Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive Period 2007-2012

# **European Environment Agency** *European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity*



#### Rhinolophus mehelyi

Annex II, IV Priority No

**Species group** Mammals

**Regions** Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean, Steppic

#### Rhinolophus mehelyi

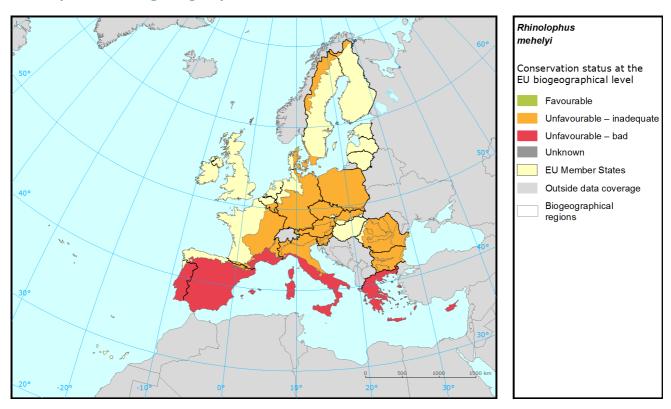
Mehley's horseshoe bat is largely restricted to the Mediterranean. According to IUCN Red List data, it has a discontinuous distribution from north Africa and southern Europe through Asia Minor to Transcaucasia and Iran and is patchily distributed in a number of large and vulnerable colonies.

This species was reported for 5 biogeographical regions. While the previous reporting period had significant unknown conservation status reports, all biogeographical regions supplied data for this period. The Mediterranean is the only region with an unfavourable-bad status. The remainder of biogeographical regions was reported as unfavourable-inadequate (i.e. Alpine, Continental, Black Sea and Steppic).

The most commonly high ranked pressures and threats reported by Member States were the closure of caves or galleries, speleology and recreational cave visits, followed vandalism. The IUCN Red list classifies it as 'vulnerable' as the population is declining significantly throughout its range and is close to extinction in some areas (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/19519/1 consulted on 24 February 2015).

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

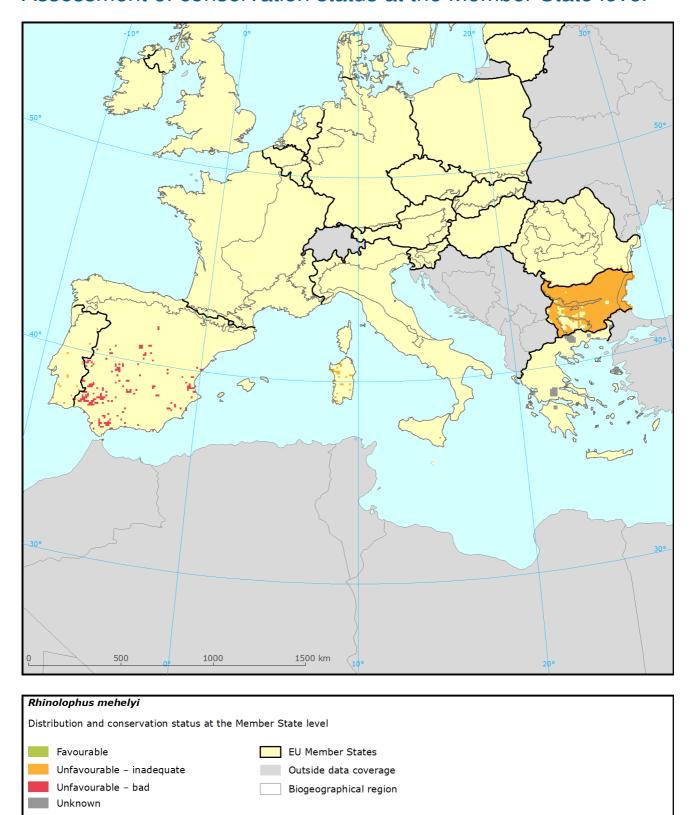
## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current	Trend in	% in	Previous	Reason for
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	CS	CS	region	CS	change
ALP	FV	U1	U1	XX	U1	=	8	XX	Not genuine
BLS	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1	=	7	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	64	XX	Not genuine
MED	U1	U2	U2	U1	U2	=	20	U2	
STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	0.22	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information<sup>1</sup>

## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a  $10 \text{ km} \times 10 \text{ km}$  grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

MS Region		Cons	ervation state	ameters	Current	Trend in	% in	Previous	Reason for	
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects	CS	CS	region	CS	change
BG	ALP	FV	U1	U1	XX	U1	х	100.0		
BG	BLS	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1	x	100.0		
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1	x	99.7		
RO	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	0.3		
ES	MED	U1	U2	U2	U1	U2	+	66.9	U2	Changed method
FR	MED	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-		U2	
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		16.5	XX	
IT	MED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	11.2	U2	Better data
PT	MED	U1	U1	XX	XX	U1	x	5.4	U2-	Changed method
RO	STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	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
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	27
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	23
E06	Other urban/industrial developments	14
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	5
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	5
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	5
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	5
H01	Pollution to surface waters	5
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	5
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	5

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

#### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	37
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	26
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	11
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	5
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	5
H01	Pollution to surface waters	5
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	5
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	5

#### 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	MED	STE
BG	0	58	67		
ES				37	
FR				0	
IT				Χ	
PT				33	
RO			100		100

See the endnotes for more information<sup>ii</sup>

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

#### 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	30
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	25
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	15
6.0	Other spatial measures	10
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	5
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	5
6.4	Manage landscape features	5
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	5

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=Rhinolophus+mehelyi

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

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.

<sup>ii</sup>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.