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

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

Ablepharus kitaibelii

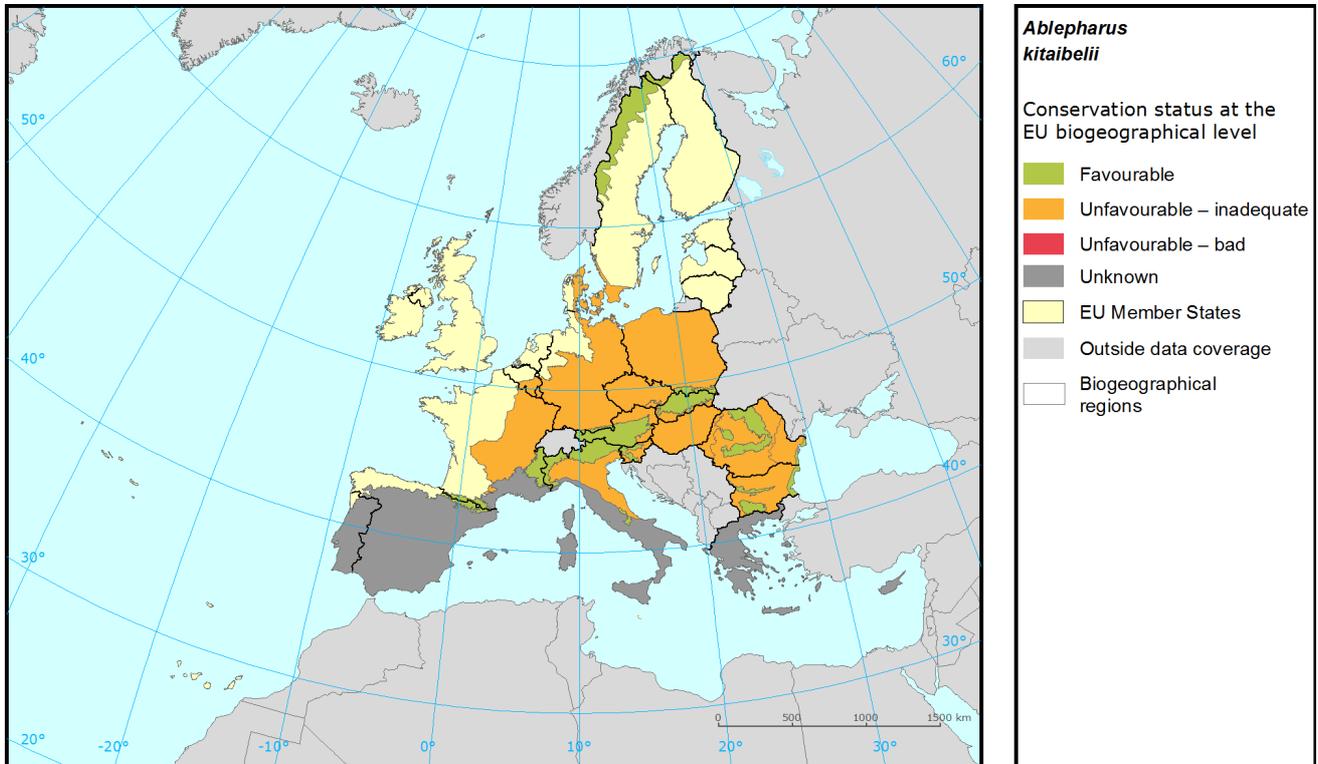|	
Annex	IV
Priority	No
Species group	Reptiles
Regions	Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic

The Snake-eyed Skink (*Ablepharus kitaibelii*) occurs mainly in the South-Eastern Europe and partly in the Western Asia. It is relatively common all over the Balkan Peninsula and its natural range extends towards the north to the Pannonian basin. Within the EU it occurs as well in Romania and Bulgaria. It inhabits various types of xerophilous habitats like grasslands, shrubs and as well light open forests.

The species is reported by Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania, and for the Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian and Steppic regions. While the conservation status assessment for the Alpine and Black Sea regions is 'favourable', the conservation status for the Continental, Pannonian and Steppic regions is assessed as 'unfavourable-inadequate', and the assessment for the Mediterranean region is 'unknown'. There is some variance between the Member States. While Bulgaria and Cyprus report the species as 'favourable' for each of their reports, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia's reports are each 'unfavourable-inadequate' and that of Greece is 'unknown'. Pressures and threats reported for the species include forestry clearance, urbanization, species composition change and intensive mowing and grazing.

The IUCN Red List classifies the species as least concern due to its wide distribution, presumed large population, and tolerance for a broad range of habitats (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/29691/1 consulted on 3 March 2015).

Species: *Ablepharus kitaibelii*
Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

Ablepharus kitaibelii

Conservation status at the EU biogeographical level

- 🟩 Favourable
- 🟧 Unfavourable – inadequate
- 🟥 Unfavourable – bad
- ⬛ Unknown
- 🟨 EU Member States
- ⬜ Outside data coverage
- ⬜ Biogeographical regions

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	FV	FV	XX	FV		7	XX	Not genuine
BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		6	FV	
CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	x	51	U1	
MED	FV	XX	XX	FV	XX		29	XX	
PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	4	U1	
STE	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	x	4	U1	

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level

Ablepharus kitaibelii

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.

Species: *Ablepharus kitaibelii*

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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					
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		100.0		
BG	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0		
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		91.7		
RO	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1		8.3		
CY	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		26.8	XX	Better data
GR	MED	FV	XX	XX	FV	XX		73.2	XX	
HU	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	82.2	U1-	
SK	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	17.8	U1	Better data
RO	STE	FV	FV	FV	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
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	40
B01	Afforestation	20
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	20
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	20

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	43
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	29
B01	Afforestation	14
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	14

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=Reptiles&period=3&subject=Ablepharus+kitaibelii

[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.