



# The Belgian National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Introducing the team,  
the activities and the products

## News Bulletin of the Belgian CBD NFP

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July 2006

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## Preface

National Focal Points exist in each country having signed the Convention on Biological Diversity, one of the Rio Conventions. Their activities play a crucial role in implementing the Convention. However, few National Focal Points readily communicate on their actions.

By launching a new series, entitled *News Bulletin of the Belgian CBD NFP*, the Belgian National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity intends to share its experiences with other focal points and create a greater awareness of its activities and products, reaching decision and opinion makers, natural resource managers, conservationists and other stakeholders in the field of biological diversity.

What does the Belgian CBD NFP stand for? How does it function? What are the questions it deals with? And... above all, why do these questions need dealing with? This News Bulletin aims to answer such seemingly simple questions.

In 1995, the Interministerial Conference for the Environment attributed the CBD NFP mandate to the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. On behalf of the Belgian Ministers in charge of CBD issues, the Institute carries out varied tasks such as spreading information regarding the Convention, participating in the biodiversity policy process, organising events, setting up training programmes and raising public awareness on biodiversity. Being hosted by Belgium's largest natural history institution, the NFP can rely on a wide scientific and educational expertise to support its activities.

We hope that this News Bulletin may serve as a source of inspiration to other CBD focal points that wish to publicise their actions. Ultimately, a better communication between focal points will serve as a catalyser for a greater awareness of the CBD and consequently a better implementation of this umbrella international agreement.



Dr Ir Camille Pisani  
General Director

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences



## About biodiversity

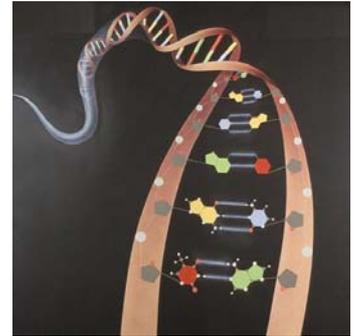
Biodiversity is the contracted form of *biological diversity*. It refers to the diversity and variety of life on Earth. The biodiversity we see today is the fruit of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and (not so long ago) the influence of humans.

The Convention on Biological Diversity defines biodiversity as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.”

- Biodiversity includes genetic differences within each species, for example between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock. Chromosomes, genes and DNA determine the uniqueness of each individual, of populations and of species. This is the **genetic diversity**.
- **Species diversity** relates to the wide variety of animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms. So far, about 2 million species have been identified, with an average estimate of existing species reaching some 14 million.
- Yet another aspect of biodiversity is the **diversity of ecosystems** such as those that occur in tropical or temperate forests, hot and cold deserts, wetlands, rivers, mountains, coral reefs or agricultural landscapes. In each ecosystem, living creatures, including humans, form a community, interacting with one another and with the air, water and soil around them.

## Main goods and services provided by biodiversity

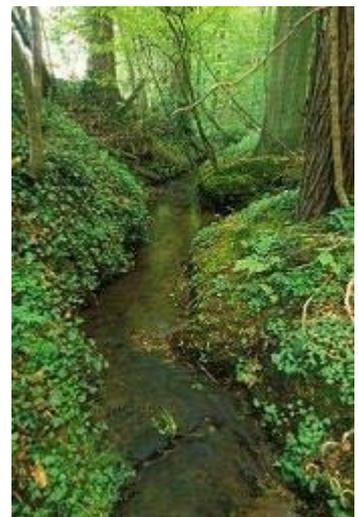
- Provision of food, fuel and fibres
- Provision of shelter and building materials
- Maintenance of genetic resources
- Purification of air and water
- Detoxification and decomposition of wastes
- Stabilisation and moderation of the Earth’s climate
- Moderation of floods, droughts, temperature extremes
- Generation and renewal of soil fertility
- Pollination of plants, including many crops
- Control of pests and diseases
- Ability to adapt to changes
- Cultural and aesthetic benefits



DNA: carrier of genetic information.



The Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*). A red list species in Belgium.



A forest rivulet: an ecosystem on its own.



*Habitat loss and destruction threaten biodiversity worldwide.*



*The Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) is one of the many species suffering from over-exploitation.*

## The loss of biodiversity

It is often the loss of big mammal species that catches most of our attention: we are deeply touched by the disappearance or decline of charismatic animals such as pandas, tigers or elephants, but we are not aware that many less conspicuous organisms are disappearing fast. Why is this happening?

**Population growth:** 6.5 billion people who put an increasing and unbalanced demand on nature populate our planet: more and more resources are used for food, shelter, fuel, clothes and medicine.

**Habitat loss** is a direct result of human activity and population growth. The fragmentation and destruction of habitats has for consequence that populations and ecosystems become smaller and more vulnerable to pressures.

The **introduction of alien** (exotic or non-native) **species** can competitively exclude native species and as such disrupt entire ecosystems.

**Human-generated pollution and contamination** (e.g. acid rain, oil spills, human waste, nuclear waste, pesticides) affect all levels of biodiversity.

**Over-exploitation** (over-hunting, over-fishing and over-collecting) of a species or population lead to shrinking populations and in the long term to local or global extinction.

**Global climate change** alters natural environmental conditions. As humans burn more fossil fuels like oil and coal for energy, more carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. This gas (among others) acts like a greenhouse, letting sunlight and heat into the lower atmosphere, but not letting heat back out. As a result, average yearly temperatures on Earth rise. The global climate change modifies the healthy functioning of ecosystems.

## COUNTDOWN



## SAVE BIODIVERSITY

*Slowing down the loss of biodiversity by the year 2010 is the objective of the 2010 Biodiversity Target.*

## 2010 Biodiversity Target

In 2002, the CBD adopted the 2010 Biodiversity Target, to “achieve by the year 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth”. Europe goes even further and intends to “halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010”.

Countdown 2010 is an initiative of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) that combines efforts to save biodiversity within a powerful network of active partners, including governments, cities, regions and civil society organisations.

More on [www.countdown2010.net](http://www.countdown2010.net).

## Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Belgium signed the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), on 5 June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The CBD is an international agreement that aims to conserve biological diversity, to use its components in a sustainable way and to share fairly and equitably, between all people involved, the benefits that arise from the use of genetic resources.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary instrument of the CBD. It focuses on establishing a legal framework for the transboundary movements of living modified organisms.



*The CBD is a legally binding agreement between countries from all around the world. It is part of the United Nations Environment Programme.*

## What are Focal Points?

Every country having signed the Convention has to appoint 'focal points'. These official structures are expected to facilitate and promote the implementation of the Convention. There are different types of focal points, depending on the issues to be addressed.

The '**National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity**' (CBD NFP) acts, on behalf of the national government, as a liaison with the international Secretariat of the Convention. The CBD NFP is in charge of the follow-up of the CBD implementation. It also acts as an umbrella structure for national focal points designated for specific thematic areas.

Thematic areas already supported by an official national focal point are Access and Benefit Sharing, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, the Clearing-House Mechanism, the Global Plant Conservation Strategy and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Other national focal points are in the process of being established, e.g. for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).

Since biosafety is a specific issue, addressed by the CBD under a protocol, it entails its own system of national focal points. The 'National Focal Point to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety' plays the same role as the CBD NFP. It is supported by the Biosafety Clearing-House Focal Point.

Countries sometimes design 'secondary' focal points, to improve coordination and implementation at national level. **Regional Focal Points** are a particularity of Belgium's institutional framework. They are based in each of Belgium's three regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels) and act as a relay between the national structure and stakeholders at regional level.

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*The **Global Taxonomy Initiative** or GTI has been established to address the lack of taxonomic information and expertise in many parts of the world, and thereby to improve decision-making in conservation and sustainable use.*

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*The **Clearing-House Mechanism** or CHM is an information-sharing mechanism that promotes scientific and technical cooperation, thus facilitating the implementation of the CBD.*

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*The **Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice** or SBSTTA is a committee that provides the Conference of the Parties with timely advice relating to scientific and technical issues.*

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*The third objective of the CBD targets the fair and equitable sharing, between countries from the North and those from the South, of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. In short, the issue is referred to **Access and Benefit Sharing** or ABS.*

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Four of the eleven Belgian Focal Points related to the CBD are located within the structures of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

*The Conference of the Parties or COP is the governing body of the Convention. Its key function is to keep under review the implementation of the Convention and to steer its development.*

## Role of the Focal Points

Except for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the text of the Convention does not formally identify a mandate for the Focal Points. This provides some flexibility in the daily work.

However, the Conference of the Parties has identified a minimum of specific tasks that must be carried out by Focal Points. The main responsibility is to play an efficient role of facilitator in the implementation of the Convention.

Focal Points are encouraged to:

- gather and disseminate information on the Convention,
- ensure that their country is represented at meetings of the Convention,
- cooperate with other countries to achieve international implementation of the Convention,
- help translate global negotiations into national implementation,
- monitor national activities that contribute to, or negatively affect, the implementation of the Convention,
- promote more favourable outcomes for biodiversity, among others through exchange of information, education and raising public awareness.

## Belgian Focal Points at present

Type	Mandate	Institution in charge
National Focal Points	CBD	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)
	Access and Benefit Sharing	Federal Directorate-General for the Environment
	Biosafety Clearing-House	Scientific Institute of Public Health (IPH)
	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Federal Directorate-General for the Environment
	Clearing-House Mechanism	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)
	Global Plant Conservation Strategy	National Botanic Garden of Belgium (NBGB)
	Global Taxonomy Initiative	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)
	Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)
Regional Focal Points	CBD – Flanders	Administratie Milieu-, Natuur-, Land- en Waterbeheer (AMINAL)
	CBD – Wallonia	Direction générale des Ressources naturelles et de l'Environnement (DGRNE)
	CBD – Brussels Capital Region	Bruxelles Environnement – Leefmilieu Brussel (IBGE-BIM)

## A brief history

### 1992

Belgium signs the Convention on Biological Diversity during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

### 1993

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) is asked to follow up the CBD and its implications for Belgium.

### 1995

The RBINS is designated as the Belgian National Focal Point to the CBD.

At the same time, it is also designated as NFP to the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) and as NFP to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Affairs (SBSTTA).

### 1996

The RBINS launches the national website to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This website is called the Belgian CHM website, as a reference to the Clearing-House Mechanism, which is the CBD's information sharing mechanism.

### 1997

The CBD National Focal Point receives funding for four years from the Belgian Science Policy (Belspo), the federal administration for science and research.

### 1998

The RBINS launches the CHM website of D.R. Congo on the RBINS server, following a partnership requested by the CBD NFP of that country.

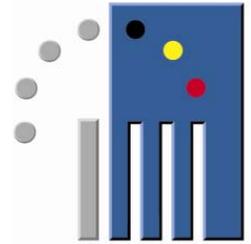
### 1999

Following additional requests to establish partnerships, the RBINS starts a small capacity building programme to help developing countries create and maintain their CHM websites. This programme was initiated thanks to a specific financial contribution by the Federal Directorate-General for the Environment.

### 2000

The Belgian Science Policy attributes recurrent structural funding to the CBD NFP.

The Belgian Development Cooperation (DGDC) provides annual funds for the CHM capacity building activities.



*In 1997, the NFP receives funding for four years from the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office. In 2000, the Office attributes a recurrent structural funding.*



*Since 1999, the Federal Directorate-General for the Environment provides financial support for specific actions and projects.*



*Since 2000, the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGDC) provides annual funds for capacity building activities. In 2003, DGDC and RBINS sign a five year agreement on capacity building activities.*

**2001**

The RBINS is designated as National Focal Point to the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI).

**2003**

The Belgian Development Cooperation and the RBINS sign a five year agreement to develop a comprehensive capacity building programme on biodiversity for developing countries.

The country study *Biodiversity in Belgium*, coordinated and edited by the CBD National Focal Point, is published with financial support from the Federal Directorate-General for the Environment.

**2004**

A summary of *Biodiversity in Belgium* is published as an educational and public awareness brochure in Dutch and French. The Federal Directorate-General for the Environment provided financial support.

**2005**

The NFP and the RBINS' Multimedia Team win the Ford Award, for developing an interactive tool on Belgium's biodiversity. It is called *AMAI: Belgium's natural treasures* and is available on the NFP website.

The CBD NFP prepares for a portfolio, summarising ten years of activities.

A draft of Belgium's National Biodiversity Strategy (2006-2016), coordinated by the Federal Directorate-General for the Environment and the CBD National Focal Point, is finalised after two years of work and the involvement of nearly a hundred experts.

**2006**

On 27 March, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, in Curitiba (Brazil), the RBINS signs a memorandum of understanding to promote CBD implementation through the organisation of training and educational activities. Six other institutes are involved, among others the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, Kew Botanical Gardens and the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris.

The NFP and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform develop together a fan-shaped didactic tool on invasive alien species in Belgium, with financial support from the Federal Directorate-General for the Environment.



In 2005, 'AMAI', an interactive multimedia tool on biodiversity in Belgium, is launched.



In 2006 Dr Jackie Van Goethem, promoter of the Belgian NFP to the CBD, signed a memorandum of understanding at COP-8, facilitating the implementation of the CBD through training and education.

## July 2006: who is contributing to the NFP activities?



**Jackie Van Goethem** (1993), as the promoter of the National Focal Point, supervises and guides the NFP's daily activities. He also chairs the national coordination structure for the CBD (the Steering Committee 'Biodiversity Convention'), maintains relationships with the CBD Secretariat in Montreal, takes an active part in national and international meetings, gives lectures on biodiversity and the CBD, and provides training in taxonomy.



**Anne Franklin** (2001) coordinates the capacity building activities funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation. She makes sure that the activities are coherent and carried out on schedule. She establishes the programmes of work and the strategic options for further development and is responsible for communication and reporting on the project. Anne also makes links between the NFP activities in Belgium and in developing countries.



**Marc Peeters** (1997) reports on the state of the country's biodiversity and on CBD implementation in Belgium. He coordinates the development of most of the NFP's public awareness and educational tools. He participates in the organisation of conferences, the counselling of students, the provision of information towards the media, etc. Marc manages the library on biodiversity and sustainable development, and the press archives.



**Marianne Schlessler** (2004) ensures the follow-up of the Convention in Belgium and at European and international level. She is the NFP's contact person for the EC, Eurostat, OECD, etc. She participates in the national biodiversity coordination process. Marianne is also involved in the organisation of thematic workshops, the peer-review of scientific documents, outreach activities toward the public and contacts with the media.



**Yves Samyn** (2004) coordinates the work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative. He ensures contacts with GTI Focal Points worldwide and monitors the GTI process. He organises trainings in taxonomy and in the management of natural history collections, develops and elaborates didactical modules and ensures the upgrade and follow-up of trainees. Yves contributes to public awareness and educational actions.



**Abraham (Han) de Koeijer** (1999) supervises the capacity building activities for the Clearing-House Mechanism, which cover among others the establishment of national websites and the use of the central web portal to the Cartagena Protocol. He is also involved in the digitisation of the RBINS' archives on the National Parks in the D.R. Congo and assists in public awareness projects. Han is the webmaster of the Belgian CHM website.



**Arnaud Réveillon** (2004) organises trainings in Belgium and abroad, prepares didactic modules and provides courses for partner countries in the framework of the CHM and the GTI. He assists to the digitisation of the archives of the National Parks of the D.R. Congo, organises public awareness and educational activities and is involved in the development and maintenance of the website of the Belgian CHM.



**Pascale Balhaut** (2004) assures the secretariat of the National Focal Point. Her tasks include general administration (messaging, filing, telephone and the reception of visitors) and administrative and logistical support to trainings and workshops organised by the NFP. Pascale also ensures the follow-up of the filing of the thematic library on biodiversity and sustainable development.



**Vincent Pinton** (2006) is the team's accountant. He undertakes the financial follow-up of the NFP activities in Belgium and abroad. For the capacity building programme, this involves many international financial movements. Vincent acts as a relay between the NFP and the Institute's Accounting and Purchase Department. He also provides support to various NFP organisational matters.



**François Muhashy Habiyaremye** (2006) is a short-term collaborator working on the follow-up of the SYGIAP project (Management of Geographical Information System for Protected Areas in D.R. Congo). François currently undertakes the digitisation of the archives of the National Parks of D.R. Congo held by RBINS, RMCA and NBGB, and reviews landscape typology, references and toponyms.



**Jelle Boeve-de Pauw** (2006) is a short-term collaborator for the external communication on the activities of the National Focal Point and on the capacity building activities. He is involved in the conceptualisation and maintenance of websites managed by the NFP and assists to the realisation of the News Bulletin. Jelle also contributes to educational and public awareness actions of the RBINS.

## Products

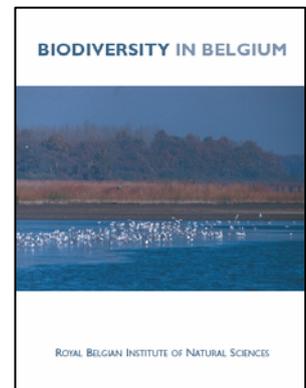
Numerous products are derived from the activities undertaken as National Focal Point under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

These products vary from paper documents, digital information and the organisation of public events to trainings, seminars and workshops and the undertaking of development cooperation projects. For a detailed overview, the NFP will shortly launch a comprehensive portfolio. A few of the main paper and electronic products of recent years are highlighted below.

Most of these products are available, at least partially, on the website of the NFP: [www.naturalsciences.be/biodiv](http://www.naturalsciences.be/biodiv). Hard copies of these documents can be ordered through the NFP secretariat (see the contact information at the back of this Bulletin).

### Belgian biodiversity under the microscope

- The country study *Biodiversity in Belgium* (2003) presents the status and trends of biodiversity in Belgium. It provides a detailed inventory on species and habitats and presents the major actors in biodiversity conservation. This publication of 416 pages is published in English. The table of contents and the abstracts are available online.
- The executive summary *Biodiversity in Belgium, an overview* (2004) is published in French and Dutch. This version outlines the main conclusions of the survey in an attractive and illustrative 20-page brochure. The brochure is freely available online in PDF format or as a paper copy, reprinted in 2006.
- *SOS invasions* is a didactic tool on invasive alien species in Belgium. It is conceptualised as a fan, integrating games and information on biodiversity. The National Focal Point and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform developed the tool with financial and technical support from the Federal Directorate-General for the Environment. It is freely available in French and Dutch.
- *AMAI biodiversity* is an interactive digital instrument, illustrating the diversity of the Belgian fauna and flora through pictures and sounds brought together in an innovative way. It can be experimented via the CBD NFP website.



Cover of the country study 'Biodiversity in Belgium', published in 2003.



Cover of the executive summary, 'Biodiversity in Belgium, an overview'.



'SOS invasions' is a didactic tool on invasive alien species in Belgium.

The **Steering Committee 'Biodiversity Convention'** operates since 1997 under the authority of the Co-ordinating Committee for International Environmental Policy. Its tasks include the establishment of Belgian positions for international meetings, the undertaking of reporting obligations and the stimulation of CBD implementation in and by Belgium.



The NFP elaborates, coordinates and transmits national and thematic reports and case studies on biodiversity to the Secretariat of the CBD.

### Belgium's implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- Belgium's first *National Biodiversity Strategy* (2006-2016) is currently in the process of finalisation. This major policy document introducing strategic objectives for the implementation of the Convention in Belgium is developed in joint coordination with the Federal Directorate-General for the Environment. An online public consultation on the draft of the National Biodiversity Strategy was organised in April and May 2006.
- Belgium's *National* and *Thematic Reports* to the Convention on Biological Diversity review and assess the national implementation of the Convention. At the request of the CBD Secretariat, they are produced on a periodical basis, in English. All are available online.
  - First National Report (1998)
  - Second National Report (2001)
  - Third National Report (2005)
  - Report on indicators for biological diversity in Belgium (2001)
  - Thematic Report on Forest Ecosystems (2002)
  - Thematic Report on Protected Areas (2003)
  - Thematic Report on the Global Taxonomy Initiative (2004)
- Belgium's national website on the CBD ([www.biodiv.be](http://www.biodiv.be)) is established as part of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM). The Belgian CHM website provides a variety of online data and reports on Belgium's biodiversity and on its policy commitments to biodiversity conservation, as well as direct access to numerous, carefully selected websites on biodiversity.

### Symposia on biodiversity and the Convention

Symposium proceedings gather scientific papers and poster abstract of conferences organised by the NFP. These documents are (partially) available online.

- Belgium and the Convention on Biological Diversity – A state of the Art (2000)
- Belgian Fauna: status and trends with a particular attention to alien species (2002)
- Ten years after Rio. What future for biodiversity in Belgium? (2003)
- SOS Invasions (2006): co-organised by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform (BBP), the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo), the Federal Directorate-General for the Environment and the CBD NFP.

## Collaborating with other countries

International cooperation is a crucial element in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Every day, contacts are established with other National Focal Points, administrations, non-governmental organisations and scientific institutions worldwide. These contacts enable the sharing of experiences and the transmission of information on a wide range of topics, from policy-making to scientific research.

Since 1999, the NFP is carrying out a capacity building programme to help developing countries in their implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Partnerships are established with National Focal Points, scientific institutions or individual researchers to develop activities in four main areas:

- the improvement of the exchange of information on biodiversity issues, thanks to the application of new information technologies (under the umbrella of the Clearing-House Mechanism),
- the increase in taxonomic knowledge and expertise, via research projects, training programmes and the establishment of taxonomic manuals (as part of the Global Taxonomy Initiative),
- the valorisation of old archive data collected during scientific expeditions in developing countries, so that historical information can serve as a basis for modern conservation activities,
- the setting up of educational and public awareness programmes on biodiversity in the partner countries.

The capacity building programme has received growing attention from the partner countries since its set-up.

For the Clearing-House Mechanism, the number of trainees has increased from a few per year in the period 1999-2002, to about 60 in 2005, thanks to the organisation of local training sessions, that mainly take place in African countries.

Requests for taxonomic training are also on the rise: from 11 applications in 2004 to 62 in 2006. For the future, the programme will try to meet as many requests as possible, from countries worldwide, while installing durability, by providing educational and public awareness tools as well as follow-up training.



*The RBINS also holds the mandate of GTI NFP and that of CHM NFP. In this context, it organises training for students and researchers from developing countries.*

## Towards an integrative approach

### Making the most of our distinctive features

Many countries have their CBD National Focal Points located within administrations. In Belgium, the mandate is undertaken by a scientific institution, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS).

This situation provides Belgium with an unusual, yet dynamic, framework for action. One of its main advantages is that the RBINS can readily assure linkages between the scientific community and decision-makers, and as such bring first-hand biodiversity information to the forefront of policy discussions.

This advantage is reinforced by the fact that the RBINS also carries out the mandates of three other National Focal Points, as highlighted on page 5. The combination of mandates enables a certain economy of scale, for example by enabling a more efficient participation in international meetings or by streamlining public awareness efforts.

### Developing networks of partners

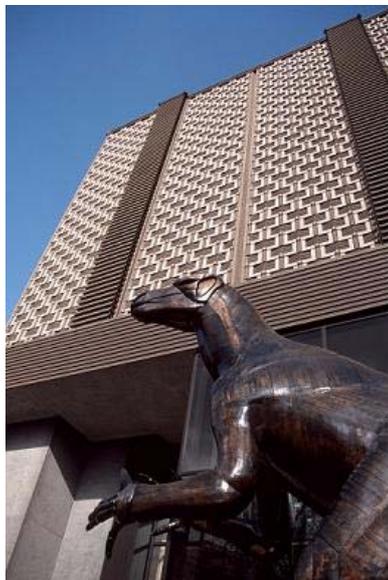
The multiplicity of functions has led the RBINS to set up an operational team specifically in charge of the follow-up of the CBD.

The operational team relies on an extended network of collaborators in Belgium and abroad, who are essential partners for the execution of the wide range of activities generated by the various mandates: exchange of information, support to the policy process, education and training, public awareness, international collaboration, etc.

Strong synergies are not only developed in-house, but also with federal and regional administrations, other scientific institutes and universities, advisory councils, federations of professional bodies, other Belgian biodiversity initiatives, and, of course with fellow Focal Points.

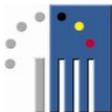
We take the opportunity of this News Bulletin to pay tribute to our partners' relentless involvement in the implementation of the CBD, for which we are responsible to report to the Secretariat of the Convention.

For more information on our partners, visit our [partner page](#) on the Belgian CBD NFP website.



*The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences performs research in the fields of zoology, palaeontology, prehistory, geology, oceanography and nature conservation. It has a museum dedicated to natural sciences and its library is Belgium's largest on natural sciences: the bookshelves total a length of 15 km (10 miles).*

Staff and activities of the Belgian National Focal Point are supported financially by the following sources.

Financing source	Organisation	Financing type	Supported activities
 Belgian Science Policy Office	Federal government	Annual funding (1997-2000), recurrent structural funding (2000-...)  Spin-off projects (2004-2006)	Core activities of the RBINS as CBD National Focal Point (communication with the CBD Secretariat and biodiversity stakeholders in Belgium, reporting, scientific support, policy follow-up).  SYGIAP II: Valorisation of the RBINS archives on the National Parks of the D.R. Congo.
 Belgian Development Cooperation	Federal government	Annual funding (2000-2003), specific convention (2003-2007)	Capacity building activities for developing countries, including core activities by CHM and GTI Focal Points.
 Federal Directorate-General for the Environment	Federal government	Specific actions and projects (1999-...)	Education and public awareness (publications, events, didactical tools).

### How to contact the Belgian CBD NFP?

#### Belgian CBD NFP

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Han de Koeijer	CHM activities	267
Anne Franklin	Coordination capacity building	587
François Muhashy	Archives D.R. Congo	267
Marc Peeters	CBD follow-up	565
Vincent Pinton	Accountancy	330
Arnaud Réveillon	IT assistant to GTI and CHM	590
Yves Samyn	GTI activities	124
Marianne Schlessler	CBD follow-up	525
Jackie Van Goethem	Promoter of the Belgian NFP	343

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 CHM NFP: [cbd-chm@naturalsciences.be](mailto:cbd-chm@naturalsciences.be)