



## **Article 17 biogeographical assessments - Methodology**

Methodology of assessments under Article 17 of the EU habitats directive 2013-2018.



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## 1. Article 17 reporting (Habitats Directive)

Article 17 of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States regularly prepare and submit reports on progress made in implementing the directive, using a format agreed by the Habitats Committee and published in 2016. These include habitats and species which are threatened to disappear in the EU, have a small natural range, or serve as exemplary illustrations of Europe's nine terrestrial biogeographical regions (i.e. Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Boreal, Continental, Macronesian, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic) and five marine regions (Marine Atlantic, Marine Baltic, Marine Black Sea, Marine Macaronesian, Marine Mediterranean). Concerned species and habitats span the entire territory of the MS, often extending beyond the Natura 2000 network. For the period from 2013 to 2018, explanatory notes and guidelines were published, and edited by the ETC/BD<sup>1</sup>. Article 17 reporting by the Member States (MS) serves to gather information and assess the conservation status of these species and habitats within each biogeographical and marine region per MS. Reported data is used to derive conservation status and trends at the EU biogeographical level following the methods detailed in this document.

## 2. Assessment of Conservation status at EU level

The Habitats Directive reporting requires Member States to inform 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.**

### 2.1. Favourable conservation status

The assessment of the conservation status of a habitat type or species is related to the concept of Favourable conservation status. 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 Habitats Directive. 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*

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<sup>1</sup> DG Environment. 2017. Reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive: Explanatory notes and guidelines for the period 2013-2018. Brussels. Pp 188. Available at [https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/d0eb5cef-a216-4cad-8e77-6e4839a5471d/Reporting%20guidelines%20Article%2017%20final%20May%202017\(0\).pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/d0eb5cef-a216-4cad-8e77-6e4839a5471d/Reporting%20guidelines%20Article%2017%20final%20May%202017(0).pdf).



- *the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced*
- *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 2.1), with the aid of an evaluation matrix, which is a part of the report format approved by the Member States, and then combines these assessments to give an overall assessment of conservation status.

**Table 2.1 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 area -trend (over last 12 years) -favourable reference range	Range -range area -trend (over last 12 years) -favourable reference range
Population -population size -trend (over last 12 years) -favourable reference population	Area -area size -trend (over last 12 years) -favourable reference area
Habitat for the species -sufficiency and quality -trend (over last 12 years)	Structure and functions -area in good/not good condition -trend of habitat area in good condition (over last 12 years)
Future prospects	Future prospects

**Table 2.2 Using the parameters to assess the overall conservation status at Member State level.**

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	Favourable ('green')	Unfavourable – Inadequate ('amber')	Unfavourable - Bad ('red')	Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)
Overall assessment of CS <sup>15</sup>	All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'	One or more 'amber' but no 'red'	One or more 'red'	Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all 'unknown'



## 2.2. EU level assessment

The EU assessment for habitats and species was carried out by combining Member States' data. For parameters such as range, area and population, it is possible, at least in theory, to sum the Member State values and use the conservation status evaluation matrix. However, this is not possible for qualitative parameters such as future prospects or in cases where data are missing or are incompatible (e.g. population sizes reported using different units). Here, Member States' reports are brought together using an agreed, standardised methodology outlining the different parameters and data sources.

Where a habitat or species only occurs in one country within a region (e.g. habitat type '91C0 Caledonian forest' only occurs in the United Kingdom), the EU assessment for the region is the same as the Member State assessment. Similarly, when each of the Member States in which a species or habitat is present has reported the same evaluation, this value is also assigned to the EU regional assessment (e.g. the sedge *Carex holostoma* in the Boreal region, assessed as 'favourable'). This is the case for approximately half of the habitats and species.

Where it was not possible to use the countries' background data directly, the overall assessment of the conservation status for each biogeographic or marine region is achieved by weighting the different parameters to reflect the status and proportion of the habitat type or species present in each Member State and biogeographical/marine region, while taking into account the data provided by Member States. Where possible, the four parameters are evaluated individually, and then combined to provide a regional assessment using the same method as that used by the countries, based on the assessment matrix in the report format<sup>2</sup>. Table 2.3 below indicates the preferred weighting method for each.

Where a weighting has to be used over the use of countries' data, the final classification for each region is based on thresholds applied in the same way for all the parameters assessed, and in a set order (see Table 2.3). Although these thresholds are arbitrary, trials showed that changing them made little difference to overall conclusions. The different methods are described further in section 2.3 (Aggregation methods for EU assessments) below.

The trend of the overall conservation status allows more subtle changes (improvement or deterioration) of the unfavourable categories to be identified. The reported trend of the overall conservation status by the Member States can be weighted using the same methods as used for the assessments of the biogeographic regions.

**Table 2.3 Weighting of parameters for assessment of overall conservation status**

Order of preference	Parameters for habitats status	Parameters for species status
1 <sup>st</sup>	Surface area (from tabular data)	Population (from tabular data)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Area (from spatial data, 10 km x 10 km grids)	Area (from spatial data, 10 km x 10 km grids)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Range (from tabular data)	Range (from tabular data)

<sup>2</sup> EC 2016 "Report format for the period 2013–2018". Available at <https://circabc.europa.eu/d/a/workspace/SpacesStore/78e86f0a-0cd5-4f6a-a58f-2f152652b760/Article%2017%20report%20format%202013-2018.docx>



**Table 2.4 Criteria for classification of conservation status of habitats and non-bird species**

If...	... the habitat/non-bird species is considered...
The proportion of a habitat/non-bird species reported as 'unfavourable-bad' is greater than or equal to 25%	<b>Unfavourable-Bad</b>
The proportion of a habitat/non-bird species reported as 'favourable' is greater than or equal to 75%	<b>Favourable</b>
The proportion of a habitat/non-bird species reported as 'unknown' is greater than or equal to 25%	<b>Unknown</b>
Any other combination applies	<b>Unfavourable-Inadequate</b>

For the period from 2013 to 2018 the EU assessments were carried out by the EEA and ETC/BD experts, followed by a public consultation between 14<sup>th</sup> February to March 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 using the Article 17 web tool<sup>3</sup>, where comments from a wide range of stakeholders were allowed. About 24 visitors from 18 network locations across the EU were registered, and nearly 390 comments were received. Of these comments, 60% were considered relevant and were integrated into the online database/information. A variety of comments on the process (e.g. lack of consultation at national level) were also received, either via the web tool or by email/letter.

#### Public consultation

As a part of the public consultation the stakeholders were invited to comment on the following issues:

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

The stakeholder's comments were reviewed by EEA & ETC/BD and when relevant (if the stakeholder comment was 'accepted' as being of relevance for the EU level assessment) the modification was brought to original EU assessment or to the textual description of the habitats/ species status provided under 'Data sheet info'. The detailed replies to stakeholder's comments are provided via the Art 17 web tool.

In case the comment from stakeholder was accepted as a part of EEA & ETC/BD review and this comment was either directly addressing the EU assessment or a comment to MS assessment had an impact on overall EU assessment the EU assessment was modified to reflect the changes proposed by stakeholder. Otherwise (i.e. for comments related to MS assessment, which did not influence the global EU assessment or for comments to data sheet info the note was made under 'Data sheet info'.

<sup>3</sup> Article 17 web tool: <https://nature-art17.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/>



### 2.3. Aggregation methods for EU assessment

Three methods to assess conservation status of habitats and species at regional level (biogeographical and marine) were developed for the 2001-2006 report for use where a habitat/species occurs in two or more MSs in a region with varying assessments. These were decided after considering several possibilities and having discussed this topic with the Habitats Directive Scientific Working Group in 2007-2008. All methods are based on data and conclusions from the original MSs reports. The same methods were used for the 2013-2018 report. The choice of the assessment method (apart from method 0) will depend on data availability.

**Method 0EQ:** In some cases, all the MSs within a region may have reported the same conclusion for a parameter. Here, this conclusion will also be the EU conclusion for the parameter.

**Method 0MS:** In some cases, there is only one MS within the region. The MS assessment will also be the EU assessment.

**Method 1:** Aggregating data from MS reports for each parameter and using the evaluation matrices (table 2.2 above) from the report format<sup>4</sup>; this is the preferred method for the parameters range, population (of a species) and area (of a habitat) and structure and functions but often not possible due to data constraints.

**Method 2:** Calculating the weighted average of the conservation status of individual parameters. This is the second preference. Weighting options and thresholds used by the three methods are provided above (tables 2.1 & 2.3 above).

Once the status of each of the 4 parameters has been assessed using methods 0EQ, 1 or 2, the overall status is calculated by using the rules given in the last line of the evaluation matrices (table 2.2 above).

It is probable that in some cases no regional assessment will be possible; these should be noted as 'unknown'.

**Method 3:** Calculating the weighted average of MS overall conservation status assessments. This method should only be used when neither methods 1 or 2 are possible.

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<sup>4</sup> EC 2016 "Report format for the period 2013–2018". Available at <https://circabc.europa.eu/d/a/workspace/SpacesStore/78e86f0a-0cd5-4f6a-a58f-2f152652b760/Article%2017%20report%20format%202013-2018.docx>



Figure 2.1 Summary of assessment methods

Member States reports												
MS	Range (km <sup>2</sup> )				Area (km <sup>2</sup> )							
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRA
EE	45400	7.31	=	≈	N/A	N/A	1340	estimate	completeSurvey	12.4	=	≈
FI	292300	47.07	=	≈	N/A	N/A	4000	estimate	estimateExpert	51.9	=	>
LT	64787	10.43	=	64787	N/A	N/A	125.4	estimate	completeSurvey	1.6	u	>
LV	57348	9.23	=	x	862.8	1120	N/A	estimate	estimatePartial	12.9	=	x
SE	161200	25.96	=	161200	N/A	N/A	1250	estimate	estimatePartial	16.2	=	1257

**Method 0EQ.** Same Conservation Status in MS of a region (at EU level same status / trend in CS)

**Method 1.** Complete data from MS  
(data reported for range are largely complete)  
Use the assessment matrix using primary data from Member States and some weighting

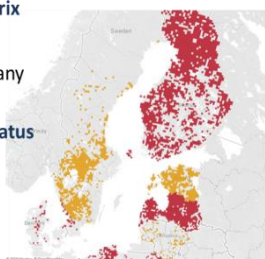
**Method 2.** MS data with some gaps

(although habitat area is largely complete FRA was mainly reported using operators)

Weight assessment for each parameter then use the final line of the assessment matrix

**Method 3.** MS data with many gaps

Weight MS conservation status assessments



MS	Range (km <sup>2</sup> )				Area (km <sup>2</sup> )							
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRA
AT	1800	1.47	=	>	N/A	N/A	1.1	interval	a	9.73	-	>>
BE	2600	2.13	=	≈	N/A	N/A	1.2	estimate	b	0.81	=	>>
CZ	8400	6.87	=	≈	N/A	N/A	7.5	estimate	a	5.05	=	≈
DE	11670	9.54	-	>	24.4	26.4	25.4	estimate	b	17.08	-	>
DK	8320	6.80	=	≈	N/A	N/A	29.5	estimate	b	19.81	=	>
FR	23600	19.30	=	x	36	60	N/A	estimate	d	32.28	x	>
HR	100	0.08	=	>>	N/A	N/A	0	estimate	c	9.03	-	>>
IT	1100	0	x	x	N/A	N/A	0	estimate	b	0	x	≈
PL	58100	47.51	=	≈	15	39	27	estimate	b	18.16	u	>
SE	7700	6.30	=	7700	N/A	N/A	9	estimate	b	6.05	=	12

Table 2.5 below summarises which methods can be used for each parameter or overall assessment of Conservation Status. The priorities (preferred versus alternative method) are set for each parameter separately and it is possible that Method 1 is used for one parameter, e.g. range, while only Method 2 is possible for other parameters, e.g. habitat area or population.

Table 2.5 Possible methods for each parameter or for overall Conservation Status

	Habitats	Species
Range	<b>preferred: Method 1</b> alternative: Method 2	<b>preferred: Method 1</b> alternative: Method 2
Area covered by habitat (habitats only)	<b>preferred: Method 1</b> alternative: Method 2	
Population of species (species only)		<b>preferred: Method 1</b> alternative: Method 2
Structure & functions (habitats only)	<b>preferred: Method 1</b> alternative: Method 2	
Habitat for the species (species only)		<b>Method 2</b>
Future prospects	<b>Method 2</b>	<b>Method 2</b>
Overall Conservation Status	<b>preferred: MTX</b> alternative: Method 3	<b>preferred: MTX</b> alternative: Method 3





**To note:** Methods 0EQ and 0MS are not listed as they do not require aggregation of MS data. Only Method 2 is proposed for Habitat for the species as cases where direct calculation is possible will be extremely rare (all Member States report identical values for both sufficiency of occupied habitat and short-term trend).

## 2.4. Choice of the aggregation method

The choice of the assessment method (apart from method 0) will depend on data availability. Figure 2.2 provides steps for selecting the broad assessment method.

**Figure 2.2** Steps for selecting the broad assessment method.

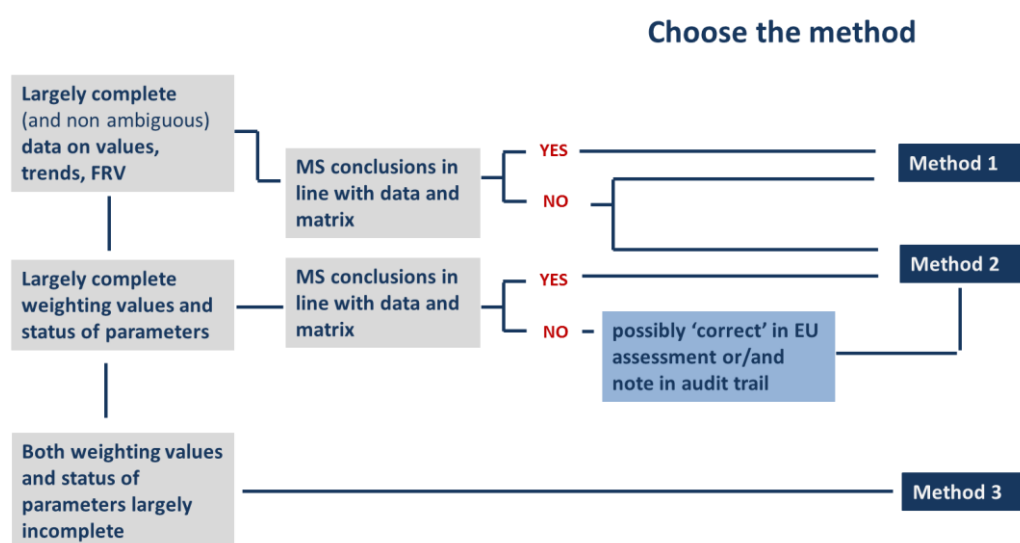


Table 2.6 below gives a detailed explanation of each method code used in the tool and when each should be used (in terms of data availability and feature type).

**Table 2.6 Codes & explanations used for assessment methodologies in the tool.**

Code	Meaning
0EQ	Conclusions for a parameter are the same for all MS within the region
0MS	The habitat or species only occurs in one MS within the region so, unless there are good reasons, the MS assessment is also the EU regional assessment
1	Parameter assessed using the evaluation matrix after summing the MS data. This should only be used for range, population (species) and area (habitat).
2XA	Parameter weighted by area of the coverage from XML data (habitats only)
2XP	Parameter weighted by population from XML data (species only)
2GD	Parameter weighted by area of distribution from GIS data



2XR	Parameter weighted by range from XML data
3XA	Overall conclusion weighted by area from XML data (habitats only)
3XP	Overall conclusion weighted by population from XML data (species only)
3GD	Overall conclusion weighted by area of distribution from GIS data
3XR	Overall conclusion weighted by range from XML data
<b>Other codes used in tool</b>	
MTX	Overall conclusion assessed from assessments using methods 1 or 2 of the 4 parameters, using the last row of the evaluation matrix (only used for overall Conservation Status)
OTH	Other method was used, explanations provided in Audit trail

**To note:** Within Methods 2 & 3 there are multiple possibilities based on the data available. However, only one of these possible choices can be used within a single assessment e.g. it is not possible to mix methods 2XA and 2XR when evaluating one habitat type in one region (i.e. one assessment line).



## 2.5. Evaluation matrix

The following matrices for species and habitats are the extended version of that seen in Table 2.2 above. These matrices are used by the Member State to evaluate each parameter for an overall conclusion for that parameter. This process in turn leads to the conclusion of the overall Conservation Status.

**Table 2.7 Extended evaluation matrix for species (per biogeographical/marine region within a MS)**

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



Parameter	Conservation Status			
	<b>Favourable 'green'</b>	<b>Unfavourable- Inadequate 'amber'</b>	<b>Unfavourable-Bad 'red'</b>	<b>Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)</b>
<b>Overall assessment of CS</b>	All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'	One or more 'amber' but no 'red'	One or more 'red'	Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all "unknown"

**Table 2.8: General evaluation matrix for habitats (per biogeographical/marine region within a MS)**

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	<b>Favourable 'green'</b>	<b>Unfavourable- Inadequate 'amber'</b>	<b>Unfavourable-Bad 'red'</b>	<b>Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)</b>
<b>Range</b> (within the biogeographical/mari ne region concerned)	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing <u>AND</u> not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decrease: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS <u>OR</u> More than 10% below 'favourable reference range'	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Area covered by habitat type within range<sup>5</sup></b>	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing <u>AND</u> not smaller than the 'favourable reference area' <u>AND</u> without significant changes in distribution pattern within range (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decrease in surface area: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS <u>OR</u> With major losses in distribution pattern within range <u>OR</u> More than 10% below 'favourable reference area'	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>
<b>Specific structure and functions</b>	Structures and functions (including typical species) in good condition and no significant	Any other combination	More than 25% of the area is unfavourable as regards its specific structures and functions (including typical species) <sup>7</sup>	<i>No or insufficient reliable information available</i>

<sup>5</sup> There may be situations where the habitat area has decreased as a result of management measures to restore another Annex I habitat or habitat of an Annex II species. The habitat could still be considered to be at 'Favourable Conservation Status' but in such cases give details in the Complementary Information section ('Other relevant information') of Annex D

<sup>7</sup> E.g. by discontinuation of former management, or is under pressure from significant adverse influences, e.g. critical loads of pollution exceeded



Parameter	Conservation Status			
	<b>Favourable (‘green’)</b>	<b>Unfavourable- Inadequate (‘amber’)</b>	<b>Unfavourable-Bad (‘red’)</b>	<i>Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)</i>
<b>(including typical species<sup>6</sup>)</b>	deteriorations / pressures			

### 3. Assessment of Conservation Status trend

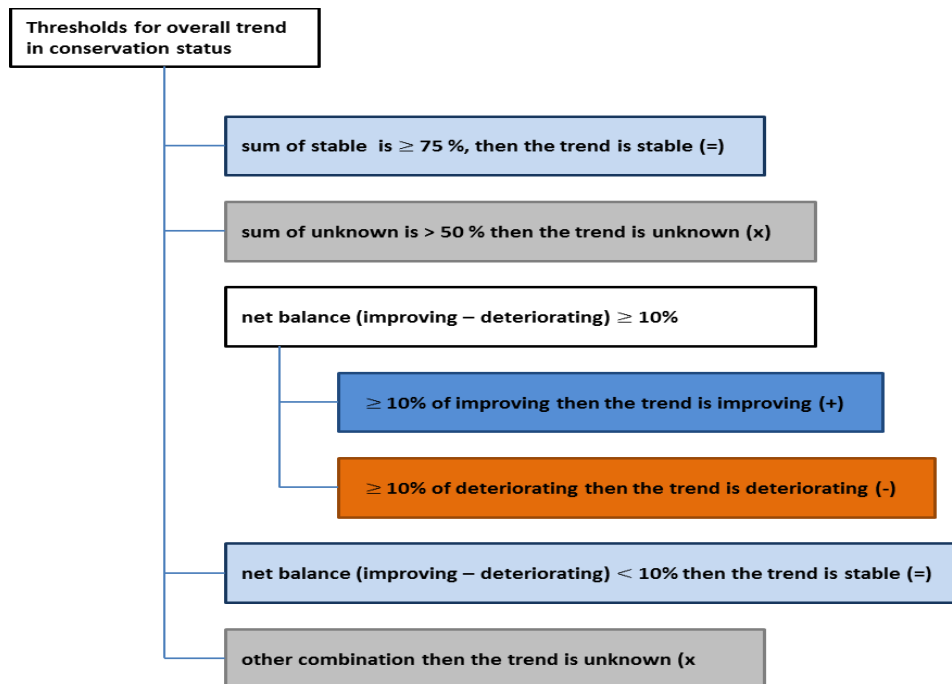
Given the definition of ‘favourable conservation status’ in the Habitats Directive, changes in the overall conservation status, for example from unfavourable to favourable or, from unfavourable bad to inadequate - require relatively major changes in the individual conservation status parameters to be noted. The use of trends of the overall conservation status allows more subtle changes (improvement or deterioration) of the categories to be identified. This information is also used to measure progress to Target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for which it is necessary to identify which assessments can be considered as ‘Favourable’ or ‘improving’.

The EU biogeographical trends are estimated as a part of the EU assessment of status detailed above. The trend should be estimated for habitats and species in favourable, unfavourable-inadequate and unfavourable-bad status; this information is not relevant for unknown status. For assessing the EU conservation status trend the MS trends are weighted using the same methods as used for the assessment of parameters (see chapter 2.1). Once the proportion at EU biogeographical scale for each trend category (improving, deteriorating, stable, unknown) is estimated the resulting EU trend is assessed applying the following thresholds

<sup>6</sup> See definition of typical species in the Explanatory Notes and Guidelines



Figure 3.1 The thresholds to determine the overall trends in conservation status.



## 4. Assessment of nature of change

Changes in conservation status between reporting periods may be due to a variety of reasons other than genuine change, for example changes in methodology, better data now available, etc. In order to identify which changes are genuine rather than artefacts, the reason for change in both Conservation Status and trend in Conservation Status were requested.

In practice, the change in EU biogeographical status or trend will not only result from a change of assessments from Member States but also of other changes, like changes of values for weighting parameters or changing the methods for EU assessment.

Below are the reasons for change that are reported by the Member State and how they are grouped into categories for assessment purposes.



**Table 4.1 Reasons for change reported by Member States grouped into categories for the biogeographical assessment.**

Member State reported reason for change	Categories for biogeographical assessment
genuine change	genuine change
improved knowledge/more accurate data	non-genuine change
use of different method (including taxonomical change or use of different thresholds)	
no information on the nature of change	
there is no difference	No change
no reason reported	N/A

The nature of change is an important parameter used in the Assessment of Target 1 (described in Section 5 below).

## 5. Assessment of Target 1

In an effort to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU, the European Commission adopted a Biodiversity Strategy in 2011. The Strategy includes six targets to be reached by 2020, two (Targets 1 & 3) of which explicitly mention species and habitat conservation status

Target 1 concerns nature conservation and restoration, and is based on improving the conservation status of habitats and species covered by the Habitats Directive and species covered by the Birds Directive.

To quantitatively measure this target, a methodology was developed by the Expert Group on Reporting under the Nature Directives and further validated by the Group of Experts on the Birds and the Habitats Directive (see discussion paper on 'Measuring progress under Target 1 of the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy'<sup>8</sup> for further details). It is based on a changes matrix which displays the different possible combinations of changes in EU conservation status and trends (see below table 5.1) between the two reporting periods (i.e. backcasted conservation status in 2000 -2006<sup>9</sup> and 2013 - 2018).

<sup>8</sup><https://circabc.europa.eu/d/a/workspace/SpacesStore/1a535573-841e-4a98-b81e-df1e3352b35f/Doc%20NADEG%2018-05-06%20Progress%20Target-1.docx>

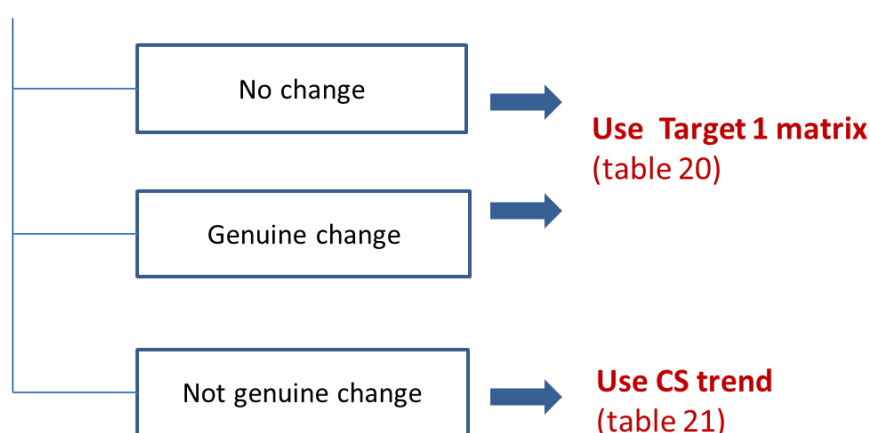
<sup>9</sup> More information on the backcasting of 2006-2012 status is provided in <https://circabc.europa.eu/d/a/workspace/SpacesStore/1a535573-841e-4a98-b81e-df1e3352b35f/Doc%20NADEG%2018-05-06%20Progress%20Target-1.docx>



Once the Conservation Status and its trend and nature of change between 2013-2018 and 2007-2012 periods have been assessed (Sections 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3 above), the following steps ([Figure 5.1](#)) should be used to determine if the assessment will contribute to the Target:

**Figure 5.1** Steps for assessing the contribution to Target1

**change between  
2007-2012 and  
2013-2018 status**



For conservation status assessments that did not **change** or that **genuinely changed** between 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 compare the EU (biogeographical) conservation status assessments from 2013–2018 with those from 2001–2006 back-casted ([See Table 5.1 below](#)).

For Favourable conservation status (FV) in 2013-2018 the distinction should be made whether the status was favourable in both 2000-2006 (back-casted status) and 2013-2018 periods (A=) or favourable in 2013-2018 but unfavourable in 2000-2006 period (back-casted status) (A+) ([see table 5.1](#)).





**Table 5.1 Matrix to identify favourable, improved and deteriorated assessments and assessments that did not change; this matrix is only used for conservation status assessments that did not change or genuinely changed between 2007-2012 and 2013-2018. Codes (e. g. A=, the EU assessment line under 'Target 1**

Conservation status (CS) and its trend		Conservation Status and trend in 2013–2018							
		FV	U1 +	U1 =	U1 -	U2 +	U2 =	U2 -	XX
Back-casted Conservation Status in 200-2006	FV	Favourable A=	Deteriorated C	Deteriorated C	Deteriorated C	Deteriorated C	Deteriorated C	Deteriorated C	Unknown E
	U1	Favourable A+	Improved B1	No change D	Deteriorated C	Deteriorated C	Deteriorated C	Deteriorated C	Unknown E
	U2	Favourable A+	Improved B1	Improved B1	Improved B1	Improved B1	No change D	Deteriorated C	Unknown E
	XX	Favourable A=	Improved B1	No change D	Deteriorated C	Improved B1	No change D	Deteriorated C	No change D

**Note:** Only assessments marked as 'Favourable' or 'Improved' are taken into account for Target 1.

U1= and U2= includes stable and unknown conservation status trends (including U1x, U2x).

For conservation status assessments that did '**non-genuinely change**' between 2007-2012 and 2013-2018; use the conservation status trends (see Table 5.2). For favourable assessments note 'A= - Favourable' and for unknown status note 'D – no change'.

**Table 5.2 Matrix to identify favourable, improved and deteriorated assessments and assessments that did not change; this matrix is only used for conservation status assessments that did none genuinely changed between 2007-2012 and 2013-2018**

Conservation Status and trend in 2013–2018							
FV	U1 +	U1 =	U1 -	U2 +	U2 =	U2 -	XX
Favourable A=	Improved B2	No change D	Deteriorated C	Improved B2	No change D	Deteriorated C	No change D

**Note:** U1= and U2= includes stable and unknown conservation status trends.

One of the following codes should be entered under 'Target 1' (EU Biogeographical assessment) depending on the matrix used (table 2.10 or table 2.11):

A= - favourable - no improvement of status

A+ - favourable - improved status

B1 - unfavourable - improved status (Matrix in table 5.1 was used; for conservation status assessments that did not change or genuinely changed between 2007-2012 and 2013-2018)



B2 - unfavourable - improved status (Metric in table 5.2 was used; for conservation status assessments that changed but not genuinely between 2007-2012 and 2013-2018)

C - unfavourable - deteriorated status (change in conservation status category or trend)

D - unfavourable or unknown - no improvement or deterioration

E - status became unknown