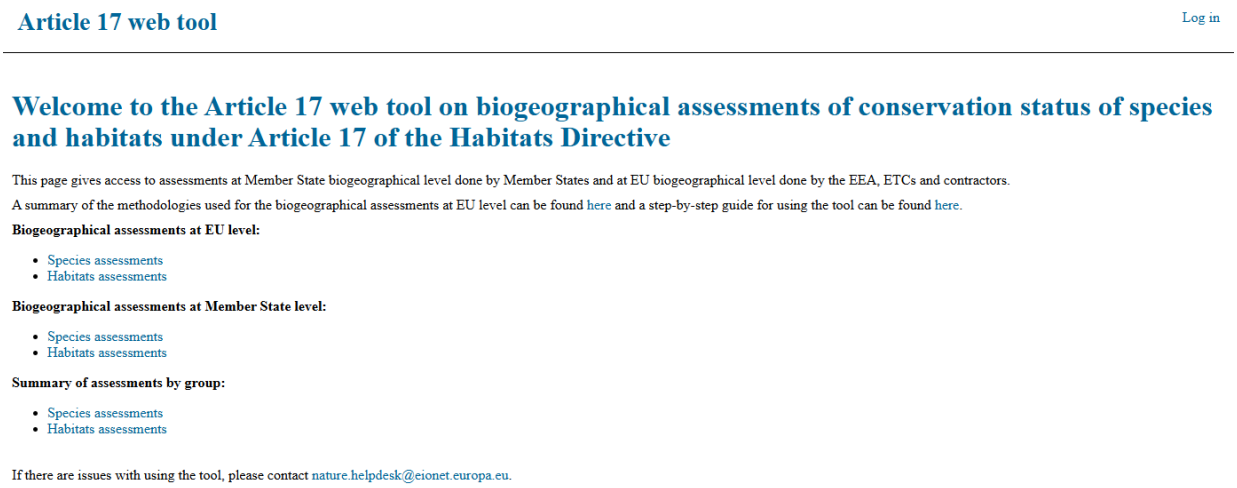
Guidance on using the Article 17 Biogeographical Assessment tool

The following is a step-by-step manual guide to using the Article 17 Biogeographic Assessment Tool.

The screenshots below refer to a species assessment, however the same process is applicable to a habitats assessment.

1. Accessing the tool

The assessment tool is accessed at https://nature-art17.eionet.europa.eu/article17/



There is no 'Log in' required to use the tool

Both the habitats and species assessments are accessible from the same home page.

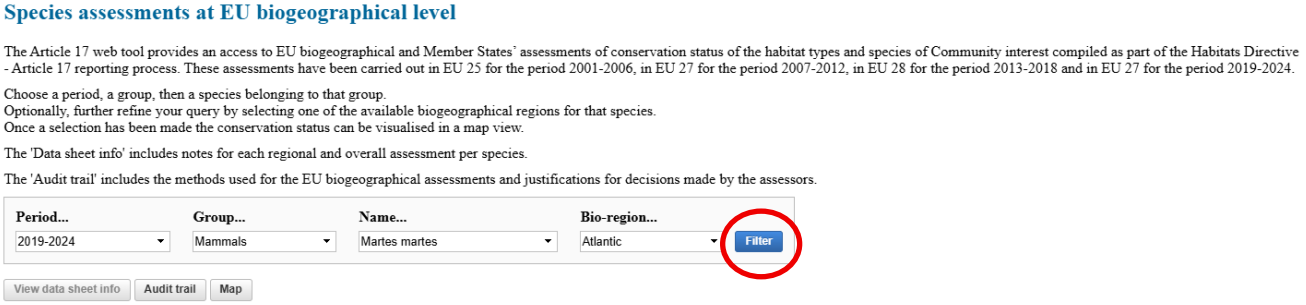
The assessments can be viewed in 3 ways:

- EU level
- Member State level
- By habitat or species group

To view the overall EU Conservation Status assessment for a habitat or species, this is accessed through the 'Biogeographical assessments at EU level'.

2. Assessments at EU Biogeographical level

Selecting 'Biogeographical assessments at EU level' and 'Species assessments' will lead to the page below with a choice of filters for more information on a specific species.



Once these 4 options have been chosen and ‘Filter’ clicked, both the Member States reports and the EU biogeographical assessments are shown as follows:

Legend: FV Favourable XX Unknown U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate U2 Unfavourable-Bad

Current selection: 2019-2024, Mammals, Martes martes, Atlantic. **Annexes** N, N, Y. Show all Mammals

Member States reports

2

MS	Range (km²)					Population											Habitat for the species					Future prospects				Overall assessment						Distribution area (km²)		
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Range vs FRR predefined	Min	Max	Best value	Unit	Size class in individuals	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	Trend magnitude min - max	FRP	Population vs FRP predefined	Unit	Area occupied sufficient	Quality occupied sufficient	Unoccupied suff.	Status	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	Distrib.	Method	% MS
BE	19600	4.73	I	predefined	aeq	161	380	271	i	N/A	estimate	completeSurvey	0.31	I	13 | 25	predefined	aeq	i	yes	Yes	yes	FV	S	good	good	unk	FV	FV	I	U1	I	genuine	genuine	9200	estimatePartial	2.65
DE	70486.74	17	S	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	N/A	i	N/A		absentData	0	S		predefined	aeq		yes	Yes		FV	S	good	good	unk	FV	FV	S	FV	S	noChange	noChange	44500	estimatePartial	12.82
DK	N/A	0	Unk	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	N/A	i	N/A		absentData	0	Unk	x	x			yes	Unknown	unknown	XX	Unk	good	unk	unk	XX	XX	Unk	XX		unknown	unknown	N/A	absentData	0
ES	37200	8.97	S	predefined	aeq	176	17600	N/A	i	N/A		estimatePartial	10.02	Unk		17600		i				XX	Unk	N/A	N/A	N/A	U1	U1	Unk	U1	Unk	noChange	noChange	17900	N/A	5.16
FR	190900	46.03	S	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	N/A	i	8	estimate	estimatePartial	84.55	S	x	predefined	aeq		yes	Yes		FV	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	S	FV	S	noChange	noChange	197500	estimatePartial	56.92
IE	67300	16.23	I	38200		2330	3852	3043	i	N/A	estimate	completeSurvey	3.43	I	x	3043		i	yes	Yes		FV	I	good	good	good	FV	FV	I	FV	I	noChange	noChange	48900	completeSurvey	14.09
NL	28300	6.82	I	predefined	aeq	1000	2000	N/A	i	N/A	estimate	estimatePartial	1.69	I	x	predefined	aeq		yes	Yes		FV	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	I	FV	I	noChange	noChange	28300	completeSurvey	8.16
PT	900	0.22	S	x		N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		absentData	0	Unk		x			no	Yes	unknown	XX	S	good	poor	good	U1	U1	S	XX		knowledge	knowledge	700	estimatePartial	0.20

1

Automatic Assessments Show 3

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections 4

Dec.	MS/EU27	Surface	Status Range	Trend	FRR	Range vs FRR predefined	Min	Max	Best value	Unit				Status Population	Trend	Trend magnitude (min)	FRP	Population vs RFP predefined	Unit				Status Hab. for species	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status Future prosp.	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.		
OK	EU27	414686.74	2	+	>388942.11		53667.0	123832.0	88702	i				2	=		>99391.80		i				2	=				2	MTX	+	FV	+	nc	nc	0/0	EEA – ETC BE

5

6

1. **Member State reported data:** values directly extracted from the Member State reported data (after a data cleaning procedure). The percentage values (under % MS) are calculated as a part of the data compilation and tool preparation stage and they inform on a proportion of a biogeographical range, area/population or distribution within a MS. This information is used for weighting the Member State assessments as outlined in the 'methods' document.

2. **Parameters:** The 4 parameters used in the assessment are listed in the order they are reported by the Member State: range, population, habitat for the species & future prospects for species, range, area, structure & function and future prospects for habitats. The overall assessment of Conservation Status and trend in Conservation Status, including the reason for change, as reported are listed in addition to the previous Conservation Status and Trend in Conservation Status (for the 2013 – 2019 period). The gridded distribution corresponds to the area as reported by the Member State in their spatial delivery.

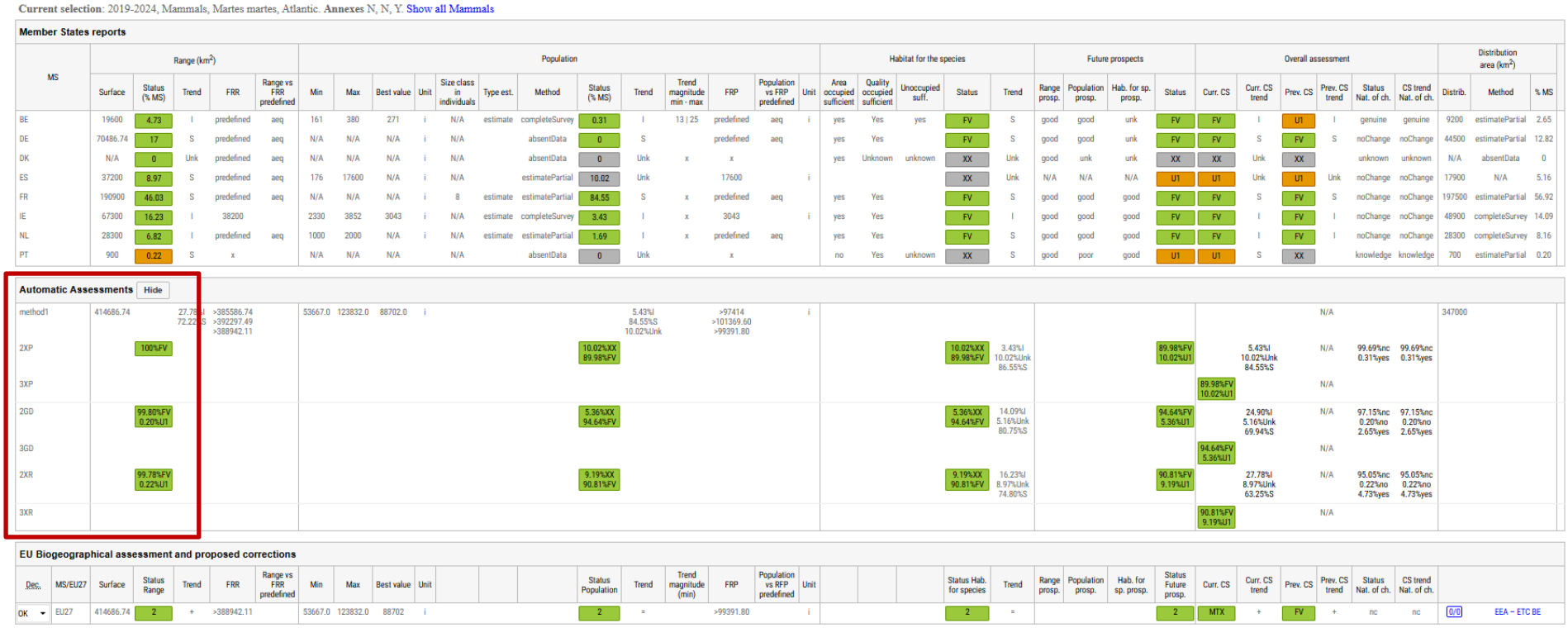
3. **Automatic assessments:** When clicked, this section shows the automated calculations for different assessment methods (described below and expanded on in the accompanying methodology document – *Article 17 biogeographical assessments - Methodology*).

4. **EU biogeographical assessments**: This is where the results of the EU assessment are located. It can be one line (when a filter for bioregion is set to a particular region); official assessment with no additional lines from the public consultation process) or additional lines where stakeholders/national experts have contributed to the process.

5. **EU biogeographic assessment conclusion**: The final conclusion is denoted by the authors organisation. Any other lines are comments or references to this assessment line.

6. **Consultation comment**: This appears where a stakeholder or national expert commented on a specific part of the original assessment, or commented on a specific Member State instead of EU level, or submitted an alternative parameter conclusion or an entire assessment line using an alternative method and/or a new conclusion.

When the ‘Automatic assessments’ section is expanded, the results of the automatic calculation based on Member State reported data using different methodologies during the EU assessment are displayed. Based on the quality of data submitted by all Member States, the assessor chooses the appropriate method to accept, providing the most accurate result for the assessment at regional level. An audit trail of how an assessor’s decision was reached is described below.



Current selection: 2019-2024, Mammals, Martes martes, Atlantic. **Annexes** N, N, Y. Show all Mammals

Member States reports

MS	Range (km²)					Population											Habitat for the species					Future prospects				Overall assessment						Distribution area (km²)		
	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Range vs FRR predefined	Min	Max	Best value	Unit	Size class in individuals	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	Trend magnitude min - max	FRP	Population vs FRP predefined	Unit	Area occupied sufficient	Quality occupied sufficient	Unoccupied suff.	Status	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	Distrib.	Method	% MS
BE	19600	4.73	I	predefined	aeq	161	380	271	i	N/A	estimate	completeSurvey	0.31	I	13 | 25	predefined	aeq	i	yes	Yes	yes	FV	S	good	good	unk	FV	FV	I	U1	I	genuine	genuine	9200	estimatePartial	2.65
DE	70486.74	17	S	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	N/A	i	N/A		absentData	0	S		predefined	aeq		yes	Yes		FV	S	good	good	unk	FV	FV	S	FV	S	noChange	noChange	44500	estimatePartial	12.82
DK	N/A	0	Unk	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	N/A	i	N/A		absentData	0	Unk	x	x			yes	Unknown	unknown	XX	Unk	good	unk	unk	XX	XX	Unk	XX		unknown	unknown	N/A	absentData	0
ES	37200	8.97	S	predefined	aeq	176	17600	N/A	i	N/A		estimatePartial	10.02	Unk		17600		i				XX	Unk	N/A	N/A	N/A	U1	U1	Unk	U1	Unk	noChange	noChange	17900	N/A	5.16
FR	190900	46.03	S	predefined	aeq	N/A	N/A	N/A	i	8	estimate	estimatePartial	84.55	S	x	predefined	aeq		yes	Yes		FV	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	S	FV	S	noChange	noChange	197500	estimatePartial	56.92
IE	67300	16.23	I	38200		2330	3852	3043	i	N/A	estimate	completeSurvey	3.43	I	x	3043		i	yes	Yes		FV	I	good	good	good	FV	FV	I	FV	I	noChange	noChange	48900	completeSurvey	14.09
NL	28300	6.82	I	predefined	aeq	1000	2000	N/A	i	N/A	estimate	estimatePartial	1.69	I	x	predefined	aeq		yes	Yes		FV	S	good	good	good	FV	FV	I	FV	I	noChange	noChange	28300	completeSurvey	8.16
PT	900	0.22	S	x		N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		absentData	0	Unk		x			no	Yes	unknown	XX	S	good	poor	good	U1	U1	S	XX		knowledge	knowledge	700	estimatePartial	0.20

Automatic Assessments Hide

method1	414686.74		27.78%I 72.22%S	>385586.74 >392297.49 >388942.11		53667.0	123832.0	88702.0	i					5.43%I 84.55%S 10.02%Unk	>97414 >101369.60 >99391.80	i												N/A					347000		
2XP		100%FV											10.02%XX 89.98%FV									10.02%XX 89.98%FV	3.43%I 10.02%Unk 86.55%S			89.98%FV 10.02%U1		5.43%I 10.02%Unk 84.55%S	N/A	99.69%nc 0.31%yes	99.69%nc 0.31%yes			
3XP																										89.98%FV 10.02%U1		N/A					
2GD		99.80%FV 0.20%U1											5.36%XX 94.64%FV									5.36%XX 94.64%FV	14.09%I 5.16%Unk 80.75%S			94.64%FV 5.36%U1		24.90%I 5.16%Unk 69.94%S	N/A	97.15%nc 0.20%no 2.65%yes	97.15%nc 0.20%no 2.65%yes			
3GD																										94.64%FV 5.36%U1		N/A					
2XR		99.78%FV 0.22%U1											9.19%XX 90.81%FV									9.19%XX 90.81%FV	16.23%I 8.97%Unk 74.80%S			90.81%FV 9.19%U1		27.78%I 8.97%Unk 63.25%S	N/A	95.05%nc 0.22%no 4.73%yes	95.05%nc 0.22%no 4.73%yes			
3XR																										90.81%FV 9.19%U1		N/A					

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections

Dec.	MS/EU27	Surface	Status Range	Trend	FRR	Range vs FRR predefined	Min	Max	Best value	Unit				Status Population	Trend	Trend magnitude (min)	FRP	Population vs RFP predefined	Unit				Status Hab. for species	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status Future prosp.	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.		
OK	EU27	414686.74	2	+	>388942.11		53667.0	123832.0	88702	i				2	=		>99391.80		i				2	=				2	MTX	+	FV	+	nc	nc	0/0	EEA – ETC BE

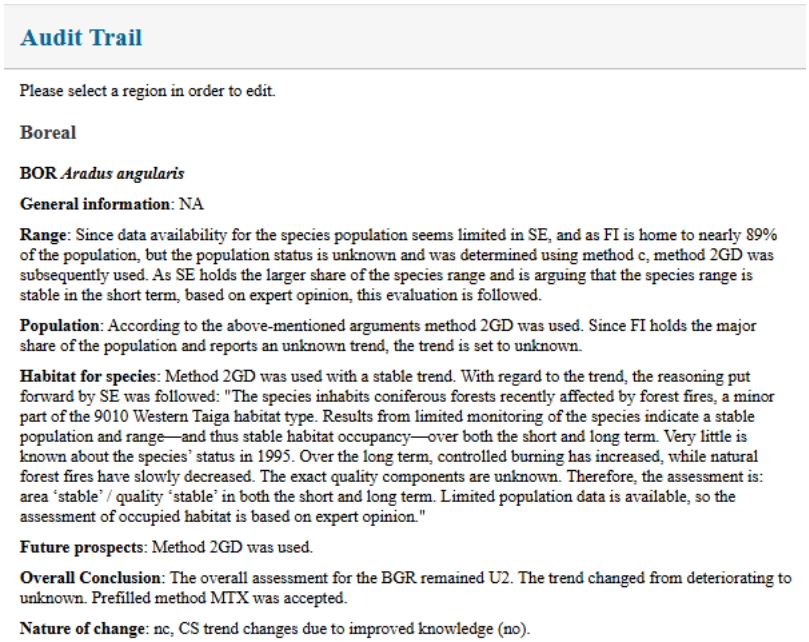
The red box above highlights the 'methods' available to the assessor when completing the assessment. Method 1, 2, 2GD & 3GD, 2XR & 3XR are methods applied to both habitats and species, 2XP and 3XP are for species (population) and 2XA and 3XA are for habitats (area) (more information in the methodology document – *Article 17 biogeographical assessments - Methodology*).

3. Additional information.

More information how the assessment was undertaken and the conclusion was reached, as well as additional information on the species/habitat (not available for the period 2019-2024 but can be viewed by filtering previous periods), can be accessed beside the filters.

'View data sheet info' provides a general information of the feature assessment for the region or globally when 'All regions' is selected in the region filter (e.g. describing a change in conservation status between reporting periods or where applicable, comparisons with related IUCN Red List assessments). This button is deactivated for the period 2019-2024.

'Audit trail' provides a record of the assessors rationale for applying specific methodologies to specific parameters. The audit trail will normally justify the methodology chosen and refer to the conclusion in Conservation Status and trends.



Audit Trail

Please select a region in order to edit.

Boreal

BOR *Aradus angularis*

General information: NA

Range: Since data availability for the species population seems limited in SE, and as FI is home to nearly 89% of the population, but the population status is unknown and was determined using method c, method 2GD was subsequently used. As SE holds the larger share of the species range and is arguing that the species range is stable in the short term, based on expert opinion, this evaluation is followed.

Population: According to the above-mentioned arguments method 2GD was used. Since FI holds the major share of the population and reports an unknown trend, the trend is set to unknown.

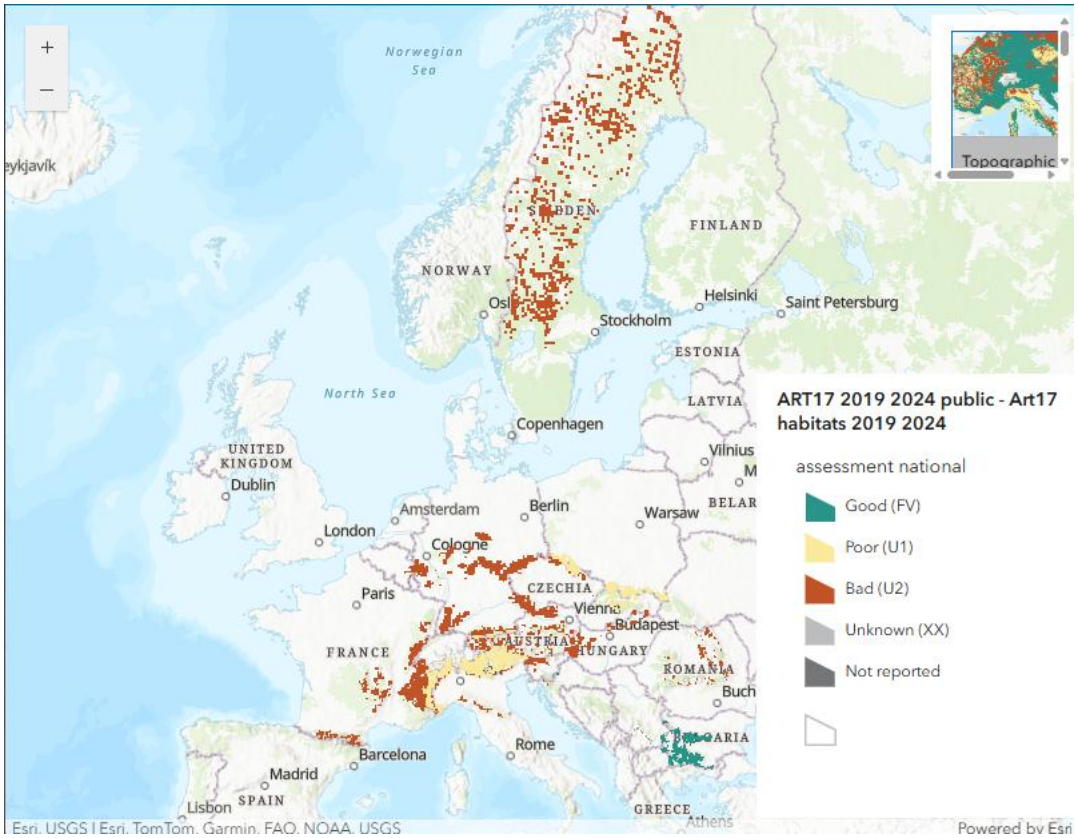
Habitat for species: Method 2GD was used with a stable trend. With regard to the trend, the reasoning put forward by SE was followed: "The species inhabits coniferous forests recently affected by forest fires, a minor part of the 9010 Western Taiga habitat type. Results from limited monitoring of the species indicate a stable population and range—and thus stable habitat occupancy—over both the short and long term. Very little is known about the species' status in 1995. Over the long term, controlled burning has increased, while natural forest fires have slowly decreased. The exact quality components are unknown. Therefore, the assessment is: area 'stable' / quality 'stable' in both the short and long term. Limited population data is available, so the assessment of occupied habitat is based on expert opinion."

Future prospects: Method 2GD was used.

Overall Conclusion: The overall assessment for the BGR remained U2. The trend changed from deteriorating to unknown. Prefilled method MTX was accepted.

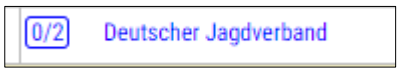
Nature of change: nc, CS trend changes due to improved knowledge (no).

The 'map' function can be used to view the distribution of the feature in the selected biogeographic region. The distribution grids are coloured according to the legend for Conservation Status showing the status at Member State biogeographical level. The map is used by the assessors during the assessment to better understand data reported by a Member State e.g. in cases where neighboring Member States give widely diverging information on a feature. The maps include only the public information, not the sensitive species distribution.



4. Stakeholders comments to expert EU biogeographical assessments

As noted above, during the public consultation, new assessment lines can be added to the EU assessments section by stakeholders to be taken into account by the assessor before finalization of the process. Comments can also be given during the consultation process and these are viewable beside the stakeholder name.



The stakeholder organisation is listed.

Clicking on the stakeholder organisation will reveal more information such as Member State.

Assessment comments Region: *ATL* User: *Deutscher Jagdverband* MS: *DE*

The central european lowland population (CELP) spreads from central Poland to Belgium across continental and atlantic regions and containing also wolves in (inter alia) Denmark and the Netherlands. Given the definition of the favourable conservation statuts (FCS) in art. 1 of the habitats directive, the population fulfils all criteria (range, population, habitat and future prospects. The reasons why the MS assessment comes to the conclusion of an U2 (red) status are:

- The assessment is done not on population level (as required for species by the directive - cf. Linnell, Salvatori, Boitani, 2008, Guidelines for Population Management of Large Carnivores and ECJ, judgement of 10th october 2019, C-674/17) but in an isolated way for each biogeographic region (b.r.). But the b.r. are not relevant for FCS for species, only for habitats (cf. the definition in art. 1 of the directive). If this would be respected (especially the ECJ-judgement cited above) the status (on every criterion) is favourable, as the whole population is in favourable conservation status. Other MS did this correctly (cf. data for Slovenia, where CS is FV despite of a very small number of individuals).

- Some parameters based on an experts estimation (especially concerning future prospects) are not comprehensible. Based on scientific data (given the ability of wolves to adapt to a wide range of ecological conditions) it is in no way understandable that future prospects are not positive. There is no sign that the amount of prey animals will decrease, more and more roads are equipped with safe crossings for wildlife. It seems that it is rather a political will not to have reached FCS, than really an experts opinion. There is no evidence that wolf populations in Germany face any risk of extincition in the next decades. Of course there are threats (mainly roadkill, and even illegal killing) but there is no scientific publication considering this as a realistic threat for the population.

by Deutscher Jagdverband 2020-03-06 13:03

There is not enough evidence to modify the German assessment, but the comment will be summarized and mentioned in the datasheet. It is kindly suggested to bring the information to the German authorities.

by EEA-ETC/BD 2020-04-02 15:24

In the example above, 2 comments have been left on the assessment line created by 'Deutscher Jagdverband'.

As part of the consultation process, participants were encouraged to leave a comment on their added assessment line justifying its addition or any suggested changes to any part of the assessment (Comment 1 by *Deutsche Jagdverband* in screenshot).

The EEA & contractors response to the stakeholder comment is provided in the same 'comment' window below the stakeholder's comment.