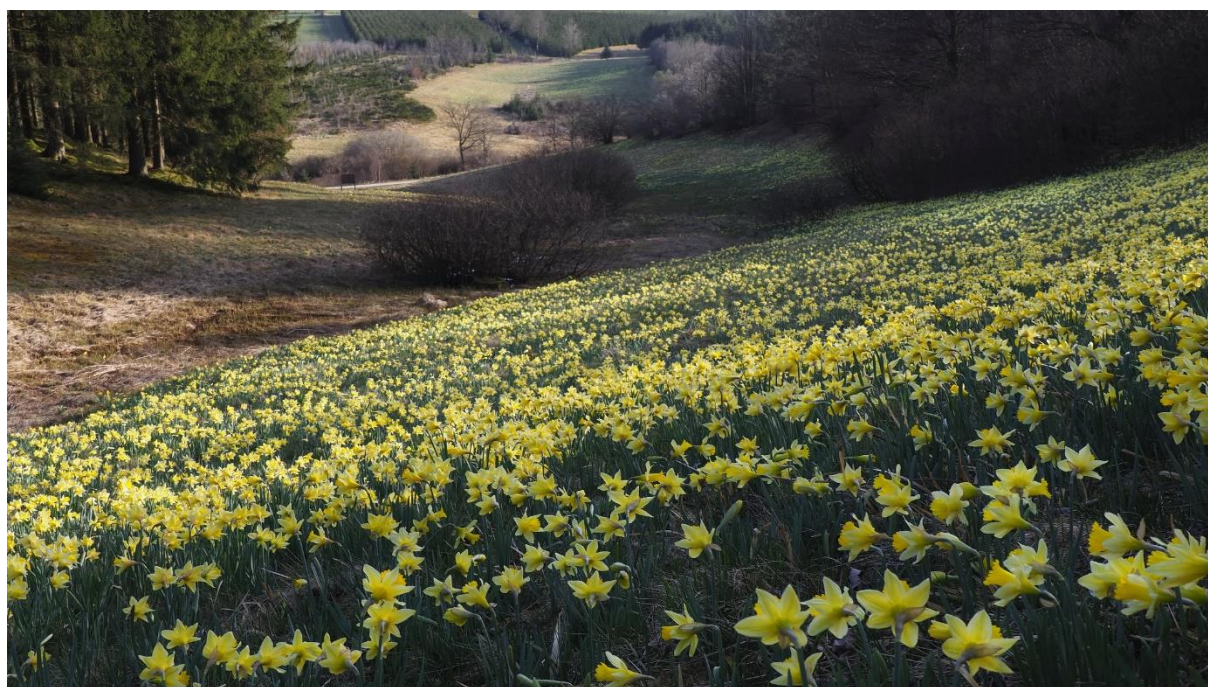


# ***EXPLANATORY NOTES***

## ***IN SUPPORT TO THE REPORTING FORMAT REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 17 OF DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC (HABITATS DIRECTIVE)***



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## INTRODUCTION

A central element to the implementation and the success of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) is a good level of information on the status and trends of non-bird species and habitats as required under Article 17 of the directive. Data and information are needed in a structured and comparable format in order for the Commission to compile and analyse the data. The legal basis for providing data in a structures format is Art.17.

Article 17 paragraph 1 of the Habitats Directive (hereafter 'the Directive') states: 'Every six years from the date of expiry of the period laid down in Article 23, Member States shall draw up a report on the implementation of the measures taken under this Directive. This report shall include in particular information concerning the conservation measures referred to in Article 6(1) as well as evaluation of the impact of those measures on the conservation status of the natural habitat types of Annex I and the species in Annex II and the main results of the surveillance referred to in Article 11.'

Article 17 paragraph 2 requires the European Commission to prepare a composite report based on the national reports and to make it available for the other EU institutions and the public in general.

This document provides information and guidance on how to fill the different data fields of the Article 17 report format (Parts A, B, and E). It mainly consists of descriptions of the information to be reported in each field and the basic requirements to be met by reported information.

More detailed descriptions of the concepts and methods for reported information are provided in the guidelines on concepts and methods (referred further as ‘Guidelines’). Furthermore, additional documentation needed for the correct completion of the report format is made available through the online ‘Article 17 reference portal’.

### **The Article 17 reference portal**

The reference portal contains the necessary documentation related to the information provided in the report formats under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.

It includes:

- the report format & the explanatory notes the guidelines;
- reference material, e.g. checklists for species and habitats, list of pressures and threats, list of conservation measures and the European grids (10×10 km ETRS) used for mapping the distribution;
- examples illustrating the guidelines.



# GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORTING FORMAT

The Article 17 Reporting format consists of five distinct Parts (A–E):

**Part A – General report:** gives an overview of the implementation and general measures taken under Directive 92/43/EEC.

**Part B – Report format on the ‘main results of the surveillance under Article 11’ for Annex II, IV and V species of Directive 92/43/EEC (Species reports):** gives background information for assessment of the conservation status of a species.

**Part C – Assessing conservation status of a species (Species evaluation matrix):** the evaluation matrix used to assess the conservation status of a species using the information in the Part B reports. The assessment conclusions for each species are also reported in the respective Part B report.

**Part D – Report format on the ‘main results of the surveillance under Article 11’ for Annex I habitat types of Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitat type reports):** gives background information for assessment of the conservation status of a habitat.

**Part E – Assessing conservation status of a habitat type (Habitat type evaluation matrix):** the evaluation matrix used to assess the conservation status of a habitat type using the information in the Part D reports. The assessment conclusions (i.e. for each parameter and the overall assessment) for each habitat type are also reported in the respective Part D report.

The information reported in Parts B and D includes data used for the assessments of conservation status for each biogeographical or marine region at the Member State and EU levels. Therefore, the habitat and species reports have a short ‘national’ section to be completed for each habitat type or species of Community interest present in the Member State, followed by a ‘biogeographical or marine region’ section. This should be completed for each biogeographical or marine region in the Member State where the habitat or species is present according to the checklists available from the Article 17 Reference Portal.

The reports under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive provide information on the conservation status of habitats and species listed in the Annexes to the Directive. **Conservation status is the overall assessment of the status of a habitat type or a species at the scale of a Member State’s biogeographical or marine region.**

The assessment of the conservation status of a habitat type or species is related to the concept of Favourable conservation status (FCS). Favourable conservation status is the overall objective to be reached for all habitat types and species of Community interest (i.e. the habitats and species listed in Annexes I, II, IV and V of the Directive) and it is defined in Article 1 of the Directive 92/43/EEC. It can be simply described as **a situation where a habitat type or species is prospering (in both quality and extent/population) and with good prospects to continue to do so in the future.** 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 conservation status of a species in the Habitats Directive (Article 1(i)) will be taken as ‘favourable’ when:

- *population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; and*
- *the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and*
- *there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.*

The conservation status of a habitat in the Habitats Directive (Article 1(e)) will be taken as ‘favourable’ when:

- *its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing; and*
- *the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and*
- *the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined in (i).*

The agreed method for the evaluation of conservation status assesses separately each of the parameters of conservation status (Table 1), with the aid of an evaluation matrix (see Parts C and E of the Report format), and then combines these assessments to give an overall assessment of conservation status.

**Table 1: Parameters for the conservation status assessment of species and habitat types**

| Parameters for the conservation status assessment of species | Parameters for the conservation status assessment of habitat types |
|--|--|
| Range  | Range  |
| Population   | Area   |
| Habitat for the species                                      | Structure and functions (including typical species)                |
| Future prospects   | Future prospects   |

# **PART A - GENERAL REPORT FORMAT**

The general report or ‘Part A’ uses a very brief structured format aimed at summarising the most important facts and figures on the general implementation of the Directive, including links to more detailed information sources. It is mainly targeted at the interested public, but also at informing the Commission.

Each Member State is expected to submit one general report covering its entire European territory. It includes obligatory information about provisions of the Habitats Directive. The main achievements under the implementation of the Directive should be described with the aid of specific success stories to demonstrate successful implementation. The report should give information of relevance for the period 2019–2024.

Language – any EU official language can be used. The Report format tries to minimise the difficulties of using different languages by requesting numerical information wherever possible, where relevant. The use of English is recommended for the free text fields.

All Internet addresses in the reporting fields should be given in full, including the initial ‘http://’ or ‘https://’, if applicable.

## **0 MEMBER STATE**

Select the two-digit code for your Member State from ISO 3166 in accordance with the list to be found on the Reference Portal.

## **1 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC**

This section aims to inform about the main achievements under the Habitats Directive and the Sites of Community Importance / Special Areas of Conservation (SCI/SAC) network in the respective Member State during the reporting period. The information should primarily be given in the national language (field 1.1), with a translation into English if possible (optional field 1.2), as this information is likely to be of interest to readers in other Member States.

### **1.1 Text in national language**

#### Main achievements:

Describe briefly the main achievements under the Habitats Directive during the reporting period, with a special emphasis on the Sites of Community Importance / Special Areas of Conservation (SCI/SAC) network. This can include, for example:

- demonstrated benefits for different habitats and species;
- experiences with new or improved management techniques;
- positive changes in public acceptance of biodiversity protection;
- improved cooperation between authorities, nature conservationists and other interest groups;
- initiatives to combine establishment of Natura 2000 sites and the local economy;
- measures taken and their effect (achievements);
- success factors, outlook and the role of Natura 2000;
- success stories of habitat types and/or species showing genuine improvements.

### Success story example:

Provision of a ‘success story’ (if available) gives the opportunity for the Member State to show an example of how the directive is working in their country. Each success story should be based on a single habitat or species that shows a genuine improvement in conservation status and / or overall trend in conservation status during the reporting period. The improvements described should be conservation measure driven and should concern the current reporting period but may well include measures that started at an earlier point in time.

Proposed structure:

- Indicate habitat type & code / species & code, biogeographical region
- Background on the habitat/species, past developments and their reasons (pressures, etc.), conservation challenges
- Measures taken and their effect (achievements)
- Role of the Natura 2000 network (if applicable)
- Success factors
- Outlook

The text should be two to three pages. If a Member State wishes to add further documentation to that requested, it should note these annexes and their filenames at the end of this field, and upload the relevant files to the EEA’s Reporting Mechanism together with the rest of the report.

### **1.2 Translation into English (optional)**

This is an optional field to translate the information provided in field 1.1 into English (where it was reported in another language).

### **1.3 Name, code and season of feature(s) in success stories**

These fields are to be completed when one or more habitats or species are described in the form of a success story.

Select the a) habitat type code and name and b) the biogeographical / marine regions and/or the c) species code and name and d) biogeographical / marine region it occurs in.

Multiple habitats and species can be selected individually.

## **2 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC – LINKS TO INFORMATION SOURCES OF THE MEMBER STATE AND INFORMATION ON COHERENCE OF THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK**

This section aims to inform the interested public where they can find information relating to the Habitats Directive and the Natura 2000 network of the Member States. The free text fields allow for either weblinks or reference to the organisations responsible for the information. Further information on accessing the information source, e.g. in the case of multiple sources of information, can be provided. Fields 2.1 to 2.7 should be completed.

### **2.1 General information on Directive 92/43/EEC**

Provide links to general information on the Habitats Directive (e.g. portal presenting EU Nature Directives).

## **2.2 Information on the network of proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**

Provide links to general information on the network of pSCIs, SCIs and SACs (e.g. an online database of Natura 2000 sites, publications presenting the network).

## **2.3 Monitoring schemes (Article 11 of Directive 92/43/EEC)**

Provide links to general information on monitoring (e.g. portal presenting national monitoring scheme(s), monitoring guidelines).

## **2.4 Protection of species (Articles 12–16 of Directive 92/43/EEC)**

Provide links to general information on species protection (e.g. links to systems for monitoring the incidental capture and killing of animal species listed in Annex IV, Article 12.4).

## **2.5 Impact of measures referred to in Article 6.1 on the conservation status of Annex I habitats and Annex II species (Article 17.1 of Directive 92/43/EEC)**

Provide links to general information on the implementation of conservation measures within the Natura 2000 sites and their impact on conservation status.

## **2.6 Transposition of the Directive (legal texts)**

Provide links to general information on transposition of the Directive.

## **2.7 Measures taken to ensure the coherence of the Natura 2000 network (Art. 10 of Directive 92/43/EC) (Free text)**

This section is for a general description of the main measures taken to ensure the coherence of the Natura 2000 network according to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. Give an overview at national level of activities taken (including legal measures, or systematic studies); do not give detailed site-by-site descriptions. If relevant, give references to published reports, scientific papers or websites.

# **3 REINTRODUCTION OF ANNEX IV SPECIES (ARTICLE 22(A) OF DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC)**

This section is to report on the reintroduction of Annex IV species previously considered extinct or regionally extinct in the Member State/region. Therefore, it concerns both species still present in the Member State (but not in the area or region where it is being reintroduced) and species not present currently. For each species repeat fields 3.1 to 3.8 as needed. The definition of reintroduction follows that of IUCN<sup>1</sup> ‘Reintroduction is the intentional movement and release of an organism inside its indigenous range from which it has disappeared’.

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN/SSC (2013). Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN Species Survival Commission, viiii + 57 pp.

### **3.1 Species code**

Provide the species code as given in the species checklist on the Reference Portal.

### **3.2 Species scientific name**

Provide the species scientific (Latin) name, as given in the species checklist on the Reference Portal.

### **3.3 Alternative species scientific name (optional)**

Provide an alternative scientific name (synonym).

### **3.4 Common name (optional)**

Provide a common name in the national language or English.

### **3.5 Reintroduction period**

Provide a reintroduction period.

### **3.6 Reintroduction location and number of individuals reintroduced**

Provide name of the reintroduction location (field 3.6(a)) and number of individuals reintroduced (field 3.6(b)). Location can be, for example, a small region, a mountain range, or a Natura 2000 site.

### **3.7 Is the reintroduction successful?**

Indicate whether the reintroduction has been successful ('Yes/no/too early to say'). A successful reintroduction implies natural reproduction has already taken place and the population is growing.

### **3.8 Additional information on the reintroduction (optional)**

Additional information on the reintroduction can be given in this optional free-text field.

# **PART B - REPORT FORMAT ON THE ‘MAIN RESULTS OF THE SURVEILLANCE UNDER ARTICLE 11’ FOR ANNEX II, IV AND V SPECIES OF DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC**

## **SPECIES TO BE REPORTED**

In general, each Member State should report (either a full or a partial report) for all species listed in Annexes II, IV and V of the Habitats Directive for every biogeographical or marine region in which they occur<sup>2</sup>. This includes all regularly occurring species, marginal, vagrant and occasional species, species that started to occur only recently (newly arriving species) and species extinct after the Directive came into force. The report is optional for species with a scientific reserve. A checklist of species covered by the Habitats Directive and their occurrence per biogeographical or marine region and Member State is available on the Article 17 Reference Portal.

### **Taxonomic changes**

Since the original Annexes of the Habitats Directive were published in 1992, there have been taxonomic revisions of several of the taxa listed, and several species are now considered to be two or more species. Conversely, other species listed in the Annexes are now included in other newly defined species, often losing their specific or even subspecific status.

Wherever feasible (e.g. the species can be determined in the field), when the Directive species is now considered to be two or more species, there should be one Article 17 report for each currently recognised species. In cases, where a species listed in the Annex(es) is now included in other newly defined species, Member States should consider the interpretation of the species at the time when the Annexes of the Directive were drafted or amended and provide an Article 17 report corresponding to the meaning of the species name in the Directive. Where two species listed in the Directive were merged into one currently recognised species a joint report including both Directive species should be provided using the currently valid species name (provided in the species checklist). Joint reports for species is no longer permitted where the groupings ‘all others’ and ‘complex’ were used as part of the reporting concept. The only exception to this is Annex V *Coregonus albula* and Annex IV *Bufo viridis* which can still be reported as a complex. The lists of species under this grouping, as well as more details on taxonomic changes, is provided in the Guidelines.

For some species the taxonomy remains unclear or was ambiguous at the time the Annexes of the Directive were drafted. For these species the link between the currently recognised valid names and the names listed in the Directive is not implicit. A few species listed in the Directive are currently considered to be taxonomic errors. These situations are highlighted in the species

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<sup>2</sup> For the habitat types and species which do not occur in the area of Cyprus where the Community acquis applies at present, no report is expected but the species should remain in the checklist.

checklist (see Table 2). An overview of the taxonomy related categories used in the species checklist with an indication of whether a report is expected or not is provided in Table 2.

**Table 2: Taxonomy related categories used in the species checklist**

| Species category (code)   | Report    |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Taxonomical uncertainty (TAX)</b><br>The taxonomy of the species remains unclear or was ambiguous at the time the Annexes of the Directive were drafted.   | Mandatory |
| <b>Taxonomical error (NTAX)</b><br>Species listed in the Directive is currently proved to be a taxonomical error. This does not apply to species which were recognised as such in the past and which are now included under other taxa. | No report |

### **Names to be used for reporting**

The Member States are requested to use the species names as indicated in the species checklist available on the Reference Portal. This list has been updated for the reporting period 2019–2024 following available scientific knowledge and taking into account recommendations from the Member States. Since there is no up-to-date single taxonomic reference covering all species groups in Europe, proposed/recommended species names are based on available scientific literature and available information from global taxonomic references (e.g. Catalogue of Life, Fauna Europea, Eur+Med PlantBase), regional or national databases (e.g. DynTaxa in Sweden, TaxRef in France, Portal to the Flora in Italy), and regional or national checklists. In most cases, unless there were serious doubts about the valid name or in cases where a species was a single country endemic, the species names having a valid status in these global or regional taxonomic references have priority over names used in different Member States.

### **Species with marginal or irregular occurrence, extinct species**

In some situations it is impossible to provide a complete assessment of the conservation status (within a Member State's biogeographical or marine region) using the methods outlined in the evaluation matrix and this guidelines document. This is particularly the case for irregularly occurring or marginal species, whose conservation status depends on the status in the neighbouring main population, and for extinct species. To reflect the problems of reporting in these situations the species checklist distinguishes several categories of species (or more correctly, several categories of species occurrence). In general, for these categories it is often not necessary (and not possible) to fill in a complete report. An overview of the categories, indicating whether a report is expected and which parts of the report remain mandatory, is provided in Table 3. A more detailed definition of species categories can be found in the Guidelines.



**Table 3: Categories of species occurrence within the biogeographical/marine region and indication of the expected content of the Article 17 report**

| Species occurrence  | Report                   | Mandatory information for report  |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Present regularly (PRE)</b>  | Mandatory <sup>3</sup>   | Full report.  |
| <b>Occasional (OCC)</b>   | Mandatory partial report | Whenever possible provide information for any of the fields listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution map (field 2.3)</li> <li>• Actual range – surface area (field 5.1)</li> <li>• Population – size estimate (field 6.2), date (field 6.1) and method used (field 6.7)</li> <li>• any other relevant information, e.g. whether a species had been recorded during the reporting period or an explanation why a species is treated as an occasional species (field 13.3).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Newly arriving species (ARR)</b>   | Mandatory partial report | Whenever possible provide information for any of the fields listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution map (field 2.3)</li> <li>• Actual range – surface area (field 5.1)</li> <li>• Population – size estimate (field 6.2), date (field 6.1) and method used (field 6.7)</li> <li>• Any other relevant information, e.g. information related to the potential range expansion or an explanation of why a species is treated as a newly arriving species (field 13.3).</li> </ul>      |
| <b>Marginal (MAR)</b>   | Mandatory partial report | Whenever possible provide information for any of the fields listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution map (field 2.3)</li> <li>• Actual range – surface area (field 5.1)</li> <li>• Population – size estimate (field 6.2), date (field 6.1) and method used (field 6.7)</li> <li>• Information on occurrence of main population (field 13.3).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Species extinct after entry into force of the Habitats Directive (EXa)</b> | Mandatory                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 11 ‘Conclusions’. The overall conservation status is ‘unfavourable-bad’.</li> </ul>  |

<sup>3</sup> For the habitat types and species which do not occur in the area of Cyprus where the Community acquis applies at present, no report is expected but the species should remain on the checklist (using category NPRES in the checklist).

| Species occurrence   | Report  | Mandatory information for report   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Species extinct prior to entry into force of the Habitats Directive (EXp)</b> | Mandatory for species with restoration project and for species of particular interest with recent signs of recolonisation | Whenever possible provide information for any of the fields listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution map (field 2.3)</li> <li>• Actual range – surface area (field 5.1)</li> <li>• Population – size estimate (field 6.2), date (field 6.1) and method used (field 6.7)</li> <li>• Section 11 ‘Conclusions’</li> <li>• Any other relevant information, e.g. information on reintroduction project or information related to recolonisation (field 13.3).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Scientific reserve (SCR)</b>  | Optional  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any other relevant information, e.g. information on survey conducted or related to probability that the species will/will not be refound in the region (field 13.3).</li> </ul>   |

### Reporting for species groups

The Annexes include several species groups, for example Annex II has ‘*Alosa* spp.’ while Annex IV has ‘Microchiroptera – All species’. All species included in these groups should be reported separately, except *Cladonia* subgenus *Cladina*, *Lycopodium*, *Sphagnum* and *Coregonus lavaretus* group. For example, there should be separate reports per region for *Alosa agone*, *A. alosa*, *A. fallax*, *A. killarnensis*, etc. For Annex V ‘*Acipenseridae* – All species not mentioned in Annex IV’, reports should be produced for *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, *A. ruthenus*, *Huso huso*, etc. The species to be included under each group are shown in the Guidelines and the species checklist available from the Article 17 reporting Reference Portal.

For *Cladonia* subgenus *Cladina*, *Lycopodium* spp. and *Sphagnum* spp., Member States should submit a single report per group per region. It is also possible to report individual species in these groups (where it is thought that a species needs special attention) as an optional report, but in this case they should also be included in the report on the genus. For example, if Germany considers that *Sphagnum pulchrum* in the Atlantic region is of special concern, it can submit a report for that species. However, the overall assessment for *Sphagnum* spp. for the region should also take *Sphagnum pulchrum* into account. *Coregonus lavaretus* was reported as a complex in the previous reporting rounds, however, it represents a whole group of species, most of which have been known for a long time and are ecologically distinct (anadromous species, stationary still-water inhabitants, deep-water inhabitants, etc.). Therefore, it should be treated as a species group in terms of the scope of reporting. In addition, where information is available, separate species reports can be optionally submitted.

If a Member State wishes to give information on population size, either for the group or an individual species, the report should be made using reporting units from the Reference Portal (see the Guidelines).

For these four species groups, a report giving only the overall assessment of conservation status and its trend (fields 11.5 and 11.6 of Part B) is acceptable and no map of distribution is required. For the *Coregonus lavaretus* group, Member States are encouraged to provide a full report as

in the past. Overall assessment of conservation status should look at the species group as a whole using the criteria from the evaluation matrix. As it may be difficult to conclude the overall assessment if there are species with different conservation status, the Member State should explain the variation in field 11.8 ‘Additional information’. If there is a species of particular conservation concern (e.g. in bad conservation status), Member States are encouraged to submit an additional optional report<sup>4</sup> or note this fact in field 11.8 ‘Additional information’.

**Box 3: Species to be included in *Cladonia*, *Lycopodium*, *Sphagnum* and *Coregonus lavaretus*.**

**Cladonia subgenus Cladina** – All European species (i.e. occurring in the EU) in the subgenus according to Ahti et al. 2013 , Pino-Bodas et al 2016:

*Cladonia arbuscula* (Wallr.) Flot. [subsp. *arbuscula*], *Cladonia mitis* Sandst., *Cladonia ciliate* Stirt. (including *Cladonia f. ciliata* and *Cladonia f. flavicans* (Flörke)) Ahti & DePriest, *Cladonia rangiferina* (L.) F.H. Wigg. [subsp. *rangiferina*], *Cladonia portentosa*, *Cladonia stellaris* (Opiz) Pouzar & Vězda, *Cladonia stygia* (Fr.) Ruoss, *Cladonia mediterranea*.

**Lycopodium** – Listing in Annex V relates to commercial exploitation and commerce is not limited to the genus *Lycopodium*. For Article 17 reporting *Lycopodium* should be interpreted as all species in the family *Lycopodiaceae* (*Lycopodium alpinum*, *L. annotinum*, *L. clavatum*, *L. complanatum*, *L. issleri*, *L. madeirense*, *L. oellgaardii*, *L. tristachyum*, *L. zeilleri*, *Huperzia dentata*, *H. selago*, *H. suberecta*, *Lycopodiella cernua*, *L. inundata*; following EURO + MED PlantBase<sup>5</sup>).

**Sphagnum** – All European (i.e. occurring in the EU) species in the genera *Sphagnum* except *Sphagnum pylaesii* (Annexes II) according to Hodgetts (2015).

**Coregonus lavaretus** – Separate reports can be provided where information is available. This Annex V species group includes: *Coregonus arenicolus*, *Coregonus atterensis*, *Coregonus bavaricus*, *Coregonus clupeoides*, *Coregonus danneri*, *Coregonus hoferi*, *Coregonus lavaretus*, *Coregonus macrophthalmus*, *Coregonus maraena*, *Coregonus maxillaris*, *Coregonus megalops*, *Coregonus nilssoni*, *Coregonus pallasii*, *Coregonus pennantii*, *Coregonus pidschian*, *Coregonus renke*, *Coregonus stigmaticus*, *Coregonus wartmanni*, *Coregonus widegreni*.

**Geographical exceptions from the Annexes of the Directive**

Several Member States have an exception from all Annexes where the species is listed, but a report should be submitted for those species, as they are nevertheless species of Community interest according to Articles 1 and 2. It should be noted that this legal interpretation is also justified in technical terms because, in order to understand and assess the EU-wide/biogeographical situation of such species, the Commission needs information on the status

<sup>4</sup> In some situations Member States may complete additional report formats for habitats (subtypes of marine habitats) or species (e.g. distinct species of genus *Lycopodium*) not listed in the Member State’s checklist and submit these optional reports together with the mandatory reporting dataset.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.emplantbase.org/home.html>

of the species in all EU territory (including the territory of the Member States with geographical restrictions).

### **Hybrid populations**

Where hybridisation occurs:

- If hybrids between two Directive species occur, then the hybrid population(s) should be taken into account in the reports of both Directive species concerned;
- If a hybrid is between a Directive species and a native but non-Directive species, the hybrid population should be considered part of the population in the biogeographical region if hybridisation is a part of species evolutionary history (e.g. syntopic populations of *Triturus montandoni* and *T. vulgaris* hybridise and introgression of genes resulting from hybridisation may play a role in natural selection);
- If hybridisation between a Directive species and a native but non-Directive species represents a threat to the Directive species (e.g. loss of fertility), in this case the hybrid population should be excluded and hybridisation should be considered as a threat or pressure to species populations;
- If a hybrid is between a Directive species and an alien species or a feral population, the report should not cover the hybrid population, but where appropriate this should be noted as a threat or pressure. For example, many fish species (such as *Alburnus albidus*) are threatened by hybridisation with introduced species (in this case with congeneric *A. arborella*) or wild cat populations are threatened by hybridisation with feral cats.

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR COMPLETING ‘PART B’ SPECIES REPORTS**

The Reporting Format should be completed for each Annex II, IV and V species present. The species Report format (‘species report’) comprises 13 sections. Sections 1 to 3 should be provided at the national level; the remaining sections are to be provided at the level of biogeographical or marine region.

### **NATIONAL LEVEL**

- 1) General information
- 2) Maps
- 3) Information related to Annex V species (Article 14 of Directive 92/43/EEC)

### **BIOGEOGRAPHICAL / MARINE LEVEL**

- 4) Biogeographical and marine regions
- 5) Range
- 6) Population
- 7) Habitat for the species
- 8) Main pressures and threats
- 9) Conservation measures
- 10) Future prospects

11) Conclusions

12) Natura 2000 proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) coverage for Annex II species

13) Complementary information

In general, all sections should be completed for each Annex II, IV and V species present. However, Section 3 ‘Information related to Annex V species (Article 14)’ should only be provided for species listed in Annex V; and Section 12 ‘Natura 2000 (pSCIs, SCIs and SACs) coverage for Annex II species’ should be completed for Annex II species only.

Even though not all data used in the report will be collected during the reporting period, the report should give information of relevance for the period 2019–2024.

It is recommended that any free-text information provided is written in English, to facilitate the use of the information during the EU analysis and to allow a wider readership.

## NATIONAL LEVEL

The information below is to be provided at the national level.

### 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The following information should be provided for each species, as well as for species from groups (e.g. *Alosa* spp., and all species of Microchiroptera).

#### 1.1 Member State

Select the two-digit code for your Member State from ISO 3166.

#### 1.2 Species code

Use codes (four-character sequential code) as given in the species checklist available on the Reference Portal. New codes will be allocated as necessary (for example, for species that were recently split and which are not yet included in the checklist) to ensure that all species are covered.

#### 1.3 Species scientific name

Use the scientific name as listed in the species checklist (‘recommended name’). For *Coregonus albula*, which can still be reported as a complex, the taxonomic unit includes all species (new or newly recognised) associated with the complex, and which are not explicitly mentioned in the Article 17 checklist

#### 1.4 Alternative species scientific name (optional)

If the scientific name given under field 1.3 differs from that in general national usage, Member States may enter an alternative here. Similarly, if the name of a species used in the Annexes of the Habitats Directive differs from that in the complete species checklist on the Reference Portal, e.g. due to recent taxonomic changes, then the alternative (Directive) name may be entered here.

## 1.5 Common name (optional)

If Member States wish to enter the common (vernacular) name of the species (or subspecies) used nationally, they may do so here. This could be useful if the draft report will be circulated for comments to people who may not be familiar with the scientific name, or when communicating the report with the public.

# 2 MAPS

This section contains information on maps to be submitted together with the tabular information as a part of the Article 17 report. Apart from the mandatory distribution map, other kinds of maps with information relevant for understanding the assessment of conservation status can also be provided.

## 2.1 Sensitive species

Some species are particularly sensitive subject to, for example, illegal collecting, and making information on their distribution widely available may be detrimental to their conservation. Where information on distribution, if reported according to the specifications in field 2.3, is considered ‘sensitive’, this can be indicated by entering ‘Yes’ in this field.

If a species is marked as ‘sensitive’, the Commission and EEA will not disclose its distribution to the public (for instance, by posting this information on a publicly available database or Internet-based site).

## 2.2 Year or period

Enter the year (e.g. 2021) or period (e.g. 2019–2024) when the distribution was last determined.

Many reports will involve more than one reporting period, because a mapping of the species distribution in most cases involves several years of fieldwork and may extend beyond the limits of the current reporting period (2019–2024). The year or period reported should cover the actual period during which the data were collected.

In some cases the distribution map will be elaborated based on data from the previous reporting period or using older distribution data that has been updated with the results of regular monitoring or using data from online-systems for collecting data. The year or period reported should be that which the reported distribution relates to.

More detailed information on year or period of data used for the distribution map can be provided in field 2.6 ‘Additional information’.

## 2.3 Distribution map

Submit a distribution map. The standard is:

|  |
|--|
| <b>10x10 km ETRS 89 LAEA (EPSG:3035)</b> |
|--|

The distribution map should provide information about the actual occurrences of the species, which should preferably be based on the results of a comprehensive national mapping or

inventory of the species wherever possible (see the Guidelines). If field data on actual occurrences of the species are not sufficient, modelling and extrapolation should be used whenever feasible<sup>6</sup>. The distribution map will be though composed of grids with both the actual (mapped) and presumed species occurrences.

The distribution map will consist of 10x10 km ETRS89 grid cells in the LAEA (EPSG:3035) projection<sup>7</sup>. The gridded dataset will consist only of the 10-km grid cells where the species is recorded or estimated as occurring; the use of attribute data to indicate the presence or absence of a species in a grid cell is not permitted.. The technical specifications for delivering spatial information are given on the Reference Portal and the Reporting Manual.

If more precise maps giving more detailed species distribution are available, these can be submitted as additional maps.

In some exceptional cases, such as widely ranging but poorly known cetaceans, it may be relevant to submit maps using a 50x50 km grid. Member States, or for other small territories such as the Canary, Madeira or the Azores islands), are allowed to use a 1x1 km grid; these will then be aggregated by EEA to 10x10 km for visualisation at European level.

The grids for individual Member States are available for download from the Reference Portal.

## **2.4 Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. a dedicated mapping or survey or a robust predictive model with representative sample of occurrence data, calibration and satisfactory evaluation of its predictive performance using good data on environmental conditions across entire species range)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. other predictive models or extrapolation using less complete sample of occurrence and environmental data)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

The ‘Method used’ should be reported as ‘(d) Insufficient or no data available’ if the reported distribution map obtained as a result of comprehensive mapping, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75 % of the presumed actual species distribution (i.e. the resulting map is incomplete in relation to the presumed species distribution).

## **2.5 Additional maps (optional)**

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<sup>6</sup> If modelling or exceptionally expert opinion are used this should be noted in the field 2.4 Method used

<sup>7</sup> European Terrestrial Reference System 1989; Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection with parameters: latitude of origin 52°N, longitude of origin 10°E, false northing 3210000.0m, false easting 4321000.0m (EPSG 3035 based). Origin of the grid is calculated from 0mN 0mE of projection <http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gis>.

Member States may also submit additional maps, for example giving more detailed distribution data (e.g. at higher resolution) or a range map (see the Guidelines). Any additional maps must be accompanied by the relevant metadata and details of the projection used. Note that this is an optional field and does not replace the need to provide a map in field 2.3.

Maps other than the ones described in 2.3 such as grids other than the ETRS 89 LAEA (EPSG:3035) or 5x5 grids may be reported here.

## **2.6 Additional information (optional)**

This field is optional and allows Member States to report, as free text, any information which is felt relevant, such as describing the mapping methods in more detail or describing other mapping information uploaded to the Member State envelopes.

# **3 INFORMATION RELATED TO ANNEX V SPECIES (ARTICLE 14 OF DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC)**

Annex V lists species whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures. This section aims to identify which Annex V species are taken or exploited and for which, if any, relevant conservation measures are being implemented.

## **3.1 Is the species taken in the wild/exploited?**

Indicate whether the species is taken in the wild or exploited ('Yes/No').

If the answer is NO then do not fill in the remaining fields in this section.

If the reply is YES and the Conservation Status is favourable, tick in 3.2 if measures are needed. Then continue to field 3.3 for all species with unfavourable conservation status and for species with favourable status for which measures are needed. Complete fields 3.4 and 3.5 for *Acipenseridae* and mammals regardless of their conservation status.

This field indicates if a species is being taken in the wild or hunted in practice. For example, if a species is not classified as huntable by national/regional legislation (so it cannot be hunted or exploited) or if there is a permanent prohibition (for huntable species) on taking or exploiting the species, the answer should be 'No'. More information can be provided in field 3.6 'Additional information'.

## **3.2 Are measures needed for the species (only for species in favourable conservation status)?**

If the species is in favourable status and is taken in the wild/exploited are measures needed under Art. 14?

This field is only to be completed where favourable is reported as the overall conservation status for a species that is taken in the wild and exploited, for which conservation measures are needed under Art. 14. Where YES is selected it is necessary to complete the rest of the section (field 3.3 onwards) for the species.

## **3.3 Which of the measures in Article 14 have been taken?**



For species taken in the wild or exploited, indicate if any of the measures noted in Article 14 of the Directive have been taken. This information is only requested for species that are taken in wild or exploited and which are in ‘unfavourable’ (U1 or U2) status or ‘favourable’ (FV) (as reported in field 11.5 ‘Overall assessment of conservation status’) where conservation measures are needed under Art. 14 for one or more regions.

- a) Regulations regarding access to property
- b) Temporary or local prohibition on the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation
- c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens
- d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations
- e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas
- f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens
- g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species
- h) Other measures; in this case please describe the measure(s)

Where ‘h) other measures’ is ticked, please provide more information on those measures.

### **3.4 Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild regardless of conservation status - for mammals and *Acipenseridae* (fish)**

Provide information on the hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild. Use the same population units as in field 6.2 ‘Population size’. These data are provided per year/season over the length of the reporting period. For species with defined hunting seasons, report per season (if national counts are also done per season). Season 1 is 2018/2019 (starting in autumn 2018 and ending in spring 2019); Season 6 is 2023/2024. For species which do not have hunting seasons or where national counts are elaborated per year (e.g. sturgeons), provide counts per calendar year; year 1 is 2019 and year 6 is 2024.

The raw data should be provided for the hunting bag or quantity taken and where a precise number is known this should be filled in both the ‘Min.’ and ‘Max.’ fields. If only minimum or only maximum numbers are available these should be reported in respective fields ‘Min.’ and ‘Max.’ Where the hunting bag is unknown this should be indicated in a separate field.

In cases where bag statistics are only available for the overall group of species (mainly catches for sturgeons), without a reliable breakdown per species, the proportion (e.g. 50–90% for a dominant species of the group and 0–5% for all other species) for each species should be estimated and reported as ‘Min.’ and ‘Max.’ values under 3.4. The appropriate explanation should be provided in field 3.6 ‘Additional information’ (e.g. ‘Bag statistics (min-max) were obtained for a group of species ([species 1], [species 2], [species x]), but probably >90% relate to the species in this report’). The method used (field 3.5) should reflect the fact that actual figures reported are an approximation and should be ‘b’ or ‘c’ respectively.

This field is to be completed for all Annex V species of mammals and *Acipenseridae* regardless of their conservation status.

### **3.5 Method used**

Use this field to provide information on the method used to quantify the hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild reported in field 3.4. Choose one of following methods:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

### **3.6 Additional information (optional)**

This field is optional and allows Member States to report, as free text, any relevant information such as the regulation in force for the considered species in the country.

## **BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL**

The following sections should be completed for each biogeographical or marine region in which the species occurs. For example, if a species occurs in three biogeographical regions within a Member State, three separate reports are required.

## **4 BIOGEOGRAPHICAL AND MARINE REGIONS**

### **4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs**

Biogeographical region or marine region concerned within the Member State.

- a) Use the following names for biogeographical regions:

|           |               |              |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| Alpine    | Boreal        | Macaronesian |
| Atlantic  | Continental   | Pannonian    |
| Black Sea | Mediterranean | Steppic      |

- b) Use the following names for marine regions:

|                     |                   |                      |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Marine Atlantic     | Marine Black Sea  | Marine Mediterranean |
| Marine Macaronesian | Marine Baltic Sea |                      |

Maps and boundaries of biogeographical and marine regions can be found on the Reference Portal.

More information on marine regions and on species which should be reported in marine regions can be found in the Guidelines.

### **4.2 First time reporting**

If the species is reported in the Member State for the first time this should be indicated. This field can be used for species which are e.g. newly arriving or where they were previously listed as scientific reserve in the Article 17 checklist. This field is not for use in cases where the taxonomic name of a species has been updated. Some fields in the reporting format may not be applicable for species reported for the first time e.g. when indicating the change and reason for change since the last reporting period.

#### **4.3 Additional information (optional)**

This field allows Member States to report, as free text, any information which is felt relevant, such as why the species is being reported for this first time i.e. a newly recorded species or otherwise. Any other additional information on this section is optional.

#### **4.4 Sources of information**

For information from published sources related to Sections 5 to 7 (including the published sources related to distribution maps, on which the range calculation is based) and Sections 9 to 13, provide bibliographic references or links to an Internet site(s). Use the order: author, year, title of publication, source, volume, number of pages, web address. For pressures a separate field is included for sources of information in Section 8.

All Internet addresses in the reporting fields should be given in full, including the initial 'http://' or 'https://', if applicable.

## **5 RANGE**

This section provides information on range surface area, range trends and favourable reference range.

Range is defined as 'the outer limits of the overall area in which a habitat type or species is found at present' and it can be considered as an envelope within which areas actually occupied occur.

The range should be calculated based on the map of the actual distribution using a standardised algorithm. A standardised process is needed to ensure repeatability of the range calculation in different reporting rounds. A range tool is available for this purpose via the Reference Portal.

It is not necessary to submit a map of the range, but the area of the range and trend in area are required to assess this parameter. However, a map can be submitted in field 2.5 'Additional maps'.

Complementary information and methods for range calculation including setting the appropriate gap distance can be found in the Guidelines.

### **5.1 Surface area**

This is the total surface area (in km<sup>2</sup>) of the current range (outer limits of the species distribution) within the biogeographical or marine region concerned. The range in the biogeographical or marine region concerned is represented by grids (10x10 km) which occur entirely or partly within the region (i.e. grids intersected by the boundaries of the biogeographical or marine regions are counted under both regions). In general the surface area

is provided in 10x10 km resolution and the minimum area should be 100 km<sup>2</sup>. For localised species with a very small range it is possible to report using a finer resolution; for example, for species restricted to a single location, range is the area of a locality where species occurs, which can be sometimes several square metres. Decimals are allowed, as the range of some species can be very small.

The method for estimating the surface area of range is described in the Guidelines.

## **5.2 Change and reason for change in surface area of range**

This field is used to indicate if there is any change since the previous reporting period (2013–2018) in the range surface area reported and, if so, to describe the nature of this change.

If there is a change, indicate which of the following options b) to f) apply. (It is possible to select more than one of the options b - f<sup>8</sup>).

- a) no, there is no change
- b) yes, due to genuine change
- c) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data
- d) yes, due to the use of a different method
- e) yes, but nature of change is unknown
- f) yes, due to other reasons

Finally, indicate whether any difference is mainly due to (select one option):

- a) genuine change
- b) improved knowledge or more accurate data
- c) the use of a different method
- d) unknown
- e) other reasons

If a Member State wishes to give further information (e.g. cases where range surface area does not change, but its borders are shifting), this can be done in field 5.14 ‘Additional information’. If the field ‘yes due to other reasons’ is ticked, it must be further specified in ‘Additional information’. This field should be used only in very limited cases.

## **5.3 Short-term trend period**

Give the dates for the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported. The short-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 12 years (two reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports, this means the period is 2013–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Thus, some flexibility is permitted, so that while trends would ideally be reported for 2013–

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<sup>8</sup> In some cases the actual value reported for range surface area has increased, reflecting both a genuine increase in range (positive range trend) and better knowledge or data. Both options (‘genuine change’ and ‘improved knowledge or more accurate data’) above should be selected. In other situations the actual value reported for range surface area has increased since the previous period due to better knowledge or data. Nevertheless, it may still be clear that the species range is actually declining, based on analyses of data from sites. The option ‘improved knowledge or more accurate data’ above should be selected. Field 5.14 ‘Additional information’ allows a Member State to provide further details on why a range estimate has increased, even though a range decline is reported.

2024, data from e.g. 2010–2021 will be accepted if the best available data relate to surveys in those years. For newly arriving species, ideally the trends would be reported with the start year as the first year the species was first observed e.g. if the species was first observed in 2018 then the short-term trend period would be 2018 – 2024.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

#### **5.4 Short-term trend direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The range trend shows changes in the overall extent of species distribution. Although rare for range, a fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend. Indicate if range trend over the period reported in field 5.2 was (select one of the following):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Report ‘uncertain’ if some data are available but are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use ‘unknown’ where there are no data available.

The short-term trend information is used in the evaluation matrix to undertake the conservation status assessment. Any large-scale deviation from this should be explained in field 5.14 ‘Additional information’.

If there is an apparent change in direction of the trend resulting from a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about species distribution, it should not be considered a genuine change in trend. This apparent change should be indicated in field 5.2 ‘Change and reason for change in surface area of range’.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

#### **5.5 Short-term trend magnitude (optional)**

If possible, quantify the percentage change (with range at the beginning of the period reported as 100 %) over the period reported in field 5.3. Where a pre-defined range is used, please select among the given intervals 0-12%, 13-25%, 26-50%, 51-100%, >100%

Choose from the following options:

- a) estimated minimum
- b) estimated maximum
- c) pre-defined range
- d) unknown

- Where magnitude is available as a range (e.g. 20–30 %), this should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’.

- Where magnitude is available as a precise value, the same value should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’.
- Where only a minimum value is known, this should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’ and indicated as ‘minimum’ in 5.6 Short-term trend magnitude – type of estimate. Conversely, where only the maximum value is available, this should also be entered into both the (a) ‘estimated minimum’ and (b) ‘estimated maximum’ fields with ‘best estimate’ indicated in the 5.6 ‘Type of estimate’ field and precising that maximum is entered in 5.14 Additional information. Where a less accurate range is available, field c) pre-defined range can be used.
- Negative magnitude values should be reported (i.e. include the ‘-’ sign) for all negative trend magnitudes, including cases where the direction is already indicated as ‘decreasing’. Nevertheless, to avoid unnecessary data entry, it is not necessary to include the ‘+’ sign for positive trends (i.e. a trend magnitude of ‘15’ will be assumed to represent +15%). In the case of negative trends, note that the ‘Minimum’ and ‘Maximum’ fields relate to minimum and maximum values mathematically (not minimum and maximum declines). The pre-defined ranges will be provided with a positive or negative sign.

This field does not need to be completed for ‘stable’ or ‘unknown’ trends reported in 5.4. However, if ‘Uncertain’ trend is reported, this suggests that some data are available and that a trend magnitude could be estimated. This should be reported on with the ‘type of estimate’ field completed accordingly.

## **5.6 Short-term trend magnitude – Type of estimate (optional)**

The type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 5.5(a) and (b) or the pre-defined interval in field 5.5(c) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are: best estimate, multi-year mean, 95 % confidence interval, minimum or pre-defined range:

- best estimate – the best available single figure which can be based on modelling or expert opinion but for which the 95 % confidence interval could not be calculated. Whether a best estimate comes from the monitoring data, modelling or an expert opinion, it should be entered in field 5.7
- multi-year mean – average value or interval where the trend magnitude is monitored/assessed several times during the period provided in field 5.3
- 95 % confidence interval – estimates derived from surveys or a model in which 95 % confidence limits could be calculated
- minimum – where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded estimate, but where a magnitude is known to be above a certain value, or where the reported interval estimates come from a survey or monitoring projects which probably underestimate the real magnitude
- pre-defined range – where the exact minimum and maximum values could not be estimated (fields 5.5 (a) and (b)), but where a reliable estimate can be made within the pre-defined range increments provided

No type of estimate is required if trend direction is ‘unknown’ or ‘stable’. The type of estimate is expected to be filled in only if the trend direction is ‘increasing’, ‘decreasing’ or ‘uncertain’..

### **5.7 Short-term trend – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. comparing two range maps based on accurate distribution data, or a dedicated monitoring of a species’ distribution with good statistical power)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. trends derived from species occurrence data collected for other purposes, or from data collected from only a part of the geographical range of a species, or trends based on measuring some other predictors of species distribution, such as land-cover changes or prey availability)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

The methods used field is used for both the trend direction (5.4) and the short-term trend magnitude fields (5.5) as these two fields are part of the one assessment and should both be addressed here.

### **5.8 Long-term trend period (optional)**

The long-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 24 years (four reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports, this means the period is 2000–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Indicate the period in this field. For the 2019–2024 reports this information, and the associated fields 5.9 and 5.11, is optional. For newly arriving species, the start date for the long-term trend would fall within the last two reporting periods (i.e. 2013 to 2024).

For guidance on completing field **5.9 ‘Long-term trend direction’** see field 5.4 (Short-term Trend direction).

### **5.10 Long-term trend magnitude (optional)**

If possible, quantify the percentage change (with range at the beginning of the reporting period as 100 %) over the period reported in field 5.10. It can be given as estimated minimum and maximum value in fields 5.10(a) and (b) (e.g. 27% and 55%), or where a precise value is known, enter the same value in the minimum and maximum field (e.g. 27%).

For additional guidance see **field 5.5 Short-term trend – magnitude (optional)**. For guidance on completing field **5.11 ‘Long-term trend – Method used’** see field 5.7 (Short-term trend – Method used).

### **5.12 Favourable reference range**

Favourable reference range is the range within which all significant ecological variations of the species are included for a given biogeographical region and which is sufficiently large to allow the long-term survival of the species. This information is needed to evaluate conservation status using the matrix in Part C. In many cases it is not possible to estimate a value for favourable

reference range (option a) but it is clear that the favourable reference range is greater (or much greater) than the present-day value. Using the pre-defined range increments (option b) the range is ‘approximately equal to the favourable reference range (less than 2% smaller)’, ‘between 2 and 10% smaller than the FRR’, ‘between 11 and 50% smaller than the FRR’, ‘between 51 and 100% smaller than the FRR’ allows flexibility in reporting when the exact value is not known. It is also preferable to reporting a parameter as ‘unknown’ (option c). For example if the actual range is 150 km<sup>2</sup> and the value is estimated to be ‘between 11% and 50% smaller than the FRR’, then the FRR would be between 169 and 300 km<sup>2</sup>. If the favourable reference range is smaller than the actual range, the favourable reference range is expected to be provided in a precise number and an explanation needs to be given in the field 5.14 ‘Additional information’ on how this is in line with the principles of setting FRVs as described in the Guidelines.

The following information is requested:

- a) area in km<sup>2</sup>; or
- b) *if a precise favourable reference range is unknown Indicate if the range is:*
  - approximately equal to the favourable reference range (less than 2% smaller)*
  - between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRR*
  - between 11% and 50% smaller than the FRR*
  - between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRR*
- c) if the favourable reference range is unknown, indicate in the relevant field; and
- d) indicate the method used to set the reference value

The methods used can be:

- Model-based approach
- Reference-based approach
- Expert opinion
- Other

More than one method can be selected. If the ‘Model-based approach’ or the ‘Reference-based approach’ are selected then the quality of the available information should be indicated as high, moderate or low. If ‘other’ method is selected, elaborate on this method in field 5.14 ‘Additional Information’.

The field ‘indicate method used’ (d) is mandatory if (a) area is provided, but Member States are encouraged to describe the method used also when (b) range increments are used.

The use of (b) range increments should help to reduce the use of ‘unknown’ to a minimum:

- if a range increment (b) is used, then there is no need to insert a value in relation to the current value provided in field 5.1 ‘Surface area (of range)’
- if the value is provided for area in km<sup>2</sup> in 5.12 (a) the range increments should not be used

Where the reference value has changed in comparison to the previous reporting period, this should be explained in field 5.14 ‘Additional Information’.



Favourable reference values and use of range increments are discussed in more detail in the Guidelines.

### **5.13 Range when Directive came into force (optional)**

The surface area of range at the time the Directive came into force can be provided in field 5.13. This is an optional and free text field to see progress with regard to the current range reported.

### **5.14 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information given on range can be reported here (for example, details on the use of old distribution data, use of data from the previous reporting period, use of different gap distance or range calculation method than that recommended, changes in favourable reference value).

## **6 POPULATION**

This section provides information on population size, population trends and favourable reference population. Population and favourable reference population information should ideally be reported in the same unit as these properties are interconnected. The unit for all is the value for field 6.2 population size (with some exceptions to this outlined below).

### **6.1 Year or period**

Enter the year or period during which the population size was last determined: YYYY (for year) and YYYY–YYYY (for period).

Many reports will involve more than one reporting period, because species inventories in most cases involve several years of fieldwork and may extend beyond the limits of the current reporting period (2019–2024). The year or period reported should cover the actual period during which the data were collected.

In some cases the population size will be estimated based on a complete species census or inventory which took place during the previous reporting period or even before and that has been updated with the results of regular monitoring. The year or period reported should be that which the reported estimate of population size relates to.

### **6.2 More detailed information on year or period of data used for the population size can be provided in field 6.20 ‘Additional information’. Population size (in reporting unit)**

This field refers to the total population in the biogeographical region or marine region of the Member State concerned. For all species, the population size must be reported using the reporting unit noted in the Article 17 species checklist available on the Reference Portal with some exceptions for species occurring only in one Member State. The reporting units specified in the checklist is a combination of individuals for some species groups, 1x1 grids for others and agreed units for subsets within groups. The summary of reporting units for each group is provided in the Guidelines.

Member States should use the most suitable unit for their monitoring of individual species, they should, if necessary, convert this unit into a ‘reporting’ unit to be reported in field 6.2, which

will be used later for EU biogeographical assessments. If a Member State wishes to report population size using a different unit this can be reported in field 6.5. Member States shall make best efforts to report data in the reporting units as set out in the checklist (for example individuals) and where needed transform their data from the units used in the monitoring programmes (for example grids) into the reporting units and then report relevant values in both fields 6.2 and 6.5. If no information is available to fill in field 6.2, Member States are encouraged to provide information in field 6.5 at least.

- For invertebrate and non vascular plant species occurring only in one Member State, any unit can be used for reporting. For vascular plants species occurring in one Member State either individuals or m<sup>2</sup> are used as the reporting units (selection of one or the other is allowed). For vertebrates occurring in one Member State the reporting unit to be used is individuals.
- If a species occurs in several biogeographical regions the same unit should be used across all regions.

Further information on reporting units is provided in the Guidelines and the list of population size units to be used in field 6.2 Population size is available on the Reference Portal.

The population size can be reported as an interval (for example, minimum and maximum value from repeated census) and/or as a best available single value. The interval size estimate (fields 6.2(b) and (c) should be given as minimum and maximum numbers. Minimum and maximum should always be entered together, i.e. not as only the minimum/only the maximum.

There is also a 'best single value' field (6.2(d)) where a single value (a precise value or an estimate) can be entered. In a situation where only a minimum (or maximum) value of the population size is known (e.g. through expert opinion) this should be entered in the '(d) Best single value' field and NOT the '(b) Minimum' or '(c) Maximum' fields. The source of this estimate can then be clarified in field 6.3 (see below). The numbers reported should not be rounded.

There is an option to report a size class in 6.2 e) where a precise value cannot be provided. The class number (1 – 14) is inserted into the field corresponding to the estimated population size.

| Class | Population size        |
|-------|------------------------|
| 1     | 0-50                   |
| 2     | 50-100                 |
| 3     | 100-500                |
| 4     | 500-1000               |
| 5     | 1000-5000              |
| 6     | 5000-10 000            |
| 7     | 10 000-50 000          |
| 8     | 50 000-100 000         |
| 9     | 100 000-500 000        |
| 10    | 500 000-1 000 000      |
| 11    | 1 000 000-5 000 000    |
| 12    | 5 000 000-10 000 000   |
| 13    | 10 000 000-50 000 000  |
| 14    | 50 000 000-100 000 000 |

Both interval and a best single value can be provided together, for example where the interval coming from the survey data is quite large (e.g. minimum and maximum values) and an expert evaluation of the actual population size is available. An expert evaluation of survey data can result in a more accurate single value to be used in, for example, an EU assessment. In other situations, the point estimate (best single value) is available and Member State wishes to provide the confidence limits. The confidence interval can be entered in the minimum and maximum fields. If both, interval and best single values are provided this should be explained in field 6.20 ‘Additional information’. It is not allowed to use the size class together with an interval.

If the population size reported in field 6.2 was estimated by converting the information reported in field 6.5, information on the conversion should be given in field 6.20 ‘Additional information’.

For wide-ranging highly mobile marine species (e.g. whales, dolphins, turtles), use population estimates from i) regional marine Agreements such as ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS; ii) Regional Sea Conventions (OSPAR, Helsinki, Barcelona, Bucharest); or any other estimates made in cooperation between Member States sharing the same population (e.g. SCANS<sup>9</sup>) if available. Each Member State should report the results for their territory (i.e. a respective

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<sup>9</sup> Hammond et al., 2013

proportion of the regional population). Complementary information about assessment of transboundary species populations can be found in the Guidelines.

### **6.3 Type of estimate**

The type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 6.2(b) and (c) or the best single value in field 6.2(d) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are: best estimate, multi-year mean, 95 % confidence interval, or minimum:

- best estimate – the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the population size is available) or interval, derived from e.g. a population census, a compilation of figures from localities, modelled population size based on population densities and distribution data or expert opinion, but for which 95 % confidence interval could not be calculated. Whether a best estimate comes from the monitoring data, modelling or an expert opinion should be entered in field 6.6
- multi-year mean – average value or interval where population size is monitored several times during the period provided in field 6.1
- 95 % confidence interval – estimates derived from sample surveys or a model in which 95 % confidence limits could be calculated
- minimum – where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded estimate, but where a population size is known to be above a certain value, or where the reported interval estimates come from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real population size

If both interval (field 6.2(b) ‘Minimum’ and field 6.2(c) ‘Maximum’) and a single value (field 6.2(d) ‘Best single value’) are provided, field 6.3 ‘Type of estimate’ should correspond to the more accurate estimate. This should be noted in field 6.20 Additional information.

### **6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit (optional)**

Where information provided in field 6.2 on population size has been converted from a different unit to the reporting unit, the quality of this extrapolation can be indicated in field 6.4. This can refer to the unit reported in field 6.5 Additional population size and converted to the data in field 6.2 Population size, or to other units used at national level not indicated in field 6.5.

The options to report are:

- High (conversion is associated with a small margin of error)
- Moderate (conversion is associated with a medium margin of error)
- Low (conversion is associated with a high margin of error)

If more information is available on the margin of errors, this can be indicated in field 6.20 Additional information. If the extrapolation is based on a unit not included in the reporting format (field 6.5) please explain further in the field 6.20.

### **6.5 Additional population size (optional)**

This field allows the Member State to report population size using units other than the unit given in the species checklist. The guidance on reporting the numbers is the same as for field 6.2.

Under certain circumstances, the unit reported in this field can be used to set the favourable reference population. This is further described in field 6.18.

Abundance / density related units can also be used. In this case Member States are encouraged to provide the size of the occupied habitat associated with the measurement in the field for Additional information 6.20.

If the population size reported in field 6.2 was estimated by converting the information reported in field 6.5, give information on the conversion in field 6.20 Additional information. Field 6.5 is not a substitute for field 6.2.

The list of population size units to be used in field 6.5 Additional population size is available on the Reference Portal.

## **6.6 Type of estimate (optional)**

See guidelines for field 6.3.

## **6.7 Population size – Method used**

This field is used to describe the methodology used for calculating population size in field 6.2 or the additional population size reported in field 6.5 (in a situation where the population size in field 6.2 is converted from the value in field 6.5). Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. repeated direct counts of entire population; repeated counting based on indices of species presence; from previous complete inventory updated with robust monitoring data on trends)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. based on mark-recapture methods; using models based on abundance and distribution data; using extrapolation from sample surveys of parts of the population; or from previous inventory updated with good trend data)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

If both interval (field 6.2(b) 'Minimum' and field 6.2(c) 'Maximum') and a single value (field 6.2(d) 'Best single value') are provided, field 6.7 'Method used' should correspond to the more accurate of both estimates. This should be noted in field 6.20 'Additional information'.

## **6.8 Change and reason for change in population size**

This field is used to indicate if there is any change since the previous reporting period (2013–2018) in the population size reported and, if so, to describe the nature of this change.

If there is a change, indicate which of the following options b) to f) apply . (It is possible to select more than one of the options b - f <sup>10</sup>)

- a) no, there is no change
- b) yes, due to genuine change
- c) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data
- d) yes, due to the use of a different method
- e) yes, but nature of change is unknown
- f) yes, due to other reasons

Finally, indicate whether any difference is mainly due to (select one option):

- a) genuine change
- b) improved knowledge or more accurate data
- c) the use of a different method
- d) unknown
- e) other reasons

If a Member State wishes to give further information this can be done in field 6.20 Additional information. If the field ‘yes due to other reasons’ is ticked, it must be further specified in Additional information. This field should be used only in very limited cases.

## **6.9 Short-term trend period**

Give the dates of the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported. The short-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 12 years (two reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 report, this means the period is 2013–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Thus, some flexibility is permitted, so that while trends would ideally be reported for 2013–2024, data from e.g. 2010–2021 will be accepted if the best available data relate to surveys in those years. For newly arriving species, ideally the trends would be reported with the start year as the first year the species was first observed e.g. if the species was first observed in 2018 then the short-term trend period would be 2018 – 2024. Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

## **6.10 Short-term trend direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The trend in population size shows changes in the overall numbers of individuals in the biogeographical population of a species. Fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

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<sup>10</sup> In some cases the actual value reported for population size has increased, reflecting both a genuine increase in size (positive population trend) and better knowledge or data. Both options (‘genuine change’ and ‘improved knowledge or more accurate data’) above should be selected. In other situations the actual value reported for population size has increased since the previous period due to better knowledge or data. Nevertheless, it may still be clear that the species population is actually declining, based on analyses of data from sites. The option ‘improved knowledge or more accurate data’ above should be selected. Field 6.20 ‘Additional information’ allows a Member State to provide further details on why a population size estimate has increased, even though a population decline is reported.

Indicate if the population trend over the reported period in field 6.9 was (select one of the following):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Report 'uncertain' if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use 'unknown' where there are no data available.

The short-term trend information is used in the evaluation matrix to assess the conservation status. Any large-scale deviation from this should be explained in field 6.20 Additional information.

If there is an apparent change in direction of the trend resulting from a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the size of a species population, it should not be considered a genuine change in trend. This apparent change should be indicated in field 6.8 Change and reason for change in population size.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

### **6.11 Short-term trend magnitude**

If possible, quantify the percentage change (with population at the beginning of the reporting period as 100 %) over the period reported in field 6.9. It can be given as a min/max estimate in fields 6.11 (a) and (b). If a precise figure is available give the same value under 'minimum' and 'maximum' (fields 6.11(a) and (b)). Where a less accurate range is available please select a pre-defined banded interval in field 6.11(c) (pre-defined intervals are 0 – 12%, 13 - 25%, 26 - 50%, 51 – 100%, >100%). If the trend magnitude is unknown, indicate in field (d).

Choose from the following options:

- a) estimated minimum
  - b) estimated maximum
  - c) pre-defined range
  - d) unknown
- 
- Where magnitude is available as a range (e.g. 20–30 %), this should be reported in '(a) estimated minimum' and '(b) estimated maximum'.
  - Where magnitude is available as a precise value, the same value should be reported in '(a) estimated minimum' and '(b) estimated maximum'.
  - Where only a minimum value is known, this should be reported in '(a) estimated minimum' and '(b) estimated maximum' and indicated as 'minimum' in 6.12 Short-term trend magnitude – type of estimate. If a precise figure (e.g. 27 %) is available, this should be entered in '(c) Best single value'. Conversely, where only the maximum value is available, this should also be entered into both the (a) 'estimated minimum' and (b)

‘estimated maximum’ fields with ‘best estimate’ indicated in the 6.12 Type of estimate field and precising that maximum is entered in 6.20 Additional information.

- Where a less accurate range is available, field c) pre-defined range can be used.
- Negative magnitude values should be reported (i.e. include the ‘-’ sign) for all negative trend magnitudes, including cases where the direction is already indicated as ‘decreasing’. Nevertheless, to avoid unnecessary data entry, it is not necessary to include the ‘+’ sign for positive trends (i.e. a trend magnitude of ‘15’ will be assumed to represent +15%). In the case of negative trends, note that the ‘Minimum’ and ‘Maximum’ fields relate to minimum and maximum values mathematically (not minimum and maximum declines). The pre-defined ranges will be provided with a positive or negative sign.

This field does not need to be completed for ‘stable’ or ‘unknown’ trends reported in field 6.10. ‘Uncertain’ trends suggest that some data are available and this should be reported on with the ‘type of estimate’ field completed accordingly.

#### **6.12 Short-term trend Magnitude – Type of estimate**

The type of estimate for the reported minimum and maximum in fields 6.11(a) and (b), or the pre-defined range (c) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are: best estimate, multi-year mean, 95 % confidence interval, minimum or pre-defined range:

- best estimate – the best available single figure or interval, derived from e.g. a population census, a compilation of figures from localities, modelled population trends or expert opinion, but for which 95 % confidence interval could not be calculated
- multi-year mean – average value or interval where population size is monitored several times during the period provided in field 6.10
- 95 % confidence interval – estimates derived from sample surveys or a model in which 95 % confidence limits could be calculated
- minimum – where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded estimate, but where a trend magnitude is known to be above a certain value, or where the reported interval estimates come from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real trend
- pre-defined range – where some data exist but it is not sufficient to provide an estimated minimum or maximum value

No type of estimate is required if trend direction is ‘unknown’ or ‘stable’. The type of estimate is expected to be filled in only if the trend direction is ‘increasing’, ‘decreasing’ or ‘uncertain’.

#### **6.13 Short-term trend – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. a dedicated monitoring of a species’ populations with good statistical power)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. trends derived from data collected from a limited number of sample sites; trends extrapolated from data



collected for other purposes; trends extrapolated from some other indirect measurements, such as availability of a habitat)

- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

The method used field encompasses the total assessment i.e. both field 6.10 short-term trend direction and field 6.11 short-term trend magnitude.

#### **6.14 Long-term trend period (optional)**

The long-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 24 years (four reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 report, this means the period is 2000–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Indicate the period in this field. For the 2019–2024 report, this information, together with fields 6.15 to 6.17, is optional. For newly arriving species, the start date for the long-term trend would fall within the last two reporting periods (i.e. 2013 to 2024).

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

For guidance on completing fields **6.15 Long-term trend direction** see field 6.10.

#### **6.16 Long-term trend magnitude (optional)**

If possible, quantify the percentage change (with range at the beginning of the reporting period as 100 %) over the period reported in field 6.14. It can be given as estimated minimum and maximum value in fields 6.16(a) and (b) (e.g. 27% and 55%), or where a precise value is known, enter the same value in the minimum and maximum field (e.g. 27%). If neither a minimum, maximum nor a precise value can be provided, 6.16(c) Confidence interval can be used (if a statistically reliable method was used).

For additional guidance see **field 6.11 Short-term trend – magnitude**. For guidance on completing field **6.17 Long-term trend – Method used**, see field 6.13 (short-term trend - Method used).

#### **6.18 Favourable reference population**

Favourable reference population is the population in a given biogeographical region considered the minimum necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the species. This information is needed to undertake the evaluation of conservation status using the evaluation matrix (Part C).

Favourable reference population should be given in the same units as that used for ‘Population’ (field 6.2 or 6.5). The use of grids for defining FRP should be avoided.

In many cases it is not possible to estimate a value for favourable reference population (option a) but it is clear that the favourable reference population is greater (or much greater or, in exceptional situations, lower) than the present-day value. Using the pre-defined range increments population is ‘approximately equal to the favourable reference range (less than 5% smaller)’, ‘between 5% and 25% smaller than the FRP’, ‘between 26% and 50% smaller than the FRP’, ‘between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRP’, allows flexibility in reporting where the exact value is not known. It is also preferable to reporting a parameter as ‘unknown’ (option

c). For example if the actual population is 1000 individuals and the value is estimated to be 5% to 25% smaller than the FRP, then the FRP would be between 1053 and 1333 individuals. If a pre-defined interval is used to estimate a favourable reference population, it should be used with the minimum population size estimate. The pre-defined range ‘approximately equal to the favourable reference population (less than 5% smaller)’ is not used in situations where the population of the species is significantly decreasing. If the favourable reference population is smaller than the actual population, the favourable reference population is expected to be provided in a precise number and an explanation needs to be given in the field 6.20 ‘Additional information’ on how this is in line with the principles of setting FRVs as described in the Guidelines.

The following information is requested:

- a) population size (with unit); or
- b) if a precise favourable reference population is unknown indicate if the population is:
  - approximately equal to the favourable reference population (less than 5% smaller)
  - between 5% and 25% smaller than the FRP
  - between 26% and 50% smaller than the FRP
  - between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRP
- c) if the favourable reference population is unknown, indicate in the field
- d) indicate the method used' to set the reference value

The method can be:

- Model-based approach
- Reference-based approach
- Expert opinion
- Other

More than one method can be selected. If the ‘Model-based approach’ or the ‘Reference-based approach’ are selected then the quality of the available information should be indicated as high, moderate or low. If ‘other’ method is selected, elaborate on this method in field 6.20 ‘Additional Information’.

The field ‘indicate method used’ (d) is mandatory if (a) population size is provided, but Member States are encouraged to describe the method used also when (b) range increments are used.

The use of (b) range increments should help to reduce the use of ‘unknown’ to a minimum:

- if a range increment (b) is used, then there is no need to insert a value in relation to the current value provided in field 6.18 a) ‘Population size’;
- if the value is provided for population (a) the range increments should not be used.

Where the reference value has changed in comparison to the previous reporting period, this should be explained in field 6.20 Additional Information.

Favourable reference values and use of range increments are discussed in more detail in the Guidelines.

### **6.19 Population size when Directive came into force (optional)**

The population at the time the Directive came into force can be provided in field 6.19. This is an optional and free text field to see progress with regard to the current population reported.

### **6.20 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information given on population can be reported here as free text for example, any information on connectivity, reproduction, mortality, age structure, and genetic structure and if they deviate from normal, and how they were considered in the assessment of the status of the population or any additional information that complements that given in fields 6.1 to 6.19 above.

## **7 HABITAT FOR THE SPECIES**

This section provides information on sufficiency of habitat for the species and habitat trends.

Habitat for the species refers to the resources necessary at all stages in the life cycle of the species, for example both wintering and summer roosts, plus foraging areas, for bats. The meaning of ‘habitat’ in ‘habitat for the species’ is different to ‘habitat types’ defined under Annex I and ‘habitat’ for habitat classifications such as EUNIS, which are more correctly biotopes. Habitat quality includes elements like the availability of prey but also fragmentation where appropriate for the species; further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

### **7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat**

Provide information on the sufficiency of both the area and quality of the occupied habitat below:

- a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)? YES/NO/Unknown
- b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)? YES/NO/Unknown
- c) If ‘No’ to a), is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (for long-term survival)? YES/NO/Unknown

The Report format asks for information on the sufficiency of habitat area and quality. These questions are aimed at identifying species for which habitat area and/or habitat quality is a limiting factor for not achieving Favourable conservation status.

### **7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

Area of habitat:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. complete mapping or inventory of habitat for the species, or inventory of a species’ habitats, or previous complete inventory updated with information from robust monitoring)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. using modelling or extrapolation from detailed surveys of parts of the species’ distribution)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

Quality of habitat:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. complete mapping or inventory of habitat for the species including assessment of habitat quality, or inventory of a species' habitats combined with robust extrapolation of habitat quality, or previous complete inventory updated with information from robust monitoring)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. using modelling or extrapolation from detailed surveys of parts of the species' distribution)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

### **7.3 Short-term trend period**

Give the dates of the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported for the Habitat for the species. The short-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 12 years (two reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports, this means the period is 2013–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Thus, some flexibility is permitted, so that while trends would ideally be reported for 2013–2024, data from e.g. 2015–2021 will be accepted if the best available data relate to surveys in those years. Where a species is newly arrived, the start year is the first year after the species was first observed e.g. if this was in 2018 then the short-term trend period would be 2019 – 2024.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

### **7.4 Short-term trend direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The trend in habitat for the species describes changes in overall area and quality of the occupied habitat. Fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

Indicate if the trend in habitat for the species over the reported period in field 7.3 was (select one of the following):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

The assessment of habitat for the species considers both quality and area. Trend direction should be assessed by using the combinations in Table 4 below (area/quality).

**Table 4: Assessing trend direction of habitat for the species**

| Reported trend | Relation to area/quality status   |
|----------------|---|
| stable         | <b>Both trends are stable</b><br>Area 'stable' / quality 'stable'   |
| increasing     | <b>Both trends are increasing or one increasing and one stable</b><br>Area 'increasing' / quality 'increasing'<br>Area 'increasing' / quality 'stable'<br>Area 'stable' / quality 'increasing'  |
| decreasing     | <b>One or both trends are decreasing</b><br>Area 'decreasing' / quality 'decreasing'<br>Area 'decreasing' / quality 'stable'<br>Area 'decreasing' / quality 'unknown'<br>Area 'stable' / quality 'decreasing'<br>Area 'unknown' / quality 'decreasing'  |
| unknown        | <b>At least one trend is unknown and non-decreasing or there is no dominating trend</b><br>Area 'unknown' / quality 'unknown'<br>Area 'unknown' / quality 'increasing'<br>Area 'unknown' / quality 'stable'<br>Area 'increasing' / quality 'unknown'<br>Area 'stable' / quality 'unknown'<br>Area 'increasing' / quality 'decreasing' (if better data are not available)<br>Area 'decreasing' / quality 'increasing' (if better data are not available) |

Note: 'unknown' in the table above includes both 'unknown' and 'uncertain'.

The short-term trend information should be used in the evaluation matrix to undertake the conservation status assessment. Any large-scale deviation from this should be explained in field 7.9 'Additional information'.

If there is an apparent change in the direction of the trend resulting from a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about area or quality of habitat for species, it should not be considered a genuine change in trend.

## 7.5 Short-term trend – Method used

Choose one of the following categories:

- complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. dedicated monitoring of both habitat area and quality with good statistical power)

- c) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. trends derived from data collected from a limited number of sample sites; trends extrapolated from data collected for other purposes; trends extrapolated from some other indirect measurements)
- d) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- e) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

#### **7.6 Long-term trend period (optional)**

The long-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 24 years (four reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports, this means the period is 2000–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Indicate the period in this field. For the 2019–2024 reports this information is optional. Fields 7.7 and 7.8 are optional as well.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

For guidance in filling in field **7.7 ‘Long-term trend direction’** and field **7.8 ‘Long-term trend method used’**, see fields 7.4 and 7.5 (short-term trends).

#### **7.9 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information given on habitat for the species can be reported here (for example information on fragmentation).

## 8 MAIN PRESSURES AND THREATS

This section provides information on main pressures and threats. A list of 20 pressures should be provided and for each pressure a ranking of its impact on the conservation status of species is also required in the form of the timing of the pressure, scope and influence.

Pressures have acted within the current reporting period and they have an impact on the long-term viability of the species or its habitat(s); threats are future/foreseeable impacts (within the next two reporting periods) that are likely to affect the long-term viability of the species and/or its habitat(s) (See Table 5). Threats are not reported separately, it is understood that a pressure designated as having an impact ongoing and in the future ('timing') is both a pressure and a threat and when having an impact only in the future is only a threat. The threats should rather represent those issues judged to be reasonably likely (e.g. based on current pressures being reported or on foreseeable development projects). The definition of pressures and threats is given in table 5 below.

**Table 5: Definition of pressure and threat (in the context of Article 17 reporting)**

|          | Period of action/definition  | Timeframe   |
|----------|--|---|
| Pressure | Acting now and/or during (any part of or all of) the current reporting period. | Current six-year reporting period.  |
| Threat   | Factors expected to act in the future after the current reporting period.      | Future two reporting periods, i.e. within 12 years following the end of the current reporting period. |

### 8.1 Characterisation of pressures

Provide a list of pressures and list a maximum of 20 pressures.

- For each species: select from the list of pressures a maximum of 20 entries for each of pressures using the code at the second level of the hierarchical list. The list of pressures is available on the Reference Portal.
- For each pressure, indicate the **timing** which is the time frame it is acting in.

| Timing   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>in the past but now suspended due to measures</b> | For reporting <u>pressures</u> which have become suspended at some point in the current reporting period.<br><br>Where selected, there is no need to complete the fields on scope and influence. |
| <b>Ongoing</b>                                       | For reporting <u>pressures</u> that are ongoing during the reporting period i.e. no evidence of being suspended due to measures.   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>ongoing and likely to be in the future</b> | For reporting both <u>pressures</u> and <u>threats</u> .<br><br>Where selected, there is no need to complete the fields on scope and influence for the part of the entry concerning the threat but only for the part that concerns the pressure. |
| <b>only in future</b>                         | For reporting <u>threats</u> .<br><br>Where selected, there is no need to complete the fields on scope and influence.  |

- c) indicate for each species the proportion of the population affected (**scope**) for each pressure that is ‘ongoing’ or ‘ongoing and likely to be in the future’.

| <b>*Scope (proportion of population affected)</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| [*to be completed for ‘ongoing’ and ‘ongoing and likely to be in the future’ timings only. Although the latter also includes threats, the ‘scope’ and ‘influence’ will only address pressures] |  |
| <b>whole (&gt;90%)</b>   | more than 90% of the population reported in the Member State’s biogeographical region is affected by the pressure    |
| <b>majority 50 – 90%</b>   | between 50 – 90% of the population reported in the Member State’s biogeographical region is affected by the pressure |
| <b>minority &lt;50%</b>  | less than 50% of the population reported in the Member State’s biogeographical is affected by the pressure           |

- d) Indicate for each pressure that is ‘ongoing’ or ‘ongoing and likely to be in the future’ the **influence** on the population or the habitat of the species. The influence indicates how the pressure affects the decline of the population and of the habitat of the species (i.e. it is a general assessment for both).

| <b>Influence (on population or habitat of the species)</b>   |   |
|--|---|
| [*to be completed for ‘ongoing’ and ‘ongoing and likely to be in the future’ timings only. Although the latter also includes threats, the ‘scope’ and ‘influence’ will only address pressures] |   |
| <b>High influence</b>  | The pressure listed is a highly significant factor contributing to the decline of the population or the habitat of the species. It is an important direct or immediate influence on the population or habitat of the species. |
| <b>Medium influence</b>  | The pressure listed contributes to the decline of the population or habitat of the species but it is not a high influence nor a low influence   |



|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
|                      | pressure. It has a medium direct/immediate or indirect influence on the population or habitat of the species.   |
| <b>Low influence</b> | The pressure listed contributes to the decline of the population or habitat of the species, although not the main contributor and in combination with other pressures and/or factors. |

The overall impact of the pressure as addressed in fields timing, scope and influence, should reflect the influence of a pressure on the conservation status of the species.

Keep in mind that some species move over quite large areas (or are migratory), therefore status and trends reported in a particular Member State may reflect the effects of pressures and threats from outside the Member State (or even from beyond the EU. Likewise, species can be affected by pressures and threats originating from outside the Member State (e.g. pollution or nitrogen deposition). The list also includes pressures to address the transboundary effect of pressures and threats i.e. ‘threats from outside the Member State’ and ‘threats from outside the EU territory’.

Where Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of Union concern is selected among pressures, it is obligatory to provide the names of these species through a drop-down list that is provided. For the list of IAS of Union concern please see the Art. 17 Reference Portal. When a pressure concerns ‘Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)’ the provision of these species’ names is optional. Please select from EASIN database (see Article 17 reference portal). More than one species can be selected for both of these pressures.

As there is no characterisation of threats required in the reporting format but is used for the assessment of the parameter future prospects, an expert based characterisation of threats can be made by Member States, however this is not required to be reported.

## 8.2 Methods used (optional)

The optional methods used field is to provide general information for the pressures reporting and is not required for each specific pressures. Where a specific methodology is used for a specific pressure this information can be provided in field 8.4 Additional information.

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

### **8.3 Sources of information (optional)**

Provide sources of information relevant to Section 8 (optional) with URL, metadata, or supporting evidence. If, for example, expert opinion or partial estimate were indicated in field 8.2, this can be further elaborated on in this field. It is highly recommended to provide such sources.

### **8.4 Additional information (optional)**

If a Member State wishes to give additional information on the nature of a certain pressure or methodology this can be provided in this field.

## **9 CONSERVATION MEASURES**

This section concerns information on conservation measures, including management plans, taken to maintain or to restore the species at Favourable conservation status. Reporting on conservation measures is mandatory for all species (Annex II, IV and V).

The evaluation completed in fields 9.1 to 9.5 is an overall assessment, not a measure-by-measure evaluation.

### **9.1 Status of measures**

Select whether measures are needed or not. If the answer is ‘Yes, measures are needed’, then proceed to select from the following options (select only one option):

- a) Measures identified but none yet taken
- b) Measures needed but cannot be identified
- c) Part of measures identified have been taken
- d) Most/all of measures identified have been taken

Measures may be implemented at different points in time.

If the answer to the question if measures are needed is ‘No’, then the situation must be explained in the free text field 9.7. ‘No measures needed’ does not include legal/administrative measures and should always be justified.

### **9.2 Scope of the measures taken**

Where part of the measures identified have been taken (9.1 c)) or most/all of the measures identified have been taken (9.1 d)), indicate the scope of these measures i.e. the proportion of the population they impact.

- a) <50%
- b) 50 – 90%
- c) >90%

of the population. The assessment should be done in a general way.

### **9.3 Main purpose of the measures taken**

A. Indicate the main purposes of the measures taken. This part should only be filled in if conservation measures have been taken (field 9.1(c) ‘Part of measures identified have been

taken' or 9.1(d) Most/all of measures identified have been taken are marked 'Yes'). Several purposes can be identified.

- a) Maintain the current range, population and/or habitat for the species
- b) Expand the current range of the species (related to 'Range')
- c) Increase the population size and/or improve population dynamics (improve reproduction success, reduce mortality, improve age/sex structure) (related to 'Population')
- d) Restore the habitat of the species (related to 'Habitat for the species')

B. To identify the main purpose of the measures taken, please indicate if this is to (only one option can be selected):

- maintain the current state
- expand the range
- increase or improve the population
- restore the habitat

The aim of this field is not to describe the effect of the measures, rather describe the intended objective of the measures implemented. The response is further elaborated on in field 9.5 below.

#### **9.4 Location of the measures taken**

If the reply to field 9.1(c) 'Part of the measures identified have been taken' or 9.1(d) Most/all of measures identified have been taken is 'Yes', indicate where the measures are mostly being implemented (only one option can be selected):

- a) only inside Natura 2000
- b) both inside and outside Natura 2000
- c) only outside Natura 2000

This field tries to capture where the main focus of the conservation action is taking place. Therefore, choose option (a) if all, or the vast majority, of the conservation measures are restricted to Natura 2000, option (b) if there is a proportional investment in the implementation of measures inside and outside Natura 2000, and option (c) if all, or the vast majority, of the measures are taken outside Natura 2000.

#### **9.5 Response to the measures**

Provide an estimate of when the measures taken will start, or are expected to start, to neutralise the pressure and to produce positive effects (with regard to the main purpose of the measures indicated in field 9.3). Choose one option from:

- a) short-term response (within the current reporting period, 2019–2024)
- b) medium-term response (within the next two reporting periods, 2025–2036)
- c) long-term response (after 2036)

#### **9.6 List of main conservation measures**

List a maximum of 20 conservation measures using the code provided on the Reference Portal.

More detailed guidance on the use of conservation measures is provided in the Guidelines and in the notes in the list of conservation measures available from the Reference Portal.

### **9.7 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information given on conservation measures can be reported here.

## **10 FUTURE PROSPECTS**

This section provides information on the future prospects of three parameters (Range, Population and Habitat of the species). Future prospects indicates the direction of expected change in conservation status in the near future based on consideration of the current status, reported pressures and threats, and measures being taken for each of the other three parameters (Range, Population and Habitat of the species). More information is provided in the Guidelines.

### **10.1 Future prospects of parameters**

For each parameter (Range, Population and Habitat for the species) indicate if the prospects are ‘good’, ‘poor’, ‘bad’ or ‘unknown’. Future prospects of each of the three parameters should principally reflect the future trends which are the result of the balance between threats and conservation measures. The future prospects should be assessed in relation to the current conservation status. For example, the impact of future improvement on the assessment of future prospects of a parameter will be different if the current status is ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’.

An evaluation method is provided in the Guidelines.

### **10.2 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand how future prospects were assessed can be reported here.

## **11 CONCLUSIONS**

This section includes the assessment of conservation status at the end of the reporting period in the biogeographical region or marine region concerned. It is derived from the matrix in Part C of the reporting format.

Give the result of the assessment for each parameter of conservation status using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

The conservation status of parameters is assessed using the criteria in the evaluation matrix (Part C of the Report format). Sections 11.1 to 11.5 provide an overview of the assessment criteria for each of the parameters of conservation status. In addition, several complementary assumptions and criteria are outlined in these guidelines which aim at harmonising and facilitating the assessment of conservation status. For each parameter these complementary assumptions and criteria are summarised under the heading ‘Complementary remarks’ below.

## 11.1 Range

Give the result of the assessment of the status for Range using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

| Conservation status          | Assessment criteria   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Favourable (FV)              | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Range is ‘favourable’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the trend is stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing; and</li><li>range surface area (field 5.1) is not smaller than the favourable reference range (field 5.12).</li></ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>The trend over the short-term trend period (field 5.3) should be used for the status assessment.</li><li>The status of Range should not be favourable if any large-scale changes resulting from human pressures but not impacting the range surface area (e.g. shifts of range boundaries) were recorded.</li></ol>   |
| Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Range is ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>any other combination (other combination of criteria than for ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’)</li></ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>The evaluation matrix does not include explicit criteria for ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ status of Range. However, taking into account the criteria for ‘favourable’ and ‘unfavourable-bad’, the status of Range should be considered as ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a decline equivalent to a loss of less than 1 % per year; or</li><li>range surface area (field 5.1) is less than 10 % below favourable reference range (field 5.12).</li></ul></li><li>The trend over the short-term trend period (field 5.3) should be used for the status assessment.</li></ol> |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Unfavourable-bad (U2) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Range is ‘unfavourable-bad’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a large decline equivalent to a loss of more than 1 % per year within the period specified by the Member State; or</li> <li>• range surface area (field 5.1) is more than 10 % below favourable reference range (field 5.12).</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The trend over the short-term trend period (field 5.3) should be used for the status assessment.</p> |
| Unknown (XX)          | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Range is ‘unknown’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no or insufficient reliable information available.</li> </ul>  |

## 11.2 Population

Give the result of the assessment of the status of Population using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

| Conservation status | Assessment criteria   |
|---------------------|---|
| Favourable (FV)     | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Population is ‘favourable’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• population size (fields 6.2 or 6.5) is not smaller than the favourable reference population (field 6.18); and</li> <li>• the age structure, mortality and reproduction are not deviating from normal.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>1. Age structure, mortality and reproduction not deviating from normal are those of a natural, self-sustaining population (for example, with no recorded or anticipated problems with recruitment).</p> <p>2. Although the evaluation matrix does not explicitly mention population trend as a criterion for ‘favourable’ status (unlike for two other parameters), situations where the population trend is negative and the population status is still ‘favourable’ will be rare. A population decline often reflects a negative impact of pressures on mortality and/or reproduction. Furthermore, Article 1(i) of the Directive requires that population dynamics data of the species indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats. Therefore, for a species to be in a ‘favourable status’, the population trend</p> |

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
|                              | <p>should not be declining unless the actual population size is safely above the favourable reference population size. As for the remaining parameters, the trend over the short-term trend period (field 6.9) should be used for the status assessment.</p> <p>3. Although the evaluation matrix does not explicitly mention the genetic variability of the species, the requirement for long-term maintenance of a species (Article 1 (i)) suggests that the genetic variability should be that of a self-sustaining population.</p>  |
| Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Population is ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any other combination (other combination of criteria than for ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’).</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>1. The evaluation matrix does not include explicit criteria for ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ status of Population. However, taking into account criteria for ‘favourable’ and ‘unfavourable-bad’, the status of Population should be considered ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a moderate decline equivalent to a loss of less than 1 % per year and equal to or below ‘favourable reference population’; or</li> <li>a large decline equivalent to a loss of more than 1 % per year and above or equal to ‘favourable reference population’; or</li> <li>population size (fields 6.2 or 6.5) is less than 25 % below favourable reference population (field 6.18); or</li> <li>age structure somehow different from a natural, self-sustaining population.</li> </ul> <p>2. The trend over the short-term trend period (field 6.9) should be used for the status assessment.</p> |
| Unfavourable-bad (U2)        | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Population is ‘unfavourable-bad’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a large decline equivalent to a loss of more than 1 % per year within the period specified by the Member State and below ‘favourable reference population’; or</li> <li>population size (fields 6.2 or 6.5) is more than 25 % below favourable reference population (field 6.18); or</li> <li>reproduction, mortality and age structure are markedly different from normal.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>1. Reproduction, mortality and age structure markedly different from normal should be interpreted as markedly different from a natural, self-</p>  |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
|              | <p>sustaining population (for example, a higher than normal proportion of old individuals or a lack of reproducing adults or a lack of offspring).</p> <p>2. The trend over the short-term trend period (field 6.9) should be used for the status assessment.</p> |
| Unknown (XX) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Population is ‘unknown’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no or insufficient reliable information available.</li> </ul>  |

### 11.3 Habitat for the species

Give the result of the assessment of the status of Habitat for the species using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

| Conservation status | Assessment criteria   |
|---------------------|---|
| Favourable (FV)     | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Habitat for the species is ‘favourable’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• area of the habitat is sufficiently large (field 7.1); and</li> <li>• area of the habitat is stable or increasing; and</li> <li>• habitat quality is suitable for the long-term survival of the species (field 7.1).</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>1. The area of habitat can be considered ‘sufficiently large’ and habitat quality ‘suitable’ if the questions under field 7.1 ‘Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat’ are answered ‘Yes’: (a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)? b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)? Alternatively, If ‘No’ is responded to (a) but ‘Yes’ to (c) is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality for long-term survival?”, this also corresponds to the same and neither the habitat availability nor quality is a limiting factor for the long-term viability of the species.</p> <p>2. The trend in habitat for the species used for the assessment of the status (field 7.4) has both a qualitative and quantitative component, so the status can only be ‘favourable’ if there is neither decline in habitat area nor deterioration of habitat quality.</p> <p>3. The trend over the short-term trend period (field 7.3) should be used for the status assessments.</p> <p>4. Although the evaluation matrix does not mention fragmentation of habitat, this should not have a negative impact on the functioning of</p> |



|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              | population. As such, fragmentation should be considered when evaluating the quality of the habitat.  |
| Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Habitat for the species is ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any other combination (other combination of criteria than for ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’).</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The evaluation matrix does not include explicit criteria for ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ status of Habitat for the species. However, taking into account criteria for ‘favourable’ and ‘unfavourable-bad’, the status of Habitat for the species should be considered ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>area of habitat is not sufficiently large in some way to ensure the long-term survival of the species; or</li> <li>habitat quality is not adequate, in some way not allowing long-term survival of the species; or</li> <li>habitat area is declining or habitat quality is deteriorating.</li> </ul> |
| Unfavourable-bad (U2)        | <p>The status of Habitat for the species is ‘unfavourable-bad’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the area of habitat is clearly not sufficiently large to ensure the long-term survival of the species; or</li> <li>habitat quality is bad, clearly not allowing long-term survival of the species.</li> </ul>  |
| Unknown (XX)                 | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Habitat for the species is ‘unknown’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is no or insufficient reliable information available.</li> </ul>  |

#### 11.4 Future prospects

Give the result of the assessment of the status of Future prospects using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

| Conservation status | Assessment criteria  |
|---------------------|--|
| Favourable (FV)     | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Future prospects is ‘favourable’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>main pressures and threats to the species are not significant and species will remain viable in the long-term.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> |

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
|                              | <p>The Future prospects should be assessed as ‘favourable’ if all parameters have good prospects (field 10.1), or if prospects of one parameter are ‘unknown’ while the other parameters have good prospects.</p>   |
| Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Future prospects is ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any other combination (other combination of criteria than for ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’).</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The evaluation matrix does not include explicit criteria for ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ status of Future prospects. However, taking into account the method for assessing the Future prospects proposed in these guidelines, the status should be considered ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if the prospects of one or more parameters (field 10.1) are poor, none have bad prospects and there is at most one parameter with ‘unknown’ prospects.</p> |
| Unfavourable-bad (U2)        | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Future prospects is ‘unfavourable-bad’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is severe influence of pressures and threats to the species, prospects for its future are very bad and long-term viability is at risk.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The Future prospects should be assessed as ‘unfavourable-bad’ if one or more parameters have bad prospects (field 10.1).</p>  |
| Unknown (XX)                 | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part C) the status of Future prospects is ‘unknown’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is no or insufficient reliable information available.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The Future prospects should be assessed as ‘unknown’ if two or more parameters have ‘unknown’ prospects and no parameter has bad prospects (field 10.1).</p>  |

### 11.5 Overall assessment of conservation status

Give the result of the overall assessment of conservation status using the four categories available: ‘favourable’, ‘unfavourable-inadequate’, ‘unfavourable-bad’ and ‘unknown’, based on the evaluation matrix for assessing conservation status for a species.

| Status of parameters     | All 'favourable', or three 'favourable' and one 'unknown' | One or more 'inadequate', but no 'bad' | One or more 'bad'  | Two or more 'unknown' combined with 'favourable' or all 'unknown' |
|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------|---|
| Overall assessment of CS | 'favourable'  | 'unfavourable-inadequate'              | 'unfavourable-bad' | 'unknown'   |

## 11.6 Overall trend in conservation status

If the overall assessment of conservation status reported in field 11.5 is 'favourable', 'inadequate' or 'bad', indicate its trend (qualifier) as follows (one option can be selected):

- a) improving
- b) deteriorating
- c) stable
- d) unknown

The qualifier should be based on trends (for Range, Population and Habitat for the species) over the last reporting period (2019 - 2024). As the trends over the reporting period are often not available, short-term trends can be used to assess the trend in the conservation status, unless there is evidence that the trend during the reporting period is different than a measured short-term trend (e.g. if after past decline of a species population over the reporting period 2013–2018 the population trend has stabilised, the qualifier should be assessed as 'stable' even though the population trend is 'decreasing'; this should be explained in field 11.8 'Additional information'). The (short-term) trends should be combined using Table 6 below.

**Table 6: Assessing overall trend in conservation status of a species by combining trends for parameters**

| Short-term trend of parameters (Range, Population, Habitat for the species) |               |                   |                | Overall trend in CS   |
|---|---------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Number increasing   | Number stable | Number decreasing | Number unknown |   |
| 3   | 0             | 0                 | 0              | <b>Improving</b><br><br>(Only increasing and stable trends)   |
| 2   | 1             | 0                 | 0              |   |
| 1   | 2             | 0                 | 0              |   |
| 0   | 3             | 0                 | 0              | <b>Stable</b><br><br>(Only stable trends or stable and increasing dominates (there is at least one increasing and only one unknown or decreasing)).<br><br>* Trend magnitude should also be considered. The overall trend in CS is stable only in case of moderate declines (< 1 % per year). |
| 2   | 0             | 1                 | 0              |   |
| 2   | 0             | 0                 | 1              |   |
| 0   | 2             | 0                 | 1              |   |
| 1   | 1             | 1*                | 0              |   |
| 1   | 1             | 0                 | 1              |   |

|   |   |    |   |   |
|---|---|----|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 3  | 0 | <b>Deteriorating</b><br><br><i>(Decreasing trends dominate)</i><br><br><i>* Trend magnitude should also be considered.</i><br><i>The overall trend in CS is declining only in case of important declines (&gt; 1 % per year).</i> |
| 1 | 0 | 2  | 0 |   |
| 0 | 1 | 2  | 0 |   |
| 0 | 0 | 2  | 1 |   |
| 0 | 2 | 1  | 0 |   |
| 1 | 1 | 1* | 0 |   |
| 0 | 1 | 1  | 1 |   |
| 0 | 0 | 0  | 3 | <b>Unknown</b><br><br><i>(Unknown trends dominate)</i>  |
| 1 | 0 | 0  | 2 |   |
| 0 | 1 | 0  | 2 |   |
| 0 | 0 | 1  | 2 |   |
| 1 | 0 | 1  | 1 |   |

*To note:* ‘unknown’ in the table above includes both ‘unknown’ and ‘uncertain’. The above has been provided as a general guide, some combinations of trends for the parameters may not be accounted for.

### 11.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend

This field is used to indicate if there is any change since the previous reporting period (2013–2018) in conservation status and/or in trend in conservation status and, if yes, the reason for this change.

Indicate which of the following options apply (separately for the overall assessment of conservation status and overall trend in conservation status). It is possible to reply ‘Yes’ to more than one of the options b-f , but at least one option ‘Yes’ must be selected for options b-f if there is a change. The fields to be completed are:

- a) no there is no difference
- b) yes, due to genuine change
- c) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data
- d) yes, due to the use of different method (including taxonomic change or use of different thresholds)
- e) yes, but nature of change is unknown
- f) yes, due to other reasons

If the field ‘yes due to other reasons’ is ticked, it must be further specified in field 11.8 Additional information. This field should be used only in very limited cases.

Finally, indicate (separately for overall assessment of conservation status and overall trend in conservation status) whether any difference is mainly due to (select only one option):

- genuine change
- improved knowledge or more accurate data
- the use of a different method
- unknown
- other reasons

Only one option should be chosen for the main reason for change.

If a Member State wishes to give further information, this can be provided in field 11.8 Additional information.

### **11.8 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information in fields 11.1 to 11.7.

## **12 NATURA 2000 PROPOSED SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (pSCIs), SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCIs) AND SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACs) COVERAGE FOR ANNEX II SPECIES OF DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC**

This section provides information on population size and population trend within the Natura 2000 network. This section only concerns Annex II species. The requested information should cover the proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs), the Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) of the Natura 2000 network within the biogeographical/marine region concerned.

The information relates to all pSCIs/SCIs/SACs where the Annex II species is present, not only those sites where the species is declared as a target species or a conservation objective.

See background information in the Guidelines.

### **12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network**

Indicate the population size within the network in the biogeographical or marine region concerned, including all sites where the species is present. Use the same unit as in field 6.2 'Population size (in reporting unit)' and follow the same guidance as for the population size estimates in field 6.2.

Some species are mainly present inside the network during a period of the year (e.g. wintering or reproducing) and largely outside the network for the rest of the year (bats in particular). As Natura 2000 sites are often the most important sites for these species, the population size within the Natura 2000 network should include populations which are only present within sites for part of the year.

Similarly, different Natura 2000 sites can cover different life stages (there are sites with hibernating or reproducing populations, but also sites which only include foraging habitats). The population size within the Natura 2000 network should include all sites proposed for reproducing, hibernating or foraging/staging populations or individuals.

### **12.2 Type of estimate**

The type of estimate for the interval reported in fields 12.1(b) and (c) or the best single value in field 12.1(d) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are: best estimate, multi-year mean, 95 % confidence interval, or minimum.

Follow the same guidance as for the 'Type of estimate' for the Population size (field 6.3).

### **12.3 Additional population size (optional)**

This field allows the Member State to report population size using units other than the unit given in the species checklist e.g. the unit reported in field 6.5.

The population size can be reported as an interval (for example, minimum and maximum value from repeated census) and/or as a best available single value. The interval size estimate (fields 12.3(b) and (c) should be given as minimum and maximum numbers. Minimum and maximum should always be entered together, i.e. not as only the minimum/only the maximum.

There is also a 'best single value' field (12.3(d)) where a single value (a precise value or an estimate) can be entered. In a situation where only a minimum (or maximum) value of the population size is known (e.g. through expert opinion) this should be entered in the '(d) Best single value' field and NOT the '(b) Minimum' or '(c) Maximum' fields. The source of this estimate can then be clarified in field 12.4 (see below). The numbers reported should not be rounded.

Both interval and a best single value can be provided together, for example where the interval coming from the survey data is quite large (e.g. minimum and maximum values) and an expert evaluation of the actual population size is available.

### **12.4 Type of estimate (optional)**

The type of estimate for the interval reported in fields 12.3(b) and (c) or the best single value in field 12.3(d) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are: best estimate, multi-year mean, 95 % confidence interval, or minimum.

Follow the same guidance as for the 'Type of estimate' for the Population size (field 6.3).

### **12.5 Population size inside the network – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. repeated direct counts of entire population; repeated counting based on indices of species presence; from previous complete inventory updated with robust monitoring data on trends)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. based on mark-recapture methods, or using models based on abundance and distribution data, or using extrapolation from sample surveys of parts of the population, or from previous inventory updated with good trend data)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

Follow the same guidance as for the 'Method used' for the Population size (field 6.7).

### **12.6 Short-term trend of population size within the network – Direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The trend in population size informs on changes in overall numbers of specimens within the Natura 2000 sites.

Fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

Indicate whether the trend of population size is (select only one option):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Short-term trend within the Natura 2000 network should be assessed over the period indicated in field 6.9.

See instructions for field 6.10 'Short-term trend direction'.

### **12.7 Short-term trend of population size within the network – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. dedicated monitoring of a species' populations with good statistical power)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. trends derived from data collected from a limited number of sample sites; trends extrapolated from data collected for other purposes; trends extrapolated from some other indirect measurements, such as availability of a habitat)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

### **12.8 Short-term trend of habitat for the species within the network – Direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The trend in habitat of the species informs on changes in overall size and quality within the Natura 2000 sites. Fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

Indicate whether the trend of habitat of the species is (select only one option):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Short-term trend within the Natura 2000 network should be assessed over the period indicated in field 7.3.

See instructions for field 7.4 ‘Short-term trend direction’

### **12.9 Short-term trend of habitat for the species within the network – Method used**

See instructions for field 7.5. ‘Short-term trend – Method used’

### **12.10 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand how Natura 2000 covers the species can be reported here.

## **13 COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

This section is optional and is a place to include any additional or supplementary information.

### **13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)**

The indicative suggested threshold for a large decline given in the evaluation matrix (Part C) is 1 % per year. If another threshold has been used for the assessment, please give details, including an explanation of why.

### **13.2 Transboundary assessment (optional)**

Where a joint conservation status assessment is made between two Member States, i.e. where there is a wide-ranging transboundary species population, further detailed information can be given here. The information to provide is:

- Member States involved (use code list on the Reference Portal) and if any non-EU countries were involved in the assessment;
- parameters assessed in the transboundary area (usually Range and Population);
- the % of the total population in the Member State concerned;
- list of joint management measures;
- references/links, if available.

Further information on assessment of transboundary populations can be found in the Guidelines.

### **13.3 Other relevant information (optional)**

Include any other information thought relevant to the species report and to assessing conservation status.



## **PART C – EVALUATION MATRIX FOR ASSESSING CONSERVATION STATUS OF A SPECIES**

The matrix is an aid to assessing the conservation status of a species. It is used for each biogeographical or marine region in which the species is present. The results of using the matrix are inserted into Section ‘[Conclusions](#)’ (in Explanatory Notes for species reports’).

## PART D – REPORT FORMAT ON THE ‘MAIN RESULTS OF THE SURVEILLANCE UNDER ARTICLE 11’ FOR ANNEX I HABITAT TYPES OF DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC

### HABITATS TO BE REPORTED

In general, each Member State should report all habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive for every biogeographical or marine region in which they occur<sup>11</sup> (see also next paragraph).

The habitats listed in Annex I can be both biotopes or biotope complexes, and sometimes an Annex I habitat is a component of another Annex I habitat. As a result patches of one or more Annex I habitats can occur within another Annex I habitat. More information on how to report for those overlapping habitats can be found in the Guidelines.

A report is optional for habitats with a scientific reserve. A checklist of habitats covered by the Habitats Directive and their occurrence per biogeographical or marine region and Member State is available on the Article 17 Reference Portal.

Most habitats are clearly present or absent, but to cover all possibilities the habitats checklist also distinguishes habitats with ‘marginal occurrence’ and where there is some uncertainty of status (‘scientific reserve’). An overview of the categories in the habitat checklist, with an indication of whether a report is expected and which parts of the report remain mandatory, is given in Table 7. A detailed definition of habitat categories can be found in the Guidelines.

**Table 7: Categories of habitat occurrence within the biogeographical/marine region of the Member State and indication of the expected content of the Article 17 report**

| Habitat category (code)         | Report                   | Mandatory information for report   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Present regularly (PRE)</b>  | Mandatory                | Full report.   |
| <b>Marginal (MAR)</b>           | Mandatory partial report | Whenever possible provide information for any of the fields listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution map (field 2.2)</li> <li>• Actual range – surface area (field 4.1).</li> <li>• Area covered by habitat - surface area (field 5.2) and date (field 5.1) and method used (field 5.4).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Scientific reserve (SCR)</b> | Optional                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any other relevant information, e.g. related to the problems of habitat interpretation (field 12.2).</li> </ul>   |

<sup>11</sup> For the habitat types and species which do not occur in the area of Cyprus where the Community acquis applies at present, no report is expected but the species should remain in the checklist (using category NPRES in the checklist).

# FIELD-BY-FIELD GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETING ‘PART D’ HABITAT REPORTS

Part D is to be completed for each Annex I habitat of Directive 92/43/EEC present.

It is recommended that the free text information in the different fields is written in English to facilitate the further use of information in the EU analysis and to allow a wider readership.

Even though not all data used in the report will be collected during the reporting period, the report should give information of relevance for the period 2019–2024.

## NATIONAL LEVEL

The following information is to be provided at the national level:

### 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1.1 Member State

Select the two-digit code for your Member State from ISO 3166. in accordance with the list to be found on the Reference Portal.

#### 1.2 Habitat code

Use the code given in the habitats checklist (see the Reference Portal, these are the same codes as given in the 2013 edition of the Interpretation Manual<sup>12</sup>). No other coding system is to be used.

Reports are expected for each biogeographical region for which the habitat type is listed in the checklist for reporting under the Nature Directives (for marginal occurrence see the Guidelines).

### 2 MAPS

This section contains information on maps to be submitted together with the tabular information as a part of the Article 17 report. Apart from the mandatory distribution map, other types of maps with information relevant for understanding the assessment of conservation status can also be provided.

#### 2.1 Year or period

Enter the year (e.g. 2021) or period (e.g. 2019–2024) when the distribution was last determined.

Many reports will involve more than one reporting period, because a mapping of the habitat distribution in most cases involves several years of fieldwork and may extend beyond the limits

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<sup>12</sup> *Interpretation manual of European Union habitats - EUR 28*. DG Environment - Nature and Biodiversity  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/docs/Int\\_Manual\\_EU28.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/docs/Int_Manual_EU28.pdf)

of the current reporting period (2019–2024). The year or period reported should cover the actual period during which the data were collected.

In some cases the distribution map will be elaborated based on data from the previous reporting period or using older distribution data that has been updated with the results of regular monitoring or using data from online-systems for collecting data. The year or period reported should be that which the reported distribution relates to.

More detailed information on year or period of data used for the distribution map can be provided in field 2.5 ‘Additional information’.

## 2.2 Distribution map

Submit a distribution map. The standard is:

**10x10 km ETRS 89 LAEA (EPSG:3035)**

The distribution map should provide information about the actual occurrences of the habitat, which should preferably be based on the results of a comprehensive national mapping or inventory of the habitat wherever possible (see the Guidelines). If field data on actual occurrences of the habitat are not sufficient, modelling and extrapolation should be used whenever feasible<sup>13</sup>. The distribution map will be composed of grids with both the actual (mapped) and presumed habitat occurrences.

The distribution map will consist of 10x10 km ETRS89 grid cells in the LAEA (EPSG:3035) projection<sup>14</sup>. The gridded dataset will consist only of the 10-km grid cells where the habitat is recorded or estimated as occurring; the use of attribute data to indicate the presence or absence of a habitat in a grid cell is not permitted.. The technical specifications for delivering spatial information are given on the Reference Portal and the Reporting Manual.

If more precise maps giving more detailed distribution of habitat are available, these can be submitted as additional maps.

For small Member States, such as Luxembourg, Malta and Cyprus (or for other small territories such as the Canary, Madeira or the Azores islands), a 1x1 km grid is allowed; these will then be aggregated by EEA to 10x10 km for visualisation at European level.

The grids for individual Member States are available for download from the Reference Portal.

## 2.3 Method used

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. a dedicated mapping or survey or a robust predictive model with representative sample of occurrence data, calibration and

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<sup>13</sup> If modelling or exceptionally expert opinion are used this should be noted in the field 2.3 Method used

<sup>14</sup> European Terrestrial Reference System 1989; ETRS89 Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection with parameters: latitude of origin 52°N, longitude of origin 10°E, false northing 3210000.0m, false easting 4321000.0m (EPSG 3035 based). Origin of the grid is calculated from 0mN 0mE of projection.. <http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gis>.

satisfactory evaluation of its predictive performance using good data on environmental conditions across the range of the habitat);

- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. other predictive models or extrapolation using less complete sample of occurrence and environmental data);
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data;
- d) insufficient or no data available.

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

If the reported distribution map obtained as a result of comprehensive mapping, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75 % of the presumed actual habitat distribution (i.e. the resulting map is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat distribution), the 'Method used' should be reported as '(d) Insufficient or no data available'.

## **2.4 Additional maps (optional)**

Member States may also submit additional maps, for example giving more detailed distribution data (e.g. at higher resolution) or a range map (See the Guidelines). Any additional maps must be accompanied by the relevant metadata and details of the projection used. Note that this is an optional field and does not replace the need to provide a map in field 2.2.

Maps other than the ones described under field 2.2 such as maps using grids other than ETRS or using 5x5 grids may be reported here.

## **2.5 Additional information**

This field is optional and allows Member States to report, as free text, any information which is felt relevant, such as more information on the methodologies used for mapping, descriptions of additional maps/information submitted.

# **BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL**

## **3 BIOGEOGRAPHICAL AND MARINE REGIONS**

The following section should be completed for each biogeographical or marine region in which the habitat occurs. So, for example, if a habitat occurs in three biogeographical regions within a Member State, three separate reports are required.

### **3.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the habitat occurs**

Biogeographical region or marine region concerned within the Member State.

- Use the following names for biogeographical regions:

|           |               |              |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| Alpine    | Boreal        | Macaronesian |
| Atlantic  | Continental   | Pannonian    |
| Black Sea | Mediterranean | Steppic      |

- Use the following names for marine regions:

|                     |                   |                      |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Marine Atlantic     | Marine Black Sea  | Marine Mediterranean |
| Marine Macaronesian | Marine Baltic Sea |                      |

Maps and boundaries of biogeographical and marine regions can be found on the Reference Portal.

More information on marine regions and on habitats which should be reported in marine regions can be found in the Guidelines.

### **3.2 First time reporting**

If the habitat is reported in the Member State for the first time this should be indicated here along with the biogeographical/marine region the habitat is reported in. Some fields in the reporting format may not be applicable for habitats reported for the first time e.g. when indicating the change and reason for change since the last reporting period.

### **3.3 Additional information**

This field allows Member States to report, as free text, any relevant information, such as the reason a habitat is being reported for this first time. Any other additional information on this section is optional.

### **3.4 Sources of information**

For information from published sources related to Sections 4 to 6 (including the published sources related to distribution maps, on which the range calculation is based) and Sections 8 to 12, provide bibliographic references or links to an Internet site(s). Use the order: author, year, title of publication, source, volume, number of pages, web address. For pressures a separate file is included for sources of information in Section 7.

All Internet addresses in the reporting fields should be given in full, including the initial 'http://' or 'https://', if applicable.

## **4 RANGE**

This section provides information on range surface area, range trends and favourable reference range.

Range is defined as 'the outer limits of the overall area in which a habitat or species is found at present' and it can be considered as an envelope within which areas actually occupied occur.

The range should be calculated based on the map of the actual distribution using a standardised algorithm. A standardised process is needed to ensure repeatability of the range calculation in different reporting rounds. A range tool is available for this purpose via the Reference Portal.

It is not necessary to submit a map of the range but the area of the range and trend in area are required to assess this parameter. However, a map can be submitted in field 2.4 ‘Additional maps’.

Complementary information and methods for range calculation can be found in the Guidelines.

#### **4.1 Surface area**

This is the total surface area (in km<sup>2</sup>) of the current range (outer limits of the habitat distribution) within the biogeographical or marine region concerned. The range in the biogeographical or marine region concerned is represented by grids (10x10 km) which occur entirely or partly within the region (i.e. grids intersected by the boundaries of the biogeographical or marine regions are counted under both regions). In general, the surface area is provided in 10x10 km<sup>2</sup> resolution and the minimum area should be 100 km<sup>2</sup>. For localised habitats with a very small range it is possible to report using finer resolution; for example, for habitats restricted to a single location, range is the area of locality where habitat occurs, which can be several square metres. Decimals are allowed, as the range of some habitats can be very small.

The method for estimating the surface area described in the Guidelines.

#### **4.2 Change and reason for change in the surface area of range**

This field is used to indicate if there is any change since the previous reporting period (2013–2018) in the range surface area reported and, if so, to describe the nature of this change.

If there is a change, indicate which of the following options b) to f) apply (It is possible to select more than one of the options b - f<sup>15</sup>).

- a) no, there is no change
- b) yes, due to genuine change
- c) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data
- d) yes, due to the use of a different method
- e) yes, but nature of change is unknown
- f) yes, due to other reasons

Finally, indicate whether any difference is mainly due to (select one option):

- a) genuine change
- b) improved knowledge or more accurate data

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<sup>15</sup> In some cases the actual value reported for range surface area has increased, reflecting both a genuine increase in range (positive range trend) and better knowledge or data. Both options (‘genuine change’ and ‘improved knowledge or more accurate data’) above should be selected. In other situations the actual value reported for range surface area has increased since the previous period due to better knowledge or data. Nevertheless, it may still be clear that the species range is actually declining, based on analyses of data from sites. The option ‘improved knowledge or more accurate data’ above should be selected. Field 4.14 ‘Additional information’ allows a Member State to provide further details on why a range estimate has increased, even though a range decline is reported.

- c) the use of a different method
- d) unknown
- e) other reasons

If a Member State wishes to give further information (e.g. cases where range surface area does not change, but its borders are shifting), this can be done in field 4.14 ‘Additional information’. If the field ‘yes due to other reasons’ is ticked, it must be further specified in ‘Additional information’. This field should be used only in very limited cases.

### **4.3 Short-term trend period**

Give the dates for the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported. The short-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 12 years (two reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports, this means the period is 2013–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Thus, some flexibility is permitted, so that while trends would ideally be reported for 2013–2024, data from e.g. 2010–2021 will be accepted if the best available data relate to surveys in those years. Where a habitat is newly observed, ideally the trends would be reported with the start year as the first year after it was first observed e.g. if this was in 2018 then the short-term trend period would be 2019 – 2024.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

### **4.4 Short-term trend direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The range trend shows changes in the overall extent of distribution of the habitat. Although rare for range, a fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

Indicate if range trend over the period reported in field 4.3 was (select one option):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Report ‘uncertain’ if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use ‘unknown’ where there are no data available.

The short-term trend information is used in the evaluation matrix to undertake the conservation status assessment. Any large-scale deviation from this should be explained in field 4.14 ‘Additional information’.

If there is an apparent change in direction of the trend resulting from a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about habitat distribution, it should not be considered a genuine change in trend. This apparent change should be indicated in field 4.2 ‘Change and reason for change in surface area of range’.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.



#### **4.5 Short-term trend magnitude (optional)**

If possible quantify the percentage change over the period indicated in field 4.3. The range at the beginning of the reporting period is taken as 100 %. Where a pre-defined interval is used, please select among the given intervals 0 – 12%, 13 - 25%, 26 - 50%, 51 – 100%, >100%).

Choose from the following options:

- a) estimated minimum
  - b) estimated maximum
  - c) pre-defined range
  - d) unknown
- 
- Where magnitude is available as a range (e.g. 20–30 %), this should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’.
  - Where magnitude is available as a precise value, the same value should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’.
  - Where only a minimum value is known, this should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’ and indicated as ‘minimum’ in 4.6 Short-term trend magnitude – type of estimate. Conversely, where only the maximum value is available, this should also be entered into both the (a) ‘estimated minimum’ and (b) ‘estimated maximum’ fields with ‘best estimate’ indicated in the 4.6 Type of estimate field and precising that maximum is entered in 4.14 Additional information.
  - Where a less accurate range is available, field c) pre-defined range can be used.
  - Negative magnitude values should be reported (i.e. include the ‘-’ sign) for all negative trend magnitudes, including cases where the direction is already indicated as ‘decreasing’. Nevertheless, to avoid unnecessary data entry, it is not necessary to include the ‘+’ sign for positive trends (i.e. a trend magnitude of ‘15’ will be assumed to represent +15%). In the case of negative trends, note that the ‘Minimum’ and ‘Maximum’ fields relate to minimum and maximum values mathematically (not minimum and maximum declines). The pre-defined ranges will be provided with a positive or negative sign.

This field does not need to be completed for ‘stable’ or ‘unknown’ trends reported in 4.4. ‘Uncertain’ trends suggest that some data are available and this should be reported on with the ‘type of estimate’ field completed accordingly.

#### **4.6 Short-term trend magnitude – type of estimate (optional)**

The type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 4.5(a) and (b) or the estimated interval in field 4.5(c) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are:

- best estimate – the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the area covered by habitat is available) or interval, derived from e.g. a survey or a model, a compilation of figures from localities or expert opinion, but for which 95 % confidence limits could not be calculated. Whether a best estimate comes from the monitoring data, modelling or from an expert opinion should be assessed in field 4.7;

- multi-year mean – average value or interval where habitat is monitored several times during the period provided in field 4.3;
- 95 % confidence interval – estimates derived from sample surveys or a model in which 95 % confidence interval could be calculated;
- minimum – where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded population size estimate, but where a population size is known to be above certain value, or where the reported interval comes from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real population size;
- pre-defined range – where the exact minimum and maximum values could not be estimated (fields 4.5 (a) and (b)), but where a reliable estimate can be made within the pre-defined range increments provided.

No type of estimate is required if trend direction is ‘unknown’ or ‘stable’. The type of estimate is expected to be filled in only if the trend direction is ‘increasing’, ‘decreasing’ or ‘uncertain’.

#### **4.7 Short-term trend – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. comparing two range maps based on accurate distribution data, or a dedicated monitoring of a habitat’s distribution with good statistical power);
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. trends derived from occurrence data collected for other purposes, or from data collected from only a part of the geographical range of a habitat, or trends based on measuring some other predictors of habitat distribution, such as land-cover changes);
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data;
- d) insufficient or no data available.

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

The method used field encompasses the total assessment i.e. both field 4.4 short-term trend direction and field 4.5 short-term trend magnitude.

#### **4.8 Long-term trend period (optional)**

The long-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 24 years (four reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports this period is 2000–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Indicate the period in this field. For the 2019–2024 reports this information and the associated fields 4.9 to 4.11 are optional. For newly reported habitats, the start date for the long-term trend would fall within the last two reporting periods (i.e. 2013 to 2024).

For guidance in filling in field **4.9 ‘Long-term trend direction’** please see the guidance for field 4.4 (short-term trend – Direction).

#### 4.10 Long-term trend magnitude (optional)

If possible, quantify the percentage change (with range at the beginning of the reporting period as 100 %) over the period reported in field 4.8. It can be given as estimated minimum and maximum value in fields 4.10 (a) and (b) (e.g. 27% and 55%), or where a precise value is known, enter the same value in the minimum and maximum field (e.g. 27%).

For additional guidance see **field 4.5 Short-term trend – magnitude**. For guidance in filling in field **4.11 ‘Long-term trend – Method used’**, please see the guidance for field 4.7 (short-term trend – Method used).

#### 4.12 Favourable reference range

Favourable reference range is the range within which all significant ecological variations of the habitat are included for a given biogeographical region and which is sufficiently large to allow the long-term viability of the habitat. This information is needed to undertake the evaluation of conservation status according to Part E. Where the exact range area is reported decimals are allowed, as the range of some habitats can be very small. In many cases it is not possible to estimate a value for favourable reference range (option a) but it is clear that the favourable reference range is greater (or much greater) than the present-day value. Using the pre-defined range increments (option b) the range is ‘approximately equal to the favourable reference range (less than 2% smaller)’, ‘between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRR’, ‘between 11% and 50% smaller than the FRR’, ‘between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRR’ allows flexibility in reporting where the exact value is not known. It is also preferable to reporting a parameter as ‘unknown’ (option c). For example if the actual range is 150 km<sup>2</sup> and the value is estimated to be ‘between 11% and 50% smaller than the FRR’, then the FRR would be between 169 and 300 km<sup>2</sup>. If the favourable reference range is smaller than the actual range, the favourable reference range is expected to be provided in a precise number and an explanation needs to be given in the field 4.14 ‘Additional information’ on how this is in line with the principles of setting FRVs as described in the Guidelines.

The following information is requested:

- a) area in km<sup>2</sup>; or
- b) if a precise favourable reference range is unknown Indicate if the range is:
  - approximately equal to the favourable reference range (less than 2% smaller)
  - between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRR
  - between 11% and 50% smaller than the FRR
  - between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRR
- c) if the favourable reference range is unknown, indicate in the relevant field; and
- d) indicate the method used' to set the reference value

The methods used can be:

- Model-based approach
- Reference-based approach
- Expert opinion
- Other

More than one method can be selected. If the ‘Model-based approach’ or the ‘Reference-based approach’ are selected then the quality of the available information should be indicated as high, moderate or low. If ‘other’ method is selected, elaborate on this method in field 4.14 ‘Additional Information’.

The field ‘indicate method used’ (d) is mandatory if (a) area is provided, but Member States are encouraged to describe the method used also when (b) range increments are used.

The use of (b) range increments should help to reduce the use of ‘unknown’ to a minimum:

- if a range increments (b) is used, then there is no need to insert a value in relation to the current value provided in field 4.1 ‘Surface area (of range)’;
- if the value is provided for area in km<sup>2</sup> (a), the range increments should not be used.

Where the reference value has changed in comparison to the previous reporting period, this should be explained in field 4.14 ‘Additional Information’. Favourable reference values and use of range increments are discussed in more detail in the Guidelines.

#### **4.13 Range when Directive came into force (optional)**

The surface area of range at the time the Directive came into force can be provided in field 4.13. This is an optional and free text field to see progress with regard to the current range reported.

#### **4.14 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information given on range can be reported here (for example, details on the use of old distribution data, use of data from the previous reporting period, use of different gap distance or range calculation method than that recommended).

## **5 AREA COVERED BY HABITAT**

This section reports on the area covered by the habitat type within the range in the biogeographical or marine region concerned.

### **5.1 Year or period**

Enter the year (e.g. 2021) or period (e.g. 2019–2024) when the surface area of the habitat was determined.

Many reports will involve more than one reporting period, because habitat mapping usually involves several years of fieldwork and may extend beyond the limits of the current reporting period (2019–2024). The year or period reported should cover the actual period during which the data were collected.

In some cases the area covered by habitat will be estimated based on comprehensive habitat mapping which took place during the previous reporting period or even before and that has been updated with the results of regular monitoring. The year or period reported should be that which the reported estimate of the area covered by habitat relates to.

More detailed information on year or period of data used for the area covered by habitat can be provided in field 5.17 ‘Additional information’.

## 5.2 Surface area

This refers to the total area (in km<sup>2</sup>) currently occupied by the habitat within the biogeographical or marine region of the Member State concerned. For overlapping habitats see the Guidelines.

The surface area of habitat can be reported as an interval (for example minimum and maximum value or 95 % confidence interval from a model) and/or as a best available single value. The interval surface area estimate (fields 5.2(a) and (b)) should be given as minimum and maximum numbers. Minimum and maximum should always be entered together, i.e. not as only the minimum /only the maximum.

There is also a 'best single value' field (5.2 (c)) where a single value (a precise value or an estimate) can be entered. When only a minimum (or maximum) value of the surface area of the habitat is known (e.g. through expert opinion) this should be entered in the 'Best single value' field and NOT the '(a) Minimum' or '(b) Maximum' fields. The source of this estimate can then be clarified in field 5.3 (see below). The numbers reported should not be rounded. Decimals are allowed when reporting the area covered by the habitat, as the surface area of some habitats can be very small.

Both intervals and a best single value can be provided together, for example where the interval coming from modelling is quite large (e.g. minimum and maximum values) and an expert evaluation of the actual surface area of habitat is also available. The expert evaluation of modelling results can result in a more accurate single value to be used in the EU assessments. In other situations, the point estimate (best single value) is available and Member State wishes to provide the confidence limits. The confidence interval can be entered in the minimum and maximum fields. If both, interval and best single values are provided this should be explained in field 5.17 'Additional information'.

## 5.3 Type of estimate

The type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 5.2(a) and (b) or the best single value in field 5.2(c) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are:

- best estimate – the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the area covered by habitat is available) or interval, derived from e.g. a survey or a model, a compilation of figures from localities or expert opinion, but for which 95 % confidence limits could not be calculated. Whether a best estimate comes from the monitoring data, modelling or from an expert opinion should be assessed in field 5.4;
- 95 % confidence interval – estimates derived from sample surveys or a model in which 95 % confidence interval could be calculated;
- minimum – where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded population size estimate, but where a population size is known to be above certain value, or where the reported interval comes from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real habitat area.

If both interval (field 5.2(a) 'Minimum' and field 5.2(b) 'Maximum') and a single value (field 5.2(c) 'Best single value') are provided, field 5.3 'Type of estimate' should correspond to the more accurate estimate. This should be noted in field 5.17 'Additional information'.

## 5.4 Surface area – Method used

This field is used to detail the methodology used for calculating habitat area in field 5.2. Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. complete habitat mapping or data from previous habitat mapping updated with robust monitoring data on trends)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. using modelling or extrapolation from surveys of parts of the habitat distribution; using data from previous complete habitat mapping updated with good trend data)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

If both interval (field 5.2(a) 'Minimum' and field 5.2(b) 'Maximum') and a single value (field 5.2(c) 'Best single value') are provided, field 5.4 'Method used' should correspond to the more accurate estimate. This should be noted in field 5.17 'Additional information'.

## 5.5 Change and reason for change in surface area

This field is used to indicate if there is any change since the previous reporting period (2013–2018) in the surface area reported and, if so, to describe the nature of this change.

If there is a change, indicate which of the following options b) to f) apply (It is possible to select more than one of the options b - f) <sup>16</sup>:

- a) no, there is no change
- b) yes, due to genuine change
- c) yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data
- d) yes, due to the use of a different method
- e) yes, but nature of change is unknown
- f) yes, due to other reasons

Finally, indicate whether any difference is mainly due to (select one option):

- a) genuine change
- b) improved knowledge or more accurate data
- c) the use of a different method
- d) unknown

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<sup>16</sup> In some cases the actual value reported for area covered by habitat has increased, reflecting both a genuine increase in area (positive trend) and better knowledge or data. Both options ('genuine change' and 'improved knowledge or more accurate data') above should be selected. In other situations the actual value reported for area covered by habitat has increased since the previous period due to better knowledge or data. Nevertheless, it may still be clear that the habitat area is actually declining, based on analyses of data from sites. The option 'improved knowledge or more accurate data' above should be selected. Field 5.17 'Additional information' allows a Member State to provide further details on why an area estimate has increased, even though an area decline is reported.

- e) other reasons

If a Member State wishes to give further information (e.g. cases where range surface area does not change, but its borders are shifting), this can be inserted into field 5.17 'Additional information'. If the field 'yes due to other reasons' is ticked, it must be further specified in 'Additional information'. This field should be used only in very limited cases.

## **5.6 Short-term trend period**

Give the dates of the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported. The short-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 12 years (two reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports, this means the period is 2013–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Thus, some flexibility is permitted, so that while trends would ideally be reported for 2013–2024, data from e.g. 2010–2021 will be accepted if the best available data relate to surveys in those years. Where a habitat is newly observed, ideally the trends would be reported with the start year as the first year it was first observed e.g. if this was in 2018 then the short-term trend period would be 2018 – 2024.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

## **5.7 Short-term trend direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The trend in area covered by habitat shows changes in the overall area covered by the habitat. Although rare for habitat area, the fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

Indicate if the habitat trend over the reported period in field 5.6 was (select one of the following):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Report 'uncertain' if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use 'unknown' where there are no data available.

The short-term trend information is used in the evaluation matrix to assess the conservation status. Any large-scale deviation from this should be explained in field 5.17 'Additional information'.

If there is an apparent change in direction of the trend resulting from a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the habitat distribution, it should not be considered a genuine change in trend. This apparent change should be indicated in field 5.5 'Change and reason for change in surface area'.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

## 5.8 Short-term trend magnitude

If possible, quantify the percentage change (with range at the beginning of the reporting period as 100 %) over the period reported in field 5.6. It can be given as a precise figure (e.g. 27 %) or a pre-defined range (e.g. 26–50 %). If a precise figure is available give the same value under ‘minimum’ and ‘maximum’ (fields 5.8(a) and (b)). Where a less accurate range is available, please select a pre-defined banded interval in field 5.8(c). The pre-defined intervals are 0 – 12%, 13 - 25%, 26 - 50%, 51 – 100%, >100%). If the trend magnitude is unknown, indicate in field (d).

Choose from the following options:

- a) estimated minimum
- b) estimated maximum
- c) pre-defined range
- d) unknown

- Where magnitude is available as a range (e.g. 20–30 %), this should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’.
- Where magnitude is available as a precise value, the same value should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’.
- Where only a minimum value is known, this should be reported in ‘(a) estimated minimum’ and ‘(b) estimated maximum’ and indicated as ‘minimum’ in 5.9 Short-term trend magnitude – type of estimate. Conversely, where only the maximum value is available, this should also be entered into both the (a) ‘estimated minimum’ and (b) ‘estimated maximum’ fields with ‘best estimate’ indicated in the 5.9 ‘Type of estimate’ field and precising that maximum is entered in 5.16 ‘Additional information’.
- Where a less accurate range is available, field c) pre-defined range can be used.
- Negative magnitude values should be reported (i.e. include the ‘-’ sign) for all negative trend magnitudes, including cases where the direction is already indicated as ‘decreasing’. Nevertheless, to avoid unnecessary data entry, it is not necessary to include the ‘+’ sign for positive trends (i.e. a trend magnitude of ‘15’ will be assumed to represent +15%). In the case of negative trends, note that the ‘Minimum’ and ‘Maximum’ fields relate to minimum and maximum values mathematically (not minimum and maximum declines). The pre-defined ranges will be provided with a positive or negative sign.

This field does not need to be completed for ‘stable’ or ‘unknown’ trends reported in 5.7. ‘Uncertain’ trends suggest that some data are available and this should be reported on with the ‘type of estimate’ field completed accordingly.

## 5.9 Short-term trend Magnitude – Type of estimate

The type of estimate for the reported minimum and maximum in fields 5.8(a) and (b), or the pre-defined range (c) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are: best estimate, multi-year mean, 95 % confidence interval, minimum or pre-defined range:



- best estimate – the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the area covered by habitat is available) or interval, derived from e.g. a survey or a model, a compilation of figures from localities or expert opinion, but for which 95 % confidence limits could not be calculated. Whether a best estimate comes from the monitoring data, modelling or from an expert opinion should be assessed in field 5.10;
- multi-year mean – average value or interval where habitat is monitored several times during the period provided in field 5.6;
- 95 % confidence interval – estimates derived from sample surveys or a model in which 95 % confidence interval could be calculated;
- minimum – where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded population size estimate, but where a population size is known to be above certain value, or where the reported interval comes from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real population size;
- pre-defined range – where the exact minimum and maximum values could not be estimated (fields 5.8 (a) and (b)), but where a reliable estimate can be made within the pre-defined range increments provided.

No type of estimate is required if trend direction is ‘unknown’ or ‘stable’. The type of estimate is expected to be filled in only if the trend direction is ‘increasing’, ‘decreasing’ or ‘uncertain’.

#### **5.10 Short-term trend – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. a dedicated monitoring of a habitat area with good statistical power);
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. trends derived from data collected from a limited number of sample sites; trends extrapolated from data collected for other purposes; trends extrapolated from some other indirect measurements, such as land-cover changes);
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data;
- d) insufficient or no data available.

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

The method used field encompasses the total assessment i.e. both field 5.7 short-term trend direction and field 5.8 short-term trend magnitude.

#### **5.11 Long-term trend period (optional)**

The long-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 24 years (four reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports, this means the period is 2000–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Indicate the period in this field. For the 2019–2024 reports, this information, together with fields 5.12 to 5.14, is optional. For newly reported habitats, the start date for the long-term trend would fall within the last two reporting periods (i.e. 2013 to 2024).

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

For guidance in filling in field **5.12 ‘Long-term trend direction’** see field 5.7. (short-term trend - Direction).

### **5.13 Long-term trend magnitude (optional)**

If possible, quantify the percentage change (with range at the beginning of the reporting period as 100 %) over the period reported in field 5.11. It can be given as estimated minimum and maximum value in fields 5.13 (a) and (b) (e.g. 27% and 55%), or where a precise value is known, enter the same value in the minimum and maximum field (e.g. 27%). If neither a minimum, maximum nor a precise value can be provided, 5.13 (c) Confidence interval can be used (if a statistically reliable method was used).

For additional guidance see **field 5.8 Short-term trend – magnitude**. For guidance in filling in field **5.14 ‘Long-term trend – Method used’**, see field 5.10 (short-term trends – method used).

### **5.15 Favourable reference area**

Favourable reference area is the surface area in a given biogeographical region considered the minimum necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the habitat type; this should include necessary areas for restoration or development for those habitat types for which the present coverage is not sufficient to ensure long-term viability. This information is needed to undertake the evaluation of conservation status using the evaluation matrix (Part C). Where an exact area is reported, decimals can be used as the area of some habitat can be quite small. In many cases it is not possible to estimate a value for favourable reference population (option a) but it is clear that the favourable reference area is greater (or much greater or, in exceptional situations, lower) than the present-day value. Using the pre-defined range increments ‘approximately equal to the favourable reference area (less than 2% smaller)’, ‘between 2% and 10% smaller’, ‘between 11% and 25% smaller’, ‘between 26% and 50% smaller’, ‘between 51% and 100% smaller’ allows flexibility in reporting where the exact value is not known. It is also preferable to reporting a parameter as ‘unknown’ (option c). For example if the actual area is 150 km<sup>2</sup> and the value is estimated to be ‘between 11% and 25% smaller than the FRA’, then the FRA would be between 169 and 200 km<sup>2</sup>. If a pre-defined range increment is used to estimate a favourable reference area, it should be used with the minimum area estimate. If the favourable reference area is smaller than the actual area, the favourable reference area is expected to be provided in a precise number and an explanation needs to be given in the field 5.17 ‘Additional information’ on how this is in line with the principles of setting FRVs as described in the Guidelines.

The following information is requested:

- a) area in km<sup>2</sup>;
- b) if a precise favourable reference area is unknown indicate if the habitat area is:
  - approximately equal to the favourable reference area (less than 2% smaller)
  - between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRA
  - between 11% and 25% smaller than the FRA
  - between 26% and 50% smaller than the FRA
  - between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRA

- c) if the favourable reference area is unknown, indicate in the field
- d) indicate the method used' to set the reference value

This method can be:

- Model-based approach
- Reference-based approach
- Expert opinion
- Other

More than one method can be selected. If the 'Model-based approach' or the 'Reference-based approach' are selected then the quality of the available information should be indicated as high, moderate or low. If 'other' method is selected, elaborate on this method in field 5.16 'Additional Information'.

The field 'indicate method used' (d) is mandatory if (a) area is provided but Member States are encouraged to describe the method used also when (b) range increments are used.

The use of (b) range increments should help to reduce the use of 'unknown' to a minimum:

- if a range increment (b) is used, then there is no need to insert a value in relation to the current value provided in field 5.15 a) 'area in km<sup>2</sup>';
- if the value is provided for area (a) the range increments should not be used.

Where the reference value has changed in comparison to the previous reporting period, this should be explained in field 5.17 'Additional Information'.

#### **5.16 Surface area when Directive came into force (optional)**

The surface area at the time the Directive came into force can be provided in field 5.16. This is an optional and free text field to see progress with regard to the current area reported.

#### **5.17 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information given on habitat area can be reported here as free text (for example, information on the need to reflect fragmentation in setting favourable reference area, large-scale deviations in trend direction or magnitude).

## **6 STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS**

This section provides information on the proportion of the habitat area in 'good' and 'not-good' condition, its trends, and typical species. Habitat structure is considered to be the physical components of a habitat which will more than likely be formed by species both living and dead, but can also include abiotic features.

Complementary information on structure and functions of habitat can be found in the Guidelines.

## **6.1 Condition of habitat**

Provide the area (km<sup>2</sup>) of habitat with ‘good’, ‘not-good’ and ‘unknown’ condition. The condition of the habitat at the biogeographical level is reported as:

- a) area in good condition
- b) area in not-good condition
- c) area where condition is not known

The area is reported in km<sup>2</sup> and can be reported as a range (minimum and maximum); if a precise value is known this value should be reported for both the ‘minimum’ and ‘maximum’ fields.

Further information on estimating habitat area in ‘good’/‘not good’ condition can be found in the Guidelines.

## **6.2 Condition of habitat – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. complete habitat mapping including information on habitat conditions, or complete habitat mapping combined with robust extrapolation of habitat conditions or previous complete inventory updated with information from robust monitoring);
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. using modelling or extrapolation from detailed surveys of parts of the habitat distribution);
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data;
- d) insufficient or no data available.

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

## **6.3 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition – Period**

Give the dates of the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported. The short-term trend should be evaluated over a period of 12 years (two reporting cycles). For the 2019–2024 reports, this means the period is 2013–2024 or a period as close as possible to this. Thus, some flexibility is permitted, so that while trends would ideally be reported for 2013–2024, data from e.g. 2010–2021 will be accepted if the best available data relate to surveys in those years. Where a habitat is reported for the first time, the start year is the year the habitat was first observed e.g. if this was in 2018 then the short-term trend period would be 2018 – 2024.

Further guidance is given in the Guidelines.

## **6.4 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition – Direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The trend of habitat area in good condition should inform on changes in proportions between the habitat areas in good and not-good condition. Although rare in the case of range of habitat area, fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

Indicate if the habitat trend over the reported period in field 6.3 was (select one option):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Report 'uncertain' if some data were available but they were not enough to accurately determine direction. Use 'unknown' where there are no data available.

The short-term trend information is used in the evaluation matrix to assess the conservation status. Any large-scale deviation from this should be explained in field 6.8 'Additional information'.

If there is an apparent change in direction of the trend resulting from a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the habitat condition, it should **not** be considered a genuine change in trend. An apparent change should be indicated in field 6.8 'Additional information', and the trend should be reported as 'unknown', unless other information also clearly shows a trend.

#### **6.5 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. dedicated monitoring of a habitat's condition with good statistical power)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. trends derived from data collected from a limited number of sample sites; trends extrapolated from data collected for other purposes; trends extrapolated from some other indirect measurements, such as shrub coverage)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

#### **6.6 Typical species**

The typical species of the habitat are reported as they are used to assess whether a habitat is at FCS. These are species which occur regularly in the habitat type (as opposed to occasionally occurring species) and are species which are good indicators of favourable habitat quality. The list of 'typical species' chosen for the purpose of assessing conservation status should ideally remain stable over the medium to long term, i.e. across reporting periods. Typical species may be drawn from any species group. The choice of species should not be restricted to the species listed in Annexes II, IV and V of the Habitats Directive.

Indicate if the list of typical species has changed since the previous reporting period (Yes or No).

If the list of 'typical species' has changed, then an additional spreadsheet with an updated list is requested. The spreadsheet should follow the specifications provided on the Reference Portal.

Only scientific names should be used. It is recommended to use names from the Pan-European Species directories Infrastructure (PESI<sup>17</sup>) Catalogue of Life (CoL<sup>18</sup>), Eur+Med PlantBase<sup>19</sup>, or another international or regional taxonomic reference.

An extensive definition of typical species (and structure and functions) can be found in the Guidelines.

### 6.7 Typical species – Method used (optional)

This field allows for changes in the methodology for recording typical species to be noted.

If ‘No’ was chosen in field 6.6, there is no requirement to complete field 6.7.

### 6.8 Additional information (optional)

Additional information can be provided as free text to help understand the information given on the condition of the habitat or typical species.

## 7 MAIN PRESSURES AND THREATS

This section provides information on main pressures and threats. A list of 20 pressures should be provided and for each pressure a ranking of its impact on the conservation status of the habitat is also required in the form of the timing of the pressure, scope and influence.

Pressures have acted within the current reporting period and they have an impact on the long-term viability of the species or its habitat(s); threats are future/foreseeable impacts (within the next two reporting periods) that are likely to affect the long-term viability of the habitat). Threats are not reported separately, it is understood that a pressure designated as having an impact ongoing and in the future (‘timing’) is both a pressure and a threat and when having an impact only in the future is only a threat. The threats should rather represent those issues judged to be reasonably likely (e.g. based on current pressures being reported or on foreseeable development projects). The definition of pressures and threats is given in table 8 below.

**Table 8 Definition of pressure and threat (in the context of Article 17 reporting)**

|          | Period of action/definition  | Timeframe   |
|----------|--|---|
| Pressure | Acting now and/or during (any part of or all of) the current reporting period. | Current six-year reporting period.  |
| Threat   | Factors expected to act in the future after the current reporting period.      | Future two reporting periods, i.e. within 12 years following the end of the current reporting period. |

### 7.1 Characterisation of pressures

Provide a list of pressures: list a maximum of 20 pressures.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.eu-nomen.eu/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.catalogueoflife.org/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.emplantbase.org/home.html>

a) For each habitat: select from the list of pressures a maximum of 20 entries using the code at the second level of the hierarchical list. The list of pressures is available on the Reference Portal.

b) For each pressure, indicate the **timing** which is the time frame it is acting in.

| <b>Timing</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>in the past but now suspended due to measures</b> | For reporting <u>pressures</u> which have become suspended at some point in the current reporting period.<br><br>Where selected, there is no need to complete the fields on scope and influence.  |
| <b>ongoing</b>                                       | For reporting <u>pressures</u> that are ongoing during the reporting period i.e. no evidence of being suspended due to measures.  |
| <b>ongoing and likely to be in the future</b>        | For reporting <u>pressures</u> and <u>threats</u> .<br><br>Where selected, there is no need to complete the fields on scope and influence for the part of the entry concerning the threat but only for the part that concerns the pressure. |
| <b>only in future</b>                                | For reporting <u>threats</u> .<br><br>Where selected, there is no need to complete the fields on scope and influence.   |

c) indicate the **scope** of the area (proportion of the area) affected for each pressure that is ‘ongoing’ or ‘ongoing and likely to be in the future’.

| <b>*Scope (proportion of area affected)</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| [*to be completed for ‘ongoing’ and ‘ongoing and likely to be in the future’ timings only. Although the latter also includes threats, the ‘scope’ and ‘influence’ will only address pressures] |  |
| <b>whole (&gt;90%)</b>   | more than 90% of the area reported in the Member State’s biogeographical regions is affected by the pressure   |
| <b>majority 50 – 90%</b>   | between 50 – 90% of the area reported in the Member State’s biogeographical region is affected by the pressure |
| <b>minority &lt;50%</b>  | less than 50% of the area reported in the Member State’s biogeographical region is affected by the pressure    |

d) indicate for each pressure that is ‘ongoing’ or ‘ongoing and likely to be in the future’ the **influence** on the area or habitat condition. The influence indicates how the pressure affects the decline of the area or of the habitat condition.

| <b>Influence (on area or habitat condition)</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| [*to be completed for ‘ongoing’ and ‘ongoing and likely to be in the future’ timings only. Although the latter also includes threats, the ‘scope’ and ‘influence’ will only address pressures] |   |
| <b>High influence</b>  | The pressure listed is a highly significant factor contributing to the decline of the area or the habitat condition. It is an important direct or immediate influence on the area or habitat condition.   |
| <b>Medium influence</b>  | The pressure listed contributes to the decline of the habitat type area or habitat condition but is not a high influence nor a low influence pressure. It has a medium direct/immediate or indirect influence on the area or habitat condition. |
| <b>Low influence</b>   | The pressure listed contributes to the decline of the area or habitat condition, although not the main contributor and in combination with other pressures and/or factors.  |

The overall impact of the pressure as addressed in the fields timing, scope and influence, should reflect the influence of a pressure on the conservation status of the habitat.

Habitats can be affected by pressures and threats originating from outside the Member State (e.g. pollution or nitrogen deposition). The list also includes pressures to address the transboundary effect of pressures and threats i.e. ‘threats from outside the Member State’ and ‘threats from outside the EU territory’. Where Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of Union concern is selected among pressures, it is obligatory to provide the names of these species. A drop-down list will be available for these species. For the list of IAS of Union concern please see the Art. 17 Reference Portal. When a pressure concerns ‘Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)’ the provision of names of these species is optional. Please select from EASIN database (see Article 12 reference portal). More than one species can be selected for both cases.

As there is no characterisation of threats required in the reporting format but is used for the assessment of the parameter future prospects, an expert-based characterisation of threats can be made by Member States, however this is not required to be reported.



## **7.2 Methods used (optional)**

The optional methods used field is to provide general information for the pressures reporting and is not required for specific pressures. Where a specific methodology is used for a specific pressure this information can be provided in field 7.4 Additional information.

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available.

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

## **7.3 Sources of information (optional)**

Provide sources of information relevant to Section 7 (optional) with URL, metadata, or supporting evidence.

## **7.4 Additional information (optional)**

If a Member State wishes to give additional information on the nature of a certain pressure or methodology this can be provided in this field.

# **8 CONSERVATION MEASURES**

This section concerns information on conservation measures, including management plans, taken to maintain or to restore the habitats at Favourable conservation status.

The evaluation undertaken in fields 8.1 to 8.5 is an overall assessment, not a measure-by-measure evaluation.

## **8.1 Status of measures**

Select whether measures are needed or not. If the answer is 'Yes, measures are needed', then proceed to select from the following options (select only one option):

- a) Measures identified but none yet taken
- b) Measures needed but cannot be identified
- c) Part of measures identified have been taken
- d) Most/all of measures identified have been taken

Measures may be implemented at different points in time.

If the answer to the question if measures are needed is 'no', an explanation of the situation must be inserted in the free text field 8.7. 'No measures needed' does not include legal/administrative measures and should always be justified.

## 8.2 Scope of measures taken

Where part of the measures identified have been taken (8.1 c) or most/all of the measures identified have been taken (8.1 d), indicate the scope of these measures i.e. the proportion of the habitat area they impact.

- a) <50%
- b) 50 – 90%
- c) >90%

of the habitat area. The assessment should be done in a general way.

## 8.3 Main purpose of the measures taken

A. Indicate the main purpose of the measures taken. This part should only be filled in if the conservation measures have been taken (field 8.1(c) 'Part of measures identified have been taken' or 8.1(d) Most/all of measures identified have been taken are marked 'Yes'). Several purposes can be identified:

- a) Maintain the current range, surface area or structure and functions of the habitat type or
- b) Expand the current range of the habitat type (related to 'Range') or
- c) Increase the surface area of the habitat type (related to Area covered by the habitat')
- d) Restore the structure and functions, including the status of typical species (related to 'specific structure and functions')

B. To identify the main purpose of the measures taken, please indicate if this is to (only one option can be selected):

- maintain the current state
- expand the range
- increase habitat area
- improve habitat condition

The aim of this field is not to describe the effect of the measures, rather describe the intended objective of the measures implemented. The response is further elaborated on in field 8.5 below.

## 8.4 Location of the measures taken

Indicate where the measures are mostly being implemented. This part should only be filled in if the conservation measures have been taken (field 8.1(c) Part of measures identified have been taken

& 8.1 (d) Most/all of measures identified have been taken is marked 'YES' (only one option can be selected):

- a) only inside Natura 2000
- b) both inside and outside Natura 2000
- c) only outside Natura 2000

This field tries to capture where the main focus of the conservation action is taking place. Therefore, choose option (a) if all, or the vast majority, of the conservation measures are restricted to Natura 2000, option (b) if there is a proportional investment in the implementation

of measures inside and outside Natura 2000, and option (c) if all, or the vast majority, of the measures are taken outside Natura 2000.

### **8.5 Response to the measures**

Provide an estimate of when the measures taken will start, or are expected to start, to neutralise the pressure and to produce positive effects (with regard to the main purpose of the measures indicated in field 8.2). Choose one option from:

- a) short-term response (within the current reporting period, 2019–2024)
- b) medium-term response (within the next two reporting periods, 2025–2036)
- c) long-term response (after 2036)

### **8.6 List of main conservation measures**

List a maximum of 20 conservation measures using the code that is provided on the Reference Portal.

More detailed guidance on the use of conservation measures is provided in the Guidelines and in the notes in the list of conservation measures available from the Reference Portal.

### **8.7 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information given on conservation measures can be reported here.

## **9 FUTURE PROSPECTS**

This section provides information on the future prospects of three parameters (Range, Area, and Structure and functions). Future prospects indicate the direction of expected change in conservation status in the near future based on a consideration of the current status, reported pressures and threats, and measures being taken for each of the other three parameters (Range, Area, and Structure and functions).

### **9.1 Future prospects of parameters**

For each parameter (Range, Area, and Structure and functions), indicate if the prospects are ‘good’, ‘poor’, ‘bad’ or ‘unknown’. Future prospects of each of the three parameters should principally reflect the future trends which are the result of the balance between threats and conservation measures. The future prospects should be assessed in relation to the current conservation status. For example, the impact of future improvement on the assessment of future prospects of a parameter will be different if the current status is ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’.

An evaluation method is provided in the Guidelines.

### **9.2 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand how Future prospects were assessed can be reported here.

## 10 CONCLUSIONS

This section includes the assessment of conservation status at the end of the reporting period in the concerned biogeographical region or marine region. It is derived from the matrix in Part E.

Give the result of the assessment for each parameter of conservation status using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

The conservation status of parameters is assessed using the criteria in the evaluation matrix (Part E of the Report format). Sections 10.1 to 10.5 provide an overview of the assessment criteria for each of the parameters. In addition, several complementary assumptions and criteria are outlined in these guidelines, which aim at harmonising and facilitating the assessment of conservation status. For each parameter these complementary assumptions and criteria are summarised under the heading ‘Complementary remarks’.

### 10.1 Range

Give the result of the assessment of the status for Range using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

| Conservation status          | Assessment criteria  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Favourable (FV)              | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Range is ‘favourable’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the trend is stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing; and</li><li>range surface area (field 4.1) is not smaller than the favourable reference range (field 4.12).</li></ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The trend over the short-term trend period (field 4.3) should be used for the status assessment.</p> <p>2. The status of Range should not be favourable if any large-scale changes resulting from human pressures but not impacting the range surface area (e.g. shifts of range boundaries) were recorded.</p> |
| Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Range is ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>any other combination (other combination of criteria than for ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’).</li></ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p>   |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
|                       | <p>1. The evaluation matrix does not include explicit criteria for ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ status of Range. However, taking into account the criteria for ‘favourable’ and ‘unfavourable-bad’, the status of Range should be considered as ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a decline equivalent to a loss of less than 1 % per year; or</li> <li>• range surface area (field 4.1) is less than 10 % below favourable reference range (field 4.12).</li> </ul> <p>2. The trend over the short-term trend period (field 4.3) should be used for the status assessment.</p> |
| Unfavourable-bad (U2) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Range is ‘unfavourable-bad’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a large decline equivalent to a loss of more than 1 % per year within the period specified by the Member State; or</li> <li>• range surface area (field 4.1) is more than 10 % below favourable reference range (field 4.12).</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:<br/>The trend over the short-term trend period (field 4.3) should be used for the status assessment.</p>   |
| Unknown (XX)          | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Range is ‘unknown’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no or insufficient reliable information available.</li> </ul>   |

## 10.2 Area

Give the result of the assessment of the status for Area covered by the habitat using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

| Conservation status | Assessment criteria  |
|---------------------|--|
| Favourable (FV)     | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Area covered by habitat is ‘favourable’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the trend is stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing; and</li> <li>• area covered by habitat (field 5.2) is not smaller than the favourable reference area (field 5.15); and</li> <li>• there are no significant changes in distribution pattern within the range.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              | <p>1. The trend over the short-term trend period (field 5.6) should be used for the status assessment.</p> <p>2. There may be situations where the habitat area has decreased during the short-term trend period (field 5.6) as a result of management measures (e.g. to restore another Annex I habitat or the habitat of an Annex II species). The habitat area could still be considered at Favourable conservation status, but in such cases give details in field 10.8 'Additional information'.</p> <p>3. For dynamic habitats such as shifting dunes the habitat area may have decreased during the short-term trend period (field 5.6), but due to the dynamic nature of the habitat this does not represent a permanent loss of the habitat area. In this situation the habitat area could still be assessed as 'favourable' but details should be given in field 10.8.</p>   |
| Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Area covered by habitat is 'unfavourable-inadequate' if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any other combination (other combination of criteria than for 'favourable' or 'unfavourable-bad').</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>1. The evaluation matrix does not include explicit criteria for 'unfavourable-inadequate' status of Area covered by habitat. However, taking into account the criteria for 'favourable' and 'unfavourable-bad' the status of area covered by habitat should be considered as 'unfavourable-inadequate' if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a decline equivalent to a loss of less than 1 % per year; or</li> <li>area covered by habitat (field 5.2) is less than 10 % below favourable reference area (field 5.15); or</li> <li>small losses in distribution pattern within range.</li> </ul> <p>2. The trend over the short-term trend period (field 5.6) should be used for the status assessment.</p> |
| Unfavourable-bad (U2)        | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Area covered by habitat is 'unfavourable-bad' if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a large decrease equivalent to a loss of more than 1 % per year within the period specified by the Member State; or</li> <li>major losses in distribution pattern within range; or</li> <li>area covered by habitat (field 5.2) is more than 10 % below favourable reference area (field 5.15)</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The trend over the short-term trend period (field 5.6) should be used for the status assessment.</p>  |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Unknown (XX) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Area covered by habitat is ‘unknown’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no or insufficient reliable information available.</li> </ul> |
|--------------|---|

### 10.3 Specific structure and functions (including typical species)

Give the result of the assessment of the status for Structure and functions using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

| Conservation status | Assessment criteria   |
|---------------------|---|
| Favourable (FV)     | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Structure and functions is ‘favourable’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• structure and functions (including typical species) are in good condition; and</li> <li>• and there are no significant deteriorations/pressures.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>1. The evaluation matrix states that if more than 25 % of the habitat type area in the region being assessed is considered ‘unfavourable’ (i.e. not in good condition), then the status of Structure and functions is ‘unfavourable-bad’. However, it does not give numerical criteria for ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-inadequate’. It appears that in previous reports Member States have used very different thresholds of the proportion of habitat area that must be in good condition to justify assessing Structure and functions as ‘favourable’. Ideally, the entire area of a habitat type should be in good condition for Structure and functions to be considered ‘favourable’. However, this is hardly achievable in practice and it could be acceptable to have part of the habitat type in ‘not-good’ condition, but still consider Structure and functions to be assessed as ‘favourable’.</p> <p>It is recommended to use an indicative value of 90 % of the habitat type area (field 6.1) in ‘good’ condition as the threshold to conclude on ‘favourable’ Structure and functions. If Member State uses a different value, this should be noted and explained in field 10.8 Additional information’. This indicative value could, for example, be adapted according to the rarity/abundance of the habitat type (for more guidance see the Guidelines).</p> <p>2. Although it is not stated clearly in the evaluation matrix, the trend (short-term trend in area in good condition (field 6.4)) must be stable or increasing for Structure and functions to be considered ‘favourable’.</p> |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              | <p>3. Although a full assessment of the conservation status of each typical species is not required, the typical species overall should be ‘favourable’ (not threatened), at least in this habitat, as species can be typical of more than one habitat.</p> <p>4. For a habitat to be considered ‘favourable’, fragmentation or other conditions are not impacting significantly on ecological processes.</p> <p>5. It is possible that restoration has increased the area of habitat, but has decreased the proportion of habitat in ‘not good’ condition, as the restored area is not yet in ‘good’ condition. In such cases, if the area in ‘good’ condition is less than 90 % of the habitat area, the habitat should not be ‘favourable’ for the parameter Structure and functions (see above, point 1). Such cases are most likely to arise where the habitat area is lower than the reference value and the overall conservation status would have been ‘unfavourable’ regardless of Structure and functions.</p> |
| Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Structure and functions is ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any other combination (other combination of criteria than for ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’).</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>1. The evaluation matrix does not include explicit criteria for ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ status of Structure and functions. However, taking into account the criteria for ‘favourable’ and ‘unfavourable-bad’ and complementary criteria for ‘favourable’ status, the status of Structure and functions should be considered as ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the area of habitat with ‘unfavourable’ (‘not good’) condition (field 6.1) is less than 25 %; and</li> <li>the area of habitat with ‘good’ condition (field 6.1) is less than 90 %; and</li> <li>the area of habitat with ‘unknown’ condition (field 6.1) is less than 75 %.</li> </ul>        |
| Unfavourable-bad (U2)        | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Structure and functions is ‘unfavourable-bad’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>more than 25 % of the area is unfavourable (‘not good’ in field 6.1) as regards its specific structure and functions (including typical species).</li> </ul>   |
| Unknown (XX)                 | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Structure and functions is ‘unknown’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there is no or insufficient reliable information available.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p>  |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | The status of Structure and functions should be considered ‘unknown’ if more than 75 % of habitat area has ‘unknown’ condition (field 6.1). |
|--|---|

#### 10.4 Future prospects

Give the result of the assessment of the status of Future prospects using the four categories available: ‘favourable’ (FV), ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ (U1), ‘unfavourable-bad’ (U2) and ‘unknown’ (XX).

| Conservation status          | Assessment criteria   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Favourable (FV)              | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Future prospects is ‘favourable’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no significant impact from threats to habitat is expected and its long-term viability is assured.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The Future prospects should be assessed as ‘favourable’ if all parameters have good prospects (field 9.1), or the prospects of one parameter are ‘unknown’ while the other parameters have good prospects. The matrix for combining the prospects of three parameters to give overall status of Future prospects is provided in the concepts and definitions technical guidance.</p>   |
| Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Future prospects is ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any other combination (other combination of criteria than for ‘favourable’ or ‘unfavourable-bad’).</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The evaluation matrix does not include explicit criteria for ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ status of Future prospects. However, taking into account the method for assessing the Future prospects proposed in these guidelines, the status should be considered ‘unfavourable-inadequate’ if the prospects of one or more parameters (field 9.1) are ‘poor’, none has ‘bad’ prospects and there is at most one parameter with ‘unknown’ prospects.</p> |
| Unfavourable-bad (U2)        | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Future prospects is ‘unfavourable-bad’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>severe impacts from pressures and threats to the habitat are expected, prospects for its future are ‘bad’ and long-term viability is not assured.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p>   |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
|              | The Future prospects should be assessed as ‘unfavourable-bad’ if one or more parameters have ‘bad’ prospects (field 9.1).   |
| Unknown (XX) | <p>According to the evaluation matrix (Part E) the status of Future prospects is ‘unknown’ if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no or insufficient reliable information available.</li> </ul> <p>Complementary remarks:</p> <p>The Future prospects should be assessed as ‘unknown’ if two or more parameters have ‘unknown’ prospects and no parameters have ‘bad’ prospects (field 9.1).</p> |

### 10.5 Overall assessment of conservation status

Give the result of the overall assessment of conservation status using the four categories available: ‘favourable’, ‘unfavourable-inadequate’, ‘unfavourable-bad’ and ‘unknown’, based on the evaluation matrix for assessing conservation status for a habitat.

| Status of parameters     | All ‘favourable’, or three ‘favourable’ and one ‘unknown’ | One or more ‘inadequate’, but no ‘bad’ | One or more ‘bad’  | Two or more ‘unknown’ combined with ‘favourable’ or all ‘unknown’ |
|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------|---|
| Overall assessment of CS | ‘favourable’  | ‘unfavourable-inadequate’              | ‘unfavourable-bad’ | ‘unknown’   |

### 10.6 Overall trend in conservation status

If the overall conservation status reported in field 10.5 is ‘favourable’, ‘inadequate’ or ‘bad’, indicate the trend (qualifier) as follows (one option can be selected):

- improving
- deteriorating
- stable
- unknown

The qualifier should be based on trends (for Range, Area covered by habitat, and Structure and functions) over the reporting period (2019–2024). As the trends over the reporting period are often not available, reported short-term trends can be used to assess the trend in the conservation status, unless there is evidence that the trend during the reporting period is different than a measured short-term trend (e.g. if after past decline of habitat over the reporting period 2013–2018 the trend has stabilised, the qualifier should be assessed as ‘stable’ even though the trend in habitat area is ‘decreasing’; this should be explained in field 10.8 ‘Additional information’). The (short-term) trends should be combined using Table 9 below.

**Table 9: Assessing overall trend in conservation status of a habitat by combining trends for parameters**

| Short-term trend of parameters (Range, Area of habitat, Structure and functions) |                                 |                                  |                                 | Overall trend in CS  |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Number increasing  | Number stable                   | Number decreasing                | Number unknown                  |  |
| 3<br>2<br>1  | 0<br>1<br>2                     | 0<br>0<br>0                      | 0<br>0<br>0                     | <b>Improving</b><br><br>(Only increasing and stable trends)  |
| 0<br>2<br>2<br>0<br>1<br>1   | 3<br>0<br>0<br>2<br>1<br>1      | 0<br>1<br>0<br>0<br>1*<br>0      | 0<br>0<br>1<br>1<br>0<br>1      | <b>Stable</b><br><br>(Only stable trends or stable and increasing dominates (there is at least one increasing and only one unknown or decreasing))<br><br>* Trend magnitude should also be considered. The overall trend in CS is stable only in case of moderate declines (< 1 % per year). |
| 0<br>1<br>0<br>0<br>0<br>1<br>0  | 0<br>0<br>1<br>0<br>2<br>1<br>1 | 3<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>1<br>1*<br>1 | 0<br>0<br>0<br>1<br>0<br>0<br>1 | <b>Deteriorating</b><br><br>(Decreasing trends dominate)<br><br>* Trend magnitude should also be considered. The overall trend in CS is declining only in case of important declines (> 1 % per year).   |
| 0<br>1<br>0<br>0<br>1  | 0<br>0<br>1<br>0<br>0           | 0<br>0<br>0<br>1<br>1            | 3<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>1           | <b>Unknown</b><br><br>(Unknown trends dominate)  |

*To note:* ‘unknown’ in the table above includes both ‘unknown’ and ‘uncertain’. The above has been provided as a general guide, some combinations of trends for the parameters may not be accounted for.

## 10.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend

This field is used to indicate if there is any change since the previous reporting period (2013–2019) in conservation status and/or in trend in conservation status and, if yes, the reason for this change. Indicate which of the following options apply (separately for the overall assessment of conservation status and overall trend in conservation status). It is possible to reply ‘Yes’ to more than one of the options b-f , but at least one option ‘Yes’ must be selected for options b-f if there is a change.

The fields to be completed are:

- no there is no difference
- yes, due to genuine change
- yes, due to improved knowledge/more accurate data
- yes, due to the use of different method (including taxonomic change or use of different thresholds)

- e) yes, but nature of change is unknown
- f) yes, due to other reasons

If the field 'yes due to other reasons' is ticked, it must be further specified in field 10.8 'Additional information'. This field should be used only in very limited cases.

Finally, indicate (separately for overall assessment of conservation status and overall trend in conservation status) whether any difference is mainly due to (select only one option):

- genuine change
- improved knowledge or more accurate data
- the use of a different method
- unknown
- other reasons

Only one option should be chosen for the main reason for change.

If a Member State wishes to give further information, this can be provided in field 10.8 'Additional information'.

#### **10.8 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand the information in fields 10.1 to 10.7.

## **11 NATURA 2000 PROPOSED SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (pSCIs), SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCIs) AND SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACs) COVERAGE FOR ANNEX I HABITAT TYPES OF DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC**

This section provides information on surface area of habitat and trend of surface area in good condition within the Natura 2000 network. The requested information should cover the proposed Sites of Community Importance (pSCIs), the Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) of the Natura 2000 network within the biogeographical/marine region concerned.

The information relates to all pSCIs/SCIs/SACs where the habitat is present, not only those sites where the habitat is declared as a target habitat or a conservation objective.

See background information in the Guidelines.

### **11.1 Surface area of the habitat type inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network**

Indicate the surface area of the habitat type within the network in the biogeographical or marine region concerned, including all the sites where the habitat type is present. Follow the same guidance as for the surface area of the habitat in field 5.2.

### **11.2 Type of estimate**

The type of estimate for the reported interval in field 11.1(a) and (b) or the best single value in field 11.1(c) should be outlined here. The options for reporting this are: best estimate, 95 % confidence interval, and minimum.

Follow the same guidance as for the 'Type of estimate' for the surface area covered by the habitat (field 5.3).

### **11.3 Surface area of the habitat type inside the network – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (e.g. complete habitat mapping or data from previous habitat mapping updated with robust monitoring data on trends)
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data (e.g. using modelling or extrapolation from surveys of parts of the habitat distribution; using data from previous complete habitat mapping updated with good trend data; using models)
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

Follow the same guidance as for field 5.4 'Surface area – Method used' for the area covered by the habitat.

### **11.4 Short-term trend of habitat area within the network – Direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The trend of habitat area in the network should inform on changes in proportions between the habitat areas within the Natura 2000 network. Although rare in the case of range of habitat area, fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

Indicate whether the trend of habitat area is (select one option):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Short-term trend within the Natura 2000 network should be assessed over the period indicated in field 5.6.

### **11.5 Short-term trend of habitat area within the network – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

#### **11.6 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network – Direction**

Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The trend of habitat area in good condition in the network should inform on changes in proportions between the habitat areas in good and not-good condition within the Natura 2000 network. Although rare in the case of range of habitat area, fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend.

Indicate whether the trend of habitat area in good condition is (select one option):

- a) stable
- b) increasing
- c) decreasing
- d) uncertain
- e) unknown

Short-term trend within the Natura 2000 network should be assessed over the period indicated in field 5.6.

#### **11.7 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network – Method used**

Choose one of the following categories:

- a) complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
- b) based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
- c) based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
- d) insufficient or no data available

Only one category can be chosen; where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

#### **11.8 Additional information (optional)**

Additional information to help understand Natura 2000 coverage can be reported here.

## **12 COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

This section is optional and is a place to include any additional information.

### **12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)**

The indicative suggested threshold for a large decline given in the evaluation matrix (Part E) is 1 % per year. If another threshold has been used for the assessment please give details, including an explanation of why.

## **12.2 Other relevant information (optional)**

Include any other information thought relevant to the habitat report and to assessing conservation status.

## **PART E – EVALUATION MATRIX FOR ASSESSING CONSERVATION STATUS OF A HABITAT**

The matrix is an aid to assessing the conservation status of a habitat. It shall be used for each biogeographical or marine region in which the habitat is present. The results of using the matrix are inserted into Section ‘[Conclusions](#)’ (in ‘Field-by-field guidance for habitat reports’).



## REFERENCES

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Links to other information resources:

| Resource              | URL  |
|-----------------------|--|
| EU - NOMEN            | Pan-European species directories infrastructure.<br><br><a href="http://www.eu-nomen.eu/">http://www.eu-nomen.eu/</a>  |
| Catalogue of Life     | Collaboration to establish an authoritative list of the world's species.<br><br><a href="http://www.catalogueoflife.org/">http://www.catalogueoflife.org/</a>  |
| EURO-MED Plant Base   | Data resource specific to European Mediterranean plant diversity.<br><br><a href="http://www.emplantbase.org/home.html">http://www.emplantbase.org/home.html</a>   |
| EIONET portal for GIS | EIONET resource for guidelines on creating and submitting map products and other GIS material including information on Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area Latitude of origin 52N, Longitude of origin (central meridian) 10E.<br><br><a href="http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gis">http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gis</a> |