

# ARTICLE 17 REPORTING CONSULTATION ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF HABITATS & SPECIES

This is a background document and a 'user manual' for those interested to participate in the public consultation on the biogeographical conservation status assessments produced by ETC-BD. The public consultation will start on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and will finish on 15 September 2008 on following website:  
<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>

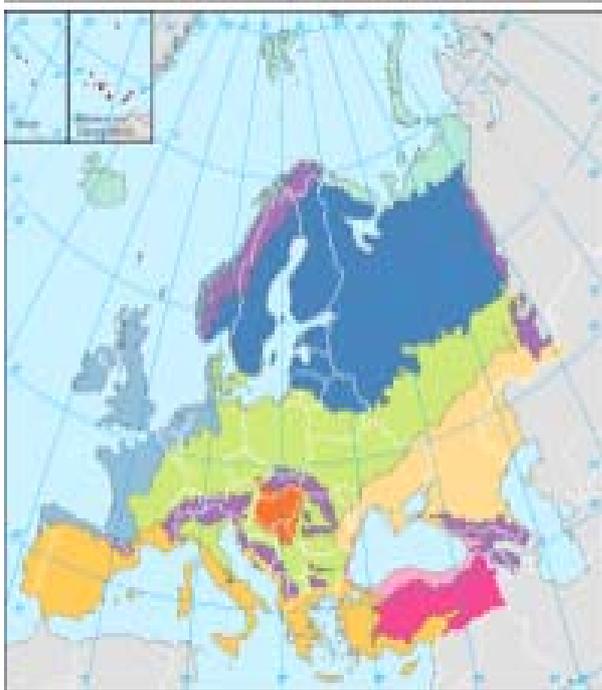
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## Introduction

The 1992 EU Habitats Directive, together with the 1979 Birds Directive, is the most important European legislation aimed at the conservation of the European Union's wildlife. The Directive is presented as a series of articles together with a number of annexes. Article 11 requires countries to monitor the habitats and species listed in the annexes and Article 17 requires a report to be sent to the European Commission every 6 years following an agreed format – hence 'Article 17 reporting'. The 2<sup>nd</sup> report covers the period 2001-2006 and concerns 25 EU Member States (Bulgaria and Romania are not concerned by this report given their recent accession to the EU).

A major part of the Article 17 report is an assessment of the conservation status of all the habitats and species listed on Annexes I & II of the Directive (those for which the countries must propose & designate sites forming part of the Natura 2000 network) together with species noted on Annex IV (species strictly protected) and Annex V (species whose exploitation requires management). This assessment, which is based around the definition of 'Favourable Conservation Status' given in the Directive, is carried out following a methodology agreed by the European Commission and the Member States with technical support of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD).



The assessment of the conservation status is carried out for each biogeographical region present in a Member State. This division of Europe into biogeographic regions aims to allow a comparison between areas with similar geography and biodiversity<sup>1</sup>. There are nine regions mentioned in the Directive to which four marine regions (Atlantic –North east, Atlantic – Macaronesia, Baltic & Mediterranean) have been added for the purpose of Article 17 reporting.

Where a Member State is entirely within one region, such as Luxembourg, only one report is required (one for each habitat type and species). If a Member State has part in two or more regions a report is required for each region, for example for *Bombina variegata* (Yellow-Bellied toad) Germany has reported separately for the Alpine, Atlantic and Continental regions as the species is found in all three regions.

The European Commission has asked the European Environment Agency and its ETC/BD to prepare assessments of conservation status across each region based on the data sent by the Member States. This assessment followed a method which is described below and which was developed in close cooperation with experts of the Habitats Directive Scientific Working Group.

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<sup>1</sup> ETC-BD (2006) *The indicative Map of European Biogeographical Regions: Methodology and development* <http://dataservice.eea.europa.eu/download.asp?id=15376&filetype=.pdf>

## Conservation status as assessed by Member States

According to the Habitats Directive, conservation status is made by combining assessments of four parameters

Species	Habitats
Range	Range
Population	Area
Suitable habitat	Structure & Functions
Future prospects	Future prospects

Each of these parameters is reported as one of the following four classes

<b>Favourable</b>	-	<b>FV ('green')</b>
<b>Unfavourable – inadequate</b>	-	<b>U1 ('amber')</b>
<b>Unfavourable – bad</b>	-	<b>U2 ('red')</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	-	<b>XX ('grey')</b>

Each class is defined in the Habitats Committee document<sup>2</sup> in the form of evaluation matrices (see Annex 3 & 4 of this document). The overall assessment is made by combining the result for the 4 parameters. The method is described in more detail in a guidance note prepared by the ETC-BD<sup>3</sup>.

The countries reported during the second half of 2007 for a period covering 2001-2006; the next report will be due in 2013 and will cover the period 2007-2012.

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<sup>2</sup> Assessment, monitoring and reporting of conservation status – Preparing the 2001-2006 report under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. Note to the Habitats Committee, DG Environment, Brussels, 15 March 2005  
[http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats\\_reporting/reporting\\_2001-2007/reporting\\_framework&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/reporting_framework&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

<sup>3</sup> Assessment, monitoring and reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive: Explanatory Notes & Guidelines October 2006  
[http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats\\_reporting/reporting\\_2001-2007/guidelines\\_reporting&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/guidelines_reporting&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

## Assessing conservation status by biogeographical region

For approximately half of the habitats and species the conservation status for a whole region is the same as reported by the countries as the habitat and species only occurs in one Member State (e.g. habitat type '91C0 Caledonian forest' only occurs in the United Kingdom) or all the Member States where it is present have reported the same evaluation as for *Castor fiber* (beaver) in the Boreal region assessed as 'favourable'.

Ideally the assessment for each biogeographic region would follow the same method and evaluation matrices as used by the Member States. This assumption is taken as a starting point. However, for three of the conservation status parameters only the final result is available (suitable habitat for species, structure & functions of habitats, future prospects). Therefore, it was necessary to find some way of bringing together the national assessments. For 'range' and 'population' of species and for 'area' of habitats it is possible, at least in theory, to follow the method used by the Member States. However, in many cases a combination of missing data or incompatible data (e.g. population sizes reported using different units) makes this impossible.

Where it was not possible to use the background data provided by the countries directly, the assessments of conservation status for the individual parameters have been weighed and then evaluated. The preferred weighting is by population size (species) and surface area (habitats) with weighting by range where that is not possible. Where possible the four parameters are evaluated individually and then combined to give a regional assessment using the same method as used by the countries. In some cases missing data means that only a weighted assessment of the overall conservation status of each country is possible and in a very small number of cases (estimated at 1%) no regional assessment is possible.

For example the habitat type '2110 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria*' is present in five countries in the Boreal region



Habitat type 2110

Member State	% of total area of habitat in each country	Assessment for the parameter 'future prospects'
Estonia	18	Green
Finland	10	Amber
Latvia	13	Amber
Lithuania	25	Green
Sweden	34	Amber

Overall, 43% (18 + 25) of the habitat has been reported as favourable and 57% as unfavourable – inadequate.

Where a weighting has to be used, thresholds are required and the following have been used; they are applied in sequence.

- If more than **25%** is 'red', then the result is 'red'
- If more than **75%** is 'green, then the result is 'green'
- If more than **25%** is 'unknown', then the result is 'unknown'
- For all other combinations the result is 'amber'

For the example above, following the thresholds in sequence leads to an overall assessment of 'amber' for the parameter 'future prospects'.

These thresholds are to some extent arbitrary, but tests using a range of thresholds showed that the overall assessment is not very sensitive to the thresholds chosen.

A more detailed explanation, together with examples, is given in the paper '*Article 17 Reporting – Habitats Directive: Guidelines for assessing conservation status of habitats and species at the biogeographic level*'<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> ETC-BD (2008) Article 17 Reporting – Habitats Directive: Guidelines for assessing conservation status of habitats and species at the biogeographic level (version 3)

[http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats\\_reporting/reporting\\_2001-2007/biogeographic\\_assessment&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/biogeographic_assessment&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

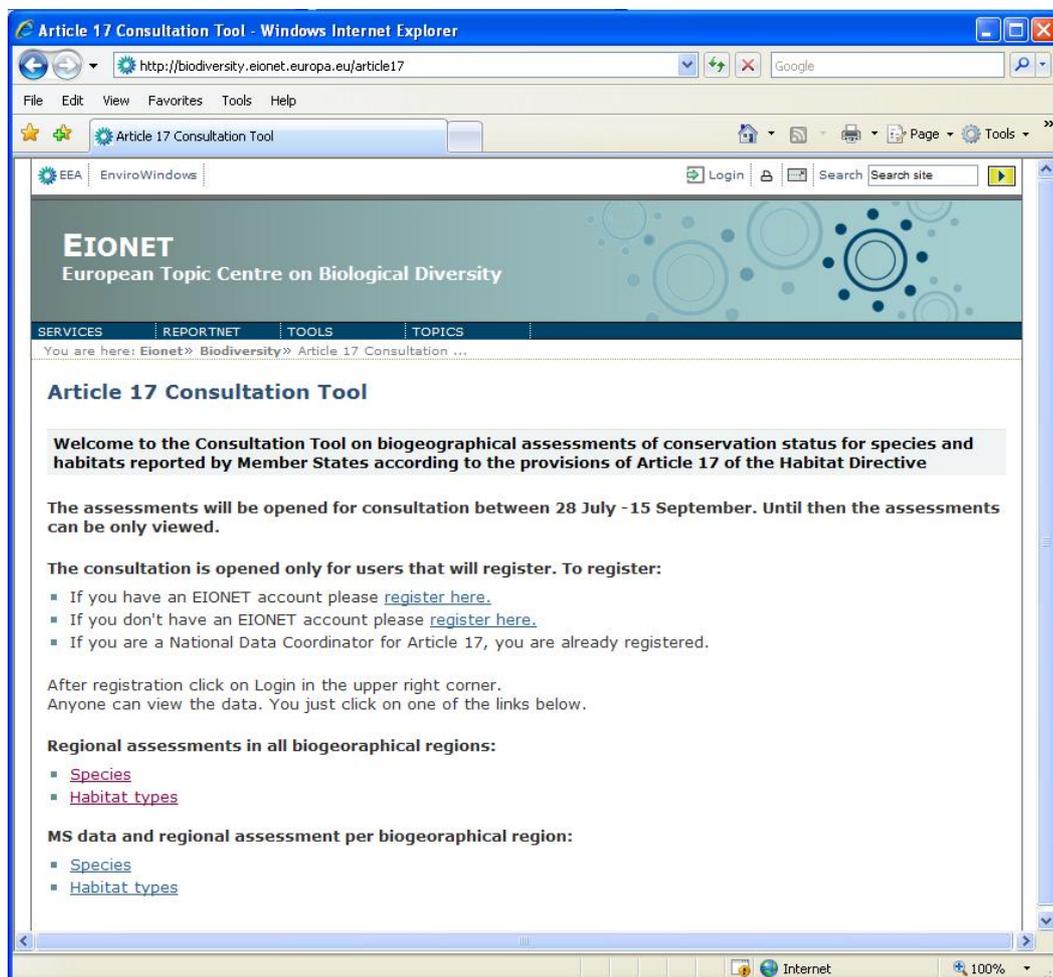
## **Presentation of Assessments and Public Consultation**

The assessments, both by countries and for the biogeographical regions are available to the public using a dedicated website designed by the ETC/BD and co-developed by the European Environment Agency at <http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>.

This website will also be used for the public consultation that will be open from **28 July until 15 September 2008** when it will be possible to comment on the regional assessments from the ETC/BD. Once the consultation period is finished the ETC/BD will revise the biogeographical assessments.

The use of the website is explained in further detail below.

The homepage of the Article 17 Consultation Tool is <http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>



## Viewing Data

Anybody is able to view the data as provided by Member States as well as the assessments that are finalised by the ETC/BD before the start of the consultation period.

All the assessments and the progress of ETC/BD work on assessing the conservation status at biogeographical level, can be seen under the link “Species/(habitat types) regional assessments in all bioregions”, that will open the following page:

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'speciesprogress' website. The page title is 'EIONET'. Below the navigation menu, there is a search bar and a 'Filter' button. The main content area contains a table with the following structure:

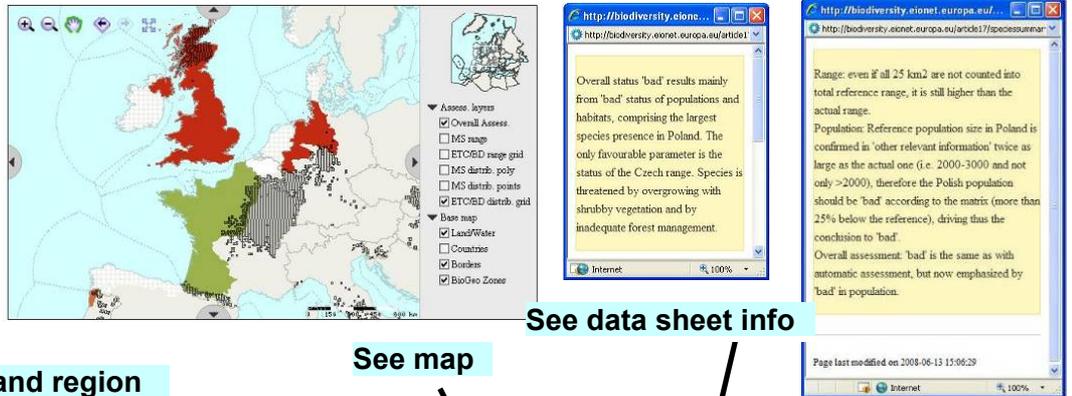
Species	Regions										
	ALP	ATL	BOR	CON	MAC	MED	PAN	MATL	MBAL	MMAC	MMED
Alopex lagopus	A 2XP 0 0 0										
Balaenoptera acutorostrata								A 2XR 0 0 0		A 2GR 0 0 0	
Balaenoptera borealis								A M00 0 0 0		A 2GR 0 0 0	
Balaenoptera edeni										A 2GR 0 0 0	
Balaenoptera musculus								A M00 0 0 0		A 2GR 0 0 0	
Balaenoptera physalus								A 2GR 0 0 0		A M0 0 0 0	A 2GR 0 0 0
Barbastella barbastellus	A 2GD 0 0 0	A 2XR 0 0 0	A 2GD 0 1 0	A 2GD 0 0 0	A M00 0 0 0	A 2GD 0 0 0		A 2GD 0 0 0			
Bison bonasus	A 2XP 0 0 0			A M00 0 0 0							
Canis aureus	A 2GD 0 0 0			A 2GD 0 0 0		A M00 0 0 0		A M00 0 0 0			
Canis lupus	A ?? 2GD 0 0 0	A M00 0 1 1	A 2XP 0 0 0	A 2GD 0 1 0		A 2GD 0 2 0		A M00 0 0 0			
Capra aegagrus						A 2XP 0 0 0					
Capra ibex	A 0										
Capra pyrenaica except Capra pyrenaica pyrenaica											
Castor fiber	A 0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0				
Cervus elaphus corsicanus						A 2XP 0 0 0					

A callout box on the right side of the table contains the text: "Select habitat/species group and conclusion".

By selecting a certain parameter (range, future prospects etc) for each species/habitat and corresponding biogeographical region the cell gives the assessment using the 'traffic light' colours. Many assessments were made automatically i.e. using algorithms that compute the assessments; these are marked with an 'A'. The assessments that have been reviewed or re-assessed by the ETC/BD are marked with 'OK'. After the consultation period, the final assessments will be marked with 'END'. The method retained for final assessment is indicated as well in a coded way.

By clicking on any cell in the above page the “Species/habitat type data and assessment per bioregion” page will be opened.

The page presents the conservation status of each of the four parameters together with some of the data used (and links to more) for each Member State together with automatic assessments for the region using different methods of combing the country reports (e.g. weighting by area/population, weighting by range, assessing the parameters separately or just combining the overall assessments). The webpage also shows the ETC-BD assessment with access to an 'audit trail' which justifies the final choice. There is an option to see the reports from the countries on a map.



Select habitat/species and region

See map

See data sheet info

See audit trail

Data from countries

Choose a group, then a species belonging to that group. Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available bioregions for that species. NOTE: The species that are belonging to the group 'Not assigned' are not Habitat Directive species.

Group... Name... Biogeo zone...  
 Plants Adenophora lilifolia Continental Filter Show map View data sheet info Audit trail

Current selection: Plants, Adenophora lilifolia, Continental. Annex: II\*, IV

MS	ETC/BD treated member states' data				Population				Habitat (km <sup>2</sup> )				Future prosp.	Overall assessm.	Grids spatial data (km <sup>2</sup> )				Quality			
	Surface	Range (km <sup>2</sup> )	%XR	Trend	Ref.	Size&Unit	%XP	Trend	Ref.	Area	%XH	Trend			Suitable	Range	%GR	Distribution	%GD	Range	Population	Habitat
CZ	528	1.4	=	528	400 - 550 indiv.	N/A	=	>5000	0.013	0	-	1	1	Peer	U2	1800	3.9	400	11.5	G (12/2006)	G (12/2006)	G (12/2006)
DE	272.79	0.7	=	447.79	2 - (2) loc.	N/A	+	25	84.88	76.4	=	811	1	Bad	U2	818	1.8	272	7.8	G (1990-2006)	G (1990-2006)	G (1990-2006)
PL	35800	97.7	-	>35800	1000 - 1500 indiv.	N/A	-	>2000	20	23.6	-	6000	1	Poor	U1-	43000	93.4	2600	74.9	P (2006)	P (2006)	P (2006)
SI	25	0.1	-	N/A	1 - (1)x	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	1	Bad	U2	400	0.9	200	5.8	P (2006)	P (2006)	P (2006)

Automatic assessments		Show
2GD	2GD	MTA

Manual Assessments																	
Surface	Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Size&Unit	Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Area	Concl.	Trend	Suitable	Future prosp.	Overall assessm.	Comments	Date	Name	Institution
3626	1	-	>36778	3 grids	2GD	-	>85	>85	2GD	-	>812	2GD	MTA	0.0	10/06	Andrej BACA	ILE SAS

Final regional assessment (shaded in blue) and registered users corrections (not highlighted)

On mouse over the text in blue

See automatic assessments (hidden by default)

**Adenophora lilifolia**  
 FRP - 5 000 - 10 000 individuals. There are fertile and sterile individuals counted. Long term viability could be affected by the absence of moving individuals. There are fertile and sterile individuals counted.  
 Click to open original report in a new window

1	36626	976	2 - 2 loc.	25	85	6812											
		>35800	1 - 1 x	>7000	1 N/A	1 N/A											
		1 N/A	1400 - 2050 indiv.	1 N/A													
2GD		11.5%FV			80.7%U1				80.7%U1			74.9%U1					86.4%U1
		80.7%U1			19.3%U2				19.3%U2			25.1%U2					13.6%U2
		7.8%U2															
3GD																	74.9%U1
																	25.1%U2
2XR		1.4%FV			97.8%U1				97.8%U1			97.7%U1					89.1%U1
		97.8%U1			2.1%U2				2.1%U2			2.2%U2					0.8%U2
		0.7%U2															
3XR																	97.7%U1
																	2.2%U2
2GR		3.9%FV			94.3%U1				94.3%U1			93.4%U1					97.3%U1
		94.3%U1			5.7%U2				5.7%U2			6.6%U2					2.7%U2
		1.8%U2															
3GR																	93.4%U1
																	6.6%U2

## Commenting the Biogeographical Assessments

Any user can view the data, but only registered users can insert comments during consultation period. Registration process is described in [Annex 1](#).

From **28 July until 15 September 2008** registered users will be able to comment on the following issues:

1. The biogeographical assessments at the EU level as assessed by the ETC/BD
2. The Member States biogeographical assessments as reported by MS
3. The text from the data sheet info.

Any registered user is allowed to add only one record (for each assessment and type of comment), edit his/her records, mark own records for deletion and undelete own records. The registered users are not able to delete their own records, but just to mark them as deleted; therefore, inserting a new record should be made only when the user knows exactly what he/she wants to write.

### How to comment on the biogeographical assessment at the EU level assessed by the ETC/BD?

1. Verify that under the heading "MS/EU" the value "EU25" (default choice) is selected
2. Insert a CORRECTION by filling ONLY the fields that are considered to be wrong and that differs from ETC/BD ones. For example, if the conclusion on population assessed by ETC/BD as 'U2' is considered wrong, you may select for example 'U1' from the drop down list. You will not be allowed to insert the same values as those inserted by ETC/BD
3. Click the "Add" button

1. Verify that EU25 is selected

2. Select values

3. Click to add

MS/EU	Surface	Method	Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Size	Unit	Method	Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Area	Method	Concl.	Trend	Suitable	Method	Concl.	Method	Concl.	
EU25																					

MS/EU	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Size&Unit	Population Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Area	Habitat Concl.	Trend	Suitable	Future prosp.	Overall assesm.	Comments	Date	Name	Institution
EU 25	36626	1	-	>36776	34 grids	260			>85	260	-	>8812	260	U1		10/08	Andrej BACA	

4. Insert a text in **ENGLISH** in the window that will be opened. The text should contain the

Comments

[Add a comment](#)

No comments were added

[Start of the comments](#)

[Add comment](#)

Comment:

The automatic assessment for sub-conclusion on population is correct as sub-conclusions provided by the MS are credible, just the reference population provided by the member state X is overestimated.

(Comment textarea: Increase size | Decrease size |)

explanation of why the EU assessment performed by ETC/BD is not correct. If no explanation is provided the comment will not be taken into consideration. As an example, you may give an explanation like *'The automatic assessment for sub-conclusion on population seems correct as sub-conclusions provided by the Member States are reliable, but the favourable reference population provided by the Member State X seems overestimated'*

5. Click the 'Submit' button

4. provide an explanation

6. If necessary, click on the text '1/1' to see your comment, to change it or to mark it as deleted

Manual Assessments																		
MS/EU	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Size&Unit	Pop. Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Area	Habitat Concl.	Trend	Suitable	Future prosp.	Overall asses.	Comments	Date	Name	Institution
EU 25	36626	1	-	>36776	34 grids	2GD			>85	2GD	-	>8812	2GD	MTA		10/06	Andrej BACA	
EU 25						2GD									delete edit 1/1	11/06	User XXX	

7. If necessary, click on text 'edit' or 'delete' to change or delete your proposed correction.

## How to comment on the biogeographical assessment at MS level as provided by MS?

A registered user may comment on a biogeographical assessment at the MS level if this is influencing the EU biogeographical assessment.

The process is similar to that described above, except for step 1. To comment on a specific Member State select its two digit code under the heading 'MS/EU' (instead of the default value 'EU25')

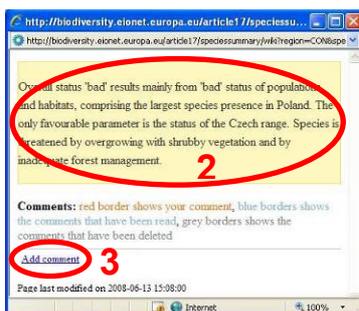
Important note for Member States' National Data Coordinators: you may use this functionality to indicate (and correct) any possible mistakes in the original data reported in Reportnet. You may use the final QA/QC report to track such errors.

## How to comment the text from the data sheet information?

Anybody can view the audit trail and the text inserted by ETC/BD in the data sheet information, but only registered users are able to comment that text or to propose new formulations. No comment regarding the assessment should be done here.

Choose a group, then a species belonging to that group. Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available bioregions for that species.  
NOTE: The species that are belonging to the group 'Not assigned' are not Habitat Directive species.

Group...  Name...  Biogeog. zone...



To comment the 'data sheet info'

1. Click the "View data sheet info" button
2. Read the text inserted by ETC/BD
3. Click the 'Add comment' button
4. Write your comment
5. Click the "Submit" button
6. You may edit your comment or mark it as deleted

## ***Annex 1 - Registration***

Anybody is able to view data without being registered. But only registered users are able to comment on the biogeographical assessment at the regional level as assessed by ETC/BD and to comment on MS reports if relevant for the EU assessment.

The consultation is running between 28 July and 15 September 2008.

Important: All the National Data Coordinators for the Article17 delivery will be registered with their EIONET account so there is no need for them to register again for the consultation. The National Data Coordinators may insert comments before consultation period to highlight possible mistakes in their data.

To register:

- Go the Article 17 web page <http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>
- Click on the button 'Register'
- Fill and submit the registration form
- An e-mail will be sent to the address provided by the user: click on the confirmation link in the body of the email
- If the user is already registered as user of EIONET, then it is just necessary to fill in a simplified form where the username and password need to be provided

On 15 September the consultation will be closed and all the interested parties will be notified by email that the consultation period was finished.

## **Annex 2 - Additional explanation on how Member States data was processed and the biogeographical assessments made by the ETC/BD**

The Article 17 website gives direct access to the core data used for the biogeographical assessments and provides a link – by clicking the MS code – to access the original reports stored in the Common Data Repository (CDR - <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/>). In the CDR all the data is stored in the form of XML files for non spatial data and GML files for the spatial information on range and distribution.

In order to ensure data integrity, to harmonise data and to allow computation, the ETC/BD performed certain modifications to the data as supplied by the MS as follows:

- All text inserted in numerical fields was deleted and treated as information not provided or unknown
- For population (species), any units reported as unknown ('X') that could be referred to one of the agreed categories were changed
- All reference values were filled with the actual values as well if only the qualifiers (~, >, >>, <) were provided
- If only the minimum or maximum values for species population was provided the other value was filled with the same number and enclosed in parenthesis
- All the habitats and species that were reported or identified as occasional, marginal, vagrant, errors, etc were indicated as such and not taken into account when performing the biogeographical assessment at regional level. All these records are shown in light grey text.
- For all the marine species or habitats that were reported as terrestrial or vice-versa, the biogeographical/marine regions were changed accordingly
- For all species that were reported under another name than the one listed in the Annexes of the Habitats Directive, the names were changed
- All species that were reported and are not listed in the Annexes of the Directive were not taken into account
- All the spatial data was generalised into national 10x10 km grids or similar (e.g.: 11.3 x 11.1 km) in order to obtain a quasi-homogenous European distribution for species and habitats and allow calculations based on spatial data on distribution and range; the surface of the grid cells was estimated in square kilometres
- For each MS and parameter the percentage of MS contribution (weight) was calculated using different data sources to allow experts using the most suitable one for the biogeographical assessments
  - The following codes were used:
    - 'X' data from XML file (non-spatial data)
    - 'G' data from GML file (spatial data)
    - 'R' data from Range
    - 'P' data from Population
    - 'H' data from habitat area of species
    - 'A' data from surface area of habitat
    - 'D' data from distribution area.
  - Coding of the weighting method (as shown in the website) is given below:
    - %XR - the percentage of range was computed from non-spatial data
    - %XP - the percentage of population was computed from non-spatial data

- %XH - the percentage of habitat area of the species computed from non-spatial data
- %XA - the percentage of the surface area of the habitat computed from non-spatial data
- %GR - the percentage of range computed from the gridded spatial data
- %GD - the percentage of the area of the distribution computed from the gridded spatial data

A series of quality control were performed on both the first and second deliveries from the MS. All the data that has some possible problems or is erroneous is shown in blue text in the website. Placing the mouse over that blue text pops-up a message explaining the possible problem.

Similarly, putting the mouse over the initials of the MS (if highlighted in blue) shows

- The species name as reported by the MS
- The complementary information provided by MS (and a machine translation if available)
- The status of the species/habitats: occasional, marginal, vagrant, etc.

### Annex 3 - Assessing conservation status of a Species

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	<b>Favourable ('green')</b>	<b>Unfavourable - Inadequate ('amber')</b>	<b>Unfavourable - Bad ('red')</b>	<b>Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)</b>
<b>Range</b>	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing <u>AND</u> not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS  <u>OR</u> more than 10% below favourable reference range	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Population</b>	Population(s) above 'favourable reference population' <u>AND</u> reproduction, mortality and age structure not deviating from normal (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS <u>AND</u> below 'favourable reference population'  <u>OR</u> More than 25% below favourable reference population  <u>OR</u> Reproduction, mortality and age structure strongly deviating from normal (if data available)	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Habitat for the species</b>	Area of habitat is sufficiently large (and stable or increasing) <u>AND</u> habitat quality is suitable for the long term survival of the species	Any other combination	Area of habitat is clearly not sufficiently large to ensure the long term survival of the species  <u>OR</u> Habitat quality is bad, clearly not allowing long term survival of the species	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Future prospects</b> (as regards to population, range and habitat availability)	Main pressures and threats to the species not significant; species will remain viable on the long-term	Any other combination	Severe influence of pressures and threats to the species; very bad prospects for its future, long-term viability at risk.	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Overall assessment of CS</b>	<b>All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'</b>	<b>One or more 'amber' but no 'red'</b>	<b>One or more 'red'</b>	<b>Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all "unknown"</b>

### Annex 4 - Assessing conservation status of a Habitat type

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	<b>Favourable ('green')</b>	<b>Unfavourable – Inadequate ('amber')</b>	<b>Unfavourable - Bad ('red')</b>	<b>Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)</b>
<b>Range</b>	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing <u>AND</u> not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decrease: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS <u>OR</u> More than 10% below 'favourable reference range'	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Area covered by habitat type within range</b>	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing <u>AND</u> not smaller than the 'favourable reference area' <u>AND</u> without significant changes in distribution pattern within range (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decrease in surface area: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS <u>OR</u> With major losses in distribution pattern within range <u>OR</u> More than 10% below 'favourable reference area'	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Specific structures and functions (including typical species)</b>	Structures and functions (including typical species) in good condition and no significant deteriorations / pressures.	Any other combination	More than 25% of the area is unfavourable as regards its specific structures and functions (including typical species)	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Future prospects (as regards range, area covered and specific structures and functions)</b>	The habitats prospects for its future are excellent / good, no significant impact from threats expected; long-term viability assured.	Any other combination	The habitats prospects are bad, severe impact from threats expected; long-term viability not assured.	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Overall assessment of CS</b>	<b>All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'</b>	<b>One or more 'amber' but no 'red'</b>	<b>One or more 'red'</b>	<b>Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all "unknown"</b>