

PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION AREA



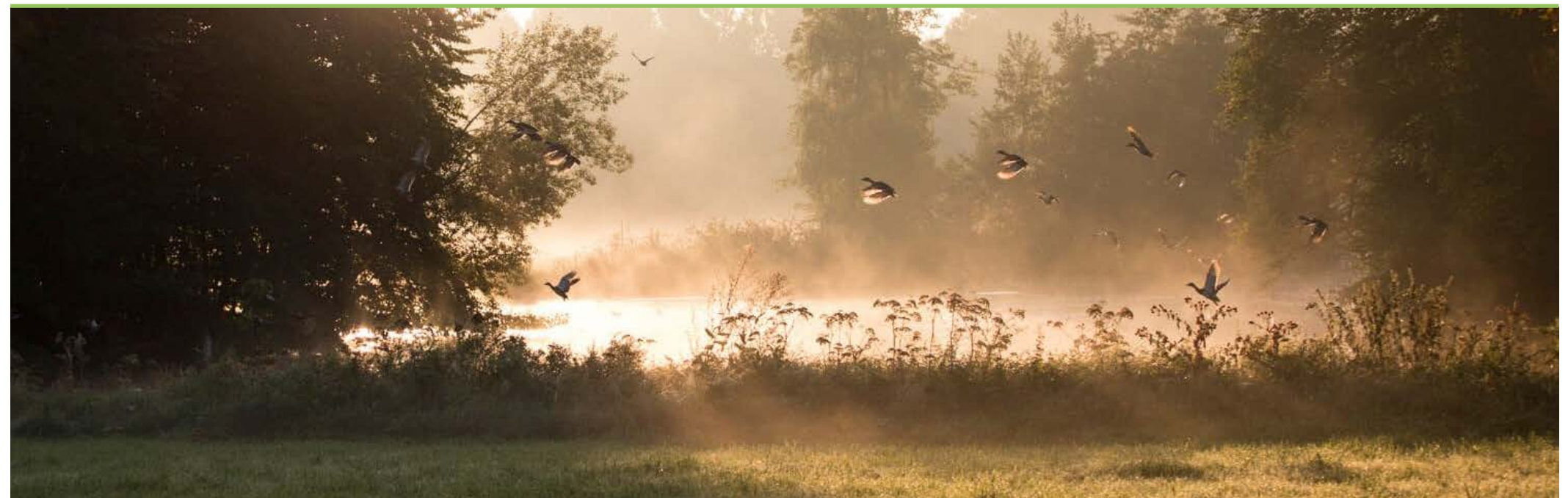
A NETWORK OF PRIVATELY-OWNED NATURE RESERVES

Slangebeekbron has been recognized as a good example of a private area with successful nature conservation management. In this area, nature conservation goes hand in hand with a durable economic model to guarantee a long-term nature protection.

Slangebeekbron, a nature reserve area formerly owned by the Sagehomme-Leynen family, was purchased by Stichting Behoud Natuur en Leefmilieu Vlaanderen (SBNL), a non-profit organization supporting private landowners in the management of nature reserves, with the financial support of the Baillet Latour Fund.

Under the guidance of the Land Is For Ever LIFE+ project, SBNL has been transformed into the first land trust in Flanders, a new instrument to be used for private land conservation. Slangebeekbron will be managed as a 'type 4' nature reserve of which the name will refer to its original owners, the Sagehomme-Leynen family, and will be part of a larger network of nature reserves: the Baillet Latour nature reserve network.

The land trust will support private land conservation by supporting private landowners in the purchase and management of nature on private land.



The EU's LIFE+ 'Land is Forever' Project:

60% of Europe's acreage is privately owned. It has become clear that the EU nature conservation goals cannot be accomplished without the engagement of private landowners. The project 'Land Is For Ever' aims to expand the implementation of successful management models for private landowners to ensure durable nature conservation on their land on the long term.

By sharing examples of innovative structures and programs of private conservation initiatives, landowners all over Europe get inspired and motivated to invest in nature conservation on their land. Through dialogue with landowners and field tests in different EU member states, this project builds the basis for effective policy recommendations to support private land conservation initiatives at a larger scale. The bottom-up approach of this project to policy development is unique and the recommendations that emerge from it have a great chance of success in the future.

The management project of Slangebeekbron was selected as a good practice example to be followed elsewhere in Europe.