Maculinea nausithous

Annex	II, IV
Priority	No
Species group	Arthropods
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian

The Dusky Large Blue (*Maculinea nausithous*) occurs on damp, moderately nutrient-rich grassland and rough vegetation. The butterflies are usually found on or near the foodplant Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*). Having lived on the flowerheads of this plant for a few weeks, the small caterpillars go down to the ground, in order to be carried away usually by workers of the ant *Myrmica rubra* to an ant nest. There, they remain feeding on ant grubs, hibernating and pupating in the early summer. The newly-emerged butterflies leave the nest. The Dusky Large Blue is one of the most specialized of the "ant blues" being most adapted to one species of host ant. Populations using *Myrmica scabrinodis* as the main host ant are extremely rare and probably confined to the edge of the range or to east Europe. The Romanian populations belong to the subspecies *kijevensis* and prefer *Myrmica scabrinodis* as host ant.
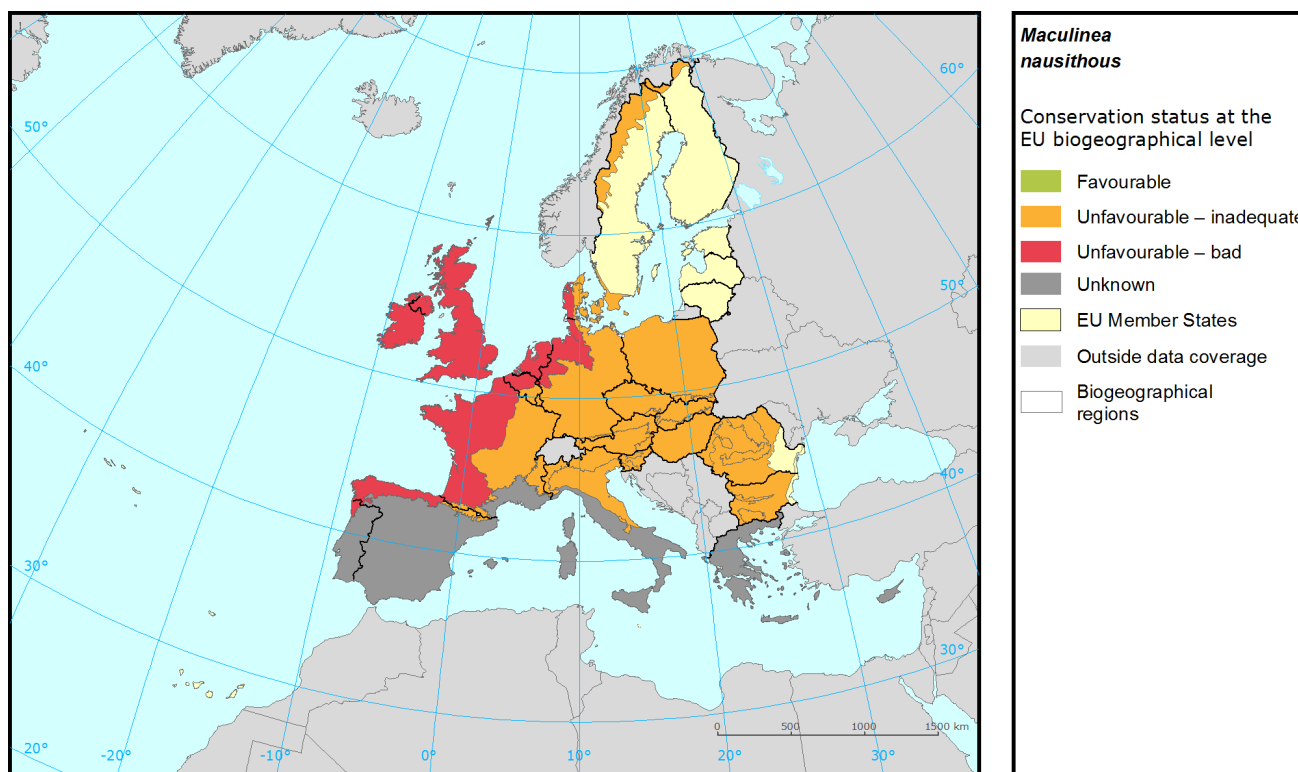
The conservation status is unfavourable-inadequate in Alpine, Pannonian (both same as previous) and Continental (improving from unfavourable-bad), unfavourable-bad in Atlantic region (same as previous) and unknown in Mediterranean bioregion (previous unfavourable-bad).

IUCN Red List Status Europe: Near threatened, EU: Near threatened, worldwide: Lower Risk/near threatened. The species is listed on the Habitats Directive Annexes 2 and 4. Main threats on a European scale come from agricultural improvements (like drainage) and abandonment, and to a lesser extent, intensification of hay cutting. As the species also occurs a lot along road verges, changes to the roads and the management of the verges can have a negative impact as well.

Species: *Maculinea nausithous*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

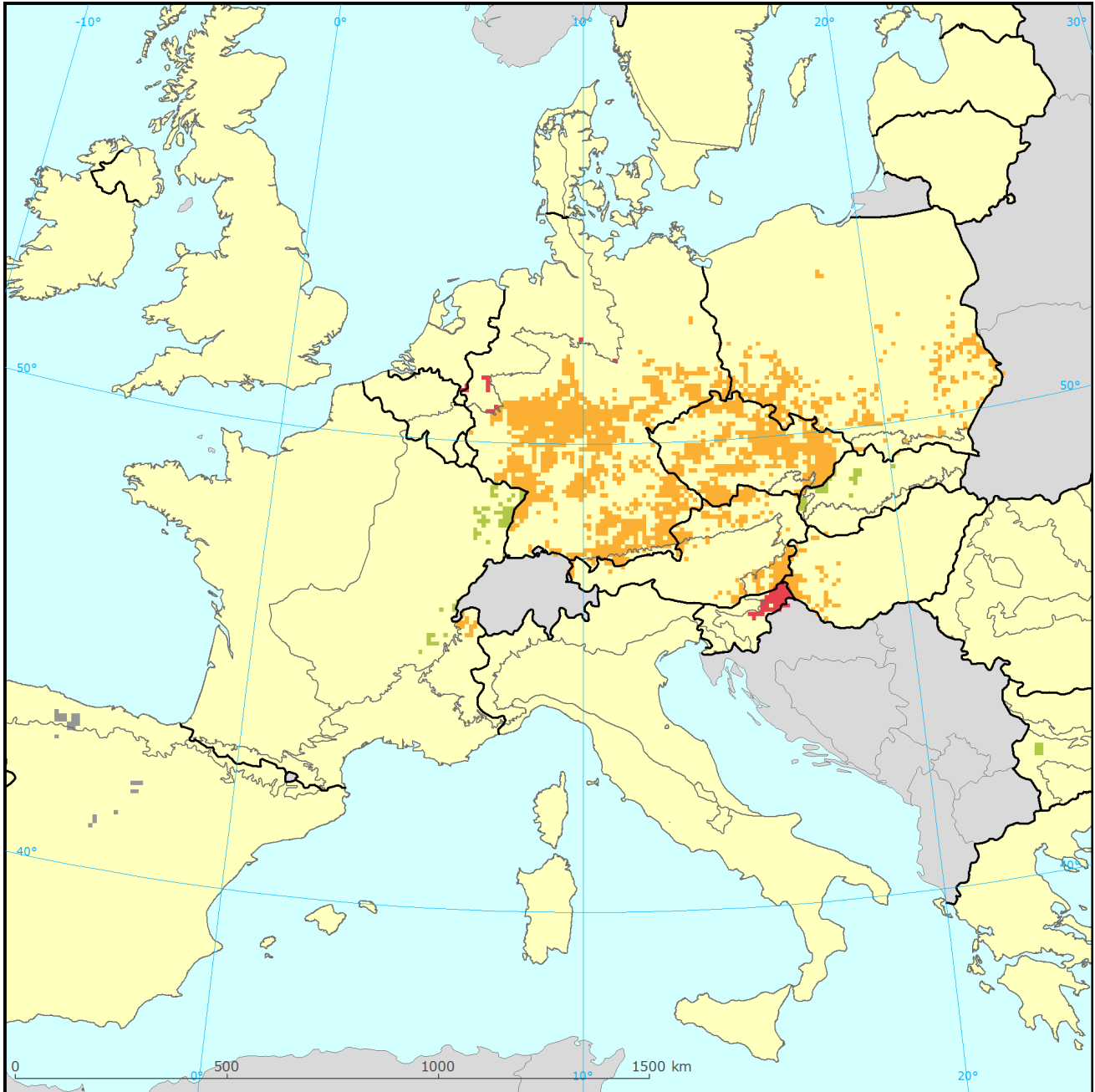## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

Maculinea nausithous

Conservation status at the EU biogeographical level

- Favourable
- Unfavourable – inadequate
- Unfavourable – bad
- Unknown
- EU Member States
- Outside data coverage
- Biogeographical regions

Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	5	U1	
ATL	U2	U2	U2	XX	U2	-	1	U2	
CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	90	U2	Not genuine
MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	0.56	U2	Not genuine
PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	3	U1	

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level

Maculinea nausithous

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

🟩 Favourable		⬜ EU Member States	
🟧 Unfavourable – inadequate		⬜ Outside data coverage	
🟥 Unfavourable – bad		⬜ Biogeographical region	
⬜ Unknown			

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

Species: *Maculinea nausithous*
Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
AT	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	33.7	U1	Changed method
DE	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	23.9	FV	Better data
FR	ALP	U1	XX	XX	U1	U1	=	14.1	U2	Genuine
PL	ALP	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	x	7.6	XX	Changed method
SK	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		20.7	U2	Better data
DE	ATL	U2	U2	U2	U1	U2	=	42.9	U2	
ES	ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		53.6	XX	
NL	ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	3.6	U2	Genuine
AT	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	6.3	U1	Changed method
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.3		
CZ	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	22.2	U2	Better data
DE	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	50.3	U1	Genuine
FR	CON	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		3.2	U2	Genuine
PL	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	15.3	U1	
RO	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
SI	CON	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	2.3	U2	Genuine
ES	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		100.0	U2	Changed method
CZ	PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	14.1	U2	Better data
HU	PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	76.6	U1-	
SK	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		9.4	U1	Better data

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the Article 17 Reference Portal. Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance'; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	21
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	18
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	13
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	8
A01	Agricultural cultivation	5
A04	Grazing by livestock	5
A09	Irrigation in agriculture	5
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	5
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	5
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	3

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	26
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	13
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	11
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	11
A04	Grazing by livestock	8
A09	Irrigation in agriculture	5
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	5
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	5
A01	Agricultural cultivation	3
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	3

Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report the population size within the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of species population covered by the network was estimated by comparing the population size within the network and the total population size in the biogeographical/marine region.

Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region

	ALP	ATL	CON	MED	PAN
AT	14		47		
BG			1		
CZ			52		80
DE	58	12	54		
ES		88		21	
FR	x		x		
HU					85
NL		92			
PL	0		67		
RO			100		
SI			100		
SK	32				0

See the endnotes for more information[ii]

Most frequently reported conservation measures

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this species using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 17 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many species there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	24
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	22
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	16
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	11
2.2	Adapting crop production	5
6.4	Manage landscape features	5
7.0	Other species management measures	5
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	3
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	3
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	3

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at: http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/species/summary/?group=Arthropods&period=3&subject=Maculinea+nausithous

[i]**Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level:** Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the species population occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.

[ii]**Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region:** In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the species population and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece. The values are only provided for regions, in which the occurrence of the species has been reported by the Member States.