



Mustela eversmanii

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Annex | II, IV |
| Priority | No |
| Species group | Mammals |
| Regions | Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Pannonian, Steppic |

The Steppe Polecat has a wide range from central and eastern Europe through southern Russia and the Caucasus to Mongolia and northern and western China. In Europe, there are two major populations separated by the Carpathians: a western population (*M. e. hungarica*) present in the Czech Republic, eastern Austria, southern Slovakia, Hungary, northern Serbia, western Romania, and Ukraine south of the Carpathians; a eastern population (*M. e. eversmanii*) restricted to northern Bulgaria, southern Romania, Moldova, Ukraine east and north of the Carpathians, southeastern Poland, southern European Russia, and Kazakhstan (Wolsam 1999 cited in <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/29679/1>, consulted 12 May 2014).

Its conservation status in the Alpine region (Slovakia) is 'unfavourable-bad', but its presence is considered 'marginal'.

In the Black Sea region (Bulgaria and Romania) its conservation status is 'unfavourable-inadequate' and in the adjacent Steppic region (Romania) is 'unknown'. The main pressures are grassland conversion into arable land, abandonment of pastoral systems (leading to the reduction of prey availability, namely ground squirrels), and building of roads.

Its conservation status in the Continental region (Austria, Czech Republic, Poland and Bulgaria) is 'unfavourable-bad' and deteriorating; its status in Poland is 'unknown' and the species has not been recorded since 1986; the 'favourable' status reported by Bulgaria does not seem correct taking into account the relatively small population and large range, there are several high importance threats and pressures and the species is Vulnerable according to the Bulgarian Red Data Book. In addition, WWF Bulgaria comments that the species was not found in the recent surveys and that the modelling methods used by Bulgaria provide too optimistic values. The main pressures are grassland conversion into arable land, abandonment of pastoral systems (leading to lower prey densities, namely ground squirrels), building of roads, and, in parts of its range, shooting of animals.

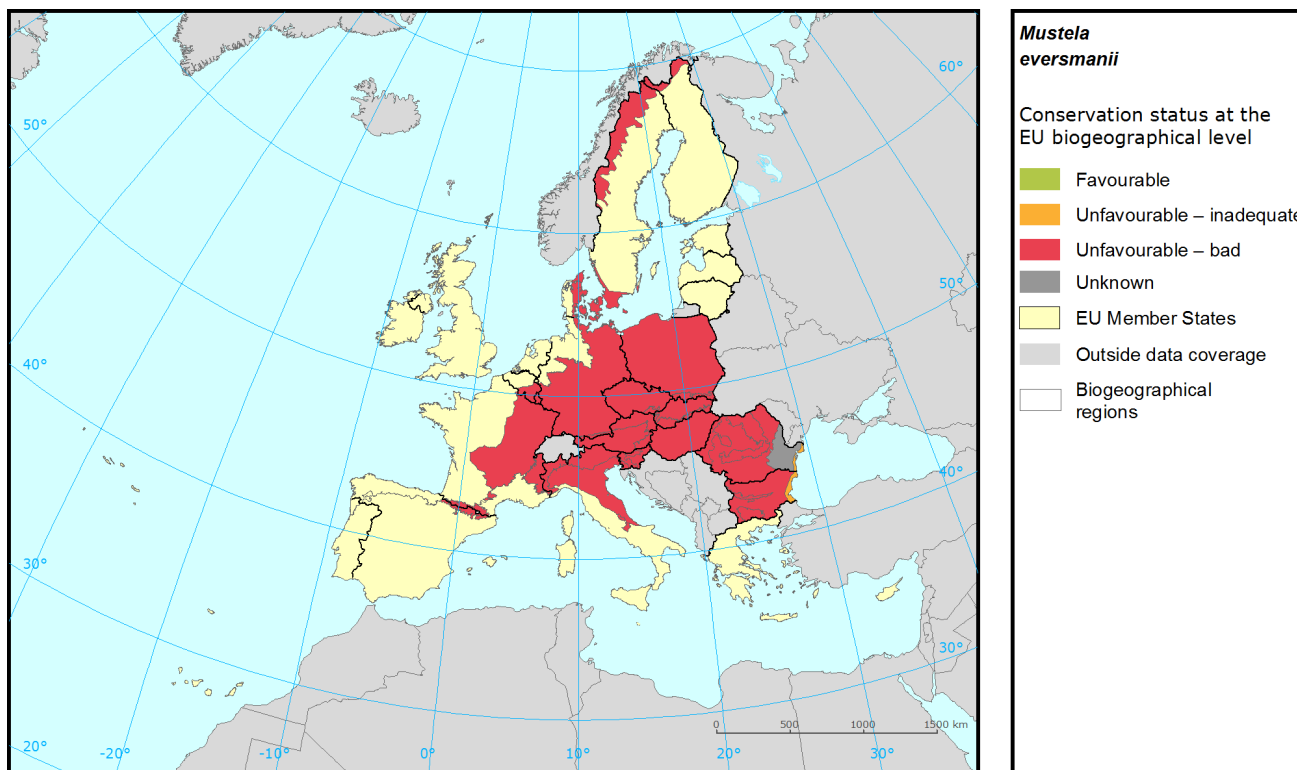
In the Pannonian region (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania) its status is 'unfavourable-bad', but in Romania it is 'unknown'. The main pressures are grassland conversion into arable land, abandonment of pastoral systems (leading to lower prey densities, namely ground squirrels), building of roads, and, in parts of its range, shooting of animals.

The species as a whole is classified by IUCN as 'least concern' (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/29679/0>, consulted 12 May 2014); however, the EU25 regional assessment was 'endangered', but without taking into account the Bulgarian and Romanian populations (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/29679/1>, consulted 12 May 2014).

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

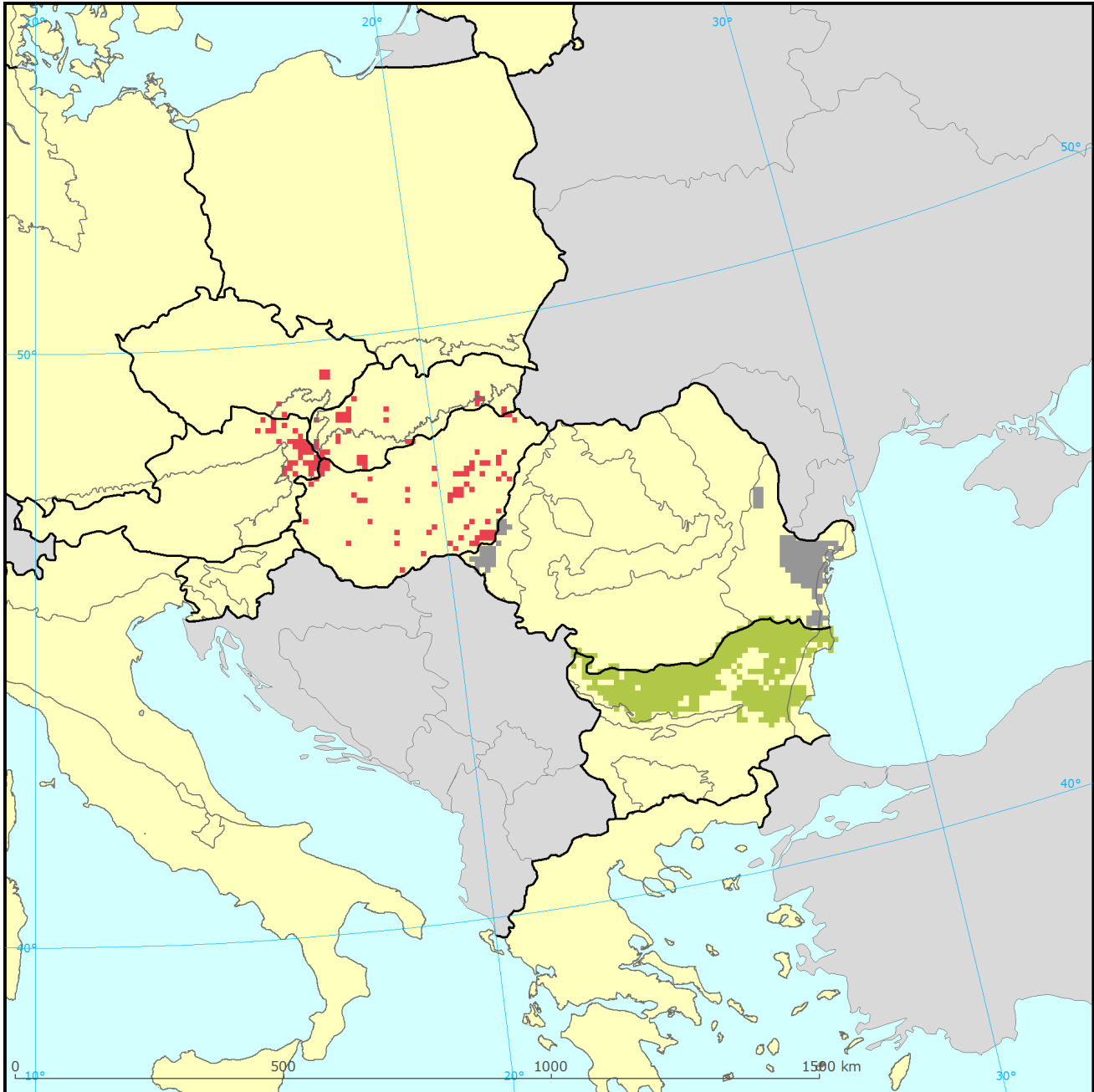


| Region | Conservation status (CS) of parameters | | | | Current CS | Trend in CS | % in region | Previous CS | Reason for change |
|--------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Range | Population | Habitat | Future prospects | | | | | |
| ALP | U2 | U2 | U1 | U2 | U2 | = | 2 | U2 | |
| BLS | FV | U1 | XX | XX | U1 | x | 6 | XX | Not genuine |
| CON | XX | U2 | XX | XX | U2 | - | 64 | XX | Not genuine |
| PAN | U2 | U2 | U1 | U2 | U2 | = | 16 | XX | Not genuine |
| STE | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX | x | 12 | XX | |

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Mustela eversmanii

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 | | | | | |
| SK | ALP | U2 | U2 | U1 | U2 | U2 | = | | U2 | |
| BG | BLS | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 70.5 | | |
| RO | BLS | FV | XX | XX | XX | XX | | 29.5 | | |
| AT | CON | XX | U2 | XX | XX | U2 | - | 7.9 | | |
| BG | CON | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 91.0 | | |
| CZ | CON | U2 | U2 | XX | XX | U2 | = | 1.1 | XX Changed method | |
| CZ | PAN | U2 | U2 | XX | XX | U2 | = | 0.9 | XX Changed method | |
| HU | PAN | U1 | U2 | U1 | XX | U2 | = | 59.1 | XX Better data | |
| RO | PAN | FV | XX | XX | XX | XX | | 22.7 | | |
| SK | PAN | U2 | U2 | U1 | U2 | U2 | = | 17.3 | U2 | |
| RO | STE | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX | | 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 |
|------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| A02 | Modification of cultivation practices | 22 |
| A04 | Grazing by livestock | 22 |
| J03 | Other changes to ecosystems | 22 |
| A01 | Agricultural cultivation | 11 |
| D01 | Roads, railroads and paths | 11 |
| F03 | Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals | 11 |

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

| Code | Activity | Frequency |
|------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| A02 | Modification of cultivation practices | 22 |
| A04 | Grazing by livestock | 22 |
| J03 | Other changes to ecosystems | 22 |
| D01 | Roads, railroads and paths | 11 |
| F03 | Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals | 11 |
| K03 | Interspecific faunal relations | 11 |

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 | CON | PAN | STE |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| AT | | | 17 | | |
| BG | | 65 | 28 | | |
| CZ | | | 0 | 0 | |
| HU | | | | 50 | |
| RO | | 13 | | x | 17 |
| SK | 17 | | | 10 | |

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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 |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 6.1 | Establish protected areas/sites | 24 |
| 6.3 | Legal protection of habitats and species | 24 |
| 2.1 | Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats | 12 |
| 2.2 | Adapting crop production | 12 |
| 6.4 | Manage landscape features | 12 |
| 6.0 | Other spatial measures | 6 |
| 8.2 | Specific management of traffic and energy transport systems | 6 |
| 9.1 | Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land | 6 |

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=Mustela+eversmanii>

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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.