SECTION III. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS EACH NATIONAL TARGET

Objective 1 - Identify and monitor priority components of biodiversity in Belgium.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
☐ On track to exceed target X On track to achieve target ☐ Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate ☐ No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
The priority habitats and species were identified and are monitored among others within the framework of the EU Habitats Directive.
Indicators used in this assessment
Indicator(s)used in this assessment
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 on a yearly basis. The City-biodiversity index (CBI indicators) is tested in the Brussels-Capital Region.
Level of confidence of the above assessment
X Based on comprehensive evidence Based on partial evidence Based on limited evidence
Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.
Indicators and reporting in place.
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
X Monitoring related to this target is adequate Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) No monitoring system in place Monitoring is not needed
Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place
Monitoring is in place to ensure an information and data flow for the reporting on nature and environment.

Objective 2 - Investigate and monitor the effects of threatening processes and activities and their causes.

Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
☐ On track to exceed target X On track to achieve target ☐ Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate ☐ No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
Threatening processes are monitored through specific types of indicators and are reported upon on a regular basis. The impacts of some threatening processes on biodiversity might nevertheless deserve closer monitoring as for example climate change, nitrogen and phosphorus depositions, land use changes.
Indicators used in this assessment
Indicator(s)used in this assessment
Specific regional / federal indicators are used to follow up threatening processes.
Level of confidence of the above assessment
X Based on comprehensive evidence Based on partial evidence Based on limited evidence
Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.
Indicators and reporting in place.
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
X Monitoring related to this target is adequate Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) No monitoring system in place Monitoring is not needed
Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place
Monitoring is in place to ensure an information and data flow for the reporting on nature and environment.
Objective 3 - Maintain or restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in Belgium to a favourable conservation status.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
☐ On track to exceed target ☐ On track to achieve target

X Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate X No significant change Moving away from target Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing

Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).

According to the latest report on the conservation status of habitats and species covered by the Habitats Directive, 8.6% of the habitats' biogeographic assessments were favourable in 2013 in Belgium (EU 27: 16%). Furthermore, 17 % are considered to be unfavourable–inadequate (EU27: 47%) and 73 % are unfavourable – bad (EU27: 30%). As for the non-bird species, 19.2 % of the assessments were favourable in 2013 (EU 27: 23%) 26 % at unfavourable-inadequate (EU27: 42%) and 42% unfavourable-bad status (EU27: 18%). Moreover, 27% and 29.7% of the unfavourable assessments respectively for species and habitats were showing a positive trend in 2013.

For the period 2007-13, the Habitats Directive's Article 17 conservation status report for the Region of Wallonia indicated rapid area losses for two grassland habitat types, even inside Natura 2000 sites. On the other hand, the same report also indicated measurable improvements for less widespread but important habitat types in terms of biodiversity conservation, mostly attributable to LIFE-funded habitat restoration projects in the Ardennes region.

As far as birds are concerned, 66 % of the breeding species showed short-term increasing or stable population trends (for wintering species this figure was only 7 %.

High emission levels of farm-based nitrogen into Natura 2000 sites remains an issue of concern, particularly in the lowland parts of Belgium. A strategic nitrogen abatement programme is scheduled to be launched in Flanders and is expected to lead to a progressive reduction of nitrogen emissions into Natura 2000 sites over the coming decades.

Compared to the EU average, the number of complaints related to the EU Nature Directives is rather low in all Belgian regions.

Belgium has benefited from EU funding under LIFE-Nature, thanks to a strong network of Nature NGOs and public authorities pursuing a strong restoration agenda. Conservation strategies in Belgium are strongly based on land purchase and habitat restoration.

In early 2016, a LIFE Belgian Nature Integrated Project (BNIP) was granted, to support the implementation of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) of Flanders, Wallonia and the Federal Marine Division. This project will be focussing on measures aimed at the management of the Natura 2000 network, through improved governance, capacity building and collaboration between the Flemish, Walloon and Federal authorities. It also aims to improve stakeholder involvement, and to implement specific objectives such as developing integrated site management plans, monitoring and database systems.

Due to the extensive range of Natura 2000 sites restoration measures carried out since 2003 in the frame of six coordinated LIFE projects covering several thousands of hectares of peat bogs and wetlands in the Belgian Ardennes, the Belgian authorities were able to report, in 2013, significant positive trends in the conservation status of a dozen different habitat types and associated species protected by the EU Habitats Directive. Other large scale restoration and nature development projects under LIFE, INTERREG or regional programmes, are carried out along the Schelde river, the Zwin estuary, the coastal area and the Grensmaas.

Suggested action: undertake further efforts to ensure that the Natura 2000 network is managed towards favourable conservation status of protected habitats and species, especially by reducing the pressures from agriculture.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/pdf/report_be_en.pdf
Level of confidence of the above assessment X Based on comprehensive evidence Based on partial evidence Based on limited evidence
Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above. Reporting is in place, among others in the framework of the Habitats Directive.
Objective 4 - Ensure and promote the sustainable use of components of biodiversity.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target: On track to exceed target On track to achieve target X Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate No significant change Moving away from target Unknown
Date the assessment was done: Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment). Efforts are being undertaken at the federal, regional and local levels, focusing among others on sustainable production and consumption, sustainable farming and fishing, biodiversity-friendly procurement criteria, the wise use of wetlands and forests, but at insufficient rates and levels to ensure habitats and species' favourable conservation status, thus although significant progress has been made, the implementation scale and rate both need to increase.
Level of confidence of the above assessment Based on comprehensive evidence X Based on partial evidence Based on limited evidence
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment Monitoring related to this target is adequate X Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) No monitoring system in place Monitoring is not needed
Objective 5 - Improve the integration of biodiversity concerns into all relevant sectoral policies.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target: On track to exceed target On track to achieve target

X Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate No significant change Moving away from target Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
Efforts are being undertaken, mainly at the regional and federal level, focussing among others on the integration of biodiversity concerns into land-use planning, infrastructure, energy production, trade and transport, More recently, efforts are increasing in relation to business and biodiversity. Although progress is made, the scale and range need to be enlarged a lot.
Indicators used in this assessment
Indicator(s)used in this assessment
<indicator(s) used=""> Please provide a list of indicators used for the assessment of this target</indicator(s)>
or: No indicator used
Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress
<text entry=""></text>
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=""></add></add>
Level of confidence of the above assessment
☐ Based on comprehensive evidence ☐ Based on partial evidence ☐ Based on limited evidence
Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.
<text entry=""></text>
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
 ☐ Monitoring related to this target is adequate ☐ Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) ☐ No monitoring system in place ☐ Monitoring is not needed
Objective 6 - Promote and contribute to an equitable access to and sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:

☐ On track to exceed target ☐ On track to achieve target X Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate ☐ No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization has been ratified by Belgium. Within the limits of the decisions already taken at the international and European level, the competent Belgian authorities are now proceeding with the development of legal measures in order to enable its implementation.
Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress
Belgian Contact Group on ABS.
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment Monitoring related to this target is adequate Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) No monitoring system in place X Monitoring is not needed
Objective 7 - Improve and communicate scientific knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target: On track to exceed target X On track to achieve target Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate No significant change Moving away from target Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
Scientific reports and assessments are published very frequently at the regional, federal and national levels. Ecosystems and their services are reported upon and valuated, by some actors as well as the Belgian Biodiversity Platform. Efforts are also dedicated to the improvement of the science-policy interface. Communication is widely performed through websites, media tools as facebook and twitter, and other means.

Level of confidence of the above assessment Based on comprehensive evidence X Based on partial evidence Based on limited evidence
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment Monitoring related to this target is adequate Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) No monitoring system in place X Monitoring is not needed
Objective 8 - Involve the community through communication, education, public awareness and training.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target: On track to exceed target On track to achieve target X Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate No significant change Moving away from target Unknown
Date the assessment was done: Ongoing

Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).

Communication, Education and Public Awareness activities are undertaken by the National Focal Point, by the three 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. Biodiversity is more and more integrated in school courses as well as proposed to children and youth through other actions and means.

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.

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 (BiodiversiTree voir cidessous)). Quatre entreprises pionnières (Belvas, Amanprana, Ecosem et Tilman) ainsi que la Régie des bâtiments (service publique) 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. 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 BiodiversiTree 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 (BiodiversiTree) 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 connu 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 obtenu via des pratiques culturales 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.

survre les evolutions en la mattere.
Level of confidence of the above assessment
☐ Based on comprehensive evidence X Based on partial evidence ☐ Based on limited evidence
Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.
<text entry=""></text>
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
 ☐ Monitoring related to this target is adequate ☐ Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) X No monitoring system in place ☐ Monitoring is not needed
Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place
On an irregular basis studies on the people's knowledge about biodiversity and its importance are conducted.
Objective 9 - Strengthen the biodiversity-related regulatory framework and ensure the implementation of, compliance with and enforcement of biodiversity related legislations.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
On track to exceed target
On track to achieve target X Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate
A Flogress towards target but at all insufficient rate

☐ No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
Legislative and enforcement means and efforts need to be stepped up, although this is not an easy task seen the fragmentation of competences in relation to biodiversity matters and seen the number of legislative bodies within the country.
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
 ☐ Monitoring related to this target is adequate ☐ Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) X No monitoring system in place ☐ Monitoring is not needed
Objective 10 - Ensure a coherent implementation of / and between biodiversity-related commitments and agreements.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
 ☐ On track to exceed target ☐ On track to achieve target X Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate ☐ No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
Although a lot of efforts are already performed, more concertation, coordination and willingness are needed between all the biodiversity-, desertification- and climate change-related entities. Adequate mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in renewable energy measures related to climate change mitigation is lacking.
Indicators used in this assessment
Indicator(s)used in this assessment
<indicator(s) used=""> Please provide a list of indicators used for the assessment of this target</indicator(s)>
or: No indicator used

Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress
Among others observations and assessments made during (infra-)national Steering Committee and Working Group meetings.
Level of confidence of the above assessment
☐ Based on comprehensive evidence X Based on partial evidence ☐ Based on limited evidence
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
☐ Monitoring related to this target is adequate ☐ Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) ☐ No monitoring system in place X Monitoring is not needed
Objective 11 - Ensure continued and effective international cooperation for the protection of biodiversity.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
☐ On track to exceed target ☐ On track to achieve target X Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate ☐ No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
Several cooperation projects are undertaken by different Belgian entities. Belgium is member of the Consortium of Scientific Partners of the CBD as well as of the Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators. Development cooperation projects are mainly performed with African countries, but also with South-American and Asian ones. Although funding and means were increased already, much more could and should be done.
Level of confidence of the above assessment
☐ Based on comprehensive evidence X Based on partial evidence ☐ Based on limited evidence
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
 ☐ Monitoring related to this target is adequate X Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) ☐ No monitoring system in place ☐ Monitoring is not needed

Objective 12 - Influence the international agenda within biodiversity-related conventions.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
☐ On track to exceed target X On track to achieve target ☐ Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate ☐ No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
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. Belgium has also chosen biodiversity and climate as priority themes for the environment during its EU Presidency. The Belgian negotiating team is highly valued by and within EU-level and international meetings as illustrated by the numerous chair positions.
Level of confidence of the above assessment
☐ Based on comprehensive evidence X Based on partial evidence ☐ Based on limited evidence
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
 ☐ Monitoring related to this target is adequate ☐ Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) ☐ No monitoring system in place X Monitoring is not needed
Objective 13 - Enhance Belgium's efforts to integrate biodiversity concerns into relevant international organisations and programmes.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
☐ On track to exceed target ☐ On track to achieve target ☐ Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate X No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Level of confidence of the above assessment
☐ Based on comprehensive evidence ☐ Based on partial evidence X Based on limited evidence

Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment Monitoring related to this target is adequate Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) No monitoring system in place X Monitoring is not needed
Objective 14 - Promote the commitment of cities, provinces and other local authorities in the
implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy 2020.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:
☐ On track to exceed target X On track to achieve target ☐ Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate ☐ No significant change ☐ Moving away from target ☐ Unknown
Date the assessment was done:
Ongoing
Additional information (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).
Flanders and Wallonia have programmes in place to stimulate nature and biodiversity plans and actions by local authorities / municipalities. Provinces have substantial competences on nature and biodiversity. Brussels is a green capital with its part of the Sonian Forest, parks, gardens, the green and blue network. It elaborated and implements a nature plan.
Level of confidence of the above assessment
X Based on comprehensive evidence Based on partial evidence Based on limited evidence
Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above. <text entry=""></text>
Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment
 ☐ Monitoring related to this target is adequate ☐ Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue) ☐ No monitoring system in place X Monitoring is not needed
Objective 15 - Ensure the provision of adequate resources for biodiversity.
Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target: On track to exceed target
On track to achieve target Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate

X No significant change Moving away from target Unknown	
Date the assessment was done:	
Ongoing	