

Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

April-May 2003: The report was compiled by the Belgian National Focal Point to the CBD, on the basis of information provided by:

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Note:

Nature conservation policy, including the establishment and management of protected areas, lies with the legal competence of the three regions of Belgium (Brussels Capital Region, Flanders and Wallonia) and with the Federal government for matters concerning the North Sea.

Four different policy approaches therefore govern issues relating to nature protection. As a consequence various different categories of protected areas can be found in Belgium, with different criteria regarding the establishment and management according to the responsible authority.

Many of the questions contained in this report cannot be answered at the national level. The answers reflect the specific regional contexts. In some cases, more than one answer may be given in the boxes, indicating that the subject is dealt with in a different way by the regions.

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	

2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process	X

Areas under international status. Sites designated under the Ramsar Convention process (Flanders, Wallonia, North Sea).

Areas under EU status. Special areas of conservation (pSCI) under the EU Habitats Directive, special protection areas (SPAs) under the EU Birds Directive. Both types of areas make up the Natura 2000 network.

- pSCI have been proposed for all three regions and for the North Sea (one site). A list of sites has been sent to the European Commission for adoption (on-going process, via the 'bio-geographic seminars' for the Atlantic and Continental regions). For marine areas, the draft list has not been completed yet at European level as common criteria for designation of sites in the marine area are still being developed.
- SPAs have been proposed only for Flanders and Wallonia. For the North Sea, a scientific study is on-going for the delimitation of three zones.

Areas under national status. Belgium's three regions each have their own process and procedures for the designation of protected areas. Protected marine areas are foreseen in the 1999 'Marien Milieu Marin' (MMM) law, but none has been established yet.

3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is being undertaken	X (on-going process)
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made	X (on-going process)

Areas under EU status. Under the Natura 2000 process at EU level, the aim of bio-geographical seminars are to evaluate whether nationally designated areas are representative for the main species and habitats of European interest. Belgium takes part in the seminars for the Atlantic (Flanders,

Brussels, Wallonia, North Sea) and Continental (Flanders, Wallonia) regions. See the website of the Biodiversity Information Server of Wallonia for a description of the methods used for the selection of sites in Wallonia: <http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/sibw/sites/Natura2000/methodo.html>.

The information on the Natura 2000 sites in the Flemish region can be consulted on the following websites: <http://www.mina.vlaanderen.be/wiedoetwat/aminat/taken/natuur/natura2000.htm> and <http://www.natuur.be>; moreover, the maps and the site specific information can also be consulted on <http://www.gisvlaanderen.be/geo-vlaanderen/natura2000>.

Areas under national status. The assessment of the adequacy of the network of protected areas is an on-going process.

- Flanders: the ‘Flemish Ecological Network’ (VEN), still under development, aims to have a representativity of sites wherein management practices are oriented towards the conservation and development of high standard nature. Nature has the primary function in these sites, which also include nature and forest reserves. It is going to be supported by an ‘integral, interweaving and supportive network’ (IVON), composed of high-quality nature areas (where human activities such as agriculture, forestry, military operations and the extraction of drinking water are allowed on a controlled basis only), and of interconnecting and corridor areas. Besides other activities, nature is one of the functions in these sites. The first phase of the designation of the ecological network, for 87.000 ha (VEN), is now in procedure for final approval. Detailed information on the networks can be found on: <http://www.ven-ivon.be/>, <http://www.natuur.be>, and on the website of the Institute for Nature Conservation (<http://www.instnat.be>).
- Wallonia: the programme ‘Inventory of Sites of Great Biological Value’ (SGIB) in Wallonia aims to provide a scientific basis for the selection of sites to protect. The goal is to give all these SGIB a protection status. See the description on the Biodiversity Information Server of Wallonia: <http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/sibw/organisations/OFFH/progSGIB/home.html>.
- Brussels Capital Region: in the framework of its ‘green network’, the region has carried out an inventory of its green spaces, with the view to categorize the sites in function of their biological value. Sites of ‘high biological value’ make the core of the urban ecological network. A description of the programme is found on the website of the Brussels Institute for the Management of the Environment: <http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/content/content.asp?ref=855>.

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents	X

Areas under EU status. The three Belgian regions and the Federal government have transposed the EU Birds and Habitats Directives into regional law. This includes the need to establish protected areas and to elaborate management plans for the designated areas.

Areas under national status. Each of the Belgian regions has specific legislation regarding protected areas. There are also regional plans that take the conservation of biological diversity into consideration. The MMM (Marien Milieu Marin) law takes into account requirements for marine protected areas.

- Flanders: besides specific regulations for protection and management of Natura 2000 sites, there is an ‘Implementation Act’ regulating recognition of nature reserves and listing criteria for the subsidies that NGOs can receive from the Ministry of the Flemish Community for acquisition, management planning and implementation, and monitoring of sites. Information on the law relevant for nature conservation can be consulted on:

http://www.mina.vlaanderen.be/wiedoetwat/aminal/taken/natuur/vlaamse_wetgeving.htm (in Dutch)

- Wallonia: <http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/sibw/legislations/home.html> (in French)
- Brussels Capital Region: <http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/DroitContent.asp?ref=1541> (in French)
- North Sea: <http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Management/Law/national.php>.

5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets	X

Areas under international status. The Ramsar Convention has put forward a number of criteria in order to determine whether a wetland area is of international importance to water birds (http://www.ramsar.org/key_criteria.htm). In Flanders, these have been applied to the selection of the four sites that are currently protected under the Ramsar Convention. In Wallonia, these criteria have been adopted for the future development of the list of wetlands of international importance, and have been used for three new designations in 2002 (a transboundary site, a peatland and a karst). An example of a marine protected area can be found on: <http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Management/Atlas/habitatramsar.php> (in English).

Areas under EU status. There are guidelines on how to designate areas under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. The bio-geographical seminars have been set up to facilitate this designation process (including both terrestrial and marine habitats). The European Commission published a manual on the management of Natura 2000 sites.

- Flanders: the Flemish region published a general brochure on the Birds Directive in Flanders in 1999, and another on the Habitats Directive and the development of Natura 2000 in Flanders in 2002 (available at: http://bch-cbd.naturalsciences.be/belgium/news/VL_Natura.pdf). The brochures include an overview of the methods used for site selection and a presentation of general guidelines for the management of the habitats and the species for which the sites have been designated. For each of the Natura 2000 sites a 'Nature Objectives Plan' will be developed based on the ecological criteria of the site designation and on the ecological requirements for the conservation or restoration of the habitats and species for which the site was designated. The nature objectives plans will be developed and approved in a wide participatory way.
- Wallonia: see the Biodiversity Information Server of Wallonia for a description of the methods used for the selection of sites: <http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/sibw/sites/Natura2000/methodo.html>.
- Brussels Capital Region: see <http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/content.asp?ref=1599> (in French) or <http://www.ibgebim.be/nederlands/contenu/content.asp?ref=1563> (in Dutch) for a description on the methods used for the selection of sites.
- North Sea: guidelines and criteria for the selection and the identification of protected sites have been developed to identify areas under EC Directives. A study on SPAs is currently on-going. The identification of sites is carried out using scientific criteria only. The second step, which will be the elaboration of management guidelines of those selected sites, has not yet started. The elaboration will be done with the help of all stakeholders concerned.

Areas under national status. Each of the Belgian regions has specific guidelines, criteria and targets regarding the establishment and management of protected areas.

- Flanders: development of the ‘Flemish Ecological Network’ (VEN) (target designation of 125,000 hectares around 2003), supported by an ‘Integral Interweaving and Supportive Network’ (IVON) (designation of 150,000 hectares planned by 2008). See <http://www.ven-ivon.be>. Specific guidelines, criteria and management regulations, and monitoring of management also exist for the establishment of nature and forest reserves; see point 4.
- Brussels Capital Region: development of the ‘Green and Blue networks’, for the cohesion and continuity of green spaces and semi-natural areas in the urban environment and the integrated management of the open waterways in the Region. See the following URLs: <http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/content.asp?ref=1300> (in French) or <http://www.ibgebim.be/nederlands/contenu/content.asp?ref=1532> (in Dutch).
- Wallonia: inventory of ‘Sites of Great Biological Interest’ (SIGB), which make the framework for the designation of protected areas. See: <http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/sibw/organisations/OFFH/progSGIB/home.html>.

Research. Belgium takes part in a COST Action at European level: E27 PROFOR – ‘Protected Forest Areas in Europe’. The main objective of the action is to describe, analyse, and harmonise the wide-range of protected forest area categories used in European countries within the context of existing international systems of protected areas.

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures , for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	X
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Areas under EU status. Financial support is foreseen for the management of Natura 2000 sites. At the moment various, LIFE-Nature projects with co-financing by the EU are carried out, and several sets of agri-environment measures have been introduced.

Areas under national status.

- Flanders and Wallonia: subsidies can be granted to farmers applying agri-environmental measures to land under various levels of protection status.
- Flanders: grants can be provided to private nature or forest owners for having a nature or forest area designated or recognised as a reserve (the grant is reduced if hunting is allowed during the hunting season). Grants are also provided to nature conservation NGOs for acquisition, establishment and management of nature reserves.
- Wallonia: subsidies can be granted for private nature reserves (purchase, ordinary and extraordinary management works).
- Brussels Capital Region: grants can be provided for the management of private nature reserves. They have not been used so far, as there are not yet any officially designated private nature reserves.
- North Sea: as the management guidelines of marine protected sites still have to be completed, it is not known whether they will involve the use of intensive, and benefit-sharing arrangements.

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	X (most protected areas)
b) an assessment is being planned for	X (some protected areas)
c) an assessment is in process	X (some protected areas)
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	X (some protected areas)
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	X (biodiversity in general)

For most protected areas, there is no threat analysis available. Assessments are planned, are on-going or have been carried out on a case by case basis for some protected areas, as part of the management planning process. A general assessment of threats to biodiversity has been carried out by all three regions of Belgium. A synthesis in English can be found in: Peeters, M., Franklin, A. & Van Goethem, J. (eds) 2003, Biodiversity in Belgium. Chapter 6. RBINS, Brussels.

Flanders: for all the areas designated in the Natura 2000 network and in the Flemish network VEN-IVON, a site-specific 'Nature Objectives Plan' will be developed (see question 5). The basis of the plan includes the description of the area, the biodiversity characteristics and the threats to the area and the biodiversity they contain. The main objective of such a plan is to describe site specific measures to deal with those threats. Measures that may be introduced on a general basis in all the areas are being compiled in an Implementation Act (approval and publication foreseen in 2003).

8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies ?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	X (areas under national status)
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	X (areas under EU status)

Areas under European status.

- Designated areas under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives are considered in the context of European biogeographical regions (Atlantic and continental, in the case of Belgium).
- At the pan-European level, protected areas are to be integrated in the Pan-European Ecological Network. The full and effective implementation of existing international instruments is of vital importance in building the Pan-European Ecological Network, since they provide for the conservation of many of the most valuable sites in Europe. These international instruments include the Bern Convention, the European Union Habitats and Birds Directives, the Ramsar Convention, the Bonn Convention, the World Heritage Convention and the Fourth Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

Areas under national status.

- Some transboundary protected areas have been established with the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France and Germany. See question 17.
- The ‘Plan de Base Écologique et Paysager Transfrontalier’ (PBEPT) Wallonie-Luxembourg is a project seeking to develop a coherent transboundary area based on nature and landscape. This project is part of a EU-funded INTERREG III programme which covers Wallonia, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Lorraine (France).

Sectoral strategies. Different policy instruments exist at EU level, such as Biodiversity Strategy (1998) and its Action Plans (2001) on Natural Resources, Agriculture, Fisheries and Development Cooperation, the Forestry Strategy (1998), the Water Framework Directive (2000), the Strategy on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (2001), the Sustainable Development Strategy (2001) and the Strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment (2003).

9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes ?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	X

Different types of statuses for protected areas are found in each of the three Belgian regions. As presented above, there are areas under international, European and national (regional) status. They have different levels of protection and a range of management objectives.

For more information on the different types of protected areas at national level and their management regimes, see:

- Flanders: http://www.instat.be/content/page.asp?pid=NG_Startpagina (in Dutch)
- Wallonia: <http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/sibw/sites/espaces.proteges.html> (in French)
- Brussels Capital Region: <http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/content.asp?ref=1369> (in French) and <http://www.ibgebim.be/nederlands/contenu/content.asp?ref=1556> (in Dutch)
- North Sea: <http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Management/Atlas/habitatramsar.php> (in English). Management guidelines still in the process of establishment.

10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	X
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	

Many NGOs organize ‘management days’ involving the public for brushwood clearing, mowing, etc. in the protected areas under their ownership/management.

- Flemish region: the site-specific Nature Objectives Plans will be developed in cooperation with stakeholders active in that specific site, while each plan will be supported by a general communication programme and will be approved after public consultation.
- North Sea: the stakeholders will be involved in the establishment of the management plans for marine protected areas.

11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	X (North Sea)
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	X (other regions)

Some protected areas established by NGOs have been recognized by the government and given a legal status. These include:

- Flanders: “natuurreservaten terreinbeherende verenigingen” (http://www.instat.be/content/page.asp?pid=NG_Natuurreservaten, in Dutch). Moreover, private owners can have their nature or forest site recognized as a reserve, and by doing so, they may receive subsidies for the management of their site.
- Wallonia: “réserves naturelles agréées” (<http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/sibw/sites/espaces.proteges.html#resnatagr>, in French).
- Brussels Capital Region: recognition of reserves is foreseen by law, but it has not been granted yet as there are no private nature reserves.
- North Sea: recognition of protected areas established by NGOs is not foreseen in the MMM law.

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X (Brussels)
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X (Wallonia and Flanders)
d) yes, good resources are available	X (North Sea)

In general, more resources (human, institutional, financial) are needed for protected areas. The surface area of the individual protected areas has a tendency to become smaller and smaller, and therefore require intensive management to meet conservation goals. A solid, well-coordinated monitoring system is needed to regularly update information on the state of nature (e.g. far more species need to be monitored). Management planning needs more integrated and participatory approach that implies the need for more time and higher inputs of resources.

Areas under European status. The LIFE-Nature programme provides some financial resources for the implementation of the Natura 2000 network. It must be complemented with national resources. For more information, see: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/life/nature.htm>.

Areas under national status. Resources are provided by the Federal government and by the Regional governments. The availability of resources depends on the region. For the North Sea, good resources are available for implementation of the MMM law: there is a specific budget allocated by the Federal Minister for the Environment and several research projects on biodiversity in marine areas are funded by the Federal Science Policy Office.

13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	X (GEF)
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	X (EU funds)

EU funding. As stated above, EU funding for the Natura 2000 network comes through the LIFE-Nature programme. Twenty-one projects from Belgium have received financial support during the 1992-2002 period. See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/life/nature.htm>.

Nature protection initiatives can also be funded under the EU INTERREG and LEADER programmes. The financing of the Natura 2000 network on a long-term basis is currently under evaluation by the European Commission.

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	X (North Sea)
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	X (Flanders)
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	

- Flanders: constraints have been evaluated, as reported in its Nature Report 2001. The Flemish region is a highly urbanized and developed region. Open areas are scarce and under high competition between various sectors, as well as under very high pressure of fragmentation, various types of pollution, other land uses,...
- North Sea: the constraints have not been assessed yet. They will be when the designation of the marine protected areas will have been officially completed.

15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	X
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	X (Flanders)

- Wallonia and the Brussels Capital Region: there is no real programme in place but the bio-monitoring of some natural reserves is carried out on an *ad-hoc* basis.
- Flanders: several monitoring programmes are on-going, monitoring of management of nature reserves by NGOs is also subsidised.
- North Sea: monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the management is foreseen as part of the management plan.

16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	X
b) an assessment is planned	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	X (Flanders)

- Flanders: a study of cost-benefit evaluation was carried out for the pSCI under the Habitats Directive.
- North Sea: this assessment might be undertaken as part of the management plan, although it is rather difficult to put in place in marine areas.

Regional and international cooperation

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X

There are several transboundary projects. For example: Grensmaas-Maasland, Scheldt estuary, Kalmthoutse Heide-De Zoom, het Zwin, Stamprooierbroek (Flanders, the Netherlands), duinen en IJzervallei (Flanders-France), Hautes-Fagnes Eifel Natural Park (Wallonia, Germany), Scheldt Lowlands (Plaines de l'Escaut) Natural Park (Wallonia, France), Haute-Sûre Valley Ramsar transboundary site (Wallonia, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg).

Flanders: for the whole northern boundary of Flanders, a study was carried out to list all possible areas with transboundary natural areas and describe possible actions for cooperation. Development of cooperation programmes started in 2002. Similar studies will be carried out for the other regional border lines.

18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas , thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) information is not available	

Data as provided by IUCN WCPA database:

National NGOs:

- Centre permanent d'éducation à la conservation de la nature de Mariemont
- Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde van Antwerpen
- Université de Liège
- Université Libre de Bruxelles
- World Wide Fund for Nature - Belgium

State:

- The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office

Government Agency with State Member

- Direction générale des Ressources naturelles et de l'Environnement, Ministère de la Région Wallonne
- Flemish Ministry of Environment: membership procedure in process.

19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Yes, but the data provided are out of date. Work is on-going to update the data through the European project 'Common Database of Designated Areas' (for more information on CDDA, see: <http://nature.eionet.eu.int/activities/products/cdda>).

20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognized or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them.
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Areas under international status: Ramsar Convention. See:

- http://www.ramsar.org/cop8_nrs_belgium1.pdf (2002)
- http://www.ramsar.org/cop8_nrs_belgium2.pdf (2002).

Areas under European status:

- Belgium has to report to the European Commission as regards the Natura 2000 network
- The Hautes-Fagnes nature reserve in Wallonia has been awarded the 'European Diploma' from the Council of Europe. This requires annual reporting on the state of the fauna and flora and any changes which have taken place.

21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	

FURTHER READING AND WEBSITES

Further reading:

AMINAL, Natuurpunt & WWF. 2003. Natura 2000 in Vlaanderen. Een schakel in een Europees netwerk. Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap - Afdeling Natuur, Brussel, 56 pp.

AMINAL. 2002. Vlaams ecologisch netwerk (VEN). Vlaanderen natuurlijk. Wegwijs in het VEN. Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Brussel, 28 pp.

BIM - IBGE. 2000. Het groene en het blauwe netwerk. Brussels Instituut voor Milieubeheer, Brussel, 32 pp.

Dumortier, M., De Bruyn, L., Peymen, J., Schneiders, A., Van Daele, T., Weyemberh, G., van Straaten, D. & Kuijken, E. 2003. Natuurrapport 2003. Toestand van de natuur in Vlaanderen: cijfers voor het beleid. Mededelingen van het Instituut voor Natuurbehoud nr. 21, Brussel.

European Commission. 2000. Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission, Luxembourg, 69 pp.

IBGE - BIM. 2000. Le maillage vert et bleu. Institut Bruxellois pour la Gestion de l'Environnement, Bruxelles, 32 pp.

Kuijken, E., Boeye, D., De Bruyn, L., De Roo, K., Dumortier, M., Peymen, J., Schneiders, A., van Straaten, D. & Weyemberh, G. 2001. Natuurrapport 2001. Toestand van de natuur in Vlaanderen: cijfers voor het beleid. Mededelingen van het Instituut voor Natuurbehoud nr. 18, Brussel.

Kuijken, E. 1999. Natuurrapport 1999. Toestand van de natuur in Vlaanderen: cijfers voor het beleid. Mededelingen van het Instituut voor Natuurbehoud nr. 6, Brussel.

Peeters, M., Franklin, A. & Van Goethem, J. (eds) 2003. Biodiversity in Belgium. Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels.

Websites:

Green spaces in the Brussels Capital Region:

<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/content.asp?ref=1612> (in French) or

<http://www.ibgebim.be/nederlands/contenu/content.asp?ref=1446> (in Dutch)

Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models: <http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/index.php>

Serveur d'information sur la biodiversité en Wallonie:

<http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/sibw/sites/home.html> (in French)

Websites of the Flemish Region,

Environment administration: <http://www.ven-ivon.be> and <http://www.natuur.be>

Institute for Nature Conservation: <http://www.instnat.be>.
