



Action plans in Wallonia and prioritisation

Which Walloon species/habitat could be
concerned by the Life B4B?

Anne Weiserbs





Content

1. From Red Lists to protection measures
2. Criteria to prioritise species
3. Combining Criteria and dispatching species into 4 types of approaches



From Red Lists to protection measures

- In 2021 Natagora had an agreement with the Walloon Region to draw up Red Lists of :
 - birds
 - Reptiles and amphibians
 - bats
- The second step of the agreement was to define priorities between species
 - Take only Critically endangered species is not a solution : some could not be easily saved, other are just 'arriving'



The method had to :

- Be applicable to different groups of species
- Be built with the knowledge of what was done in other countries
- Take into account the lack of knowledge on some species
- Not be rigid and integrate a step of specialists advices
- Should be applied by other specialists and lead to similar conclusions

=> 6 criteria



1

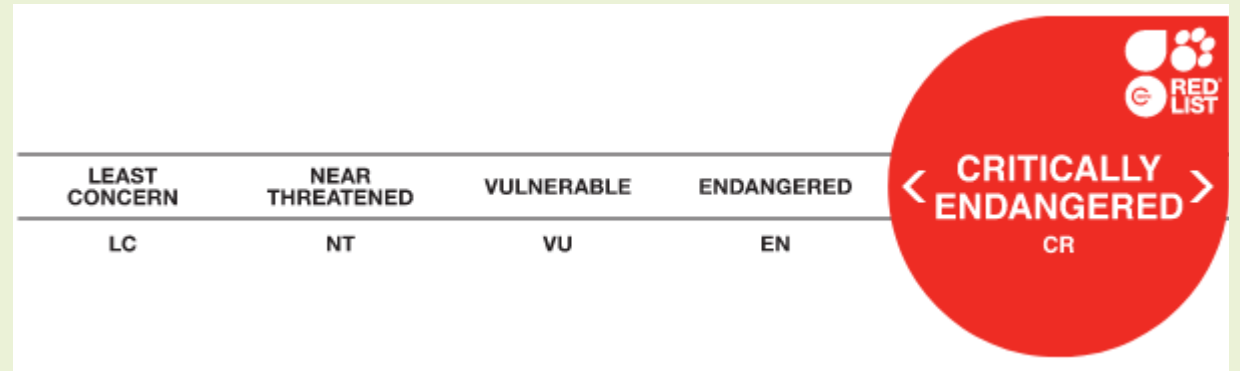
Intrinsic threat on the taxon



1. Intrinsic threat on the taxon

- The 5 levels of the UICN Red List are converted in 5 values :

1. Least concern
2. Near threatened
3. Vulnerable
4. Endangered
5. Critically endangered



2

Wallonia's international responsibility



2. Wallonia's international responsibility

- = Extent to which the species' conservation in Wallonia is of particular importance in relation to the North-West European population
- We compared the **area ratio** of occupied countries by the species (1,28 % of North-West European if the species occurs in the 6 countries = **R1**) and **species abundance ratio** (**R2_{min}** = minimal estimated abundance ; **R2_{max}** = based on maximal estimated abundances)



2. Wallonia's international responsibility

1. $R2_{\min} < R1$
2. $R2_{\max} > R1 > R2_{\min}$
3. $R2_{\min}$ and \max are $> R1$ but less than twice
4. $R2_{\max}$ is at least twice bigger than $R1$
5. $R2_{\min}$ (the most prudent) is at least twice bigger than $R1$

Great Grey Shrike
R. Dujardin



2. Wallonia's international responsibility

- Lack of data : abundances unknown for bats and herpetofauna
=> Comparison of the Red List status in Wallonia and in the 6 countries

1 : no other list gives a worse status

+1 : each time a list gives a status worse of 1 rung

+2 : each time a list gives a status worse of 2 rungs

+3 : each time a list gives a status worse of 3 rungs

Maximum value is **5**



3

Biogeographic originality criterion



3. Biogeographic originality criterion

= How is Wallonia situated in the geographic range of the species?

1. Wallonia is either marginal (occasional overflows) or right in the centre of the range
2. Wallonia is situated on the edge of an expanding range
3. Wallonia is situated on the edge of a stable or discontinuous range
4. Wallonia is situated on the edge of the range in a species with a shrinking range
5. Relict populations or sub-endemic species

Whinchat
(EBBA2)



4

Relationship between species and their habitat



4. Relationship between species and their habitat

1. Generalist species, with widely available resources
2. Species for which a resource may be limiting (ex: tree cavities)
3. Species linked to a particular habitat, the latter being fairly widespread (ex: semi-natural forest)
4. Specialist species associated with a particular type of environment not widespread in Wallonia and requiring special protection
5. Specialist species only associated with a specific environment and rare in Wallonia (ex: reedbed)

=> Values have been assigned to each species on the basis of expert advices



5

Cost-effectiveness of active conservation measures



5. Cost-effectiveness of active conservation measures

1. Unnecessary or unworkable measures
2. Species for which measures are necessary, but for which there is no feedback or indication of the effectiveness of these measures
3. Species for which effective measures have been identified, but are complex and/or costly to implement
4. Species for which effective measures have been identified, but their effectiveness is not constant and does not work everywhere, and their cost can sometimes be high
5. Species for which measures that are inexpensive, localised and realistic to implement have been identified and have already been tested in a situation close to Wallonia.



6

The historicity criterion



6. The historicity criterion

Need to choose a historical reference

- May be based on literature. Example of birds : Bird Atlas of Belgium and Western Europe (Lippens & Wille, 1972)
- May be a period. Example of Bats : the 1950-1960 period

1. Status unknown / species absent
2. Very rare or localised species
3. Rare species
4. A fairly common, fairly localised species
5. Common, widespread species



6. The historicity criterion

These values were then cross-referenced with the Red List status : **species currently threatened** (Vulnerable, Endangered and Critically Endangered) **and that have obtained a historicity score of at least 4** are those that were once widespread and have declined sufficiently to be threatened today.

Turtle Dove (EN)
R. Dumoulin



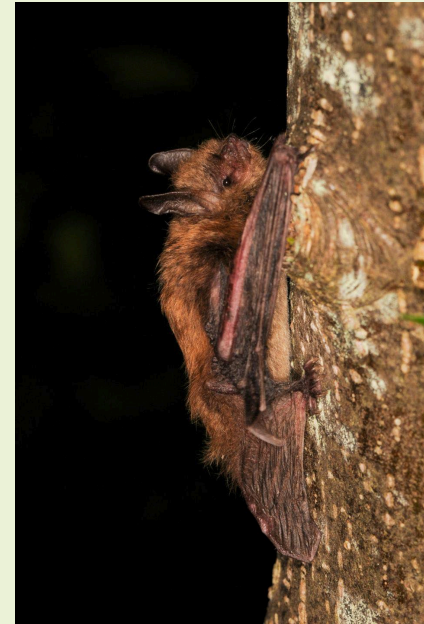
Additional criterion: Knowledge priorities



Knowledge priorities

- ⇒ Data deficient Species for the Red List assessment
- ⇒ Information available does not allow a proper assessment of the six criteria

Those species form a separate list.



Brandt's bats
L. Jouve



Dispatching species into 4 types of approaches



4 types of approach

1. Species requiring a specific action plan (**centralised coordination**)
2. Species to integrate in a multi specific action plan based on a special habitat protection (**centralised coordination**)
3. Species for which a “practical catalogue of favourable actions” is easy to implement as part of **local dynamics**
4. No urgent action required

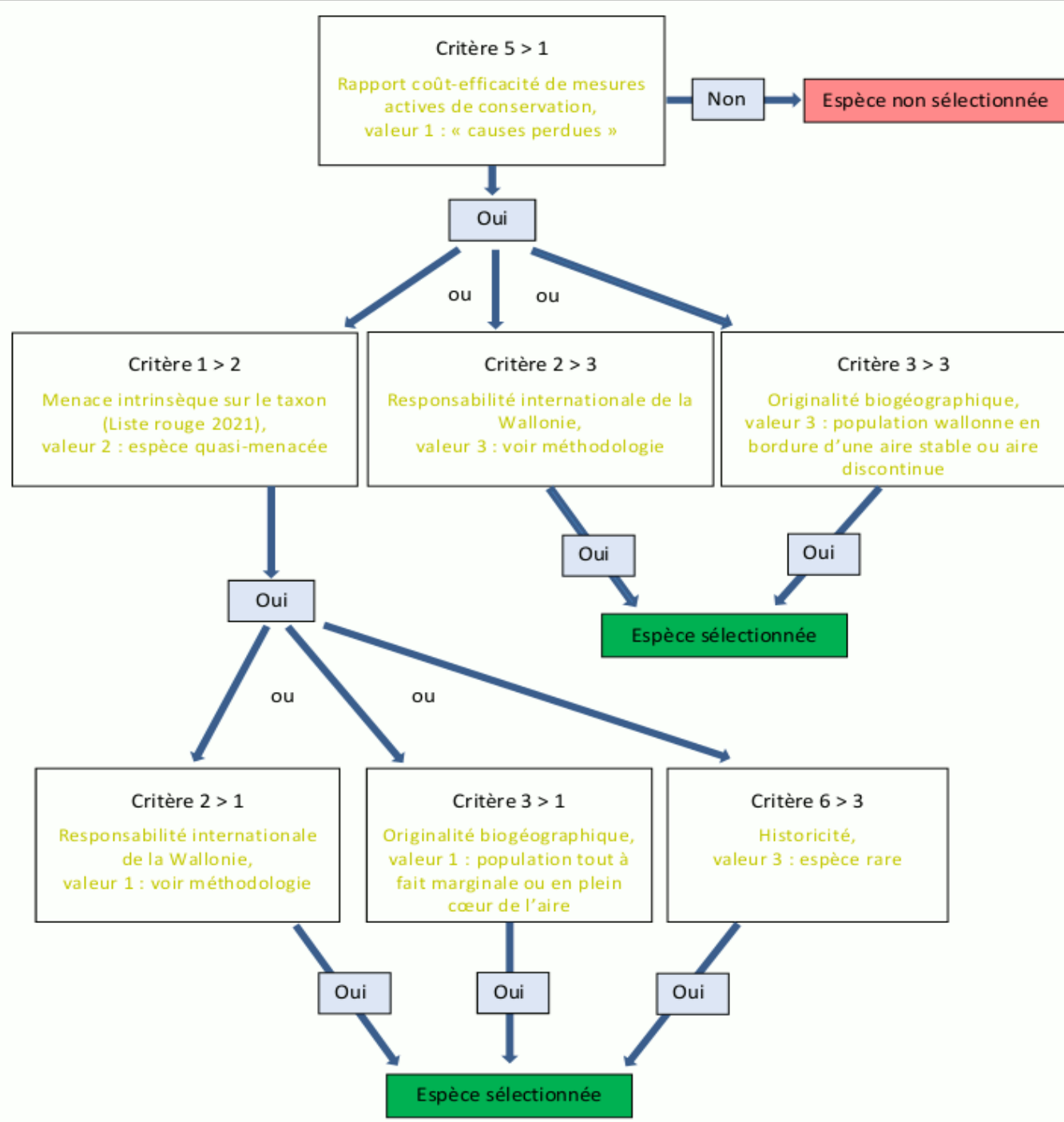


Combining Criteria



Selection of species for approach 1 (species action plan) and 2 (habitat action plan)





Selection of species for approach 3 (best practice guide to support local actions)

- Species not selected in categories 1 or 2
- Criterion 5 (cost-benefit ratio of measures) > 1
- Criterion 4 (Relationship between species and their habitat) = 2
(Species for which a resource may be limiting (ex: tree cavities))



Thank you for your attention

www.B4B.be

info@B4B.be



Belgium for
Biodiversity

