

## RED LISTS OF SPECIES

FFH 5

The listing of species in the various conservation categories defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reflects extinction risks at the regional level. This classification depends on different criteria: population size, degree of isolation, surface area occupied, conditions encountered by the species outside the region, etc. Even if their numbers are stable or even increasing, very rare species are also included in these lists.

## Unfavourable status for 31% of species

According to the red lists drawn up for different groups of species, 31% of the animal and plant species studied are threatened with extinction<sup>1</sup> at the Walloon level and almost 9% have disappeared from the regional territory. For fish, reptiles, day butterflies and dragonflies, more than half of the species are in an unfavourable situation<sup>2</sup>.

## Risk factors that remain current

The conservation status of a species most often results from a combination of factors including:

- the degradation, fragmentation, artificialisation or disappearance of habitats, linked in particular to increasing urbanisation<sup>3</sup>;
- the simplification and standardisation of agricultural<sup>4,5</sup> and forestry habitats<sup>5,6</sup>;
- the scarcity of natural open environments (heaths, meadows and poor grasslands)<sup>5</sup>;
- the impact of pesticides<sup>7</sup>, eutrophication<sup>8</sup> and other air, water or soil pollution;
- disturbances caused by invasive alien species<sup>9</sup>;
- stresses related to climate change<sup>10</sup>.

## Halting the loss of biodiversity at various levels

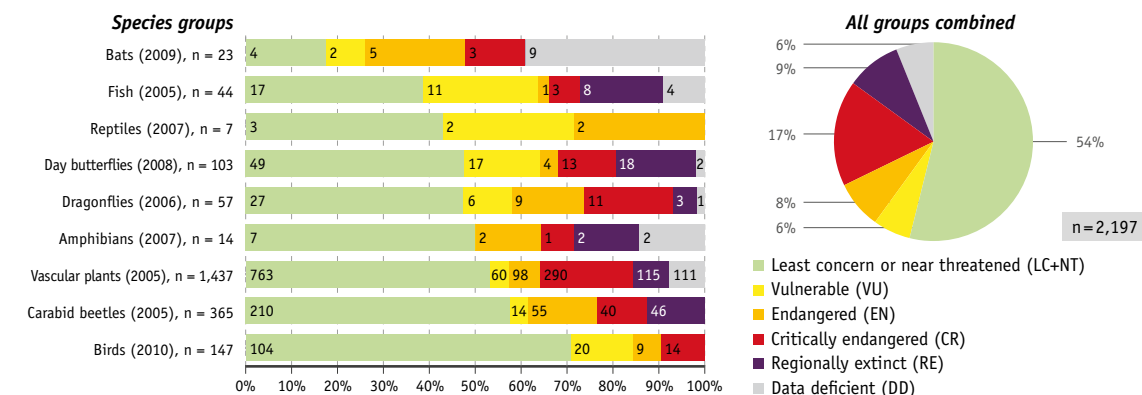
At the European level, the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 is based around six objectives broken down into a set of targeted actions, the achievement of which requires the cooperation of the main sectors of activity and components of

society. At federal level, the new Belgian nature integrated projet<sup>11</sup> is intended to contribute to the achievement of European objectives, in particular by implementing restoration and management measures and monitoring programmes. At the regional level, a "Wallonia Nature Network" ("*Réseau Wallonie Nature*") project, based on the principle of taking account of nature "everywhere and by all", is under development. An evolving catalogue lists the actions to be developed, each of which is part of one of the four strategic priorities<sup>12</sup>. In its Regional Policy Declaration 2017-2019 (*Déclaration de politique régionale 2017-2019*), the Walloon Government undertook to continue this dynamic and, in particular, increase the number of sites which are conducive to biodiversity.

The Red Lists should be updated<sup>13</sup> as a tool to guide conservation strategies. It should be noted that other elements are involved in setting priorities, such as the cost and effectiveness of measures taken, the contribution of species to the provision of ecosystem services<sup>14</sup> or their patrimonial value.

[<sup>1</sup>] Categories "vulnerable" (VU), "endangered" (EN) and "critically endangered" (CR) | [<sup>2</sup>] Categories VU, EN, CR and "regionally extinct" (RE) | [<sup>3</sup>] → TERRIT 1 & 2 | [<sup>4</sup>] → AGRI 1 & 2 | [<sup>5</sup>] → FFH 1 | [<sup>6</sup>] → FFH 3 | [<sup>7</sup>] → AGRI 6 | [<sup>8</sup>] → WATER 5 | [<sup>9</sup>] → FFH 12 | [<sup>10</sup>] → AIR Focus 1 & FFH Focus 3 | [<sup>11</sup>] <http://life-bnlp.be> | [<sup>12</sup>] E.g. maintain and reinforce efforts to take nature into account in human activities or protect and manage the most sensitive habitat and species sites in ecologically functional networks. (<http://biodiversite.wallonie.be>) | [<sup>13</sup>] The IUCN recommends an update every five years. | [<sup>14</sup>] → ENVIRONMENT Focus 1

Fig. FFH 5-1 IUCN\* conservation status of species in Wallonia (2005 - 2010)



n = number of species  
The data were collected during several years preceding the year referred to in brackets.

\* IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

SOERW 2017 – Source: SPW - DG03 - DEMNA