

Infosheet: Belgium

Based on NaturaConnect data

Background

Belgium (capital Brussels) covers a total of 30649.34 km² area, with protected areas currently spanning 15.78 % (4837.72 km²) of all land area, out of which 0.08 % (23.63 km²) can be considered as strictly protected area.

Integrating a range of novel datasets, NaturaConnect results suggest to expand the protected area network up to 6.68 % (2046.02 km²) to better protect species, habitats and ecosystem services.

More Information:  CBD  Protected Planet  BISE

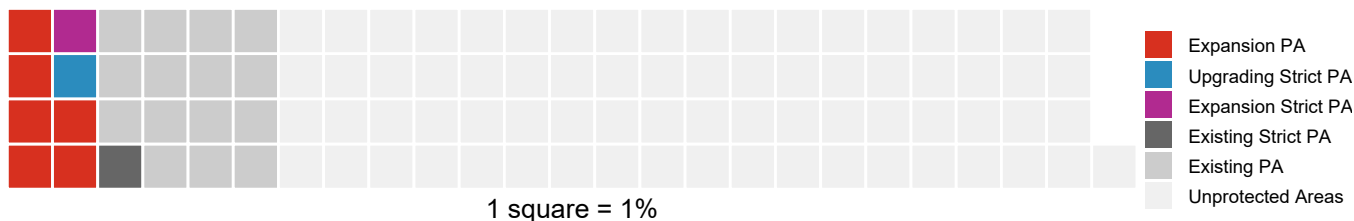
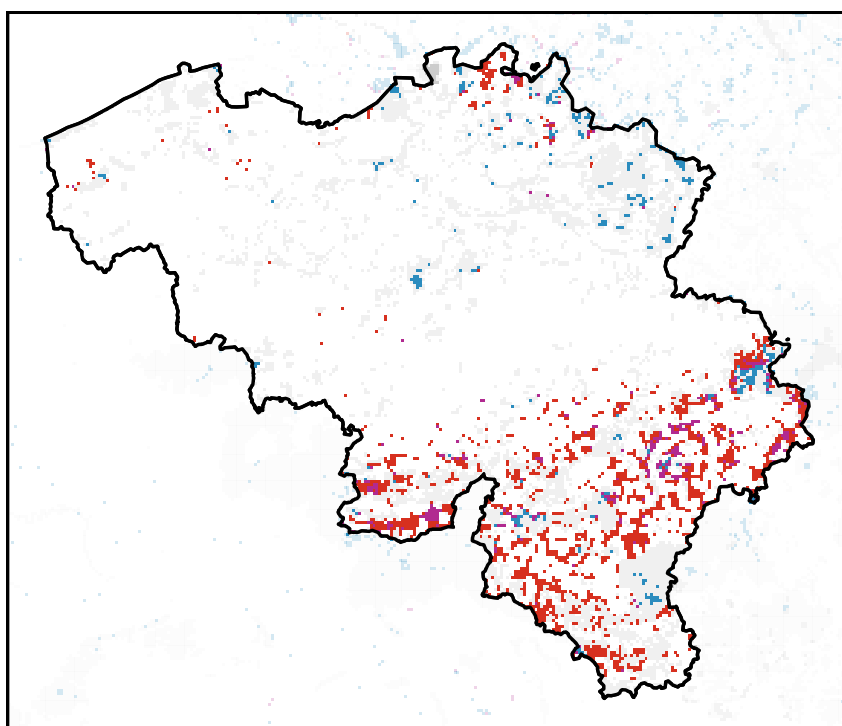
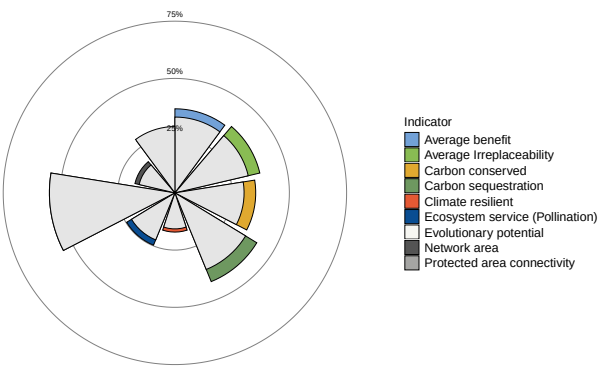


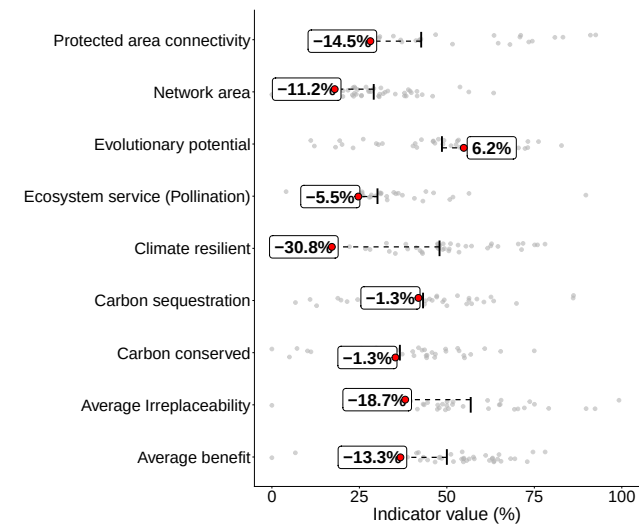
Figure: Existing and proposed consensus protection expansion priorities by the NaturaConnect project.

Performance Indicators

The NaturaConnect project has identified priority areas for expanding protected area networks across Europe to better conserve biodiversity. Each region and the proposed expansion areas are evaluated through a set of 'performance' indicators that reflect either potential benefits of additional protection in these areas. Further indicators and spatial priorities can be visualized on the NaturaConnector platform.



Performance indicators for current (inner polygon) and proposed expansion areas (outer polygon).



Relative difference in indicator values of target region (red) relative to other regions (grey points). Text indicates the difference in indicator value between the target region and the mean across all regions.

Source: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Key recommendations

- Expansion of protected areas to cover at least 30% of the land area is recommended to effectively conserve biodiversity.
- Belgium has significant potential for expanding strict protected areas.
- Connectivity between existing protected areas should be prioritized to enhance ecological networks and facilitate species movement.

📍 Explore both maps and data in detail on our [NaturaConnector](#) platform.



Funded by
the European Union

NaturaConnect receives funding under the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 101060429. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. Permission is granted for reproduction of this file, with attribution to [NaturaConnect](#).