

Technical note

Delayed Article 17 report 2019-2024 from Spain and use of replacement data

Spain did not deliver the Article 17 report 2019-2024 by the set deadline, and in any case in time to be considered in the EU assessment of habitat and species covered by the Habitats Directive.

The impact of missing Spanish information on the EU assessment is substantial, as Spain has seven biogeographical / marine regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Macaronesian, Mediterranean, Marine Atlantic, Marine Macaronesia, Marine Mediterranean). It hosts 117 Habitats out of total 235 (50%), several of them being unique or having over 50% of their area in Spain. It also hosts 434 species out of total 1397 (31%), several of them being unique or having over 75% of their distribution area in Spain.

To be able to proceed with the assessment of status and trends at EU level for the period 2019-2024, Spanish data reported in 2013-2018 were used as substitute information. For Spain, only the 2013-2018 data that is necessary for the EU assessments and that could be translated to the new reporting requirements are shown in the web tool used for the Art. 17 EU assessments <https://nature-art17.eionet.europa.eu/article17/>.

Apart from the EU-level assessment, the Spanish substitute data of 2013-2018 are not used directly for any other statistics of the State of Nature report. In other words, while the substitute data set contributes to the EU-level assessments, it has not been used to develop any statistics at Member State level (e.g. overview of national conservation status and trends, sum up of pressures, measures, Natura 2000 information).

The use of substitute data for Spain has limits arising mostly from the changes in the reporting format from the past reporting period. This, together with the fact that the Spanish data and assessments are already at least 6 years old, impacts the quality of the Art. 17 EU assessments of 2019-2024. Moreover, the missing information has made it harder or impossible for the assessors to use method 1 and to conclude on accurate EU values, especially where Spanish features cover a big part of the EU (for a summary of the methodologies used for the biogeographical assessments at EU level look [at](#) the relevant note in the web tool).

Challenges in retrieving older data

The fields where retrieval of information is particularly challenging are described below.

- **Favourable Reference Values (FRVs)** The structure of reported information has changed from the last reporting round. The values that could be retrieved are exact numbers (where reported) and the value of 'unknown'. The reported qualifiers 'approximately equal' and 'bigger than' were transformed into the appropriate pre-defined value options of the current reporting round, in accordance with the Guidelines 2013-2018 and 2019-2024:

- The value 'Approximately equal' was translated to the predefined value 'approximately equal to the Favourable Reference Range - FRR (less than 2% smaller for range)', 'approximately equal to the Favourable Reference Population – FRP (less than 5% smaller)', 'approximately equal to the Favourable Reference Area – FRA (less than 2% smaller)'.
 - The value 'more than current range' was translated to the predefined value 'between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRR)', 'more than current population size' was translated to the predefined value 'between 5% and 25% smaller than the FRP, and 'more than current rea' was translated to the predefined value 'between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRA'.
 - 'much bigger than' could not be matched to a value and, therefore, the information could not be retrieved and is shown as NULL. This is a limitation as the information is missing in cases where significant issues with the FRVs were found in earlier reporting exercises.
- **Fields on population size.** The main reporting units for several species groups have been changed since the last reporting cycle. Thus, the values for several species could not be retrieved due to incompatible reporting units. A table summarising the situation is below:

Amphibians	Main population units changed from past reporting, new unit is individuals (i), old data for this group cannot be retrieved.
Arthropods	Units remain the same, old data for this group can be retrieved.
Molluscs	Units remain the same, old data for this group can be retrieved.
Fish	Main population units changed from past reporting, new unit is individuals (i), old data for this group cannot be retrieved apart from two species reported in i
Mammals	Main population units partially changed from past reporting, the new unit is individuals (i), old data for this group can be retrieved for a subset of species.
Other invertebrates	Units remain same, old data for this group can be retrieved.
Reptiles	Main population units partially changed from past reporting, the new unit is individuals (i), old data for this group can be retrieved for a subset of species.
Vascular plants	Main population units partially changed from past reporting, the new unit is individuals (i) or m ² , old data for this group can be retrieved for a subset of species.

Non-vascular plants	Units remain the same, old data for this group can be retrieved.
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In few cases, it was possible to retrieve units which were similar to the current ones by transforming them (e.g. adults where main agreed unit is individuals, or area where agreed unit is m²).

In cases where no population value was retrieved the FRP was also not retrieved.

- **Taxonomic changes.** Some species codes from the past have been updated due to nomenclature changes and some species have been merged or split. The retrieved information from the reporting period 2013-2018 was transformed to match the agreed taxonomic updates for the reporting period 2019-2024, including the occurrence code agreed for the Spanish checklist before reporting. The nomenclature changes applied are reported in the following table:

Region	Code 2020	Name 2020	Code 2025	Name 2025
MED	1063	<i>Plebicula golgus</i>	7018	<i>Polyommatus golgus</i>
MED	1118	<i>Iberocypris palaciosi</i>	7021	<i>Squalius palaciosi</i>
MAC	1242	<i>Gallotia simonyi</i>	7015	<i>Gallotia auaritae</i>
MAC	1435	<i>Myrica rivas-martinezii</i>	7024	<i>Morella rivas-martinezii</i>
MED	1500	<i>Boleum asperum</i>	7026	<i>Vella aspera</i>
ATL	1614	<i>Apium repens</i>	7048	<i>Helosciadium repens</i>
MED	1614	<i>Apium repens</i>	7048	<i>Helosciadium repens</i>
MAC	1649	<i>Limonium arborescens</i>	7030	<i>Limonium arboreum</i>
MED	1668	<i>Lithodora nitida</i>	7023	<i>Glandora nitida</i>
MED	1688	<i>Sideritis incana</i> subsp. <i>glauca</i>	7020	<i>Sideritis glauca</i>
MED	1709	<i>Odontites granatensis</i>	7025	<i>Odontites viscosus</i> subsp. <i>granatensis</i>
MAC	1745	<i>Sambucus palmensis</i>	6294	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> subsp. <i>palmensis</i>
MED	1759	<i>Leontodon microcephalus</i>	7019	<i>Scorzoneroideis microcephala</i>
MED	1794	<i>Centaurea balearica</i>	7017	<i>Carduncellus balearicus</i>
MED	1804	<i>Senecio elodes</i>	7022	<i>Tephroseris elodes</i>
MAC	1818	<i>Stemmacantha cynaroides</i>	7031	<i>Rhaponticum canariense</i>
MED	1867	<i>Narcissus longispathus</i>	7014	<i>Narcissus nevadensis</i> subsp. <i>longispathus</i>
ATL	6966	<i>Osmoderma eremita</i> Complex	1084	<i>Osmoderma eremita</i>
MED	6966	<i>Osmoderma eremita</i> Complex	1084	<i>Osmoderma eremita</i>
ALP	6966	<i>Osmoderma eremita</i> Complex	1084	<i>Osmoderma eremita</i>

The following species were not retrieved due to taxonomic changes and updates of Spanish checklist

Region	Code 2020	Name 2020
ALP	1322	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>
ATL	1322	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>
MED	1322	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>
ATL	1392	<i>Jungermannia handelii</i>
MED	1515	<i>Reseda decursiva</i>
MED	1593	<i>Halimium verticillatum</i>
MED	1655	<i>Centaurium rigualii</i>
ALP	1857	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> subsp. <i>nobilis</i>
ALP	1996	<i>Narcissus triandrus</i>
MED	6935	<i>Narcissus yepesii</i>
MED	6960	<i>Narcissus segurensis</i>
MED	6962	<i>Bufo viridis</i> Complex

- **Fields with information of lesser relevance for the 2019-2024 cycle.** Some fields include information that is of lesser relevance to the EU assessments (e.g. Future prospects of range / area / structure and functions). The reason for change in the particular situation is always set to 'no change'.
- **The ES maps from the period 2013-2019** are not shown in the period 2019-2024.

Annex 1

Fields of the reporting format 2019-2024 that are filled with derived Spanish data from the reporting period 2019-2014. Fields that are recalculated are shown in colour.

The occurrence codes for species and habitats are those of the checklist reference table as agreed before reporting 2019-2024

SPECIES

Table Regions_Range

countryCode

species_code

region_code

S_5_1_surface_area_range

S_5_4_short_term_trend_direction

S_5_7_short_term_trend_method

S_5_12_a_favourable_reference_range_value

S_5_12_b_favourable_reference_range_predefined

S_5_12_c_favourable_reference_range_unknown

S_5_14_additional_information_range

Table Regions_Population

countryCode

species_code

region_code

S_6_2_a_population_size_unit

S_6_2_b_population_size_min

S_6_2_c_population_size_max

S_6_2_d_population_size_best_value

S_6_7_population_size_method

S_6_10_short_term_trend_direction

S_6_18_a_favourable_reference_population_value

S_6_18_a_favourable_reference_population_unit

S_6_18_b_favourable_reference_population_predefined

S_6_18_c_favourable_reference_population_unknown

S_6_20_additional_information_population

Table Regions_Species Habitat

countryCode

species_code

region_code

S_7_4_short_term_trend_direction

S_7_5_short_term_trend_method

S_7_9_additional_information_habitat

Table Regions_Conclusions

countryCode

species_code

region_code

S_11_1_conclusion_range

S_11_2_conclusion_population

S_11_3_conclusion_species_habitat

S_11_4_conclusion_future_prospects

S_11_5_conclusion_overall_assessment

S_11_6_conclusion_overall_trend

S_11_7_b_conclusions_overall_assesment_change_main

S_11_7_d_conclusions_overall_trend_main_reason_change

S_11_8_additional_information_conclusion

distribution_grid_area

HABITAT TYPES**Table Regions_Range**

countryCode

habitat_code

region_code

H_4_1_surface_area_range

H_4_4_short_term_trend_direction

H_4_7_short_term_trend_method

H_4_12_a_favourable_reference_range_value

H_4_12_b_favourable_reference_range_predefined

H_4_12_c_favourable_reference_range_unknown

H_4_14_additional_information_range

Table Regions_Area

countryCode

habitat_code

region_code

H_5_2_a_surface_area_min

H_5_2_b_surface_area_max

H_5_2_c_surface_area_best_single_value

H_5_4_area_method

H_5_7_short_term_trend_direction

H_5_10_short_term_trend_method

H_5_15_a_favourable_reference_area_value

H_5_15_b_favourable_reference_area_predefined

H_5_15_c_favourable_reference_area_unknown

H_5_17_additional_information_area

Table Regions_StructureAndFunctions

countryCode

habitat_code

region_code

H_6_1_a_condition_good_min

H_6_1_a_condition_good_max

H_6_1_b_condition_notgood_min

H_6_1_b_condition_notgood_max

H_6_1_c_condition_unknown_min

H_6_1_c_condition_unknown_max

H_6_2_condition_method

H_6_4_condition_good_short_term_trend_direction

H_6_5_condition_good_short_term_trend_method

H_6_8_additional_information_structuresandfunctions

Table Regions_Conclusions

countryCode

habitat_code

region_code

H_10_1_conclusion_range

H_10_2_conclusion_area

H_10_3_conclusion_structure_and_function

H_10_4_conclusion_future_prospects

H_10_5_conclusion_overall_assessment

H_10_6_conclusion_overall_trend

H_10_7_b_conclusions_overall_assesment_main_reason_change

H_10_7_d_conclusions_overall_trend_main_reason_change

H_10_8_additional_information_conclusion

distribution_grid_area