

Projet LIFE+ PRAIRIESBOCAGERES

2012 - 2019

Why and how do we restore meadows in Fagne-Famenne (Wallonia)?

LUXEMBOURG, le 09 décembre 2014

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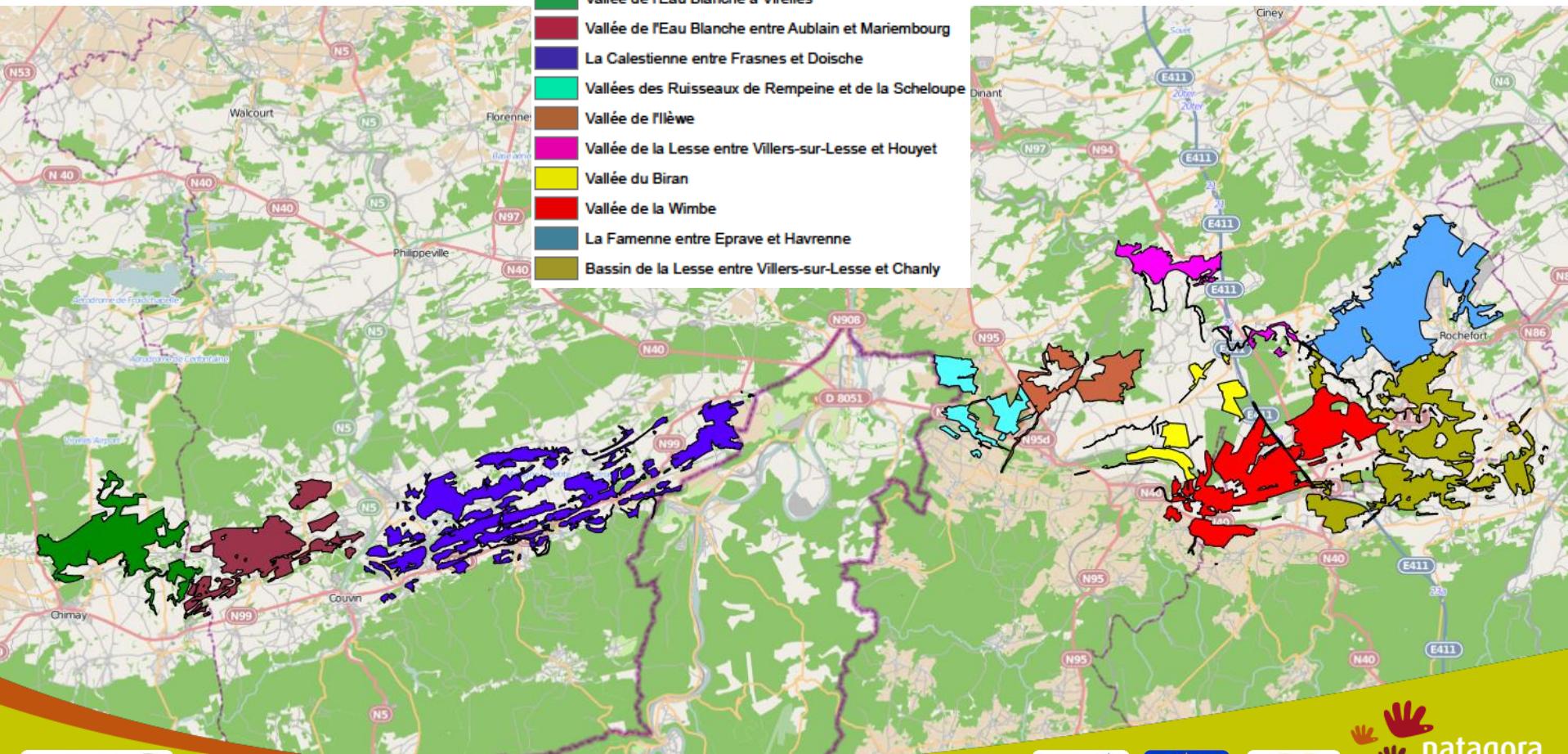
Location of the LIFE project

10 Natura2000 sites in Fagne–Famenne in 13 townships :

Chimay, Froidchapelle, Couvin, Philippeville, Viroinval, Doische, Houyet, Beauraing, Rochefort, Wellin, Tellin, Marche-en-Famenne et Nassogne

Légende

- [Green] Vallée de l'Eau Blanche à Virelles
- [Maroon] Vallée de l'Eau Blanche entre Aublain et Mariembourg
- [Dark Blue] La Calestienne entre Frasnes et Doische
- [Teal] Vallées des Ruisseaux de Rempeine et de la Scheloupe
- [Brown] Vallée de l'Ilièwe
- [Magenta] Vallée de la Lesse entre Villers-sur-Lesse et Houyet
- [Yellow] Vallée du Biran
- [Red] Vallée de la Wimbe
- [Blue] La Famenne entre Eprave et Havrenne
- [Olive Green] Bassin de la Lesse entre Villers-sur-Lesse et Chanly



The main objective is to restore 150 ha of meadows from the habitats *Arrhenatherion* (6510), *Filipendulion* (6430) and *Molinion* (6410)

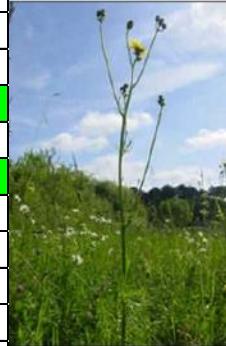


Before starting the restoration, we did botanic inventories to define the conservation status of each plot of meadow in the natural reserves of Natagora in Fagne-Famenne

Nom latin	Nom français	UG13
Achillea millefolium	Achillée millefeuille	1
Agrostis capillaris	Agrostide commun	2
Alopecurus pratensis	Vulpin des prés	3
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Flouve odorante	1
Arrhenatherum elatius	Fromental	2
Bromus mollis	Brome mou	+
Crepis biennis	Crépide bisannuel	1
Cynosurus cristatus	Crételle	2
Dactylis glomerata	Dactyle (aggloméré)	+
Festuca pratensis	Fétuque des prés	2
Festuca rubra	Fétuque rouge	1
Filipendula ulmaria	Reine des prés	+
Heracleum sphondylium	Grande berce	+
Holcus lanatus	Houlque laineuse	3
Hordeum secalinum	Orge faux-seigle	1
Juncus conglomeratus	Jonc aggloméré	+
Lolium perenne	Ray-grass anglais	1
Lotus corniculatus	Lotier corniculé	1
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Lychnide fleur de coucou	+
Plantago lanceolata	Plantain lancéolé	1
Potentilla reptans	Potentille rampante	1
Ranunculus acris	Renoncule âcre	3
Rumex acetosa	Oseille sauvage	1
Trifolium dubium	Petit trèfle jaune	1
Trifolium pratense	Trèfle des prés	3
Trifolium repens	Trèfle rampant	1
Vicia cracca	Vesce à épis	1
Potentilla anserina	Potentille ansérine	1



La grande berce (*Heracleum sphondylium*)
Photo : M. Halfford



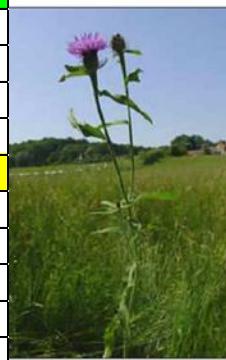
Le crépis des prés (*Crepis biennis*)
Photo : M. Halfford



La grande marguerite (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
Photo : M. Halfford



Le petit rhinanthus (*Rhinanthus minor*)
Photo : M. Halfford et P. Colombe



La cesteau jacin (*Centaurea jacea*)
Photo : M. Halfford



La carotte sauvage (*Dianthus carota*)
Photo : M. Halfford



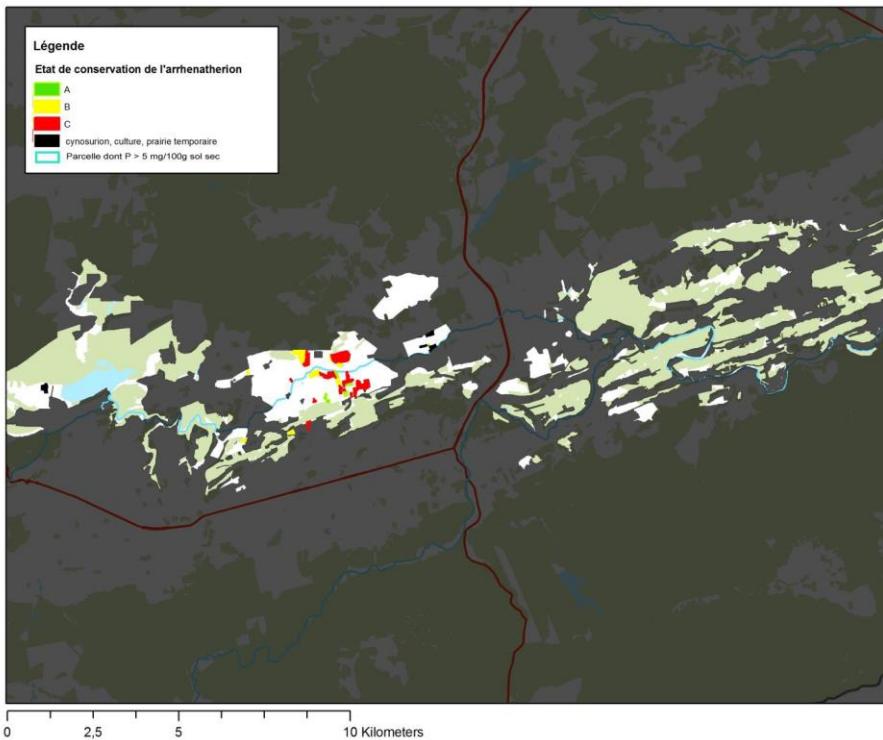
Conservation status according to the official methodology

(Cahier d'habitats Natura2000 – DEMNA)

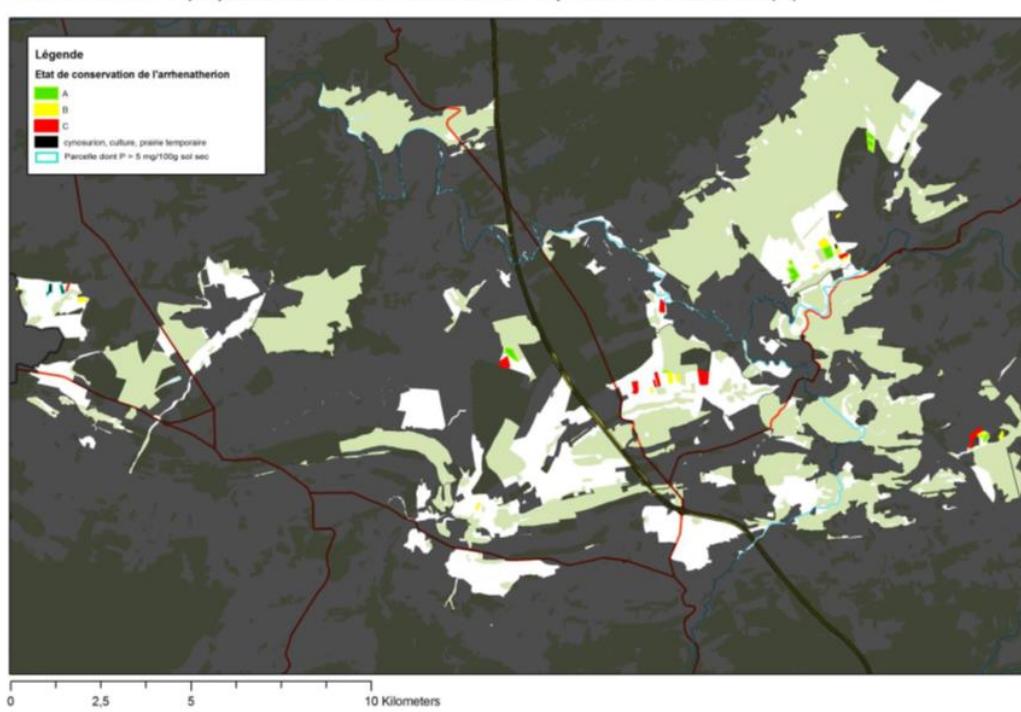
INDICATEURS	ETAT DE CONSERVATION		
	A : très bon	B : Bon à moyen	C : Mauvais à dégradé
Espèces végétales caractéristiques (<u>soulignées</u>) et espèces indicatrices de la qualité de l'habitat	<u><i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i></u> <u><i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i></u> <u><i>Avenula pubescens</i></u> <u><i>Centaurea gr. jacea</i></u> <u><i>Crepis biennis</i></u> <u><i>Daucus carota</i></u> <u><i>Lathyrus pratensis</i></u> <u><i>Lotus corniculatus</i></u> <u><i>Sanguisorba minor</i></u>	<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i> <i>Briza media</i> <i>Bromus erectus</i> <i>Campanula rapunculus</i> <i>Galium mollugo</i> <i>Geranium pratense</i> <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> <i>Knautia arvensis</i> <i>Leontodon hispidus</i> <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	<i>Colchicum autumnale</i> <i>Pastinaca sativa</i> <i>Pimpinella major</i> <i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i> <i>Rhinanthus minor</i> <i>Saxifraga granulata</i> <i>Tragopogon pratensis</i> <i>Trisetum flavescens</i>
Nombre d'espèces caractéristiques	≥ 7	entre 4 et 6	= 3 (si moins de 3 espèces, il ne s'agit plus d'un 6510)
Recouvrement des espèces caractéristiques et des espèces indicatrices de la qualité de l'habitat	≥ 50%	entre 25 et 50%	entre 10 et 25%

170 ha of hay meadows (6510) have been checked via inventory

A2 - Mesure de la teneur en phosphore assimilable dans le sol - état de conservation des prairies identifiées : Fagne 2014 (1/2)



A2 - Mesure de la teneur en phosphore assimilable dans le sol - état de conservation des prairies identifiées : Famenne 2014 (2/2)



Global results from the botanic inventories of the hay meadows (6510) in the natural reserve of Natagora in Fagne-Famenne:

Habitat	Surface in A	Surface in B	Surface in C	Surface total
6510	43,0 ha	35,5 ha	92,3 ha	170,8 ha
%	25,1	20,8	54,1	100

(A : GOOD conservation status ; B : MEDIUM conservation status ; C : BAD conservation status)

To compare, in Wallonia (outside of Natura2000), the conservation status from 6510 habitat is 3,7% for A, 55,4% for B and 40,9% for C.
(Source : DEMNA 2012)



It is interesting to compare with the conservation status of the parcels where colleagues (JL Gathoye et G Bottin) did botanic intentories in the « Râle » LIFE Project (1998)

Parcelle	T	B	F	C1	C2	G1	G2	G3	B1	B2
EC 1998 (évalué sur base des quadrats)	B	C	/	/	B	B	B	/	B	C
EC 2013	A	B	C	C	A	B	B	C	A	B

Légende = T : Taille fréchet (Eau Blanche); B : Binette (Eau Blanche); F : Forges (Eau Blanche); C : Comogne; G : Génimont; B : Behotte

EC : état de conservation; A : bon; B : moyen; C : mauvais; / : Cynosurion (autre habitat que l'Arrhenatherion)



→ In 15 years of extensive management, 8 of 10 plots had their conservation status improved one level

Three key findings from these results:

- 1) Anywhere else in Wallonia, the meadows have suffered from fast degradation in the last decades, whereas **the meadows in a good conservation status have been preserved via LIFE projects and the natural reserves** (only 3,7% of the meadows of 6510 habitats have a good conservation status outside Natura2000 against 25% in the natural reserves of Natagora in Fagne-Famenne).
- 2) In most cases, the introduction of natural reserves allow a **spontaneous restoration of the meadows even it is slow**, about 15 years to improve of one level (/ → C ; C → B ; B → A).
- 3) Most meadows of Natagora's natural reserves in Fagne-Famenne (54%) have still a **BAD conservation status even after 15 years of extensive management**.

Three hypothesis to explain the bad conservation status in our natural reserves :

1) **Phosphor level** higher than the limit of 5 mg / 100 g of dry soil (Extraction method of acéte EDTA), degrading the meadow's biodiversity (*F. Janssens's Thesis*) ? NO



2) The absence of **seeds in the soil** (the weak dispersion capacity of these seeds and their short life).



3) The **management is not adapted to the meadow's type** (take into consideration seeds germination and the plants development).



→ LIFE Project's responses !!!

Guidelines for Reintroductions and Conservation Translocations :

Nature Conservation Law



Wallonie

Guidelines from IUCN



Guidelines from EC for LIFE projects



Guidelines from Natagora



→ Complementary guidelines for reintroductions in meadows in « Herbages » and « Prairies bocagères » LIFE Projects
(Presentation in the Sicona's seminar in Luxembourg last June)



One of the complementary guidelines from Natagora

- Seeding only if the meadow has a BAD conservation status
- If the meadow has a MEDIUM status, first of all we adapt the management of the meadow. However, if the conservation status does not improve after a few years, seeding is possible once the agreement from the Management Commission is obtained



One other of the complementary guidelines from Natagora

The distance between the source spot and the target spot has to be minimal (ideally less than 10 km), and always in the same **phytogeographic district** (brabançon, mosan dont Fagne-Famenne, ardennais ou lorrain en Région wallonne).



Nouvelle flore « bleue », 6^e édition, JBNB 2012

Actions of the LIFE project « Prairies bocagères » :

1) Change of the management of the meadow having a MEDIUM conservation status (21%)



=> 2 mows per year !
Not only one after the 15 of July
(being aware of the birds nesting
at soil level)

2) Seeding on meadows having BAD conservation status (54%)





**Thank you very much
for your attention !**

First version of the movie:



lifePBV00.mov