Eleni Tryfon with contributions from Carlos Romao, 17 April 2018, EEA, First workshop on reporting under Resolution No. 8(2012) of the Bern Convention

Nature Reporting: introduction to purpose, process and main outcomes at EU level

Purpose of the nature reporting

Two EU reporting obligations, similar but different:

Art. 17

- Habitats Directive

→ MS assess the conservation status of habitat types / species of the Directive

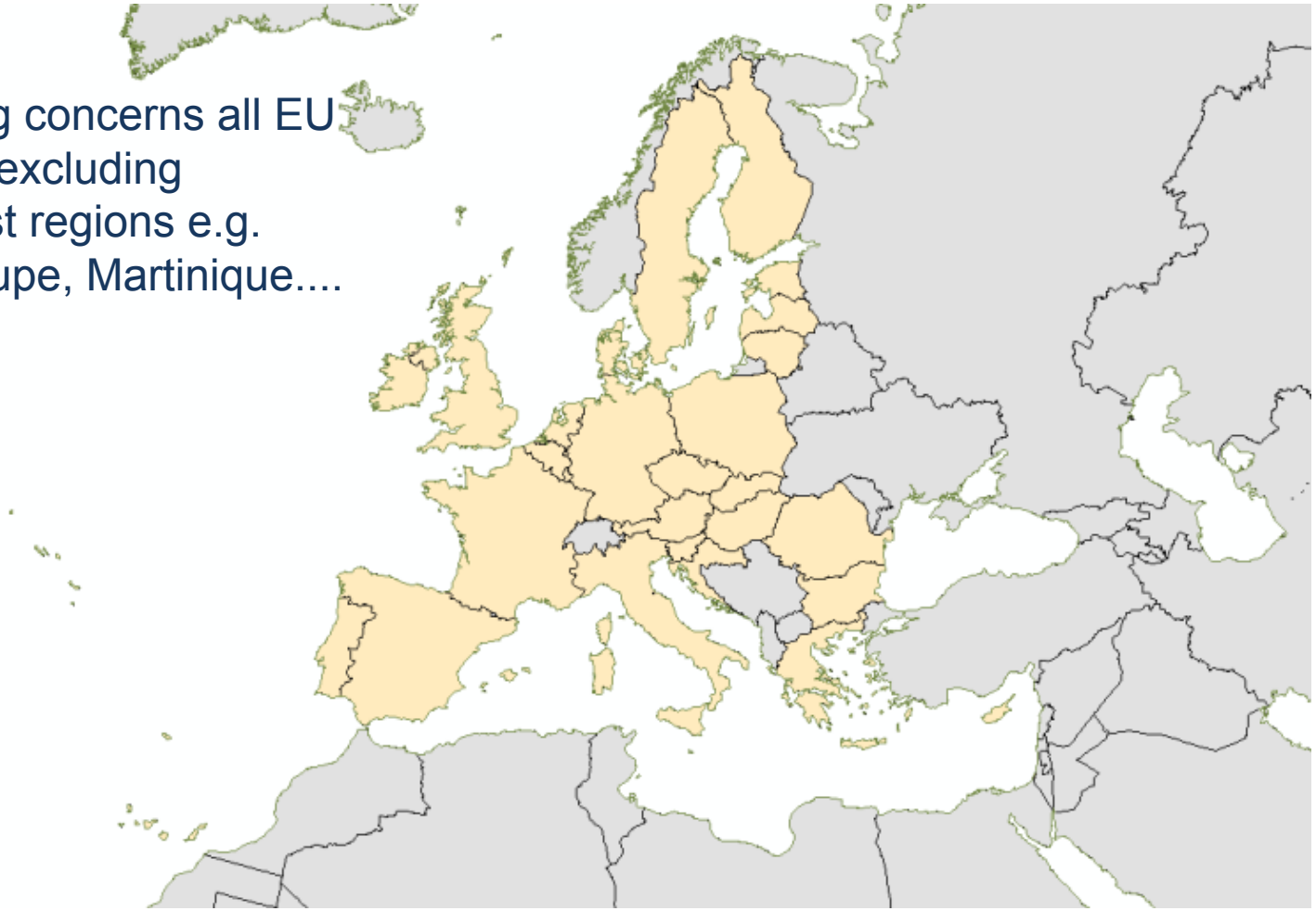
Art. 12

- Birds Directive

→ MS do no assess the conservation status of birds but estimate population and trends

Purpose of the nature reporting

Reporting concerns all EU territory, excluding outermost regions e.g. Guadeloupe, Martinique....



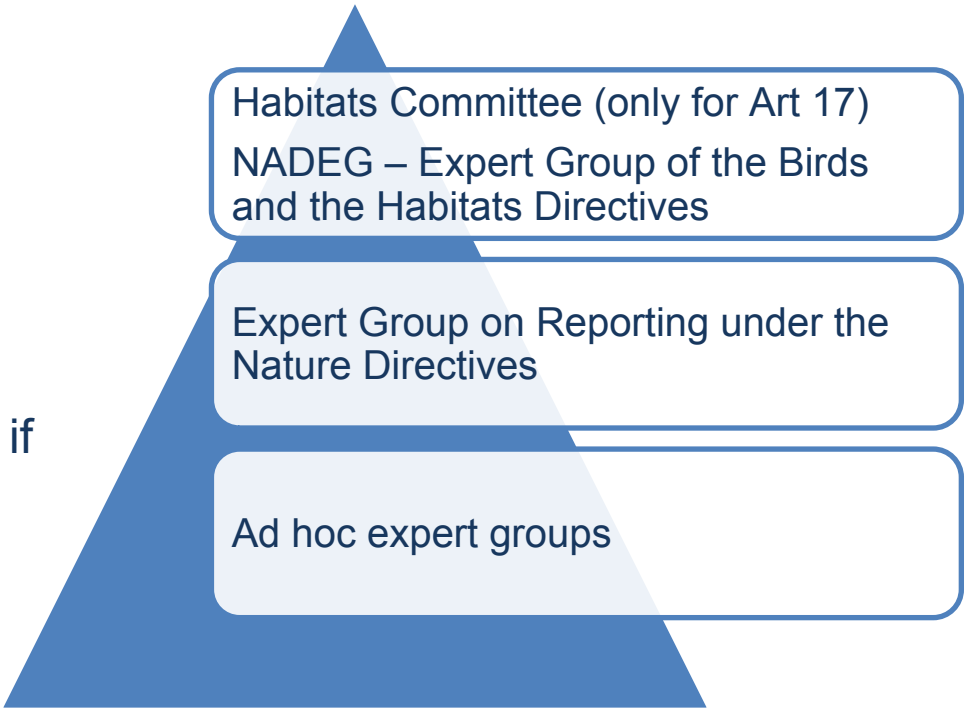
Aichryson dumosum (Lowe) Praeg., [LIFE project: LIFE99_NAT_P_006431]

Governance of the reporting

Working Groups assisting European Commission – Commission chairs them

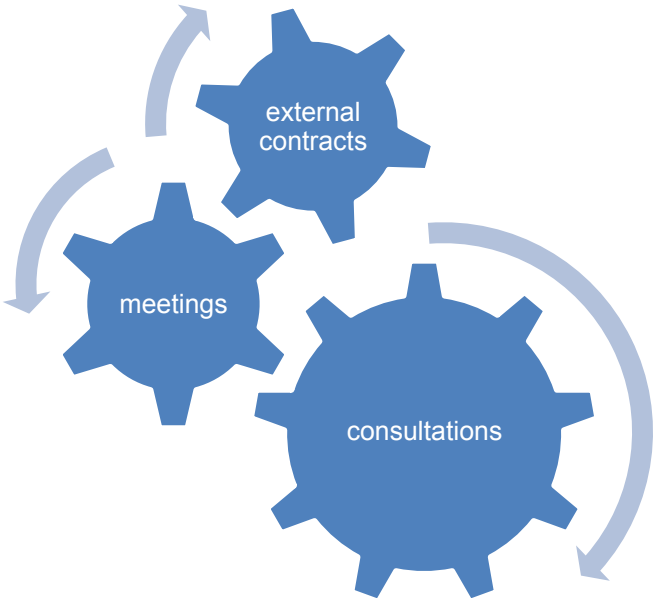
Groups are composed of representatives of MS plus organizations / stakeholders (EEA, NGOs, ….)

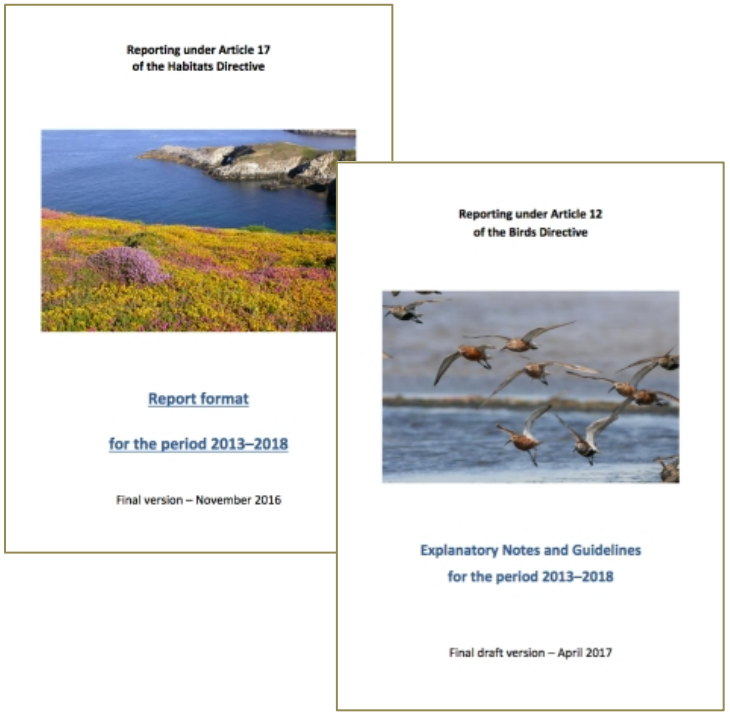
Regular meetings every 6 months or at an ad hoc basis if needed



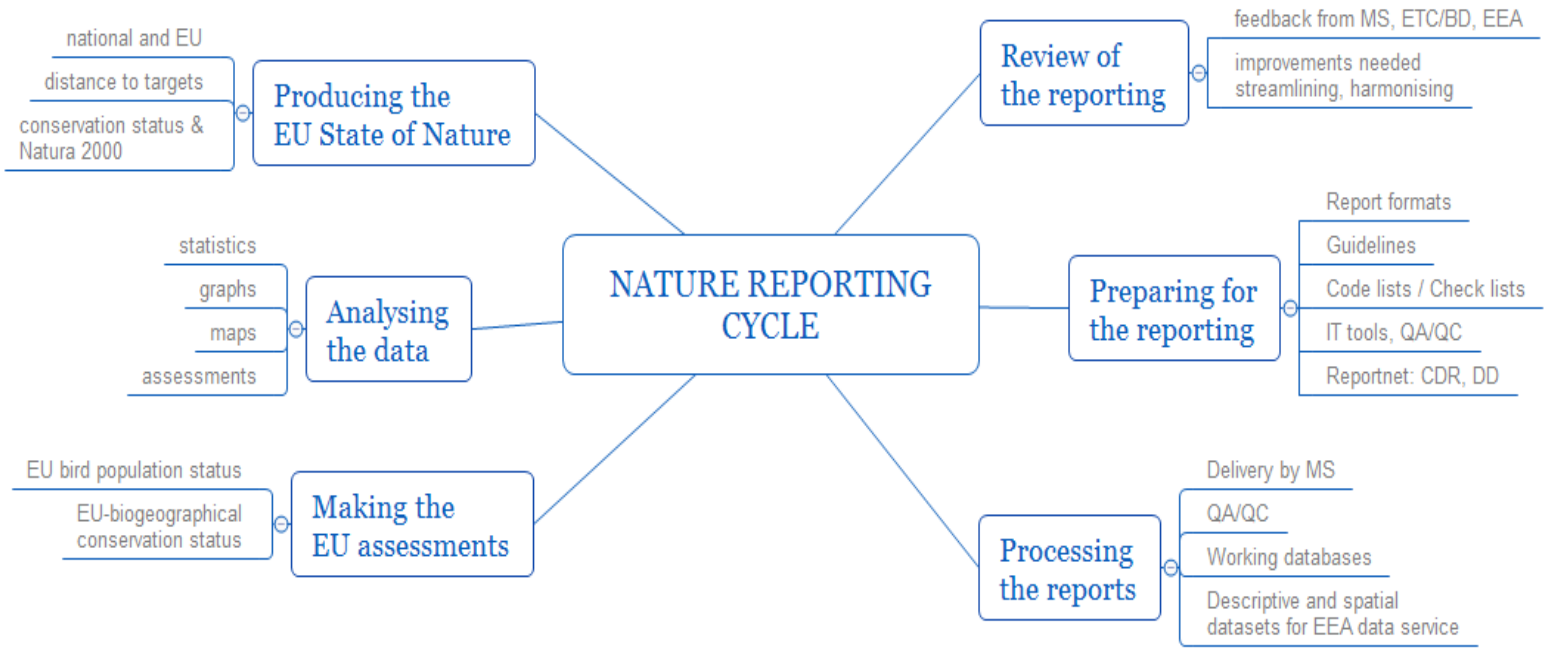
Process

- Groups seek to achieve agreement on reporting format, reporting guidelines and important elements of the reporting process (e.g. checklists, population units)
- A complicated and lengthy process that needs collaboration, networking, resources…





Process



EEA and ETC on Biological Diversity provide technical & scientific support to the Commission and Member States at all stages of the nature reporting cycle

Support

- Reference portals (2013-2018) with supportive material (reporting format, guidelines, check lists, reporting tool, range tool, xml schemas, QA/QC rules, data delivery manuals, the European Grid, FAQ)

  http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/birds_art12

  http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats_art17

- Central Data Repository (CDR) for submission of data
  http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/

- Nature helpdesk

Further reporting details

- Reporting every 6 years
- Since 2011 the reporting cycles of two reporting processes (Habitats – Birds Directive) are synchronised

Reporting with detailed information
on species and habitats types was done :

- twice for the Habitats Directive (2007, 2013)
- once for the Birds Directive (2013)

Deadlines for next reporting
Art. 17 30/04/2019
Art 12. 31/07/2019

Further reporting details

- Reporting covers marine / terrestrial / freshwater environment
- It is not restricted to Natura 2000 sites - data need to be collected both within and outside the Natura 2000 network

Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools, Heikki Toivonen, European Red List of Habitats
Fagus woodland, Bas van Gennip, European Red List of Habitats
Posidonia beds in the Mediterranean infralittoral zone, G. Pergent, European Red List of Habitats

Further reporting details

- Reporting concerns:
  - all habitats and species of community interest of the Habitats Directive (Annex I, II, IV, V)
  - all regularly occurring breeding bird species
  - Annex I and Annex II bird species of the Birds Directive
  - key migratory wintering waterbirds / waders



≈ **470** bird taxa, **1.250** other animals & plants, **233** habitat types

Geranium maderense, Saxifraga-Jeroen Willemsen
Castor fiber, Bever, Saxifraga-Mark Zekhuis
Aquila chrysaetus, Steenarend, Saxifraga-Jan Nijendijk

Reporting format

- Reporting format is similar but not the same for Art. 17 and Art. 12
- It consists of a General and a Specific part for habitats / species

The format requires information for each habitat / species :

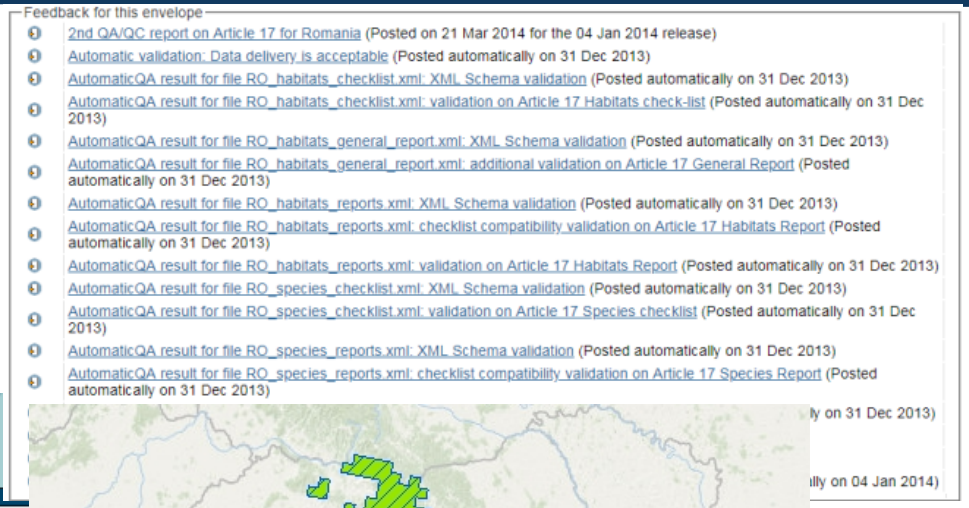
Art 17	Art 12
At national level : Hunting/exploitation/collection for Annex V species Distribution data and map	At national level: Hunting for Annex II species Breeding distribution data and map & trends
At national biogeographical / marine level Range & trends Population/area size & trends Habitat of the species / structure and functions of habitat & trends Pressures & threats Conservation measures Future prospects Proportion & trends in Natura 2000 Conservation status	Population & trends Pressures & threats Conservation measures Proportion & trends in Natura 2000

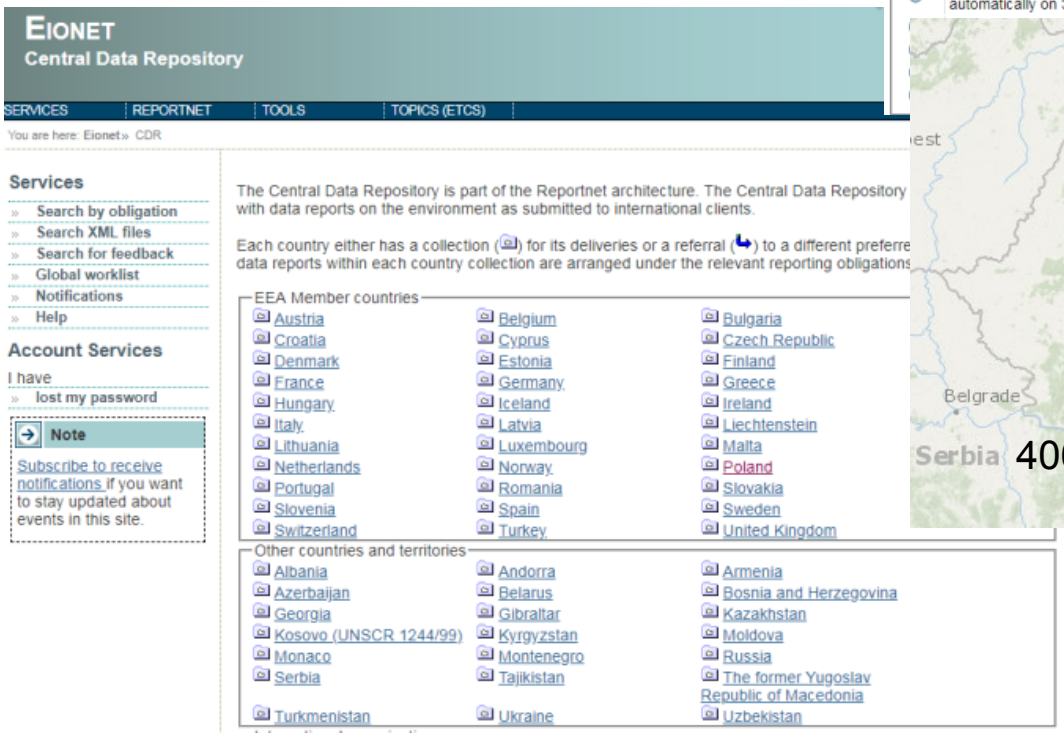
Reporting form is duplicated if a species / habitat occurs in more biogeographical / marine regions

MS deliveries

MS deliver for each reporting:

- Access database
- GIS distribution data
- Additional optional information





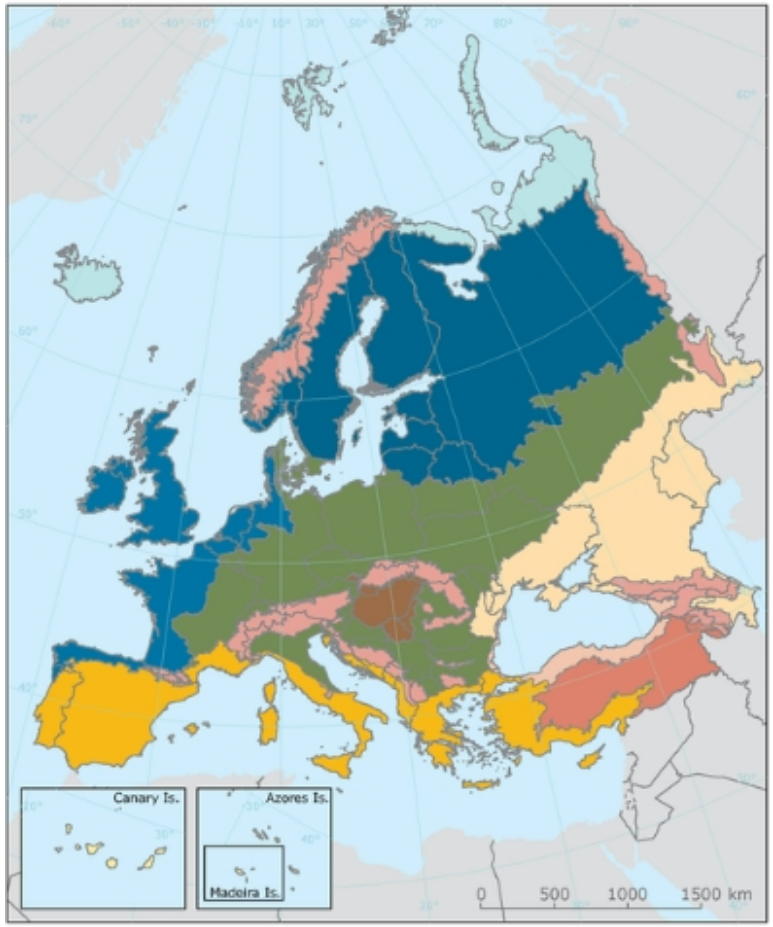
Sensitive species for spatial information are indicated

Assessments:

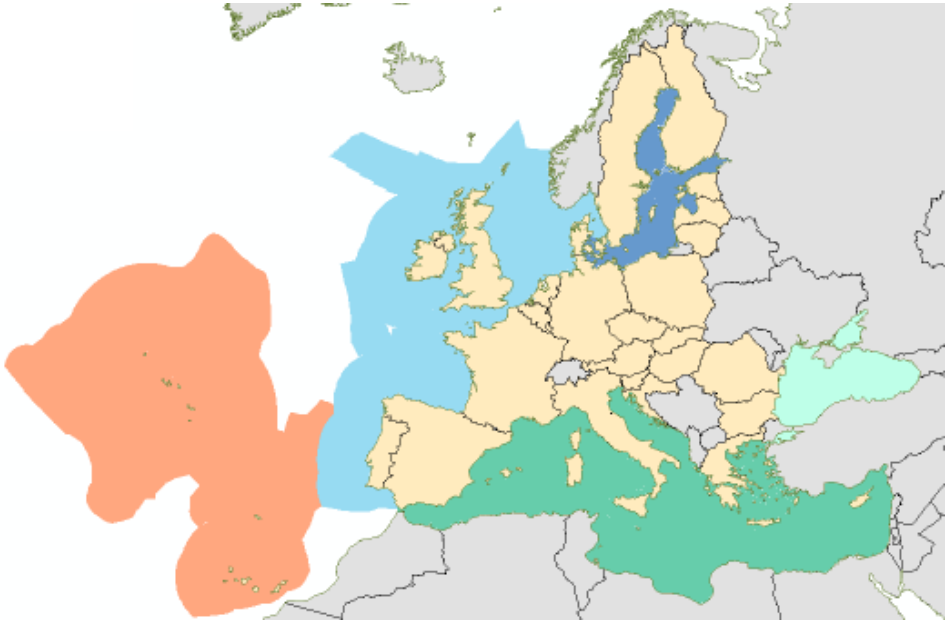
- At MS level
- At EU level

Cobitis taenia, Spined loach Linnaeus, 1758, Saxifraga – Kees Marijnissen

Art. 17- Conservation status, MS level



Assessment concerns national-biogeographical / national-marine region of each EU MS



European Environment Agency

Art. 17- Conservation status, MS level

- An assessment for each habitat / species per national region
- Parameters for assessing conservation status:

Species	Habitats
Range	Range
Population	Area
Habitat of the species	Structure and functions
Future prospects	Future prospects

- Each parameter is assessed separately
- Overall conservation status is assessed from the combination of the parameters' assessments

Status of parameters	All favourable or three favourable and one unknown	Two or more unknown combined with favourable or all unknown	One or more inadequate but no bad	One or more bad
Overall assessment of CS	**Favourable (FV)**	**Unknown (XX)**	**Unfavourable – Inadequate (U1)**	**Unfavourable – bad (U2)**

Art. 17- Conservation status, MS level

- Overall conservation status is accompanied by overall **trend** based on trends of reporting parameters over the reporting period
- Overall trend can be:

  improving +

  deteriorating -

  stable =

  unknown x
- Status and trend are combined

FVx / FV+ / FV= / FV-	XX	U1x / U1+ /U1= /U1-	U2x / U2+ /U2= /U2-

Change and reasons for change in overall conservation status and trend between two reporting cycles is indicated in the reporting form (e.g. genuine change, improved knowledge, use of different method)

Art. 12 - Bird status, MS level

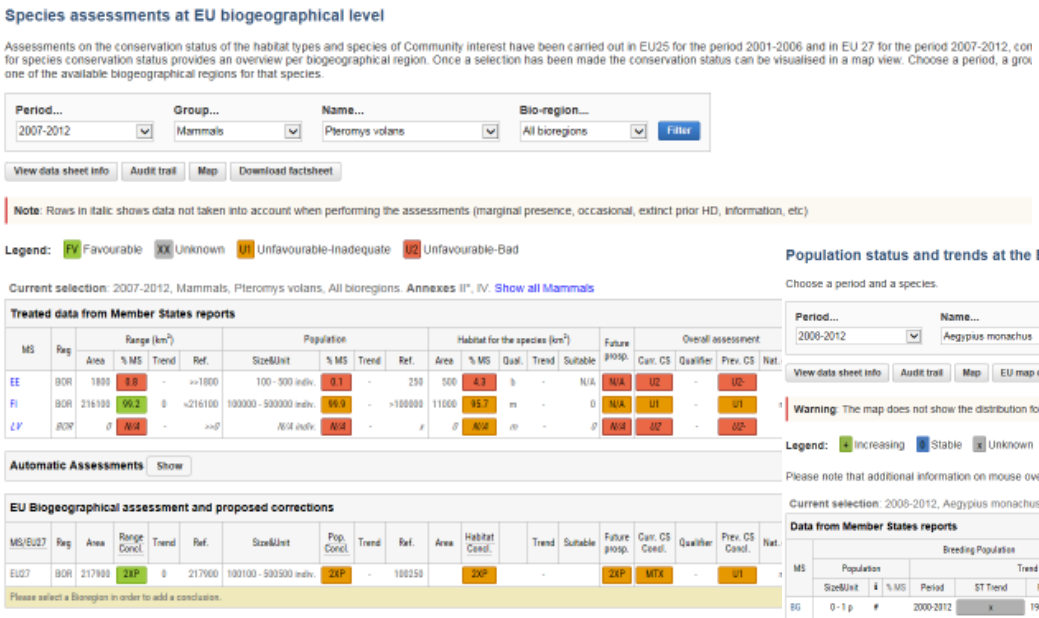
- EU reporting does not request an overall assessment of bird status at national level, but MS estimate population size

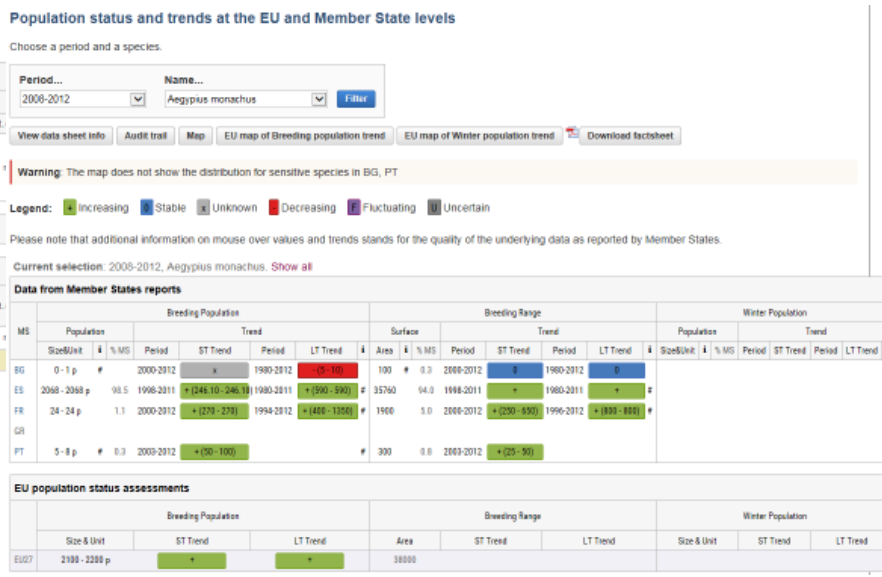
- Within the reporting form short and long term trends are estimated for population and breeding distribution

EU assessments

A Web Tool for supporting experts on EU assessments:

- http://art17.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/
- https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/





Additional “Mouse over” function

Web tool shows the results from last reporting which may not completely fit to the current reporting formats

European Environment Agency

EU assessments

Art. 17	Art. 12
Species / habitats of the Annexes of the Habitats Directive	All bird species regularly occurring in the European territory of the Member States
Biogeographical / marine regional level	EU28 level
Assessment of conservation status	Assessment of population status and trends – a modified version of the relevant IUCN Red List criteria

Assessments are different but broadly comparable

EU assessments – Art. 17

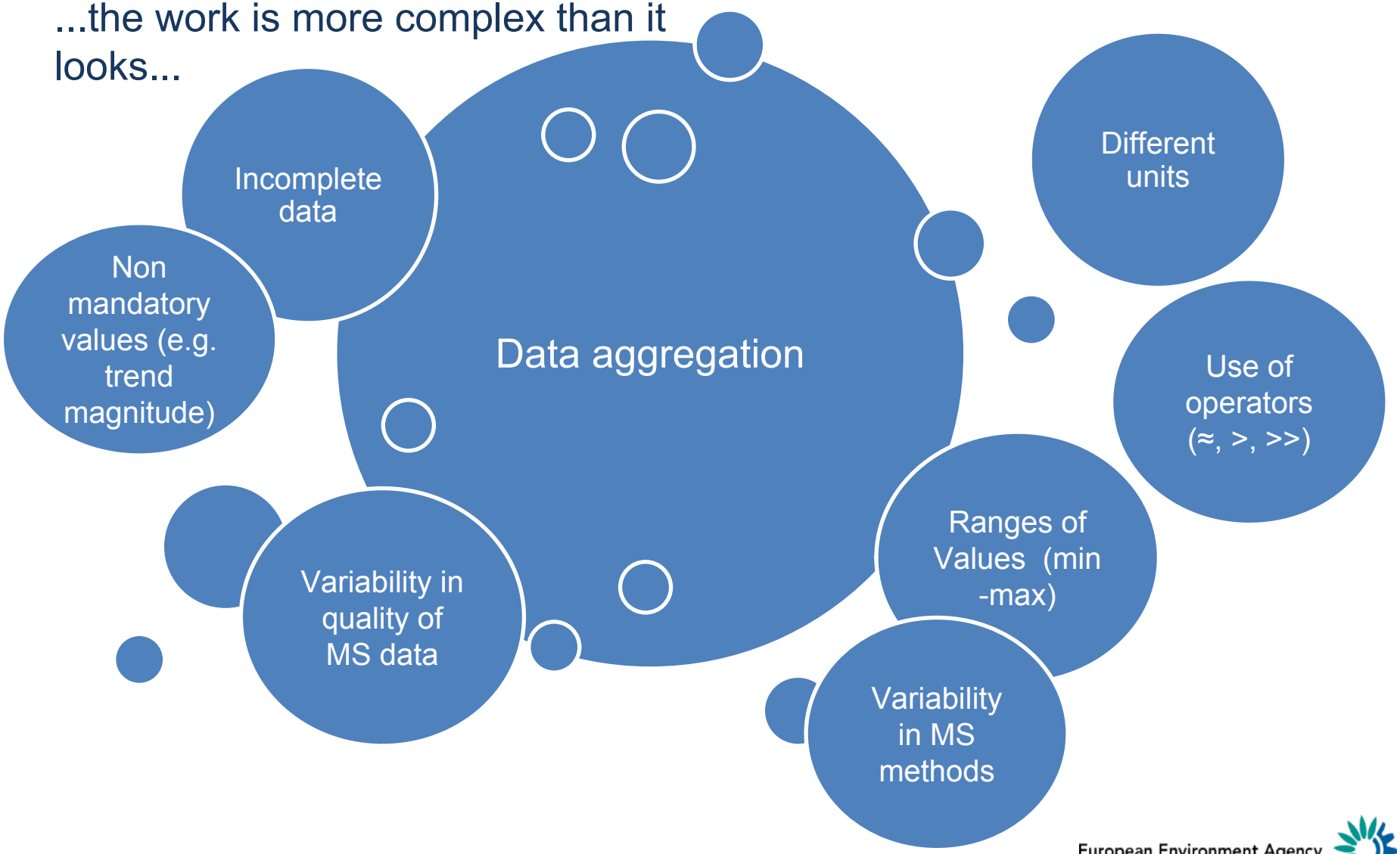
Methodology is selected according to availability of data

Method 1	Aggregating data for quantitative parameters from MS reports and aggregating conservation status of qualitative parameters. Assessment using the evaluation matrices	Preferred method for the parameters range, population (of a species) and area (of a habitat) but often not possible due to data constraints
Method 2	Calculating the weighted average of the individual parameter's conservation status. Assessment using the evaluation matrices	Second preference
Method 3	Calculating the weighted average of Member State overall conservation status assessments. No conclusions are given for the parameters	Used when neither methods 1 or 2 are possible

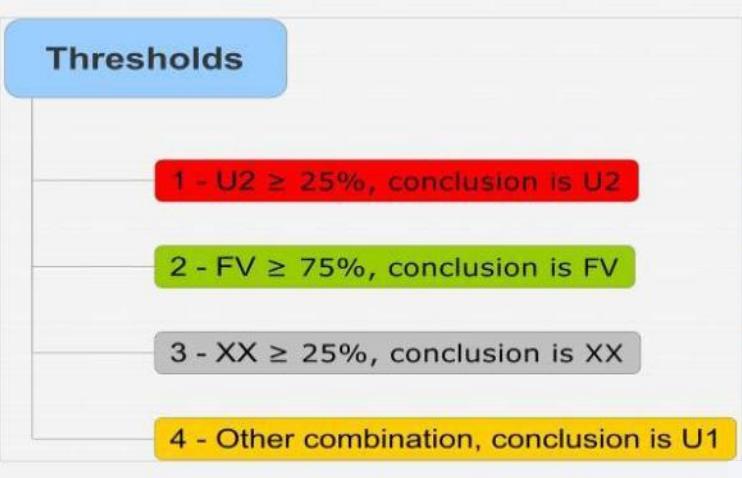
Link to methodology :
https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_17/Documents/ART17%20public%20consultation%20guide.pdf

EU assessments – Art. 17

...the work is more complex than it looks...



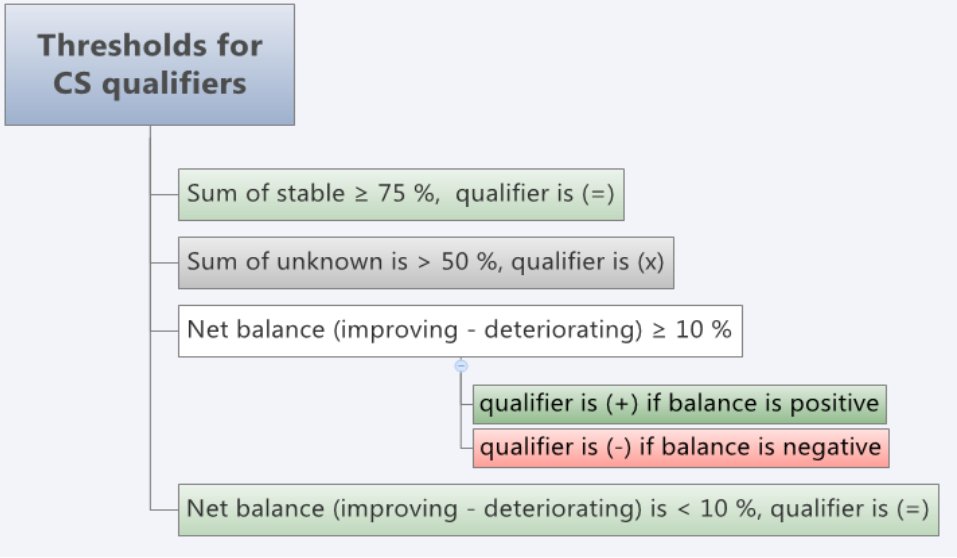
EU assessments – Art. 17



Thresholds are used for:

Calculating weighted average for regional assessments (Method 2)

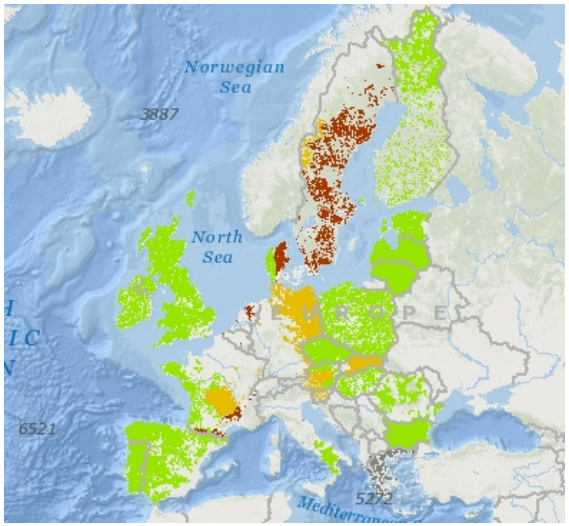
Assessing the qualifier (trend) of the overall conservation status conclusion (assessed by weighting)



EU assessments – Art. 17

Assessment of overall conservation status with trends

Favourable (FVx / FV+ / FV= / FV-)	Unknown (XX)	Unfavourable – Inadequate (U1x / U1+ /U1= /U1-)	Unfavourable – Bad (U2x / U2+ /U2= /U2-)



Lutra lutra

For each assessment an audit trail is drafted noting which methodology has been used and explaining the choice

A data sheet is completed for each habitat / species for each region together with a summary for the whole EU and a distribution map

EU assessments – Art. 12

- MS data are aggregated and EU level population size, distribution area, population and distribution trends are estimated using the method of scenarios for species with uncertain and incomplete data
- A series of criteria and thresholds are applied to the data at EU level, which filter out different species at different levels for assessing status

Assessment of status

Secure	Unknown	Near threatened / declining / depleted	Threatened

Assessment of trends

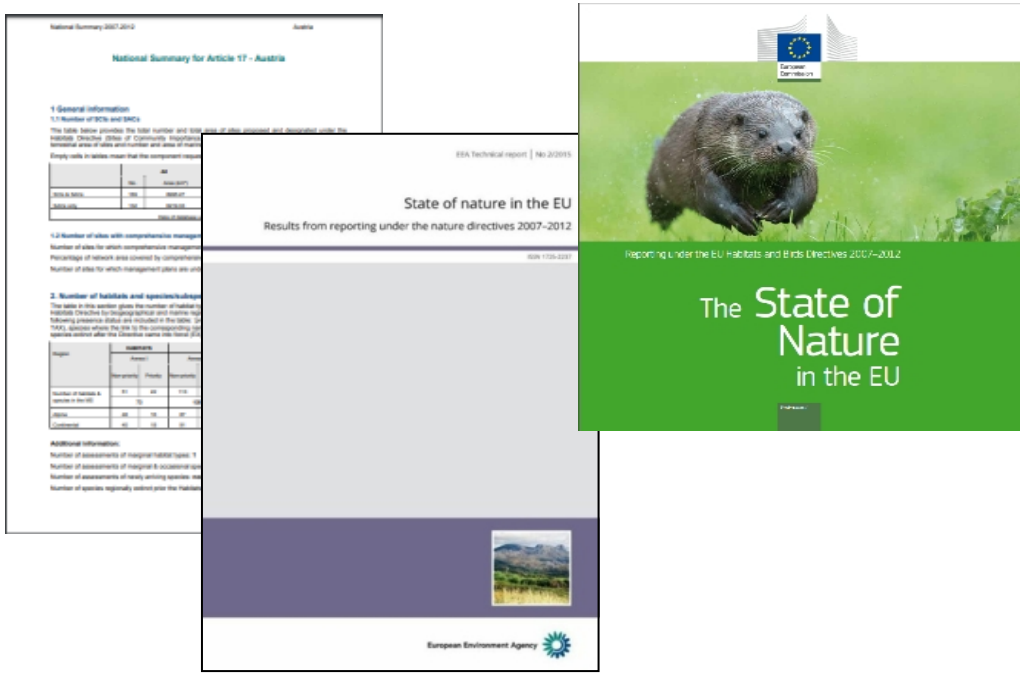
+ Increasing 0 Stable x Unknown - Decreasing F Fluctuating U Uncertain

Use of reporting

Triturus carnifex (Laurenti, 1768), Saxifraga – Edo van Uchelen

Main publications

- State of Nature report
  - It provides comprehensive facts and figures on the status and trends of the species and habitats covered by the two EU nature directives, fully underpinned by the numerous reports submitted by Member States. After coordinated consultation
- National summaries
  - They include basic statistics and an overview of the main results from MS Article 17 / 12 reports



State of Nature:

- Feeding into EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
  - ✓ progress in meeting the 2020 Target 1
- Contributing to other European and Global policy evaluation and assessments

Other use of reporting

- Reporting feeds into policy at national and EU level and contributes to national, European and Global policy evaluation and assessments
- Used for:
  - estimations of necessary measures and funding at national level
  - definition of and measurement of progress to Targets of EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
  - setting the agenda for the management of Natura 2000 at biogeographical level
  - feeding in projects for Monitoring and Assessing Ecosystems and their Services, research projects, papers
  - feeding in indicators, reports, briefings, presentations (EEA)
  - sectoral policy evaluation: environment, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, …
  - global assessments: Conventions - CBD (Aichi targets), Bern, Bonn (Eurobats, AEWA,…), Ramsar, IPBES ……

Some elements for success

- At national level:
  - Inventories and well designed monitoring are the basis for good data and assessments
  - Data for the reporting should be gathered from all possible sources: government, NGO, citizen science, academia
- At European level:
  - Technical and scientific coordination and support is important
  - Discussion at working groups and consultation before agreement helps developing common understanding and endorsement
  - Harmonization of the reporting parameters as much as possible (e.g. population units, grid for maps) is crucial for achieving a reliable common assessment
  - After each reporting cycle and based on the gained experience, a re-evaluation and possible modification of process, forms, guidelines etc is needed

Leucorrhinia albifrons (Burmeister, 1839), Robert Ketelaar