

## 9-1 CONSERVATION STATUS OF HABITATS

The EU “Habitats” Directive (92/43/EEC) requires EU Member States to evaluate the conservation status of habitats of Community interest and to act to ensure that these habitats are maintained in or restored to a favourable conservation status.

### KEY MESSAGE

The evaluation of the conservation status of habitats of Community interest is to be performed by biogeographical region every six years on the basis of four criteria<sup>1</sup>. The conservation status of habitats in the Continental biogeographical region (which covers 70% of the land area of Wallonia) is considered bad for 66% of the habitats concerned. In general, the problem criteria are “structure and function” and “future prospects”. For example, in the case of forests, this can be partly explained by the lack of dead wood, soil compaction, the low rate of regeneration, or drainage. The intensification of farming is the main reason for the bad conservation status of agricultural areas. The loss of biological characteristics in open agro-pastoral areas, linked to their closing<sup>2</sup>, is one of the main problems for such environments. Bogs, mires and fens are hit by the “area” criterion, as the area is often too restricted<sup>3</sup>. The next assessment of the conservation status of habitats of Community interest is planned for 2019.

### Evaluation

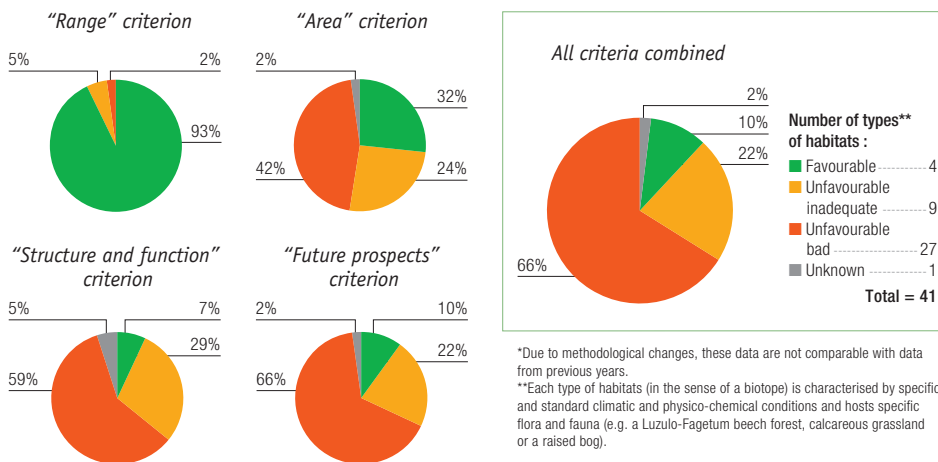
Unfavourable situation  
and non-assessable trend

[1] Range, area, structure and functions and future prospects

[2] Growth of ligneous species

[3] The detailed data on the conservation status of each habitat type for each Member State are available at [http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article\\_17](http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_17).

Fig. 9-1 Conservation status of habitats of Community interest within and outside Natura 2000 sites in Wallonia (Continental region) (2013)\*



EOW 2014 – Source: SPW - DG03 - DEMNA