



## Mustela putorius

---

<b>Annex</b>	V
<b>Priority</b>	No
<b>Species group</b>	Mammals
<b>Regions</b>	Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic

The European polecat is a carnivore found in almost every type of lowland habitat, avoiding mountainous areas. It feeds on live rodents (voles, mice, hamsters) and other vertebrates, as rabbits in the Mediterranean region and amphibians, and sometimes on invertebrates and carrion.

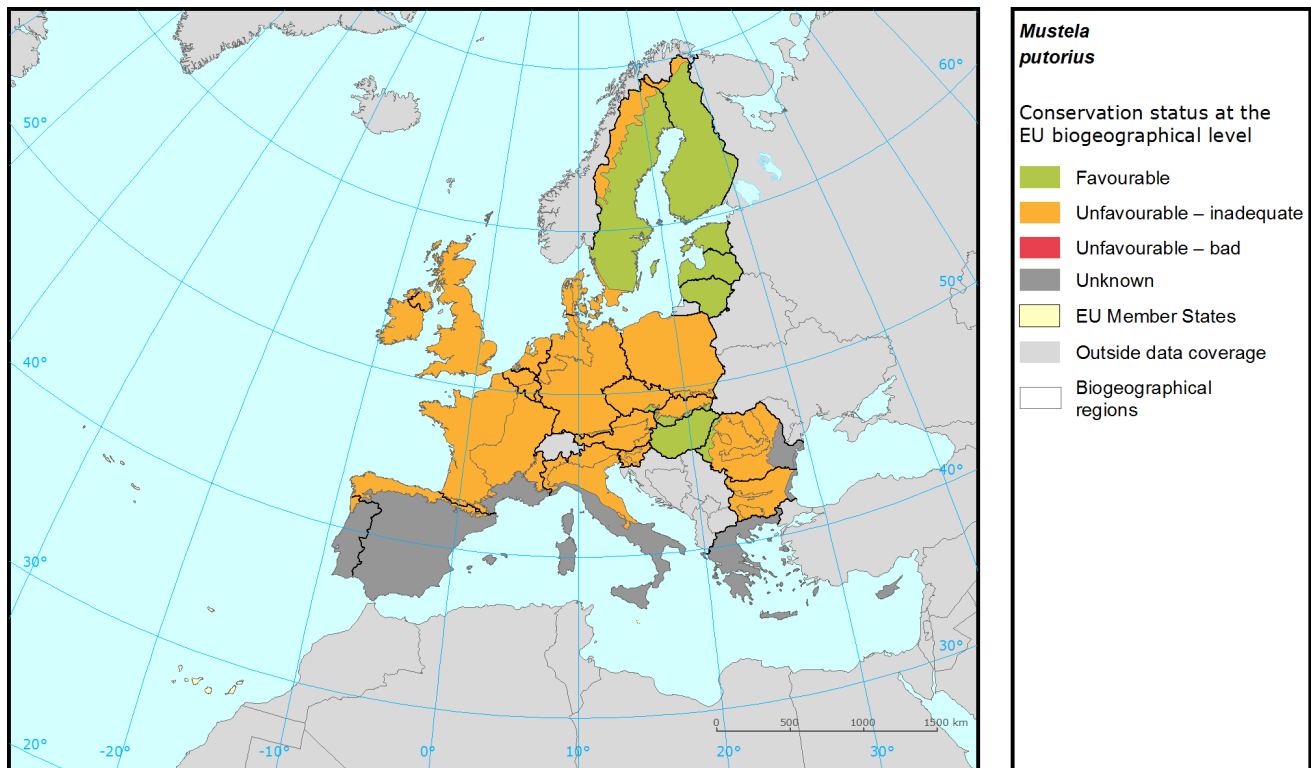
The Conservation Status for the European polecat is Favourable in the Boreal and Pannonian regions, Unknown in the Black Sea and Mediterranean region and Unfavourable-Inadequate in the Alpine, Atlantic and Continental regions. However, the assessment for the Continental and Alpine regions does not provide full picture as data from Bulgaria and Luxembourg could not be used in the assessments. Main pressures for the species are habitat loss or deterioration (including reduction of connectivity and changes in hydraulic conditions), hunting, road kills, trapping, poisoning or poaching, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, predator control measures and continuous urbanization. In some countries, competition with invasive non-native species (American mink) has been noted.

The species is classified by IUCN in Europe as 'Least Concern'  
(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41658/1> consulted on 5 May 2014).

# Species: *Mustela putorius*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



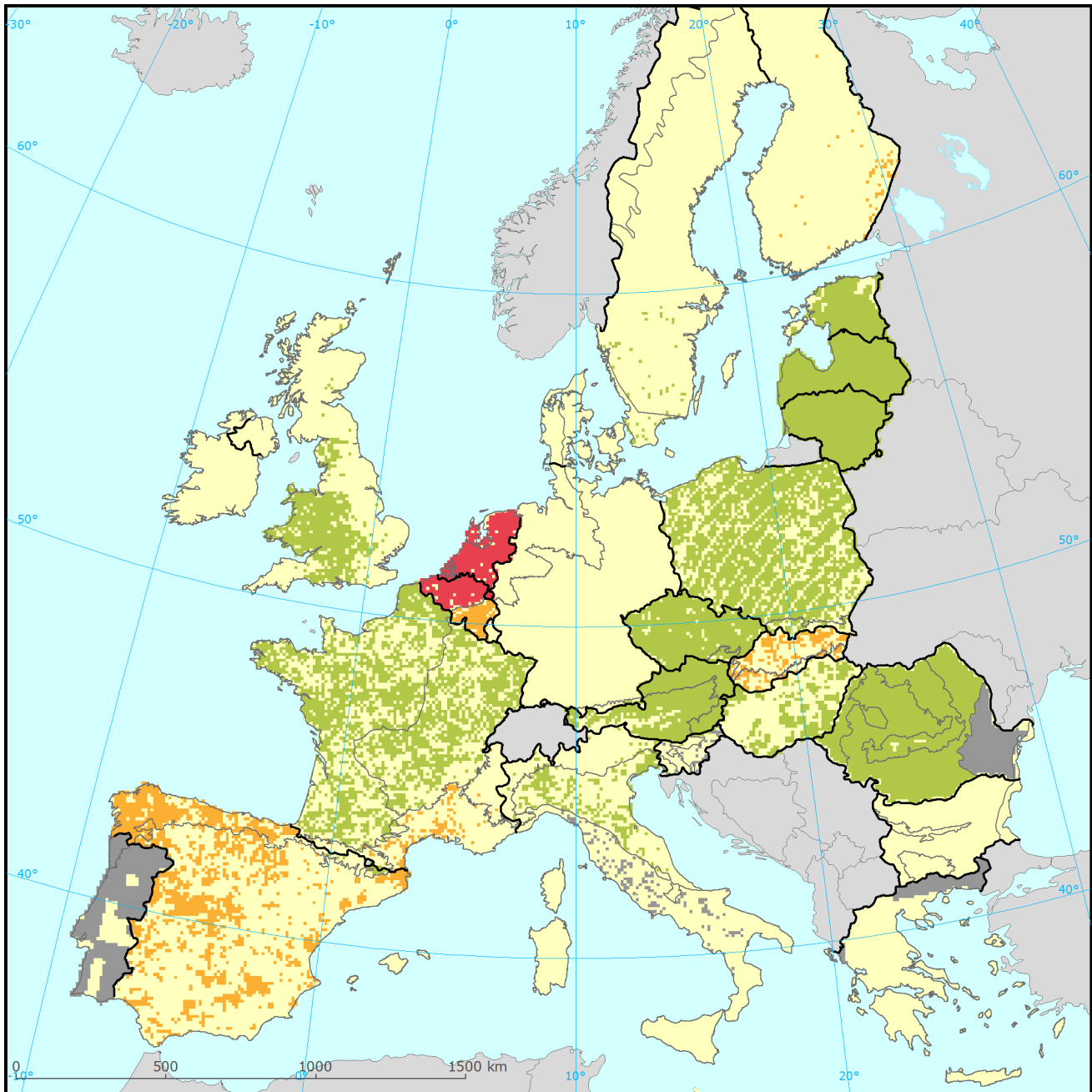
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	=	8	U1	
ATL	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1	=	21	U1	
BLS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX	
BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		12	FV	
CON	FV	XX	XX	U1	U1	=	38	U1	
MED	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX	=	16	XX	
PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4	XX	Not genuine
STE	FV	XX	XX	FV	XX		2	XX	

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

# Species: *Mustela putorius*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



### *Mustela putorius*

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.

# Species: *Mustela putorius*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

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		37.7	FV		
BG	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX					
DE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV			FV		
ES	ALP	FV	XX	FV	FV		2.1	XX	Changed method	
FR	ALP	U1	U1	FV	XX	U1	-	1.3	XX	Changed method
IT	ALP	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		2.9	U1	Changed method
PL	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.6	FV	
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		40.7		
SI	ALP	FV	XX	XX	FV	XX		0.6	FV	Changed method
SK	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	11.1	U1-	
BE	ATL	FV	U2	U1	U1	U2	-	5.6	U1	Genuine
DE	ATL	FV	XX	U1	XX	U1	-		FV	Changed method
DK	ATL	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV				
ES	ATL	FV	FV	U1	FV	U1	=	13.3	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		46.5	XX	Changed method
NL	ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	11.5	U1	Changed method
PT	ATL	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		1.7	U1	
UK	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		21.4	FV	
BG	BLS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		100.0		
EE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		20.7	FV	
FI	BOR	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	2.6	XX	
LT	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		37.3	FV	
LV	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		37.4	FV	
SE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.0	FV	
AT	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		6.0	FV	
BE	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	1.8	XX	
BG	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
CZ	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		12.6	XX	Changed method
DE	CON	FV	XX	XX	U1	U1	x		FV	No data
DK	CON	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV				
FR	CON	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		16.6	XX	Changed method
IT	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.5	U1	Genuine
LU	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			U1	No data
PL	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		35.7	FV	

# Species: *Mustela putorius*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		21.9			
SE	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.3	FV		
SI	CON	FV	XX	XX	FV	XX	0.5	FV	Changed method	
ES	MED	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	49.8	XX	Changed method	
FR	MED	U1	U1	FV	XX	-	4.5	XX	Changed method	
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX		9.0	XX		
IT	MED	XX	XX	FV	FV	XX	6.6	U1	Changed method	
PT	MED	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX	30.1	U1		
CZ	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	5.2	XX	Changed method	
HU	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	60.9	XX	Better data	
RO	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	22.3			
SK	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	11.7	U1-		
RO	STE	FV	XX	XX	FV	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.

# Species: *Mustela putorius*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

## Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	16
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	16
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	14
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	11
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	11
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	11
B03	Forest exploitation	5
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	5
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	5
A04	Grazing by livestock	3

## Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	15
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	15
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	15
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	12
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	9
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	9
B03	Forest exploitation	6
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	6
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	6
I03	Introduced species/genes	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+putorius>

# Species: *Mustela putorius*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

**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.