

Mobilizing EAFRD to implement Natura 2000

LIFE IP Platform meeting

Brussels, October the 16th, 2019

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Partners





1. Context: the Walloon territory
2. Walloon Rural Development Program
 1. Agri-Environment and Climate Methods
 2. Natura 2000 compensations
 3. Restoration of Natura 2000 habitats
3. Other subsidies
4. A concrete example: riparian forest plantation in agricultural landscapes
5. What about forest habitats?



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Context: the Walloon territory

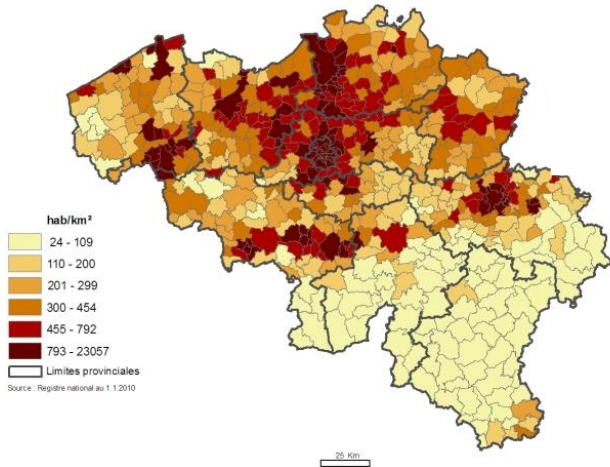


Context: the Walloon territory



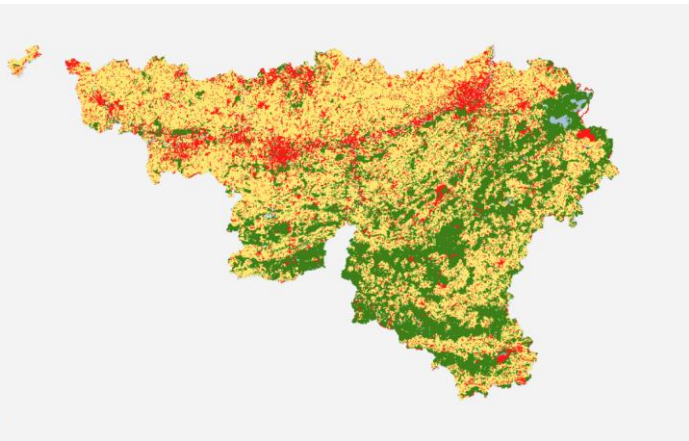
Wallonia

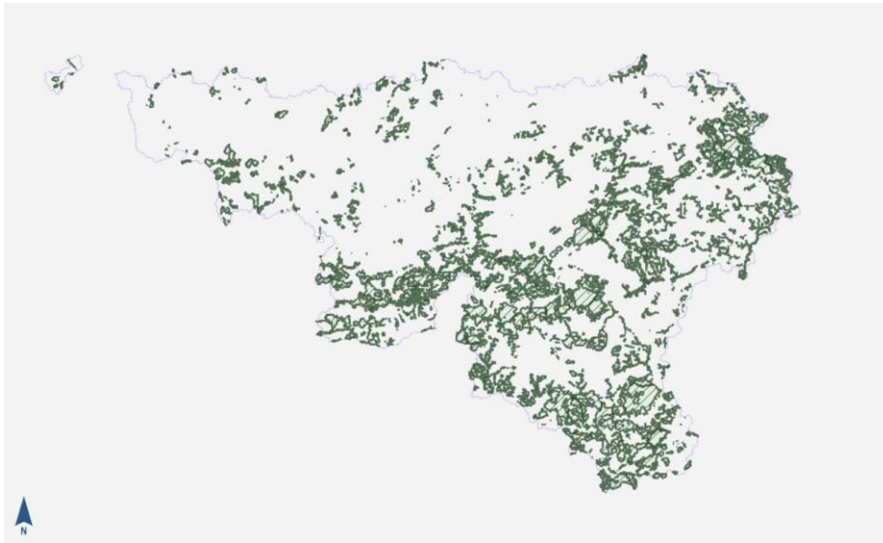
- 16 800 km²



Wallonia

- 16 800 km²
- 55% of territory is rural area
- Utilized Agriculture Area: 42,5% of territory





Wallonia

- 16 800 km²
- 55% of territory is rural area
- Utilized Agriculture Area: 42,5% of territory
- Natura 2000: 221 000 ha
 - 13% of Wallonia
 - 28% of the walloon forests
 - 5 % of the UAA



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Walloon Rural Development Program: nature-oriented



Réseau wallon de
Développement Rural

Priorities and targets	Measures	Total	% of walloon RDP
Priority 4: Restoring and preserving ecosystems	Agri-environmental and Climatic Schemes (AECS)	147 500 000 €	22,5
	Natura 2000 compensations	39 125 000 €	6
	Restoration of Natura 2000 habitats	8 000 000 €	1,2
TOTAL		654 454 829 €	100

60 % Walloon Region
40 % European Union

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/be/factsheet-wallonia_en.pdf

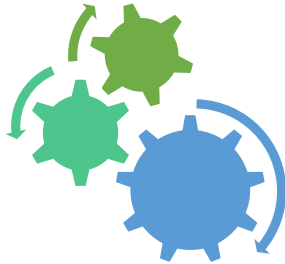
Walloon Rural Development Program: nature-oriented



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- Mandatory system
- Legal designations of the zones
- Legal obligations to be respected
- No limit in time
- All rural landowners (not only farmers)
- Agricultural area
 - Low constraints: 100 € /year ha
 - High constraints: 440 €/year/ha
- Forest area
 - 40 €/year/ha for indigenous forests

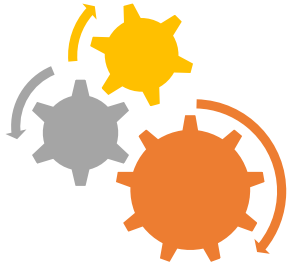
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- Voluntary system
- Voluntary choice of the zones
- Specifications of the AECM to be respected
- 5 year contract
- Farmers
- Depending on the target and on the level of constraints
 - Example: grasslands/meadows
 - « Low » constraints : 200 € /ha/year
 - High constraints: 450 € /ha/year

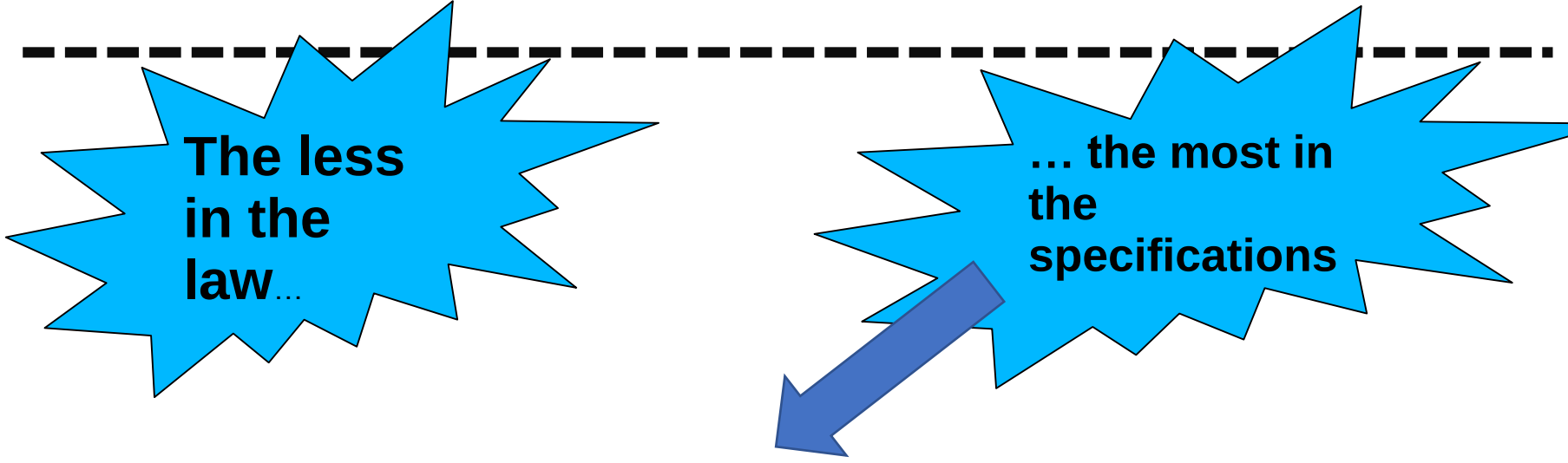
AECM: link with Natura 2000

In the network

- AECM: more restrictive specifications
 - Better conservation of habitats
 - € : combinable with N2000 compensations

Out of the network

- N2000 habitats conservation
- N2000 species conservation and habitat improvement



**The less
in the
law...**

**... the most in
the
specifications**

Designed specifications to improve targeted habitat/ species

AECM: link with Natura 2000: exemple of grasslands

In the network



No intervention before 15/06
and no fertilization
440 €

To go further

690 €



No intervention before 15/07
+ livestock loads restrictions



Out of the network



≠ targets

- 1) Habitats
- 2) Species

≠ requirements

Date of intervention
Livestock loads

...

450 €

Walloon Rural Development Program: nature-oriented

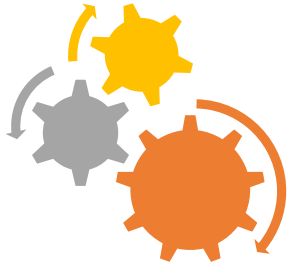


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Restoration of Natura 2000 habitats



- In the N2000 network
- For every landowner or land manager
- 100% subsidized
(60% Walloon Region - 40% RDP)





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Extract from the Walloon P.A.F. 2021-2027

Other (mainly national) funding for Natura 2000, green infrastructure and species protection in 2014-2020:

Total financing allocated to implementation of EU nature policy and associated green infrastructure, for measures or projects not benefiting from any EU co-funding: 4 454 500 €

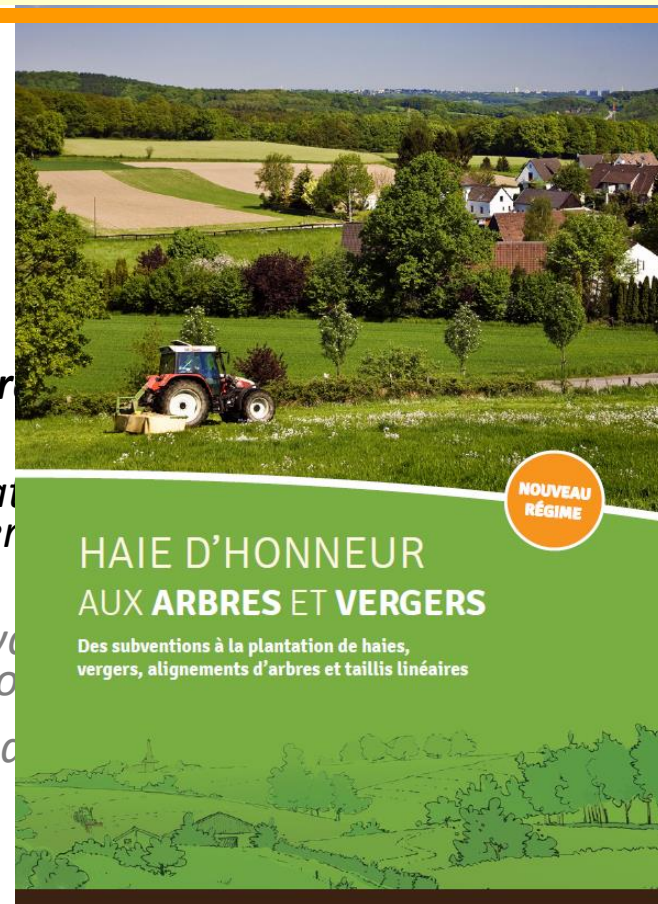
- *Voluntary implementation of Natura 2000 conservation measures going beyond the mandatory baseline (100 % payments by Walloon budget) : 400 000 €*
- *Management of natural reserves mainly concerned by Natura 2000 : 350 000 €*
- *Nature contracts : 14 000 €*
- **Green infrastructure**
 - *Late mowing : 50 000 €*
 - ***hedge subsidies: 300 000 €***
 - *Maya plan: 150 000 €*
 - ***Municipality Nature Development Plan: 300 000€***
 - *Nature Park: 3 000 000 €*

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Total financing allocated to implementation of EU nature and green infrastructure, for measures or projects not benefiting from EU funding: 4 454 500 €

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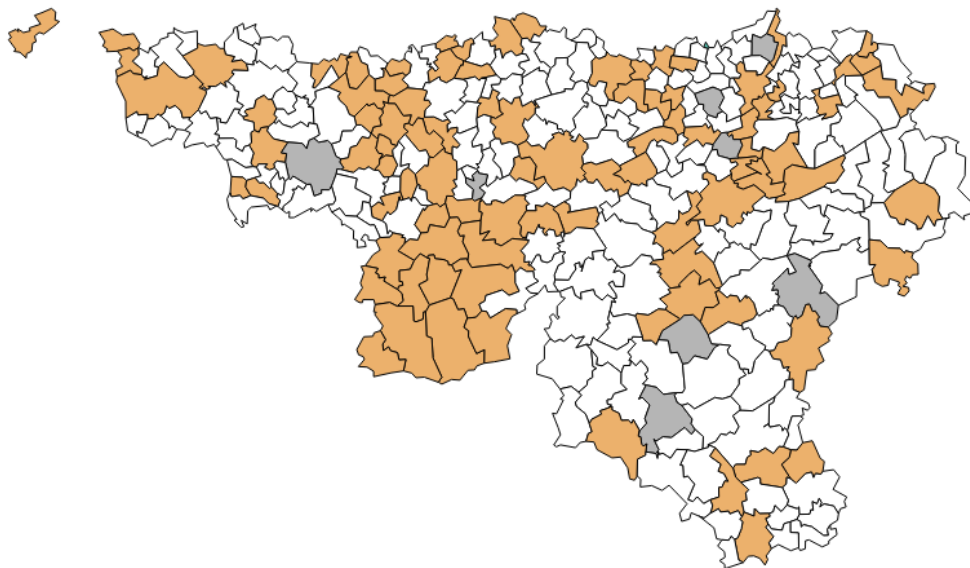


Extract from the Walloon P.A.F. 2021-2027

Other (mainly national) funding for species protection in 2014-2020:

Total financing allocated to implement green infrastructure, for measures of funding: 4 454 500 €

- *Voluntary implementation of Nature, the mandatory baseline (100 % per commune)*
- *Management of natural reserves*
- *Nature contracts : 14 000 €*
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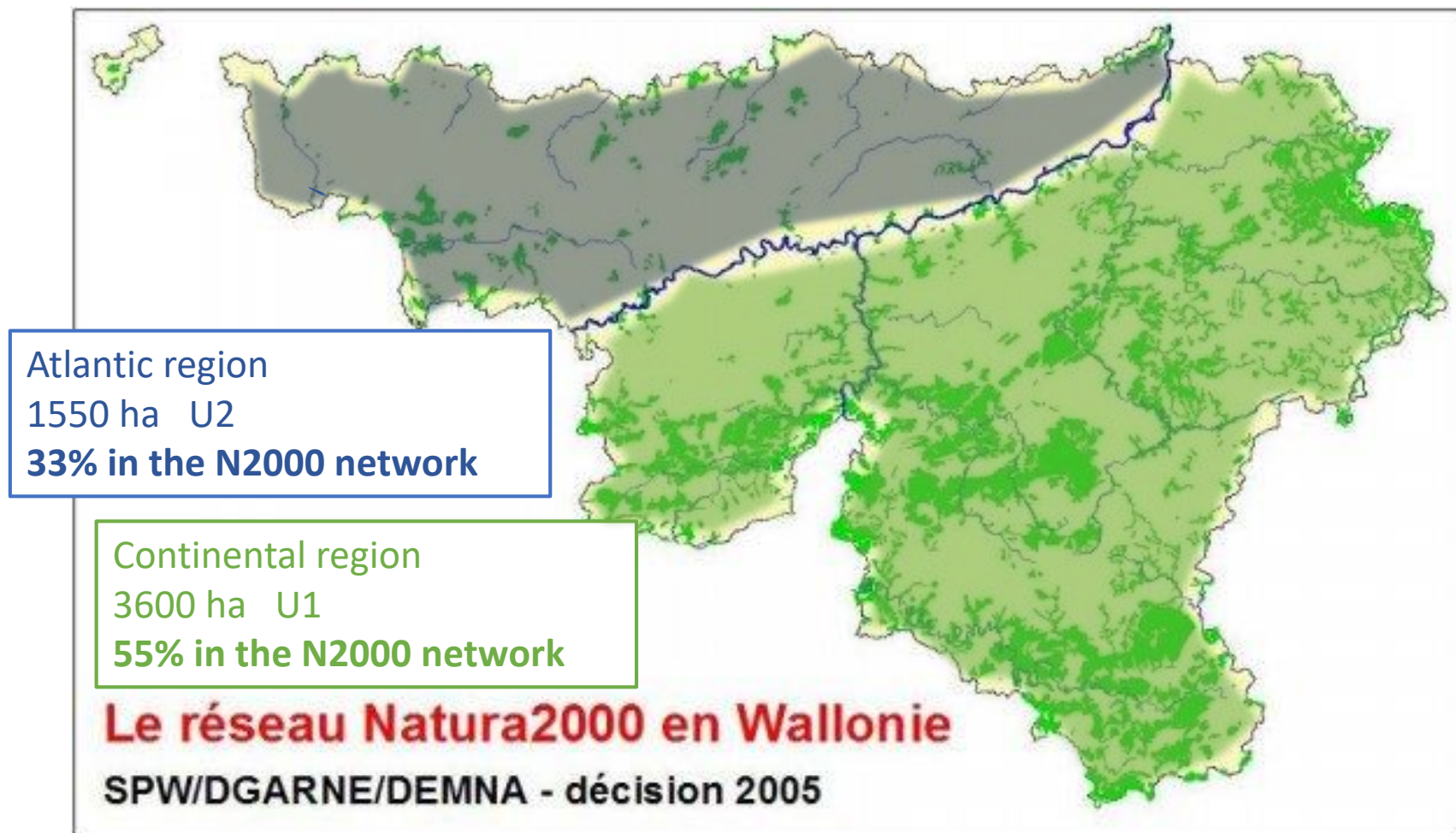
Plan of presentation



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91E0: Habitat repartition and conservation status in Wallonia

(Estimation 2013¹) 5150 ha of alluvial forest in Wallonia



¹Inventaire permanent des ressources forestières de Wallonie, cartographie habitats Natura 2000

Habitat protection: forested areas



UG 7: alluvial forest

No blank cut
No transformation of forest stand
No enrichment with exotic species



Domanial and public forests:
habitat 91E0 should be protected



Law for nature conservation (LCN 1973), forest code

No plantation, sylviculture and/or natural regeneration of whitewood at 6m, 12m or 25m (depending on the inclusion in the Natura 2000 network and on the public or private nature of the property)



The less protected alluvia forests (or potential alluvial forest) are outside the Natura 2000 network and owned by private landowners

Habitat protection: agricultural landscape



General measure

No tree felling alongside rivers if the cut represents more than 30% of the tree alignment/ hedgerow for a total period of 10 years



Law for nature conservation (LCN 1973), CoDT, water quality...

Permit for tree and hedgerows felling if visible from the public domain
Streams and rivers in pastures must be fenced but not everywhere



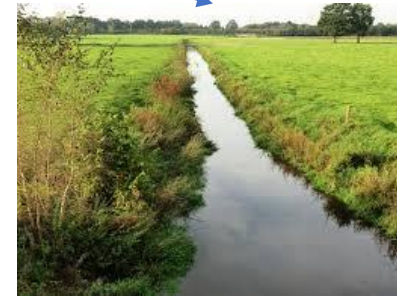
Life BNIP objectives in Wallonia for 91E0



BNIP



Replace exotic
(coniferous) plantations
by alluvial forests



Plant riparian forest to
reconnect fragments of
remaining alluvial forests



Subsidizing riparian forest plantations...



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Subsidizing riparian forest plantations... in the N2000 network



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Using subsidies for
habitat restoration



AECM

- Small compensation
25 € / 200 m

Subsidizing riparian forest plantations... out of the network

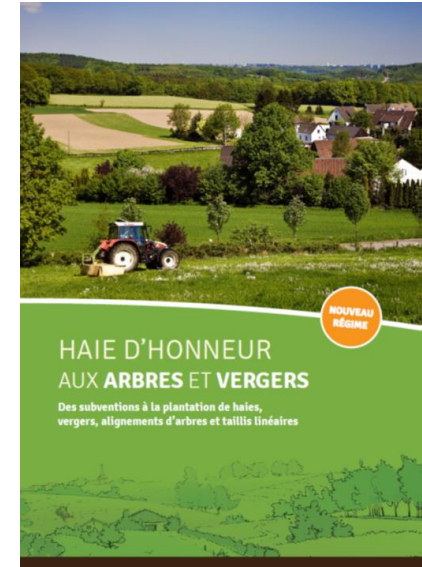


Subsidies for hedges
plantations



AECM

- Small compensation
25 € / 200 m



Local dynamic



Finding solutions

The less
in the
law...

New variant of existing AECM

« Surface waters protection »



Max. 20 m wide from the bank crest

General terms of high biological value
grasslands

A riparian forest is present or must be
planted (max 10 m. wide)

450 € /ha/year

... the most in
the
specifications



Using subsidies for habitat
restoration



New AECM



Using subsidies for hedges
plantations



Try to involve municipalities
in the plantations



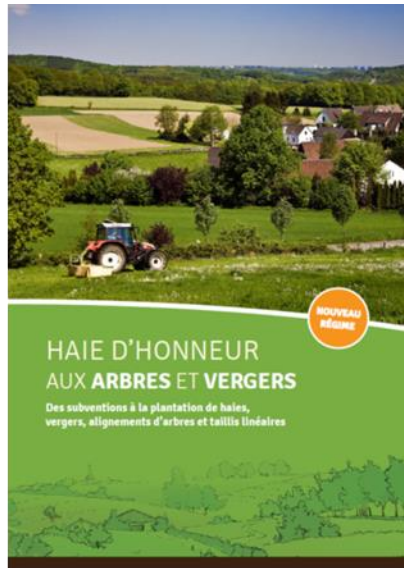
New AECM

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Using other fundings for *Barbastella barbastellus*



Create a network of hedgerows to reconnect 2 large forested areas where colonies were identified



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Using RDP to implement Forestry-Environmental Measures?

Conclusions

EAFRD



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... the most in
the
specifications

+ using flexibility to
activate new possibilities

Other sources



Questions?

Mobilizing EAFRD to implement Natura 2000

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