Belgium's National Biodiversity Strategy 2006 - 2016: a common framework for action

Belgium's National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) was adopted by the competent ministers of the Federal Government and the three Regions of Belgium (Flanders, Brussels, Wallonia) on 26 October 2006. The NBS is a framework document that spells out a range of 15 strategic objectives and 78 operational objectives aimed to contribute to the 2010 Biodiversity Target. They where chosen in a participatory process with the different actors of society and underwent a public consultation.

Although the NBS is at its early stage of implementation, several action plans addressing specifically biodiversity have been developed over the years and are being implemented at Federal and Regional levels (see www.biodiv.be). The NBS organises the objectives and actions foreseen while preserving the autonomy and sharing of responsibilities. It identifies additional actions to be taken jointly to implement efficiently the CBD and the other biodiversity-related agreements; only some of them are descibed below.

What did we achieve?

With a surface area of 30,528 km2 on land, and 3,462 km2 in the North Sea, Belgium has a remarkable diversity of habitats and species. The species richness probably amounts to over 55,000 species of which around two thirds have been recorded and of which one third is under threats.

Definition of a common Belgian methodology for the identification and monitoring of biodiversity and application of SEBI 2010 indicators to harmonise data when reporting to European and International organisations. CBD indicators are used in Flanders (www.natuurindicatoren.be).
1 2 3

Establishment of an integrated, representative and coherent network of terrestrial and marine protected areas at national and transboundary levels. About 13 % of the territory at land and sea is designated as Natura 2000 sites.
1 5 8

Development of a common strategic approach and a first methodology to avoid the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species (Scientific forum on IAS http://ias.biodiversity.be).
1 2 6 8

Development of national coordinated CEPA actions on the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Celebration of the International Biodiversity Day each year. Promotion of public engagement toward biodiversity conservation, e.g. through the national campaign "I give life to my planet" (www.vip.biodiv.be).
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

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.
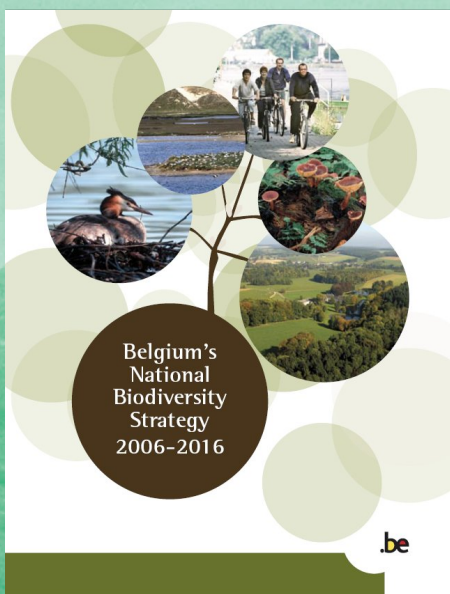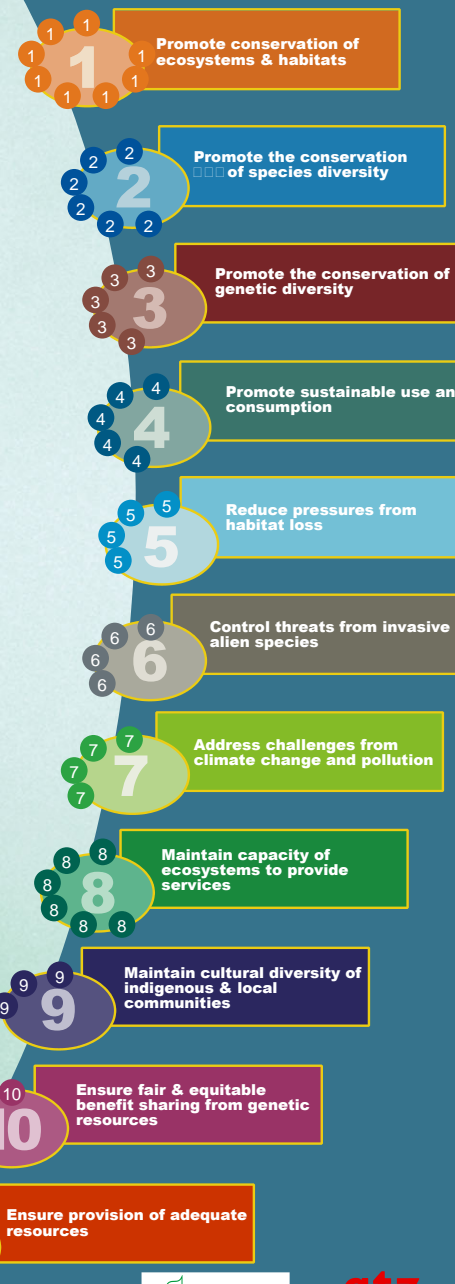1 2 3 4 9 10 11

Adoption of biodiversity criteria in public procurement policies. For example, Federal and Regional authorities encourage the use of certified wood in public works (www.guidedesachatsdurables.be).
1 4

Promotion of the integration of biodiversity concerns into all social and economic sectoral policies and establish partnerships at all level of decision making. The "Spring Debate on the Environment 2008" addresses these issues.
4 7 8

Promotion of synergies at national and international level to ensure the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related agreements. Organisation of national thematic workshops on the use of UNEP-IUCN TEMATEA modules (www.tematea.org).
1 2 3 5 6 7 8

Make best use of Belgian expertise to support the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions in developing countries, facilitate technology transfer and provide adequate capacity building.
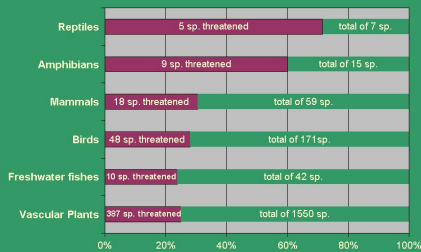1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Current state of species

Reptiles	5 sp. threatened	total of 7 sp.
Amphibians	9 sp. threatened	total of 15 sp.
Mammals	18 sp. threatened	total of 59 sp.
Birds	48 sp. threatened	total of 171sp.
Freshwater fishes	10 sp. threatened	total of 42 sp.
Vascular Plants	387 sp. threatened	total of 1550 sp.

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Note: % of not extinct indigenous species only; mammals and birds: breeding species only; mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians: including reintroduced species; fish: freshwater only, including artificially sustained species; plants: % threatened species underestimated. Source: OECD Environmental Indicators 2005.

2010 Biodiversity Target

1 **Promote conservation of ecosystems & habitats**

2 **Promote the conservation of species diversity**

3 **Promote the conservation of genetic diversity**

4 **Promote sustainable use and consumption**

5 **Reduce pressures from habitat loss**

6 **Control threats from invasive alien species**

7 **Address challenges from climate change and pollution**

8 **Maintain capacity of ecosystems to provide services**

9 **Maintain cultural diversity of indigenous & local communities**

10 **Ensure fair & equitable benefit sharing from genetic resources**

11 **Ensure provision of adequate resources**

22 mai journée internationale de la biodiversité
www.vip.biodiv.be
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Convention on Biological Diversity

gtz