Habitats Directive butterflies

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COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC
of 21 May 1992

on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 130s thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),
(i) conservation status of a species means the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations within the territory referred to in Article 2;

The conservation status will be taken as ‘favourable’ when:

— population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and

— the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and

— there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis;

Conservation of natural habitats and habitats of species

Article 3

1. A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species’ habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.
Protection of species

Article 12

1. Member States shall take the requisite measures to establish a system of strict protection for the animal species listed in Annex IV (a) in their natural range, prohibiting:

Annex IV

Lepidoptera

Astrapia metis
Azurina musculus
Canastra trigis
Chondrogyne fiduciarium
Cyanonympha bara
Cyanonympha oeleopus
Celias myrmidone
Cucullia maca
Disceaphyla schmidtii
Eranis akeraria
Eriea celeria
Eriea chisti
Eriea isotherica
Eriea ovata
Fabriciana elisa
Glymphaptes loricaria
Gordynia heridii larva
Hyposphinx maturna
Hyponomea hippocastan
Lepidina normai

Lipoptera funebris
Lepigia achine
Lycomma diapar
Lycomma helve
Maculinea arion
Maculinea nausithoe
Maculinea teleius
Melanargia arge
Nympheia vasculum
Papilio alector
Papilio hospiton
Parnassius apollo
Parnassius memnonia
Phengaris calcearia
Phileaspa grillo
Polyomma refractaria irlandica
Polyommatus evoidea
Prosopisprocera perspicua
Pseudophilotes havan
Xylophanes arita
Zerynthia polyxena
Information

Article 17

1. Every six years from the date of expiry of the period laid down in Article 23, Member States shall draw up a report on the implementation of the measures taken under this Directive. This report shall include in particular information concerning the conservation measures referred to in Article 6 (1) as well as evaluation of the impact of those measures on the conservation status of the natural habitat types of Annex I and the species in Annex II and the main results of the surveillance referred to in Article 11. The report, in accordance with the format established by the committee, shall be forwarded to the Commission and made accessible to the public.

Assessment and reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Explanatory Notes & Guidelines for the period 2007-2012

Final Draft
April 2011

Compiled by Douglas Evans and Mariita Arvela
European Topic Center on Biological Diversity
Reporting

The Habitats Directive requires periodic assessment of the species and habitat types to see if they are at FCS. For reporting under Article 17 a format with three classes of Conservation Status has been adopted:

- Favourable (FV),
- Unfavourable-Inadequate (U1) and
- Unfavourable-Bad (U2).

Species to be reported

- In general all habitat types listed on Annex I and species listed on Annexes II, IV & V of the
- Habitats Directive should be reported for each biogeographical or marine region in which they occur by each Member State.
Relevant for us

• For all species of Annexes II and IV (and V) the Conservation Status of each species has to be reported
• For all habitats on Annex I the ‘Structures and functions’ of each habitat (including typical species). In some Member States butterflies are used as typical species, but as this was a MS responsibility this differs between the member states.

Assessing conservation status

• Favourable conservation status is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive by four parameters for each habitat types and species.
• The agreed method for the evaluation of conservation status assesses each of the parameters separately, with the aid of an evaluation matrix, and then combines these assessments to give an overall assessment of conservation status.
• The parameters are:
  – Range
  – Population
  – Habitat for the species
  – Future Prospects
• Range and population require the setting of threshold values to determine if the parameter is favourable or unfavourable. These are referred to as ‘favourable reference values’

**Favourable Reference Values**

• Range/population within which all significant ecological variations of the habitat/species are included for a given biogeographical region and which is sufficiently large to allow the long term survival of the habitat/species;
• favourable reference value must be at least the range/population (in size and configuration) when the Directive came into force;
• if the range/population was insufficient to support a favourable status the reference for favourable range/population should take account of that and should be larger (in such a case information on historic distribution may be found useful when defining the favourable reference range/population); ‘best expert judgement’ may be used to define it in absence of other data. [Definition from DocHab-04-03/03 rev.3]
This means for the Favourable Conservation Value

- If the Conservation Status in 1994 (or when the HD came into force) was favourable, then this is the FRV
- Otherwise the FRV for range and population must be determined

Evaluation matrix in 2007 (for 2013 still unclear)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Favourable</strong></td>
<td>Range of the species is stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing, AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unfavourable – Inadequate</strong></td>
<td>Any combination other than those described under 'Green' or 'Red'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unfavourable – Bad</strong></td>
<td>Large decline in range (equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS; other thresholds can be used but must be explained on Annex B) OR range more than 10% below 'favourable reference range'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unknown</strong></td>
<td>No or insufficient reliable information available.</td>
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Annex I

- Typical species
- For a habitat type to be considered to have a *Favourable Conservation Status* the directive requires its structure and functions to be favourable and its ‘typical species’ to be at Favourable Conservation Status.
- Although the Directive uses the term ‘typical species’ it does not give a definition, either for use in reporting or for use in impact assessments.
Typical species

• Given the variability of habitat types across their range it is very unlikely that all typical species will be present on all examples of a given habitat type. The sum of sites and occurrences of each habitat type should however support viable populations of the typical species on a long term basis to be in Favourable Conservation Status.

• It is only natural that there will be a turn-over in the species pool, so that local loss and recolonization of distinct species out of the selected group of typical species will occur. As long as these processes balance over the long term for each typical species the structure and function of the habitat type should be regarded as favourable.

• Typical species may be drawn from any species group and although most species noted in 2001-2006 were vascular plants, consideration should be given to lichens, mosses, fungi and animal groups (including birds).

• The choice of species should not be restricted to the species listed on Annexes II, IV & V.
However the guidelines also state:

- A full assessment of the conservation status of each typical species is not required and the reporting format only asks for a list of species which have been considered and a brief description of the method used to assess their conservation status as part of the overall assessment of structure and functions which may be based on expert judgement, Red data books or general surveys. It is not expected that typical species will be monitored closely.

### Number of typical species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MS</th>
<th>Total Number of typical species</th>
<th>Total number of butterflies as typical species</th>
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</table>
Summary

- In 2013 all member states have to report on the Conservation Status of the species on the Habitats Directive
- So also on the butterflies in your country
- Your member state should have established the Favourable Reference Values for Range and Population size.
- Your member state needs information on the current Range and Population size of the HD species
- Your member state need information on the trend in Range and Population size of the HD species

Summary

- Furthermore your member state needs information on the quality of the habitat of HD species and more.
- If there are not many species (or even none) listed as typical species, you might try to get some on the list (but you are late…)
- If you managed to get butterflies on the list of typical species, your member state must report on these.