

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

TRANSV 1

Floods are natural phenomena whose frequency and negative effects (health, environmental, economic, etc.) can be accentuated by human activities and climate change. Directive 2007/60/EC establishes a comprehensive strategy for managing these risks.

Mapping as a management tool

In addition to the establishment of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs)¹, Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks requires Member States to draw up maps of flood-prone areas² and flood risk maps³. These were drawn up for the whole Walloon territory^{4,4} for different flood intensity scenarios (return periods⁵ of 25 years, 50 years, 100 years and extreme scenario). In particular, these maps can be used to estimate the surface areas and number of inhabitants affected for a given scenario. They are supplemented by the flood hazard map, which combines information from maps of flood-prone areas for the four tested scenarios. It is a tool for providing advice on land use planning. The three types of maps will be updated every 6 years, for the first time at the end of 2019.

From the PLUIES Plan to FRMPs

In 2003, Wallonia adopted the Prevention and Control Plan for Floods and their Effects on Flood Victims (*Plan prévention et lutte contre les inondations et leurs effets sur les sinistrés - PLUIES*). The FRMPs⁶ provided for in Directive 2007/60/EC are part of the updating of the PLUIES Plan. These plans, defined at the level of river basin districts, comprise 6 operational objectives:

- improve understanding of the risk;
- reduce and slow down runoff to river basins;
- develop rivers and alluvial plains while respecting and promoting natural habitats;
- reduce vulnerability to flooding;

- improve crisis management;

- mitigate the burden of damage on society.

The actions of the FRMPs relate to one of these objectives and a given stage in the flood management cycle: prevention, protection, preparation and repair or post-crisis analysis.

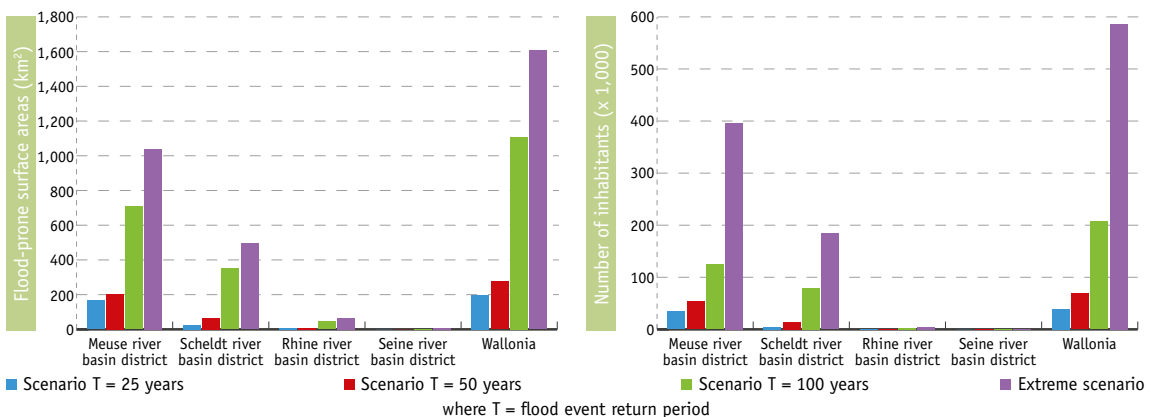
Implementation of the FRMPs: consultation at the heart of the process

The development process for the FRMPs has fostered exchanges between all stakeholders in water management in order to strengthen the integrated vision of flood management at the sub-basin level. At the end of the various consultation stages, 482 actions were selected: 42 actions with a regional scope (e.g. crisis management), 73 actions with a provincial, municipal or sub-basin scope (e.g. municipal programme), 314 actions located at one point or on a linear length of water courses (108 concern runoff and 206 concern overflow) and 53 actions of the study type (e.g. targeted water studies). The action programme will be updated every 6 years, for the first time at the end of 2021.

^[1] More information at <http://environnement.wallonie.be/inondations> |

^[2] Flood-prone surface areas and runoff concentration routes according to multiple scenarios of flood intensity | ^[3] For each scenario, a crossing of flood-prone areas with the stakes of a flood (human, economic, environmental and/or patrimonial stakes) | ^[4] → Map 49, mapping approved by the Walloon Government Decree of 19/12/2013 | ^[5] The return period characterises the statistical time between two occurrences of a natural event of a given intensity. | ^[6] Adopted by the Walloon Government Decree of 10/03/2016

Fig. TRANSV 1-1 Surface areas and number of inhabitants in flood-prone areas, by river basin district* and by flood intensity scenario



* Wallonia is part of 4 international river basin districts: Meuse, Scheldt, Rhine and Seine.