

Development of the pledge on
conservation status improvement -
The approach of Wallonia for
continental habitat types

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Regions in Belgium

Belgium = 1 marine + 2 terrestrial biogeographical regions

Wallonia:

- intercepts Atlantic region
- covers almost all Belgian Continental region

→ *For restoration pledge: continental hab & sp mainly depend on Wallonia*



Last article 17 reporting

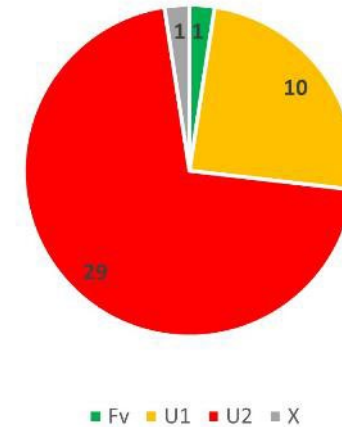
Conservation status of continental habitats

- ~ 75 % U2
- 1 hab Fv
- Main reason = Structures and Functions

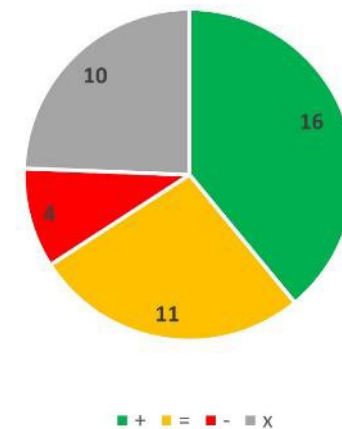
Trends

- 40 % positive
- 10 % deteriorating
- ~ 50 % stable or unknown

Continental habitats CS 2013-2018



Continental habitats trends 2013-2018



1. Habitats selection for 30 %

« strong positive trends » sub-target

Criteria :

- Trends already positive in 2013-2018
- Important restoration & management actions in the past
- Action plans already in progress or in development
- Synergy with Water Framework Directive

Importance of past and current Life Projects



1. Habitats selection for 30 %

« strong positive trends » sub-target

13/41 habitats

10 hab = « extraordinary nature »: heathlands, peaty habitats, calcareous grasslands → 85 to 100 % of habitats surfaces are in Natura 2000 sites

+ rivers (3 260): synergy with WFD

+ 2 forest habitats (9 190, 9 1 E0*): existing action plans and legal measures, restoration ongoing

30 % of nb of HCI types

16 % of total HCI surfaces



2. « Non deterioration» sub-target

All habitats with negative trends in 2019

= mainly hay meadows, scattered accross the agricultural landscape

Main pressure = intensification

- Fertilization
- Plowing
- Intensive grazing or mowing...

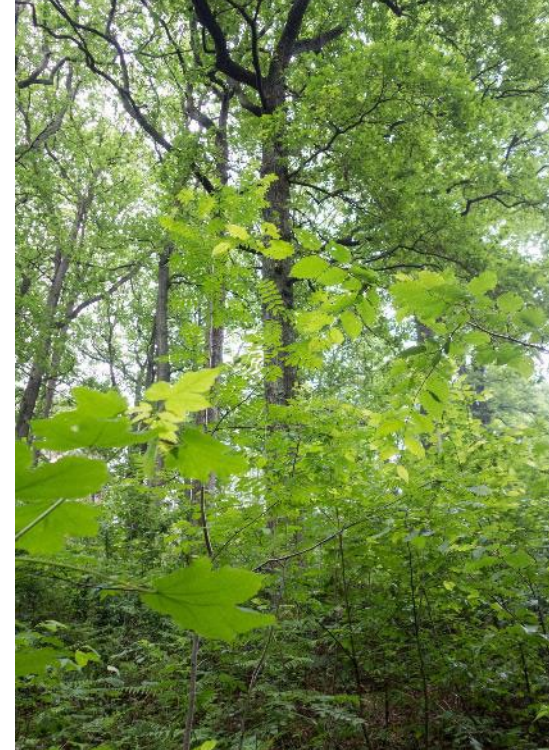


2. « Non deterioration» sub-target

Also habitats with stable or positive trends in 2019, but implementation or continuation of measures needed to avoid future deterioration

Ex.: 'common' forest habitats

enhance resilience (better structure, composition, soil protection)



2. « Non deterioration» sub-target

All habitats with negative trends

+

other habitats requiring measures to avoid future deterioration



➔ More widespread habitats, more productive soils,
higher surface, higher share outside N2000 network

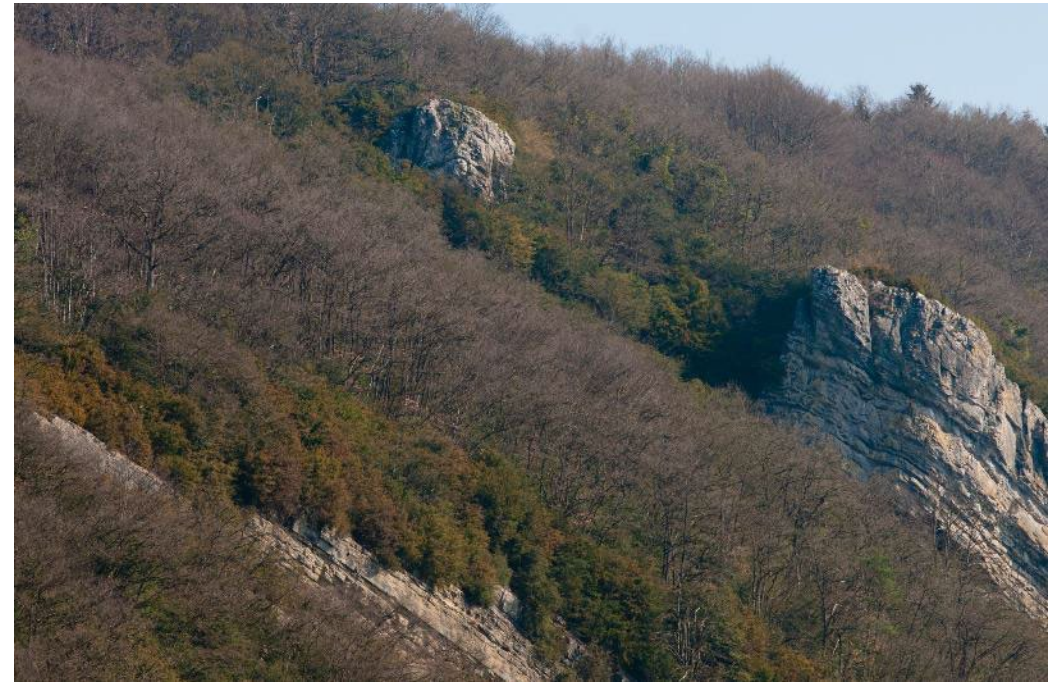
« non deterioration » sub-target important BUT likely to be more difficult to achieve !

Exceptions

1) Monitoring : unknown trends in 2019
ex. Habitats difficult to determine/assess (ponds –
3130, 3140, 3150)
Walloon research ongoing

2) Unavoidable deterioration:
Only 1 habitat: *Buxus* formations (5110): box tree
moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*)

*NB: no fatalistic approach about climate change → active
approach to improve resilience*



Conclusions



- Interesting exercise
- Allows Member States/Regions to realize how to contribute to BD 2030.
- Improvement subtarget not too difficult to achieve if:
 - Life and other projects already underway
 - efforts undertaken on the restored surfaces are continued
- Non-deterioration subtarget more difficult to achieve – in particular for agricultural habitats and habitats sensitive to climate change → “pledge” more theoretical, does not allow to classify habitats according to the difficulty of achieving non deterioration.
- Measures needed (cf template):
 - remain very general at this stage; difficult to move towards a quantification (ha, €)
 - quantification will depend on European funds that can be allocated
 - quantification needs wider consultation of scientists, decision-makers and stakeholders.