



Ursus arctos

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

The brown bear is a very adaptable and widely distributed carnivore, although European populations are highly fragmented, and some are extremely small and isolated, especially in the south.

The conservation status is Favourable in the Alpine, Boreal and Continental regions and Unfavourable-Inadequate in the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions. The biggest change between the reporting rounds is in the Continental region (from Unfavourable-Bad status to Favourable) due to the big population in Romania.

The main pressures to the species are trapping, poisoning and poaching, hunting, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity, habitat fragmentation due to the construction of large infrastructures (highways), continuous urbanisation, antagonism with domestic animals, human intrusions and disturbances (outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities...), bad habitat management, diseases, reduced fecundity and genetic depression.

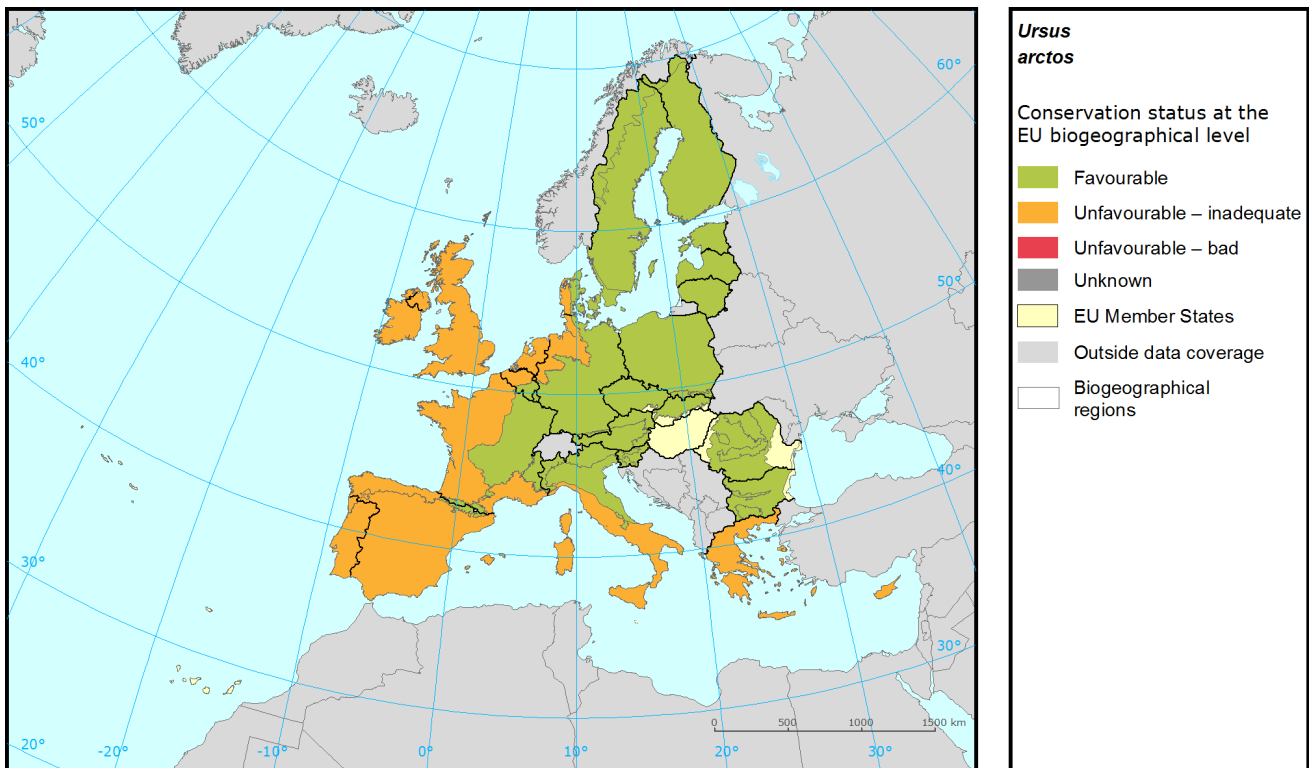
The Favourable conservation status of the bear in the Alpine Bulgaria is questionable as it is Endangered in the Bulgarian Red Data Book, trends are reported unknown and several threats and pressures of high importance are reported by Bulgaria. In addition, WWF BG argues that in the National Brown bear Management plan the potential reference population of the bear on national level is 1200-1300 individuals and the modelling method used by Bulgaria has a tendency to provide potentially too optimistic values.

The species is classified by IUCN in Europe as 'Least concern' (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41688/1> consulted on 28 April 2014), with some of the subpopulations classified as 'Vulnerable' or even 'Critically Endangered'.

Species: *Ursus arctos*

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



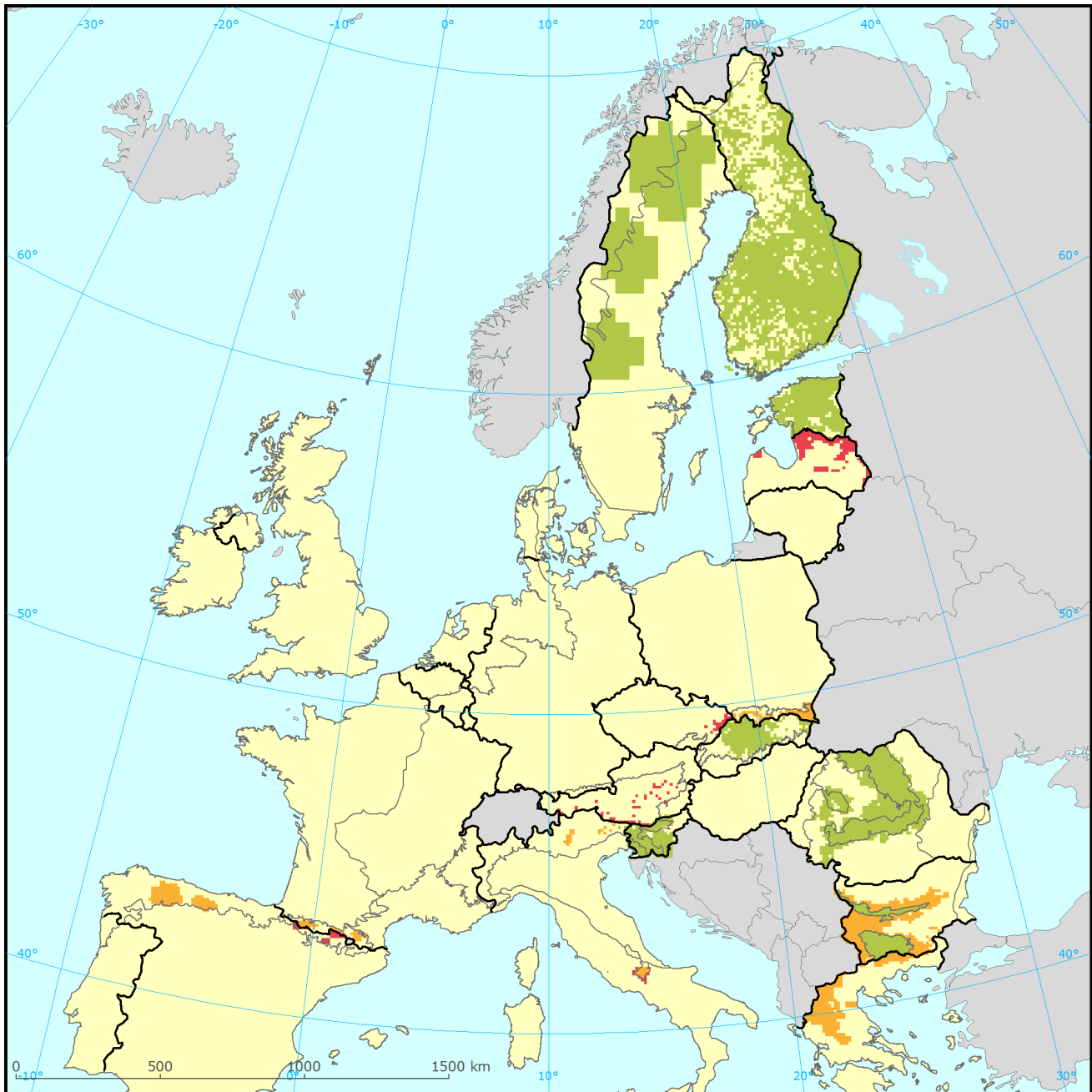
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		25	FV	
ATL	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	+	2	U1	
BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		58	FV	
CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		12	U2	Not genuine
MED	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	x	3	U1	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Ursus arctos

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					
AT	ALP	U2	U2	FV	U2	-	2.7	U2	Genuine	
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		10.5			
ES	ALP	U1	U2	U1	U1	+	1.5	FV	Changed method	
FI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.0	FV		
FR	ALP	FV	U1	FV	U1	+	2.1	U1		
IT	ALP	U1	U1	FV	U1	+	2.1	U2+	Genuine	
PL	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	4.2	U1		
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		28.7			
SE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		29.7			
SI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		5.1	FV		
SK	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		12.5	FV		
ES	ATL	U1	U1	FV	U1	+	100.0	U1	Genuine	
EE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV		9.5	FV		
FI	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV		59.9	FV		
LV	BOR	FV	U2	FV	XX	+	3.6	U2+		
SE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV		27.0			
BG	CON	FV	U1	U1	FV	=	44.3			
CZ	CON	U2	U2	U1	U1	=		U2		
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		43.0			
SI	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		12.7	FV		
GR	MED	U1+	U1+	U1+	FV		94.9	U1+		
IT	MED	U2	U2	FV	U2	-	5.1	U2+	Better data	

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.

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	30
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	15
B03	Forest exploitation	8
E03	Discharges (household/industrial)	8
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	8
A04	Grazing by livestock	5
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	5
G02	Sport and leisure infrastructures	5
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	5
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	5

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	31
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	13
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	8
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	8
A04	Grazing by livestock	5
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	5
B03	Forest exploitation	5
G02	Sport and leisure infrastructures	5
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	5
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	5

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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	BOR	CON	MED
AT	0				
BG	70			51	
CZ				100	
EE			x		
ES	100	100			
FI	x		x		
FR	98				
IT	x				x
LV			16		
PL	100				
RO	40			7	
SE	x		x		
SI	89			81	
SK	53				

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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	29
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	21
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	8
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	8
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	5
6.0	Other spatial measures	5
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	5
8.2	Specific management of traffic and energy transport systems	5
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	5
6.4	Manage landscape features	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=Ursus+arctos>

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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.

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.