Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Period 2007-2012

**European Environment
Agency**
*European Topic Centre
on Biological Diversity*

Sabanejewia aurata

Annex	II
Priority	No
Species group	Fish
Regions	Alpine, Black Sea, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic

The Golden Spined Loach is a freshwater fish occurring on the Danube, Kamchiya and other rivers flowing into the Black Sea, and rivers flowing into the Aegean Sea; it occurs mainly in the upper and middle reaches of rivers.

Its conservation status in the Alpine region is 'unfavourable-inadequate' and deteriorating with unknown range, population and habitat trends; however, its conservation status is 'favourable' in Slovenia. Main pressures are sand and gravel extraction, canalisation and water deviation and reduction of habitat connectivity (dams, weirs).

In the Black Sea region its status is also 'unfavourable-inadequate' and deteriorating with negative range, population and habitat trends. Main pressures are removal of sediments, canalisation and water deviation and reduction of habitat connectivity (dams, weirs).

Its conservation status in the Steppic region is 'unfavourable-inadequate' with negative population trends. Main pressures are reduction of habitat connectivity (dams, weirs) and modification of hydrographic conditions.

In the Pannonian region it is 'unfavourable-inadequate' and deteriorating with negative range, population and habitat trends; however, its conservation status is 'favourable' in Hungary. Main pressures are removal of sediments, canalisation and water deviation and reduction of habitat connectivity (dams, weirs).

Its conservation status in the Continental region is 'unfavourable-inadequate' and deteriorating with declining range, and unknown population and habitat trends; however, its conservation status is 'favourable' in Slovenia and 'unfavourable-bad' in Austria and the Czech Republic. Data from Germany corresponds to *Sabanejewia baltica* and from the Czech Republic to *Sabanejewia balcanica* (population size is highly variable, which suggests the species occurs only marginally and depends on the state of the source population in River Vlára in Slovakia). Main pressures are small hydropower projects (weirs), sand and gravel extraction, water pollution, shipping cargo lanes, canalisation and water deviation and reduction of habitat connectivity (dams, weirs).

Its conservation status in the Mediterranean region is 'favourable' on the basis of the 2001-2007 report from Greece.

In the Boreal region its conservation status is 'favourable'. Main pressures are pollution and urbanisation.

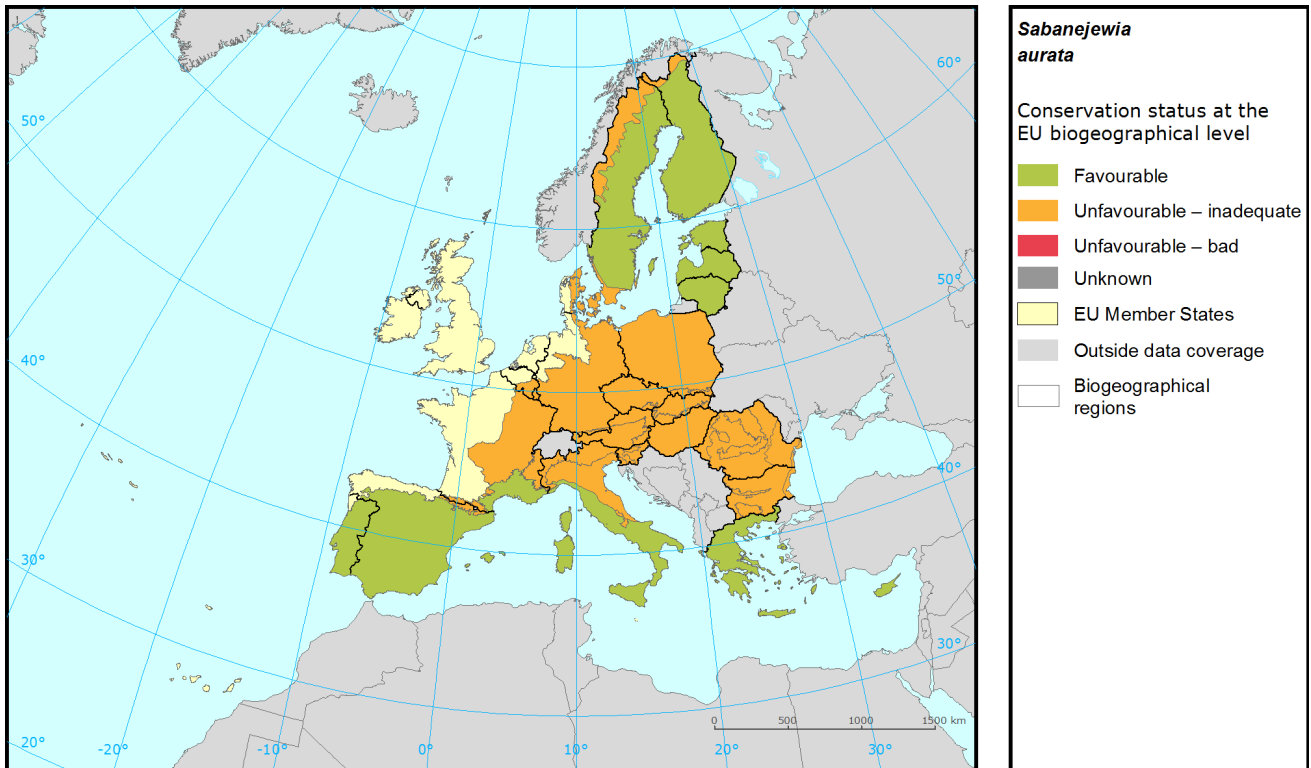The species is classified by IUCN as 'data deficient' http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/19793/0,

consulted on 18 April 2014).

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	15	XX	Not genuine
BLS	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	0.37	XX	Not genuine
BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	66	U1	
MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3	FV	
PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	10	FV	Not genuine
STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	5	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information[i]

Species: *Sabanejewia aurata*
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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level

Sabanejewia aurata

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: *Sabanejewia aurata*
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MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	63.4		
PL	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		1.4	FV	Changed method
RO	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	21.1		
SI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.9	U1	Better data
SK	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		10.2	XX	
RO	BLS	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	100.0		
LT	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0	XX	Better data
AT	CON	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	x	1.6	U2	Changed method
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	70.3		
CZ	CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	0.1	U2	Genuine
DE	CON	XX	FV	FV	XX	XX		0.1		
PL	CON	XX	XX	XX	FV	XX		3.6	XX	
RO	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	20.0		
SI	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.3	U1	Better data
GR	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0	FV	
HU	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		58.2	FV	
RO	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	23.7		
SK	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	18.0	XX	Better data
RO	STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	100.0		

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
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	45
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	30
C01	Mining and quarrying	15
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	5
H01	Pollution to surface waters	5

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	48
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	38
B03	Forest exploitation	5
D03	Shipping lanes and ports	5
H01	Pollution to surface waters	5

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	BLS	BOR	CON	PAN	STE
AT				50		
BG	60			30		
CZ				100		
DE				100		
HU					90	
LT			100			
PL	14			10		
RO	100	100		100	100	100
SI	100			33		
SK	32				69	

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
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	32
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	21
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	18
7.2	Regulation/ Management of fishery in limnic systems	9
4.3	Managing water abstraction	6
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	6
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	3
6.0	Other spatial measures	3
8.2	Specific management of traffic and energy transport systems	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=Fish&period=3&subject=Sabanejewia+aurata

[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.