



Belgium for  
Biodiversity

# Financing Biodiversity

Exploring new horizons





# Agenda

1. The financial gap
2. Public funding
3. Private funding
  1. Case?
4. EU project office and financing



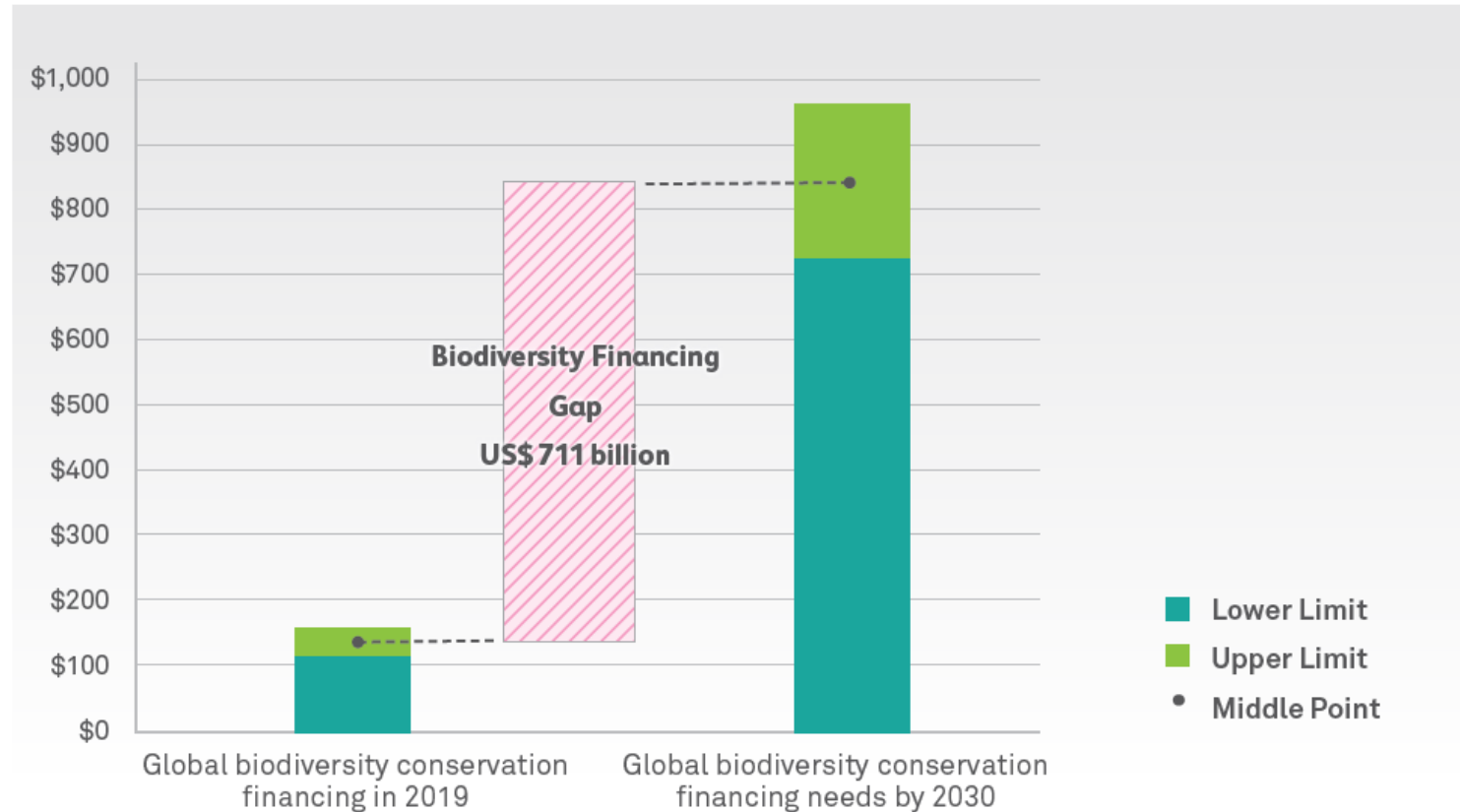
# 01

## The financial gap



# The gap - worldwide

**FIGURE 4.** Global biodiversity conservation financing compared to global biodiversity conservation needs. (US\$ billions)



Note: Using midpoints of the current estimates and future needs, current global biodiversity conservation financing (left graph) may need to increase by a factor of 5–7X to meet the estimated global need for biodiversity conservation (right graph).

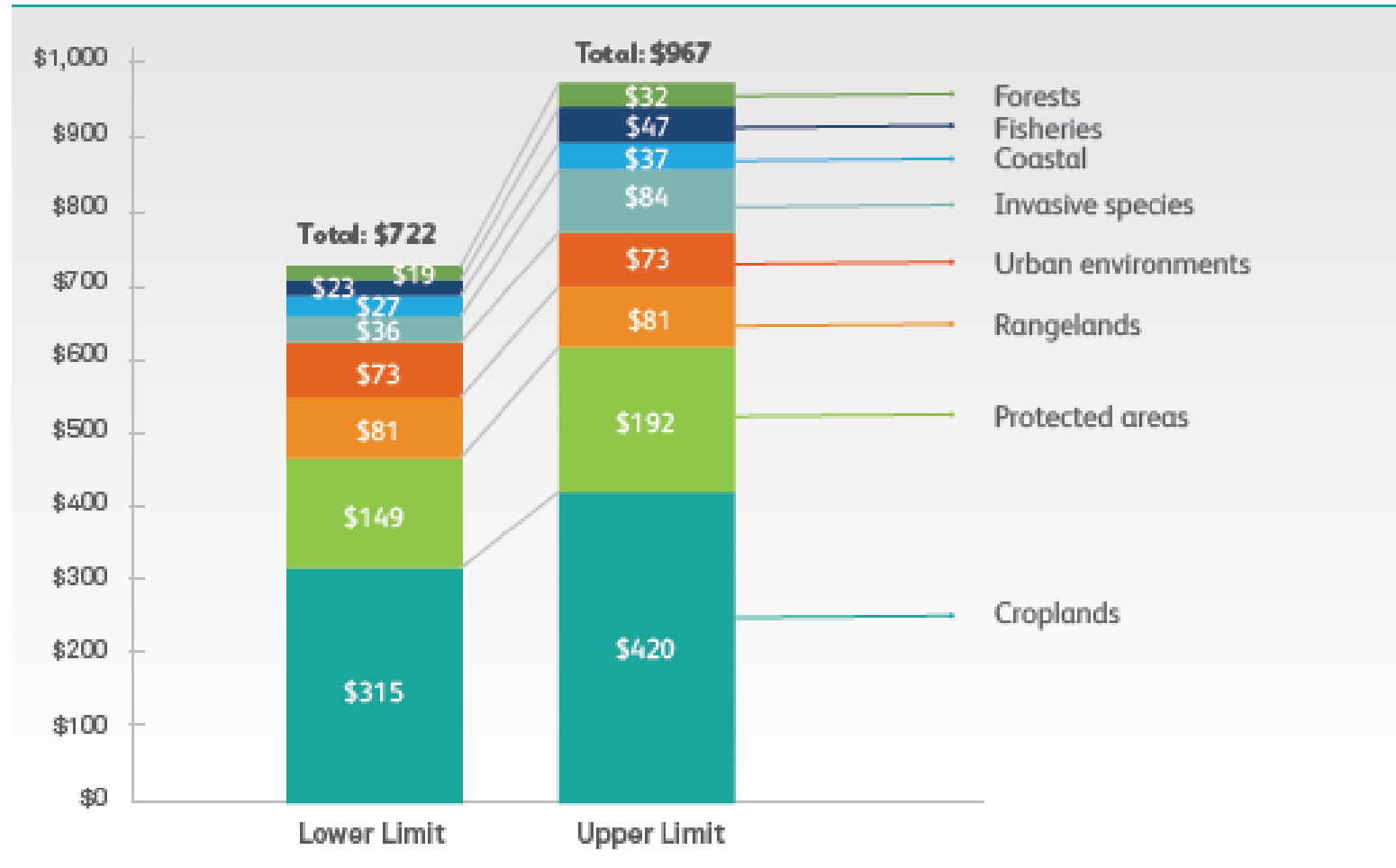
Source: Financing nature: closing the global biodiversity gap. Conservation international.



# The needs

- Budget needed to achieve good conditions

**FIGURE 4.1** Global biodiversity conservation funding needs. (in US\$ billions per year)



# The financial gap – estimated cost of Natura 2000 (EU)



€ 6,1 billion/y

€ 5,8 billion/y

€ 6,8 billion/y management  
€ 3,5 billion/y one off cost  
(€ 133 ha/year)



# Belgium – PAF 2021 -2027

	Management / y	One off costs / y	2021-2027 total
Brussels	€ 9.010.000	€ 104.357.143	€ 69.980.000
Flanders	€ 102.618.395	€ 161.395.986	€ 1.848.100.670
Wallonia	€ 69.182.047	€ 28.847.578	€ 686.207.375
Total / year	€ 180.810.442	€ 294.600.707	€ 475.411.149
Total 21-27	€ 1.265.673.094	€ 2.062.204.949	€ 2.604.288.045

LIFE B4B complementary funding: 600 million euro (2023-2031) for restoration

→ Serious gap!



# How to close the gap?

- Public funds? Not enough available
- Private funds? Not yet full potential is used / explored
- Blending? Private + public funding?





# 02 public funds

The classic way to fund  
biodiversity projects

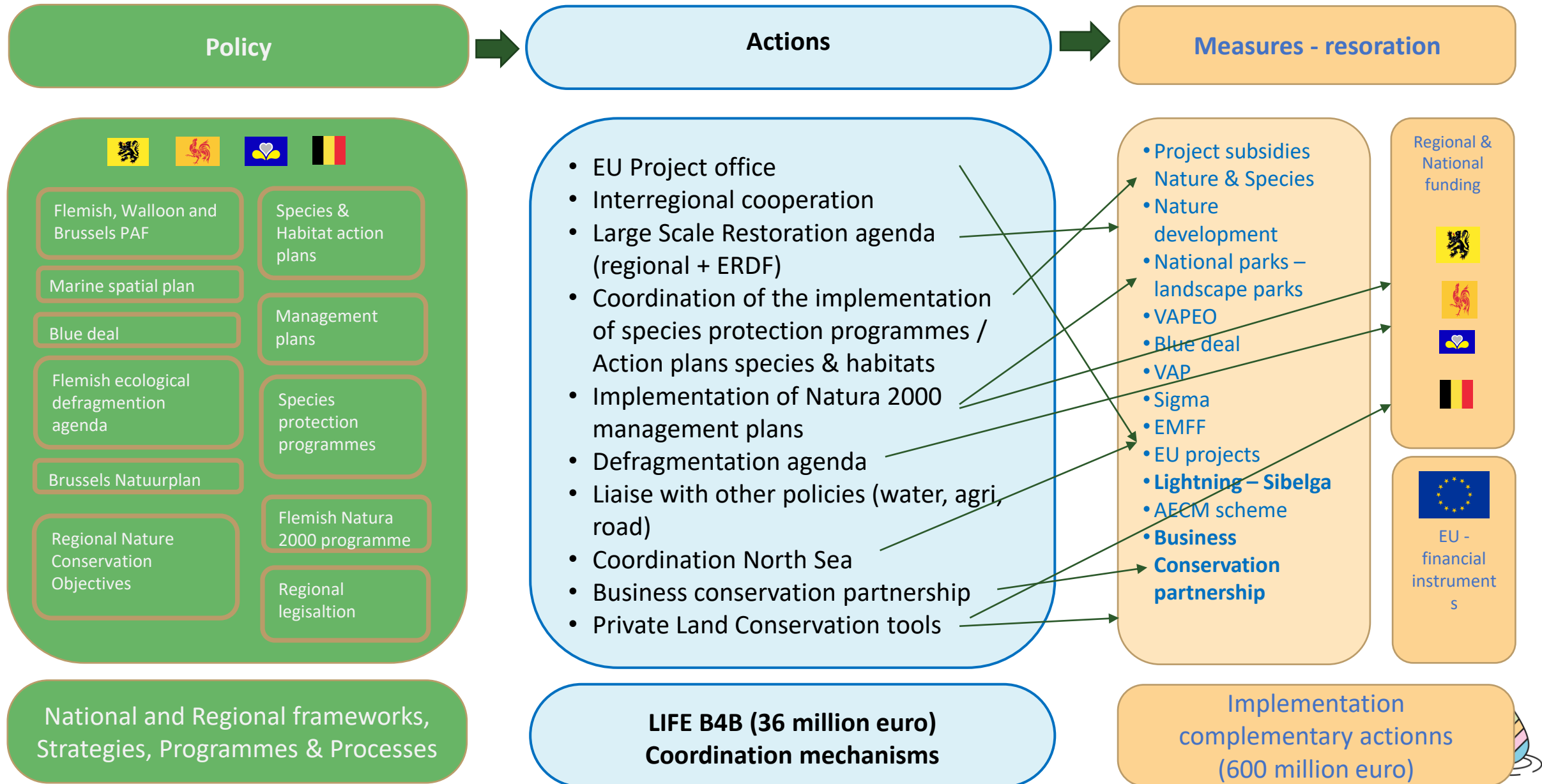


# EU Biodiversiteitsstrategie 2030 en Natura 2000: van EU beleid naar uitvoering

## Stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la biodiversité à l'horizon 2030 et Natura 2000



# Complementary actions



# EU funds

Wallonia: EFRD	Communication and awareness	1.150.000
Wallonia EFRD measure 7	WP4 restoration: measure 7.6 RDP	11.250.000
Wallonia EAFRD measure 12	WP3 and WP4 P.A : natura 2000 payments – direct payments appropriate management	35.000.000
Wallonia EFRD measure 10	WP restoration: AECS within the Walloon programme	94.000.000
EAGF	WP restoration: Eco-schemes	30.000.000
Flanders: EFRD	Within the new CAP, there will be financial resources available for restoration of Natura 2000	16.729.784
Flanders: EFRD	AECS for species (WP4)	720.000
Flanders: EFRD	Agri-environmental measures related to erosion, etc.	21.000.000

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund	Measures limiting seabed disturbance from fisheries	50.000
European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund	Upscaling results of the pilot restoring oysterbanks	1.000.000
LIFE, Interreg, Horizon Europe and any other EU grant	Implementation projects:	49.000.000
	- Grasslands	
	- Knowledge centre	
	- Nature inclusive farming	
	- Amphibians	
	- Atlantic land dunes	
	- Branding Natura 2000	

Total: € 259,899,784



# Regional funds (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels, federal)

Flanders	Small Landscape features WP4 implementation of landscape parks (mobilised)	4.000.000
Fond de biodiversité	The SNAP should create this fund for future funding of nature related measures (WP strategic tools)	Not yet known
Regional funding Wallonia	Implementation Management Plans (WP Management plans)	21.000.000
Vapeo (partially Relance plan Flanders 50% and 50% regional budget)	WP connectivity	50.000.000
	Vapeo - track 1: coordination of implementation in LIFE	
	Vapeo – track 2-4: agenda will be drafted and then implemented. Not yet compl. Funding place.	
Regional funding (2021-2026) Flanders	WP4 Restoration: Vlaams Natura 2000 programma – restoration measures (task 4.7)	173.000.000
Regional fund - Brussels	Financial needs of the PAF: E2.a Natura 2000 site-related maintenance and restoration measures for species and habitats – partially mobilised	27.450.000
Regional fund - Brussels	WP 3 Protected areas – T3.18 legal study - PAF: E1.1 Site designation and management planning (partially mobilised)	4.515.000
Regional fund - Brussels	WP 6 Awareness raising – T6.3. PAF: E1.5 Natura 2000-related communication and awareness raising measures, education and visitor access	2.619.995
Regional fund - Brussels	SIBELGA WP5 task 5.1 – lightning plan	20-000.000

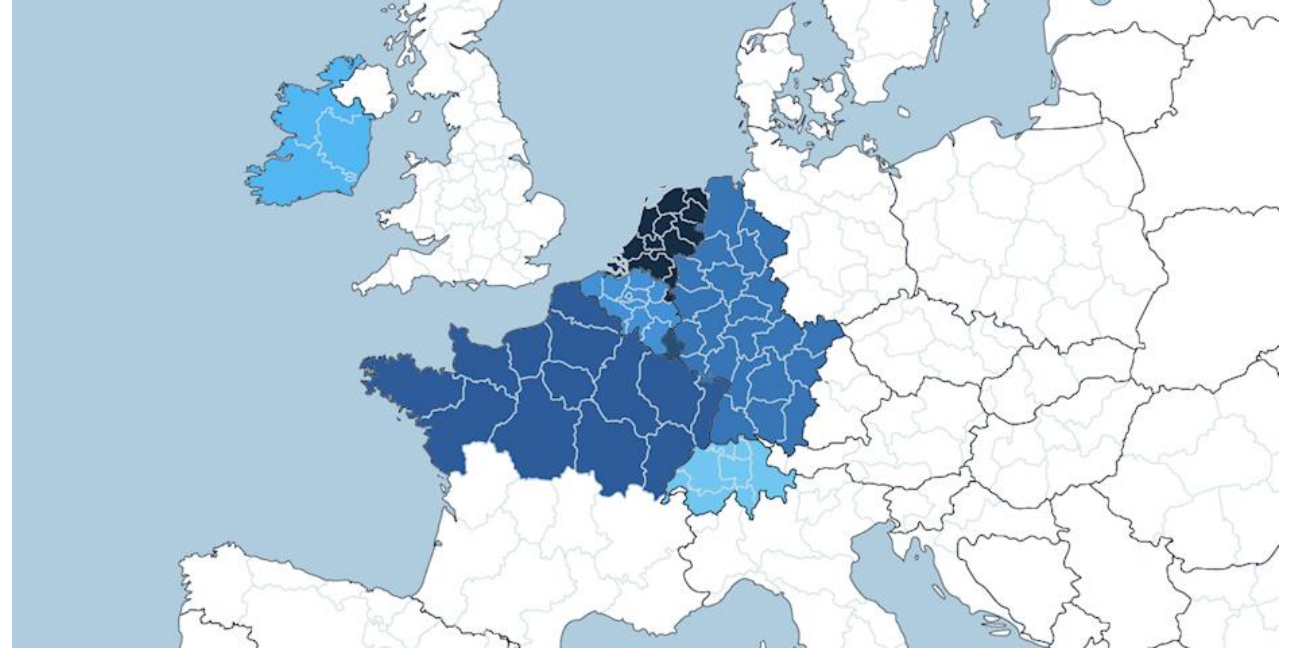
€ 298,069,995



# Interre

## 3 Main branches

- Only neighbouring regions (oriented on implementation)
  - Flanders – Netherlands
  - Meuse – Rhine
  - France – Wallonia - Flanders
- Grouping EU countries
  - Northsea region
  - Northwest Europe
- Interreg Europe
  - All 27 MS
  - Policy oriented, platforms, ...



## Second upcoming call - North-West Europe programme

- Biodiverstiy
- Upcoming call Q1 2024

Interreg 2014-2020: € 280 million (€ 200 million EU funding) for Natura 2000 sites

**LIFE**



# Funding in Flanders





# Nature development projects

Budget

€ 2-5 million

Cofin - graad

60% EAFRD  
40% Flemish government  
Sometimes blended with EU  
(LIFE)

Procedure

Cooperation VLM + ANB

Measures

- Working at landscape level
- Restoration of sites / hydrology
  - Legal instruments possible (extraproperiation)
  - Commission and comité (public bodies and stakeholders)



# Projectsubsidies Natuur

## “Vlaanderens LIFE”

Budget

€ 50K- € 250K

Cofin - graad

50%-90% (50-80% EAFRD)  
Blending is allowed  
You need own co-financing

Procedure

Accessible to all legal entities

- 2 phases (concept note – full proposal)
- 1 oproep/jaar

Maatregelen

- Focus on nature restoration with focus on NCO- wetlands (blue deal)
- Nature management plan = obligatory
- Overhead ok



# Projectsubsidies species

Budget	€ 10K
Cofin - graad	70% (also EAFRD)
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 fasen indiening</li><li>• 1 oproep/jaar</li></ul>
Measures	<p>Implementing species protection programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No obligation of a management plan</li><li>• Overhead ok (e.g. staff cost)</li></ul>



# Flemish fishery fund

Budget	€ 5K -€ <b>50K</b> - € 6 Million
Cofin - graad	50% - <b>20%</b> - 5%
Procedure	Negotiable with fishery commission
Measures	Objective: ecological fish stock management <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recreative infrastructure</li><li>• studies</li><li>• Measure in or on the banks</li><li>• (e.g. fish ladder)</li></ul>



# Afforestation projects

Budget	Limited to € 25K/ha
Cofin - graad	NA
Procedure	Through portal on website
Measures	Afforestation projects (increasing surface area of woodland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Endemic species</li><li>• Area specific</li></ul>



# Flanders

- Subsidies and funding in place
- Very little private funding
- High demand for funding (more projects applied than can be funded)

# Funding in Wallonia





**Wallonie**  
**environnement**  
**SPW**

**Financing nature restoration in Walloon  
region**



# Nature funding opportunities in Wallonia

- BiodiverCité
- Yes we plant
- Arrêt du régent
- Mesure 7.6 / 355 a/b - PwDR
- PNRR – plan National de relance et de Résilience
- PRW – plan de relance de la Wallonie

# Nature funding opportunities in Wallonia

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- PNRR
- PRW



Regional funding

- FEADER
- Recovery plan for Eu
- Recovery plan for Wallonia

# BiodiverCité

« Nature actions » on the municipal territory

- Target stakeholder :
  - Municipalites
- Cofinancing rate :
  - 100%
  - max 12 000€
- Deadline:
  - Yearly call



**BIODIVERCITÉ**

# BiodiverCité

## Supported actions :

- Ecological restauration and management
- Protection of certain species (amphibians)
- Plantations
- Seeds : flowering meadows and lawns
- Unpaved paths & tracks
- « Semaine de l'arbre »

## • Sensibilisation :

- school or shared gardens
- conferences, workshops, screenings...
- training of municipal staff
- educational material
- educational panels
- paper supports



**BIODIVERCITÉ**

# Yes we plant

Hedge and tree plantating campaign

- Targeted public :
  - Every owner (public or private)
- Co-financing rate :
  - Flat rate depending of the type of plantation
- Deadline : none



# Yes we plant

Supported actions :

- Hedges and coppices
- Orchards
- Tree lines and pollarded trees



# Arrêt du régent

Creation and development of green areas in urban zone

- Targeted public :
  - Municipalities
- Co-financing rate :
  - 65 %
  - Indicative value : 300 000 to 500 000 €/project

# PwDR > FEADER

Mesure 7.6 (2014 – 2022)

Restauration du patrimoine naturel et préservation de la biodiversité



Aide 355a / 355b (2023-2027)

355 a : restauration en zone SEP

355 b : restauration/renforcement des services écosystémiques



FEADER: l'Europe investit dans les zones rurales



# PwDR > FEADER

*Mesure 7.6 / aide 355a / 355b*

Restoration of Natura 2000 habitats in & out N2000

- Targeted public :
  - Every land owner in the Principal Ecological Structure  
*(Structure écologique principale)*
- Co-financing rate :
  - 100 %
  - No funding limit



FEADER: l'Europe investit dans les zones rurales

# Mesure 7.6 / 355 PwDR > FEADER

Supported actions :

- Habitat restoration acts
- Species habitat restoration acts
- Habitat creation acts
- Ecosystemic services restoration



FEADER: l'Europe investit dans les zones rurales

# Recovery plan for Europe :

## *Plans National de Résilience et de Relance*

- Fiche 97 : Reinforce the protected areas network
  - Targeted public : NGO's
  - Budget : 22 M€
  - Actions : land acquisition by NGO's
  
- Fiche 98 : National parcs in Walloonnia
  - Targeted public : specific consortium
  - Budget : 28 M€
  - Actions : creation of 2 national parcs

# Recovery plan for Wallonia :

## *Plans de Relance de la Wallonie*

- Fiche 111 : Reinforce the protected areas network
  - Targeted public : DNF
  - Budget : 10 M€
  - Actions : land acquisition by administration
  
- Fiche 112 : Habitat restauration
  - Targeted public : DNF
  - Budget : 5 M€
  - Actions : habitat restauration & management

# Recovery plan for Wallonia :

## *Plans de Relance de la Wallonie*

- Fiche 113 : Valorization of iconic natural sites

Targeted public : caillebotis, Caster pour DNF et Marais d'Harchies et Furfooz

Budget : 5 M€

Actions : site-specific

# Synthesis – funding nature in Wallonia

- Municipalities :

- BiodiverCité
- Yes we plant
- Arrêt du régent
- Mesure 7.6 / 355 (PwDR)

- NGO :

- Fiche 97 (ERF)
- Yes we plant
- Mesure 7.6/ 355 (PwDR)

- Specific public :

- Fiche 98 National parks (ERF)
- Fiches 111 – 112 (WRF)
- Fiche 113 (WRF)

- Private owners :

- Yes we plant
- Mesure 7.6/ 355 (PwDR)

# 03 Private funds?

**What can LIFE B4B  
mean to you?**



# Some other cases

- Water replenishment:  
Coca-Cola : cooperation related to water replenishment  
AB-INBEV: water
- carbon compensation:  
Orange: domestic offset– forestation offer
- biodiversity: Delhaize & suppliers
- recreation : A.S. Adventure walks
- public campaigns: Tom&Co: garden animals



# Business conservation partnership

- Ethical guideline
- Available ambitious projects
- Carbon certificates?
- Blue credits?
- Think big
- Climate change is priority for corporates



# Some food for thoughts

- Public + private funding = blending?
- Greenwashing?

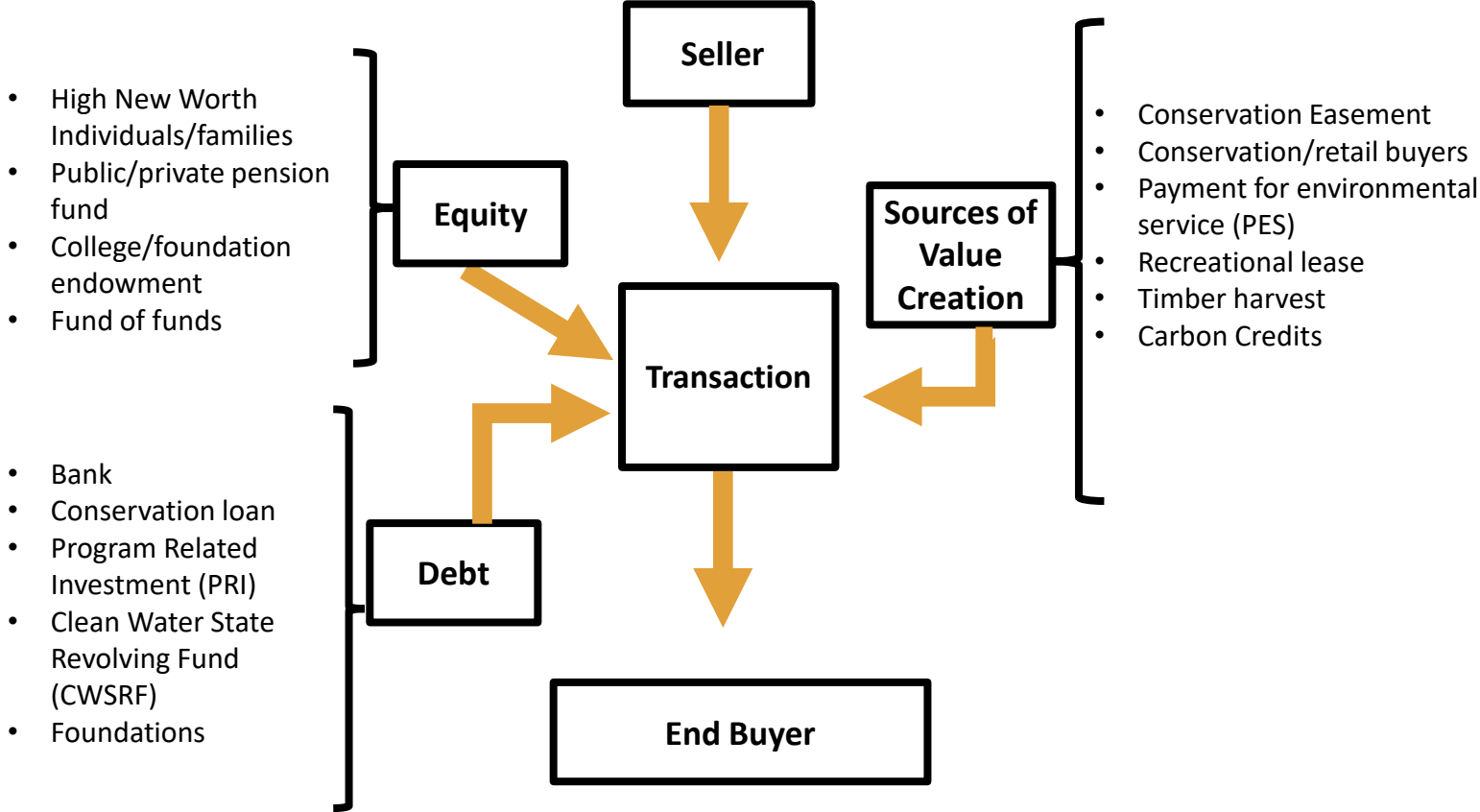


# 04 New tools

**Innovation**



# Structure of a Transaction



# Funding & Financing

## Simple

**Philanthropy**  
(individual, foundation, corporate)

**Public Funding**

**Bargain Sales**

**Seller Financing**

**Transfer Fees**

**Conservation Buyer**

## Moderate

**Business Partnerships**  
(e.g. breweries & surcharges)

**Conservation Development**

**Borrowing Money** (from individual, conservation lender, foundation, or bank)

## Difficult

**Ballot Measures**

**Natural Resource Damage Payments**

**Impact Investing**

**Ecosystem Service Markets**  
(carbon, wetlands, habitat)

**Mitigation Banking**

**Water Utility Payments**

**Tax Incentives** (e.g. NMTX)



# Sources of Conservation Finance

## Gifts & Grants

- **Traditional Sources**
  - Individual Donors
  - Foundations
  - Corporate Engagements/ Partnerships
  - Institutional & Nonprofit Collaborations
- Voluntary Surcharges
- Voluntary Private Transfer Fees
- Trade Lands
- Donor-Advised Funds & Aggregators
- Web & Phone Applications
- Crowd Sourcing

## Tax Benefits

- Federal/State Tax Deductions
- Bargain Sale or Easement Donation
- State Tax Credits

## Public Funding

- Intl Sources: ERBD, CEB, EEA & GEF
- EU: ESIF, LIFE, Horizon 2020 , NCFE, NCFE TA
- Member State Funding Programs
- Lottery Funds
- State/Local Specific Use Taxes/Fees/Incentives

## Private Capital

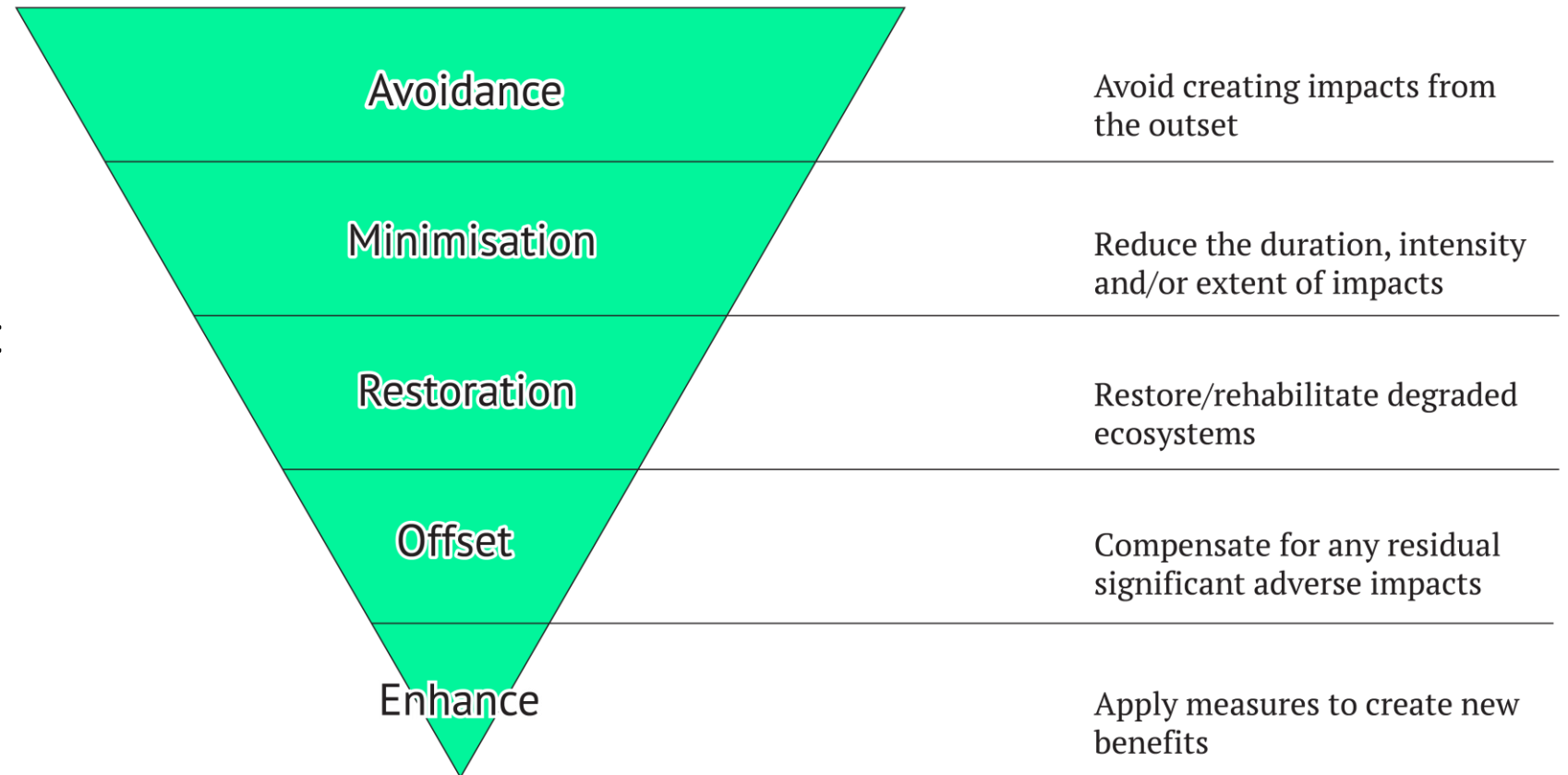
- **Payments for Ecosystem Services**
  - Function Trading (water, nutrients, carbon)
  - Watershed Service Payments
  - Habitat & Species Mitigation/Banking
  - Green Bonds
  - Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)
- Tradable Land Use Rights (TDRs etc.)
- Conservation Development/Buyers (parcel sales)
- Agriculture, Timber, Energy & Other Income
- Water Funds
- Cause-Related Marketing
- Conservation investing

## Bridge Financing & Loans

- Philanthropic
  - External Revolving Loan Funds
  - Internal Land Trust Protection Funds
  - Foundations (incl. PRIs)
  - Conservation Lenders & Guarantors
- Private
  - Commercial & Farm Credit Lending
  - Seller Financing
- Public
  - Fed/State Revolving Loan Funds
  - Tax-Exempt Debt

# Biodiversity off setting

- Compensate loss of biodiversity
- Net restoration
- Internalize the costs of biodiversity impact as those costs are otherwise borne by nature and society
- First step: avoiding impact, offsetting = last step



# Habitat banking – investing in nature

What if a company wants to invest in nature?

Selling and restoring the land → conservation benefit

Later on selling it to an NGO or public body

Revenue / profit with carbon credits?





# 05 EU project office and financing

What can LIFE B4B  
mean to you?



# EU Project office and financing

- Within the frame of LIFE B4B
- Collaboration between 3 regions and federal level to facilitate and support EU grant applications
- Creating a network of experts
- Enlarging networks
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Topics should be in the frame of regional nature policy (e.g. action plans, site management plans, other regional strategies,...)
- Providing training
- [info@lifeb4b.be](mailto:info@lifeb4b.be)



**Bedankt voor je aandacht.  
Zijn er vragen?**

**Meer info**

[www.B4B.be](http://www.B4B.be)

[info@B4B.be](mailto:info@B4B.be)



**Belgium for  
Biodiversity**

