



Circus aeruginosus

Annex I	Yes
International action plan	No

Western Marsh-harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*, is a species of day-flying bird of prey found in wetland and river and lake ecosystems.

Circus aeruginosus has a breeding population size of 37700-87900 breeding females and a breeding range size of 1670000 square kilometres in the EU27. The breeding population trend in the EU27 is Increasing in the short term and Increasing in the long term.

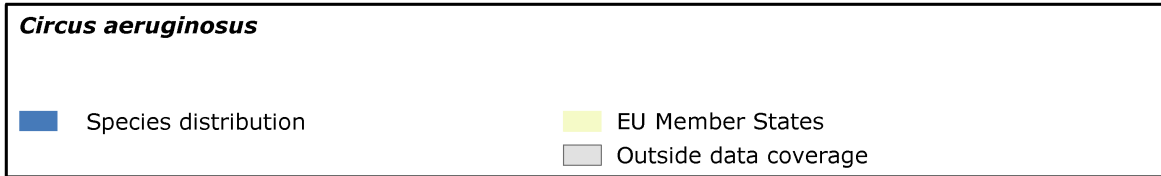
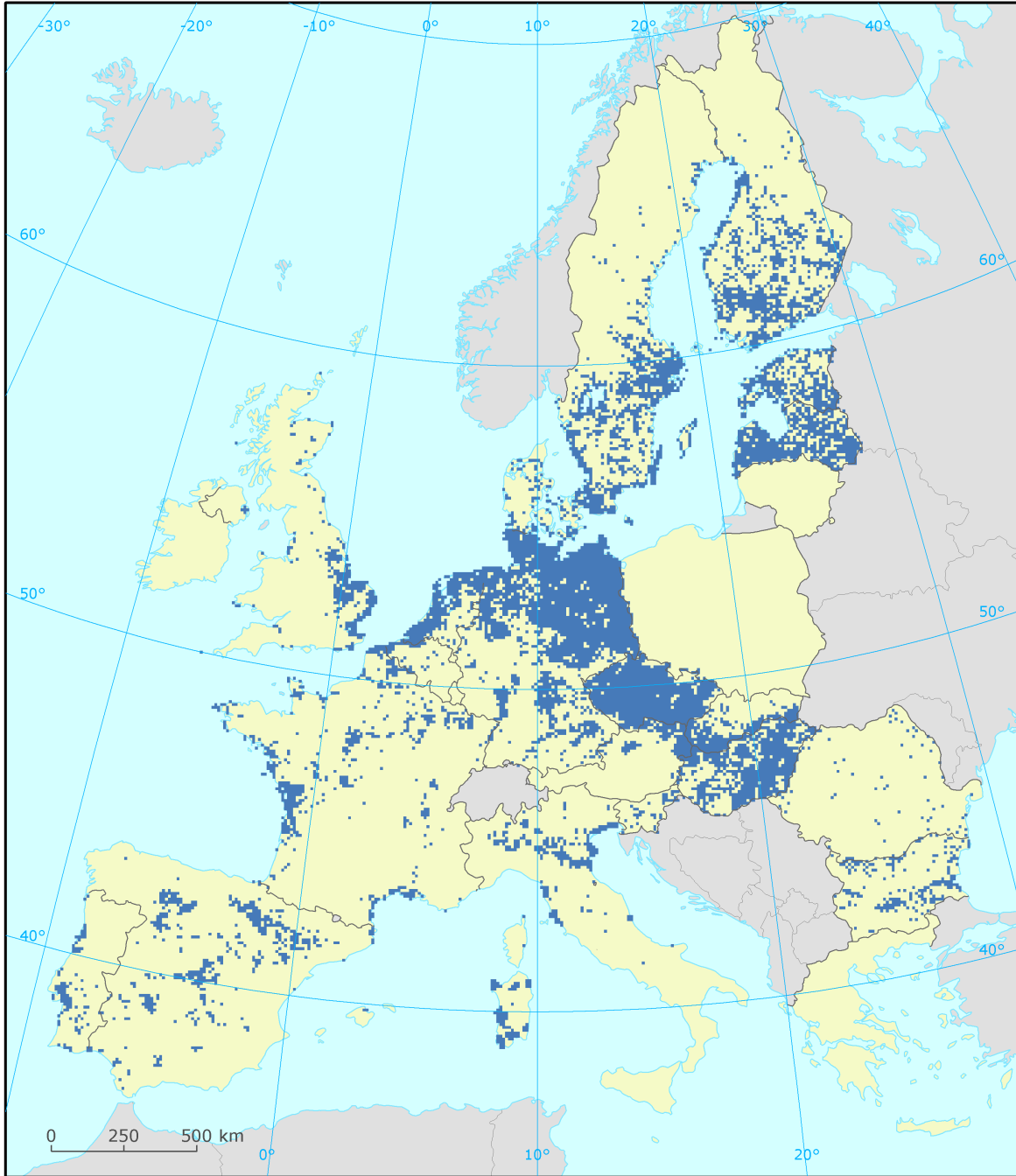
The EU population status of *Circus aeruginosus* was assessed as Secure, because the species does not meet any of the IUCN Red List criteria for threatened or Near Threatened, or the criteria for Depleted or Declining (the EU27 population or range has not declined by 20% or more since 1980).

Assessment of status at the European level

Breeding population size	Breeding population trend		Range area	Breeding range trend		Winter population size	Winter population trend		Population status
	Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term	
37700 - 87900 bfemales	+	+	1670000						Secure

See the endnotes for more informationⁱ

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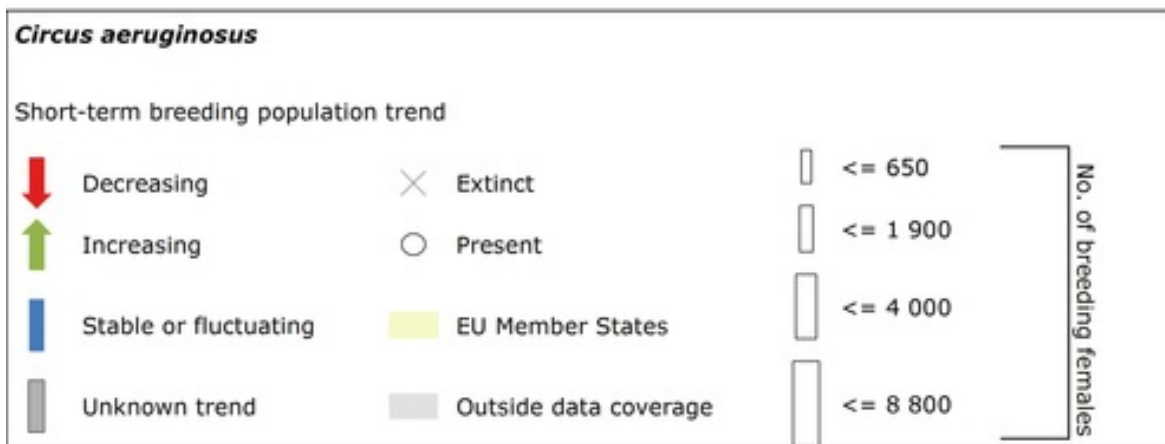
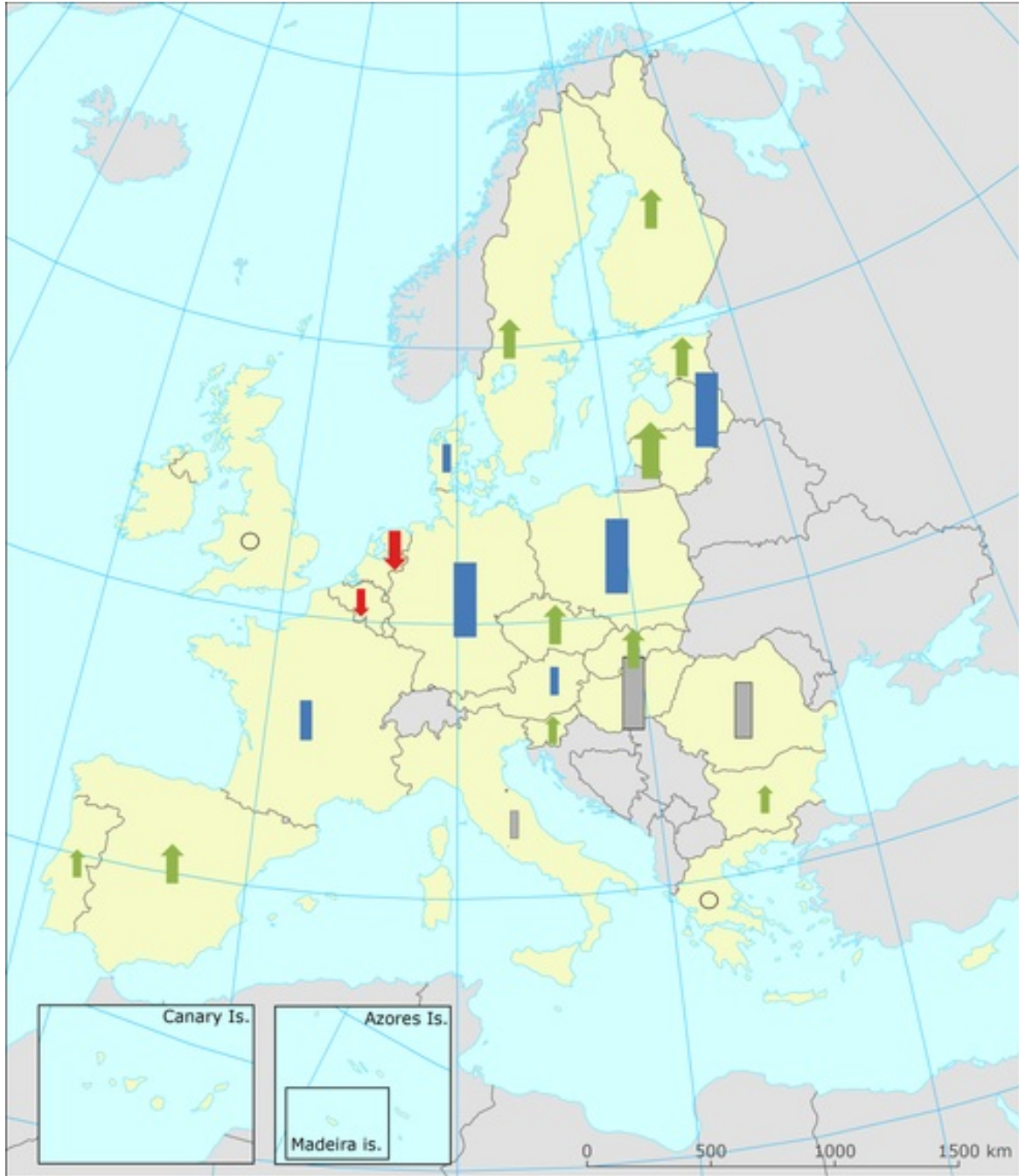
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Trends at the Member State level

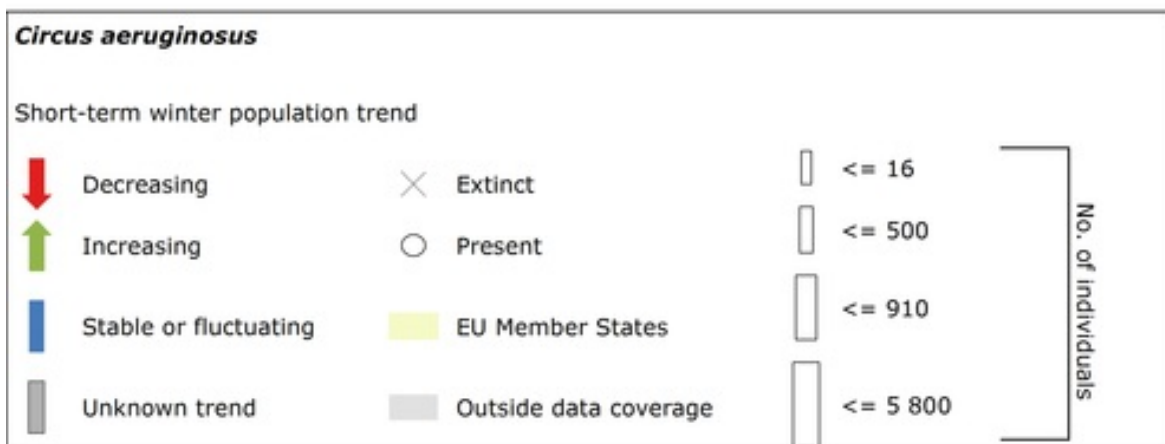
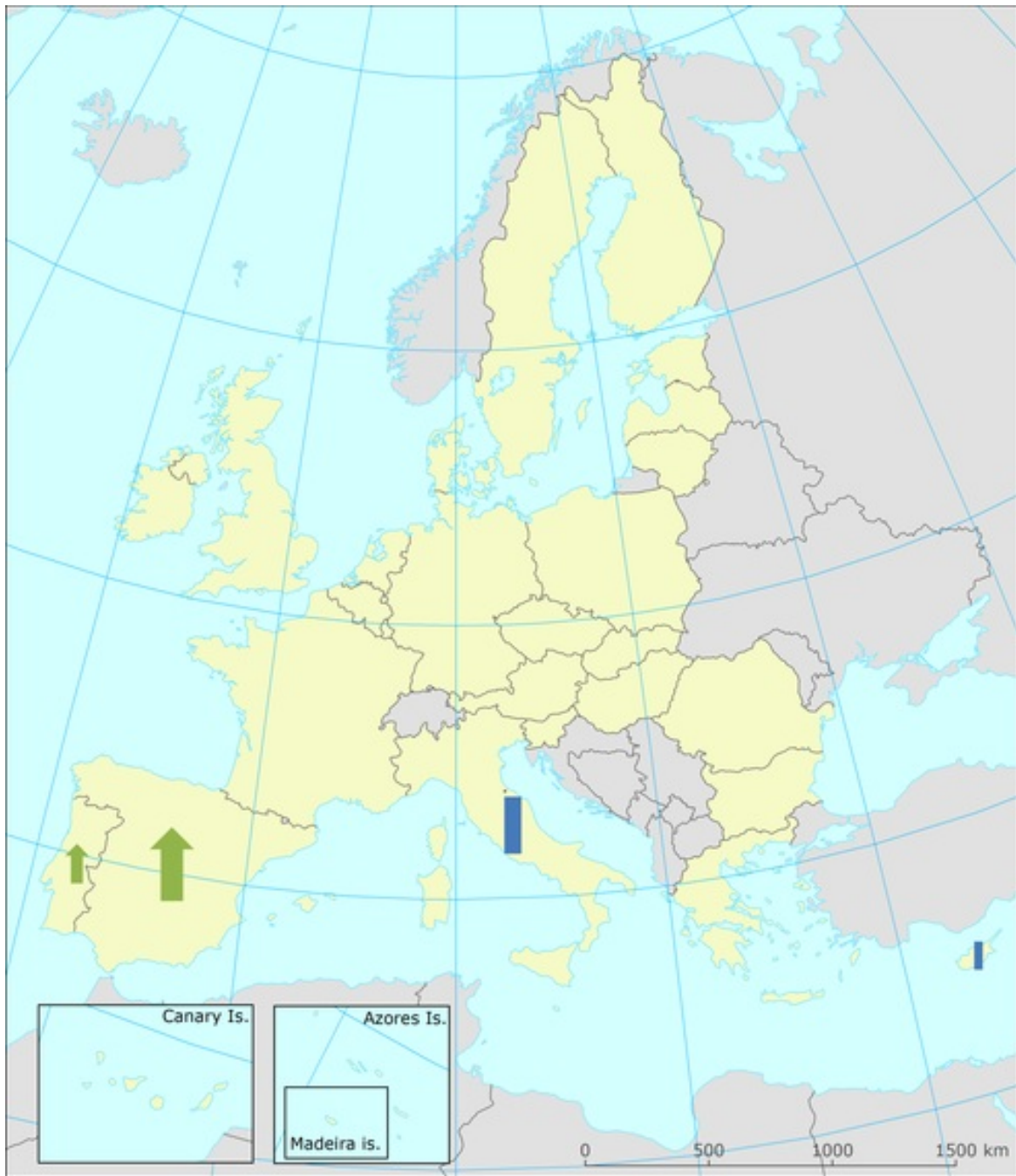
MS/Ter.	% in EU27	Breeding population size	Breeding population trend		Range area	Breeding range trend		Winter population size	Winter population trend	
			Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term
AT	1.5	290 - 390 bfemales	0	0	24189	0	+			
BE	0.5	78 - 138 bfemales	-	+	3760	-	+			
BG	2.3	220 - 260 bfemales	+	+	62500	+	+			
CY								10 - 25 i	0	+
CZ	8.1	1300 - 1700 bfemales	+	+	82993	0	+			
DE	21.8	7500 - 10000 bfemales	0	-	221187	0	0			
DK	1.5	650 - 650 bfemales	0	+	30200	0	+			
EE	3.4	800 - 1300 bfemales	+	+	48400	+	+			
ES	5.1	1149 - 1494 bfemales	+	+	116179	+	+	5601 - 5919 i	+	+
FI	8.7	680 - 1150 bfemales	+	+	203500	x	+			
FR	6.1	1600 - 2200 bfemales	0	-	132200	x	0			
GR										
HU	6.9	5000 - 10000 bfemales	x	+	67036	0	+			
IT	3.4	214 - 287 bfemales	x	+	66700	+	+	790 - 1029 i	0	+
LT	6.3	3500 - 4500 bfemales	+	+	69900	0	0			
LV	5.5	2028 - 37345 bfemales	F	+	63629	x	+			
NL	2.6	1150 - 1250 bfemales	-	0	38786	0	0			
PL		6600 - 7100 bfemales	0	-		x	x			
PT	1.1	100 - 200 bfemales	+	+	29800	0	+	250 - 1000 i	+	+
RO	0.7	2000 - 4000 bfemales	x	+	161600	x	x			
SE	9.3	1500 - 1900 bfemales	+	+	194700	0	x			
SI	0.4	1 - 2 bfemales	+	+	4367	+	+			
SK	2.1	1000 - 1500 bfemales	+	+	30997	+	+			
UK	2.8	320 - 380 p	+	+	24200	+	+			

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report the 20 most important pressures and threats using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the Article 12 Reference Portal (http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_12/reference_portal). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. The table below only contains information from Member States, where a species triggers SPA classification. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance', the table below only shows pressures and threats classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten pressures and threats reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures and threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	19
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	11
C03	Production of renewable energy (abiotic)	11
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	7
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	7
D02	Utility and service lines/pipelines	7
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	7
A04	Grazing by livestock	4
A06	Crops of annuals & perennials (non-timber)	4
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	4

Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report the size of a species population occurring within the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of species population covered by the network was estimated by comparing the population size within the network and the total population size.

Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites

MS/territory	season	SPA trigger	% coverage
AT	breeding	YES	74.63
BE	breeding	YES	34.21
BG	breeding	YES	30.73
CY	winter	NO	
CZ	breeding	YES	13.28
DE	breeding	YES	27.78
DK	breeding	YES	23.83
EE	breeding	YES	24.02
ES	breeding	YES	16.56

MS/territory	season	SPA trigger	% coverage
ES	winter	YES	36.33
FI	breeding	YES	24.88
FR	breeding	YES	50.12
HU	breeding	YES	17.84
IT	breeding	YES	96.67
IT	winter	YES	82.68
LT	breeding	YES	4.36
LV	breeding	YES	3.56
NL	breeding	YES	60
PL	breeding	YES	42.48
PT	breeding	YES	59.16
PT	winter	YES	65.83
RO	breeding	YES	28.14
SE	breeding	YES	15.22
SI	breeding	NO	
SK	breeding	YES	11.55
UK	breeding	YES	47.03

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱⁱ

Most frequently reported conservation measures

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this species using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 12 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many species there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	22
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	20
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	18
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	9
2.2	Adapting crop production	5
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	4
4.3	Managing water abstraction	4
6.2	Establishing wilderness areas/ allowing succession	4
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	2
3.0	Other forestry-related measures	2

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European

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This information is derived from the member state national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 12 of the Birds Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2008-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at:

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/summary?period=1&subject=A081> .

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ⁱ **Assessment of status at the European level:** The EU assessments of birds population status was made by the European Red List of Birds Consortium (under contract with the European Commission)

The EU27 population trends were assessed using these categories: '+' Increasing, '0' Stable, 'F' Fluctuating, '-' Decreasing, 'xu' Uncertain and 'x' Unknown. The breeding population size is estimated in majority of the cases as 'p' number of pairs. Alternative population units used are: 'males' number of males, 'i' number of individuals, 'cmales' number of calling males and 'bfem' number of breeding females. The winter population size is estimated as number of individuals.

ⁱⁱ **Species trends at the Member State level:** The percentage of the EU27 species population occurring in the Member States (% in EU27) is calculated based on the population size reported by the Member States.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites:** In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the species population and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece and for non-Annex I species in the Czech Republic.