



Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences






General information



Institution	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Legal name	Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen/Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique
Foundation year	1846
Name of the Director General or Head of the institution	Camille Pisani
Brief description of the Scientific Mission of your institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Research into Natural Sciences, • Scientific Expertise in support to Public Authorities • Conservation and Management of Scientific and Heritage Collections • Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge in Society
Brief description of the vision of your institution	The RBINS wants to become the reference center in Belgium for the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources for the benefit of life on Earth” “We bring nature into everyone’s lives !”
Main objectives or lines of action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce good and relevant science • Open our collections and other research infrastructures • Link our research to action and policy, • Engage citizens with nature
Biodiversity related objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all abovementioned objectives





Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences' contribution to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets




Objective / Aichi Target			Yes	Partially	No	NA	Main actions performed (for 2011-2016):
A	1	 Public awareness	Does your institution develop actions aimed to strengthen awareness, concern and knowledge about biodiversity?				
			X				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge in Society on natural sciences including biodiversity through the museum: exhibitions, education e.g. biodiversity in the city traveling workshop, events e.g. falcons for everyone, see hereunder Awareness activities on biodiversity in collaboration with different Ministries and the Regions through our programme "1001 actions for biodiversity" http://www.1001pourlabiodiversite.be. Awareness activities in developing countries by CEBioS http://cebios.naturalsciences.be. Through the Belgian biodiversity platform www.biodiversity.be we are promoting the science policy interface and awareness about biodiversity. Through the plurennial project www.falconsforeveryone.be allowing the public to follow Peregrine Falcon breeding Through the XperiBIRD.be project creating a national network of schools and citizens collecting data over tit nesting and breeding Collaborative projects with citizens associations and local authorities ex. http://www.egeb-sgwb.be/biEAUdiversite Participation to European projects in Science with and for Society programme aimed at raising public awareness on environmental issues (Ocean pollution, sustainability...) http://seaforsociety.eu/np4/24/ and involving citizens in collaborative projects on biodiversity and scientific approaches http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/203160_en.html Awareness and capacity building activities through the educational programme of



Objective / Aichi Target			Yes	Partially	No	NA	Main actions performed (for 2011-2016):
							<p>the Distributed European School of Taxonomy, managed by RBINS. www.taxonomytraining.eu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and capacity building activities through the EU funded ERASMUS+ project 'Talent in Biodiversity. Innovative education and new skills to increase engagement in Science', coordinated by RBINS. www.biotalent.myspecies.info (2016-2019 – start 1 Sept. 2016 – website under development) Coordinating a project funded by the National Lottery on sustainable development in the city encouraging citizens changes in behavior through local projects presented notably on a exhibition touring in Brussels: https://www.naturalsciences.be/en/museum/exhibitions-view/0/5967/392
	2	 <p>Valorization</p>	X				<p>Do some of the activities that your institution carries out contribute to the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, contributing to achieve poverty reduction and sustainable development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building activities in our development cooperation programme CEBioS http://cebios.naturalsciences.be. RBINS includes the coordination of the Belgian Biodiversity platform http://www.biodiversity.be/, which has a 'Community of Practice' on Ecosystem Services (BEES, http://www.biodiversity.be/1791) Involved in the EU-ITN Project "CACHE: Calcium in a changing environment", in which we focus on the biomineralization of bivalve shells in relation to, amongst others, climate change (ocean acidification). MOREOVER, the CACHE Project also aims at developing sustainable use of bivalve waste shells as ecological alternative for economic, agricultural and medicinal applications
	3						Does your institution develop actions aimed at countering the effects of harmful incentives for biodiversity or promote the application of incentives with positive effects on biodiversity?


Objective / Aichi Target			Yes	Partially	No	NA	Main actions performed (for 2011-2016):
		 <i>Incentives</i>	X				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In our work as president of the bees working group we are actively involved in countering the harmful effects of pesticides on pollinators Through the Belgian biodiversity platform we are presiding the workgroup on invasive alien species, http://www.biodiversity.be/1790. CEBioS is supporting projects in RD Congo to measure the influence of charcoal production wildlife poaching/bushmeat and sustainable fisheries and consumption on natural habitats and biodiversity.
	4	 <i>Sustainable Production</i>	Has your institution developed and/or promoted scientific knowledge and/or technology innovation that promote sustainable production and/or consumption (including within your institution)?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBINS has obtained an Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) certificate and improves continuously its environmental performance. involved in the EU-ITN Project "CACHE: See objective 2 for more information on this project
B	5	 <i>Habitat loss</i>	Has your institution carried out actions that contribute to a decrease in the rate of loss of natural habitats?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBINS has been the front runner for the classification of a natural reserve in the Belgian part of the North Sea.
	6	 <i>Sustainable management of fishes and invertebrates</i>	Has your institution developed or implemented scientific knowledge and/or technology and innovation to promote the sustainable extraction and recovery of species of fish, invertebrates and aquatic plants, or that have contributed to reduce illegal fishing or incidental catch?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBINS is responsible for the monitoring of the Belgian part of the North Sea for pollution and to develop a sustainable management. capacity building activities by CEBioS http://cebios.naturalsciences.be concerning marine modeling in Peru, Vietnam and Benin
	7	 <i>Sustainable primary sector</i>	Does your institution promote and contribute to the sustainable management of agricultural land, and/or farming of aquatic organisms, and/or forests?				

Objective / Aichi Target			Yes	Partially	No	NA	Main actions performed (for 2011-2016):
	8	 <p>Pollution reduction</p>	Does your institution carry out actions to control, monitor and/or improve water pollution, and/or ocean and coast pollution, and/or soil pollution, and/or solid waste pollution, and/or air pollution?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBINS is responsible for the monitoring of the Belgian part of the North Sea for pollution by boats. • The section fresh water biology is involved in the monitoring of the biodiversity for the quality of ponds and small water bodies, as well as management of databases. • support and capacity building in Benin for assessing freshwater quality using oligochaete biodiversity as an indicator
	9	 <p>Invasive species</p>	Does your institution develop actions aimed at the identification, prevention, control and eradication of exotic invasive species?				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Belgian biodiversity platform we are presiding the workgroup on invasive alien species, http://www.biodiversity.be/1790 .. • RBINS actively participates in the EC “Joint Research Centre” initiative “European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN)” (http://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1) in which it is responsible for the database on alien terrestrial gastropods in Europe. • RBINS (+ RMCA) has set up a species identification unit “Barcoding of organisms and tissues of policy concern (BopCo)” (http://bopco.myspecies.info/), which combines morphology-based and DNA expertise to identify e.g. alien species on request.
	10	 <p>Pressures on vulnerable ecosystems</p>	Does your institution develop scientific knowledge and/or technology and innovation to reduce the anthropogenic pressure factors and maintain integrity and functioning of coral reefs and/or other ecosystems vulnerable to climate change?				<p>RBINS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a long standing study on the Antarctic and some key species that might be influenced by climate change. • Works on the biomineralization of sclerosponges in relation to climate change • Involved in the EU-ITN Project “CACHE:

Objective / Aichi Target			Yes	Partially	No	NA	Main actions performed (for 2011-2016):
							See objective 2 for more information on the project.
C	11	 Protected Areas	Does your institution develop scientific knowledge and/or technology and innovation that promote or contribute the efficient management, representativeness, connectivity and integration landscape of protected areas (terrestrial, and/or marine and coastal) or the creation/incorporation of new public, private or community conservation areas?				
				X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within RBINS there are some projects in developing countries towards this. There have also been requests from private mining companies to determine the species diversity of their mining sites and how to establish a protected area in order to recover abandoned sites in Belgium. The RBINS has developed the National Biodiversity Strategy for Belgium and its updated version for 2020 which includes the protection of conservation areas http://www.biodiv.be/implementation/strategy-be
	12	 Threatened Species	Does your institution develop scientific knowledge and/or technology and innovation to promote and contribute to the effective protection of threatened species?				
				X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEBioS develops lexica about habitat and monitoring in RD Congo, Burundi and Benin, http://cebios.naturalsciences.be Specific research on threatened species and their conservation and/or value for e.g. ecotourism in Cuba, DR Congo, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sahel zone The RBINS has developed the National Biodiversity Strategy for Belgium and its updated version for 2020 which includes the protection of threatened species http://www.biodiv.be/implementation/strategy-be
	13	 Genetic diversity	Does your organization develop scientific knowledge and/or technology and innovation aimed to maintain native genetic diversity and the wild relatives of cultivated plant species and/or livestock and domesticated animals?				
						X	
D	14	 Restoration	Has your institution developed scientific knowledge and/or technology and innovation for the restoration and recovery of ecosystem services taking into consideration the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable?				
				X			CEBioS programme is working together with

Objective / Aichi Target			Yes	Partially	No	NA	Main actions performed (for 2011-2016):
							<p>partners in developing countries to work towards this goal by doing research on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the eradication of expanding vines in woodlands in Kahuzi-Biega national park and it's border zones in DR Congo. Research on restoring miombo woodlands for mushroom collection and production in Burundi. Research on ecosystem services rehabilitation through the termites, mushrooms and woodlands The development of a decision support system for an integrated management of L. Manyara, Tanzania
E	15	 <i>Resilience</i>	Has your institution developed scientific, technical and/or technological actions of ecological restoration and rehabilitation? How many actions since 2011 and is the approximate restored area of degraded ecosystems within the framework of these actions?				
						X	
	16	 <i>Nagoya Protocol</i>	Have you heard of the Nagoya Protocol, and has your institution developed scientific, technical and/or technological actions linked to it?				
			X				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institute is actively involved in the work of CETAF on guidelines for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol for taxonomic scientific institutions. It is also Belgian focal point for the ABS-CH and represents the EU in the NP capacity building IAC. Information meetings have been organized for its scientists and of other scientific institutes in Belgium on the implementation of the NP and the implications for collection missions and visitors. capacity building activities by CEBioS, though awareness and information workshops about NP in Burundi http://cebios.naturalsciences.be
E	17	 <i>NBSAP update</i>	Has your institution collaborated in the elaboration and/or implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy of its country, or any other biodiversity strategy at a sub-national level or equivalent?				
			X				RBINS is the Belgian focal point for the CBD and was responsible for the development and updating of the NBS
	18		Does your institution integrate traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?				

Objective / Aichi Target			Yes	Partially	No	NA	Main actions performed (for 2011-2016):
		 Traditional Knowledge		X			<ul style="list-style-type: none">CEBioS: The development of a decision support system for an integrated management of L. Manyara, Tanzania using traditional knowledge and modern methods;development of lexica about habitat and monitoring in RD Congo, Burundi and Benin, http://cebios.naturalsciences.beWithin the context of the EASIN catalogue of alien species in Europe we also include species lists using vernacular names in the languages of the different countries and regions
19	 Knowledge, science and technology	Does your institution generate scientific, technical and/or technological information on biodiversity? How does your institution consider that the availability of useful information on biodiversity (assessment, monitoring, inventories, studies, etc.) is in your country?					
		Yes	Partial ly	No	NA	Examples of information generated in conservation, values, functioning, status, trends, impacts of loss, sustainable use or others. RBINS implements numerous research projects in this field, in particular related to biodiversity inventories, and conservation research. In Belgium open access to information is considered key to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. RBINS generates large amounts of scientific information on biodiversity.OD Taxonomy & Phylogeny describes yearly many new species, it does produce DNA barcodes, it studies phenotypic and genotypic diversity, etc. In addition, capacity building activities are implemented through the GTI programme, grants and workshops by CEBioS and the Distributed European School for Taxonomy" (DEST)	
		X					
		Suffici ent	Limite d	Scarce		Indicate relevant gaps of information and information available and its sources.	
20		What is the approximate percentage of your institution's annual budget destined for the implementation of scientific, technical and/or technological actions aimed					

Objective / Aichi Target			Yes	Partially	No	NA	Main actions performed (for 2011-2016):
		 Funding	for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services and does your institution have fundraising strategies for this purpose?				<p>Roughly 54 % of RBINS annual budget is destined for this. This doesn't take into account public awareness activities by RBINS. The RBINS is clearly held in high regard in many fields, and its prominence in international bodies, projects and networks both raises the profile of the institution and allows it to forge new synergies, the outcomes of which benefit the Institute's research and collections work. Many EU taxonomy projects such as VIBRANT (producing scratchpads to organize biodiversity research communities) or EU-BON (the European component of the Group on Earth Observation's - Biodiversity Observation Network), for example, are carried out with CETAF members. They have a particularly wide impact and a great range of end users: from students, early-career scientists, researchers, free-time naturalists, policy makers and authorities to the general public all over Europe. The RBINS is particularly active as the Belgian National Focal Point to the CBD, that is, the official liaison between Belgium and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the National Focal Point to several processes under the Convention, such as, the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), the Global Taxonomic Initiative (GTI) and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).</p> <p>The RBINS is therefore directly involved in the preparation of relevant EU and Belgian positions, in negotiations during the biennial Conference of the Parties, and during intersessional meetings of the SBSTTA, in consultation with numerous partners at the European and Belgian regional and Federal levels.</p>
				X			