European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Lutra lutra

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

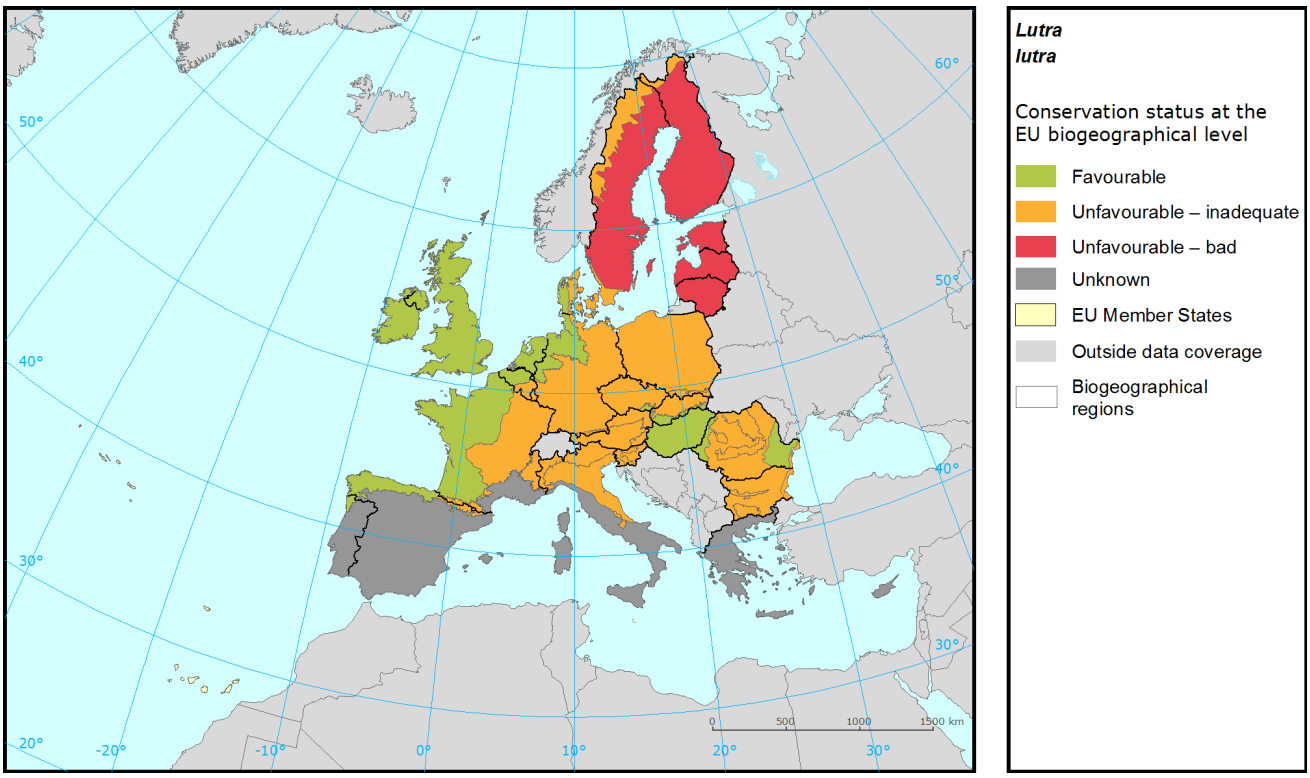
The Otter is a semiaquatic carnivore, very adaptable, than can live on a wide variety of aquatic habitats, including highland and lowland lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, swamp forests and coastal areas.

After the Otter declined dramatically in Europe in the 1960s and 1970s, it has recovered and is still doing in many parts of its former distribution, altough it lacks in many parts of central Europe (in the east of the Netherlands, the otter was reintroduced during 2002-2008, and spread since to south and west.). In the Atlantic, Pannonian and Steppic biogeographical regions the conservation status is Favourable, and in the Alpine, Black Sea and Continental regions Unfavourable-Inadequate. Only in the Boreal region the status is Unfavourable-Bad (but improving) due to Unfavourable-Bad status of Range. The Future Prospects are Favourable for most of the regions. Bulgarian Favourable assessment was downgraded for the regional assessments as the species is reported Vulnerable in the Bulgarian Red Data Book and the WWF-Bulgaria suggests that the modelling system used by Bulgaria provides too optimistic values.

Main pressures for the species are similar in all regions, and they include changes in hydraulic conditions and hydrographic functioning, modifications on the structure of inland watercourses, reduction of connectivity and prey availability, pollution due to agriculture and forestry activities, leisure and professional fishing (active and passive), poaching and killing in roads.

The species is classified by IUCN in Europe as 'Near Threatened' (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/12419/1 consulted on 23 April 2014).

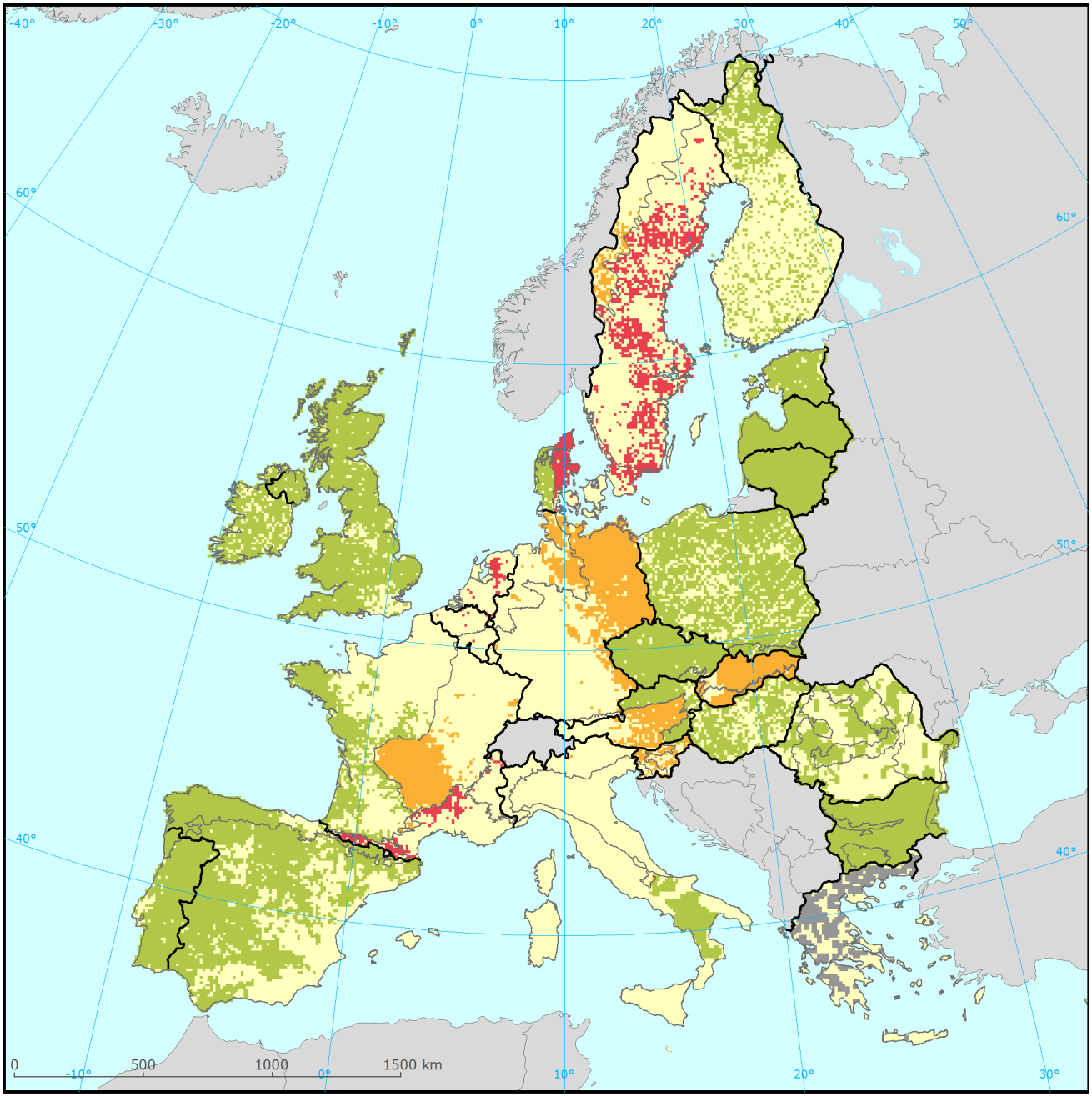
Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



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	FV	FV	U1	+	7	U1	
ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		22	U1	Genuine
BLS	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	0.54	XX	Not genuine
BOR	U2	FV	FV	FV	U2	+	17	U2	
CON	U1	U1	FV	FV	U1	+	30	U1	
MED	FV	XX	FV	XX	XX		19	U2	Not genuine
PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3	FV	
STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.46	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Lutra lutra

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

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

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.

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	U1	U1	+	17.9	U2	Genuine
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		11.1		
DE	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		0.2	XX	No data
ES	ALP	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		4.8	XX	Changed method
FI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		6.8	FV	
FR	ALP	U2	U2	FV	FV	U2	+	4.7		
IT	ALP	U1	U1	FV	FV	U1	+			
PL	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		6.0	FV	
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		17.7		
SE	ALP	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	+	8.0	FV	Better data
SI	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	3.2	U1	
SK	ALP	U1	FV	U1	FV	U1	+	19.6	U1+	
BE	ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	+	0.2	U2	Genuine
DE	ATL	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	+	4.6	U1	Genuine
DK	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.8	FV	
ES	ATL	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		10.6	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		19.1	FV	
IE	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		12.0	U1	Genuine
NL	ATL	U2	U2	FV	U2	U2	+			Genuine
PT	ATL	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		1.0	FV	
UK	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		49.6	FV	
BG	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		75.0		
RO	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		25.0		
EE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		10.5	FV	
FI	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		24.8	FV	
LT	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		18.0	FV	
LV	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		18.1	FV	
SE	BOR	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	+	28.6	U2+	
AT	CON	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		4.2	U1	Genuine
BE	CON	U2	XX	U1	U2	U2	-		U2+	
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		13.6		
CZ	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		11.4	FV	
DE	CON	FV	U1	U1	FV	U1	+	16.7	U1	Genuine
DK	CON	U2	U1	XX	U2	U2	x	2.3	U2+	Changed method

MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
FR	CON	U1	U1	FV	FV	U1	+	9.6	FV	
PL	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		33.4	FV	
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		6.9		
SE	CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	+	1.1		Genuine
SI	CON	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	+	0.9	U1	
ES	MED	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		63.0	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	U2	U2	FV	FV	U2	+	2.6	FV	Genuine
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		7.9	XX	
IT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.5	U1+	Genuine
PT	MED	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		19.0	FV	
CZ	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.7	FV	
HU	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		72.4	FV	
RO	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.6		
SK	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	16.3	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.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	28
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	19
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	19
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	9
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	6
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	6
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	4
H01	Pollution to surface waters	4
A09	Irrigation in agriculture	2
B04	Use of 'pesticides' (forestry)	2

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	30
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	18
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	18
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	7
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	5
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	4
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	4
M02	Biotic changes (climate change)	4
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	2
A09	Irrigation in agriculture	2

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	BLS	BOR	CON	MED	PAN	STE
AT	8				19			
BE		x			100			
BG	45		63		28			
CZ					26		75	
DE	x	84			61			
DK		28			24			
EE				19				
ES	100	100				100		
FI	87			10				
FR	x	x			x	x		
HU							65	
IE		6						
IT	x					x		
LT				100				
LV				x				
NL		x						
PL	18				19			
PT		x				x		
RO	43		100		12		14	89
SE	55			14	6			
SI	69				80			
SK	50						61	
UK		x						

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	19
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	17
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	13
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	8
4.3	Managing water abstraction	7
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	6
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	6
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	5
7.2	Regulation/ Management of fishery in limnic systems	5
8.2	Specific management of traffic and energy transport systems	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=Lutra+lutra

[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.