European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on
Biological Diversity

Technical paper 3/2014

Article 17 Reporting – Assessments of conservation status at the EU biogeographical level

Public consultation

This is a background document and 'user manual' for those wishing to participate in the public consultation on the assessments of Conservation Status made by the EEA and its ETC/BD. The public consultation will start on 2nd June 2014 and run till the 7th July 2014 using http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/

June 2014

The European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) is a consortium of twelve organisations under a Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Environment Agency for the period 2014-2018
ALTERRA AOPK-CR ECNC Ecologic GeoVille ILE-SAS ISPRA JNCC MNHN SC-NAT SLU UBA

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Context:

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1 Introduction

The 1992 EU Habitats Directive, together with the 1979 Birds Directive, is the most important European legislation aimed at the conservation of the European Union's wildlife. The Directive is presented as a series of articles together with a number of annexes. Article 11 requires countries to monitor the habitats and species listed in the annexes and Article 17 requires a report to be sent to the European Commission every 6 years following an agreed format – hence 'Article 17 reporting'. The third report covers the period 2007-2012 and concerns 27 EU Member States (Croatia is not concerned by this report given their recent accession to the EU).

The results from Article 17 will form an important component of the mid-term review of progress in implementing the European Commission's 2020 biodiversity strategy but will also be widely used to inform policy.

A major part of the Article 17 report is an assessment of the conservation status of all the habitats and species listed on Annexes I & II of the Directive (those for which the countries must propose & designate sites forming part of the Natura 2000 network) together with species noted on Annex IV (species strictly protected) and Annex V (species whose exploitation requires management). This assessment, which is based around the definition of 'Favourable Conservation Status' given in the Directive, is carried out following a methodology agreed by the European Commission and the Member States. This is described in guidelines prepared by the ETC/BD (Evans & Arvela 2011)[1]. The assessments cover the entire area of each country and are not restricted to the Natura 2000 network.

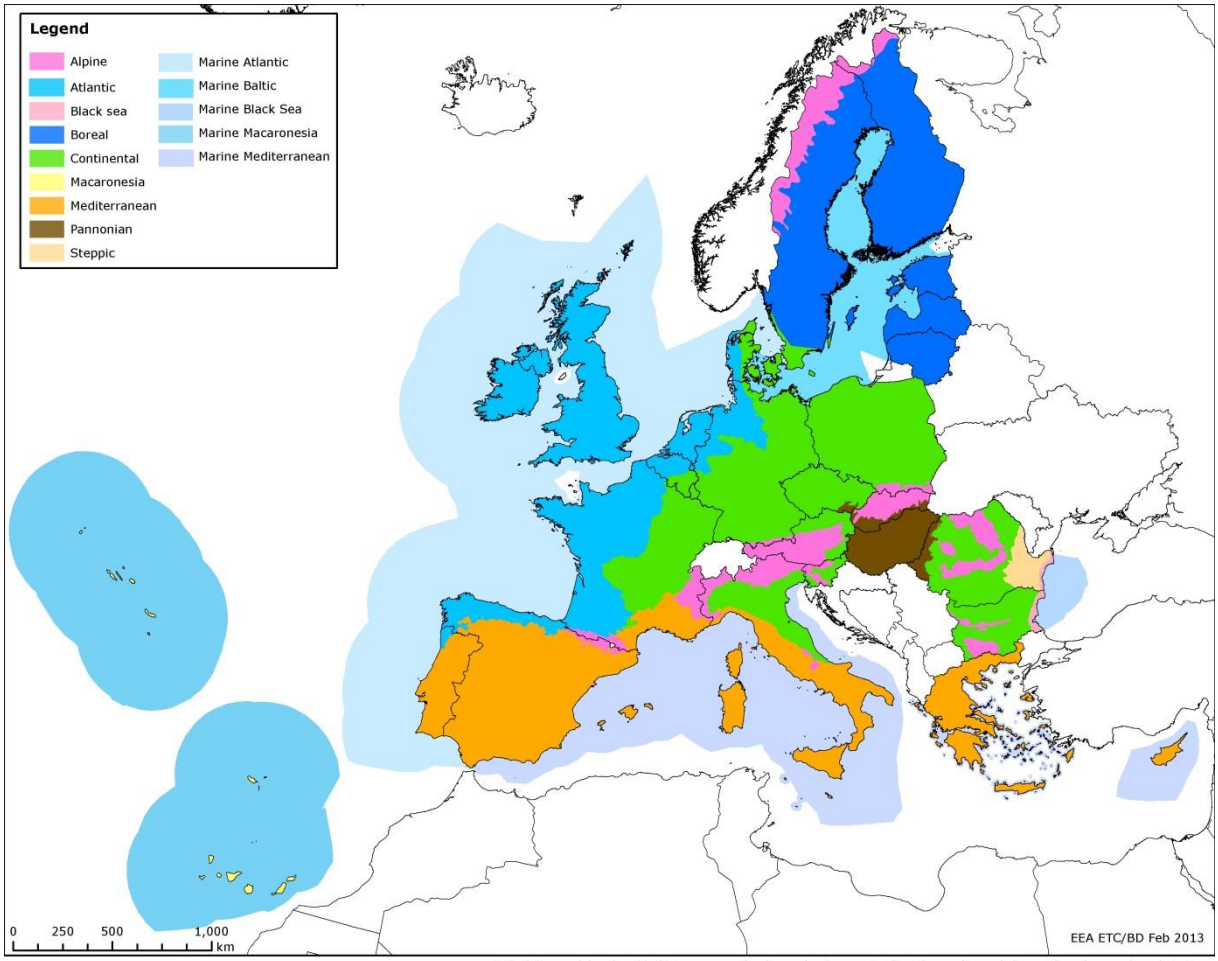
An assessment of conservation status is carried out for each biogeographical region present in a Member State. This division of Europe into biogeographic regions aims to allow a comparison between areas with similar geography and biodiversity. There are nine regions mentioned in the Directive to which five marine regions from the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Atlantic – North east, Atlantic – Macaronesia, Baltic, Black Sea and Mediterranean) have been added for the purpose of Article 17 reporting (see figure 1).

Where a Member State is entirely within one region, such as Luxembourg, only one report is required for each habitat type and species present. If a Member State is in two or more regions a report is required for each region, for example *Bombina variegata* (Yellow-Bellied toad) in Germany occurs in the Alpine, Atlantic and Continental regions and Germany has reported separately for all three regions.

The European Commission has asked the European Environment Agency and its ETC/BD to prepare assessments of Conservation Status across each biogeographic or marine region based on the data sent by the Member States. This assessment followed a method which is described below which was developed for the 2001-06 reporting round in close cooperation with experts of the Habitats Directive Scientific Working Group.

[1] Evans & Arvela (2012) Assessment and reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive Explanatory Notes & Guidelines for the period 2007-2012 https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/0de47902-0a08-41dd-943c-520066a3c529

Figure 1 The biogeographical and marine regions for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.



Disclaimer: For the Mediterranean the boundaries are indicative only and do not imply any legal status

2 Conservation status as assessed by Member States

Member States assess conservation status using a method developed for the 2001-06 reporting round and approved by the Habitats Committee (Evans & Arvela 2011). The assessment is based on separate evaluations of four parameters which reflect the definition of Favourable Conservation Status given in the Habitats Directive, the parameters are slightly different for species and habitats and are listed in table 1. Conservation Status is given as one of three classes

- Favourable
- Unfavourable inadequate (change in management or policy is required to return the habitat type or species to favourable status but there is no danger of extinction in the foreseeable future)
- Unfavourable bad (serious danger of becoming extinct, at least regionally)

There is also an 'Unknown' class which can be used where there is insufficient information available to allow an assessment. .

For graphical representations, each class is colour coded and given an abbreviation, as shown in table 2.

The criteria for each class are given in appendix 1which also shows how the evaluations of the parameters are combined to give Conservation Status.

Table 1: The parameters for assessments of Conservation Status

Species	Habitats
Range	Range
Population	Area
Suitable habitat	Structure & Functions
Future prospects	Future prospects

Table 2: Abbreviations and colour codes for Conservation Status classes

Conservation Status	Colour	Abbreviation
Favourable	Green	FV
Unfavourable inadequate	Amber	U1
Unfavourable bad	Red	U2
Unknown	Grey	XX

Where assessments of Conservation Status had changed since the 2001-06 reports, Member States were also asked to indicate reasons why, the codes used are given in table 3.

Table 3 Codes used to report nature of change

a	there is a genuine change: the overall conservation status improved (or deteriorated) due to natural or non-natural reasons (management, intervention, etc.)
b1	the change observed is due to more accurate data (e.g. better mapping of distribution) or improved knowledge (e.g. on ecology of species or habitat)
b2	the change observed is due to a taxonomic review: one taxon becoming several taxa, or vice versa
c1	the change observed is due to use of different methods to measure or evaluate individual parameters or the overall conservation status
c2	the change observed is mainly due to the use of different thresholds e.g. to fix Favourable reference values
d	no information about the nature of change
e	the change observed is due to less accurate or absent data than the one used in the previous reporting period
nc	no change (e.g. overall trend in conservation status only evaluated in 2013 but assumed to be the same in 2007 or not known)

As described in the next section, a variety of methods have been used to produce EU regional assessments from the national assessments. The codes used are given here but are discussed in more detail below.

Table 4 Methods used to produce EU regional assessments
(G is spatial data, X is tabular data, A is area, P is population, R is range, D is distribution)

Code	Method	Preference
0	Conclusions for a parameter are the same for all MS within the region	1
00	The habitat or species only occurs in one MS within the region so, unless there are good reasons, the MS assessment is also the EU regional assessment	1
1	Parameter assessed using the evaluation matrix after summing the member state data. This should only be used for range, population (species) and area(habitat).	1
2XA	Parameter weighted by area of the coverage from XML data (habitats only)	2
2XP	Parameter weighted by population from XML data (species only)	2
2GD	Parameter weighted by area of distribution from GIS data	3
2XR	Parameter weighted by range from XML data	4
2GR	Parameter weighted by surface of gridded range from GIS data	5
3XA	Overall conclusion weighted by area from XML data (habitats only)	6
3XP	Overall conclusion weighted by population from XML data (species only)	6
3GD	Overall conclusion weighted by area of distribution from GIS data	7
3XR	Overall conclusion weighted by range from XML data	8
3GR	Overall conclusion weighted by surface of gridded range from GIS data	9
Other codes		
MTX	Overall conclusion assessed from assessments using methods 1 or 2 of the 4 parameters, using the last row of the evaluation matrix (only used for overall Conservation Status)	-
OTH	Other method was used, explanations provided in Audit trail	-

Note: where 2 or more methods are given the same preference, often only one will be possible in a given situation.

3 Assessing Conservation Status by biogeographical or marine region

For approximately half of the habitats and species the conservation status for a whole region is the same as reported by the countries as the habitat and species only occurs in one Member State (e.g. habitat type '91C0 Caledonian forest' only occurs in the United Kingdom) or all the Member States where it is present have reported the same evaluation as for the sedge *Carex holostoma* in the Boreal region assessed as 'Favourable'.

Ideally the assessment for each biogeographic region would follow the same method and evaluation matrices as used by the Member States. This assumption is taken as a starting point. However, for three of the conservation status parameters only the final result is available (suitable habitat for species, structure & functions of habitats, future prospects). Therefore, it was necessary to find some way of bringing together the national assessments. For 'range' and 'population' of species and for 'area' of habitats it is possible, at least in theory, to follow the method used by the Member States. However, in many cases a combination of missing data or incompatible data (e.g. population sizes reported using different units) makes this impossible.

Where it was not possible to use the background data provided by the countries directly, the assessments of conservation status for the individual parameters from each country have been weighed by the proportion of the species/habitat in each country and then evaluated. The preferred weighting, is by population size (species) and surface area (habitats) with weighting by range where that is not possible. Where possible the four parameters are evaluated individually and then combined to give a regional assessment using the same method as used by the countries.

Where a weighting has to be used, thresholds are required to give Conservation Status and the following have been used; they are applied in sequence.

Figure 2 Decision making chain to identify qualifiers for conservation status

Although these thresholds are arbitrary, trials showed that changing them made little difference to overall conclusions.

For example the habitat type '2110 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria'* is present in five countries in the Boreal region (see figure 3 and table 4). Overall, 72.4% (16.2 + 22.7 + 33.5) of the habitat has been reported as Favourable and 27.6% as Unfavourable – inadequate and following the thresholds (figure 2) in sequence leads to an overall assessment of 'Unfavourable inadequate' for the parameter 'future prospects'.

Figure 3: The distribution of habitat type '2110 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria'* in the Boreal region (colours indicate conservation status in each country)

Table 4 Assessing the parameter 'future prospects' for Habitat type 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes in the Boreal region

Member State	% of total area of habitat in each country	Assessment for the parameter 'future prospects'
Estonia	16.2	Favourable
Finland	6.5	Unfavourable inadequate
Latvia	22.7	Favourable
Lithuania	33.5	Favourable
Sweden	21.1	Unfavourable inadequate

3.1 Qualifiers for Conservation Status

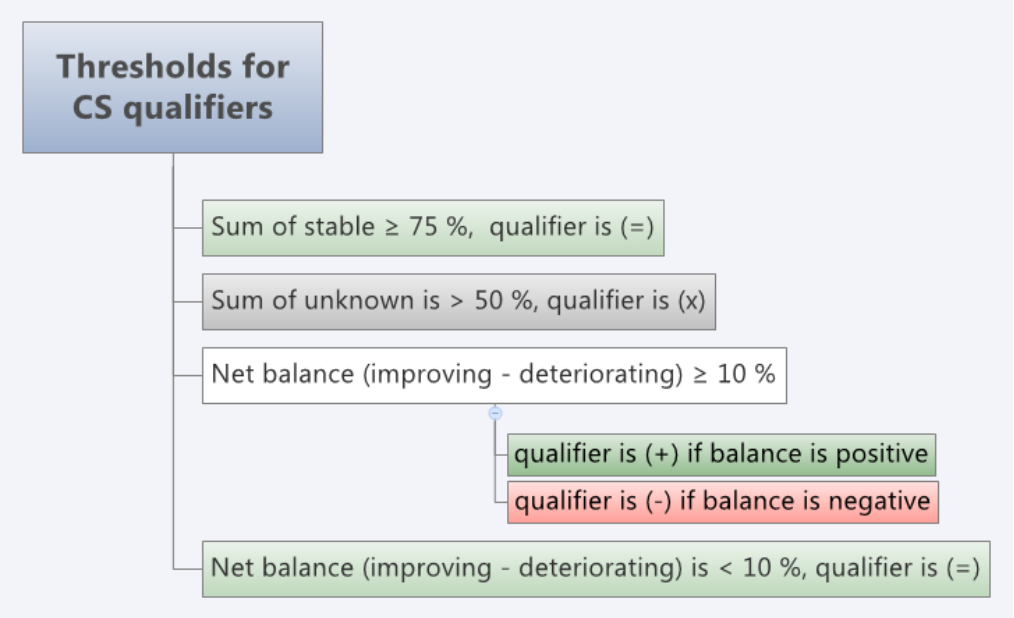
Given the definition of 'favourable conservation status' in the Habitats Directive, changes in the overall conservation status, for example from unfavourable to favourable or, from unfavourable bad to unfavourable inadequate - require relatively major changes in the individual conservation status parameters to be noted. The use of qualifiers (trend of the overall conservation status) allows more subtle changes (improvement or deterioration) of the unfavourable categories to be identified. This information is also required to measure progress to Target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for which it is necessary to identify which 2007-2012 assessments can be considered as 'Favourable' or 'improving', see section 3.2. It is clear which assessments are Favourable or change from

Unfavourable bad to Unfavourable inadequate but other improvements require a qualifier (improvement, stable, deterioration) to be given to all unfavourable assessments. These can be represented as U1+ (Unfavourable inadequate but improving), U2= (Unfavourable bad and stable), U2- (Unfavourable bad and deteriorating) etc.

This a new element compared to the previous assessments. Member States were requested in 2007-2012 to report whether the overall trend is improving, declining, stable or unknown whenever the overall conservation status was unfavourable (U1 & U2), this was optional in 2001-2006 and only used by a few countries.

The qualifiers reported by the Member States can be weighted using the same methods as used for the assessments, see figure 4.

Figure 4 Decision making chain to identify qualifiers for conservation status



For example, for *Triturus cristatus* in the Boreal region weighting the Member State qualifiers by GIS area of distribution gives

Qualifier	% of area
+	9
=	0
-	86
x	4

'Stable' is zero and 'Unknown is <50% and the net balance (9-86 = -77) is much larger than 10 and negative so in this case the qualifier for the regional Conservation Status is deteriorating (-).

3.2 Measuring progress to Target 1

The EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy includes six targets and 20 actions. Target 1 concerns nature conservation and restoration and has a focus on the Birds and the Habitats Directives.

Target 1

To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status so that, by 2020, compared to current assessments:

(i) 100% more habitat assessments and 50% more species assessments under the Habitats Directive show (a favourable or) an improved conservation status; and

(ii) 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive show a secure or improved status.

To achieve this requires a 50% improvement for species and a 100% improvement for habitat types from 2001-2006. To assess progress to this target it is necessary to identify the assessments which

- Are Favourable for 2007-2012
- Have improved since last reporting round

The possible changes between the two reporting rounds are shown in table 5 where the possible changes are coded to indicate which can be considered as Favourable, improving, deteriorating, stable or unknown.

Table 5 Matrix for measuring progress under Target 1

Change in conservation status between reporting periods		CS in 2007-2012							
		FV	**U1 +**	**U1**	**U1 -**	**U2 +**	**U2**	**U2 -**	**XX**
CS in 2001 - 2006	**FV**	A (=)	C (-)	C (-)	C (-)	C (-)	C (-)	C (-)	E (x)
	U1	A (+)	B (+)	D (=)	C (-)	C (-)	C (-)	C (-)	E (x)
	U2	A (+)	B (+)	B (+)	B (+)	B (+)	D (=)	C (-)	E (x)
	XX	A (=)	B (+)	D (=)	C (-)	B (+)	D (=)	C (-)	D (=)

The signs between brackets indicate the type of change in the conservation status between periods 'p' and 'p+1': (=) no change, (+) improvement, (-) deterioration, (x) not known.
'A' indicates 'favourable' assessments, 'B' 'improved' assessments, 'C' 'deteriorated' assessments, 'D' unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change, and 'E' assessments that became 'unknown'.

Information for evaluating progress to Target 1 is recorded to the right of the EU regional assessment section (see figure 7), the headings and codes used are explained in table 6

Table 6 A summary of the information to be recorded to measure progress to Target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Heading in the tool	Overall assessment				Contrib. Target 1	
	Curr CS	Trend CS	Prev CS	Nat change	Contrib	Type
meaning	Conservation Status for a region (2007-2012)	Qualifier (trend in CS): is CS improving, deterioratin g or stable?	Conservation Status for a region in 2001-2006	Nature of change Is the change in CS considered to be 'genuine'?	Contribution to Target 1 (codes from matrix of possible changes, Table 5)	From matrix of possible changes (Table 5)
Possible values	FV U1 U2 XX	+ - = x (unknown)		yes no nc (no change)	A (favourable) B (improvement) C (deterioration) D (same) E (unknown)	+ (improvement) - (deterioration) = (no change) x (not known)
Example	U1	+	U1	nc	B	+

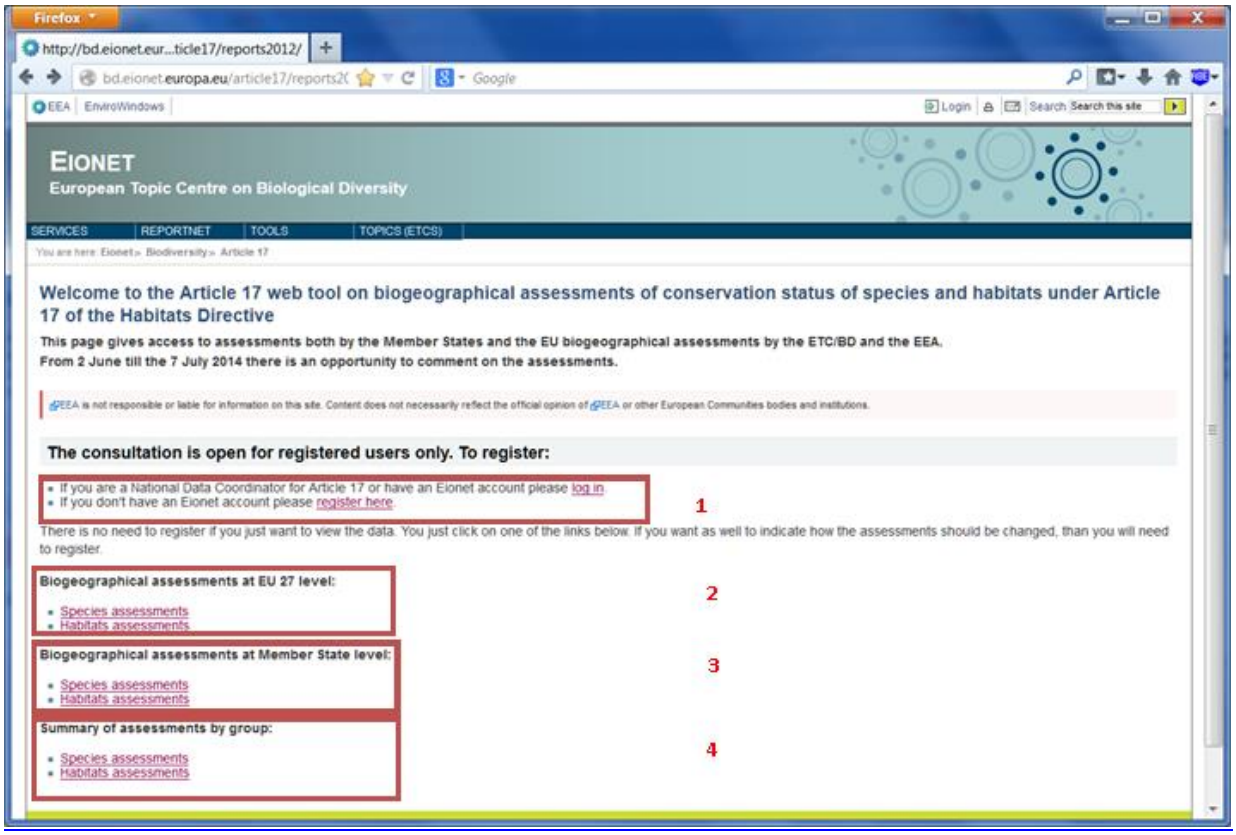
4 Presentation of Assessments and Public Consultation

The assessments, both by countries and for the biogeographical regions are available to the public using a dedicated website designed by the ETC/BD and co-developed by the European Environment Agency at http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/.

This website will also be used for the public consultation when it will be possible to comment on the regional assessments from the ETC/BD. Once the consultation period is finished the ETC/BD will revise the biogeographical assessments.

The use of the website is explained in further detail below.

Figure 5 The homepage of the Article 17 reporting website



1 Registration
2 Biogeographical assessments at EU 27 level
3 Biogeographical assessments at EU 27 level
4 Summary of assessments by group

4.1 Viewing Data

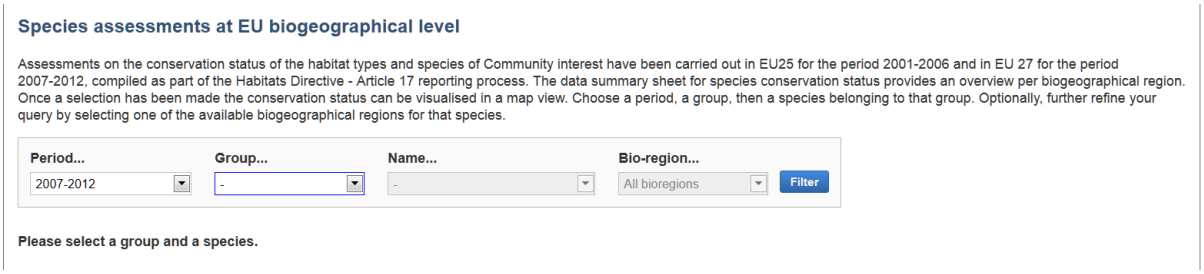
Anybody is able to view the data as provided by Member States as well as the EU regional assessments by the ETC/BD and the EEA.

From the home page, clicking

Species assessments
Habitats assessments

Under the heading **'Biogeographical assessments at EU 27 level:'** will lead to a page (see figure 6) from where it is possible to select species or habitats and to see the assessments of Conservation Status

Figure 6 Selecting species and period

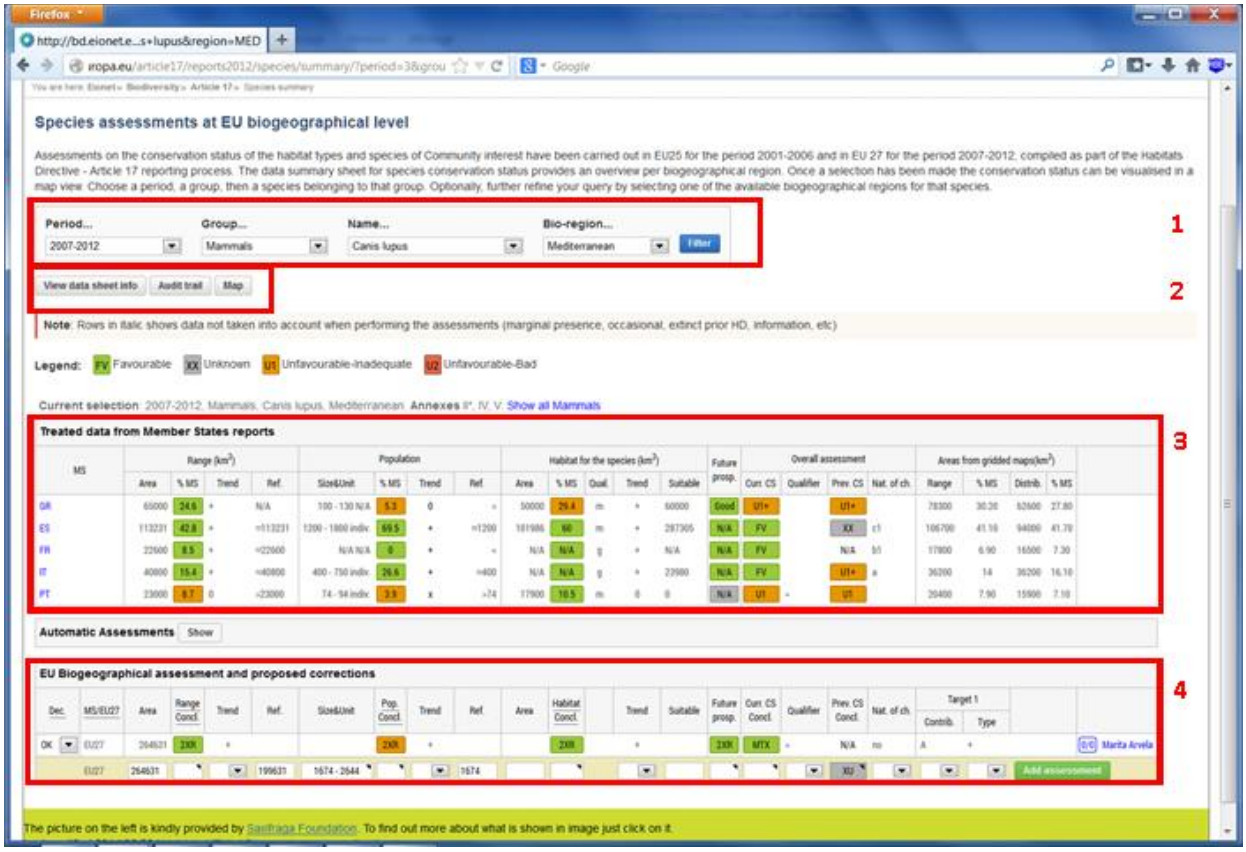


To access the assessments

1 select the period
2 select the group from the drop down menu
3 select the species/habitat from the drop down menu (typing the start of the name will take you to the appropriate part of the list)
4 Select either a region or 'all bioregions'
5 click on 'filter'

This will lead to page showing the MS regional assessments and the ETC/BD regional assessment for the species/habitat selected (figure 7).

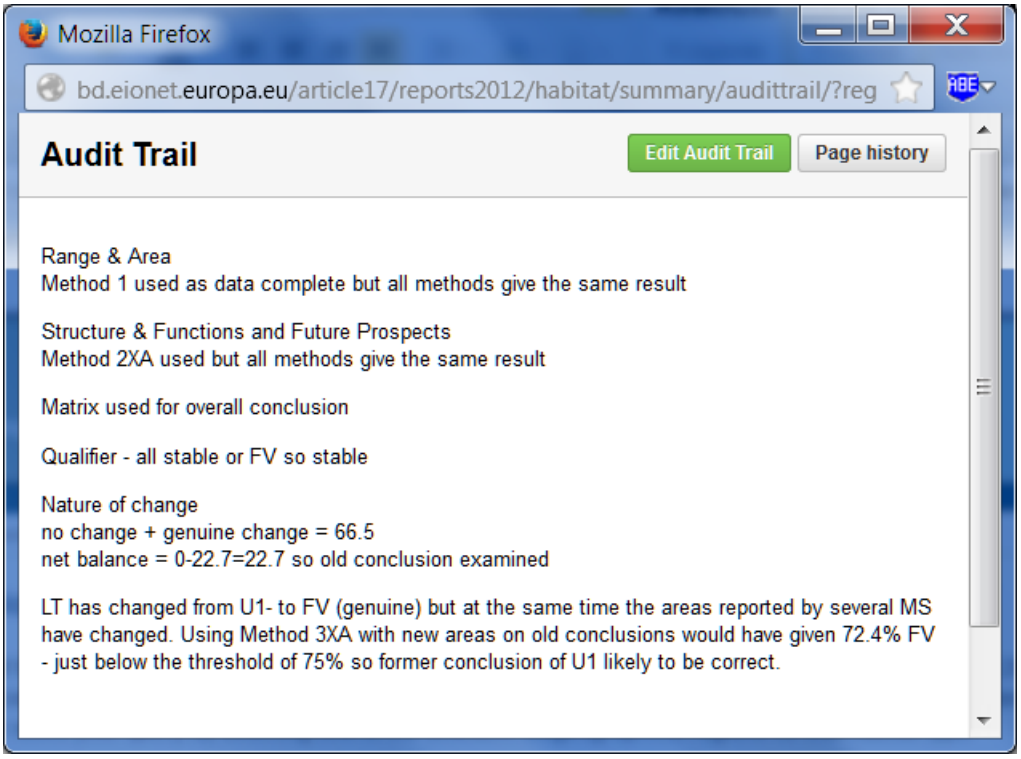
Figure 7 Assessment of the Conservation Status of a species (*Canis lupus* in the Mediterranean region)



1 Select period, species/habitat and region
2 Click to open datasheet, audit trail and/or map
3 Information from countries
4 EU regional assessment

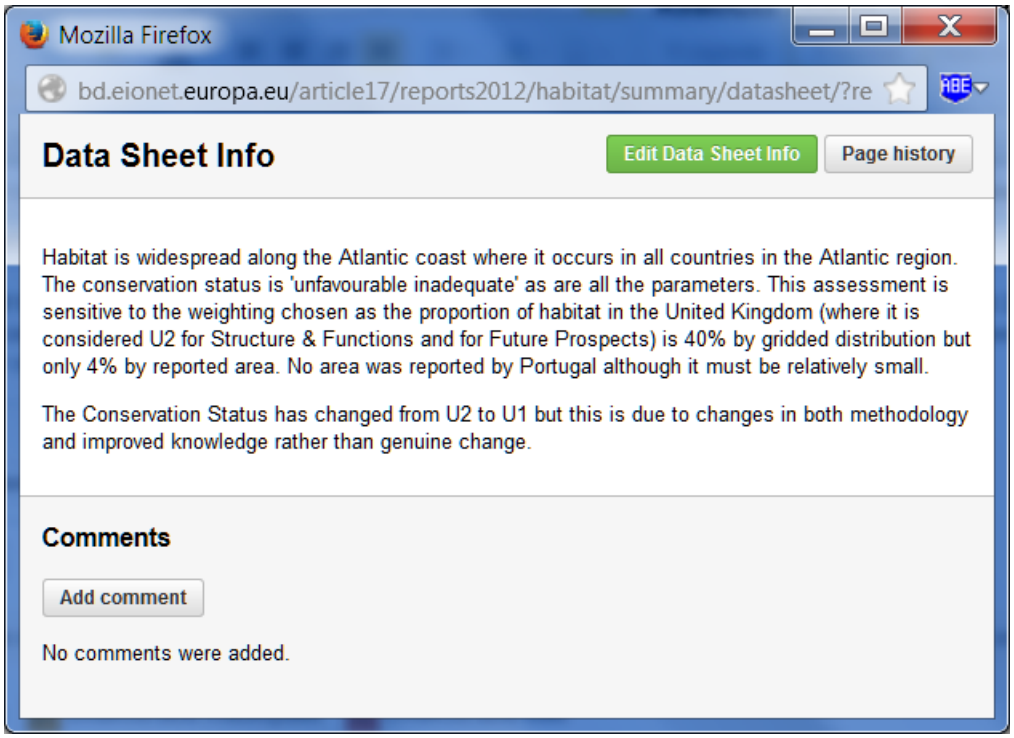
The page presents the status of each of the four parameters together with some of the data used (and links to more) for each Member State. The webpage also shows the EU biogeographical assessment with access to an 'audit trail' which explains which method was chosen (figure 8) and why and a datasheet giving a brief overview of the species/habitat (figure 9). There is also an option to see a map showing the distribution, coded by the national assessments (Figure 10).

Figure 8 An Audit trail (habitat 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes in the Boreal region)



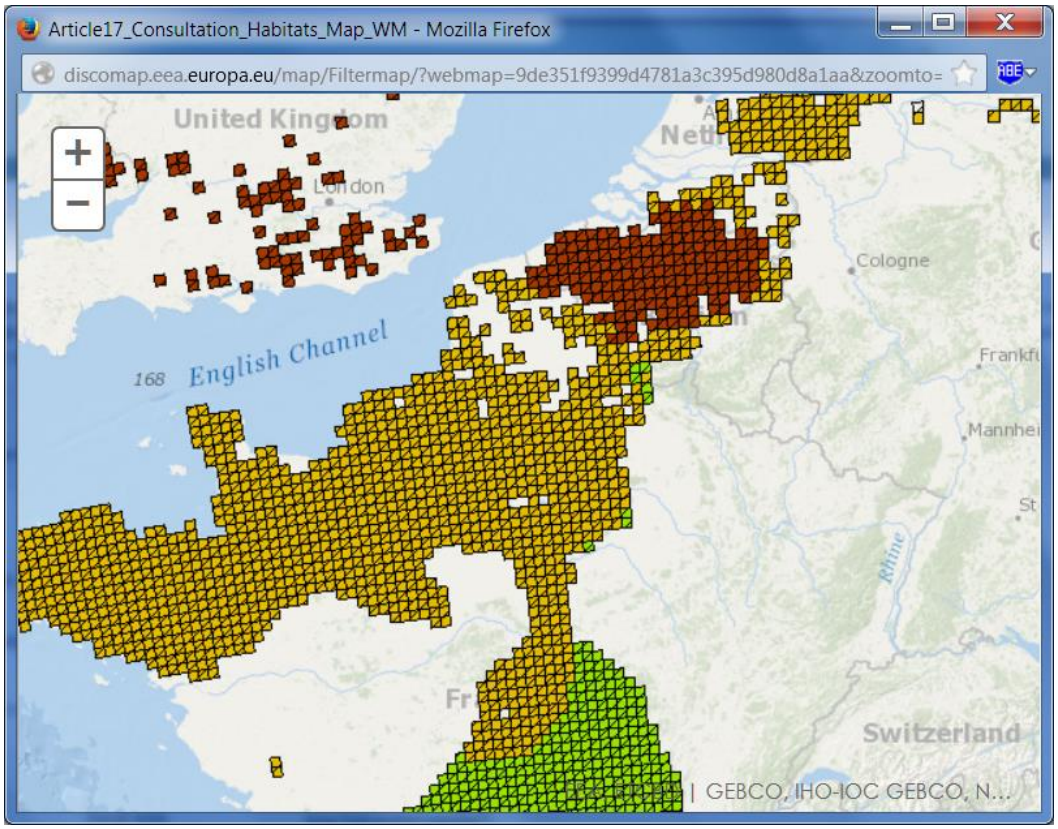
Often the audit trails make use of codes given in tables 2, 3 and 4 above and the standard ISO 2 letter codes for the Member States (e.g. FR for France).

Figure 9 An example of a datasheet (Habitat 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes in the Atlantic region)



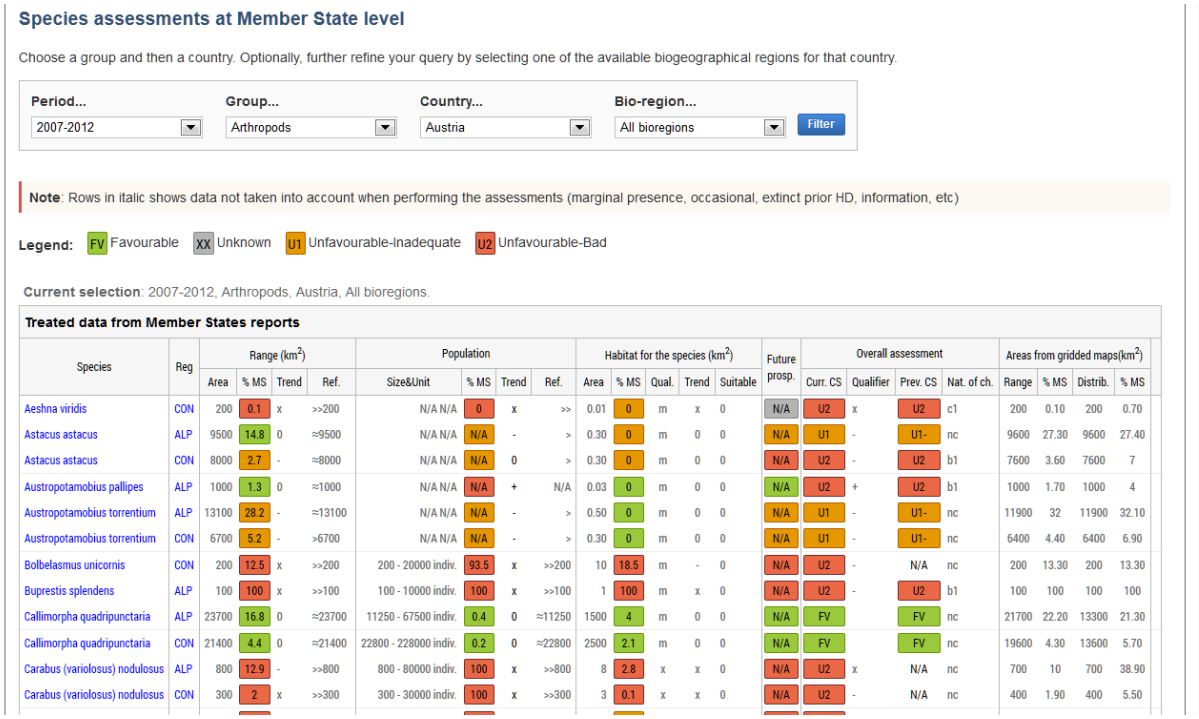
Datasheets have been prepared for each region in which a habitat or species occurs, a summary datasheet for all regions has also been prepared.

Figure 10 Map showing part of the distribution of 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*) (colours indicate Conservation Status)



It is also possible to see assessments for one or all Member State for a group of habitats or species by clicking on Species assessments or Habitat assessments under the heading **'Biogeographical assessments at Member State level:'** (see figure 11) or to see a summary of the assessments of all the species or habitats in a group, for example all mammals or all forests (see figure 12).

Figure 11 Assessment of Conservation Status by Member State (Arthropods in Austria)



Species assessments at Member State level

Choose a group and then a country. Optionally, further refine your query by selecting one of the available biogeographical regions for that country.

Period... 2007-2012 | Group... Arthropods | Country... Austria | Bio-region... All bioregions | Filter

Note: Rows in italic shows data not taken into account when performing the assessments (marginal presence, occasional, extinct prior HD, information, etc)

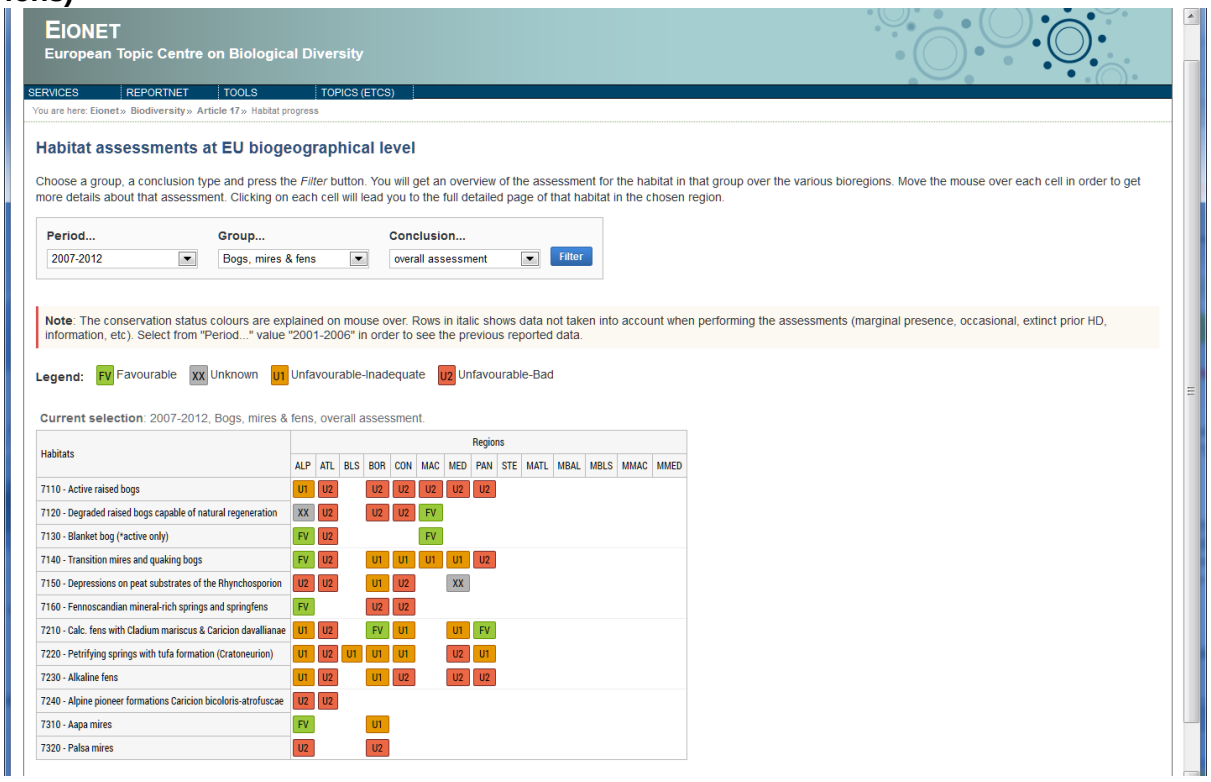
Legend: FV Favourable | XX Unknown | U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate | U2 Unfavourable-Bad

Current selection: 2007-2012, Arthropods, Austria, All bioregions.

Treated data from Member States reports

Species	Reg	Range (km²)				Population				Habitat for the species (km²)					Future prosp.	Overall assessment				Areas from gridded maps(km²)			
		Area	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Size&Unit	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Area	% MS	Qual.	Trend	Suitable		Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
Aeshna viridis	CON	200	0.1	x	>>200	N/A N/A	0	x	>>	0.01	0	m	x	0	N/A	U2	x	U2	c1	200	0.10	200	0.70
Astacus astacus	ALP	9500	14.8	0	≈9500	N/A N/A	N/A	-	>	0.30	0	m	0	0	N/A	U1	-	U1-	nc	9600	27.30	9600	27.40
Astacus astacus	CON	8000	2.7	-	≈8000	N/A N/A	N/A	0	>	0.30	0	m	0	0	N/A	U2	-	U2	b1	7600	3.60	7600	7
Austropotamobius pallipes	ALP	1000	1.3	0	≈1000	N/A N/A	N/A	+	N/A	0.03	0	m	0	0	N/A	U2	+	U2	b1	1000	1.70	1000	4
Austropotamobius torrentium	ALP	13100	28.2	-	≈13100	N/A N/A	N/A	-	>	0.50	0	m	0	0	N/A	U1	-	U1-	nc	11900	32	11900	32.10
Austropotamobius torrentium	CON	6700	5.2	-	>6700	N/A N/A	N/A	-	>	0.30	0	m	0	0	N/A	U1	-	U1-	nc	6400	4.40	6400	6.90
Bolbelasmus unicornis	CON	200	12.5	x	>>200	200 - 20000 indiv.	93.5	x	>>200	10	18.5	m	-	0	N/A	U2	-	N/A	nc	200	13.30	200	13.30
Buprestis splendens	ALP	100	100	x	>>100	100 - 10000 indiv.	100	x	>>100	1	100	m	x	0	N/A	U2	-	U2	b1	100	100	100	100
Callimorpha quadripunctaria	ALP	23700	16.8	0	≈23700	11250 - 67500 indiv.	0.4	0	≈11250	1500	4	m	0	0	N/A	FV		FV	nc	21700	22.20	13300	21.30
Callimorpha quadripunctaria	CON	21400	4.4	0	≈21400	22800 - 228000 indiv.	0.2	0	≈22800	2500	2.1	m	0	0	N/A	FV		FV	nc	19600	4.30	13600	5.70
Carabus (variolosus) nodulosus	ALP	800	12.9	-	>>800	800 - 80000 indiv.	100	x	>>800	8	2.8	x	x	0	N/A	U2	x	N/A	nc	700	10	700	38.90
Carabus (variolosus) nodulosus	CON	300	2	x	>>300	300 - 30000 indiv.	100	x	>>300	3	0.1	x	x	0	N/A	U2	-	N/A	nc	400	1.90	400	5.50

Figure 12 Summary of assessments for a species or habitat group (Bogs, mires & fens)



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Habitat assessments at EU biogeographical level

Choose a group, a conclusion type and press the *Filter* button. You will get an overview of the assessment for the habitat in that group over the various bioregions. Move the mouse over each cell in order to get more details about that assessment. Clicking on each cell will lead you to the full detailed page of that habitat in the chosen region.

Period... 2007-2012 | Group... Bogs, mires & fens | Conclusion... overall assessment | Filter

Note: The conservation status colours are explained on mouse over. Rows in italic shows data not taken into account when performing the assessments (marginal presence, occasional, extinct prior HD, information, etc). Select from "Period..." value "2001-2006" in order to see the previous reported data.

Legend: FV Favourable | XX Unknown | U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate | U2 Unfavourable-Bad

Current selection: 2007-2012, Bogs, mires & fens, overall assessment.

Habitats	Regions												
	ALP	ATL	BLS	BOR	CON	MAC	MED	PAN	STE	MATL	MBAL	MBLS	MMAC	MMED
7110 - Active raised bogs	U1	U2		U2	U2	U2	U2	U2						
7120 - Degraded raised bogs capable of natural regeneration	XX	U2		U2	U2	FV								
7130 - Blanket bog (*active only)	FV	U2				FV								
7140 - Transition mires and quaking bogs	FV	U2		U1	U1	U1	U1	U2						
7150 - Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	U2	U2		U1	U2		XX							
7160 - Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens	FV			U2	U2									
7210 - Calc. fens with Cladium mariscus & Caricion davallianae	U1	U2		FV	U1		U1	FV						
7220 - Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	U1	U2	U1	U1	U1		U2	U1						
7230 - Alkaline fens	U1	U2		U1	U2		U2	U2						
7240 - Alpine pioneer formations Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	U2	U2												
7310 - Aapa mires	FV			U1										
7320 - Palsa mires	U2			U2										

5 Commenting on the Biogeographical Assessments

Any user can view the data, but only registered users can insert comments during the consultation period. The registration process is described in ***Appendix 2***.

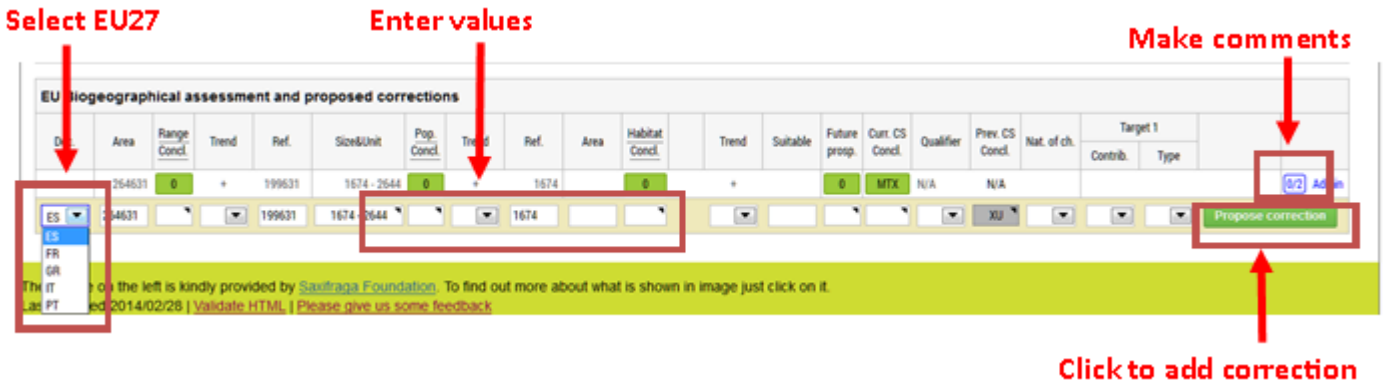
During the consultation period registered users are invited to comment on the following issues:

1. The biogeographical assessments at the EU level
2. The Member States biogeographical assessments as reported by MS
3. The text from the data sheet info.

Any registered user is allowed to add only one record (for each assessment and type of comment), edit his/her records, mark own records for deletion and undelete own records.

5.1 How to comment on the biogeographical assessment at the EU level?

Figure 13 Commenting on biogeographical assessment at the EU level



1 Verify that under the heading "MS/EU27" the value "EU27" is selected

2 Insert a CORRECTION by filling ONLY the fields that are considered to be wrong and that differ from the given assessment. For example, if the conclusion on population assessed as 'U2' is considered wrong, you may select for example 'U1' from the drop down list

3 Click the "Propose correction" button

4 Click on the blue box with 0/0 which will appear next to your name and Insert a text in **ENGLISH** in the window that will open. The text should explain why you think the assessment is not correct. If no explanation is provided the comment will not be considered. As an example, you might write *'The assessment for population seems correct as the values provided by the Member States are correct, but the favourable reference population provided by Member State X seems overestimated"*

5 Click the 'Submit' button

6 If necessary, click on the text '1/1' to see your comment, to change it or to mark it as deleted

If necessary, click on text 'edit' or 'delete' to change or delete your proposed correction.

5.2 How to comment on the biogeographical assessment at MS level as provided by MS?

A registered user may also comment on a biogeographical assessment from a Member State if this is influencing the EU biogeographical assessment.

The process is similar to that described above, except for step 1.

To comment on a specific Member State select its two digit code under the heading 'MS/EU27'

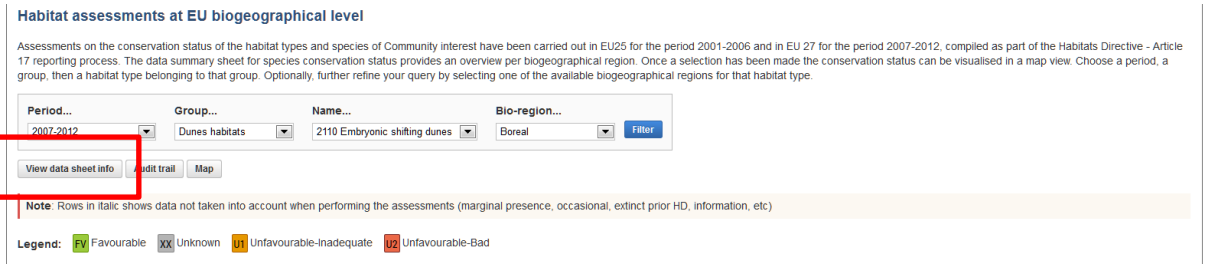
Important note for Member States' National Data Coordinators: you may use this functionality to indicate (and correct) any possible mistakes in the original data reported in Reportnet. You may use the final QA/QC report to track such errors.

5.3 How to comment on the Data sheets

Anybody can view the audit trail and the text in the data sheets, but only registered users are able to comment on that text or to propose new formulations. No comment regarding the assessment should be done here.

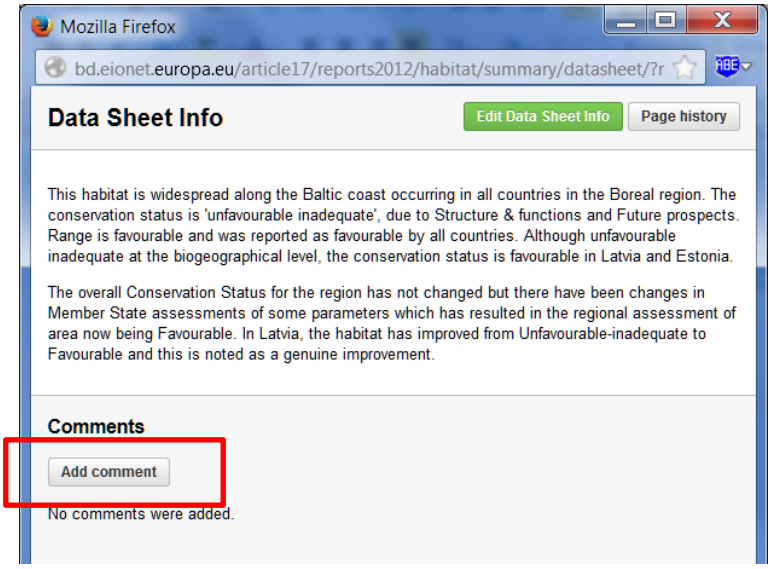
To comment on a 'Data sheet'

1 Click the 'View data sheet" button



2 Read the text

3 Click the "Add comment" button



4 Write your comment(s)

5 Click 'Submit'

6 You may edit or delete your comment

6 Appendix 1 - Assessing conservation status of Species and habitats

6.1 Species

Parameter	**Conservation Status**			
	Favourable ('green')	**Unfavourable - Inadequate ('amber')**	**Unfavourable - Bad ('red')**	***Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)***
Range (within the biogeographical region concerned)	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS OR more than 10% below favourable reference range	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Population	Population(s) not lower than 'favourable reference population' AND reproduction, mortality and age structure not deviating from normal (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS AND below 'favourable reference population' OR More than 25% below favourable reference population OR Reproduction, mortality and age structure strongly deviating from normal (if data available)	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Habitat for the species	Area of habitat is sufficiently large (and stable or increasing) AND habitat quality is suitable for the long term survival of the species	Any other combination	Area of habitat is clearly not sufficiently large to ensure the long term survival of the species OR Habitat quality is bad, clearly not allowing long term survival of the species	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Future prospects (as regards to population, range and habitat availability)	Main pressures and threats to the species not significant; species will remain viable on the long-term	Any other combination	Severe influence of pressures and threats to the species; very bad prospects for its future, long-term viability at risk.	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Overall assessment of CS	All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'	One or more 'amber' but no 'red'	One or more 'red'	Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all "unknown"

6.2 Habitats

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	Favourable ('green')	**Unfavourable – Inadequate ('amber')**	**Unfavourable - Bad ('red')**	***Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)***
Range (within the biogeographical region concerned)	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decrease: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS OR More than 10% below 'favourable reference range'	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Area covered by habitat type within range **Note:** There may be situations where the habitat area has decreased as a result of management measures to restore another Annex I habitat or habitat of an Annex II species. The habitat could still be considered to be at 'Favourable Conservation Status' but in such cases please give details in the Complementary Information section ("Other relevant information") of Annex D	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference area' AND without significant changes in distribution pattern within range (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decrease in surface area: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS OR With major losses in distribution pattern within range OR More than 10% below 'favourable reference area'	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Specific structures and functions (including typical species)	Structures and functions (including typical species) in good condition and no significant deteriorations / pressures.	Any other combination	More than 25% of the area is unfavourable as regards its specific structures and functions (including typical species)[2]	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Future prospects (as regards range, area covered and specific structures and functions)	The habitats prospects for its future are excellent / good, no significant impact from threats expected; long-term viability assured.	Any other combination	The habitats prospects are bad, severe impact from threats expected; long-term viability not assured.	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Overall assessment of CS	All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'	One or more 'amber' but no 'red'	One or more 'red'	Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all "unknown'

[2] E.g. by discontinuation of former management, or is under pressure from significant adverse influences, e.g. critical loads of pollution exceeded.

7 Appendix 2 - Registration

Anybody is able to view data without being registered. But only registered users are able to comment on the biogeographical assessment at the regional level as assessed by ETC/BD and to comment on MS reports if relevant for the EU assessment.

The consultation will run from 2 June to 7 July 2014.

Important: All the National Data Coordinators for the Article17 delivery will be registered with their EIONET account so there is no need for them to register again for the consultation. To register:

Go the Article 17 web page http://biodiversity.eionet.europa.eu/article17

Click on the button 'Register'

Complete and submit the registration from

An e-mail will be sent to the address provided by the user: click on the confirmation link in the body of the email

If you are already registered as an EIONET user, then it is just necessary to fill in a simplified form where the username and password need to be provided