Template for quality and metadata reporting

Conservation status of habitat types and species

Concept Name

Description Conservation status of habitat types and species

A Data description (metadata)

Data description	Describe the main characteristics of the data set in an easily understandable manner, referring to the main data and indicators disseminated. This short description should be understood immediately and easily by the users The data set informs about the state of nature in the EU, using assessments of the conservation status and trends in habitats and species listed in the EU Habitats Directive. It is based on data collected by Member States under the reporting obligations of Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive. These data include information on range, population size, habitat area, habitat of the species, structure and functions of the habitats and future prospects. Conservation status is shown as good, poor, bad or unknown. In addition, Member States report on main pressures and threats to habitats and species, on conservation measures, hunting and exploitation and provide some information on the role of Natura 2000 network. They also provide distribution maps at 10X10 km grids. Data and assessments from Member States are used to develop assessments of conservation status and trends at EU level in addition to those at Member State level. The data are provided using a reporting format. It should be noted that species assessments do not address birds, which are protected under the EU Birds Directive. The related indicators present results at EU and Member States level and are also available at biogeographical and taxonomic group or grouping of habitats level. More information about the Habitats Directive can be found at : The Habitats Directive - Environment - European Commission (europa.eu) More information about the Art. 17 reporting can be found at: Habitats Directive reporting
Statistical population	Describe the target statistical population (one or more) which the data set refers to, i.e. the population about which information is to be sought. Assessments of conservation status target 233 habitats of Community interest listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive and 1 389 species listed in Annexes II, IV and V. Species and habitats may occur in a number of biogeographical/marine regions, and as each assessment is done per individual region, the total number of assessments is higher than the actual number of species and habitat types. EUR-Lex - 01992L0043-20130701 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu) Workbook: SON FactsAndFigures (europa.eu)
Reference period	Statistical variables refer to specific time periods, which can be a specific day or a specific period (e.g. a month, a fiscal year, a calendar year or several calendar years). When there is a mismatch between the target and the actual reference period, for instance when data are not available for the target reference period, the difference should also be highlighted. Article 17 requires Member States to report every six years about the progress made with the implementation of the Habitats Directive. The reference period of the last reporting is 2013-2018. Habitats Directive Reporting - Environment - European Commission (europa.eu)
Frequency of dissemination	The frequency with which the data is disseminated should be mentioned (e.g. monthly, quarterly, yearly). The frequency can also be expressed by using the codes released in the harmonised code list available for the European Statistical System. New data sets are released every 6 years.
Geographical reference area	At European level: The geographical area covered by the data set disseminated (e.g. EU Members states, EU regions, USA, Japan, etc. as well as aggregates such as EU-27, EEA). At national level: the country, the regions and aggregates covered by the data set disseminated The data is reported by all 27 Member States. The 2013-2018 dataset includes data from EU27 + UK. Member States reported on the conservation status and trends of each species and habitat type for each of the biogeographical/marine region in their territory. On the basis of Member States' assessments, separate EU regional assessments are conducted for the biogeographical regions and marine regions as a whole.

	Unit of measure	The units of measures used for the data set disseminated should be listed (units of measures are e.g. Euro, %, number of persons). Also the exact use of magnitude (e.g. thousand, million) should be added. The data provided by the Member States concern a range of parameters and each one of them may entail different units. Range is measured in km2, population in individuals, 1x1km grids or other agreed units (number of inhabitated trees, logs, sones, area covered by population in m2), habitat area in km2. The final measure is the assessment of conservation status of each species or habitat type that is split into the categories good, poor, bad and unknown and the trends that can be increasing, stable, decreasing and unknown. For the overall EU aggregate the percentage (%) of assessments with good, poor, bad or unknown conservation status and the percentage (%) of increasing, stable, decreasing and unknown trends is estimated.
	Basic statistical concepts and definitions	Describe in short the main statistical variables provided. The definitions and types of variables provided should be listed. The assessment of a habitat type or species is related to the concept of Favourable (good) conservation status. The conservation status objective of the Directive is defined in positive terms, oriented towards a favourable situation, which needs to be defined, reached and maintained. It is therefore aimed at achieving far more than trying to avoid extinctions. The overall conservation status is assessed in four categories: favourable, unfavourable-inadequate, unfavourable-bad and unknown. To facilitate reading of graphs and simplify writing, the following terms are used as synonyms: good, poor, bad and unknown. The conservation status of a habitat is derived using four parameters: • range; • area covered by the habitat within its range; • structure and functions, including the status of typical species; • future prospects. The conservation status of a species is derived using four parameters: • range; • population; • habitat for the species; • future prospects. Definitions and explanation on the main concepts and data collected via the reporting are available from the relevant reporting guidelines : https://circabc.europa.eu/d/a/workspace/SpacesStore/d0eb5cef-a216-4cad-8e77-6e4839a5471d/Reporting%20guidelines%20Article%2017%20final%20May%202017.pdf Full details of the methodology are available from: State of nature in the EU — Methodological paper: Methodologies under the nature directives reporting 2013-2018 and analysis for the state of nature 2000
	Classifications used	List all classifications which are used for the data set produced (with their detailed names). Habitats Directive Annex I habitat types typology Habitats Directive Annex II, IV, V lists of species
	Statistical Confidentiality	Legislative measures or other formal procedures which prevent unauthorised disclosure of data that identify a person or economic entity either directly or indirectly. Not applicable
B	**Data quality**	
	Relevance	Describe the degree to which statistical information meets current and potential needs of the users. The assessments of conservation status indicate the implementation and success of the Habitats Directive in Member States and the EU. It is directly relevant to the new EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, in particular its EU Nature Restoration Plan, with several aims, including strengthening the EU legal framework for nature restoration and requesting Member States to ensure **no deterioration in the conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species** and ensure that **at least 30% of species and habitats not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend by 2030**. EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
	Timeliness	Indicate the length of time between data availability and the event or phenomenon they describe. Aggregated data at EU level become fully available approximately 2 years after the end of the reporting period. The most recent data set for the third reporting period, 2013-2018, was published in 2020.
	Accuracy and reliability	***Source data***: Indicate if the data set is based on a survey or on administrative data sources. If sample surveys are used, some sample characteristics should also be given (e.g. gross and net sample size, type of sampling design, reporting domain etc.). If administrative registers are used, the description of registers should be given (source, year, primary purpose, potential deficiencies and solutions to address them, etc.)

Data collection and methods used: Describe the method used to gather data from respondents (e.g. postal survey, CAPI, on-line survey, etc.). Some additional information on questionnaire design and testing, interviewer training, methods used to monitor non-response etc. should be provided here.

Reporting consists of three main steps:

(1) collecting the data in reports for each Member State. The data reported from Member States consists of data from biodiversity monitoring and from modelling and expert assessments. For Habitats Directive habitats and species, more than 40 % of the reported information comes from partial surveys where the estimates cannot be considered robust or representative of entire biogeographical regions. In fact, more than 20 % of the information reported by Member States is based only on expert judgement. The detailed methods used by Member States to collect data are not described in the reporting formats.

(2) processing Member States reports. This is done through the application of specific quality assurance checks from EEA and ETC/BD.

(3) assessing the reported data in order to conclude on the conservation status and trends at EU level. This is done following a specific methodology that is described in a dedicated publication.

The European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) provide technical and scientific support to the European Commission and the EU Member States throughout all stages of the reporting process. Working groups like the Commission Expert Group on Reporting under the Nature Directives also provide assistance. In total, more than 90 000 people across Europe (more than 40 % of whom are volunteers) have contributed to this process.

Full details of the methodology are available from: State of nature in the EU — Methodological paper: Methodologies under the nature directives reporting 2013-2018 and analysis for the state of nature

Accessibility and clarity

Publications: Regular or ad-hoc publications in which the data are made easily available to users.

Publications on the State of Nature 2020

- The State of Nature in the EU (leaflet)
- The State of Nature in the EU (brochure)
- Press release
- The state of nature in the European Union – Report on the status and trends in 2013-2018 of species and habitat types protected by the Birds and Habitats Directives (European Commission report, 20 pages)
- State of nature in the EU - Results from reporting under the nature directives 2013-2018 (EEA report, 140 pages)

EEA webpage on State of Nature 2020

Dashboards

- National summary dashboards (online)
- National summaries (pdf)
- Data-quality scoreboard (Member States)
- Timeliness of submission scoreboard (Member States)
- Dashboards with results at EU level

Other material

- Reference portal for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive for the period 2013-2018
- Web viewer for species and habitats
- Habitats and species dataset
- EEA indicator on conservation status of habitats under the EU Habitats Directive
- EEA indicator on conservation status of species under the EU Habitats Directive

Coherence and comparability

Geographical: Describe any problems of comparability between countries or regions. The reasons for the problems should be described and as well the order of magnitude of the effects of the main sources of errors.

Over time: Provide information on the length of comparable time series, reference periods at which series breaks occur, the reasons for the breaks and treatments of them.

The objective is to collect data from robust and comprehensive surveys and using methods comparable across all Member States. In many cases, however, the reported information comes from partial surveys that were performed for different purposes. In other cases, suitable data do not exist and expert opinion has been sought. Assessment methodology of different parameters or the estimation of pressures and threats may vary considerably between Member States despite the effort for harmonisation. In addition,

		definitions of habitat types are often interpreted differently by Member States despite the fact that there is an Interpretation manual for habitat types available. This can result in loss of comparability of results at geographical scale.
C	**Contact and update**	
	Contact organisation	The name of the contact organisation for the data or metadata. European Environment Agency
	Contact name	The name of the contact points for the data or metadata. Eleni Tryfon
	Contact email address	E-mail address of the contact points for the data or metadata. Eleni.Tryfon@eea.europa.eu
	Metadata update	29/03/2022