

Note to the Article 17 Checklists

The Article 17 Checklists (habitat checklist and species checklist) indicate the presence of habitat types or species in Member States biogeographical or marine regions.

Structure and content of the checklists

The habitat types are identified by the habitat code and the habitat description used in the biogeographical assessments of conservations status (this description is based on a description in the Habitats Directive with some minor corrections)

The species are identified by the 'assessment' species code and 'assessment' species name used in the biogeographical assessments of conservation status. The fields species code and species name contain names and related codes used in reports by Member States.

The species checklist includes the Habitats Directive species which regularly occur in the Member State/region and which are identified as present ("1"). In addition, the checklist includes also other types of occurrences:

- **ARR**, newly arriving species are species which do not represent a component of fauna of a biogeographical/marine region, but which started to be observed recently.
- **EX**, species which became extinct after the Habitats Directive came into force. This category includes species for which the last record of the species (even if it was a single individual) which had previously stable occurrence in a region was after the date when the Directive came into force.
- **EX_GLOBAL**, species which became globally extinct after the Habitats Directive came into force. This category includes species for which the last record of the species (even if it was a single individual) which had previously stable occurrence in a region was after the date when the Directive came into force.
- **OCC**, occasionally occurring species (in some documents also a term vagrant has been used, but these two are considered here as synonyms). Occasional species are the species which do not have a stable and regular occurrence in the biogeographical region and/or the number of specimens is insignificant.
- **PEX**, species which became extinct prior to the Habitats Directive came into force. This category includes species for which the last record of the species (even if it was a single individual) which had previously stable occurrence in a region was before the date when the Directive came into force. These species are included only for information. The list by Member States is often not complete.
- **SR**, the occurrence of the species is uncertain, for example there are only occasional records of the species and it is not possible to judge whether it occurs regularly in significant numbers. Basically this criterion should not be used for the species which were known from a biogeographical region and which has recently disappeared.
- **LR**, regularly occurring species, but for these species the link between the species and the corresponding name in the Habitats Directive is not clear.
- **MAR**, marginal occurrence. This category is used where a species occurs mostly in one region but with the distribution extending across the boundaries of the region to a neighbouring region in the same country and where a Member States included this marginal species occurrence in the report for the neighbouring region.

Some particular situations are also flagged in the checklist:

- **IRM**, the report in marine region was provided for a species, which should only be reported in 'terrestrial' biogeographical regions. These reports from Member States are considered 'invalid'.
- **N/SR TAX**, the taxonomy of the species is not clear or was ambiguous in the time the Annexes of the Directive were drafted and therefore it is not possible to complete the Article 17 report
- **OP**, optional report. The additional report, which was provided for a species together with a mandatory report. This optional report is made at different taxonomical level than the mandatory report.
- **N/R**, the species that do not occur in the area of Cyprus where the Community acquis applies at present.

The habitat checklist includes the Annex I habitats present in the Member State/region and which are identified as present ("1"). For the habitats, apart from the category present ("1") following categories were used:

- **MAR**, marginal occurrence. This category is used where a habitat occurs mostly in one region but with the distribution extending across the boundaries of the region to a neighbouring region in the same country and where a Member States included this marginal occurrence in the report for the neighbouring region.
- **SR**, the presence of the habitat is uncertain; often linked to problems with interpretation of the habitat type.

The information on presence/absence of the habitat and species mostly reflects the status reported by the Member States. However, in some exceptional cases in order to keep consistency with a type of occurrence in other Member States and following the above mentioned definitions of types of occurrence ETC/BD has modified information reported by the Member States.