European Environment Agency
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity

Emys orbicularis

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

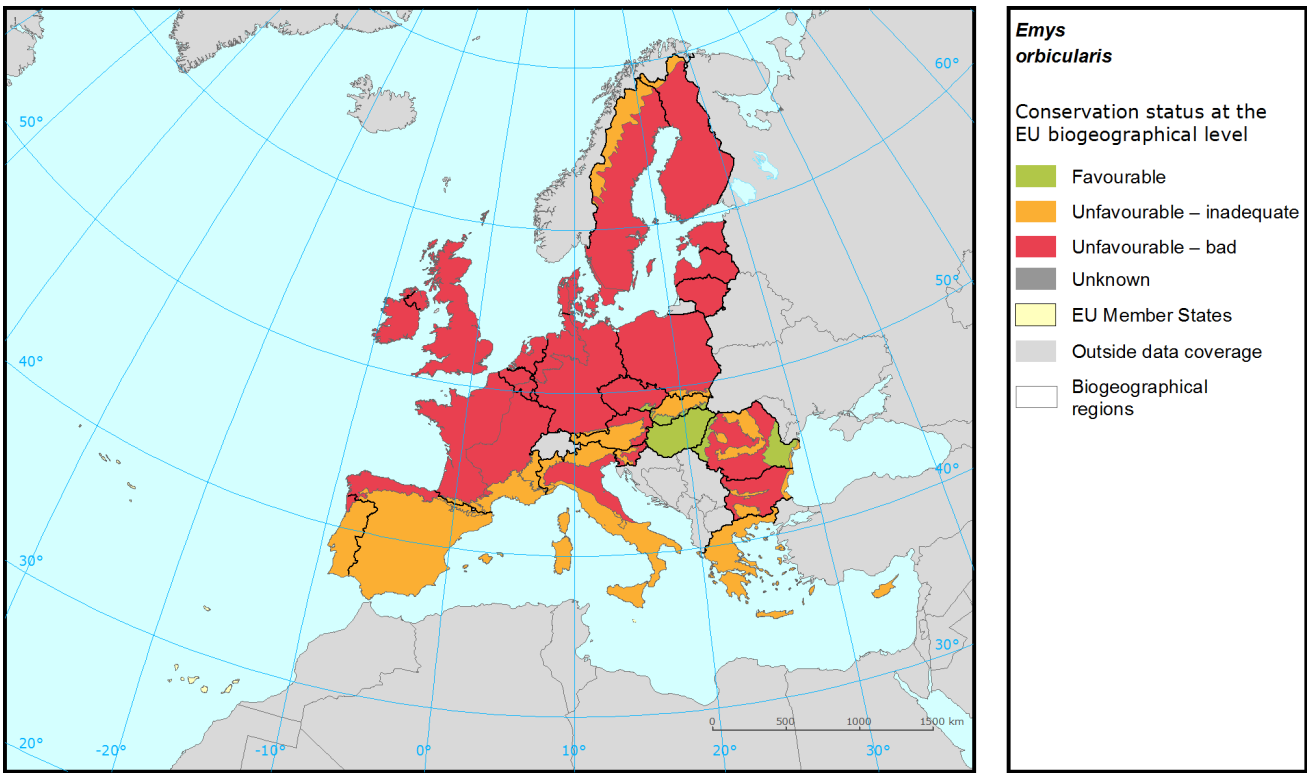
Emys orbicularis

The European Pond Turtle is found across large parts of in southern, central and eastern Europe, West Asia and North Africa, however, according to the IUCN Red List it now has a very fragmented distribution. It lives in and around freshwater or brackish waterbodies with slow-flowing or standing water.

The species was reported for 8 biogeographical regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian and Steppic), and there is significant variance in the conservation status across the regions. Three biogeographical regions are assessed as 'unfavourable-bad' (Atlantic, Boreal, Continental), all three of which were unchanged from the previous reporting period. On the Member State level, however, a change in assessment from the previous reporting period was made by Latvia, France, Poland and Slovenia. Three biogeographical regions are assessed as 'unfavourable-inadequate' (Alpine, Black Sea, Mediterranean). The Alpine and Mediterranean regions are assessed as having changed from the previous reporting period from 'unfavourable-bad' (Alpine) and 'unknown' (Mediterranean). Finally, two biogeographical regions were assessed as 'favourable' (Pannonian and Steppic), which is unchanged from the previous reporting period for the Pannonian region. The current reporting period is the first reporting period that Bulgaria and Romania participated in and therefore no reports are available for the previous reporting period for the Black Sea and Steppic regions.

In IUCN Red List classified the species as near threatened due to significant population decline and widespread habitat loss through much of its range (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/7717/1 consulted on 25 February 2015). In addition, a number of high-ranked pressures and threats were reported by Member States, including reduction of habitat connectivity, invasive-non-native species, cultivation, changes in hydraulic conditions, roads, paths and railroads and continuous urbanisation.

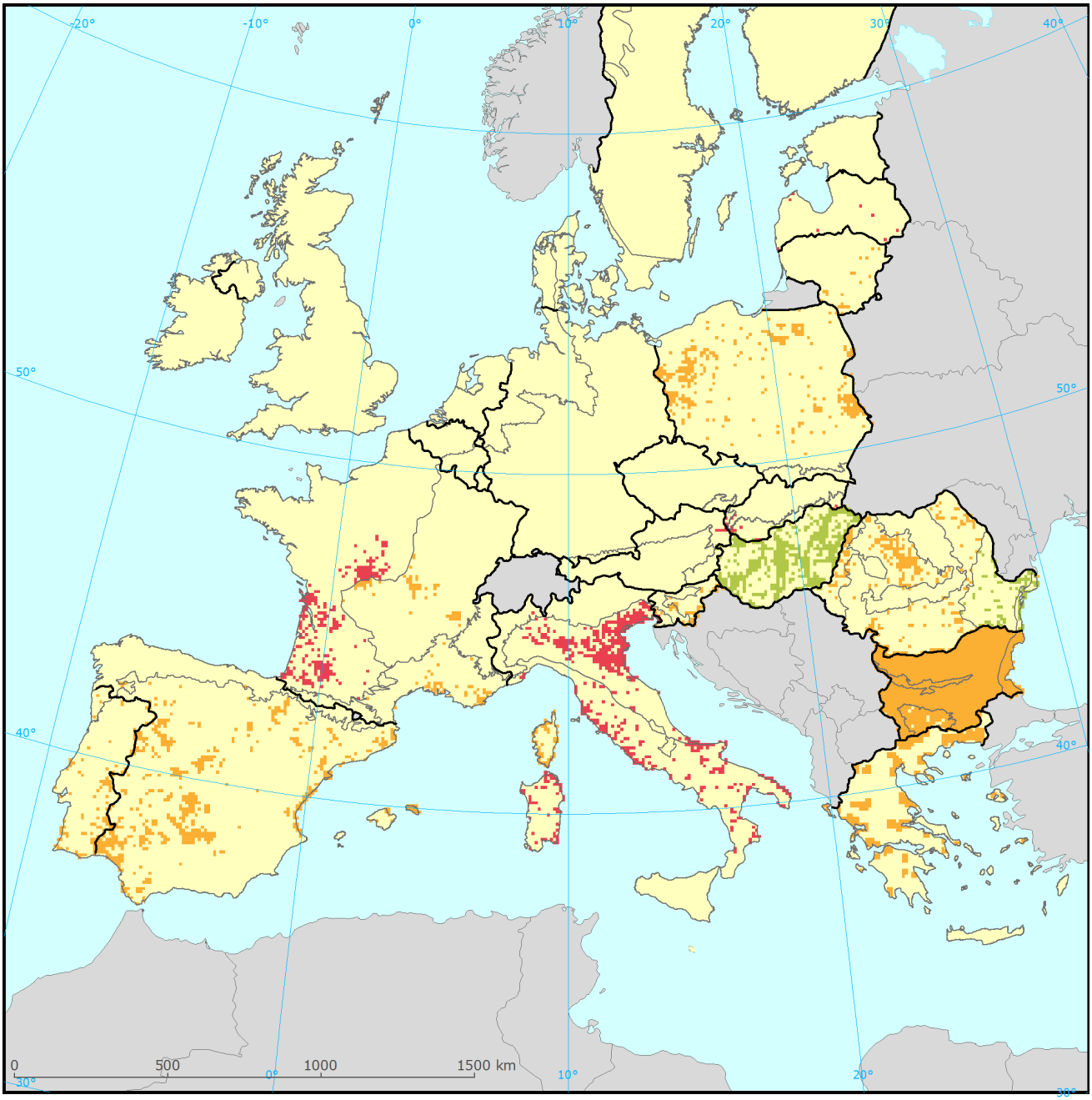
Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



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	U1	U1	x	4	U2	Not genuine
ATL	FV	U1	XX	U2	U2	-	5	U2	
BLS	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	3	XX	Not genuine
BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	0.67	U2	
CON	U2	U2	U1	U1	U2	-	45	U2	
MED	XX	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	28	XX	Not genuine
PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		12	FV	
STE	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		1	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Emys orbicularis

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					
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	95.3		
IT	ALP	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	0.6	XX	Better data
SI	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	4.1	U2	Changed method
FR	ATL	FV	U1	XX	U2	U2	-	97.4	U2	
PT	ATL	XX	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	2.6	U1	
BG	BLS	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	75.9		
RO	BLS	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		24.1		
LT	BOR	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	67.9	U2	Better data
LV	BOR	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	32.1	U2	
AT	CON	U2	U1	U1	U2	U2	=	0.3	U2	
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	48.5		
DE	CON	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	3.6	U2	
FR	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	3.1	U2	Better data
IT	CON	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	15.1	XX	Better data
PL	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	16.1	U2	Better data
RO	CON	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1		11.5		
SI	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	1.8	U2	Changed method
ES	MED	XX	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	46.3	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	7.8	U2	Changed method
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1		16.5	U1	
IT	MED	U2	U2	U1	U1	U2	-	20.8	XX	Better data
PT	MED	XX	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	8.6	U1	
HU	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		89.0	FV	
RO	PAN	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1		8.3		
SK	PAN	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	2.6	U2-	
RO	STE	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		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
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	18
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	12
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	7
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	7
I01	Invasive alien species	7
A01	Agricultural cultivation	6
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	6
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	3
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	3
E04	Scattered structures and buildings	3

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	18
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	11
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	11
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	7
I01	Invasive alien species	7
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	7
A01	Agricultural cultivation	5
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	5
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	3
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	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	BOR	CON	MED	PAN	STE
AT					95			
BG	x		22		x			
DE					65			
ES						11		
FR		x			x	x		
HU							85	
IT	x				x	x		
LT				48				
LV				20				
PL					42			
PT		x				x		
RO			100		55		50	49
SI	100				67			
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
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	16
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	14
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	12
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	12
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	10
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	9
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	9
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	5
7.2	Regulation/ Management of fishery in limnic systems	5
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	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=Reptiles&period=3&subject=Emys+orbicularis

[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.