



Elaphe situla

Annex	II, IV
Priority	No
Species group	Reptiles
Regions	Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean

The Leopard Snake (valid name is *Zamenis situla*) is found in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Malta. This species is widespread and relatively common in all countries, at least locally. It is found in various types of habitats e.g. scrubland, vineyards and also in rural gardens.

Bulgaria hosts this species both in its Continental and Black Sea region. This species is assessed in the Continental region as Unfavourable-Inadequate and in the Black Sea region the conservation status is assessed as Unfavourable-Bad due to Unfavourable-Bad Future prospects. Bulgaria reports threats and pressures of high importance namely solar energy production and structures, buildings in the landscape in the Black Sea region and solar energy production, roads and motorways and collection of animals in the Continental region.

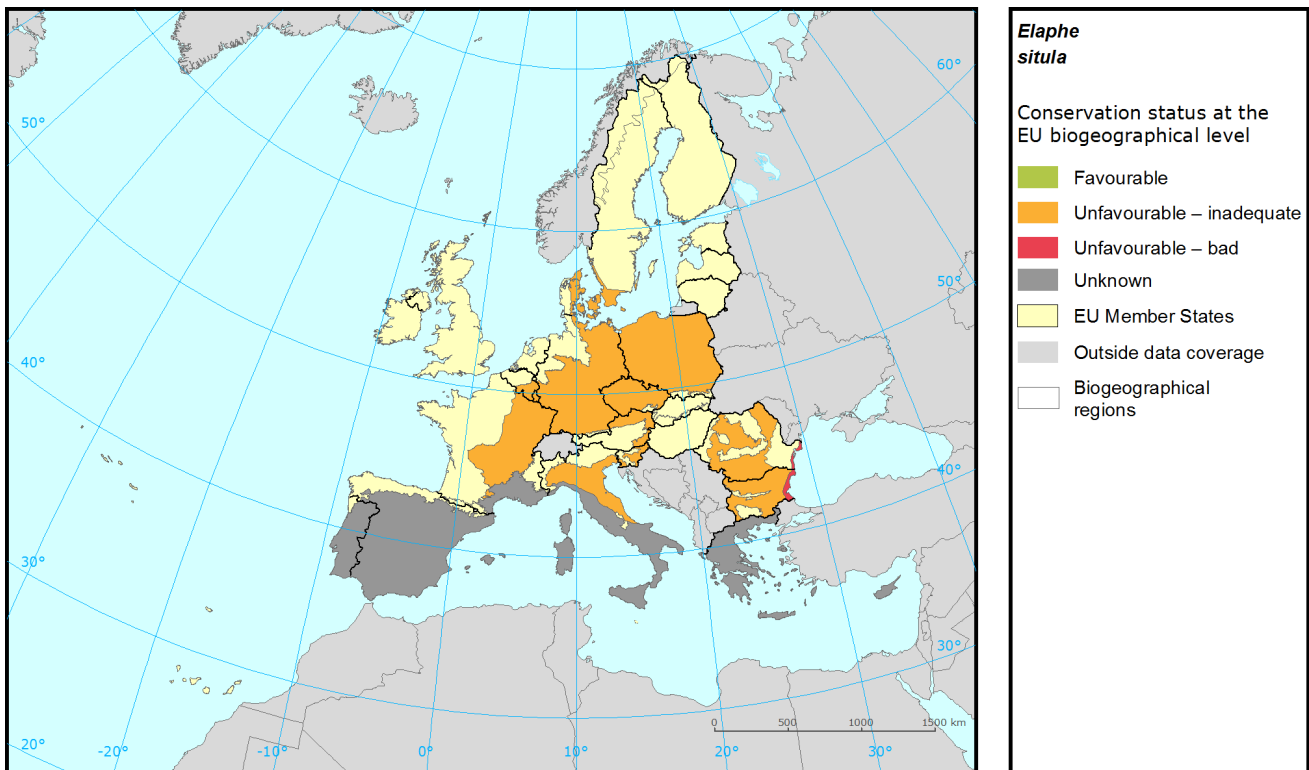
Conservation status in the Mediterranean region stays Unknown between the reporting rounds mainly due to Greek data. No major threats or pressures are reported by Italy and Malta.

According to IUCN assessment, it is considered as Least Concern.

Species: *Elaphe situla*

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					
BLS	FV	XX	U1	U2	U2	-	8	XX	Not genuine
CON	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	35	XX	Not genuine
MED	FV	XX	XX	FV	XX	x	57	XX	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Elaphe situla

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					
BG	BLS	FV	XX	U1	U2	-	100.0			
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	U1	-	100.0			
GR	MED	FV	XX	XX	FV		58.6	XX		
IT	MED	FV	U1	FV	FV	-	39.8	FV	Better data	
MT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.7	FV		

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
C03	Production of renewable energy (abiotic)	40
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	20
E04	Scattered structures and buildings	20
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	20

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
C03	Production of renewable energy (abiotic)	50
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	25
E04	Scattered structures and buildings	25

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

	BLS	CON	MED
BG	x	x	
IT			x
MT			42

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	27
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	27
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	18
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	9
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	9
8.2	Specific management of traffic and energy transport systems	9

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=Elaphe+situla>

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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.