

BELGIUM

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De Maten (IBA 028).
(PHOTO: LUC NAGELS/BNVR/RNOB)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Belgium has a surface area of 30,521 km² and an average population density of 324 people per km². Urban zones occupy a considerable part of the country, in particular in the northern half. Intensive agriculture is prominent throughout the north, whilst in the south larger areas are covered by forests. Belgium can be divided into three regions according to altitude, from west to east: a lowland area (0–50 m) extending from the coast to the central plateau; the medium-altitude zone (50–200 m) extending to the riverine lowlands of Sambre and Meuse; and the upland zone to the east (highest point 694 m).

Belgium has 48 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) covering 6,483 km², which is more than 20% of the land area of the country (Table 1,

Map 1). Of these, 28 IBAs are in the Flemish Region (Vlaams Gewest), 19 are in the Walloon Region and one in the Belgian coastal zone, which is federal territory.

The first pan-European IBA inventory (Grimmett and Jones 1989) identified 41 IBAs for Belgium, compared to 48 in this current inventory. The changes can be explained by the division of two sites into four and the identification of five new sites (Table 1). The division concerns Vlaamse Banken en Westkust (site BE001 in the previous inventory) which has been split into two IBAs: Trapegeer-Stroombank (001) and Westkust (002); and the Dyle valley (formerly site BE023) which falls within both the Flemish and Walloon Regions, and is treated separately as sites De Dijlevallei (016) and Vallée de la Dyle (031). The total IBA area has decreased but the division guarantees better protection. The new sites are four

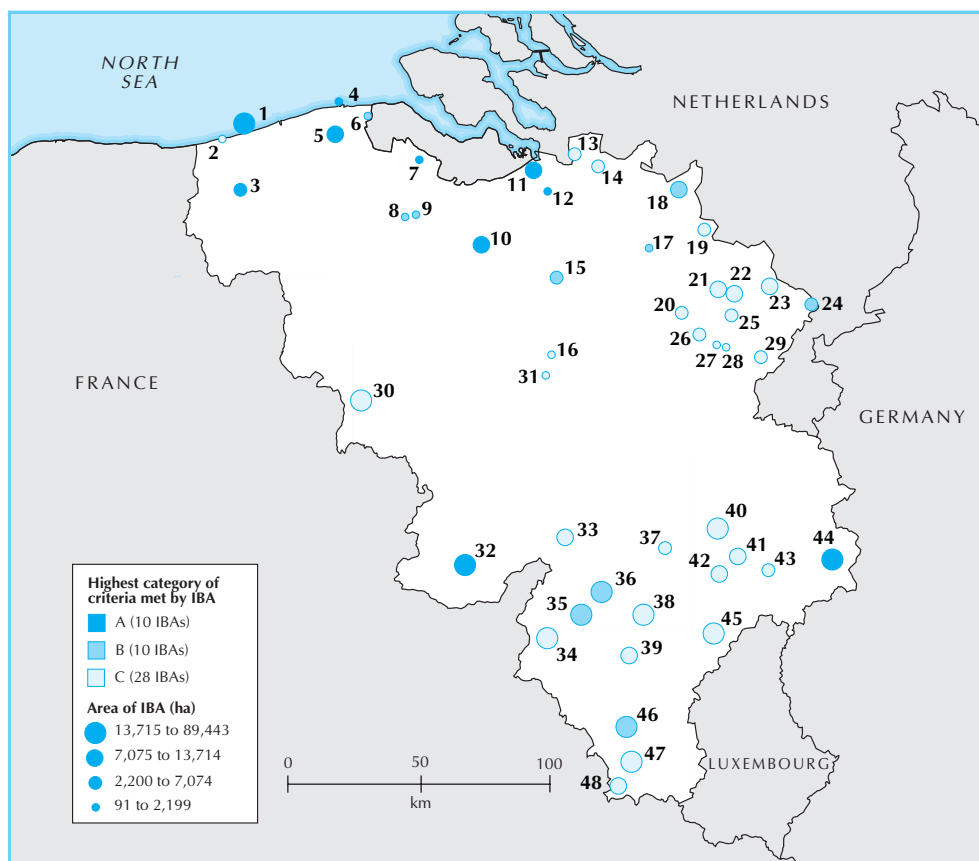
Table 1. Summary of Important Bird Areas in Belgium.

48 IBAs covering 6,483 km²

IBA code	1989 code	International/National name	Administrative region	Area (ha)	Criteria (see p. 11)
001	BE001	Trapegeer-Stroombank	Belgian Federal Government	17,000	A4i, B1i, C3
002	BE001	Westkust	Vlaams Gewest	1,415	C7
003	BE002	Ijzervallei-De Blankaart	Vlaams Gewest	5,100	A4i, B1i, B2, C2, C3, C6
004	—	Voorhaven Zeebrugge and Baai van Heist	Vlaams Gewest	230	A4i, B1i, C2
005	BE003	Polderkomplex	Vlaams Gewest	9,349	A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2, C2, C3, C4, C6
006	BE004	Zwin	Vlaams Gewest	1,820	B1i, B3, C3, C6
007	BE005	Krekengebied	Vlaams Gewest	780	A4i, B1i, B2, B3, C2, C3, C6
008	—	Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen	Vlaams Gewest	213	B1i, C3
009	—	Gentse Kanaalzone	Vlaams Gewest	700	B1i, C3
010	BE006	Durme en Middenloop van de Schelde	Vlaams Gewest	7,923	A4i, B1i, C3, C6
011	BE007	Schorren en Polders van de Beneden-Schelde	Vlaams Gewest	7,570	A4i, B1i, B3, C2, C3, C6
012	BE008	Kuifeend and Blokkersdijk	Vlaams Gewest	194	A4i, B1i, B3, C2, C3, C6
013	BE010	Kalmthoutse Heide	Vlaams Gewest	2,200	C6
014	BE009	De Maatjes, Wuustwezel Heide en Groot Schietveld	Vlaams Gewest	4,100	C7
015	—	Mechels Rivieregebied, Antwerpen	Vlaams Gewest	2,263	B1i, C3

Important Bird Areas in Europe – Belgium

Table 1 ... continued. Summary of Important Bird Areas in Belgium.					48 IBAs covering 6,483 km ²
IBA code	1989 code	International/National name	Administrative region	Area (ha)	Criteria (see p. 11)
016	BE023	De Dijlevallei	Vlaams Gewest	1,250	C6
017	BE012	Zegge	Vlaams Gewest	91	B1i, C3
018	BE011	Gebieden ten noorden van Turnhout en Ravels	Vlaams Gewest	7,075	B2, C6
019	BE013	Ronde Put	Vlaams Gewest	5,400	C6
020	BE014	Demervallei	Vlaams Gewest	7,010	C6
021	BE015	Vallei van de Zwarte Beek	Vlaams Gewest	8,864	C6
022	BE016	Gebieden gelegen te Peer en Hechtel-Eksel	Vlaams Gewest	10,015	C6
023	BE018	Hamonterheide, Hageven, Buitenheide, Mariahof en Stamprooierbroek	Vlaams Gewest	13,125	C6
024	—	Grensmaas	Vlaams Gewest	2,653	B1i, C3
025	BE017	Gebieden gelegen te Houthalen-Helchteren en Meeuwen-Gruitrode	Vlaams Gewest	2,798	C6
026	BE019	Vijvercomplex van Midden Limburg	Vlaams Gewest	2,560	C6
027	BE020	Bokrijk	Vlaams Gewest	800	C6
028	BE021	De Maten	Vlaams Gewest	600	C6
029	BE022	Mechelse Heide en de Vallei van de Ziepbeek	Vlaams Gewest	2,350	C6
030	BE024	Bassin de la Haine	Région Wallonne	13,715	C6
031	BE023	Vallée de la Dyle	Région Wallonne	1,334	C7
032	BE025	Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse	Région Wallonne	83,866	A1, C1, C2, C6
033	BE026	Haute Meuse	Région Wallonne	7,700	C6
034	BE027	Croix-Scaille	Région Wallonne	36,610	C6
035	BE029	Daverdisse	Région Wallonne	14,914	B3, C6
036	BE028	Lesse et Lomme	Région Wallonne	22,426	B3, C6
037	BE030	Marche en Famenne	Région Wallonne	5,100	C6
038	BE031	Saint-Hubert	Région Wallonne	16,700	C6
039	BE032	Ochamp-Freux	Région Wallonne	10,900	C7
040	BE033	Malchamps	Région Wallonne	41,638	C6
041	BE035	Vallée de la Lienne	Région Wallonne	8,500	C6
042	BE037	Tailles	Région Wallonne	8,494	C6
043	BE036	Wanne-Logbiermé	Région Wallonne	5,700	C6
044	BE034	Hautes Fagnes/Eifel	Région Wallonne	80,304	A4i, B1i, B1iv, C2, C5, C6
045	BE038	Deux Ourthes	Région Wallonne	34,678	C6
046	BE039	Haute Sûre/Ardenne méridionale	Région Wallonne	89,443	B3, C6
047	BE040	Sinémurienne	Région Wallonne	32,541	C6
048	BE041	Côte Bajocienne	Région Wallonne	8,287	C6



Map 1. Location, area and criteria category of Important Bird Areas in Belgium.

proposed Ramsar Sites and a new proposed Special Protection Area (SPA). Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse (032) and Malchamps (040) significantly increased in surface area. Durme/Middenloop Schelde (010) also increased in surface area to compensate for losses of habitat at Schorren and Polder van de Beneden-Schelde (011) due to harbour development works. Demervallei (020) is larger than mentioned in Grimmett and Jones (1989).

ORNITHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

There are 94 species of European conservation concern (SPECs) which regularly breed in Belgium, of which 46 have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe (Tucker and Heath 1994). Entre Sambre et Meuse (032) qualifies under the A1 criterion for its important population of *Crex crex*, a species of global conservation concern (Table 2).

In particular, several of the wetland IBAs in the lowlands are important for wintering waterfowl and geese populations. A total of eight IBAs (001, 004, 005, 007, 010, 011, 012, 044) support more than 1% of the biogeographic population of at least one species (thus meeting criteria A4 and B1), and a further six IBAs (003, 006, 008, 015, 017, 024) support more than 1% of the flyway population of at least one species (criterion B1) (Table 3). Sites with the highest concentrations of wintering and migrating waterfowl are the IJzerbroeken–De Blankaart (003), Poldercomplex (005) (which holds more than 60% of the biogeographic population of wintering *Anser brachyrhynchus*), Durme en Middenloop van de Schelde (010), and Schorren en Polders van de Beneden Schelde (011). A total of 300,000 waterbirds winter yearly in Flanders and an additional 33,000–55,000 waterbirds winter in Wallonia. Particularly important are the wintering numbers of *Anser brachyrhynchus*, *A. albifrons*, *Cygnus columbianus*, *Melanitta nigra*, *Anas strepera*, *A. crecca*, *A. penelope*, *A. clypeata* and *Aythya ferina*. Additional migratory species meeting the B1 criterion are *Anser fabalis*, *Anas acuta*, *Pluvialis apricaria* and *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

Table 2. Important Bird Areas in Belgium that are important for species of global conservation concern (meeting criterion A1).

Species	IBA code
<i>Crex crex</i> Corncrake	032

Table 3. Important Bird Areas in Belgium that support important numbers of one or more congregatory species (i.e. meeting criteria A4 and/or B1). IBAs meeting both criteria A4 and B1 for the species are shown in **bold**. IBAs meeting only criterion B1 for the species concerned, and not A4, are shown in normal type. For key to 'Season', see p. 7.

Species	Season	IBA code
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> Great Crested Grebe	W	001
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i> Bewick's Swan	W	007
<i>Anser fabalis</i> Bean Goose	W	005
	P	011
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> Pink-footed Goose	W	005, 006
<i>Anser albifrons</i> White-fronted Goose	W	005, 006, 007
<i>Anser anser</i> Greylag Goose	P	011
<i>Anas penelope</i> Wigeon	W	003, 005, 011
<i>Anas strepera</i> Gadwall	W	010, 011, 012
	P	017
<i>Anas crecca</i> Teal	W	003, 010
	P	011
<i>Anas acuta</i> Pintail	W	003, 010
<i>Anas clypeata</i> Shoveler	W	003, 005, 008, 012
	P	011, 017
<i>Aythya ferina</i> Pochard	W	015, 024
<i>Grus grus</i> Crane	P	044
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Avocet	B	011
	P	011
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> Golden Plover	P	005
<i>Larus minutus</i> Little Gull	P	001
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> Sandwich Tern	B	004
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> Little Tern	B	004

Table 4. Species of European conservation concern and species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive with significant breeding populations at IBAs in Belgium (meeting any IBA criteria).

Species ¹	Minimum national breeding population (pairs) ²	Proportion (%) of national population breeding at all IBAs in Belgium
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> Bittern	2	100 ³
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> Little Bittern	2	50
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> Black Stork	7	100 ³
<i>Pernis apivorus</i> Honey Buzzard	300	48
<i>Milvus migrans</i> Black Kite	4	25
<i>Milvus milvus</i> Red Kite	30	87
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> Marsh Harrier	60	90
<i>Bonasa bonasia</i> Hazel Grouse	80	26
<i>Tetrao tetrix</i> Black Grouse	50	58
<i>Crex crex</i> Corncrake	17	100 ³
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Avocet	410	61
<i>Limosa limosa</i> Black-tailed Godwit	865	15
<i>Tringa totanus</i> Redshank	145	45
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i> Mediterranean Gull	123	72
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> Sandwich Tern	607	69
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> Common Tern	1,864	86
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> Little Tern	250	100 ³
<i>Bubo bubo</i> Eagle Owl	20	25
<i>Aegolius funereus</i> Tengmalm's Owl	50	28
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Nightjar	180	32
<i>Alcedo atthis</i> Kingfisher	250	40
<i>Picus canus</i> Grey-headed Woodpecker	8	100 ³
<i>Dryocopus martius</i> Black Woodpecker	800	18
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i> Middle Spotted Woodpecker	400	100 ³
<i>Lullula arborea</i> Woodlark	450	24
<i>Luscinia svecica</i> Bluethroat	1,850	32
<i>Lanius collurio</i> Red-backed Shrike	550	100 ³

1. Only those species of European conservation concern (see Box 1, p. 12) that meet IBA criteria in Belgium are listed, together with those species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive that fulfil criterion C6 in IBAs in Belgium.
2. Data are taken from the BirdLife/EBCC European Bird Database 1998 (Heath and Borggreve 2000).
3. The percentage of the national population in IBAs exceeds 100%. Usually this is because the national population estimate has not been updated recently whilst the IBA population estimate has been recently updated with new data as a result of comprehensive surveys of IBAs themselves. Also, the individual site count for a species may be the maximum or average over recent years, and summing these may record more birds than are present nationally in any single year.

In addition Voorhaven van Zeebrugge and Baai van Heist (004) holds internationally important breeding numbers of *Sterna albifrons* in the tern colony.

Several species of European conservation concern and species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive have significant populations at IBAs (Table 4).

HABITATS

All terrestrial IBAs contain at least some artificial landscape, with nearly 50% of these having more than half of their surface area covered by this habitat-type. Major artificial landscapes are

Figure 1. Habitats at Important Bird Areas in Belgium (see Appendix 3 for definitions of habitats).

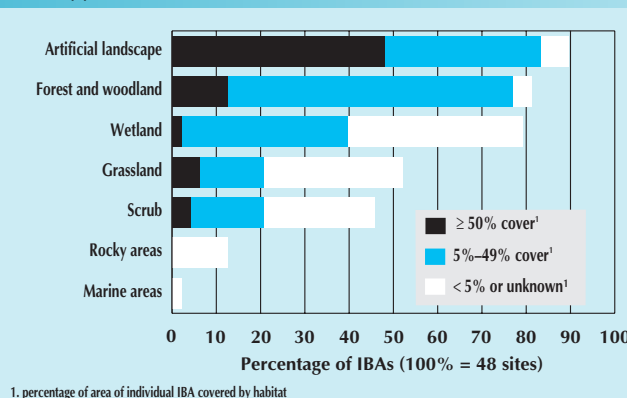
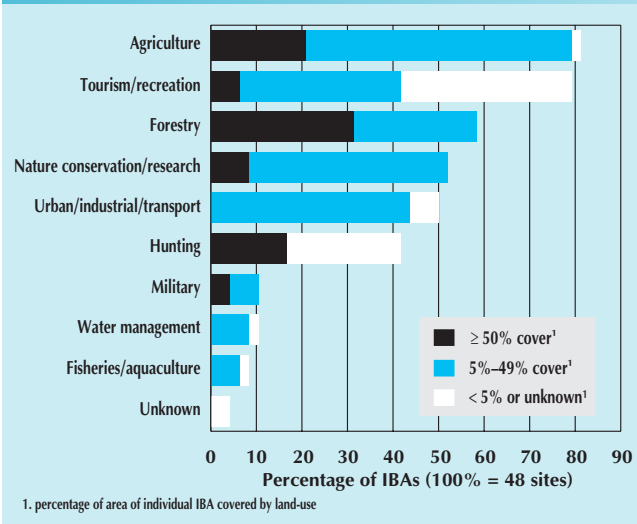


Figure 2. Land-uses at Important Bird Areas in Belgium (see Appendix 3 for definitions of land-uses).



intensively used agricultural land and, in Wallonia, large forestry plantations. Over 80% of IBAs have woodland habitat; those with more than 50% of the site area being natural woodland are all situated in Wallonia and are Entre Sambre et Meuse (032), Haute Meuse (033), Daverdisse (035), Saint-Hubert (038), Wanne-Logbiermé (043) and Sinémurienne (047) (Figure 1).

Although nearly 80% of all IBAs have some wetland habitats, these are small, with the exception of Durme en Middenloop van de Schelde (010) which is 80% wetland habitat and Zwin (006) which is 40%. Grassland is present in 50% of IBAs, but only two IBAs have more than 50% humid grassland: 85% of IJzervallei–De Blankaart (003) and 60% of Poldercomplex (005) are humid grassland.

Scrub habitat consists mainly of heathland and dune-scrub vegetation, and is the predominant habitat-type in two IBAs: Houthalen-Helchteren (025) for heathland and Westkust (002) for dune-scrub vegetation. Trapegeer-stroombank (001) is a marine area with sandbanks and shallow water.

IMPACTS ON IBAs – LAND-USE AND THREATS

Over 80% of IBAs are used in some way for agriculture, and in about one quarter of sites it is the dominant land-use, especially for IJzervallei–De Blankaart (003), Poldercomplex (005), Krekengebied (007) and Deux-Ourthes (045), where more than 80% of the surface area of each IBA is used for agriculture.

Nearly 60% of sites are used for forestry and in 15 IBAs this is the dominant land-use, with forestry activities impacting on more than half of the area of the IBA. All such sites are in Wallonia and include Croix-Scaille (034), Daverdisse (035), Saint-Hubert (038) and Wanne-Logbiermé (043).

Nature conservation is a major land-use in just under 10% of IBAs. In contrast, in nearly 20% of IBAs hunting is the main land-use, especially in Wallonia. Although in only two sites do military activities occur in more than 50% of the area, military areas have

Figure 3. Threats at Important Bird Areas in Belgium (see Appendix 3 for definitions of threat types and impact categories).

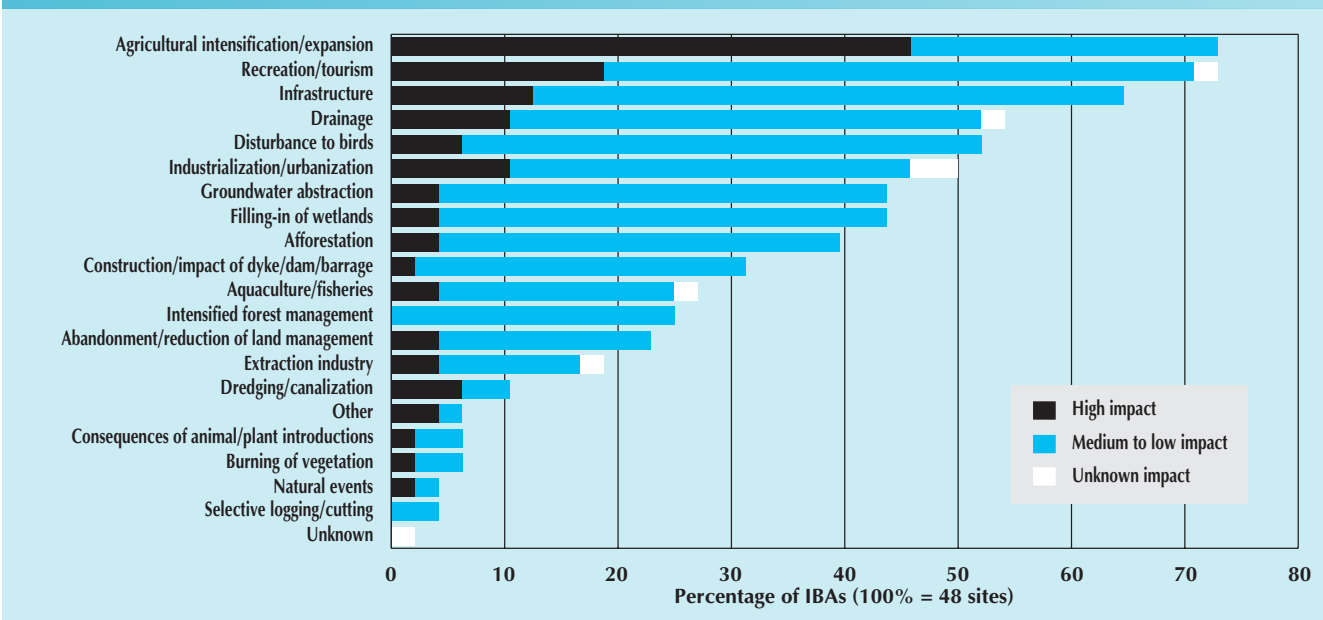


Figure 4. The national protection status of Important Bird Areas in Belgium.

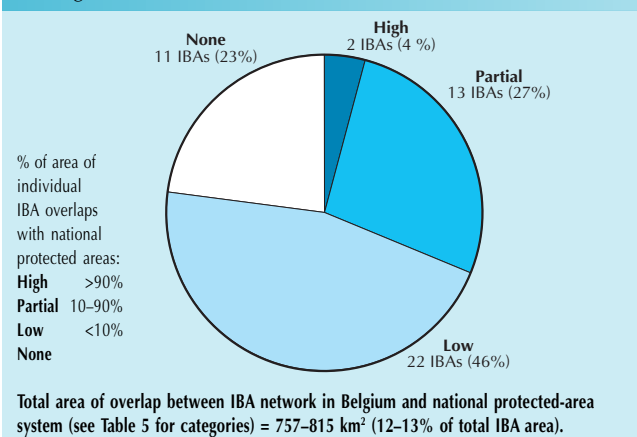


Figure 5. The international protection status of Important Bird Areas in Belgium.

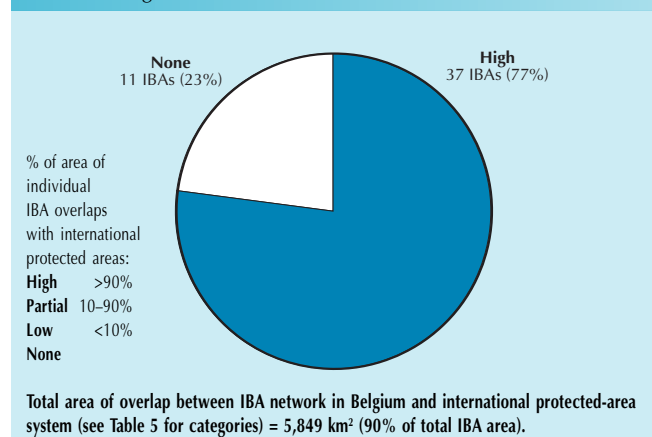


Table 5. Protection status of Important Bird Areas in Belgium. A tick (✓) indicates that an IBA overlaps with a protected area (to any extent).

IBA International code name	National			International	
	State Nature Reserve	Private Nature Reserve	Nature Park	Ramsar Site	Special Protection Area
001				✓	
002	✓	✓			✓
003		✓		✓	✓
004	✓				
005		✓			✓
006		✓		✓	✓
007		✓			✓
008		✓			
009					
010	✓	✓			✓
011		✓			✓
012		✓			✓
013	✓			✓	✓
014		✓			✓
015		✓			
016		✓			✓
017		✓			✓
018		✓			✓
019		✓			✓
020		✓			✓
021		✓			✓
022					✓
023		✓			✓
024		✓			
025					✓
026	✓	✓			✓
027		✓			✓
028		✓			✓
029	✓				✓
030		✓		✓	✓
031				✓	✓
032					✓
033		✓			
034		✓			✓
035		✓			✓
036		✓			✓
037					
038		✓			
039					
040		✓			✓
041					
042		✓			✓
043		✓			
044		✓	✓		✓
045					✓
046		✓			✓
047		✓			✓
048					✓
Total number of IBAs	6	34	1	6	36

in general a high conservation value, especially for heathland habitats. Houthalen-Helchteren (025), Vallei van de Zwarte Beek (021), Haute Fagne-Eifel (044), Marche en Famenne (037), Sinémurienne (047) are the most important heathland sites.

Figure 3 summarizes the key threats and impacts on IBAs. Intensive agricultural methods are the main threat to bird species in the majority of IBAs, with a high impact in nearly 50% of sites. Throughout Belgium this includes the intensive use of manure, increased fragmentation, drainage, transformation of grassland to

Box 1. International legislation and initiatives that are relevant to site conservation in Belgium (see Appendix 1 for a general description of these agreements).

Global	
Biodiversity Convention	✓
Ramsar Convention	✓
Bonn Convention	✓
World Heritage Convention	✓
MAB Programme	✓
Pan-European	
Bern Convention	✓
Regional	
EC Birds Directive	✓
EC Habitats Directive	✓
✓ Convention ratified/initiative supported	
(✓) Convention signed	

arable and reseeded landscape, and hedge clearance. The latter two activities are becoming an increasing threat in Wallonia.

Infrastructure, industrialization and urbanization are long-term threats to 50–65 % of IBAs. Schorren en polders van de Beneden Schelde (011) will be largely destroyed by the expansion of harbour facilities. Quarry activities destroy valuable habitats at Entre Sambre et Meuse (032), Haute Meuse (033), Lesse et Lomme (036) and Sinémurienne (047). Recreation and tourism are increasing, affecting over 70% of IBAs, and considered a particularly significant threat to parts of Westkust (002), Kalmthoutse Heide (013) and Haute Fagnes (044). In Belgium most habitats are fragmented, thus the filling-in of wetlands, afforestation and groundwater abstraction have a high impact on these sites.

PROTECTION STATUS

Table 5 summarizes the national and international protection status of Belgian IBAs.

■ National protection

The legislation for the protection of sites is different for Brussels, Wallonia and Flanders. The principal categories of protected areas are: State Nature Reserves, Private Nature Reserves (NGO), Nature Parks (Wallonia only), Forest Reserves, ‘Zones humides d’interet biologique’ (wetlands of biological importance (Wallonia only)) and Protected Landscape (data on the last three designation-types have not been compiled for this chapter—see ‘Analytical methods’ section).

Six IBAs are fully or partly protected as State Nature Reserves and 34 as Private Nature Reserves (Table 5); these designations may cover parts of the same IBA. Overall 77% are partially covered by some form of national protected area, but in only 11 IBAs does this cover exceed 10% of the IBA area (Figure 4). Indeed less than 15% of the total surface area of IBAs in Belgium is effectively protected. Protection of a site is generally guaranteed once it has been designated as a green area on the physical planning map. The physical planning map is drawn up by regional governments and determines the designation of the area as an industrial, agricultural, green, military, recreational or residential zone.

■ International protection

Belgium is party to several international initiatives (Box 1). It has also signed the Benelux agreement on nature and landscape conservation. Thirty-six IBAs are designated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EC Birds Directive and six as Ramsar Sites (five of which are also SPAs). Seven IBAs are proposed SPAs but have not yet been designated (015, 033, 037, 038, 039, 041, 043).

Although 77% of IBAs have some form of international protection (Figure 5) the actual protection of the areas is far from adequate. The main problems are the lack of specific protection measures, in particular habitat protection, and the absence of complete management strategies for the sites. In most SPAs only certain habitats are legally protected within the boundaries of the area, and often these habitats represent only a small percentage of the total IBA area (with the exception of deciduous woodland), and are insufficiently protected. All but 12 IBAs are SPAs and thus are part of the Natura 2000 network of the EU. In Flanders, more than 50% of the area of the IBAs is proposed as a Site of Community Importance, whilst in Wallonia this is less than 5%.

Grasslands in river valleys (potential *Crex crex* habitat), as well as historical polder grasslands (key wintering sites for important geese populations), are still insufficiently protected. Harbour development threatens several areas and although compulsory land compensation is foreseen by the EC Birds Directive, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find such zones of an equal ornithological value.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Rare and vulnerable breeding birds are monitored throughout Belgium. A monitoring project for common birds is running in Wallonia and Brussels, while several local projects take place in Flanders. Scientific research and monitoring of wintering and migrating waterfowl populations (including geese) is carried out in the whole country.
- Several IBAs are included within the framework of the ‘Ecologisch Impulsgebied’, an integrated conservation and development project. This initiative, launched by the Flemish Region, aims to harmoniously combine nature conservation and other land-uses. Several zones within SPAs are subject to management agreements with local farmers, while others are being bought by the Flemish Region and managed as nature reserves. The future of many geese and wader populations on farmed landscapes depend on the success of such initiatives. This affects IBAs 003, 016, 018, 020, 021 and 026.
- For a site to be recognized as a nature reserve by the government, a management plan has to be drawn up. Management plans exist only for small parts of the IBAs protected as reserves. For some of these IBAs overall management plans are currently being developed.
- In Wallonia several local forest management plans are being implemented.
- Agri-environmental agreements take place within the framework of landscape conservation and restoration.
- Subsidies from regional governments, and LIFE funds from the European Union, are increasingly important for the acquisition and management of nature reserves.
- Regional governments are supporting monitoring projects for species and sites.

ANALYTICAL METHODS

- Counts of passage birds are in most cases given as maxima for the period 1990–1996.

- Waterfowl counts are good quality, the range is given for the 1990–1996 period. For geese, the figures for wintering data are not confined to the limits of the IBA, but to the whole east coast polder area.
- Most data on breeding birds are from the period 1993–1996/1997. Data from terns and plovers in the Voorhaven Zeebrugge and Baai van Heist (004) are maxima for the period 1990–1999.
- All key species are covered by the IBA inventory.
- Assigning percentage cover and categories for land-use, habitats and threats in the Walloon region was difficult due to lack of detailed regional information. The figures given are estimates. For the Flemish region, data reflect the 1996 situation and changes may have occurred in the meantime.
- Complete information on all protected sites within IBAs was difficult to obtain, due to lack of an available appropriate database system at the time of data compilation. Therefore data for some national protected-area designations is incomplete.
- Areas of IBAs were calculated using GIS (Geographic Information System) techniques; consequently almost all IBAs areas are different from the figures given for the previous pan-European IBA inventory (Grimmett and Jones 1989).

GLOSSARY

BNVR/RNOB Belgische Natuur- en Vogelreservaten/Réserves Naturelles et Ornithologiques de Belgique, the BirdLife Partner in Belgium.

LIFE an EU funding line (Regulation 1975/92/EEC) which supports EU environmental legislation, including the Birds and Habitats Directives.

MUUM management unit on North Sea mathematical models.

Natura 2000 the name given by the European Commission to the ‘coherent ecological network’ of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) that is due to be established within the European Union member states by June 2004, under the Birds and Habitats Directives.

polder a flat area of land, often below sea-level, with an artificially regulated water-regime, having been reclaimed from the sea or from a lake or river.

SPA Special Protection Area (designated under Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive).

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SITE ACCOUNTS

Trappegeer-Stroombank

Admin region Belgian Federal Government

Coordinates 51°12'N 2°45'E

Altitude 0–0 m Area 17,000 ha

A4i, B1i, C3

001



Site description

A marine area off the west Belgian coast, with sandbanks that are slightly covered by sea water at all times, and mud- and sandflats that are fully exposed at low tide.

Habitats Marine areas (sea inlet/coastal features), Wetland (mudflat/sandflat)

Land-use Unknown

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe	W	—	1,000	—	B1i, C3
<i>Larus minutus</i>	Little Gull	P	—	—	—	A4i, B1i, C3

Other species include passage *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Sterna sandvicensis*, *S. hirundo*, *S. paradisaea*, *Gavia stellata* (winter >150 birds), *G. arctica*, *Sula bassana*, *Somateria mollissima*, *Uria aalge*, *Alca torda* and *Aythya marila*, and wintering *Melanitta nigra* (1,500–2,000 birds).

Protection status

National None International High

IBA covered by Vlaamse Banken (Federal) Ramsar Site.

Conservation issues

Threats Aquaculture/fisheries

Fishing activities and the illegal setting of fixed nets near the French border should be controlled. Seabirds are regularly counted, studies on benthic communities are taking place and remote-sensing aircraft monitor pollution from ship discharges. The area is a proposed Special Area for Conservation.

Westkust

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°08'N 2°40'E

Altitude 0–23 m Area 1,415 ha

C7 002



Site description

The site includes all important dune areas along the western part of the Belgian coast and encompasses the saltmarshes and mudflats of

the River IJzer estuary. Habitats range from sand-beaches, shifting dunes, fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation, wet and dry depressions with *Lycium barbarum*, *Salix repens* and wooded areas. The site consists of several large zones separated from each other by urbanized areas.

Habitats Forest and woodland (30%; mixed forest), Scrub (70%; scrub), Wetland (40%; sand-dunes/sand beach)

Land-use Nature conservation/research (90%), Tourism/recreation (10%), Water management (30%)

Birds

This is an important staging site for migrating passerines. The site supports nationally important numbers of migrating and wintering waders. *Galerida cristata* breeds at the site (20 pairs, which is 20–25% of the Flemish population).

Protection status

National High International High

340 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (De Westhoek, 340 ha), 80 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (Houtsaegerduinen, 80 ha), 1 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Doornpanne, 1 ha), 20 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (IJzermonding, 20 ha), 1 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Ysermonde, 1 ha), 1,415 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Westkust, 1,415 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Consequences of animal/plant introductions (B), Disturbance to birds (B), Groundwater abstraction (A), Natural events (B), Recreation/tourism (B)

The succession of vegetation within certain dune areas may result in the loss of some habitat-types ('natural event' threat). The entire IBA is designated as a reserve or green area on the physical planning map, and has been protected since 1995 by the 'Dune Decree'. A proposed Site of Community Importance covers 1,400 ha of this site (Duingebieden inclusief IJzermonding en Zwin, 2,891 ha). For most of the zones, a management plan exists or is currently being prepared. A nature development project to restore dune areas is underway in the IJzermonding Reserve. Detailed information on all breeding bird species is collected in the framework of a four-year census project, linked to the study of the effects of nature management measures. Migratory birds are regularly counted.

IJzervallei–De Blankaart A4i, B1i, B2, C2, C3, C6 003

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°00'N 2°50'E

Altitude 3–7 m **Area** 5,100 ha



Site description

A large area of flat and annually (in winter) inundated hay-meadows and grasslands along the IJzer and Handzame rivers. The site includes the Blankaart, a shallow freshwater lake with extensive reedbeds and *Salix* marshes.

Habitats Forest and woodland, Grassland (85%; humid grassland), Wetland (5%; standing fresh water; water-fringe vegetation), Artificial landscape (10%; highly improved reseeded grassland; arable land)

Land-use Agriculture (90%), Hunting (50%), Nature conservation/research (10%), Tourism/recreation (10%), Water management (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Bewick's Swan	W	—	50	80	A B2
<i>Anas penelope</i>	Wigeon	W	—	25,000	55,000	A A4i, B1i, C3
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Teal	W	—	1,000	5,000	A B1i, C3
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Pintail	W	—	100	900	A B1i, C3
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Shoveler	W	—	400	850	A B1i, C3
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Marsh Harrier	B	1996	6	8	A C6
¹ <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	P	—	—	50	— C2

1. Daily maximum.

This is an internationally important area for migrating and wintering waders and waterfowl, especially wintering *Anas penelope*. The site is also nationally important for breeding meadow birds.

Protection status

National Low International High

113 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Blankaart, 113 ha), 2,160 ha of IBA covered by Ramsar Site (Blankaart, 2,160 ha), 5,100 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (IJzervallei including Blankaart, 5,100 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (B), Drainage (A), Dredging/canalization (B), Recreation/tourism (C)

The area is included in the 'Ecologisch Impulsgebied', an integrated conservation and development project. Small zones are managed as nature reserves by BNVR/RNOB and the Flemish Region. A management plan exists for the Blankaart area and several smaller zones. 170 ha (4%) is designated as a green area on the physical planning map of Flanders. Wintering waterbirds have been monitored for the past 15 years and breeding birds intensively for the last five.

Voorhaven Zeebrugge and Baai van Heist

A4i, B1i, C2 004

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°21'N 3°11'E

Altitude 0–0 m **Area** 230 ha



Site description

An industrial area in Zeebrugge harbour.

Habitats Wetland (sand-dunes/sand beach), Artificial landscape

Land-use Urban/industrial/transport

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	B	—	—	420	— B1i, C2
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	B	—	1,500	1,800	— C2
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little Tern	B	—	—	1,950	— A4i, B1i, C2

This is an important tern colony, with the only breeding site for *Sterna albifrons* and *S. sandvicensis* in the country. The area also holds 114 breeding pairs of *Charadrius alexandrinus*.

Protection status

National Partial International None

45 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (Baai van Heist, 45 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Industrialization/urbanization

As a result of the development of harbour activities, the available breeding area for terns and plovers has dramatically decreased, while colonization of the (protected) beach area is partly successful but limited by space. The suitable habitats in the most important breeding area of the Voorhaven will be lost in the near future as a result of harbour activities. The area is a proposed Ramsar Site.

Polderkomplex A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2, C2, C3, C4, C6 005

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°15'N 3°13'E

Altitude 2–8 m **Area** 9,349 ha



Site description

The area includes the most interesting parts of the coastal polders to the north of Brugge which consist of grasslands, extensively used ditches, canals and reedbeds. It also includes a small part of the coastal dunes near Blankenberge.

Habitats Grassland (60%), Artificial landscape (40%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves)

Land-use Agriculture (90%), Nature conservation/research (5%), Tourism/recreation (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> Bittern	P	—	—	15	B	C2
<i>Anser fabalis</i> Bean Goose	W	1989	3,000	3,000	—	B1i, C3
¹ <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> Pink-footed Goose	W	—	20,000	36,000	A	A4i, B1i, C3
¹ <i>Anser albifrons</i> White-fronted Goose	W	—	15,000	30,000	A	A4i, B1i, C3
<i>Anas penelope</i> Wigeon	W	—	10,000	40,000	A	A4i, B1i, C3
<i>Anas clypeata</i> Shoveler	W	—	300	500	A	B1i, C3
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> Marsh Harrier	B	1996	—	10	A	C6
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> Golden Plover	P	—	10,000	15,000	B	B1i, C2
<i>Limosa limosa</i> Black-tailed Godwit	B	1995	100	120	A	B2
<i>Luscinia svecica</i> Bluethroat	B	1993	60	80	A	C6

1. Population estimate refers to east coast polder area.

This is an internationally important wintering site for *Anser brachyrhynchus*, *A. albifrons* and *Anas penelope*. The area is also important for breeding meadow birds.

Protection status

National Low International High

12 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (De Fonteintjes, 12 ha). 60 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Uitkerkse Polder, 60 ha). 9,349 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Poldercomplex Hoeke, Damme, Meetkerke, Uitkerke, 9,530 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Drainage (A), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (B), Recreation/tourism (B)

Because of its ornithological importance the site is well monitored by BNVN/RNOB and the Institute of Nature Conservation. Seventeen percent of the area has been designated as a green area on the physical planning map. Securing the populations of waders and geese on this site will depend on the success of management agreements with farmers, buying of land and an overall management scheme. 25 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Dune areas including IJzermonding and Zwin, 2,891 ha). 350 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Zilte poldergraslanden, 884 ha).

Zwin

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°20'N 3°21'E
Altitude 0–7 m **Area** 1,820 ha

B1i, B3, C3, C6 **006**



Site description

An area of saltmarshes and mudflats (a remnant of a former estuary) with a dune system and polders with halophile creeks and grasslands, several reedbeds and canals fringed with reed. The dune and saltmarsh area extends across the border into the Netherlands.

Habitats Forest and woodland, Wetland (10%; mudflat/sandflat; saltmarsh; sand-dunes/sand beach), Artificial landscape (80%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation)

Land-use Agriculture (70%), Nature conservation/research (15%), Tourism/recreation (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> Pink-footed Goose	W	—	—	500	A	B1i, C3
¹ <i>Anser albifrons</i> White-fronted Goose	W	—	—	10,000	A	B1i, C3
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> Marsh Harrier	B	1995	—	4	A	C6
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Avocet	B	—	—	41	—	B3, C6
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i> Mediterranean Gull	B	1996	—	28	A	C6
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> Common Tern	B	1995	—	62	A	C6

1. Maximum for 1990-1996 period.

The site supports internationally important numbers of wintering geese. Significant numbers of gulls, terns and meadow birds also breed and the dunes are an important staging site for migrating passerines.

Protection status

National Low International High

125 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Het Zwin, 125 ha). 1,820 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Het Zwin, 1,820 ha). 530 ha of IBA covered by Ramsar Site (Zwin, 530 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Drainage (A), Dredging/canalization (A), Natural events (A), Recreation/tourism (B)

Breeding and wintering birds are monitored throughout the site, with the most important areas censused annually. 500 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (IJzermonding and Zwin, 2,891 ha). 45 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Zilte poldergraslanden, 884 ha).

Krekengebied

A4i, B1i, B2, B3, C2, C3, C6 **007**

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°15'N 3°40'E
Altitude 2–5 m **Area** 780 ha



Site description

A complex of old freshwater and brackish sea inlets ('krekens') in a polder landscape. The area encompasses a diverse set of habitats, including remnant saltmarshes, acidic marshes and wet woodlands.

Habitats Wetland (5%), Artificial landscape (90%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves)

Land-use Agriculture (95%), Nature conservation/research (5%), Tourism/recreation (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
¹ <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> Bewick's Swan	W	1994	100	384	A	B1i, B2, C2
² <i>Anser albifrons</i> White-fronted Goose	W	—	1,100	18,000	A	A4i, B1i, C3
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> Marsh Harrier	B	1996	13	18	A	C6
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Avocet	B	1995	—	4	A	B3

1. Minimum and maximum for 1993–1996 period

2. Minimum and maximum for 1992–1996 period

This is an internationally important wintering site for *Cygnus columbianus*. The area is also a nationally important breeding site for *Luscinia svecica* (25 pairs) and reedbed species.

Protection status

National Low International High

14 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Grote Geul, 14 ha). 19 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Meetjeslandse krekens, 19 ha). 780 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Krekengebied, 780 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Disturbance to birds (B), Drainage (A), Infrastructure (C), Recreation/tourism (C)

One of the main threats is the loss of grassland around the creeks, as a result of fields being ploughed close to reedbeds, thus limiting the size of the water-bodies. Water quality is also deteriorating due to agricultural pollution, and the lowering of the water-table in the area is also a threat. The area is well studied by a local ornithological working group (Vogelwerkgroep Noord-Oost-Vlaanderen). Approximately 350 ha are designated as a green area on the physical planning map.

Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen

B1i, C3 **008**

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°04'N 3°41'E
Altitude — **Area** 213 ha



Site description

A large part of the area consists of humid grasslands inundated during the winter period.

Habitats Grassland (humid grassland)
Land-use Unknown

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Anas clypeata</i> Shoveler	W	—	—	—	—	B1i, C3

The site is important for wintering *Anas clypeata*.

Protection status

National Partial **International** None
IBA partly covered by Nature Reserve.

Conservation issues

The area is now well protected and there are no immediate threats. It is proposed as a Ramsar Site.

Gentse Kanaalzone

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°05'N 3°44'E
Altitude — **Area** 700 ha

B1i, C3

009



Site description

A large canal passing through an industrial zone, leading from the inland port of Gent towards the Westerschelde, and including several large docks.

Habitats Wetland, Artificial landscape (other urban/industrial areas)
Land-use Urban/industrial/transport

Birds

This is a very important site for wintering ducks, particularly for diving ducks, but no data are available for individual species.

Protection status

National None **International** None

Conservation issues

Threats Unknown

The area is a proposed Ramsar Site.

Durme en Middenloop van de Schelde

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°03'N 4°06'E
Altitude 0–10 m **Area** 7,923 ha

A4i, B1i, C3, C6

010



Site description

The area includes long sections of the Schelde and Durme rivers, with very rare freshwater tidal river marshes as well as mudflats, marshes, reedbeds, oxbows and wet meadows.

Habitats Forest and woodland (5%; mixed forest), Wetland (80%; tidal river/enclosed tidal water; standing fresh water), Artificial landscape (20%)
Land-use Agriculture (20%), Nature conservation/research (80%), Tourism/recreation (15%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
¹ <i>Anas strepera</i> Gadwall	W	—	600	1,000	A	B1i, C3
¹ <i>Anas crecca</i> Teal	W	—	14,000	15,000	A	A4i, B1i, C3
¹ <i>Anas acuta</i> Pintail	W	—	600	1,000	A	B1i, C3
<i>Luscinia svecica</i> Bluethroat	B	1993	100	120	B	C6

1. 1994–1996 period.

This is an important site for wintering and migrating waterfowl. The area is also nationally important for migrating *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ixobrychus minutus* and *Porzana porzana*, and breeding *Alcedo atthis*.

Protection status

National Partial **International** High

The IBA is covered by several Nature Reserves; Brede Schoren, 4 ha; 'As State, Daknamse krekken', 12 ha; De Cramp, 8 ha; De Notelaer, 28 ha; Grauwe Plaat, 1 ha; Groot Schoor van Grembergen, 8 ha; Het Molsbroek, 75 ha; Kalkense Meersen, 34 ha; Kijkverdriet, 5 ha; Konkelschoor, 2 ha; Rietsnijderij, 3 ha; Schor aan de Durmemonding, 6 ha; Schorren bij Zele, 12 ha; Schorren van Branst, 20 ha; Sint-Amandschoor, 6 ha; Sint-Onolfsschor, 5 ha; Vlassenbroekse schorren, 17 ha. 17 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (Stort bij Weert, 17 ha). 23 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (Schorren van de Durme, 23 ha). 7,923 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Durme en de middenloop van de Schelde, 7,923 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (A), Infrastructure (B)

The area is included within a project which is preparing an ecological model of the River Schelde estuary, and thus receives detailed study. About 1,560 ha is designated as a green area on the physical planning map. The whole estuarine area is currently subject to designation as a State Nature Reserve, which will highly improve its conservation. 3,800 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Schelde-en Durme-estuarium van NL grens tot Gent, 4,139 ha).

Schorren en Polder van de Beneden-Schelde

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°19'N 4°15'E
Altitude 0–7 m **Area** 7,570 ha

A4i, B1i, B3, C2, C3, C6

011



Site description

A brackish part of the River Schelde on Flemish territory near the border of the Netherlands, encompassing mud and sandflats and brackish marshes. The neighbouring polders are included and comprise grazing-meadows, agricultural land, several large reedbeds, sandy and muddy industrial wasteland, and several deep-water docks connected with the River Schelde.

Habitats Wetland (10%; tidal river/enclosed tidal water; mudflat/sandflat), Artificial landscape (90%; arable land; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)
Land-use Agriculture (50%), Nature conservation/research (10%), Urban/industrial/transport (40%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Anser fabalis</i> Bean Goose	P	—	4,000	4,000	—	A4i, B1i, C3
¹ <i>Anser anser</i> Greylag Goose	P	—	2,200	4,210	A	A4i, B1i, C3
<i>Anas penelope</i> Wigeon	W	—	3,000	15,000	A	B1i, C3
<i>Anas strepera</i> Gadwall	W	—	250	500	A	B1i, C3
<i>Anas crecca</i> Teal	P	—	3,200	—	—	B1i, C3
<i>Anas clypeata</i> Shoveler	P	—	—	1,700	—	B1i, C3
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> Marsh Harrier	B	1996	—	21	A	C6
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Avocet	B	—	—	350	—	B1i, B3, C2
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Avocet	P	—	—	800	—	B1i, C2
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i> Mediterranean Gull	B	1996	—	15	A	C6
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> Common Tern	B	1996	50	60	A	C6
<i>Luscinia svecica</i> Bluethroat	B	1993	70	100	A	C6

1. Minimum and maximum 1990–1995.

This is an internationally important staging and wintering site for waders and waterfowl, especially for *Anser anser* and *Anas crecca*. The area is also nationally important for breeding meadow birds and waders.

Protection status

National Low **International** High

45 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Galgenschoor, 45 ha). 215 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Groot Buitschoor, 215 ha). 7,570 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Schorren en polders van de Beneden-Schelde, 7,570 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Disturbance to birds (A), Industrialization/urbanization (A), Infrastructure (A)

Breeding birds and wintering waterbirds are regularly surveyed. A recent report on the state of nature in part of the IBA is being produced within the framework of future infrastructure development. According to the physical planning scheme of the Flemish Government this site will be destroyed by infrastructure works for the harbour of Antwerp; only very small parts of the IBA will remain free of industrial plants. 400 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Schelde and Durme-estuary from Dutch border to Gent, 139 ha).

Kuifeend and Blokkersdijk

A4i, B1i, B3,C2, C3, C6 **012**

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°16'N 4°21'E

Altitude 0–7 m **Area** 194 ha



Site description

This IBA comprises two sites, separated by the River Schelde; Kuifeend, an area of freshwater pools and reedbeds, and Blokkersdijk, a shallow freshwater lake surrounded by reed- and willow-marshes.

Habitats Forest and woodland (5%), Wetland (30%; standing fresh water; water-fringe vegetation), Artificial landscape (40%; arable land; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (40%), Nature conservation/research (20%), Tourism/recreation (10%), Urban/industrial/transport (20%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc.	Criteria
<i>Anas strepera</i> Gadwall	W	—	1,000	1,500	A	A4i, B1i, C3
<i>Anas clypeata</i> Shoveler	W	—	1,000	1,500	A	B1i, C3
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Avocet	B	1996	10	20	B	B3, C6
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i> Mediterranean Gull	B	1996	—	90	A	C2, C6

This is an internationally important wintering site for *Anas crecca* and *A. clypeata*. The area is also important for breeding reedbed species and staging and wintering ducks and grebes.

Protection status

National Partial **International** High

56 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Kuifeend, 56 ha). 100 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Blokkersdijk, 100 ha). 194 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (De Kuifeend en Blokkersdijk, 194 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Filling-in of wetlands (A), Industrialization/urbanization (A), Infrastructure (A)

Breeding and wintering birds have been monitored for almost 20 years by Natuurreservaten Antwerpen-Noord.

Kalmthoutse Heide

C6 **013**

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°24'N 4°26'E

Altitude 17–30 m **Area** 2,200 ha



Site description

An important and diverse area of dry and wet heathlands, fens and inland sand-dunes of the Antwerpse Kempen.

Habitats Forest and woodland (15%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (40%; heathland), Wetland (5%; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (30%; forestry plantation)

Land-use Forestry (20%), Nature conservation/research (60%), Tourism/recreation (60%), Water management (20%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc.	Criteria
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Nightjar	B	—	5	10	—	C6

This IBA is also a nationally important staging site for migrating waders and breeding heathland species, including *Lullula arborea*.

Protection status

National Partial **International** High

812 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (Kalmthout, 812 ha). 2,035 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Kalmthoutse Heide, 2,200 ha). 2,200 ha of IBA covered by Ramsar Site (Kalmthoutse Heide, 2,200 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Burning of vegetation (A), Disturbance to birds (A), Drainage (B), Groundwater abstraction (A), Recreation/tourism (A)

One of the main threats is accidental fire damage during dry periods. There is intensive research on heathland habitats related to management and a detailed management plan exists. The whole site is designated as a green area on the physical planning map. 2,000 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Kalmthoutse Heide, 2,018 ha).

De Maatjes, Wuustwezel Heide en Groot Schietveld

C7 **014**

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°23'N 4°34'E

Altitude 15–30 m **Area** 4,100 ha



Site description

The site includes arable land, grasslands and marshes (De Maatjes), and heaths and mire habitats in military camps (Groot en Klein Schietveld).

Habitats Forest and woodland (5%), Scrub (25%; heathland), Grassland (5%; humid grassland), Wetland (20%; standing fresh water), Artificial landscape (40%; arable land; forestry plantation; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (40%), Forestry (10%), Military (40%), Nature conservation/research (10%)

Birds

An important breeding area for meadow and heathland species, e.g. *Limosa limosa* (10–20 pairs). It is also a nationally important staging site for migrating passerines, waders, gulls and raptors. The meadows are an important feeding site for the up to 350 *Larus melanocephalus* and up to 600 *Numenius phaeopus*.

Protection status

National Low **International** High

10 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (De Maatjes, 10 ha). 4,100 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (De Maatjes, Wuustwezelheide en Groot Schietveld, 4,100 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Groundwater abstraction (B), Infrastructure (C)

About 10% of the site is designated as a green area on the physical planning map. 1,770 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Klein- en Groot Schietveld, 2,042 ha).

Mechels Rivierengebied, Antwerpen

B1i, C3 **015**

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°01'N 4°31'E

Altitude — **Area** 2,263 ha



Site description

An area of flat grasslands, small swamps, channels and large artificial lakes along the Dijle, Zenne and Rupel rivers. Human activities include

arable and stock-farming and recreation. There is a high density of human habitation.

Habitats Grassland, Wetland (standing fresh water), Artificial landscape (other urban/industrial areas)

Land-use Agriculture, Recreation/tourism

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Aythya ferina</i> Pochard	W	—	3,950	—	—	B1i, C3

This is an important site for wintering *Aythya ferina*. The area also holds breeding populations of several species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive.

Protection status

National Partial **International** None

IBA partly covered by Nature Reserve.

Conservation issues

Threats Tourism/recreation, Industrialization/urbanization

Problems include pollution of the rivers, and industrial, recreational and residential development. The site is a proposed Special Protection Area.

De Dijlevallei

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 50°47'N 4°36'E

Altitude 25–120 m Area 1,250 ha

C6 016



Site description

The Flemish part of the Dijle river valley, located south of Leuven, with ponds, marshes, grasslands and woodlands.

Habitats Forest and woodland (50%; broadleaved deciduous forest; mixed forest), Grassland (10%), Wetland (10%; standing fresh water; water-fringe vegetation), Artificial landscape (20%; arable land; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Luscinia svecica</i> Bluethroat	B	—	5	10	—	C6

The area supports staging and wintering waterfowl and is a breeding and staging site for reedbed species.

Protection status

National Low **International** High

70 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Doode Bemde, 70 ha). 1,250 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (De Dijlevallei, 1,250 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Infrastructure (A), Recreation/tourism (B)

The area is included in the 'Ecologisch Impulsgebied', an integrated conservation and development project. Intensive research on the influence of hydrology upon land management is currently carried out. 549 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Valleien van de Dijle, Laan en IJse with forests and swamps, 2,938 ha).

Zegge

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°11'N 4°56'E

Altitude 14–14 m Area 91 ha

B1i, C3 017



Site description

A remnant of the once extensive Kleine Nete river valley, with pools and low moorland, overgrown grasslands and alder swamps.

Habitats Forest and woodland (25%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Grassland (50%; humid grassland), Wetland (25%; standing fresh water; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring)

Land-use Nature conservation/research (100%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Anas strepera</i> Gadwall	P	—	300	700	—	B1i, C3
<i>Anas clypeata</i> Shoveler	P	—	1,170	—	—	B1i, C3

This site is important for passage waterbirds and staging and breeding reedbed species.

Protection status

National High **International** High

91 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (De Zegge, 91 ha). 91 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (De Zegge, 91 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Drainage

As the site is small, most threats impacting on it originate from outside the IBA. The site is managed as a nature reserve by the Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde Antwerpen, and measures are being taken to address the problems of drainage and water pollution. 91 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Kleine Nete en vallei met moerasgebieden en heiden, 2,635 ha).

Gebieden ten noorden van Turnhout en Ravels

Admin region Vlaams Gewest

Coordinates 51°23'N 5°00'E

Altitude 25–35 m Area 7,075 ha

B2, C6 018



Site description

An area of grasslands, agricultural land, deciduous and coniferous woodland, and heaths with oligotrophic fens. There is also an ancient park with neglected orchards and ponds.

Habitats Forest and woodland (5%), Scrub (10%; heathland), Grassland (5%; humid grassland), Artificial landscape (60%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (50%), Forestry (40%), Nature conservation/research (5%), Tourism/recreation (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Limosa limosa</i> Black-tailed Godwit	B	—	—	68	—	B2
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Nightjar	B	1996	3	8	B	C6

This is an important area for breeding and migrating meadow birds.

Protection status

National Low **International** High

170 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (De Liereman, 170 ha). 12 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Ravels, 12 ha). 60 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Turnhouts vennengebied, 60 ha). 7,075 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Arendonk, Merksplas, Oud-Turnhout, Ravels en Turnhout, 7,075 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Recreation/tourism (B)

The area is included in the 'Ecologisch Impulsgebied', an integrated conservation and development project. Small zones are managed as nature reserves by BNVR/RNOB and the Flemish Region. 2,624 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Vennen, heiden en moerassen rond Turnhout, 4,377 ha). 700 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Liereman en Korhaan, 854 ha).

Ronde Put

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°17'N 5°11'E
Altitude 25–35 m Area 5,400 ha

C6 019



Site description

An area of the Turnhoutse Kempen covered with deciduous and coniferous woodlands, small heathlands, and marshes and ponds.

Habitats Forest and woodland (10%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (5%; heathland), Artificial landscape (85%; arable land; forestry plantation)

Land-use Agriculture (40%), Forestry (40%), Nature conservation/research (10%), Tourism/recreation (10%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Pernis apivorus</i> Honey Buzzard	B	—	—	5	—	C6

This IBA is also a staging site for migrating passerines and raptors.

Protection status

National Low International High

10 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (De Maatjes, 10 ha). 40 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (De Ronde Put, 40 ha). 5,400 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (De Ronde Put, 5,400 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Disturbance to birds (B), Drainage (B), Infrastructure (B), Recreation/tourism (A)

200 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Kleine Nete en vallei met moerasgebieden en heiden, 2,635 ha).

Demervallei

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°01'N 5°11'E
Altitude 15–50 m Area 7,010 ha

C6 020



Site description

The area is situated in the Demer river valley, west and east of the town of Diest. It comprises a rich variety of former river arms, peat ponds, marshes, reedbeds, sedge-fields, humid grasslands and alluvial forests, including heathland relicts on the sandy hills bordering the valley.

Habitats Forest and woodland (10%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Grassland (15%; humid grassland), Wetland (20%; standing fresh water; water-fringe vegetation), Artificial landscape (60%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens)

Land-use Agriculture (40%), Forestry (30%), Nature conservation/research (20%), Tourism/recreation (5%), Urban/industrial/transport (10%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Luscinia svecica</i> Bluethroat	B	1995	65	80	A	C6

A breeding and staging area for meadow birds, waders and waterfowl.

Protection status

National Low International High

57 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Demerbroeken, 57 ha). 62 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Langdonken, 62 ha). 7,010 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (De Demervallei, 7,010 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Disturbance to birds (B), Infrastructure (A), Recreation/tourism (A)

The area is included in the 'Ecologisch Impulsgebied', an integrated conservation and development project. 1,216 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Demervallei ten oosten van Aarschot, 1,432 ha).

Vallei van de Zwarte Beek

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°07'N 5°20'E
Altitude 32–70 m Area 8,864 ha

C6 021



Site description

An extensive heathland on the Kempen plateau, with oligotrophic fens and sand-dunes, and the Zwarte Beek wil valley, a well-preserved, semi-natural landscape with bogs, moorland, marsh, woodland and extensive arable land.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; mixed forest), Scrub (30%; heathland), Grassland (10%; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Artificial landscape (40%; arable land, forestry plantation)

Land-use Agriculture (20%), Military (70%), Nature conservation/research (10%), Tourism/recreation (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Nightjar	B	1993	30	40	A	C6

This is a breeding area for meadow birds and woodland passerines.

Protection status

National Partial International High

827 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Vallei van de Zwarte Beek, 827 ha). 8,864 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Militair domein en de vallei van de Zwarte Beek, 8,864 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Consequences of animal/plant introductions (A), Infrastructure (B), Other (A)

The area suffers from planting with exotic tree species. Additionally, one of the most significant threats to the extensive heathland and inland dunes is the future use of the military area ('Other' threat), as an increasing number of military areas are being sold and developed. The area is included in the 'Ecologisch Impulsgebied', an integrated conservation and development project. Intensive research on the influence of hydrology on land management is currently being carried out. Almost 1,000 ha is managed as a nature reserve by BNVR/RNOB. 8,100 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Vallei-en brongebied van Zwarte Beek, Boliserbeek, 8,689 ha).

Gebieden gelegen te Peer en Hechtel-Eksel

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°07'N 5°25'E
Altitude 48–75 m Area 10,015 ha

C6 022



Site description

Extensive grassland with a few extensively cultivated areas, bisected by valleys with old hay-meadows and wet woodlands. Of particular importance are the Abeek, Dommel and Bolliserbeek valleys.

Habitats Forest and woodland (5%; mixed forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Wetland (5%; river/stream), Artificial landscape (80%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (80%), Nature conservation/research (5%), Tourism/recreation (5%), Urban/industrial/transport (10%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Nightjar	B	1996	5	15	B	C6

Alcedo atthis also breeds at this site.

Protection status

National None International High

10,015 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Bocholt, Hechtel-Eksel, Gruitrode, Neerpelt en Peer, 10,015 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (A), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Dredging/canalization (A), Infrastructure (B)

Several small areas have been managed for *Emberiza hortulana*. The species formerly bred in the area and, up to 10 years ago, was the only site in Flanders where the species still occurred. However, this conservation action probably came too late as only 1–2 singing males are observed annually in the area, and it is doubtful that a viable population will be established. The physical planning map of the Flemish Region designates 17% of the IBA as a green area.

Hamonterheide, Hageven, Buitenheide, Mariahof en Stamprooierbroek

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°10'N 5°35'E
Altitude 26–40 m Area 13,125 ha

C6 023



Site description

A large site with heathland, marshes, fish-ponds, extensive grassland, deciduous woodland and agriculture land.

Habitats Forest and woodland (35%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (5%; heathland), Artificial landscape (60%; highly improved reseeded grassland; arable land; urban parks/gardens)

Land-use Agriculture (50%), Forestry (40%), Nature conservation/research (10%), Tourism/recreation (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	B	1996	—	4	A	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	B	1993	10	15	B	C6

A breeding and staging area for reedbed species and meadow birds.

Protection status

National Low **International** High

170 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Hageven, 170 ha). 400 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Stamprooierbroek-Urlobroek, 400 ha). 13,125 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Hamonterheide, Hageven, Buitenheide, Stamprooierbr, 13,125 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Drainage (B)

2,897 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Abeek met aanliggende moerasgebieden, 3,265 ha). 1,620 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Hageven en Dommelvallei, 1,910 ha). 1,839 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Itterbeek met Brand, Jagersborg en Schotshede, 2,254 ha).

Grensmaas

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°09'N 5°50'E
Altitude — Area 2,653 ha

B1i, C3 024



Site description

A section of the River Meuse on the Netherlands border, encompassing a free flowing stream in a broad gravel bed with islands and gravel banks, and including nearby flooded gravel pits.

Habitats Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream)

Land-use Urban/industrial/transport

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	W	—	—	—	—	B1i, C3

This is an important site for wintering *Aythya ferina*.

Protection status

National Partial **International** None

IBA partly covered by Nature Reserve.

Conservation issues

Threats Extraction industry

The area is threatened by the expansion of gravel mining, and silt and waste deposition. The area is a proposed Ramsar Site.

Gebieden gelegen te Houthalen-Helchteren en Meeuwen-Gruitrode

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 51°03'N 5°26'E
Altitude 77–82 m Area 2,798 ha

C6 025



Site description

An extensive area of dry and wet heathland on the Kempen plateau, encompassing ponds, marshes, inland dunes, and conifer plantations.

Habitats Forest and woodland (5%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (70%; heathland), Wetland (5%; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (25%; arable land; forestry plantation)

Land-use Agriculture (20%), Military (80%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	B	1996	—	3	A	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	B	1993	10	15	A	C6

A breeding and staging site for woodland and heathland species.

Protection status

National None **International** High

2,789 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Houthalen, Helchteren, Meeuwen, Gruitrode en Peer, 2,789 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Infrastructure (B), Other (A), Recreation/tourism (B)

One of the most significant threats to the extensive heathland and inland dunes is the future use of the military area ('Other' threat), as an increasing number of military areas are being sold and developed. 2,802 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Heide- en vengebieden tussen Houthalen en Gruitrode, 3,882 ha).

Vijverkomplex van Midden Limburg

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 50°58'N 5°18'E
Altitude 30–60 m Area 2,560 ha

C6 026



Site description

An important wetland area including many ponds and marshes and wet woodlands, and covering parts of the Echelbeek, Slangbeek, Roosterbeek and Laambeek.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; mixed forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Wetland (25%; standing fresh water), Artificial landscape (40%; arable land; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens)

Land-use Agriculture (20%), Fisheries/Aquaculture (25%), Forestry (20%), Tourism/recreation (20%), Urban/industrial/transport (15%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	B	1994	10	15	A	C6

The IBA is also a breeding and staging site for reedbed species, including *Botaurus stellaris*.

Protection status

National Partial **International** High

90 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Kolberg, 90 ha). 100 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Ter Donk, 100 ha). 150 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Terlamen, 150 ha). 101 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (De Platwijers, 101 ha). 2,560 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Vijverkomplex van Midden Limburg, 2,560 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Aquaculture/fisheries (A), Filling-in of wetlands (A), Infrastructure (A), Recreation/tourism (A)

The site is severely impacted by the construction of buildings, camping activities, the filling-in of wetlands and the destruction of trees, reedbeds and all other vegetation bordering the fish-ponds. The area is included in the 'Ecologisch Impulsgebied', an integrated conservation and development project. 800 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Valleien van de Laarbeek, Zonderikbeek, Slangbeek, 2,811 ha).

Bokrijk

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 50°57'N 5°24'E
Altitude 35–55 m Area 800 ha

C6 027



Site description

An area of several ponds and fens fed by numerous brooks, with heathland and deciduous, mixed and coniferous woodland and grasslands.

Habitats Forest and woodland (15%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Wetland (30%; standing fresh water), Artificial landscape (55%; arable land; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation)

Land-use Agriculture (15%), Fisheries/aquaculture (30%), Forestry (40%), Nature conservation/research (25%), Tourism/recreation (25%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> Bittern	B	—	2	2	—	C6

The area is a breeding and staging site for reedbed species.

Protection status

National Partial International High

28 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (De Borggravevijver s, 28 ha). 85 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Het Wik, 85 ha). 800 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Bokrijk, 800 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Aquaculture/fisheries (A), Recreation/tourism (C)

800 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Valleien van de Laarbeek, Zonderikbeek, Slangbeek, 2,811 ha).

De Maten

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 50°57'N 5°27'E
Altitude 40–60 m Area 600 ha

C6 028



Site description

An extremely diverse area in the Striemerbeek valley, with heathland, marshes, oligotrophic and mesotrophic ponds, wet woodlands and inland dunes.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (25%; heathland), Grassland (5%), Wetland (30%; standing fresh water; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (20%; arable land)

Land-use Agriculture (30%), Fisheries/aquaculture (15%), Nature conservation/research (30%), Tourism/recreation (10%), Urban/industrial/transport (10%)

Birds

The IBA is a breeding site for reedbed species.

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> Bittern	B	—	2	2	A	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i> Woodlark	B	1993	5	10	B	C6

Protection status

National Partial International High

213 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (De Maten, 213 ha). 600 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (De Maten, 600 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Infrastructure (B), Recreation/tourism (B)

561 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (De Maten, 561 ha).

Mechelse Heide en de Vallei van de Ziepbek

Admin region Vlaams Gewest
Coordinates 50°57'N 5°38'E
Altitude 50–100 m Area 2,350 ha

C6 029



Site description

The site includes the Ziepbek and the Asbeek valleys, which hold very important areas of wet and dry heath and fen, coniferous and deciduous woodland, and a small bog.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (20%; heathland), Wetland (5%; river/stream; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (60%; forestry plantation; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (20%), Forestry (40%), Nature conservation/research (40%), Tourism/recreation (5%), Urban/industrial/transport (10%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Lullula arborea</i> Woodlark	B	1993	20	30	B	C6

A breeding area for heathland and woodland species.

Protection status

National Partial International High

545 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (Melchelse Heide, 545 ha). 161 ha of IBA covered by State Nature Reserve (Vallei van de Ziepbek, 161 ha). 2,350 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Melchelse Heide en Vallei van de Ziepbek, 2,350 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Disturbance to birds (B), Extraction industry (A), Infrastructure (B), Recreation/tourism (A)

2,106 ha of IBA covered by proposed Site of Community Importance (Melchelse heide en vallei van de Ziepbek, 2,371 ha).

Bassin de la Haine

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 50°29'N 3°44'E
Altitude — Area 13,715 ha

C6 030



Site description

A complex of ponds, marshes and grasslands in the Haine river basin.

Habitats Forest and woodland (25%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (heathland), Grassland (humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (10%; standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (60%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (25%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (50%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (5%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (15%), Water management

Birds

Passage species include *Pandion haliaetus*, *Pluvialis apricaria*,

Tringa glareola, *Sterna hirundo* and *Lullula arborea* (summer and passage).

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> Little Bittern	B	—	1	2	B	C6
<i>Alcedo atthis</i> Kingfisher	B	—	10	20	B	C6
<i>Luscinia svecica</i> Bluethroat	B	—	80	120	B	C6

Protection status

National Low International High

254 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves of the Bassin de la Haine, 254 ha). 13,715 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Bassin de la Haine, 13,715 ha). 550 ha of IBA covered by Ramsar Site (Harchies, 550 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (B), Drainage (B), Dredging/canalization (C), Extraction industry (C), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (B), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (B), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (B)

Vallée de la Dyle

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 50°43'N 4°36'E
Altitude — Area 1,334 ha

C7 031



Site description

The Walloon part of the Dijle river valley north of Wavre and including part of the Lasne tributary. The area encompasses ponds, marshes, grasslands and woodlands.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (heathland), Grassland (humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (70%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)
Land-use Agriculture (20%), Fisheries/aquaculture, Forestry (40%), Hunting (50%), Nature conservation/research (5%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (20%)

Protection status

National None International High

1,334 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Vallée de la Dyle, 1,334 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (C), Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (B), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (B), Industrialization/urbanization (A), Infrastructure (B), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (B)

Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 50°05'N 4°28'E
Altitude — Area 83,866 ha

A1, C1, C2, C6 032



Site description

An exceptionally varied zone including parts of the Fagen, Calestienne and Ardennes with semi-natural humid grasslands, dry calcareous grasslands and deciduous woodlands.

Habitats Forest and woodland (50%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (scrub; heathland; sclerophyllous scrub/garrigue/maquis), Grassland (steppe/dry calcareous grassland; dry siliceous grassland; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Rocky areas (scree/boulders; caves), Artificial landscape (45%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (30%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (60%), Hunting (90%), Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (5%), Water management (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Pernis apivorus</i> Honey Buzzard	B	—	20	30	B	C6
<i>Crex crex</i> Corncrake	B	—	3	50	—	A1, C1, C2, C6
<i>Bubo bubo</i> Eagle Owl	R	—	3	6	—	C6
<i>Alcedo atthis</i> Kingfisher	B	—	10	20	—	C6
<i>Dryocopus martius</i> Black Woodpecker	R	—	10	20	—	C6
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i> Middle Spotted Woodpecker	R	—	45	55	—	C6
<i>Lanius collurio</i> Red-backed Shrike	B	—	—	100	—	C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or in winter include *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Egretta alba*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Falco columbarius*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Sterna hirundo* and *Chlidonias niger*.

Protection status

National None International High

83,866 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse, 83,866 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (C), Afforestation (B), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (B), Drainage (B), Extraction industry (C), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (B), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (B), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (A)

Haute Meuse

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 50°15'N 4°55'E
Altitude — Area 7,700 ha

C6 033



Site description

A section of the River Meuse and its tributaries, including hill-slopes with woodlands, dry grasslands and calcareous rocks.

Habitats Forest and woodland (50%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (scrub), Grassland (steppe/dry calcareous grassland; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Rocky areas (inland cliff; caves), Artificial landscape (35%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)
Land-use Agriculture (20%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (60%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (10%), Water management (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Bubo bubo</i> Eagle Owl	R	—	2	5	B	C6
<i>Alcedo atthis</i> Kingfisher	B	—	10	20	B	C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or in winter include *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Sterna hirundo* and *Chlidonias niger*.

Protection status

National Low International None

219 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves of Haute Meuse, 219 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (C), Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Consequences of animal/plant introductions (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (B), Disturbance to birds (A), Drainage (C), Extraction industry (A), Filling-in of wetlands (C), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (A), Infrastructure (B), Recreation/tourism (A)

Croix-Scaille

C6 034

Admin region Région Wallonne
 Coordinates 49°56'N 4°58'E
 Altitude — Area 36,610 ha


Site description

The site comprises the Belgian part of the Croix-Scaille upland plateau and a stretch of the Semois river, with important deciduous woodlands and well-preserved rivers, and remnant bogs and heaths on the upland plateau.

Habitats Forest and woodland (40%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (heathland), Grassland (humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (65%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (15%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (80%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> Black Stork	B	—	2	3	A	C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or in winter include *Milvus migrans*, *M. milvus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Pandion haliaetus* and *Lullula arborea*.

Protection status

National Low International High

211 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves of the Croix Scaille, 211 ha). 36,610 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Croix-Scaille, 36,610 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (B), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Filling-in of wetlands (C), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (C), Infrastructure (C), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (C)

Daverdisse

B3, C6 035

Admin region Région Wallonne
 Coordinates 50°02'N 5°06'E
 Altitude — Area 14,914 ha


Site description

A large plateau of old deciduous woodland in the northern Ardennes.

Habitats Forest and woodland (80%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Grassland (humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (20%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas)

Land-use Agriculture (10%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (90%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i> Middle Spotted Woodpecker	R	—	40	80	B	B3, C6

Protection status

National Low International High

3 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves in Daverdisse, 3 ha). 14,914 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Daverdisse, 14,914 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (B), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (C), Filling-in of wetlands (C),

Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (C), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (C)

Lesse et Lomme

B3, C6 036

Admin region Région Wallonne
 Coordinates 50°07'N 5°10'E
 Altitude — Area 22,426 ha


Site description

The area includes the most ornithologically interesting parts of the Caletienne and Famenne, along the River Meuse. A large variety of habitats are present including calcareous dry grasslands and woodlands.

Habitats Forest and woodland (40%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (scrub), Grassland (humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Rocky areas (scree/boulders; caves), Artificial landscape (45%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (45%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (40%), Hunting (90%), Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (10%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Pernis apivorus</i> Honey Buzzard	B	—	15	20	B	C6
<i>Bonasa bonasia</i> Hazel Grouse	R	—	5	20	B	C6
<i>Crex crex</i> Corncrake	B	—	—	10	B	C6
<i>Dryocopus martius</i> Black Woodpecker	R	—	20	25	A	C6
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i> Middle Spotted Woodpecker	R	—	40	50	A	B3, C6
<i>Lanius collurio</i> Red-backed Shrike	B	—	60	90	B	C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or in winter include *Milvus migrans*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Falco peregrinus*, *F. columbarius*, *Pandion haliaetus* and *Pluvialis apricaria*.

Protection status

National Low International High

1,419 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves of lesse et Lomme, 1,419 ha). 22,426 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Lesse et Lomme, 22,426 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (A), Extraction industry (B), Filling-in of wetlands (C), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (B), Recreation/tourism (B)

Marche en Famenne

C6 037

Admin region Région Wallonne
 Coordinates 50°18'N 5°25'E
 Altitude — Area 5,100 ha


Site description

A typical area of the Famennian depression, covered by woodlands and pastures, and including the very important Marche en Famenne military camp, which remains free of agricultural disturbance, as well as a stretch of the River Ourthe.

Habitats Forest and woodland (40%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (scrub), Grassland (1%; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (30%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (40%), Forestry (60%), Hunting (50%), Military (40%), Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation (60%), Urban/industrial/transport (1%)

Birds

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Milvus migrans*, *M. milvus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus*, *Falco peregrinus* and *F. columbarius*.

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Crex crex</i> Corncrake	B	—	—	3	B	C6
<i>Lanius collurio</i> Red-backed Shrike	B	—	100	130	A	C6

Protection status

National None International None

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (A), Afforestation (B), Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Disturbance to birds (B), Drainage (C), Dredging/canalization (A), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (B), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (B)

Saint-Hubert

Admin region Région Wallonne

Coordinates 50°05'N 5°24' E

Altitude — Area 16,700 ha

C6 038



Site description

A large area of old deciduous woodland in the central high Ardennes with well-preserved rivers and streams, remnant peat-bogs and heaths.

Habitats Forest and woodland (50%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Grassland (humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (50%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas)

Land-use Agriculture (10%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (90%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> Black Stork	B	—	3	5	B	C6
<i>Aegolius funereus</i> Tengmalm's Owl	R	—	—	10	B	C6
<i>Dryocopus martius</i> Black Woodpecker	R	—	10	20	B	C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Milvus milvus*, *M. migrans* and *Circus cyaneus*.

Protection status

National Low International None

23 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves de St-Hubert, 23 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (C), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (C), Filling-in of wetlands (C), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (C), Infrastructure (C), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (C)

Ochamp-Freux

Admin region Région Wallonne

Coordinates 49°57'N 5°23' E

Altitude — Area 10,900 ha

C7 039



Site description

A woodland area in the high Ardennes, including many ponds and humid grasslands.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Grassland (humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (80%; highly improved reseeded grassland; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas)

Land-use Agriculture (30%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (70%), Hunting (100%), Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (1%)

Birds

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive breeding at the

site include *Ciconia nigra*, *Alcedo atthis* and *Lanius collurio*. Species listed on Annex I occurring on passage or wintering include *Milvus migrans*, *M. milvus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus*, *Falco columbarius*, *Pandion haliaetus* and *Pluvialis apricaria*.

Protection status

National None International None

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (B), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (B), Industrialization/urbanization (C), Infrastructure (C), Intensified forest management (C), Other (C), Recreation/tourism (C)

Malchamps

Admin region Région Wallonne

Coordinates 50°24'N 5°39' E

Altitude — Area 41,638 ha

C6 040



Site description

The western ridge of the Fagnes plateau south of Spa, covered by bogs, fens, remnant dry heaths and peaty heaths. The area includes important woodland.

Habitats Forest and woodland (10%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (heathland), Grassland (dry siliceous grassland; alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (80%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (20%), Forestry (70%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (5%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (5%), Water management (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Tetrao tetrix</i> Black Grouse	R	—	1	5	B	C6
<i>Aegolius funereus</i> Tengmalm's Owl	R	—	1	10	B	C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Ciconia nigra*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Falco columbarius*, *Asio flammeus* and *Lullula arborea*.

Protection status

National Low International High

15 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves de Malchamps, 15 ha). 41,638 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Malchamps, 41,638 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (C), Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Extraction industry (C), Filling-in of wetlands (C), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (B), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (A)

Vallée de la Lienne

Admin region Région Wallonne

Coordinates 50°20'N 5°47' E

Altitude — Area 8,500 ha

C6 041



Site description

An example of the traditional grasslands landscape of the high Ardennes valley, and surrounding woodland.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest; broadleaved evergreen forest), Scrub (scrub; sclerophyllous scrub/garrigue/maquis), Grassland (dry siliceous grassland; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (70%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas)

Land-use Agriculture (20%), Forestry (70%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Tengmalm's Owl	R	—	1	10	B C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Milvus migrans*, *M. milvus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus*, *Falco columbarius* and *Lullula arborea*.

Protection status

National None **International** None

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (C), Afforestation (B), Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (B), Industrialization/urbanization (C), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (B)

Tailles

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 50°16'N 5°43'E
Altitude — **Area** 8,494 ha

C6 042



Site description

An area of mires and heaths in a woodland and grassland landscape in the Ardennes.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub, Grassland (dry siliceous grassland; alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (70%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (20%), Forestry (60%), Hunting (70%), Nature conservation/research (10%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
¹ <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>	Hazel Grouse	R	—	Rare	—	C6
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Tengmalm's Owl	R	—	1	15	B C6

1. Population size unknown.

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Milvus migrans*, *M. milvus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus* and *Falco columbarius*.

Protection status

National Low **International** High

468 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves at Plateau des Tailles, 468 ha). 8,494 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Plateau des Tailles, 8,494 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (C), Afforestation (A), Agricultural intensification/expansion (B), Burning of vegetation (C), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (B), Industrialization/urbanization (C), Infrastructure (C), Intensified forest management (C), Recreation/tourism (B)

Wanne-Logbiermé

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 50°19'N 5°57'E
Altitude — **Area** 5,700 ha

C6 043



Site description

A high plateau covered mainly by spruce plantations with remnant acid fens and *Fagus* woodland.

Habitats Forest and woodland (10%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Grassland (humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (90%; highly improved reseeded grassland; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas)

Land-use Agriculture (5%), Forestry (90%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Tengmalm's Owl	R	—	1	20	B C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Milvus milvus*, *M. migrans*, *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus* and *Lullula arborea*.

Protection status

National Low **International** None

1 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Natures Reserves in Wanne-Logbiermé, 1 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (A), Agricultural intensification/expansion (C), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Drainage (C), Filling-in of wetlands (C), Industrialization/urbanization (C), Intensified forest management (B), Recreation/tourism (C)

Hautes Fagnes/Eifel

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 50°24'N 6°15'E
Altitude — **Area** 80,304 ha

A4i, B1i, B1iv, C2, C5, C6

044



Site description

The site includes the high plateau of the eastern Ardennes, covered by peatbogs, fens and woodland.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (2%; scrub; heathland), Grassland (5%; dry siliceous grassland; alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (60%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas)

Land-use Agriculture (20%), Forestry (60%), Hunting (90%), Military (4%), Nature conservation/research (10%), Tourism/recreation (90%), Urban/industrial/transport (5%), Water management (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Honey Buzzard	B	—	15	30	B C6
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	B	—	20	30	B C6
<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	Black Grouse	R	—	25	35	A C6
<i>Crex crex</i>	Corncrake	B	—	—	2	B C6
<i>Grus grus</i>	Crane	P	—	—	5,000	— A4i,B1i,B1iv,C2,C5
<i>Picus canus</i>	Grey-headed Woodpecker	R	—	6	15	B C6
<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Black Woodpecker	R	—	10	20	B C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Woodlark	B	—	10	20	B C6
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike	B	—	—	100	B C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Circus aeruginosus*, *Falco columbarius*, *Pandion haliaetus* and *Grus grus*.

Protection status

National Partial **International** High

4,448 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves in Hautes Fagnes Eifel, 4,448 ha). 67,800 ha of IBA covered by Natural Park. 80,304 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Hautes Fagnes/Eifel, 80,304 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (B), Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Burning of vegetation (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (B), Drainage (B), Filling-in of wetlands (C),

Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (C), Infrastructure (C), Recreation/tourism (A)

Deux Ourthes

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 50°05'N 5°46'E
Altitude — Area 34,678 ha

C6 045



Site description

An undisturbed part of the Ourthe valley with wooded slopes.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (scrub; heathland), Grassland (1%; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (1%; standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Rocky areas (scree/boulders; caves), Artificial landscape (70%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (80%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (15%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (5%), Water management (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> Black Stork	B	—	1	3	B	C6
¹ <i>Bonasa bonasia</i> Hazel Grouse	R	—	Rare	—	—	C6

1. Population size unknown.

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Milvus migrans*, *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus*, *Pandion haliaetus* and *Lullula arborea*.

Protection status

National None International High

34,678 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Deux Ourthes, 34,678 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (C), Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (C), Recreation/tourism (C)

Haute Sûre/Ardenne méridionale

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 49°44'N 5°28'E
Altitude — Area 89,443 ha

B3, C6 046



Site description

An important area of woodland at the southern limit of the Ardennes and the upper basin of the Sûre river, with many old humid grasslands.

Habitats Forest and woodland (40%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (scrub; heathland), Grassland (1%; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (1%; standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Rocky areas (caves), Artificial landscape (50%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (40%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (50%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Not utilized (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (5%), Water management (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Ciconia nigra</i> Black Stork	B	—	5	8	B	C6
<i>Pernis apivorus</i> Honey Buzzard	B	—	20	40	B	C6
¹ <i>Bonasa bonasia</i> Hazel Grouse	R	—	Rare	—	—	C6
<i>Alcedo atthis</i> Kingfisher	R	—	10	20	B	C6

Species ... continued	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i> Middle Spotted Woodpecker	R	—	120	150	A	B3, C6

1. Population size unknown.

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus*, *Falco columbarius*, *Pandion haliaetus* and *Lullula arborea*.

Protection status

National Low International High

440 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves Ardennes méridionale et Haute Sûre, 440 ha). 89,443 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Haute Sûre/Ardenne meridionale, 89,443 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Abandonment/reduction of land management (C), Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Extraction industry (C), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (C), Recreation/tourism (C)

Sinémurienne

Admin region Région Wallonne
Coordinates 49°38'N 5°32'E
Altitude — Area 32,541 ha

C6 047



Site description

The area includes forests on sandstone in the Sinémuriennen region, and the marshes of the upper Semois river.

Habitats Forest and woodland (50%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (1%; scrub; heathland), Grassland (1%; steppe/dry calcareous grassland; dry siliceous grassland; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (1%; standing fresh water; river/stream; raised bog; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Artificial landscape (40%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (40%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (50%), Hunting, Military (8%), Nature conservation/research (2%), Not utilized (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (5%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Pernis apivorus</i> Honey Buzzard	B	—	20	30	B	C6
<i>Milvus migrans</i> Black Kite	B	—	1	4	B	C6
<i>Milvus milvus</i> Red Kite	B	—	5	10	B	C6
<i>Bonasa bonasia</i> Hazel Grouse	R	—	—	10	B	C6
<i>Crex crex</i> Corncrake	B	—	—	2	B	C6
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Nightjar	B	—	12	15	A	C6
<i>Picus canus</i> Grey-headed Woodpecker	R	—	—	3	B	C6
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i> Middle Spotted Woodpecker	R	—	130	170	A	C6
<i>Lullula arborea</i> Woodlark	B	—	25	33	B	C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus*, *Falco columbarius* and *Pandion haliaetus*.

Protection status

National Low International High

239 ha of IBA covered by Nature Reserve (Nature Reserves in Sinémurienne, 239 ha). 32,541 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Sinémurienne, 32,541 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Aquaculture/fisheries (C), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (B), Extraction industry (C), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (B), Industrialization/urbanization (B), Infrastructure (C), Recreation/tourism (B), Selective logging/cutting (B)

Côte Bajocienne

Admin region Région Wallonne

Coordinates 49°33'N 5°30'E

Altitude — Area 8,287 ha

C6 048


Site description

The site comprises the Bajoncienne limestone ridge, covered mainly by woodlands, dry grasslands, copses and marshes.

Habitats Forest and woodland (20%; broadleaved deciduous forest; alluvial/very wet forest), Scrub (1%; scrub), Grassland (1%; steppe/dry calcareous grassland; dry siliceous grassland; humid grassland; mesophile grassland), Wetland (1%; standing fresh water; river/stream; water-fringe vegetation; fen/transition mire/spring), Rocky areas (caves), Artificial landscape (80%; highly improved reseeded grassland; perennial crops/orchards/groves; forestry plantation; urban parks/gardens; other urban/industrial areas; ruderal land)

Land-use Agriculture (65%), Fisheries/aquaculture (1%), Forestry (25%), Hunting, Nature conservation/research (1%), Not utilized (1%), Tourism/recreation, Urban/industrial/transport (10%), Water management (1%)

Birds

Species	Season	Year	Pop min	Pop max	Acc	Criteria
<i>Lanius collurio</i> Red-backed Shrike	B	—	100	120	B	C6

Species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive occurring on passage or wintering include *Circus cyaneus*, *C. aeruginosus* and *Pandion haliaetus*.

Protection status

National None **International** High

8,287 ha of IBA covered by Special Protection Area (Cote Bajocienne, 8,287 ha).

Conservation issues

Threats Afforestation (C), Agricultural intensification/expansion (A), Construction/impact of dyke/dam/barrage (C), Disturbance to birds (C), Drainage (C), Filling-in of wetlands (B), Groundwater abstraction (C), Industrialization/urbanization (A), Infrastructure (A), Recreation/tourism (B), Selective logging/cutting (B)

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