



Biodiversity and climate change forum

Revised synopsis of the first project: Integrate climate change into sectoral practices in Belgium

General aim: Identify how to adapt sectoral practices in order to reduce the impact of climate change on biodiversity

Participants: Scientists and sector representatives

Key sectors: nature conservation, agriculture, forestry, freshwater management,...

Approach: The project will be carried out in 2 steps:

Step 1 - Integrate climate change into nature conservation and management strategies

Set the scene and identify what adaptations and research are needed to make current nature conservation and management strategies climate-proof (more theoretical phase)

Step 2 - Adapt sectoral practices to climate change

Identify what concrete / technical adaptations to sectoral practices are needed in order to reach nature conservation goals under changing climate (more practical phase)

Step 1: Integrate climate change into nature conservation and management strategies

Aim: Set the scene and identify what adaptations and research are needed to make current nature conservation and management strategies climate-proof

Participants:

- Scientists (biology, climatology, socio-economy)
- Policy makers and stakeholders involved in nature management (federal, regional & local administrations, NGOs)
- Science policy

Approach: The project will be carried out in 3 work packages:

Work Package 1

Aim: Identify the new threats and stakes the nature conservation sector will have to deal with in the future due to climate change and its interactions with others drivers of biodiversity loss.

Leaders: Etienne Branquart & Alain Hambuckers

Work package 2

Aim: Propose general lines of adaptations to current nature management practices based on the current knowledge of the interactions between biodiversity and climate change (and other anthropogenic pressures).

Leader: Hans Van Dyck

Work package 3

Aim: Identify research that will enable (1) predicting the impact of climate change, in conjunction with other pressures, on species and ecosystems and (2) adapting biodiversity conservation and management strategies to climate change.

Leader: Hendrik Segers

Deliverables:

1. Synthesis documents

Each WP will produce a **synthesis document** (about 5 pages long). Each WP can proceed independently but interactions between WP are essential. The forum section of the website can be used for discussions. The way a working group proceeds is under the responsibility of the work package leader. Either a martyr text is provided by the leader and commented/ amended/ completed by the participants; alternatively the leader could distribute specific drafting tasks to participants.

2. Final report

These syntheses will be integrated into a **final report** that is meant to be a reference document for Belgian actors in nature conservation. Special care will be taken to get a didactic and attractive document.

Aim: Identify new threats and challenges and propose new strategic orientations for nature conservation/ management under changing climate. Specific research needs that would help design new approaches and tools for nature conservation and management will also be reviewed in this document. This report will serve as a basis for the second step of the project.

Target audience: natural resources managers and policy makers, science policy, scientists

Timeline:

- 25 June 2008: kick-off meeting
- September 2008: mid-term evaluation meeting
- November 2008: release of the final report