



## Castor fiber

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<b>Annex</b>	II, IV, V
<b>Priority</b>	No
<b>Species group</b>	Mammals
<b>Regions</b>	Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian

The Eurasian beaver populations extend from France across central and eastern Europe to European Russia, and in Scandinavia and parts of western Finland. Reintroductions have enabled the beaver to return to much of its former range where overhunting reduced its numbers and range by the beginning of the 20th century. Beavers are adapted for a semi-aquatic life, using a variety of freshwater systems, including rivers, streams, irrigation ditches, lakes and swamps.

Conservation status is Favourable in all regions except the Atlantic region. Nevertheless many countries report threats or pressures of high importance.

In the Atlantic region where the population may be well over 6 000 individuals, the conservation status is Unfavourable-Inadequate but increasing trend in the overall conservation status. Status was Unfavourable-Inadequate also in 2001-2006. Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands report major threats or pressures namely flooding modifications, removal of forest undergrowth, modifying of inland water courses, roads and motorways, restructuring agricultural land holding, hunting and poaching and anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity.

Conservation status in the Continental region stays Favourable (with stable trend in conservation status). However, most countries report threats or pressures of high importance such as habitat modification (canalisation, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes etc), drying out, hunting or poaching, death or injury by collision, use of biocides, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, intensive sheep or goat grazing and vandalism. France and Romania report that Favourable Reference Population should be less than current day minimum value. The Continental population may be over 100 000 individuals, Poland hosting the biggest population.

In the Boreal region the conservation status is Favourable as was also in 2001-2006. No major threats and pressures reported. However, Lithuania reports that favourable reference value is less than the current day value. The Boreal population may be up to 390 000 individuals, Sweden and Latvia hosting the biggest populations.

In the Alpine region (potentially more than 10 000 individuals) the conservation status is Favourable as was also in 2001-2006. However major threats or pressures are reported by some countries such as canalisation, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, antagonism with domestic animals, intensive goat or sheep grazing, sand and gravel quarries and predation. Sweden hosts 65% of the Alpine population.

In the Pannonian region the conservation status is Favourable as also in the previous reporting round. Dispute of this status, all other countries except Slovakia report major threats

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or pressures such as intensive goat or sheep grazing, modifying structures of inland water courses, antagonisms with domestic animals, disposal of industrial waste, natural inundation, hunting, use of biocides and pollution to surface waters by industrial plants. The population is up to 4 000 individuals.

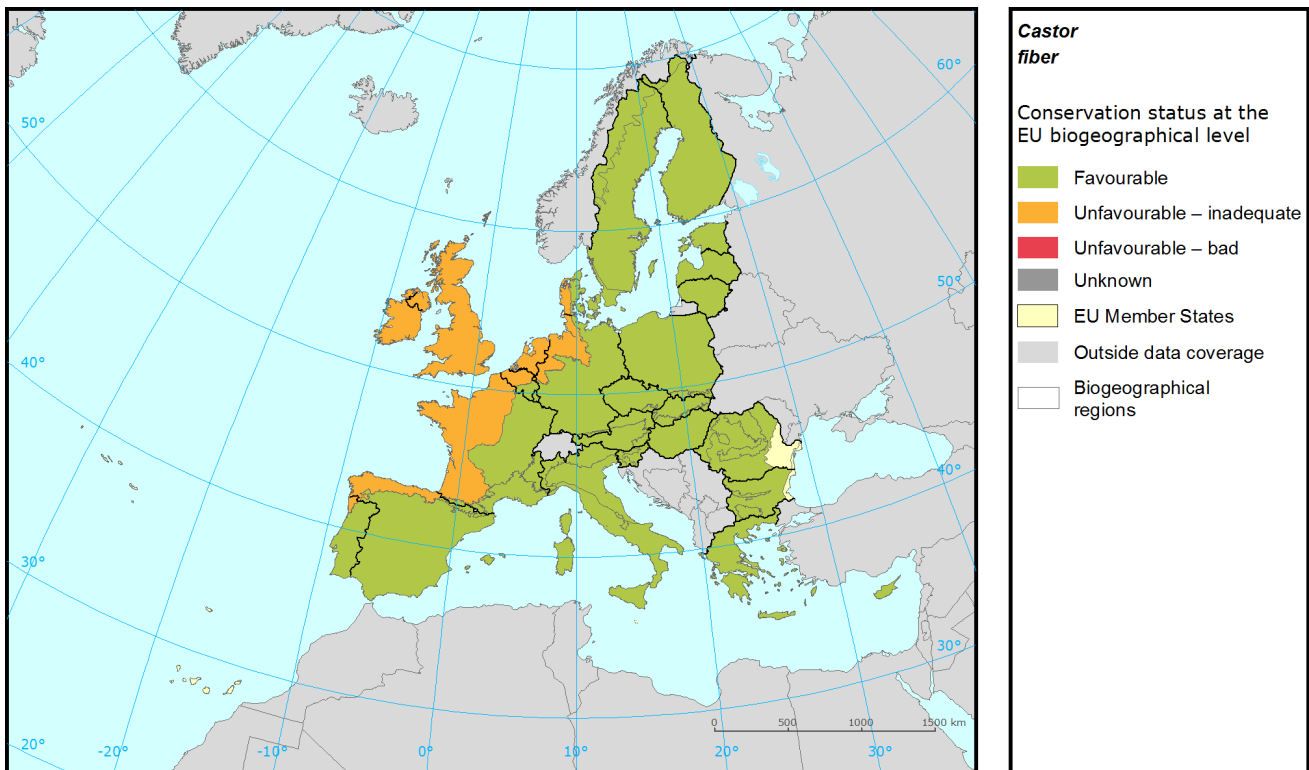
In the Mediterranean region (concerns France) the conservation status of Eurasian beaver is Favourable as also last time. No major threats or pressures reported. Population may be up to 50 000 individuals.

The species is assessed as 'Least Concern' in Europe by IUCN because of its good recovery across much of its range as a result of conservation programmes.

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## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



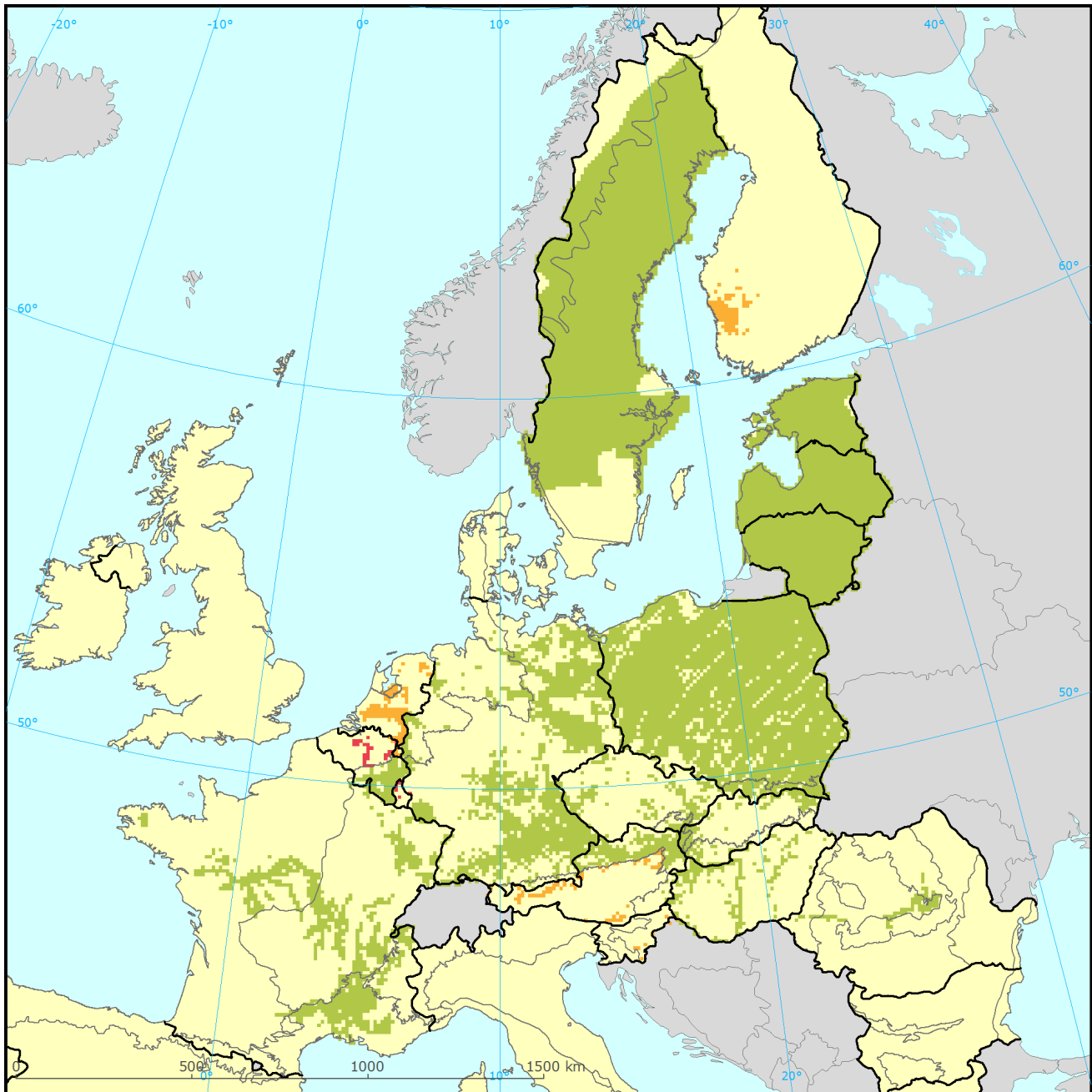
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	7	FV	
ATL	FV	U1	U1	FV	U1	+	4	U1	
BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	44	FV	
CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	41	U1	Genuine
MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	2	FV	
PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	2	FV	

See the endnote for more information<sup>i</sup>

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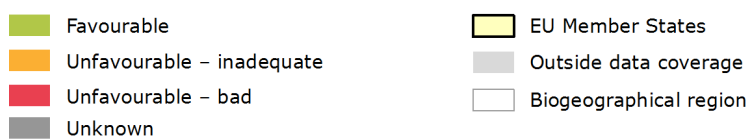
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## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



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Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level



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.

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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					
AT	ALP	U1	U1	FV	FV	U1	+	7.7	U1	Genuine
DE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.8	FV	
FR	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		6.3	FV	
PL	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		10.7	FV	
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.9		
SE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		64.6	FV	
SK	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.9	FV	
BE	ATL	FV	U2	U1	U1	U2	+	5.9	U2	Genuine
DE	ATL	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		23.1	U1	Genuine
FR	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		47.4	FV	
NL	ATL	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	+	23.6	U1	
EE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		9.5	FV	
FI	BOR	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	=	1.5	FV	Changed method
LT	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		13.6	FV	
LV	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		13.6	FV	
SE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		61.7	FV	
AT	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.4	FV	
BE	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV				
CZ	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.1	FV	
DE	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		25.3	U1	Genuine
FR	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.7	FV	
LU	CON	FV	U2	FV	FV	U2	+	0.1	U2	Genuine
PL	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		58.6	FV	
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.1		
SE	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.5	FV	
SI	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	+	0.2	U1+	
ES	MED									
FR	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0	FV	
CZ	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		6.4	FV	
HU	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		75.5	FV	
RO	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.4		
SK	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		15.7	FV	

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	26
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	10
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	10
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	10
A04	Grazing by livestock	7
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	7
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	5
H01	Pollution to surface waters	5
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	5
K01	Abiotic natural processes	5

#### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	31
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	11
A04	Grazing by livestock	8
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	6
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	6
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	6
H01	Pollution to surface waters	6
K01	Abiotic natural processes	6
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	3
C01	Mining and quarrying	3

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## 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	BOR	CON	MED	PAN
<b>AT</b>	10			34		
<b>BE</b>		51		68		
<b>CZ</b>				91		85
<b>DE</b>	71	x		57		
<b>EE</b>			x			
<b>FI</b>			x			
<b>FR</b>	x	x		x	x	
<b>HU</b>						100
<b>LT</b>			x			
<b>LU</b>				89		
<b>LV</b>			x			
<b>NL</b>		23				
<b>PL</b>	25			19		
<b>RO</b>	60			91		89
<b>SE</b>	x		x	x		
<b>SI</b>				60		
<b>SK</b>	42					23

See the endnotes for more information<sup>ii</sup>

### 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	33
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	12
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	8
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	8
8.2	Specific management of traffic and energy transport systems	8
6.4	Manage landscape features	6
7.0	Other species management measures	6
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	4
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	4
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	4

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=Mammals&period=3&subject=Castor+fiber>



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**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.