



Testudo graeca

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

Testudo graeca

The Common Tortoise is widely distributed around the Mediterranean, as well as Bulgaria and Romania. Outside the European Union it is found in the Middle East and North Africa. According to the IUCN Red List this species inhabits dry, open scrubby habitats, meadows and pastures, sand dunes, forest, heathlands, and open habitats.

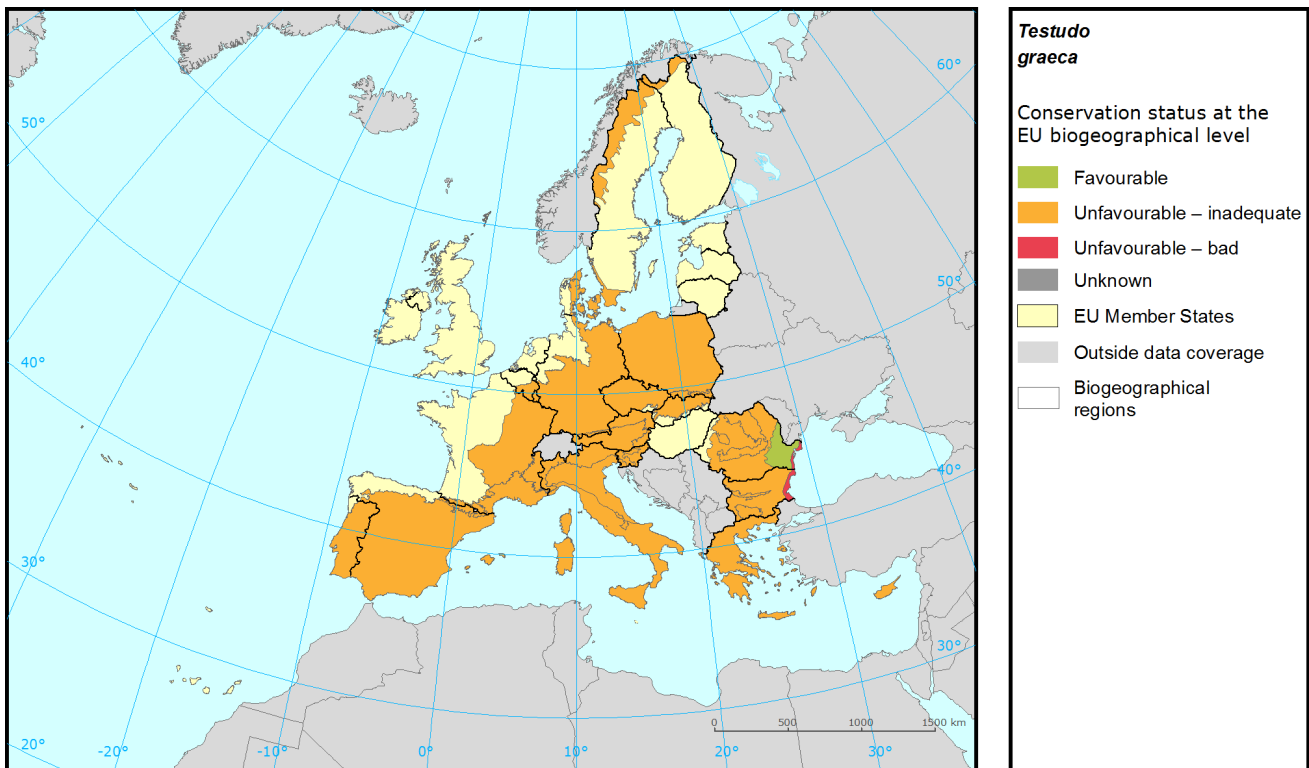
The species was reported for the Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean and Steppic biogeographical regions. Of these, more than half (Alpine, Continental, Mediterranean) were assessed as having an 'unfavourable-inadequate' conservation status, whereas the Steppic region was assessed as 'favourable' and the Black Sea region was assessed as 'unfavourable-bad'. The Mediterranean region remained unchanged compared to the previous reporting period, whereas the current reporting period is the first reporting period that Bulgaria and Romania participated in and therefore no reports are available from the previous reporting period for the other regions. While Romania and Italy assessed the conservation status of the species as 'favourable', Greece and Spain reported the species as 'unfavourable-inadequate' and Bulgaria assessed the species differently across all three biogeographical regions for which it provided reports. High-ranked pressures and threats reported for the species include collection of animals, fire, waste, buildings and structures, and loss of habitat features.

The IUCN Red List classifies the species as vulnerable due to large population declines over the last three generations (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/21646/1> consulted on 25 February 2015).

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



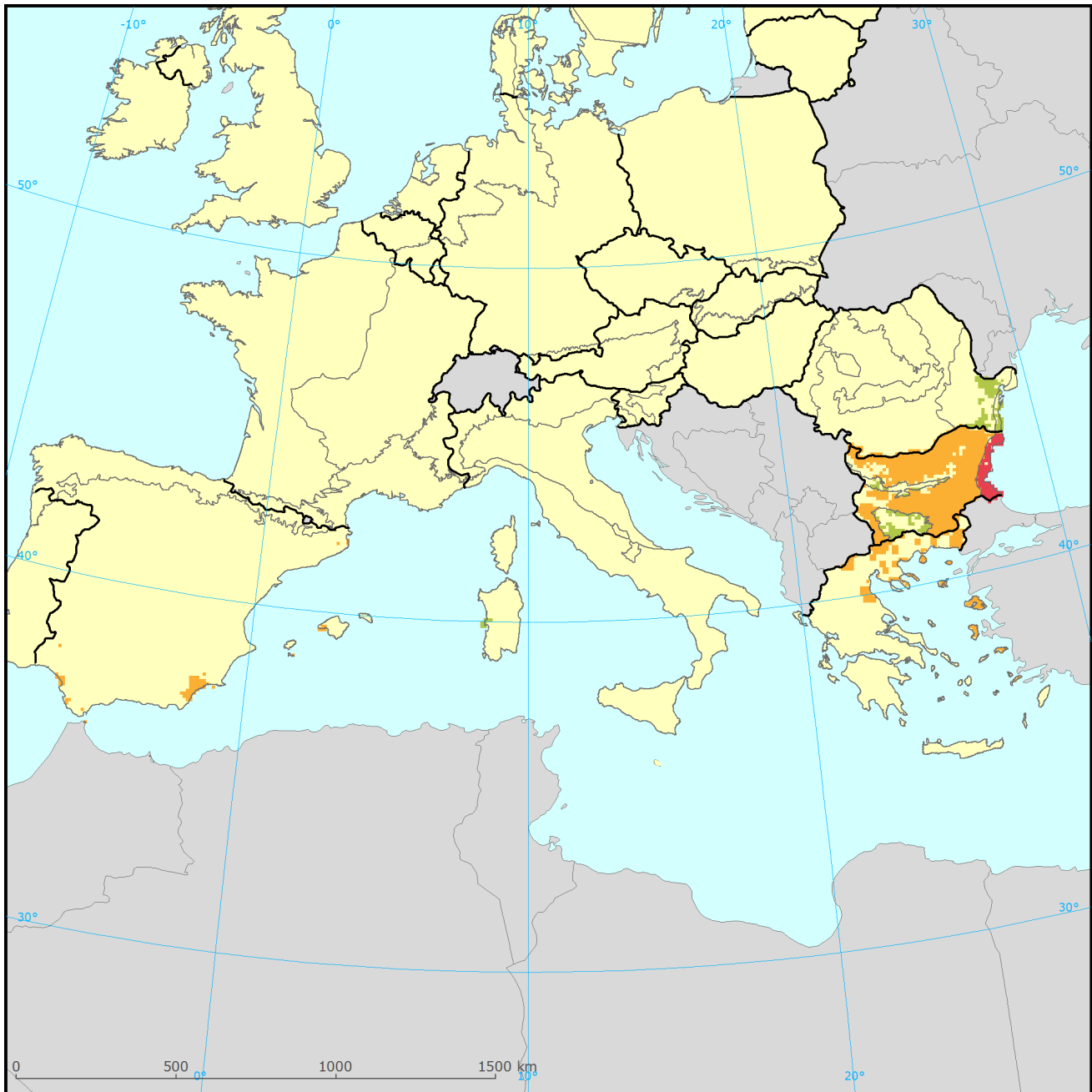
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	6	XX	Not genuine
BLS	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2	-	8	XX	Not genuine
CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	63	XX	Not genuine
MED	U1	XX	U1	U1	U1	-	18	U1	
STE	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		5	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



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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	FV	FV		100.0		
BG BLS	FV	FV	FV	U2	U2	-	79.2		
RO BLS	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		20.8		
BG CON	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	100.0		
ES MED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	27.1	XX	Changed method
GR MED	FV	XX	U1	U1	U1		69.6	U1	
IT MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.3	FV	
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
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	31
J01	Fire and fire suppression	31
E04	Scattered structures and buildings	15
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excl. discharges)	15
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	8

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

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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	BLS	CON	MED	STE
BG	x	x	x		
ES				12	
IT				x	
RO		100			100

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	27
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	20
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	20
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	20
7.0	Other species management measures	7
8.2	Specific management of traffic and energy transport systems	7

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=Testudo+graeca>

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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.