



Vipera ursinii

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

The Meadow Viper is a terrestrial snake species which occurs in nearly all countries between France and China, but is patchily distributed. It is extinct in Austria and Bulgaria.

In the Alpine region (concerns France and Italy) the conservation status is Unfavourable-Bad with stable trend in the conservation status (it was Unfavourable-Bad also in the previous reporting round). This is largely due to bad conservation status in France (Italy reports Favourable). France reports several threats and pressures of high importance, namely grazing, recreational activities, forest planting on open ground and fire.

The conservation status in the Continental region is Unfavourable-Inadequate (concerns Italy and Romania). Romania reports agricultural intensification and animal breeding as major threats and pressures.

In the Mediterranean region the conservation status is Unfavourable-Bad (as last time) but with stable trend in conservation status. The worst situation is reported from France (Greek data is from 2001-2006). France reports the same major threats and pressures as for the Alpine region.

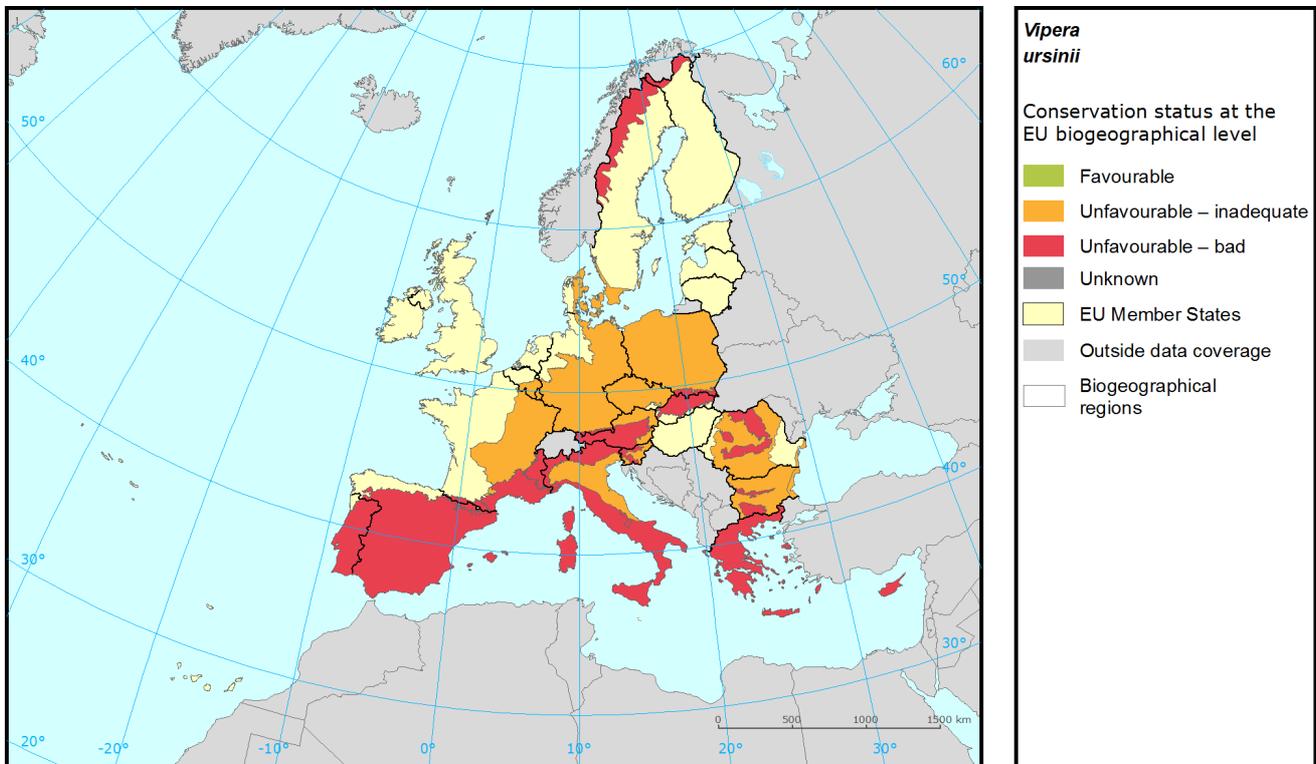
The conservation status is Unfavourable-Inadequate in the Black Sea region (concerns only Romania). Urbanisation is reported as a threat and pressure of high importance by Romania.

According to IUCN this species is Vulnerable.

Species: *Vipera ursinii*

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	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	20	U2	
BLS	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	13	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	29	U1	
MED	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	39	U2	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Vipera ursinii

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					
FR ALP	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	36.4	U2	
IT ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		63.6	U1	Better data
RO BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1		100.0		
IT CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		68.8	U1	Better data
RO CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1		31.2		
FR MED	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	59.1	U2	
GR MED	FV	U1	XX	U1	U1		31.8	U1	
IT MED	FV	U1	FV	U1	U1	-	9.1	U1-	

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
A04	Grazing by livestock	29
B01	Afforestation	29
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	14
A05	Farming and breeding of livestock	14
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	14

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A04	Grazing by livestock	18
B01	Afforestation	18
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	18
J01	Fire and fire suppression	18
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	9
A05	Farming and breeding of livestock	9
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	9

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
FR	0			100
IT	x		x	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
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	57
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	29
7.0	Other species management measures	14

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>

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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.