



Vipera ursinii rakosiensis

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Annex | II, IV |
| Priority | Yes |
| Species group | Reptiles |
| Regions | Continental, Pannonian |

The Hungarian meadow viper, a sub-species of the meadow viper, is endemic to the Carpathian basin. Within the EU it occurs in Hungary and Romania. It is a grassland species, inhabiting mainly steppic grasslands.

In the Pannonian region the conservation status is Unfavourable-Bad as in the previous reporting round, however the trend in conservation status is increasing (range and population size are increasing but both are much lower than favourable reference values). The population size is 500-700 individuals and it occurs in two isolated populations in Hungary. Hungary reports modification of cultivation practices, other human intrusions and disturbances and intensive grazing as threats and pressures of high importance.

During the reporting period a LIFE project focusing on the Hungarian meadow viper aimed to increase favourable habitat areas and release vipers from breeding program to natural habitats.

According to Romania the conservation status in the Continental region is Favourable, however it is more likely to be Unfavourable-Inadequate as trend in most parameters is reported as decreasing. Romanian population is reported to be 100-300 individuals in two separate populations. No threats or pressures of high importance are reported.

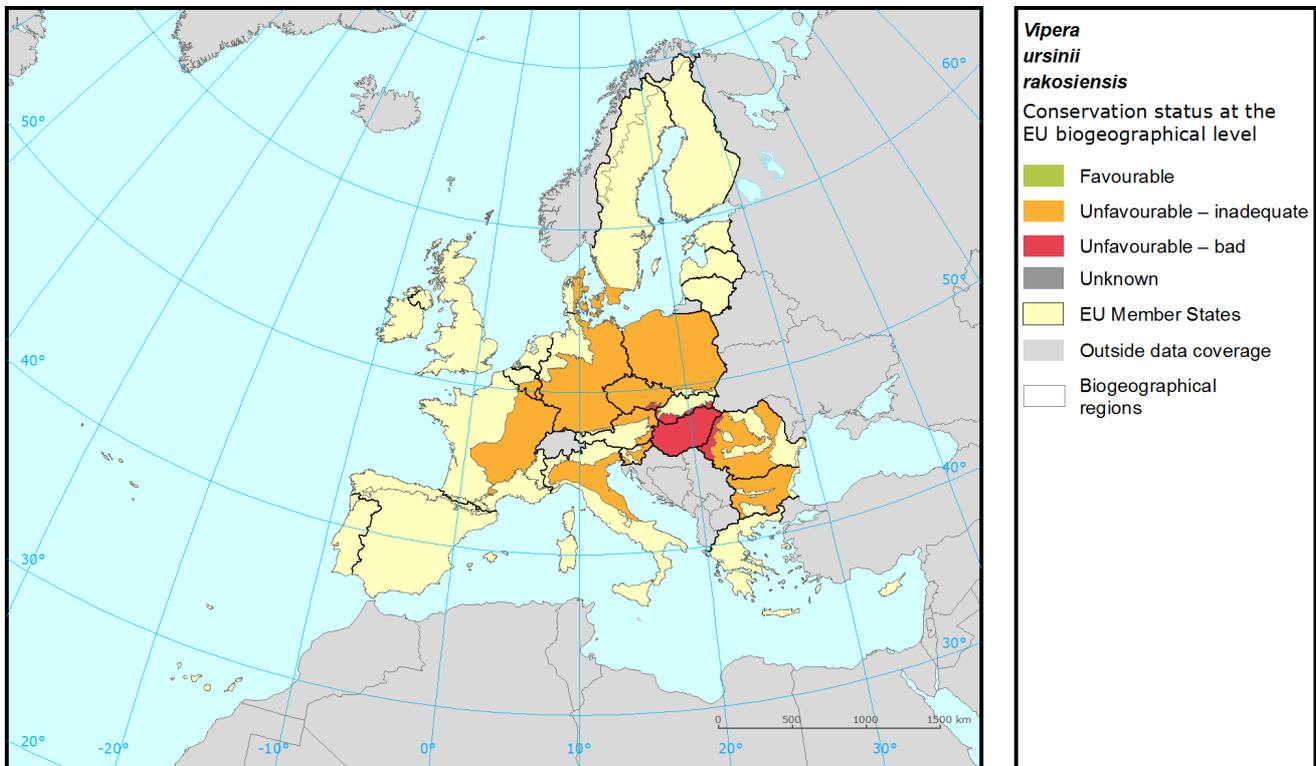
Although considered extinct in Austria, it occurs in the Hungarian part of the 'Transboundary Ramsar Site Neusiedler See-Seewinkel – Fertő-Hanság' (according to the NGO Protect).

The European Red List by IUCN in 2008 didn't cover this subspecies.

Species: *Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*

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 | | | | | |
| CON | U1 | U1 | FV | FV | U1 | = | 18 | XX | Not genuine |
| PAN | U2 | U2 | U1 | U1 | U2 | + | 82 | U2 | |

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Vipera ursinii rakosiensis

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 | | | | | |
| RO | CON | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | 100.0 | | | |
| HU | PAN | U2 | U2 | U1 | U1 | U2 | + | 100.0 | U2 | Genuine |

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 |
|------|---|-----------|
| A02 | Modification of cultivation practices | 33 |
| A04 | Grazing by livestock | 33 |
| G05 | Other human intrusions and disturbances | 33 |

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

| Code | Activity | Frequency |
|------|---|-----------|
| A02 | Modification of cultivation practices | 50 |
| G05 | Other human intrusions and disturbances | 50 |

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

| | CON | PAN |
|----|-----|-----|
| HU | | 100 |
| RO | 100 | |

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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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 |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| 2.1 | Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats | 100 |

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=Vipera+ursinii+rakosiensis>

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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.