



## Lepus timidus

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

The Mountain (or Arctic) Hare is widely spread from Fennoscandia to large parts of Asia. In addition there are also populations in Ireland, Scotland, the Baltics and Poland. It inhabits open landscapes such as steppe, tundra and taiga particularly dominated by pine, birch, and juniper. Preferred habitats varies within its range. Mountain Hare is listed in the Annex V of the Habitats Directive.

In general the species is doing best in the Atlantic region and worst in the Boreal and Continental region.

In the Atlantic region (concerns Ireland and the United Kingdom) the conservation status is Favourable with stable trend in conservation status. There is an improvement to the previous reporting round when the status was Unfavourable-Inadequate. However still both countries report threats and pressures of high importance, namely intensive mowing or intensification, modification of cultivation practises, grazing or some particular forestry activities.

In the Continental region the conservation status is Unfavourable-Bad and negative trend in conservation status. The status was Unfavourable-Bad also in the previous reporting round. Several major threats or pressures are reported by Poland and Sweden, namely predation, roads or motorways, interspecific faunal relations, problematic native species, temperature changes and genetic pollution. Here the species is in the edges of its distribution within the EU and has same conservation status than in the adjacent regions.

The conservation status in the whole Alpine region is Unfavourable-Inadequate but with stable trend in conservation status. The status was most likely the same in the previous reporting round. Sweden hosts the biggest proportion of the Alpine population (50%) and its population is Favourable. Only Italy reports threats or pressures of high importance namely interspecific faunal competition and temperature changes.

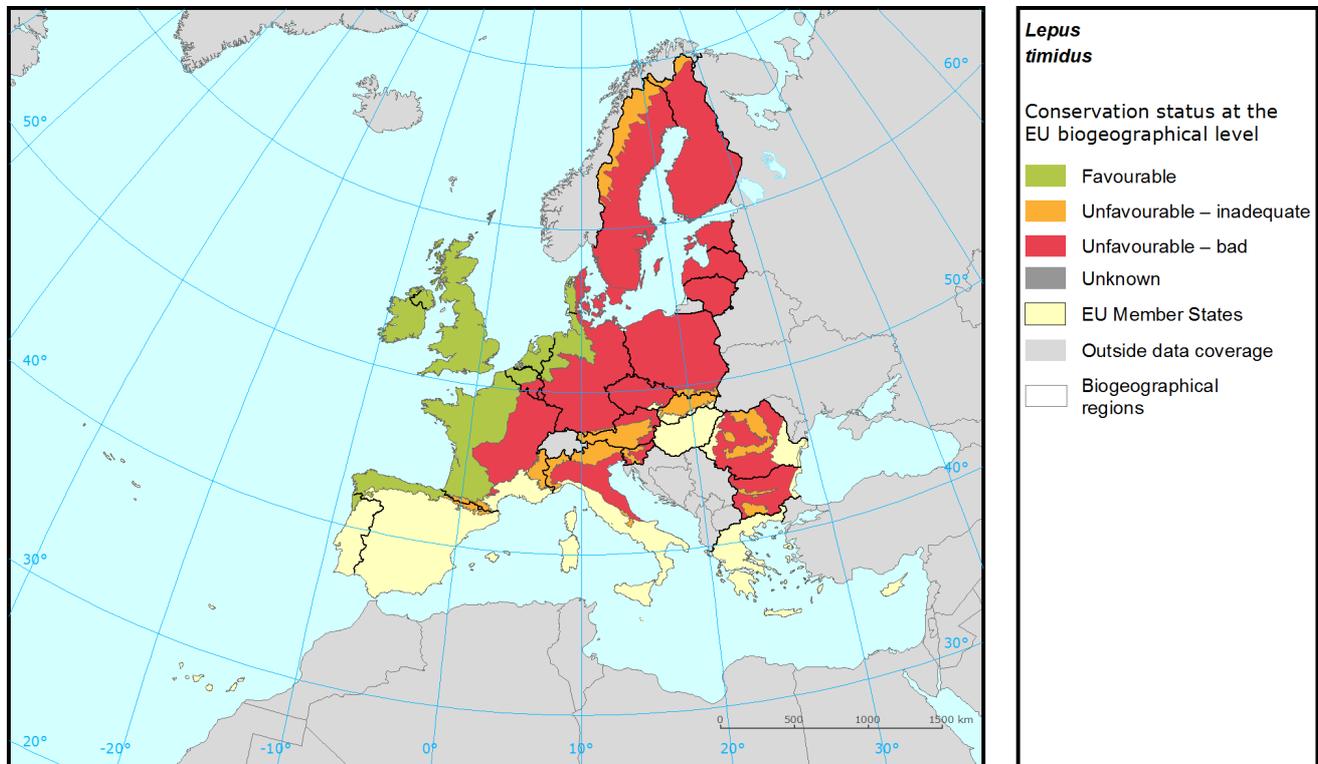
In the Boreal region the conservation status is Unfavourable-Bad with stable trend in conservation status. It was Unfavourable-Bad also in the previous reporting round. The biggest population is hosted by Finland (61% of the Boreal population) where the status has decreased from Favourable to Unfavourable-Inadequate (a genuine change). Only Sweden reports major threats or pressures namely temperature changes (a threat) and a pressure which is not known.

The IUCN conservation status is 'Least Concern'.

# Species: *Lepus timidus*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



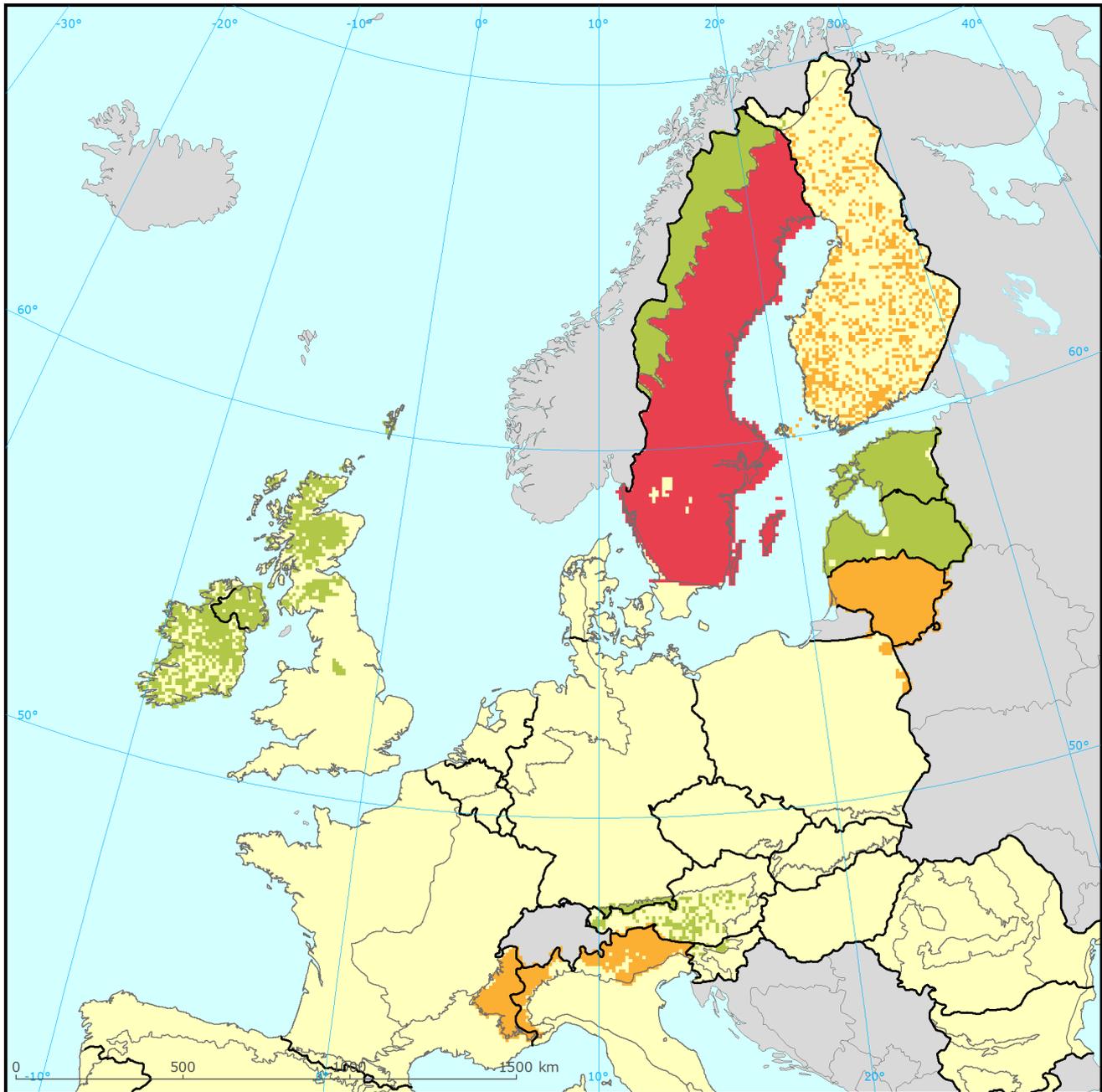
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	=	19	FV	Not genuine
ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	11	U1	Genuine
BOR	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	=	69	U2	
CON	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	1	U2	

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

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## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



### *Lepus timidus*

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.

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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	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.5	FV		
DE	ALP	FV	XX	FV	FV		3.9	FV		
FI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.5	FV		
FR	ALP	U1	XX	U1	FV	U1	x	13.9	U1	
IT	ALP	FV	U1	FV	U1	U1	=	23.9	FV	Changed method
SE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		49.4	FV	
SI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.0	FV	
IE	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		46.7	U1	Changed method
UK	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		53.3	U1	Genuine
EE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.9	FV	
FI	BOR	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	-	14.0	FV	Genuine
LT	BOR	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	10.8	FV	Better data
LV	BOR	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		10.5	FV	
SE	BOR	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	=	56.8	U2-	Changed method
PL	CON	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	-	45.8	U1	No data
SE	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	54.2	U2-	

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	20
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	20
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	10
A04	Grazing by livestock	10
B07	Other forestry activities	10
I02	Problematic native species	10
I03	Introduced species/genes	10
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	10

## Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	21
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	21
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	14
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	7
A04	Grazing by livestock	7
B07	Other forestry activities	7
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	7
I02	Problematic native species	7
I03	Introduced species/genes	7

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=Lepus+timidus>

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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.