



Private actors invest in nature restoration.

Conference Life B4B | 3 june 2026 | Leuven

Agenda

- **Who are we?**
- **What is happening?**
 - Status of nature and biodiversity in Belgium
 - Sense of urgency on climate and biodiversity
- **What can we do?**
 - Nature Based Solutions
- **How does it work?**
 - Status and ambition
 - Business for Nature



Natuurpunt, did you know?



30.092 ha
in nature
management

713 nature
reserves

36.125
volunteers

612
professionals

125.000
members

25.500
follow a course
yearly

17 visitors
centers

Cooperate
with
780 farmers

Belgium, state of habitats*

- Over 75% of terrestrial habitats and nearly 100% of dunes and marshes are in "unfavorable-bad" condition
- Belgium **worst in class in Europe**

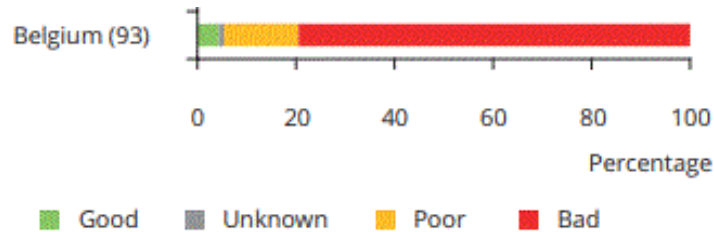
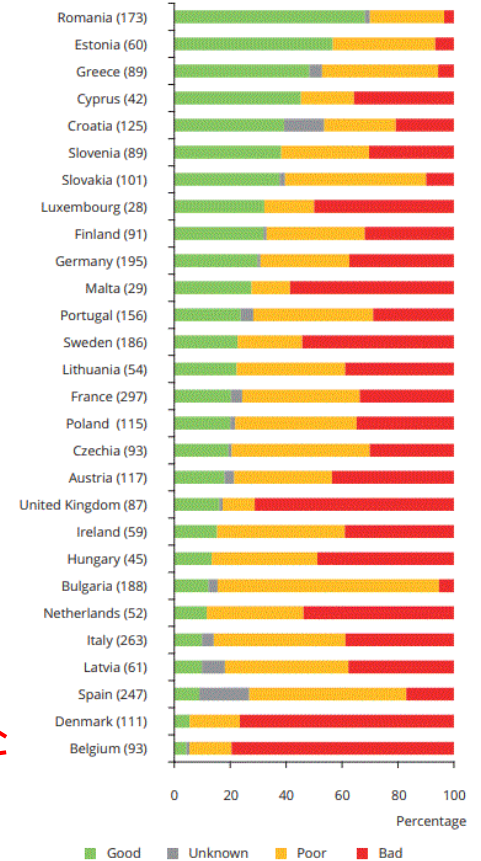


Figure 3.8 Conservation status of habitats at Member State level

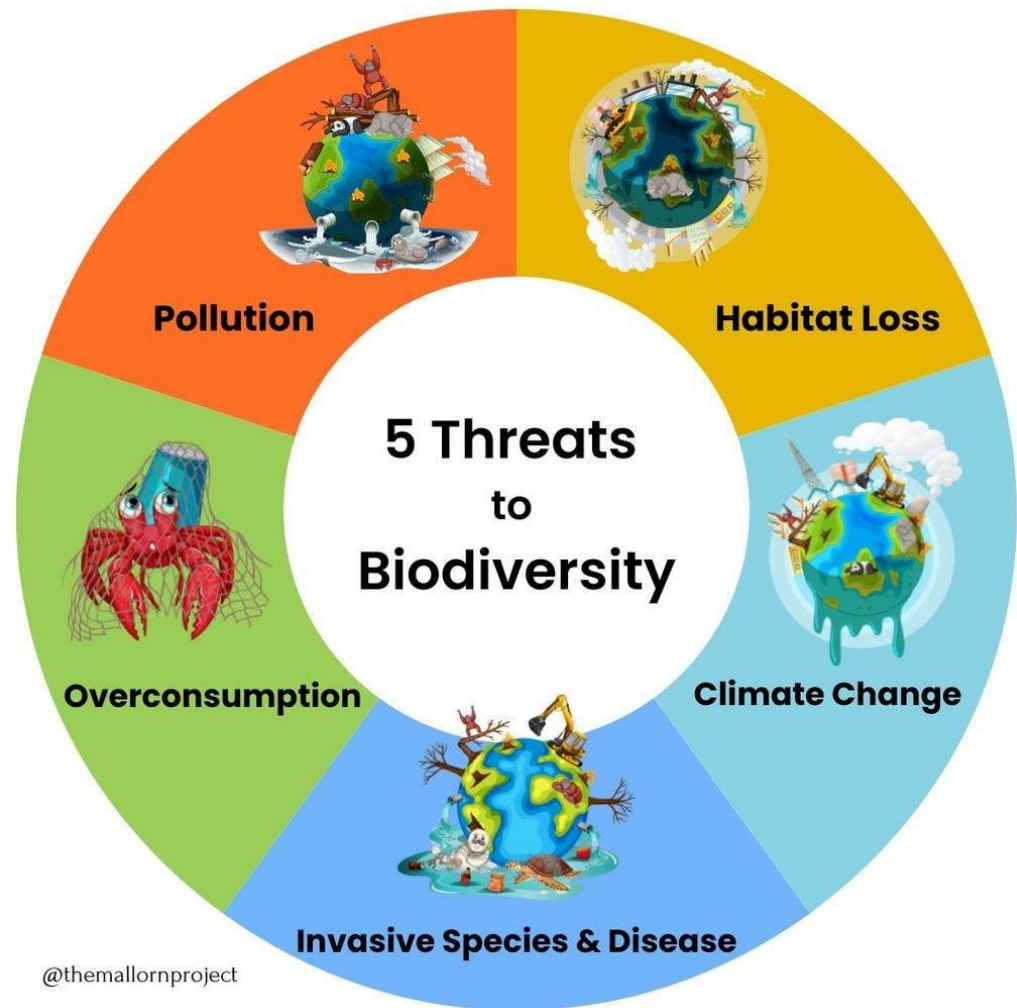


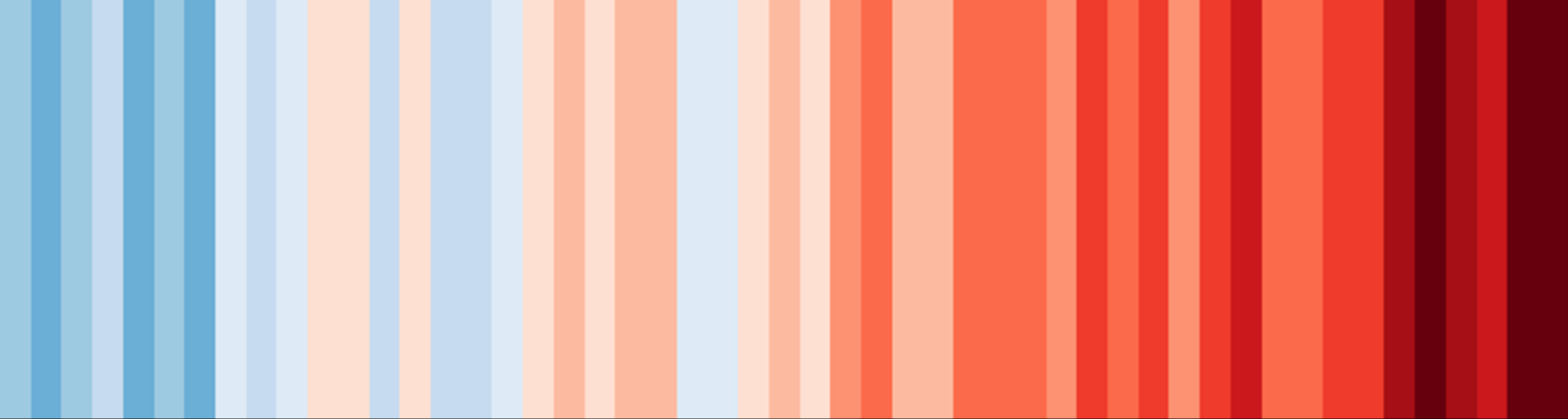
Note: Statistics are based on the number of habitat assessments at Member States' biogeographical/marine level. The number of assessments per Member State is indicated in parentheses. The total number of assessments is 3 246.

Source: Article 17 Member States' reports and assessments.

* Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) & European Environment Agency

Main causes of biodiversity loss

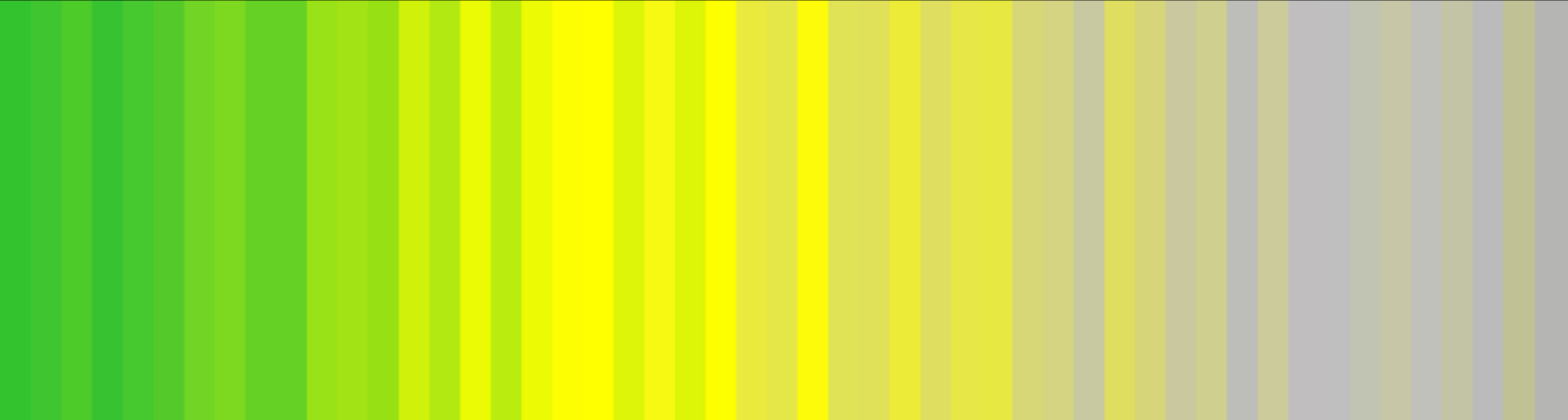




Global warming and biodiversity loss 1970 – 2020

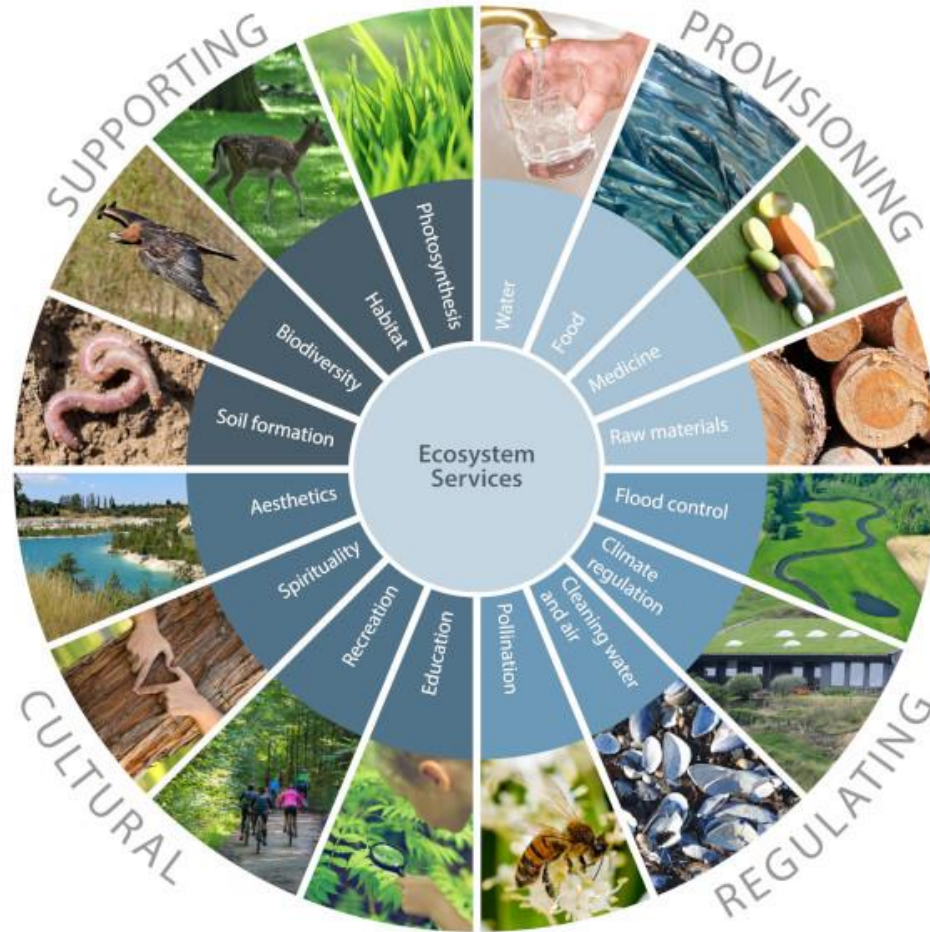
Global Warming Stripes. #showyourstripes. Data Source UK Met Office
biodiversitystripes.info Data: LPI 2024. Living Planet Index <http://stats.livingplanetindex.org/>

CC BY 4.0
CC BY-SA 4.0



Importance of biodiversity

Ecosystem services >
economic value—
benefiting both the
economy and **society**
at large



Ecosystem services: examples on what companies rely on



Freshwater >
beverage industries



Freshwater >
cooling data centers



Pollination > production of >75% of
global food crop types



Food & biomass >
agri-food sector



Soil fertility >
agriculture



Water purification >
Natural filtration for e.g. drinkwater
management

The biodiversity crisis is already impacting the economy

- Risk categories are shifting over time

Global risks ranked by severity

Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period.

Short term (2 years)

1 st	Geoeconomic confrontation
2 nd	Misinformation and disinformation
3 rd	Societal polarization
4 th	Extreme weather events
5 th	State-based armed conflict
6 th	Cyber insecurity
7 th	Inequality
8 th	Erosion of human rights and/or of civic freedoms
9 th	Pollution
10 th	Involuntary migration or displacement

Long term (10 years)

1 st	Extreme weather events
2 nd	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
3 rd	Critical change to Earth systems
4 th	Misinformation and disinformation
5 th	Adverse outcomes of AI technologies
6 th	Natural resource shortages
7 th	Inequality
8 th	Cyber insecurity
9 th	Societal polarization
10 th	Pollution



Risk categories ● Environmental ● Geopolitical ● Societal ● Technological

Biodiversity loss: risks and impacts on companies

- **Operational risk:** disruption of supply chains
- **Regulatory & legal risk:** governments are tightening rules (e.g. EU Nature Restoration Law / CSRD). Companies failing to adapt face fines or lose permits.
- **Physical risk:** Nature acts as a buffer. Loss of wetlands increases flood risks for coastal or riverside infrastructure - a major concern in Flanders and Wallonia.

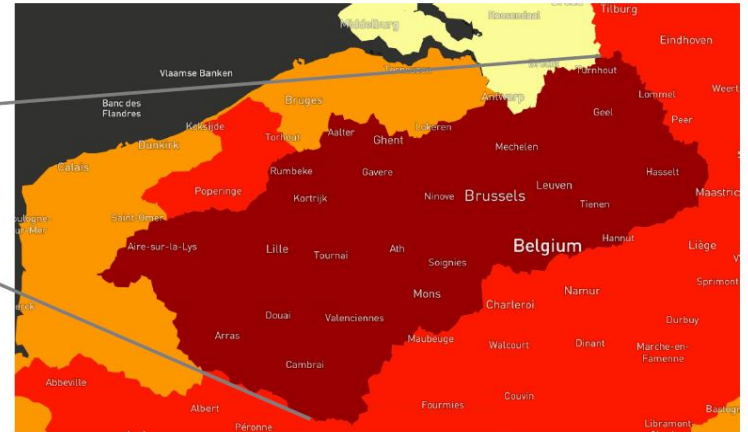
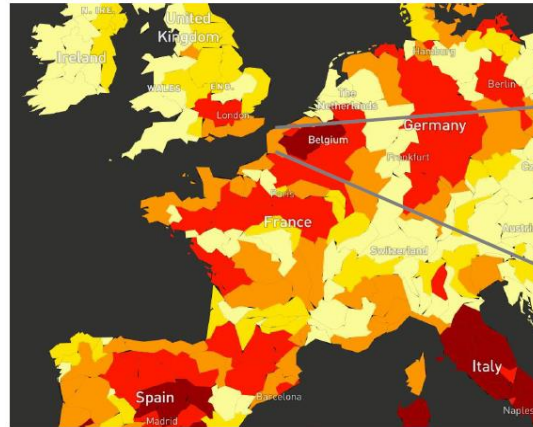




Water stress in Belgium

Belgium and Flanders in particular is **an exceptionally high water stressed region.**

Flanders is among the regions with the highest Baseline Water stress in Europe.



What can we do?

And what does nature restoration bring?

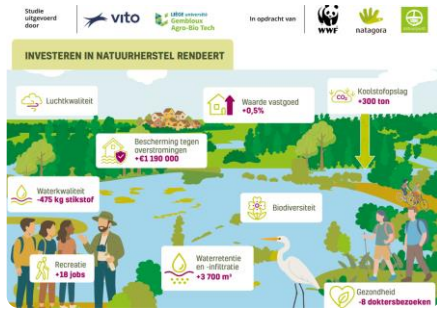
Nature based solutions

- **Deliver sustainable benefits for climate, biodiversity, and human well-being**
- More concrete:
 - Many nature reserves are **super sponges**
 - **Peatlands** are **true carbon sinks**: with 30 tons of carbon in the soil/ha, they store more CO₂ than any other biotope, incl. tropical forest.
 - Wet natural areas act as **super air conditioners**
 - Living and working near natural areas guarantees a **healthier population** (Cambridge Univ.).



Nature restoration leads to several wins

Investing in nature restoration thrives biodiversity



Biodiversity gain



Protection against floodings



Keeps water to overcome drought

Vito study: 1€ invested gives a return of 8-51€ to society



Water and air quality improvement



CO2 capture



Positive impact on health



Job creation in recreation

Natuurpunt partnering with companies



- In 2025, we collaborated with **91 private companies** on nature restoration projects.
- We categorize our **projects** into **3 clusters**:
 - **Water**: wetland restoration
 - **Climate**: reforestation and peatland restoration
 - **Biodiversity**: species protection (e.g. supporting wild bees)
- Companies seek **impact**: litres of water, tonnes of carbon, wellbeing co-workers...

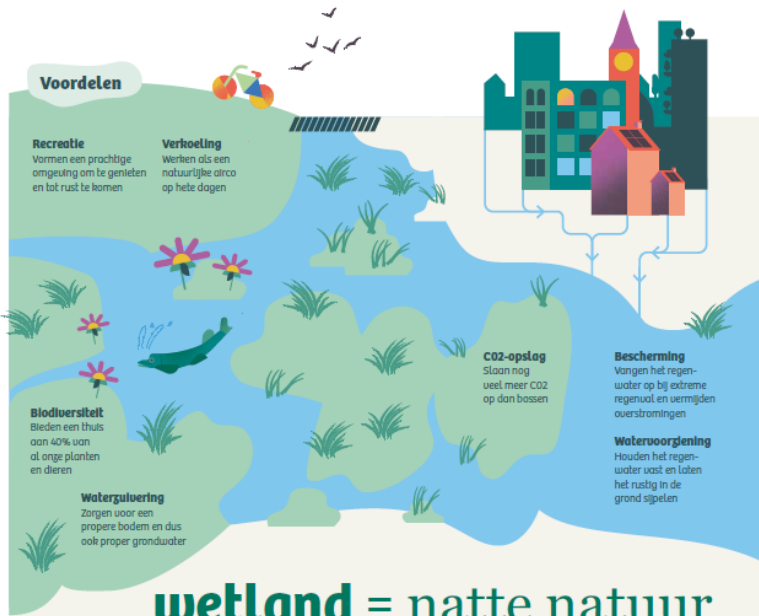
Wetland restoration

- Wetlands offer important solutions for **climate mitigation, water quality, water stress** and **biodiversity** crisis.
- Wetlands contribute significantly to **carbon storage**.
- **Natuurpunt** has developed a **wetland restoration plan** : restoring 1500 ha, now in bad shape, spread over 18 nature reserves.
- We **combine public and private funds**:
EU LIFE Projets | EU Interreg | Private partners



WETLANDPLAN

Natuurpunt herstelt
bijna 1.500 hectare
wetlands tegen 2027



Voordelen

Recreatie

Vormen een prachtige omgeving om te genieten en tot rust te komen

Verkoeling

Werken als een natuurlijke airco op hete dagen

Biodiversiteit

Bieden een thuis aan 40% van al onze planten en dieren

Waterguloering

Zorgen voor een propere bodem en dus ook proper grondwater

CO2-opslag

Slaan nog veel meer CO2 op dan bossen

Bescherming

Vangen het regenwater op bij extreme regenval en vermijden overstromingen

Wateroerogening

Houden het regenwater vast en laten het rustig in de grond sijpelen

wetland = natte natuur

moerassen
veengebieden
vennen
poelen
natte graslanden
broekbos

75%

van onze natte natuur zijn we de laatste 60 jaar kwijtgespeeld

68.000 ha

natuur is er nog over in Vlaanderen

11.213 ha

wilft beheerd door Natuurpunt

147.000 ha

kunnen we nog herstellen

> 1380 ha

hectare herstellen we tegen 2027

- gronden afgraven
- sporsubsidië herstellen
- grachten dempen
- waterpeil verhogen

18 gebieden

verdeeld over heel Vlaanderen

samen

en met de steun van

- Vlaanderen
- Europa
- lokale overheden
- bedrijven
- buurtbewoners
- vrijwilligers

Meer over ons plan om
natte natuur te herstellen op
www.natuurpunt.be/wetlands



18 WETLANDS

die we met vereende krachten gaan herstellen

→ 18 projecten om Vlaanderen
meer klimaatrobuust te maken
→ deel uitvoering van de Europese
Natuurherstelwet en het
Vlaams Klimaatadaptatieplan



1 Uitbrekese polder

Blaakenberge
191 ha herstel
Polders, natte graslanden

2 Stadsuallen van Damme

Damme
77 ha herstel
Polders, natte graslanden

3 Sint-Onofspolder

Dendermonde
47 ha herstel
Natte graslanden

4 Hogedonk

Gijzegem
61 ha herstel
Natte graslanden, meersen

5 Markwaal

Gensarijbeegen, Galmarsden
53 ha herstel
Natte graslanden, broekbossen

6 Rulierenland

Mechelen
345 ha herstel
Natte graslanden, broekbossen

7 Krabbels-Louvenhoek

Vurelaar
44 ha herstel
Natte graslanden, broekbossen

8 Vitsbeekvallei

Lille, Beerna, Schriecken
67 ha herstel
Natte graslanden, broekbossen

9 De Maat – Den Driël

Mel
65 ha herstel
Vennen, natte graslanden, broekbossen, moerassen

10 Vallei van de Maasloop

Hierenthout
11 ha herstel
Natte graslanden, poelen, broekbossen

11 Breeven

Gied
53 ha herstel
Veen, uennen, natte graslanden, broekbossen

12 De Vennen

Balen
60 ha herstel
Veen, natte graslanden, Veen, broekbossen, natte graslanden

13 Grote Getevallei

Zoulorenw
107 ha herstel
Natte graslanden, poelen, broekbossen

14 Zuunvallei

Sint-Pietersleeuw
14 ha herstel
Natte graslanden

15 De Moten

Genk
24 ha herstel
Veen, uennen, natte graslanden, broekbossen

16 Vallei van de Abeek

Peer
48 ha herstel
Broekbossen

17 Dommelvallei

Peer
82 ha herstel
Natte graslanden, broekbossen

18 Hageveen

Nespeelt
31 ha herstel
Vennen, natte graslanden

[Nieuws](#) > [Natuurpunt en Google investeren in herstel van natte natuur in Dendermonde](#)



Natuurpunt en Google investeren in herstel van natte natuur in Dendermonde

22 mrt 2024

Categorieën [Algemeen](#), [Partnernieuws](#)
Gerelateerde inhoud [Natuurpunt stelt Wetlandplan voor: 1500 ha vernatten om het droog te houden, Sint-Onoifspolder, Gaal](#)
Organisatie [Natuurpunt Dendermonding](#)

[Nieuws](#) > [AB InBev, de Vrienden van Heverleebos en Meerdaalwoud en Natuurpunt verbeteren grondwater niveau met samenwerking in natuureservaat Doode Bemde](#)



AB InBev, de Vrienden van Heverleebos en Meerdaalwoud en Natuurpunt verbeteren grondwater niveau met samenwerking in natuureservaat Doode Bemde

[Nieuws](#) > [Natuurpunt zet volgende stap om het veenpakket van de Zwarte Beek nat te houden](#)



Natuurpunt zet volgende stap om het veenpakket van de Zwarte Beek nat te houden

4 sep 2024

Categorieën [Algemeen](#), [Partnernieuws](#)
[Natuurherstel](#) [Cocacola foundation](#) [Veen](#)

[Nieuws](#) > [BNP Paribas Fortis en Natuurpunt herstellen de natuur in de Zuuvallei](#)



BNP Paribas Fortis en Natuurpunt herstellen de natuur in de Zuuvallei

15 apr 2026



Investing in new forest

- **Climate change mitigation:** carbon sequestration + cooling effect (also in cities)
- **Biodiversity** conservation
- **Recreational value:** forests are important for our well-being.
- It is easy to **engage people** for planting trees.
- Campaigns together with schools, communities and **companies** (CSR, carbon offsetting)

Biodiversity awareness and protection

[Vrijwilligers](#)[Steun de natuur](#)[Ledenvoordelen](#)[Contact](#)[Winkel](#)[Zoeken](#)[Inloggen](#)[Natuurgebieden](#)[Soorten](#)[Agenda](#)[Over ons](#)[Word lid](#)

[Home](#) > [Nieuws](#) > [ENGIE, Natuurpunt en Natagora sensibiliseren samen rond biodiversiteit](#)



ENGIE, Natuurpunt en Natagora sensibiliseren samen rond biodiversiteit

📅 29 mei 2026

Categorieën [Partnernieuws](#)

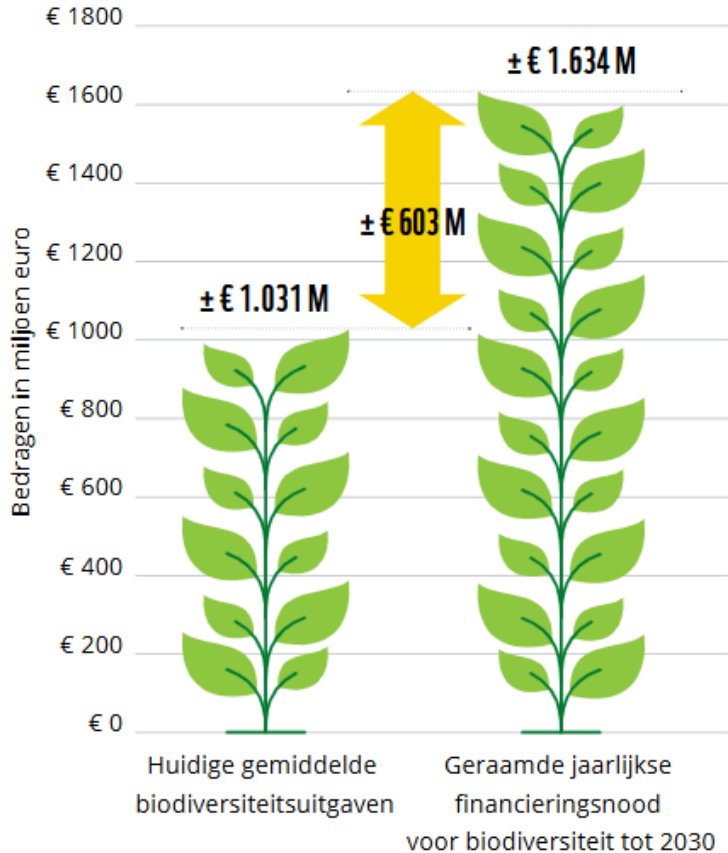
De mensen in België opnieuw dichterbij de natuur brengen: daar willen ENGIE, Natuurpunt en Natagora de komende twee jaar hun schouders onder zetten. En dat is hoognodig. Hoewel we de natuur steeds vaker uit het oog verliezen in ons dagelijks leven, smakt onze mentale gezondheid juist naar meer groen. Dit partnerschap wil dat contrast verkleinen en de natuur weer een vaste plek geven in ieders leven.

A serene sunset over a misty lake. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The lake is covered with numerous lily pads, and the surrounding hills are shrouded in a light mist. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

How to finance

Status and ambition

Belgische biodiversiteitsfinancieringskloof^v



Finance for biodiversity in BE

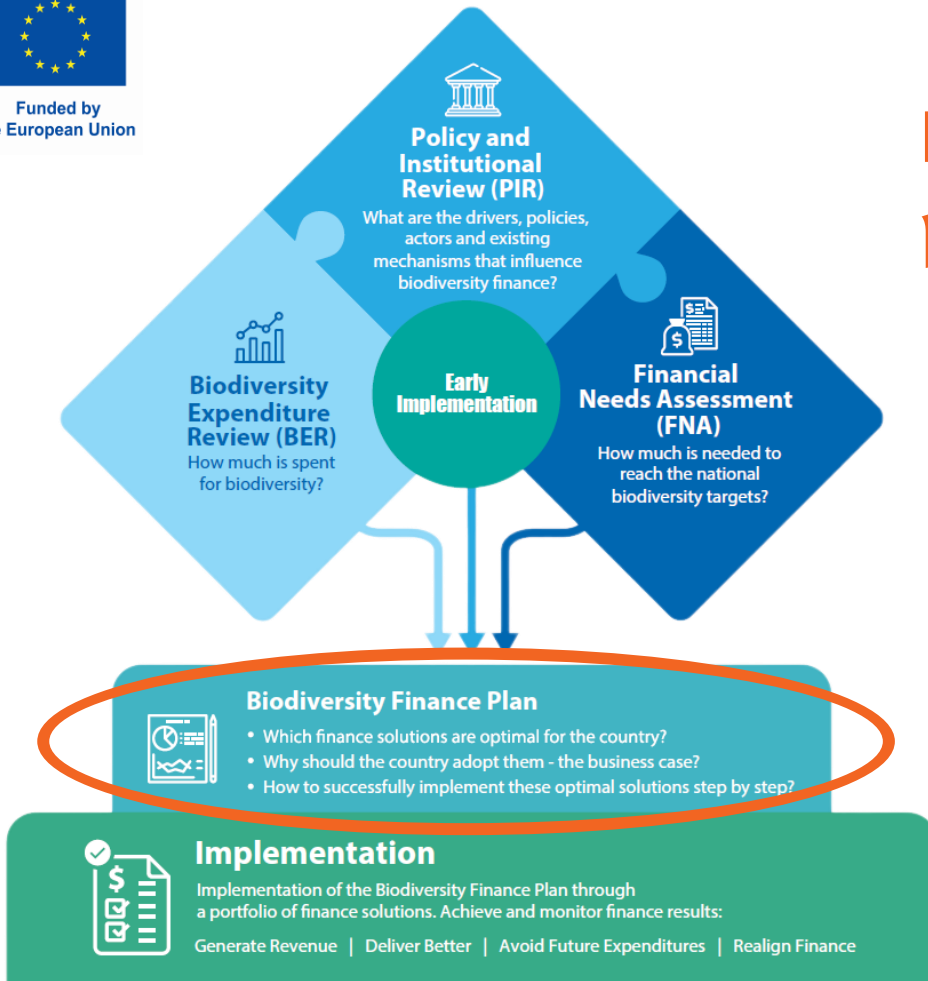
- First analysis (2023) shows **severe biodiversity finance gap in BE**
- **Additional financial means** and human resources are **needed** to reach our EU and international obligations on nature & biodiversity
- 1.634 Million is still a small part of State expenses (0,6%)



Funded by
the European Union



BE biodiversity finance plan in development



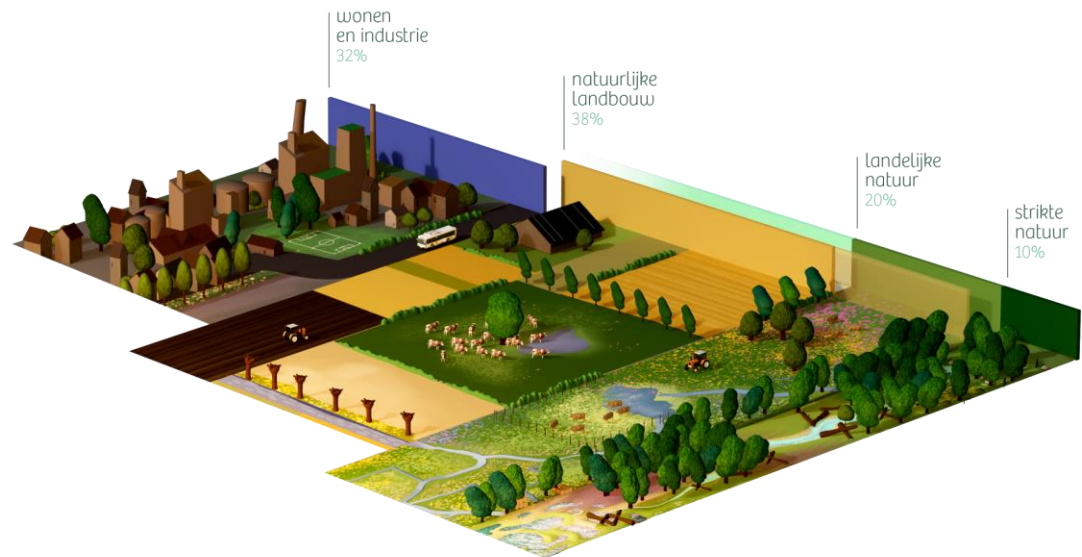
- **EU funded work to support BE administrations**

- Detailed analysis of current financing ecosystem & needs
- Creating portfolio of 10-20 high impact finance solutions to close gap

Natuurpunt's strategic vision for nature restoration

- Landscape sharing is the key
- Integrate nature into every part of the landscape

Naar
30%
natuur



A vibrant landscape photograph featuring a field of tall green grasses and numerous small pink flowers in the foreground. In the background, a dense forest of tall, thin trees is visible under a bright, hazy sky. The sun is positioned on the right side, creating a warm, golden glow and lens flare effects across the scene.

Business investing in Nature

**Why private actors invest
in nature restoration**

Drivers to invest in biodiversity initiatives

- Our banking partners include **BNP, Belfius, VDK, Candriam**.
- Regarding insurance, we have established partnerships with **AG, Ethias** and **Baloise**.
- **Motivations** to invest in nature/biodiversity are various:
 - **Reputation** & brand image (all)
 - Enhancing **carbon storage** (Ethias)
 - Driving **employee engagement** in sustainability strategies (BNP & Ethias)
 - **Meeting customer demands** for products with a social and environmental impact (Belfius)
 - **Mitigating climate-related risks** and potential damages (BNP, Baloise & Ethias)

* banks, investors, insurance companies

Blended financing boosts biodiversity investment

- Natuurpunt receives 70% in subsidies for nature protection, but we **need co-funding** to take action.
- This is where **blended financing** makes the difference: it reduces the investment burden by **leveraging** these **subsidies**. This allows **companies** to contribute less while **multiplying** their **impact** to realize large-scale projects together.
- **Public funding** for nature and biodiversity **is shrinking** as priorities shift elsewhere, making the role of private companies even more crucial.



Take aways

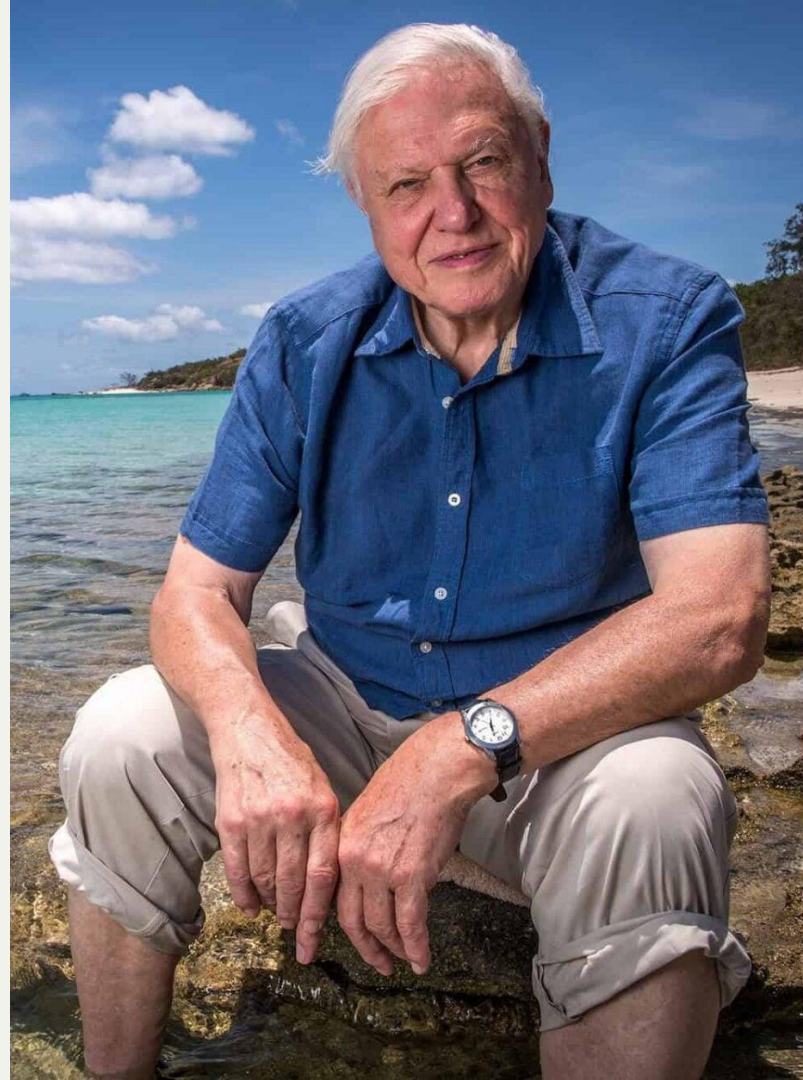
- Global **biodiversity** is in critical **decline**
- **Nature** is the **backbone** of our economy
- **Ecosystem services** are **vital** for economic and societal stability
- **Nature-based solutions** offer a primary path forward
- A **massive financing gap** must be bridged
- **Private actors** are the key to scaling solutions





“In my lifetime I’ve witnessed a terrible decline. In yours, you could and should witness a wonderful recovery.”

“We know what we need to do. What happens next is up to us.”





Thank you very much
for your attention



Filip Hebbrecht, Accountmanager Corporate Partnerships

filip.hebbrecht@natuurpunt.be