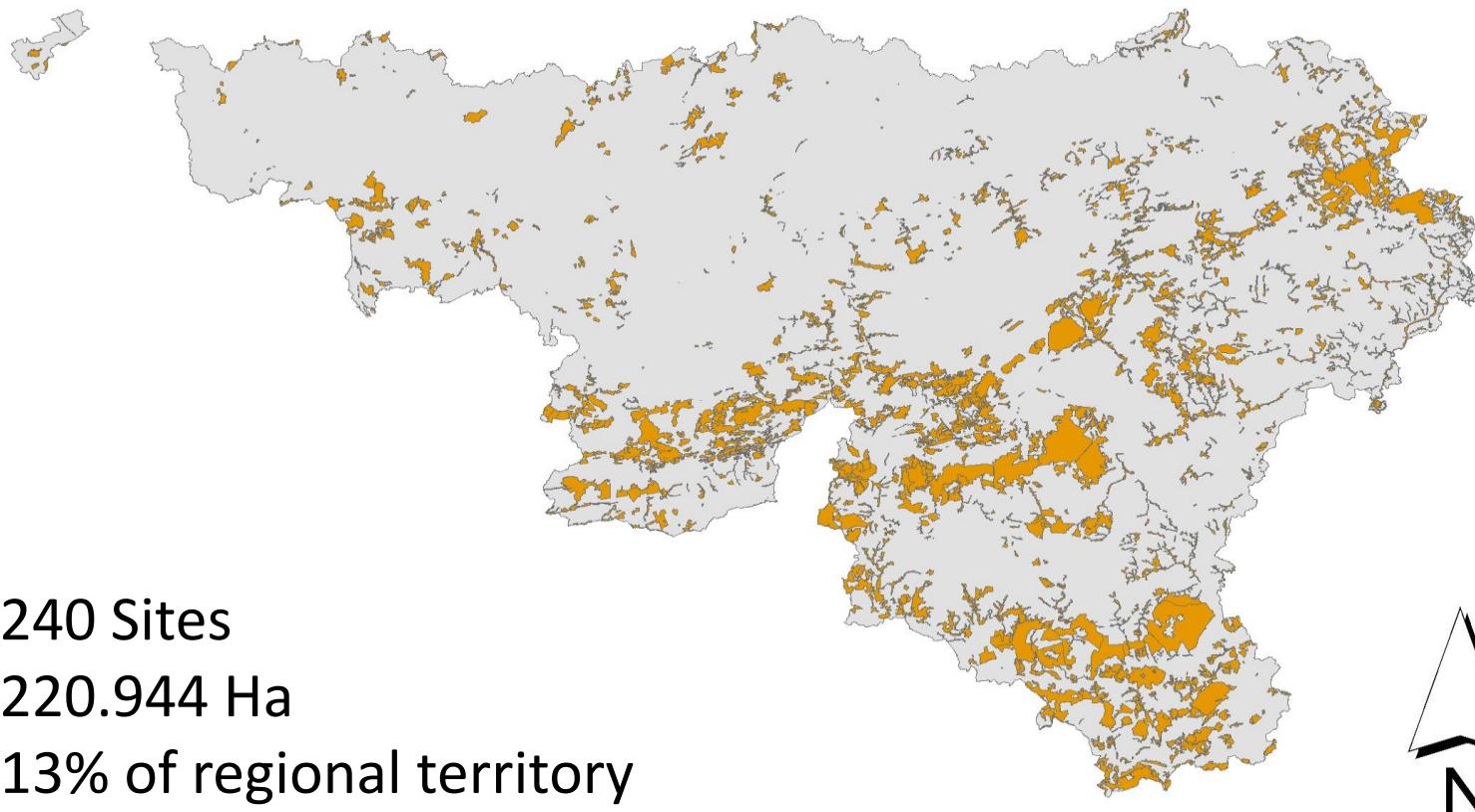
The N2000 network backbone: the hydrographic network

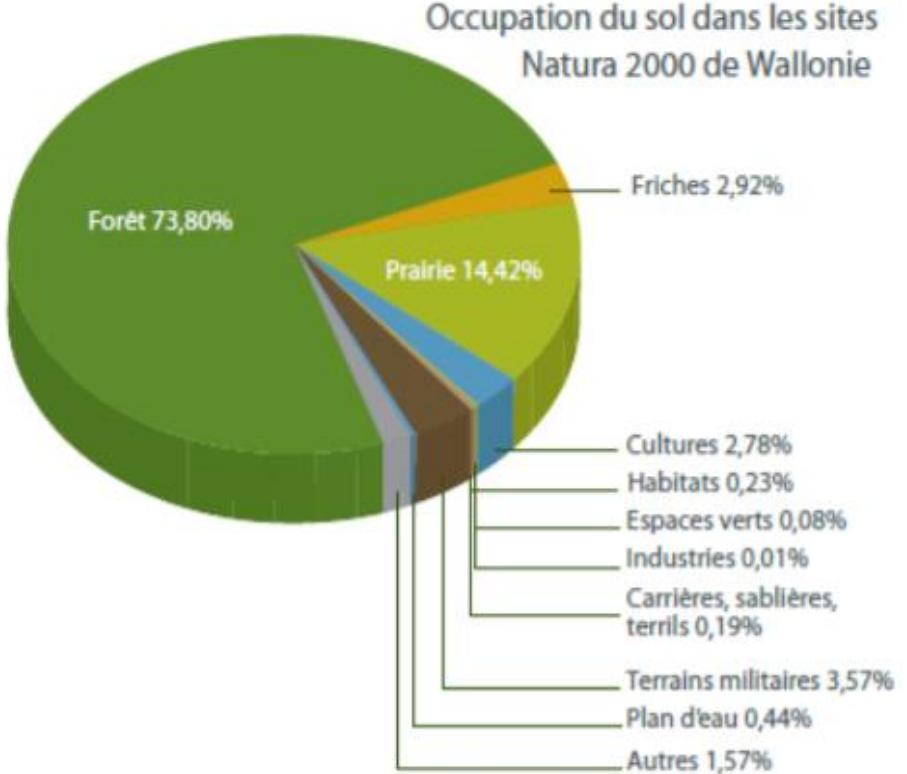


Compilation of available data, provisional outlines, division into sites and validation on the field

Collaboration with Administration Dpts - Universities- Nature Conservation Associations

The Natura 2000 Network in Wallonia





-
- ✓ 55% public property
✓ 45% private owners

Sites Designation

Give Natura 2000 sites legal value

The Walloon Government designates the sites

1 Designation Act per site

The Designation Act relies on Management Units

Management Units

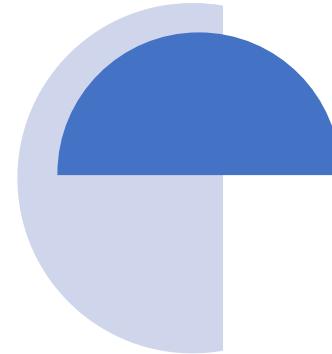
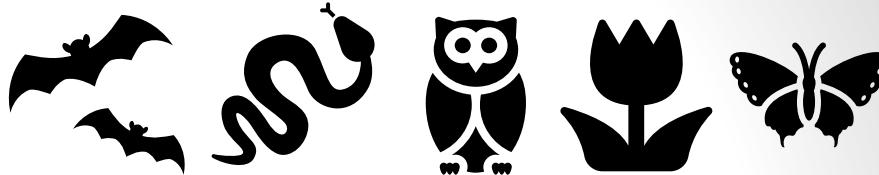
- Translate Biological issues
- Identify Measures
- Determine Compensations

Issues

Habitats



Species



of Community Interest

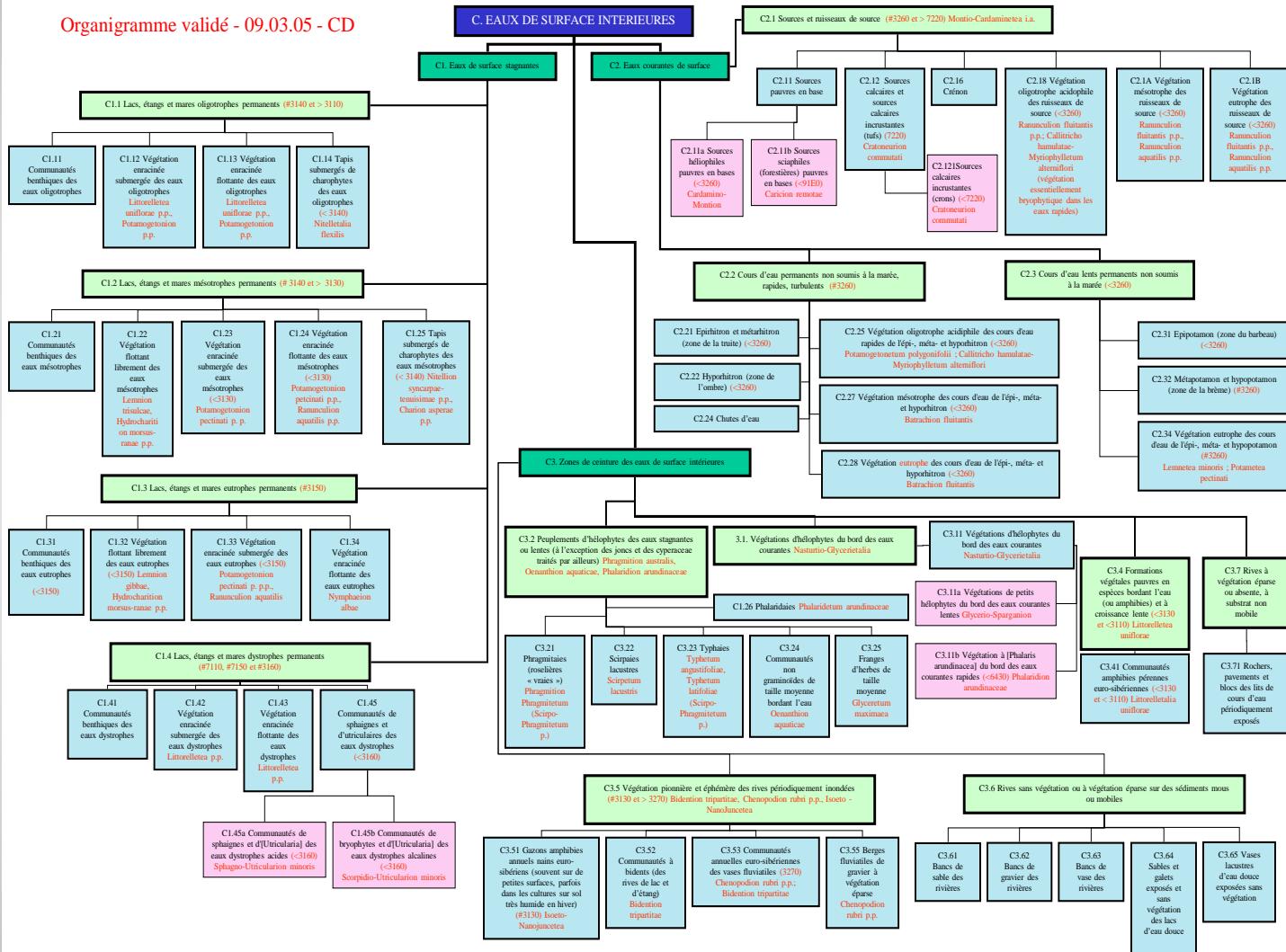


WaEUNIS habitats



- C** – Surface Waters
- D** - Bogs and low marshes
- E** - Meadows, grasslands, forest edges
- F** - Heaths, bushes
- G** - Forest and other woodlands
- H** - Habitats with less vegetation
- I** - Cropped habitats
- J** - Constructed habitats
- X** – Complex of habitats

Organigramme validé - 09.03.05 - CD





Need to identify issues accurately

Detailed mapping



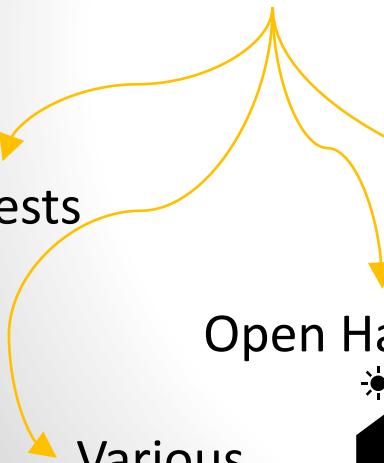
Inventories

Mapping Principles

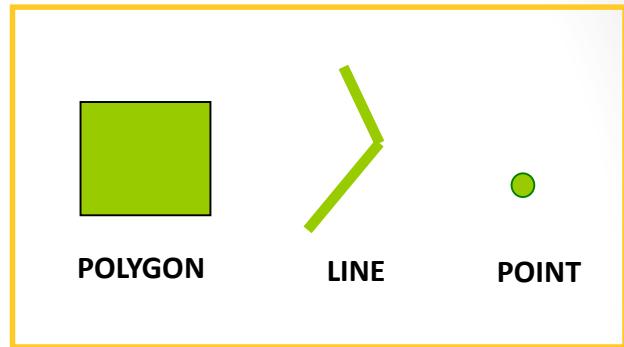
Habitats Units



Forests



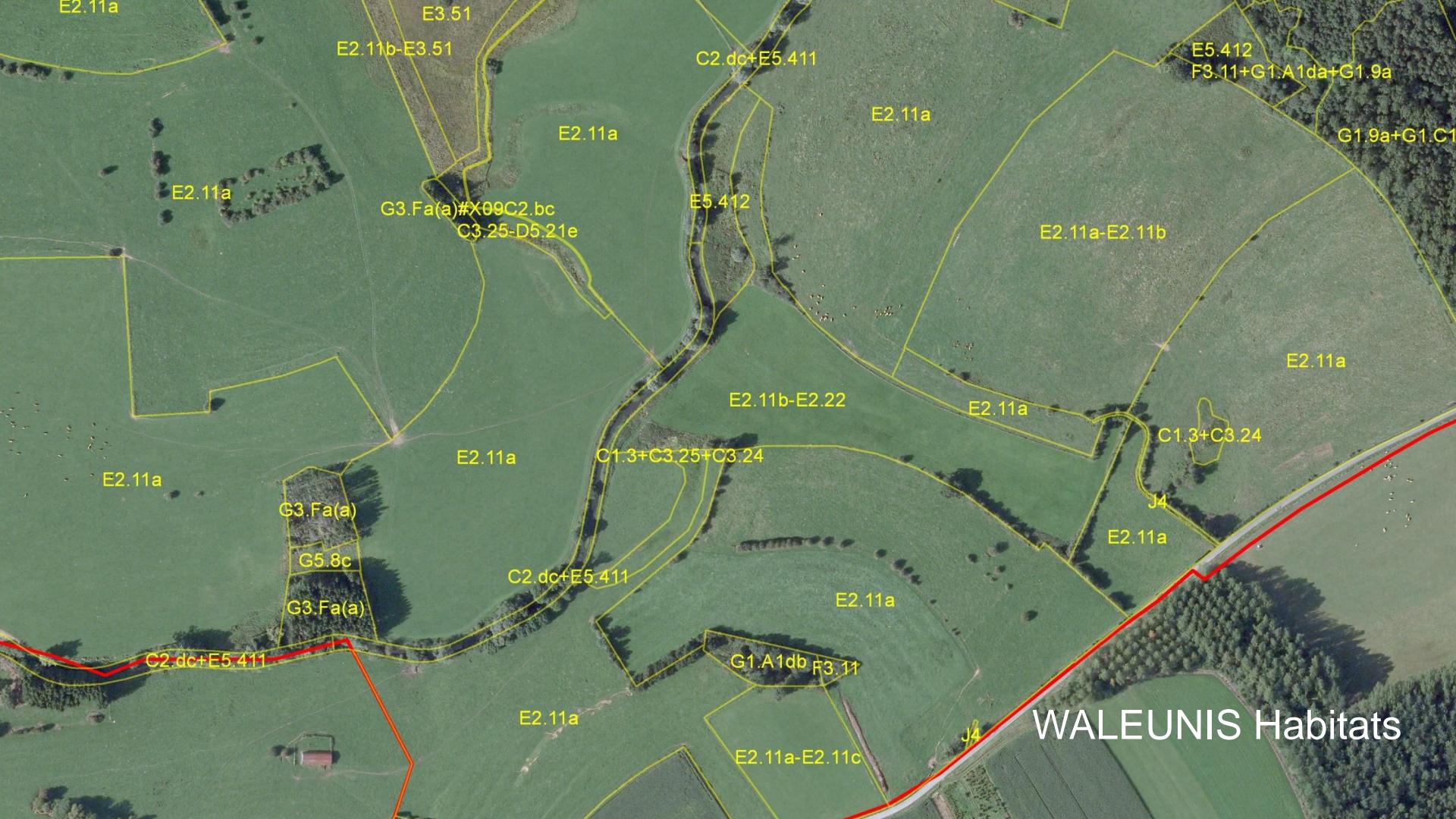
Various...



Water Habitats



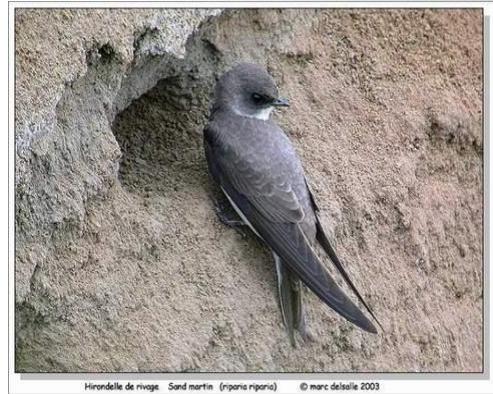
1/5000



WALEUNIS Habitats



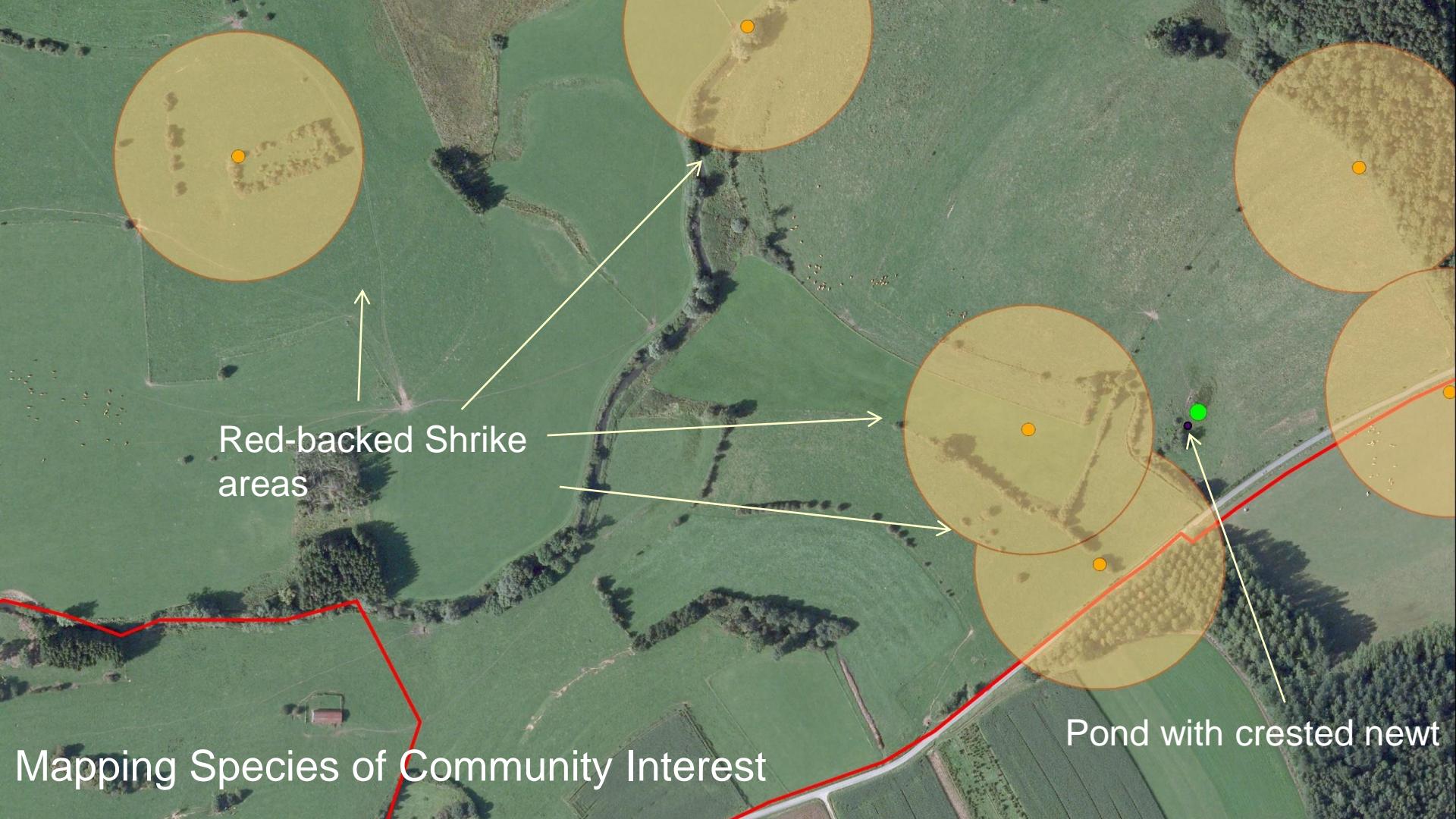




Hirondelle de rivage. Sand martin (*Riparia riparia*). © marc delisle 2003



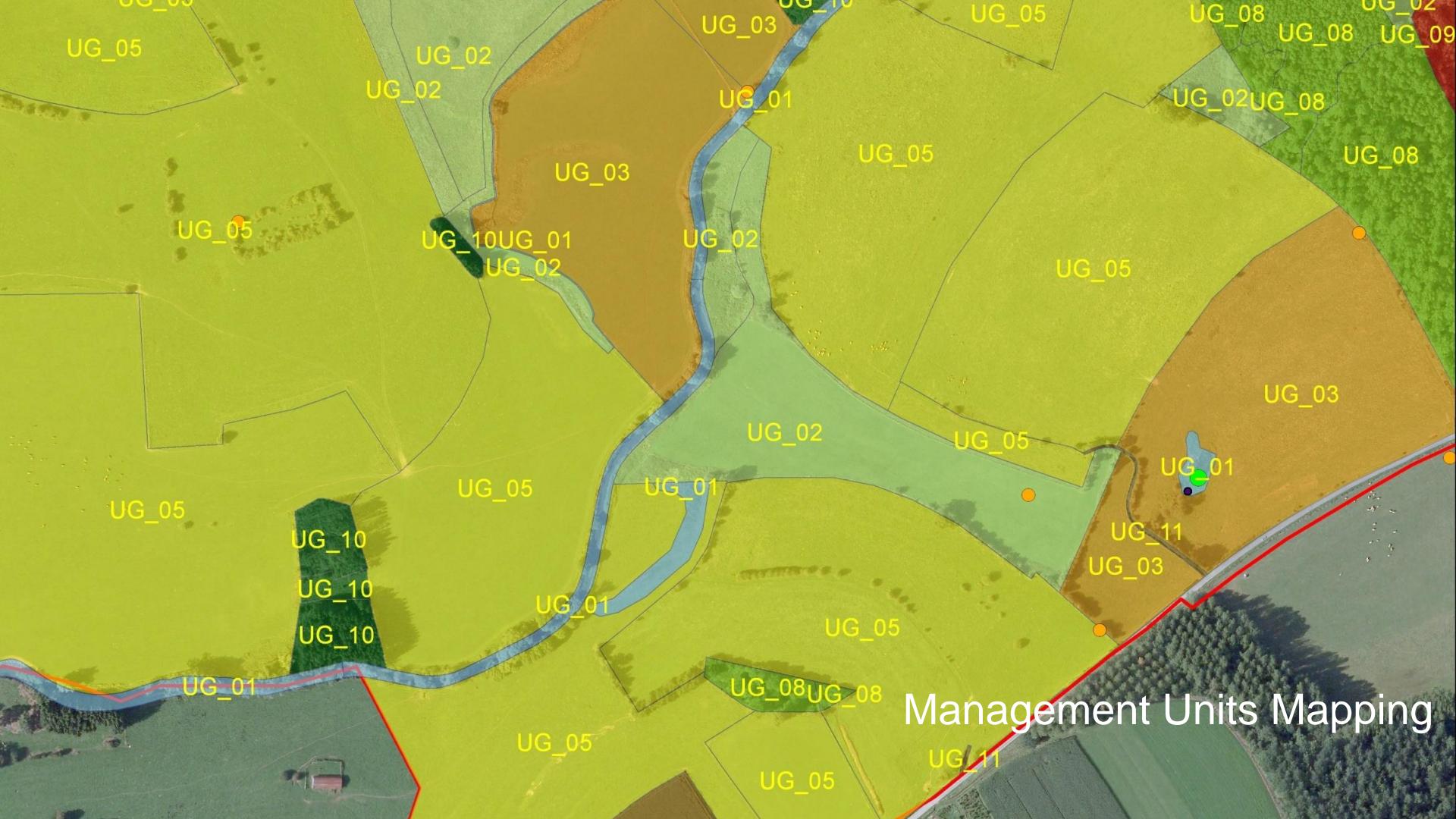
© René Dumoulin



Red-backed Shrike
areas

Pond with crested newt

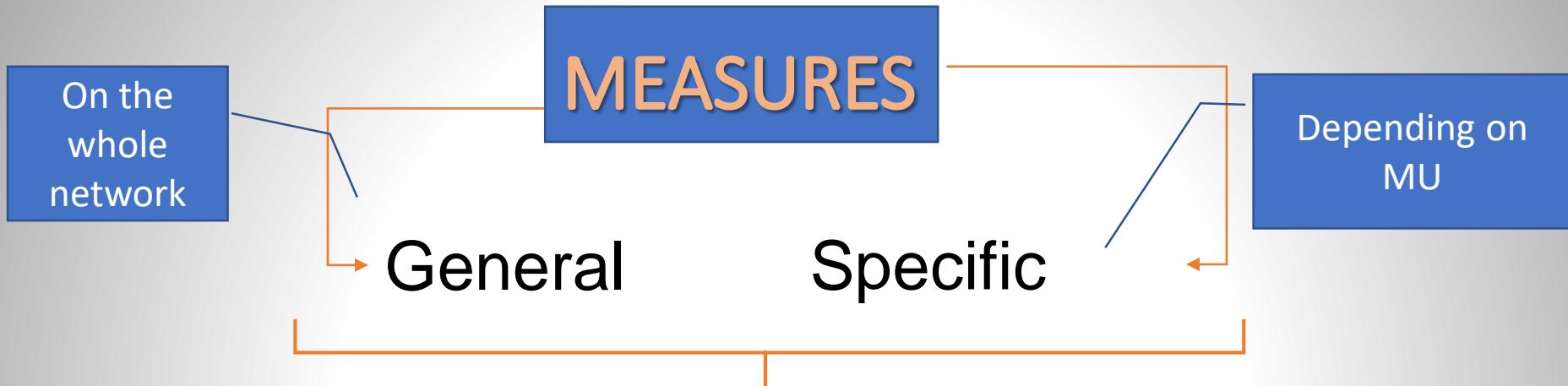
Management Units Mapping



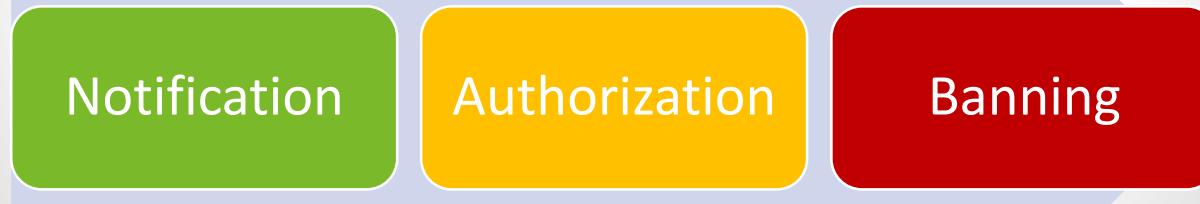
Label	Milieu concerné
UG de base	
UG1	milieux aquatiques
UG 2	milieux ouverts prioritaires
UG 3	prairies habitats d'espèces
UG 4	bandes extensives
UG 5	prairies de liaison
UG 6	forêts prioritaires
UG 7	forêts prioritaires alluviales
UG 8	forêts indigènes de grand intérêt biologique
UG 9	forêts habitat d'espèces
UG 10	forêts non indigènes de liaison
UG 11	terres de cultures et éléments anthropiques
UG en surimpression	
UG S1	moule perlière et mulette épaisse en UG1
UG S2	damier de la succise
UG temporaires	
UG temp 1	zones sous statut de protection
UG temp 2	zones à gestion publique
UG temp 3	Forêts indigènes à statut temporaire

With, for each, special rules





WG Acts: General Measures + Catalogue



Negociation with Stakeholders

The Designation Act: the legal Basis

- *1 for each Natura 2000 site*
- *scientific criteria of designation*
- *habitats and species of Community Interest*
- *cadastral parcels listing*
- *conservation objectives*
- *measures*

Draft legislation submitted to public inquiry

Le Gouvernement wallon,

Vu la loi du 12 juillet 1973 sur la conservation de la nature, telle que modifiée pour la dernière fois par le décret du 22 décembre 2010 modifiant la loi du 12 juillet 1973 sur la conservation de la nature en ce qui concerne la mise en œuvre du régime Natura 2000, ci-après dénommée 'la loi du 12 juillet 1973' ;

Vu l'arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 17 mars 2005 relatif au Livre I^{er} du Code de l'environnement, les articles D.29-1 et suivants ;

Vu l'arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 23 octobre 2008 fixant certaines modalités du régime préventif applicable aux sites Natura 2000 ;

Vu l'arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 24 mars 2011 portant les mesures préventives générales applicables aux sites Natura 2000 ainsi qu'aux sites candidats au réseau Natura 2000 ;

Vu l'arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 19 mai 2011 fixant les types d'unités de gestion susceptibles d'être délimitées au sein d'un site Natura 2000 ainsi que les interdictions et mesures préventives particulières qui y sont applicables ;

Vu l'enquête publique organisée sur les communes d'Amel/Amblève, du 10/12/2012 au 1/02/2013 et de Büllingen/Bullange, du 17/12/2012 au 8/02/2013, conformément aux dispositions du Code de l'environnement relatives à l'organisation des enquêtes publiques, articles D. 29-1 et suivants ;

Vu l'avis de la Commission de conservation de Malmedy, donné le 11 mars 2016;

Vu pour être annexé à l'arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 1^{er} décembre 2016 de désignation du site Natura 2000 BE33057 – "Vallée du Kolvenderbach".

Namur, le 1^{er} décembre 2016.

Le Ministre-Président,

P. MAGNETTE

Le Ministre de l'Agriculture, de la Nature, de la Ruralité, du Tourisme et des Aéroports,
délégué à la Représentation à la Grande Région,

R. COLLIN



Sites Management

Regulatory Approach

Designation Act: measures to comply with

Financial Compensations

- ✓ per Magmt. Unit
- ✓ from 40 to 440 €/ha



European co-funding

Tax exemptions

- ✓ Property tax
- ✓ Inheritance rights
- ✓ Gift tax

Walloon
Budget



Wallonie



Sites Management

Voluntary Approach

Management Plans: canvassing

Financial Tools

- ✓ contractually
- ✓ variable €/ha



Restoration projects





Stakeholders



Union des Villes
et Communes
de Wallonie asbl



**Wallonie
environnement
SPW**



N2000 Conservation
Committees





Stakeholders



- ✓ By regional order
- ✓ Representative of local interests
- ✓ Voluntary and participative functioning

N2000 Conservation Committees



Stakeholders

- ✓ Non-profit association
- ✓ Framework convention with WPS
- ✓ Neutral Image
- ✓ Farmers canvassing
- ✓ Restoration projects





Monitoring

Direction de la Nature et de l'Eau



WG Habitats



Exhaustive or sampling inventories

30



WG Species



Scientific protocols
(collaboration with Conservation Associations)



Reporting



- Imposed by European Commission
- Every 6 years
- Conservation status of habitats and species of community interest
- Carried out by administration (partnership)



Reporting



Legend: FV Favourable XX Unknown U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate U2 Unfavourable-Bad

Current selection: 2013-2018, Forests, Belgium, Continental.

Member States reports

Habitat	Range (km ²)				Area (km ²)								Structure and functions (km ²)						Future prospects				Overall assessment			
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRA	Good	Not good	Not known	Status	Trend	Range pros.	Area pros.	S & f pros.	Status	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.
9110 - Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests	14100	1.97	=	≈	454	477	465	interval	a	2.89	=	≈	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	454 - 477	U2	=	good	good	bad	U2	U2	=	U2	-	noChange
9120 - Atlantic acidophilous beech f...	4100	4.75	=	≈	55	63.30	59.10	interval	a	0.60	=	≈	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	55 - 63.30	U1	+	good	good	poor	U1	U1	+	U1	=	noChange
9130 - Asperulo-Fagetum beech fore...	14000	1.60	=	≈	317	336	326	interval	a	0.82	=	≈	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	317 - 336	U1	+	good	good	poor	U1	U1	+	U1	+	noChange
9150 - Medio-European limestone be...	7500	3.81	=	≈	93	105	99	interval	a	4.97	=	≈	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	93 - 105	U1	=	good	good	poor	U1	U1	=	U1	+	noChange
9160 - Sub-Atlantic and medio-Europe...	14700	2.97	=	≈	269	286	277	interval	a	4.77	=	≈	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	269 - 286	U1	=	good	good	poor	U1	U1	=	U1	+	noChange
9180 - Tilio-Acerion forest of slopes,...	12900	2.33	=	≈	12.60	16.80	14.70	interval	a	1.59	=	>	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	12.60 - 16.80	U2	=	good	poor	bad	U2	U2	=	U1	x	method
9190 - Old acidophilous oak woods...	13200	3.62	=	≈	55	65	60	interval	a	4.41	+	>>	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	55 - 65	U2	-	good	poor	bad	U2	U2	+	U2	+	noChange
91D0 - Bog woodland	7700	1.87	=	≈	7	11	9	estimate	b	0.78	+	>>	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	7 - 11	U2	u	good	poor	bad	U2	U2	+	U2	+	noChange
91E0 - Alluvial forests with Alnus glu...	15400	1.36	=	≈	44	53	48.70	interval	a	1.05	+	>>	N/A - N/A	N/A - N/A	44 - 53	U1	=	good	poor	bad	U2	U2	+	U2	x	noChange



Impact of

in Wallonia:

Backbone of the regional Nature Conservation strategy

Deep influence on projects and plans

Interactions with a large number of public and private operators

Resource mobilizing crowbar

High accountability level



NATURA 2000

The Walloon experience in a nutshell:

- Very effective lever for nature conservation
 - High means mobilizing capacity (projects et PAC)
 - The Reporting gives basis for conservation strategies
 - Existence of a real network logic including international partnership
-
- Cumbersome implementation (management, control)
 - Lack of protection for habitats of CI outside the network
-
- Communication/awareness raising : **KEY FACTOR!**



Wallonie



Useful links:

<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be>

<http://www.eea.europa.eu>

<http://environnement.wallonie.be>

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm

<https://nature-art17.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/>

Thank you for your attention!