European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Sicista betulina

Annex	IV
Priority	No
Species group	Mammals
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental

The Northern Birch Mouse (*Sicista betulina*) is distributed from central Europe and Fennoscandinavia to the far east Asia. In the EU the distribution is scattered and populations often isolated. It uses variety of habitats including boreal and montane forests, subalpine meadows and tundra.

Overall assessments are Unknown in the Boreal and Continental region and Unfavourable-Inadequete in the Alpine and Atlantic regions. Better information is required in the future.

The conservation status in the Atlantic region (Denmark) remains Unknown. More information is needed - e.g. population size and trend are unknown in both reporting rounds. No threats or pressures reported.

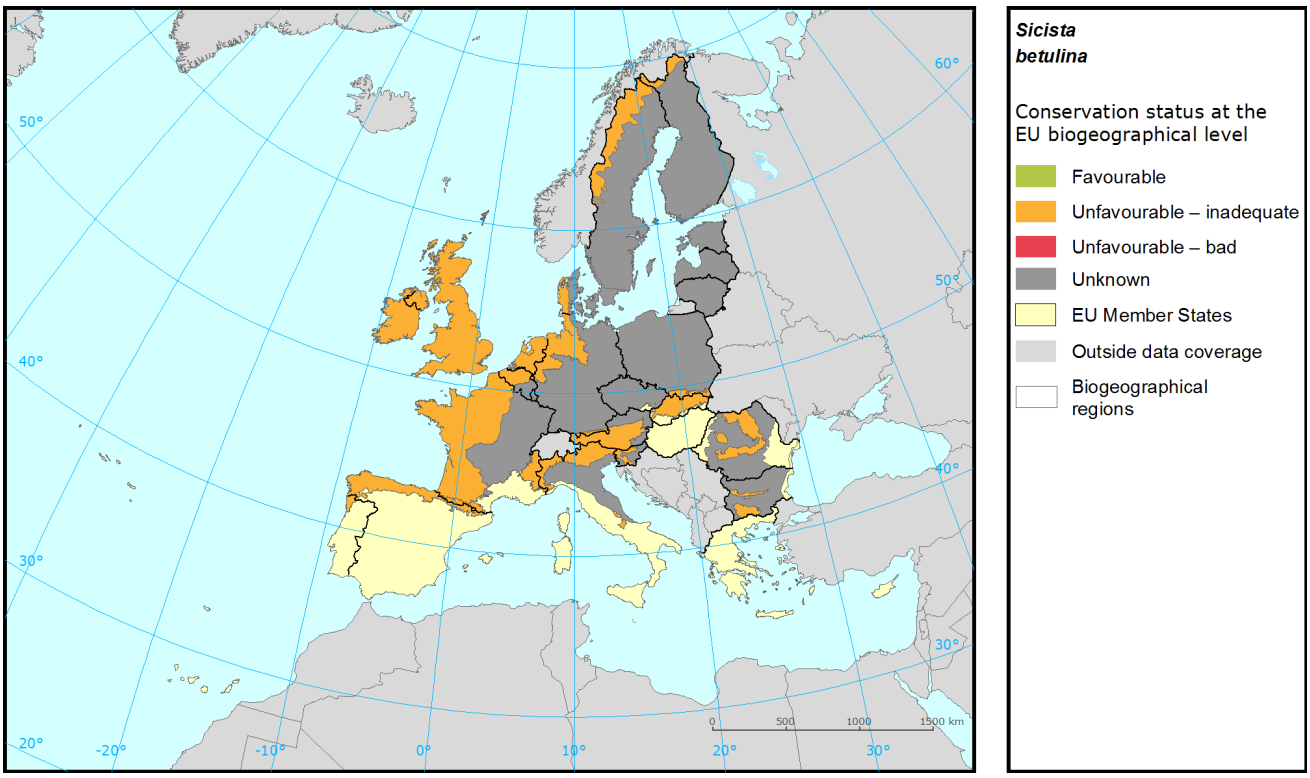
In the Boreal region the conservation status remains Unknown, largely because Estonia has biggest distribution and reports Unknown to all parameters. Clearly more information in the Boreal region is needed on this species. Only Lithuania reports human induced changes in hydraulic conditions as threat of high importance and at the same time Lithuania is the only country within EU reporting increasing trend in population.

In the Alpine region the consevation status remains as Unfavourable-Inadequate. Only Sweden reports Favourable status. Poland is only country reporting major threats and pressures, namely removal of dead wood and removal of forest undergrowth. Most countries don't have good data on this species.

Conservation status is Unknown in the Continental region where the species has scattered and isolated distribution. The status was the same in the reporting round. Lack of data is evident in almost all countries. Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic report removal of forest undergrowth or dead wood, forest exploitation without replanting and agricultural intensification as threats and pressures of high importance.

According to IUCN, species is ‘least concern’.

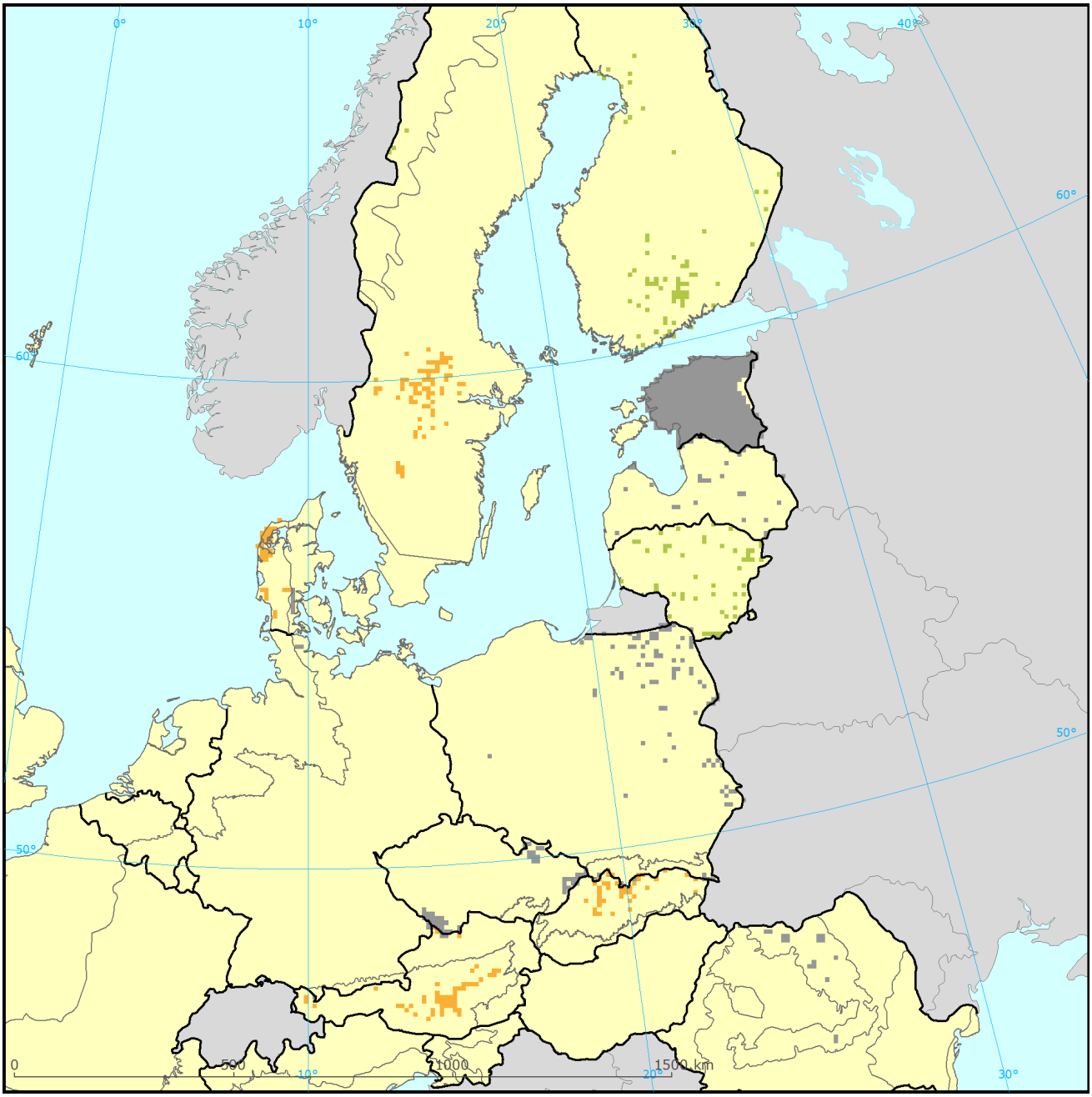
Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	x	12	U1	
ATL	U1	XX	XX	XX	U1	x	3	XX	Not genuine
BOR	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	69	XX	
CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	15	XX	

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Sicista betulina

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					
AT	ALP	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	x	42.0	U1	
DE	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		0.8	XX	
PL	ALP	XX	XX	FV	XX	XX		6.7	XX	
RO	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		14.3		
SE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.5	FV	
SK	ALP	U1	XX	U1	U1	U1	-	33.6	U1-	
DK	ATL	U1	XX	XX	XX	U1	x	100.0	XX	Better data
EE	BOR	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		67.4	XX	
FI	BOR	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		10.5	FV	
LT	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.4	FV	
LV	BOR	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		3.8	FV	
SE	BOR	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	x	10.9	FV	No data
AT	CON	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	x	2.1	U1	
CZ	CON	FV	XX	FV	XX	XX		34.5	XX	
DE	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		2.1	XX	
DK	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		4.1	XX	
PL	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		57.2	XX	
RO	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				

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
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	50
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	25
B03	Forest exploitation	25

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	40
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	20
B03	Forest exploitation	20
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	20

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=Sicista+betulina

[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.