European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Bison bonasus

Annex	II, IV
Priority	Yes
Species group	Mammals
Regions	Alpine, Continental

The European Bison is the largest herbivore in the European Union and in Europe; the EU population genetically belongs to the Lowland line (*B. b. bonasus*) and it is currently restricted to Poland and Slovakia as a result of reintroductions and introductions after it became extinct in the first quarter of the 20th century.

In the Alpine Region it has an 'unfavourable-inadequate', but improving conservation status. The main pressures are eutrophication and reduced fertility due to inbreeding.

In the Continental Region it has also an 'unfavourable-inadequate' conservation status. The main pressures are afforestation of open land, reduced fertility due to inbreeding and parasitism.

The species is classified by IUCN as 'vulnerable' at the European and EU levels (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/2814/1, consulted 5 May 2014); the Lowland-Caucasian line (*B. b. caucasicus*) is classified as 'endangered' (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/2814/0, consulted 5 May 2014)

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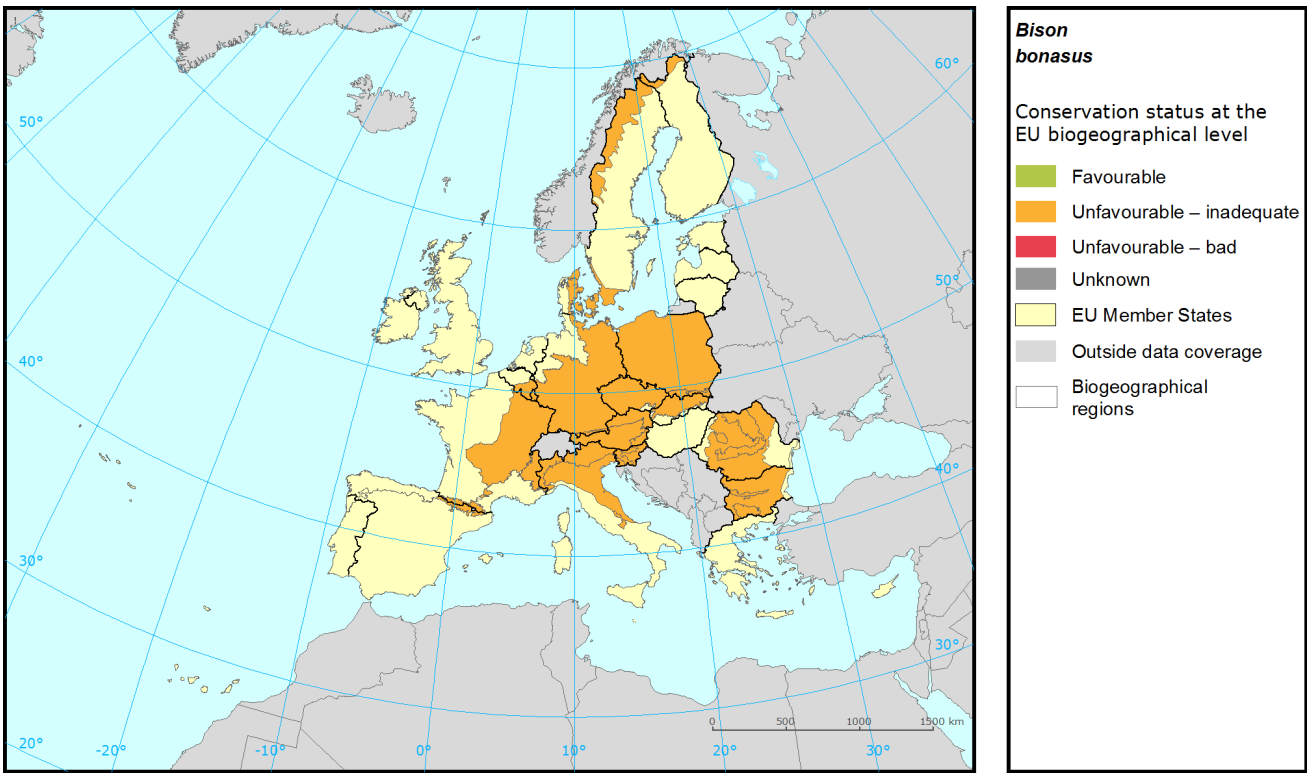
Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	U1	FV	U1	U1	+	42	U2	Genuine
CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	58	U1	

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level

Bison bonasus

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- Favourable
- Unfavourable – inadequate
- Unfavourable – bad
- Unknown
- EU Member States
- Outside data coverage
- Biogeographical region

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
PL	ALP	FV	U1	FV	U1	U1	+	75.0	U1	
SK	ALP	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	=	25.0	U2+	Genuine
PL	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	100.0	U1	

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the Article 17 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. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes ‘high, medium and low importance’; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as ‘high’, for some species there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	33
B01	Afforestation	17
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	17
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	17
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	17

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	29
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	29
B01	Afforestation	14
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	14
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	14

Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report the population size 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 in the biogeographical/marine region.

Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region

	ALP	CON
PL	100	100
SK	100	

See the endnotes for more information[ii]

Most frequently reported conservation measures

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive 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 17 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	33
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	33
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	22
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	11

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at: http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/species/summary/?group=Mammals&period=3&subject=Bison+bonasus

[i]**Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level:** Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the species population occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.

[ii]**Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region:** 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. The values are only provided for regions, in which the occurrence of the species has been reported by the Member States.