



Cricetus cricetus

Annex	IV, V
Priority	No
Species group	Mammals
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Pannonian, Steppic

The Common Hamster occurs from western Europe, through central and eastern Europe, all the way to the far east of Asia. Its original habitat was fertile steppe and grassland, but it has successfully spread into a variety of anthropogenic habitats including meadows, croplands (especially cereals), and field edges, road verges and scrubby fallow areas on farms. Major threats are modification of cultivation practices, use of pesticides, fertilisation, continuous urbanisation and habitats fragmentation.

Conservation status continues being Unfavourable-Bad (even with decreasing trend in conservation status) in the Atlantic region. All countries concerned (Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands) report all parameters as Unfavourable-Bad. Several threats and pressures are reported: agricultural intensification, crop change, restructuring agricultural land holding, reduced fecundity or genetic depression in animals, loss of specific habitat features, lack of connectivity, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures.

The conservation status in the Continental region has improved from Unfavourable-Bad to Unfavourable-Inadequate but trend is still declining. However, the improvement is largely due to Romanian population which is reported to be in Favourable status. Major threats are e.g. modification of cultivation practices, trapping, roads, use of pesticides, urbanisation and habitats fragmentation.

Conservation status in the Alpine region (Romania and Slovakia) is Unfavourable-Inadequate and it was the same in 2001-2006 (but concerned only Slovakia). Population size can be up to 8 000 individuals (maximum estimation). Romania where the species has Favourable conservation status reports threats or pressures of high importance like taking and removal of animals, change of grassland to arable land and agricultural intensification, removal of hedges or scrub, trapping or poisoning.

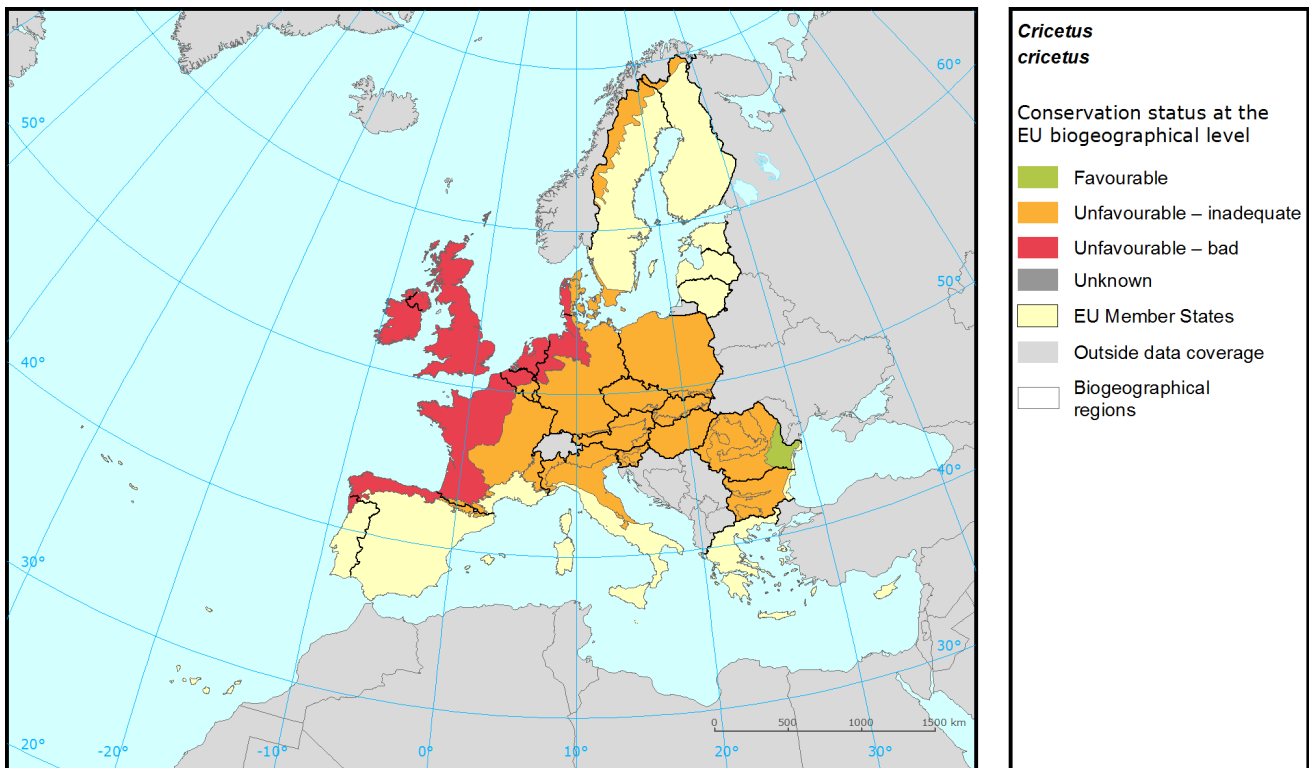
The conservation status in the Steppic region (Romania) is Favourable with stable trend in conservation status. But still agricultural intensification and trapping and poisoning is reported as high level threats and pressures. There are estimated to be up to 12 000 individuals in this region. In the Pannonian region the conservation status is Unfavourable-Inadequate and declining.

According to IUCN this species is still 'least concern' in Europe but population is declining.

Species: *Cricetus cricetus*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



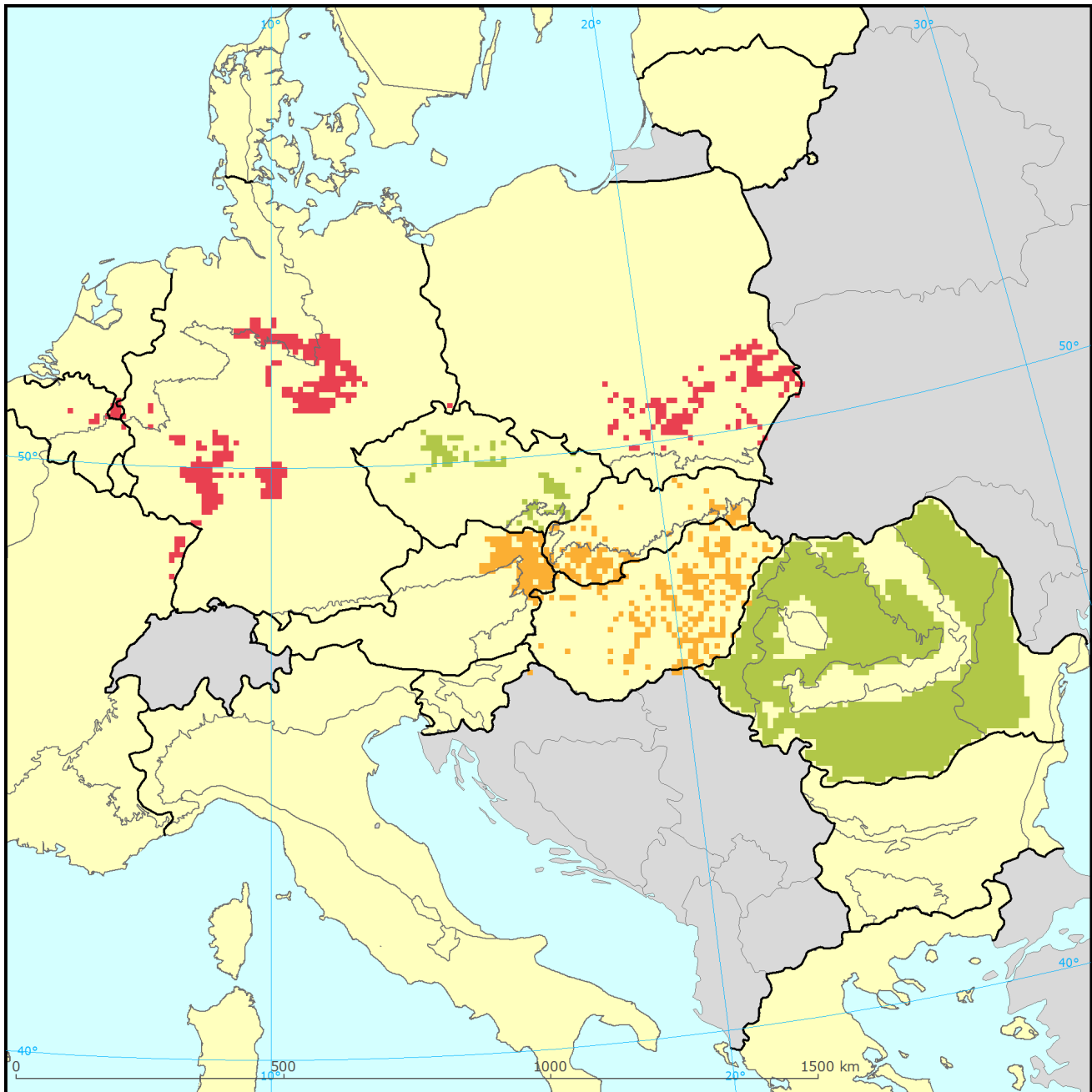
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	U1	U1	XX	U1	=	6	U1	
ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	2	U2	
CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	66	U2	Not genuine
PAN	U1	U1	U1	XX	U1	-	16	U1	
STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	9	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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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					
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		84.5		
SK	ALP	FV	U1	U1	XX	U1	=	15.5	U1	
BE	ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	9.1	U2	Genuine
DE	ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	80.0	U2	Genuine
NL	ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	+	10.9	U2	
AT	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	6.1	U1	
BG	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
CZ	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.2	FV	
DE	CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	13.0	U2	Genuine
FR	CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	0.6	U2	
PL	CON	U2	XX	U2	U2	U2	x	8.2	U2	
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		67.9		
SI	CON	XX	U1	XX	XX	U1	x	0.1	U1	
CZ	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.5	FV	
HU	PAN	U1	U1	U1	XX	U1	-	48.7	U1-	
RO	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		30.1		
SK	PAN	FV	U1	U1	XX	U1	+	18.7	U1+	
RO	STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		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.

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	29
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	15
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	10
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	10
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	10
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	10
A01	Agricultural cultivation	2
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	2
A11	Other agriculture activities	2
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	2

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	32
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	16
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	11
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	11
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	8
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	5
A01	Agricultural cultivation	3
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	3
A06	Crops of annuals & perennials (non-timber)	3
A11	Other agriculture activities	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=Mammals&period=3&subject=Cricetus+cricetus>

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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.