Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Period 2007-2012

**European Environment
Agency**
*European Topic Centre
on Biological Diversity*

Rhinolophus hipposideros

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

Rhinolophus hipposideros

The lesser horseshoe bat is widely distributed through western, central and southern Europe and occurs from sea level to 2,000 m. According to IUCN Red List data, the species is infrequent in the northern part of its range and has generally moved in a more southerly direction.
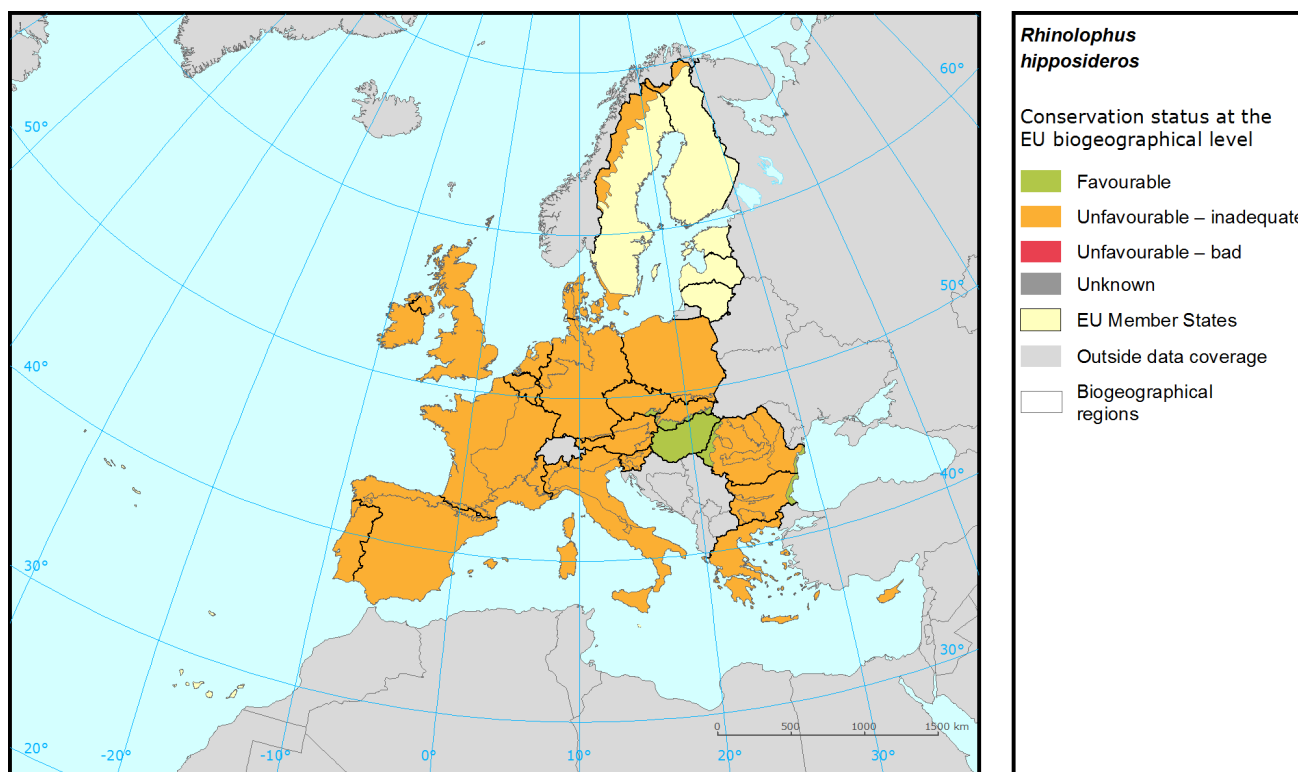
This species was reported for 7 biogeographical regions. While the previous reporting period had largely unknown conservation status reporting, all biogeographical regions supplied data for this period. The Black Sea and Pannonian regions were favourable, while the Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean and Steppic regions were unfavourable-inadequate.

The most commonly high ranked pressures and threats reported by Member States were the demolition, renovation and reconstruction of buildings, the closure of caves or galleries and recreational cave visits, followed by the use of biocides, hormones and chemicals. Although the species is widespread, the IUCN Red list classifies it as 'near threatened' due to substantial range reductions in the northern part of its distribution in the last half a century, ongoing declines and extinctions in the Netherlands, most of Belgium and western Germany (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/19518/1 consulted on 24 February 2015).

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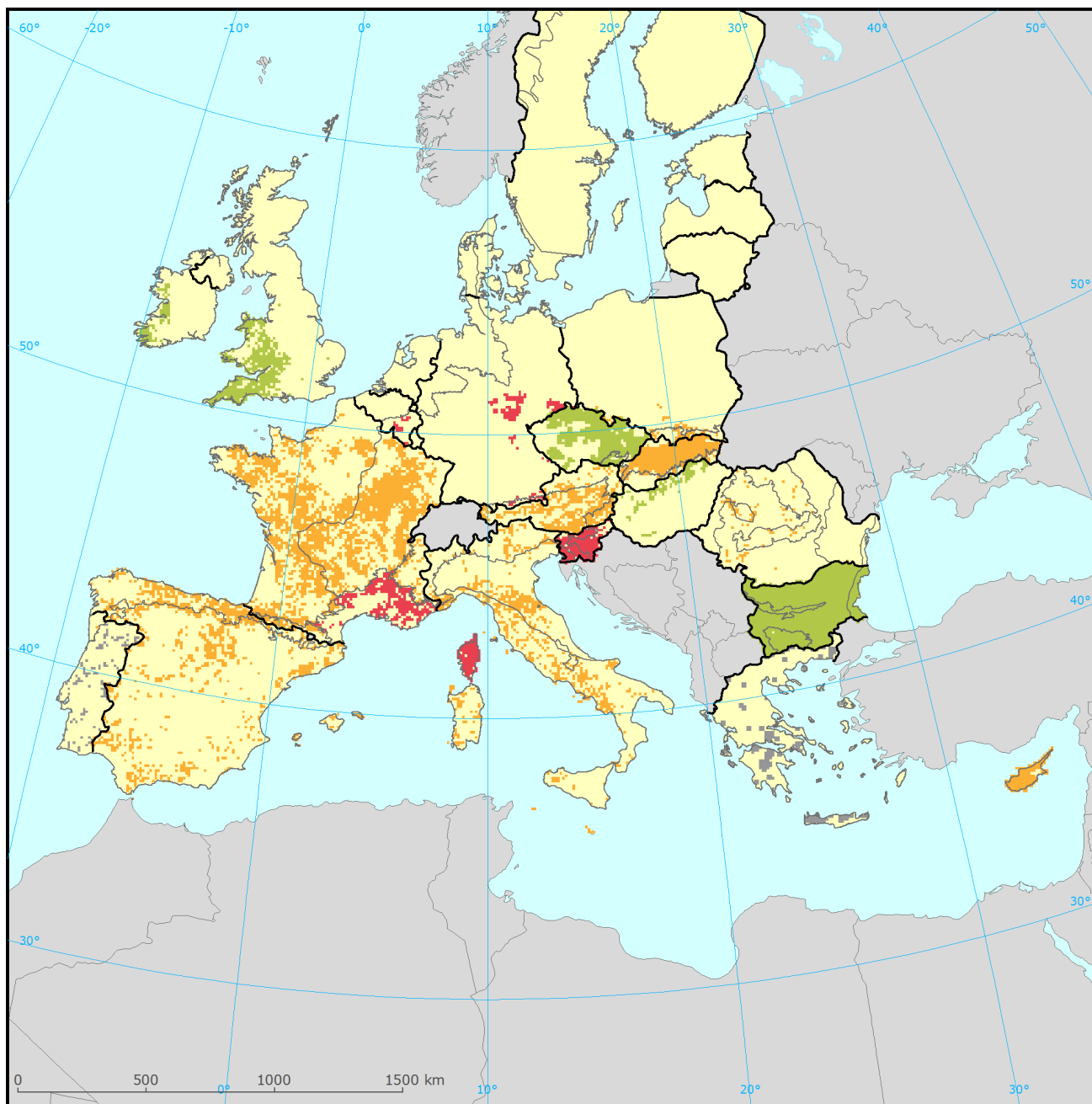## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level

See the endnote for more information[i]

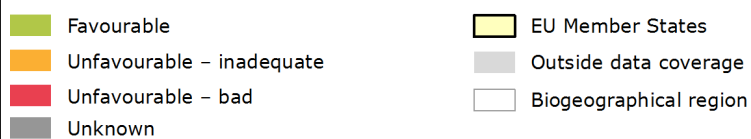| Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	U1	XX	U1	=	15	XX	Not genuine
ATL	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	22	U1	
BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	37	U1	
MED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	22	U2	Not genuine
PAN	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		2	XX	Not genuine
STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	0.03	XX	Not genuine

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level

Rhinolophus hipposideros

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.

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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					
AT	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	+	24.0	U1	Changed method
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		15.2		
DE	ALP	U2	U2	U1	U1	U2	+	1.0	U2	Better data
ES	ALP	U1	XX	U1	FV	U1	-	2.8	XX	Changed method
FR	ALP	FV	U1	FV	U1	U1	=	9.7	U1	
IT	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	8.2	U2-	Better data
PL	ALP	FV	FV	U1	FV	U1	+	3.0	U2	Better data
RO	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	3.0		
SI	ALP	FV	FV	U2	U1	U2	x	5.9	FV	Genuine
SK	ALP	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1	-	27.1	U1-	
ES	ATL	U1	XX	U1	U1	U1	-	13.0	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	59.2	U1	
IE	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.6	FV	
NL	ATL									
PT	ATL	U1	XX	XX	XX	U1	x	0.1	XX	Changed method
UK	ATL	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		23.0	FV	
BG	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0		
AT	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	3.5	U1	Changed method
BE	CON	FV	U2	XX	U2	U2	=	0.6	U2	
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		31.1		
CZ	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		16.1	U1	Genuine
DE	CON	U2	U1	U2	U1	U2	+	3.6	U2	Better data
FR	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	33.2	U1	
IT	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	5.6	U2-	Better data
PL	CON	FV	FV	U1	FV	U1	+	1.0	U1	Genuine
RO	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	1.6		
SI	CON	FV	FV	U2	U1	U2	x	3.6	FV	Genuine
CY	MED	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	x	7.0	XX	Better data
ES	MED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	39.0	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	U1	U1	U1	U2	U2	=	20.3	U2	
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		5.6	XX	
IT	MED	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	21.7	U2-	Better data
MT	MED	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	0.3	U1	
PT	MED	FV	FV	XX	XX	XX		6.1	U1-	Changed method

MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
CZ	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		14.3	U1	Genuine
HU	PAN	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		59.8	FV	
RO	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	2.1		
SK	PAN	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1	-	23.8	U1-	
RO	STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	100.0		

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
E06	Other urban/industrial developments	25
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	16
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	15
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	10
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	7
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	5
H06	Excess energy (noise, light, heating, electromagnetic)	5
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	3
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	3
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	2

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
E06	Other urban/industrial developments	20
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	16
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	15
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	11
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	7
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	6
H06	Excess energy (noise, light, heating, electromagnetic)	4
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	3
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	3
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	3

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	ATL	BLS	CON	MED	PAN	STE
AT	16			41			
BE				89			
BG	42		22	28			
CY					83		
CZ				42		70	
DE	94			68			
ES	4	9			34		
FR	20	32		53	20		
HU						60	
IE		42					
IT	x			x	x		
MT					61		
PL	67			67			
PT		x			x		
RO	100			100		100	100
SI	28			14			
SK	23					32	
UK		x					

See the endnotes for more information[ii]

Species: *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
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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
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	30
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	16
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	11
7.0	Other species management measures	8
3.2	Adapt forest management	6
6.4	Manage landscape features	4
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	4
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	3
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	3
6.0	Other spatial measures	3

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=Rhinolophus+hipposideros

[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.