



Felis silvestris

Annex	IV
Priority	No
Species group	Mammals
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic

European wildcats are primarily associated with forest and are found in highest numbers in broad-leaved or mixed forests with low densities of humans. Rodents are the most common prey of European wildcats, and rabbits are also important where they occur, while birds are of secondary importance.

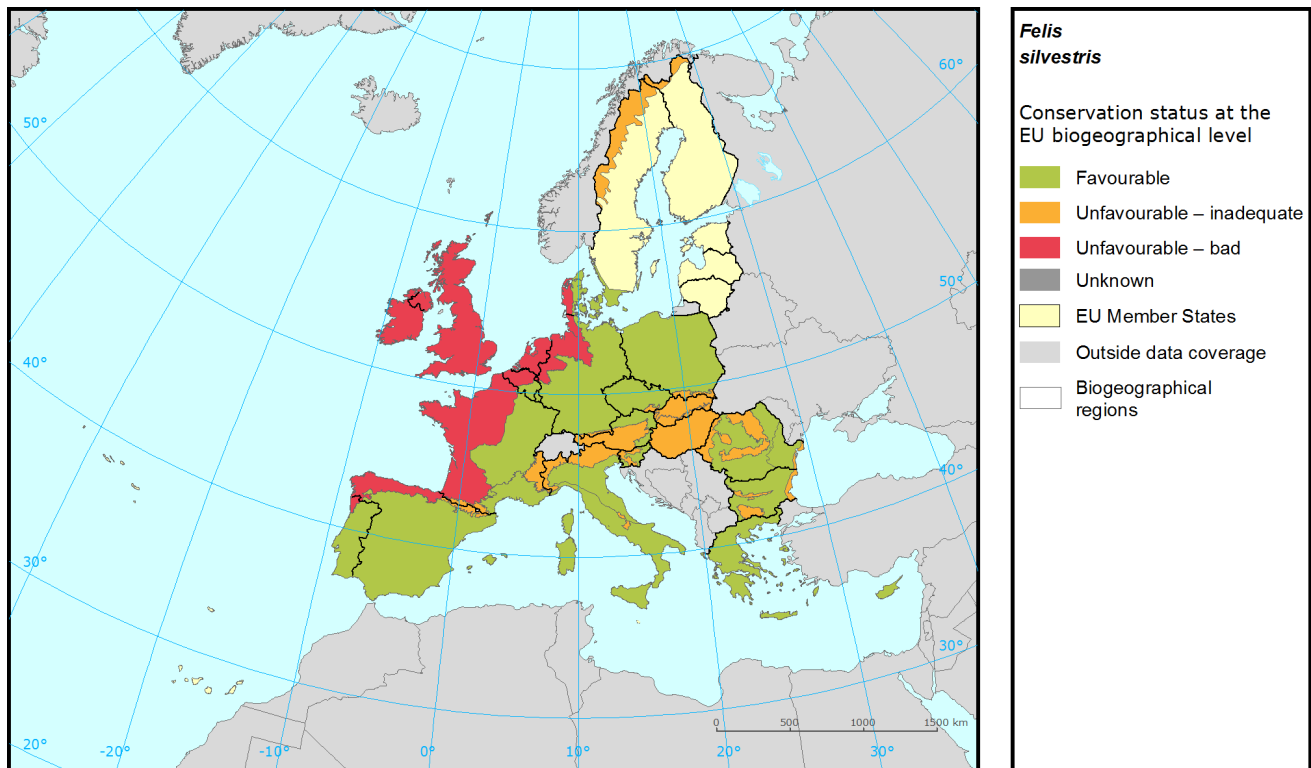
The Conservation Status of the wildcat is 'Favourable' in three biogeographical regions, 'Unfavourable-Inadequate' in three and 'Unfavourable-Bad' in one. However, the Bulgarian and Polish NGOs consider the reported assessments of these countries too optimistic (if taken into account in the regional assessments, does not change the conclusion). The main pressures for the species are genetic pollution and competition with feral domestic cats, habitat loss and deterioration, including fragmentation and reduction on connectivity, trapping, poisoning or poaching, and road kills.

The species is classified by IUCN in Europe as 'Least Concern'; however, this can be misleading, for although the wildcat is probably the most widespread and numerous felid in Europe, it is seriously threatened in some areas by genetic loss through hybridization with domestic cats. (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/8543/1> consulted on 29 April 2014)

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



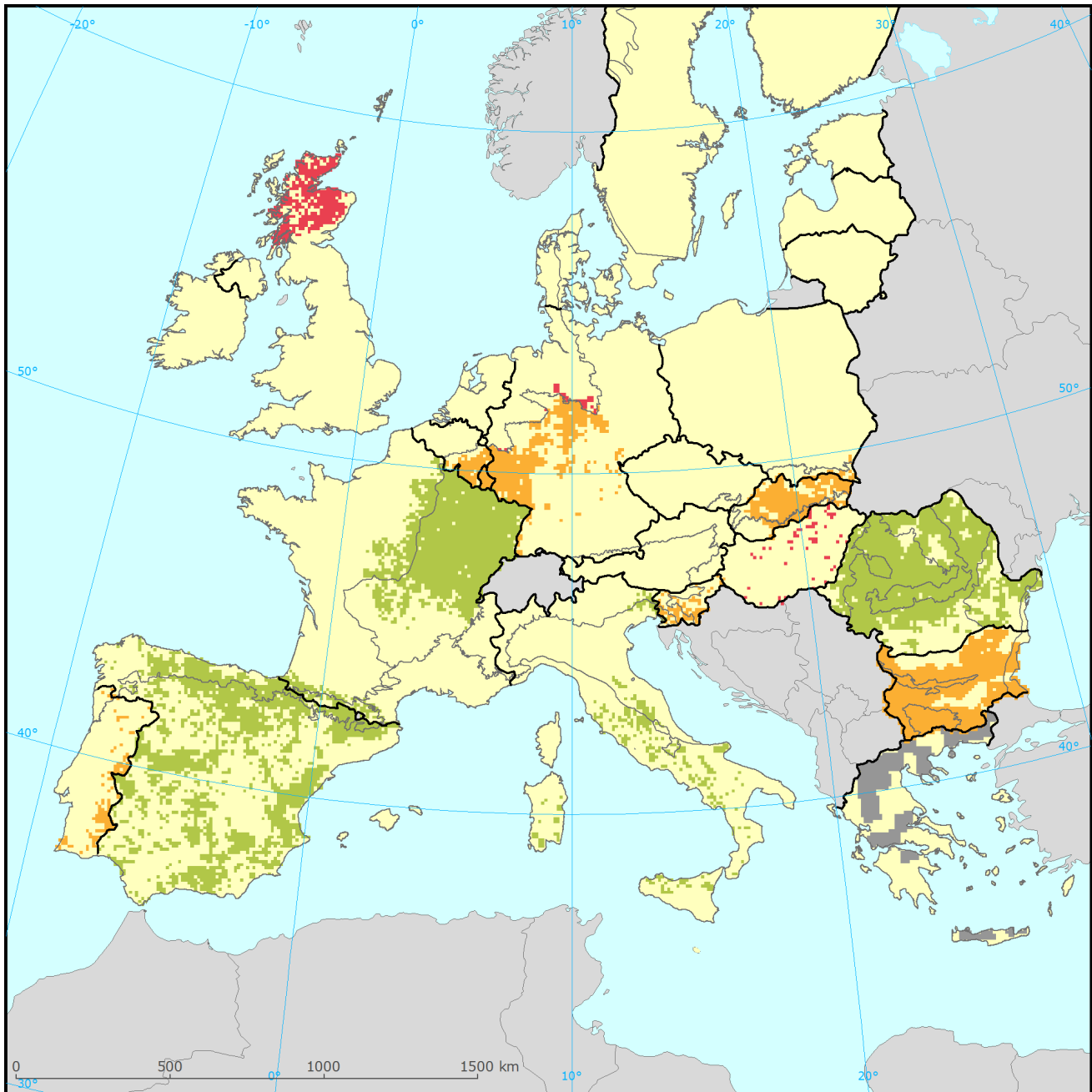
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	13	U1	
ATL	FV	U2	FV	U2	U2	-	10	U2	
BLS	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	x	1	XX	Not genuine
CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		42	U2	Not genuine
MED	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV	=	29	XX	Not genuine
PAN	U1	U1	U1	XX	U1	=	3	U2	Not genuine
STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		2	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Felis silvestris

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

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

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.

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MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	x	16.9		
ES	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		8.0	XX	Changed method
FR	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		5.6	FV	
IT	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.2	U1-	Genuine
PL	ALP	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	x	1.0	U1	No data
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		39.1		
SI	ALP	FV	U1	U1	XX	U1	x	2.7	U1	
SK	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	24.5	U1	
DE	ATL	U2	U2	U1	FV	U2	+	3.3	U2	Genuine
ES	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		27.1	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		31.7	FV	
PT	ATL	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	-	0.8	U1-	
UK	ATL	FV	U2	FV	U2	U2	-	37.1	U2-	
BG	BLS	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	x	82.6		
RO	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		17.4		
BE	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	2.0	FV	
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	x	19.3		
CZ	CON	XX	XX	FV	XX	XX			U2	Changed method
DE	CON	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	+	14.2	U2	Genuine
FR	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		33.4	FV	
IT	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.6	U1-	Genuine
LU	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	0.7	U2	Changed method
PL	CON	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	x	0.1	U1	No data
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		27.2		
SI	CON	FV	U1	U1	XX	U1	x	1.5	U1	
ES	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		66.3	XX	Changed method
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		19.4	XX	
IT	MED	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		9.5	U1-	Changed method
PT	MED	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	-	4.9	U1-	
HU	PAN	U1	U2	U1	U1	U2	-	24.2	U2-	
RO	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		48.5		
SK	PAN	U1	U1	U1	XX	U1	=	27.3	U1	
RO	STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0		

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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
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	22
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	17
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	15
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	10
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	10
I03	Introduced species/genes	7
B01	Afforestation	5
B03	Forest exploitation	5
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	5
D05	Improved access to site	2

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	23
I03	Introduced species/genes	19
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	13
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	13
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	6
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	6
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	6
B01	Afforestation	4
B03	Forest exploitation	4
D05	Improved access to site	2

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:

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<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/species/summary/?group=Mammals&period=3&subject=Felis+silvestris>

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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.