



HABITATS DIRECTIVE ARTICLE 17 REPORT (2001 – 2006)

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEMBER STATE ASSESSMENTS

This paper is part of the web-based Article 17 Technical Report (2001-2006)
<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>
compiled by the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity for the
European Commission (DG Environment)

DISCLAIMER:

The contents of this paper do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Environment Agency, the European Commission or other European Communities institutions.

ETC/BD, Paris, 2008

Introduction to the Member State's assessments

The assessments made by Member States

Article 17 of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States prepare reports on the implementation of the Directive following an agreed format and submit it to the European Commission every six years. The second report on the implementation measures covering the period 2001-2006 was submitted by the Member States in 2007. The Article 17 reports from the Member States comprise a general report and separate reports for each of the habitats and species of Community interest. A detailed description of the reporting format can be found in the Explanatory notes & guidelines

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/guidlines_reporting/notesguidelines_2/ EN 1.0 &a=d.

Member State's reports are stored in the Central Data Repository (CDR) which can be accessed through

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/ms-reports_2001-2006&vm=detailed&sb=Title

The Member States' reports can also be viewed using the web tool (<http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17>). The web tool was developed to present the Member states assessment and to facilitate assessments for the biogeographical and marine regions. The web tool does not present the complete Member State reports and some topics, for example pressures and threats, can only be viewed through the CDR. The main focus of the web tool is on the assessment of conservation status.

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

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

The overall assessment is made by combining the result for the four parameters. The method is described in more detail in the Explanatory notes & guidelines mentioned above.

The data provided by Member States were harmonised in order to produce the biogeographical assessment. A unique name was used for every species or other taxa reported, although in some cases the species names reported by the Member States differed. This was the name used in the annexes to the Directive wherever possible although this is not possible for species groups, such as

Cetacea or *Barbus* spp. All the marine species were assigned to one or more of the Marine Regions, although in some cases they were reported in the adjacent terrestrial regions. This is described in more detail in the Checklist – Explanatory note, http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/ms-reports_checklists/explanatory_timepdf/ EN_1.0_&a=d.

The spatial information was harmonised using 10 x 10 km or equivalent grid.

In the web tool the Member State assessments can be filtered by habitat/species group, country and biogeographical region (Figure 1). After applying the filter the page similar to one at the Figure 1 appears listing the habitats/ species fulfilling the filter criteria. Numbers shown under '%XR' and '%XA' are weightings derived from Member States data (XML files) while numbers under 'Gridded maps' ('%GR' and '%GD') are derived from maps prepared by the ETC/BD after harmonising Member State maps; these weightings were used for biogeographical assessments.

If the Member State provided additional comment to their report in the field 'other relevant information', the habitat/species name is shown in blue and the additional information can be viewed after placing the mouse over the name. Harmonised range and distribution maps can be viewed by clicking on the 'map' button.

The screenshot shows the EIONET web tool interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'SERVICES', 'REPORTNET', 'TOOLS', and 'TOPICS'. Below this, a search filter is applied: 'Group...' is set to 'coastal habitats', 'Country...' is set to 'Portugal', and 'Bio-region...' is empty. A 'Filter' button is visible. Below the filter, the current selection is shown as 'coastal habitats, Portugal, All biogeo zones.' The main content area displays a table titled 'ETC/BD treated member states' data'. The table has columns for Habitat, Bio, Range (km²), Area (km²), Struct. & Future, Overall asses., Gridded maps (km²), and Quality. The table contains several rows of data, with some cells highlighted in blue to indicate relevant information on mouse over.

Habitat	Bio	Range (km ²)				Area (km ²)				Struct. & Future	Overall asses.	Gridded maps (km ²)				Quality		
		Surface	%XR	Trend	Ref.	Surface	%XA	Trend	Ref.			Range	%GR	Distrib.	%GD	Range	Coverage	
1110 - Sandbanks slightly covered by sea water all time	MATL	6639.8	5.4	=	-6639.8	N/A	N/A	=	~	XX	XX	XX	10200	5.7	3300	3.5	P (1994-2006)	0
1110 - Sandbanks slightly covered by sea water all time	MMAC	94.5	34.1	X	-94.5	0.189	0.1	X	~0.189	FV	FV	XX	300	100	200	3.8	P (1995)	P (1995)
1130 - Estuaries	ATL	802.6	2.1	=	-802.6	N/A	N/A	-	>	XX	XX	XX	1200	1.3	1200	1.5	P (1994-2006)	0
1130 - Estuaries	MED	3838	63.2	=	-3838	N/A	N/A	-	>	U1	XX	U1	5400	40	5000	51.5	M (1994-2006)	0
1140 - Mudflats/sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	ATL	483	0.9	-	-483	N/A	N/A	=	>	U1	U1	U1	900	0.6	900	0.7	G (1994-2006)	0
1140 - Mudflats/sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	MAC	94.55	100	X	-94.55	0.189	100	X	~0.189	FV	FV	XX	N/A	100	100	100	P (1995)	P (1995)
1140 - Mudflats/sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	MED	4789	76.3	-	-4789	N/A	N/A	=	>	U2	U1	U2	7000	80.5	6700	62.6	G (1994-2006)	0

Figure 1 - Presentation of the Member State's assessments in the Article 17 web tool

Consultation process

A public consultation was held from 28 July to 15 September 2008 allowing for comments on both the Member State and biogeographical assessments. More detail about the consultation can be found in a document produced to help participants¹.

Comments on the Member State assessments for habitats can be viewed at:

http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17/progress_summary/habitat.html

Comments on the Member State assessments for species can be viewed at:

http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17/progress_summary/index.html

National Summaries and Checklists

Some general statistics on the main reporting topics per Member State are given in the series of documents called National Summaries. These primarily focus on the Member State assessment of the conservation status but also include some statistics about habitats and species present in the Member State, the number of Sites of Community Importance and Special Areas of Conservation, and data quality.

More information about the structure of the National summaries can be found in an Explanatory Note²:

The statistics in the National Summary were produced based on all habitats/species that were considered as being present in the MS or being extinct (probably extinct) after the Habitat Directive came into force in the MS or being temporarily disappeared due to natural population dynamics. Marginal habitats, Vagrant or occasional species and as well species extinct before Habitat Directive came into force, or introduced species were not taken into account in the National Summaries statistics

The National Summaries for each Member state can be consulted at:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/ms-reports_summaries&vm=detailed&sb=Title

Information was extracted from the 'other information' field in the Member States reports or other additional files provided by some Member States. Based on this information, Checklists of reported habitats and species were produced for each Member State. These Checklists contain a list of the habitats and species reported by Member State with an indication of its conservation status. The Checklists for each Member State can be consulted at:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/ms-reports_checklists&vm=detailed&sb=Title

¹ Article 17 reporting consultation on the Conservation status of habitats & species
http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17/Art%2017_consultation_notes.pdf

² Article 17 Report – National Summaries Explanatory Note
http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/habitats_reporting/reporting_2001-2007/ms-reports_summaries/explanatory-note.pdf/ EN 1.0 &a=d