



Spermophilus citellus

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

The European Souselik is an endemic mammal to central and south-eastern Europe where its range is divided by the Carpathian Mountains. Due to its specific habitat requirements, it is restricted to short-grass steppe and similar artificial habitats (such as pastures, lawns, golf courses) on light, well-drained soils where it can dig its tunnel systems.

The worst conservation status is in the Alpine and Continental regions, Unfavourable-Bad and overall trend in conservation status is decreasing. In all other regions the status is Unfavourable-Inadequate. Bulgaria (up to 50 000 individuals in whole country) is the only country reporting Favourable conservation status, but the reported data does not support this conclusion. In addition the Bulgarian Red Data Book indicates decrease in population and occupied area (status is Vulnerable). There are also indications on too optimistic results from the modelling method used.

In the Steppic region (Romania) the species is in Unfavourable-Inadequate status. There are up to 15 000 individuals but population trend is decreasing. Romania reports major threats and pressures namely roads and changes in grassland management including abandonment of pastoral systems.

Conservation status in the Black Sea region (Bulgaria) is assessed as Unfavourable-Inadequate due to unknown trends in parameters and especially due to the fact that there are major threats and pressures reported by Bulgaria (modification of cultivation practises, biofuel production and abandonment and/or lack of mowing).

The European Souselik has Unfavourable-Bad conservation status in the Alpine region (Austria, Bulgaria, Slovakia) and the overall trend in conservation status is even decreasing. Bulgaria reports Favourable status but there are problems in the reported data and in addition major pressures are reported (modification of cultivation practises and abandonment or lack of mowing). No major threats or pressures reported by Slovakia, but Austria reports on industrial/commercial areas, grassland removal for arable land, reduction in migration barriers and urbanisation.

Conservation status in the Pannonian region is Unfavourable-Inadequate and trend in conservation status is decreasing. The status was the same in the previous reporting round. Hungary hosts more than 90% of the Pannonian population (up to 150 000 individuals). Many threats and pressures are reported such as use of biocides, agricultural intensification, predation, abandonment of pastoral systems or lack of grazing or non intensive grazing, roads and motorways.

Conservation status in the Continental region is Unfavourable-Bad with a decrease in conservation status trend. This status is largely because of Austria. It was Unfavourable-Bad

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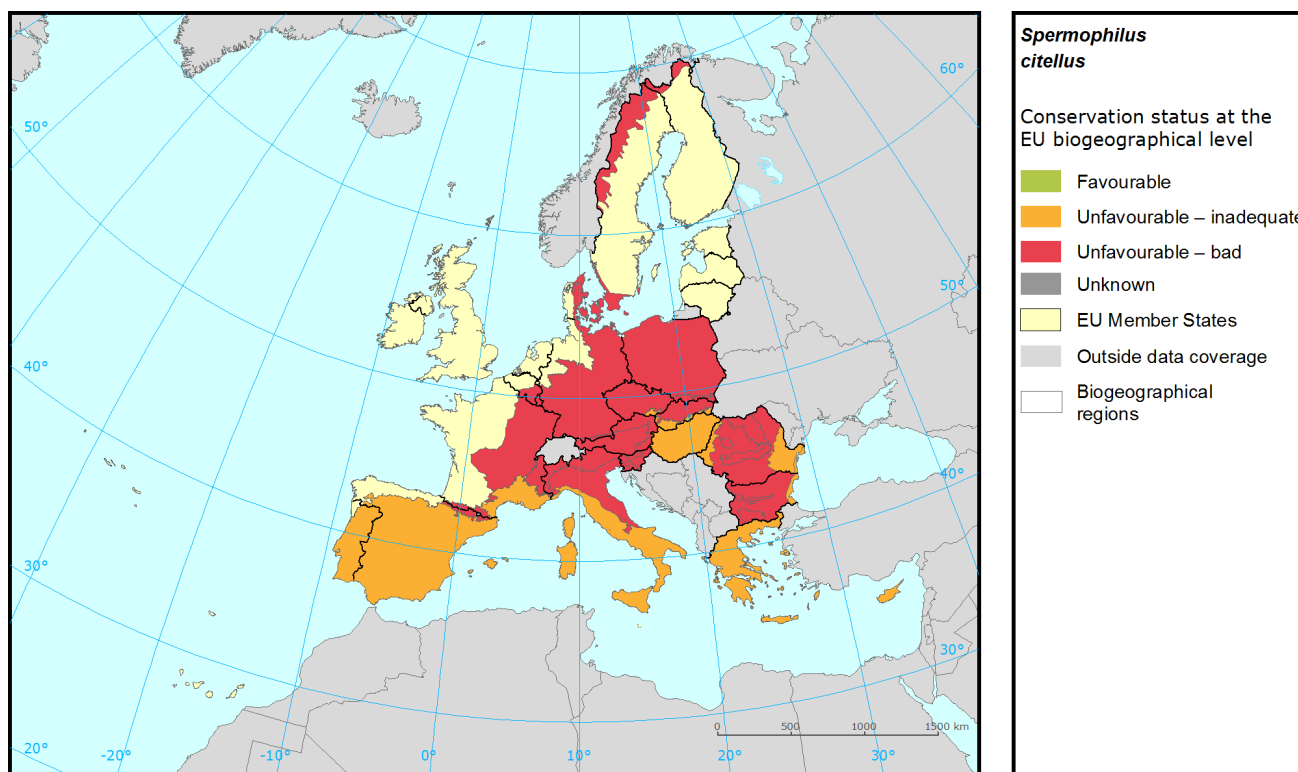
also in the previous reporting round (without Romania and Bulgaria). Reintroduction has taken place in Poland and population trend is increasing.

For the Mediterranean region there is no new data available as Greece didn't report in 2007-2012. Previously the conservation status was Unfavourable-Inadequate with a decrease in overall trend of conservation status.

According to IUCN species is considered 'vulnerable' with decreasing population.

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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	-	9	U2	
BLS	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	4	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	57	U2	
MED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	3	U1	
PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	14	U1	
STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	13	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



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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	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	1.3	U2	Genuine	
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		76.7			
SK	ALP	U2	U2	U1	U2	-	22.0	U2-		
BG	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0			
AT	CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	-	5.7	U2	Genuine	
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		60.2			
CZ	CON	U2	U2	U1	U1	=	1.3	U2		
PL	CON	U2	U2	U2	U1	+	0.2	U1	Better data	
RO	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	32.6			
GR	MED	U1	U1	U1-	U1		100.0	U1-		
CZ	PAN	U2	U2	U1	U1	=	2.2	U2		
HU	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	60.7	U1	Genuine	
RO	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	29.5			
SK	PAN	U2	U2	U1	U2	-	7.7	U2-		
RO	STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	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.

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	32
A04	Grazing by livestock	15
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	12
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	9
A06	Crops of annuals & perennials (non-timber)	6
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	6
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	6
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	6
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	3
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	3

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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	96		26		
BG	42	35	25		
CZ			68	76	
HU				43	
PL			91		
RO			7	10	11
SK	50			50	

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
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	26
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	13
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	13
2.2	Adapting crop production	11
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	7
7.0	Other species management measures	7
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	7
6.0	Other spatial measures	4
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	4
8.0	Other measures	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:

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<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/species/summary/?group=Mammals&period=3&subject=Spermophilus+citellus>

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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.