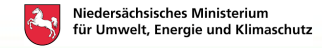




# 4<sup>th</sup> Natura 2000 Atlantic Seminar

## Hannover, Germany



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

State of play of the improvement pledges for the Atlantic Region

*Irene Bouwma & Lian Grabijn (WUR)*



## The improvement pledge

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

#### Ambition of the pledge process:

- Improvement of status and **trends** for 30 % of species and habitats **assessments at MS level**
- No further deterioration in conservation trends and status
- No unknown assessments due to lack of data
- Identifying limitations to achieving non-deterioration



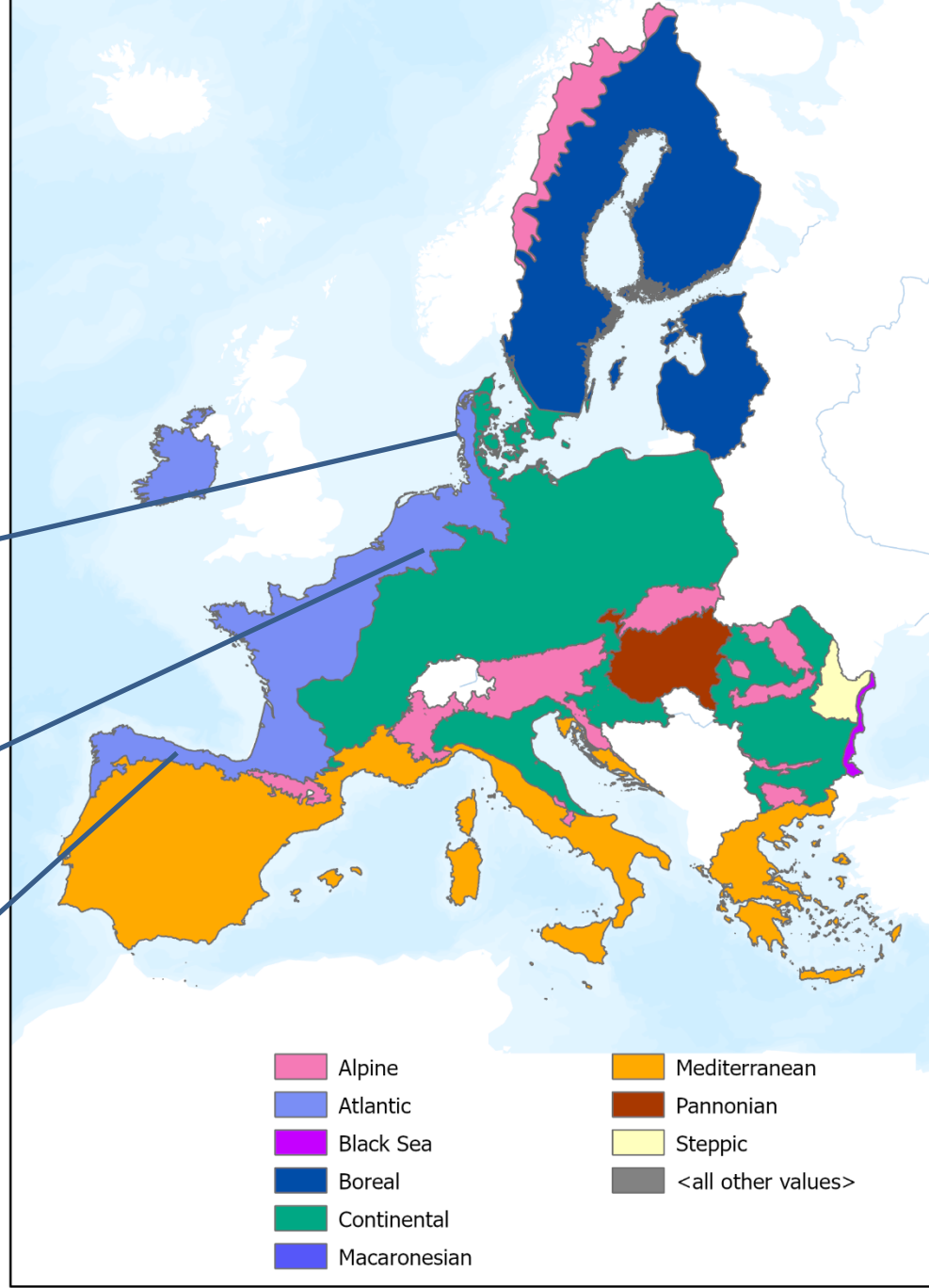
common midwife toad  
©Saxifraga-Luc Hoogenstein



Denmark

Germany

Spain



**Pledges received from Member States which are part of the Atlantic region**



## Analysis undertaken so far...

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

#### Member State level

- Completeness
- 30 % improvement target reached

#### Atlantic region

- Habitats and species groups pledged for improvement & non -deterioration
- Current Conservation status of pledged species and habitats groups for improvement & non -deterioration
- Habitat types and species for which deterioration is unavoidable



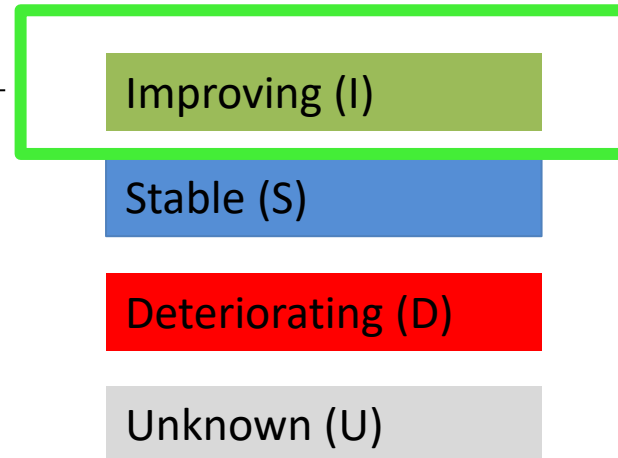
# How is status assessed for Habitats Directive?

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

### Status in MS Biogeographical region



### Trend



For more information: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/topics/at-a-glance/nature/state-of-nature-in-europe-a-health-check/explore-nature-reporting-data>



# How is status assessed for Birds Directive?

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

### Trend (short & long term)

- Increasing (I)
- Stable (S)
- Fluctuating (F)
- Decreasing (D)
- Unknown/uncertain (U)



### Status EU level

- Secure
- Threatened, declining, depleted
- Threatened
- Unknown



# Member State -Completeness

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Are all species and habitat assessments with a non-favourable/non-secure status or unknown status covered?

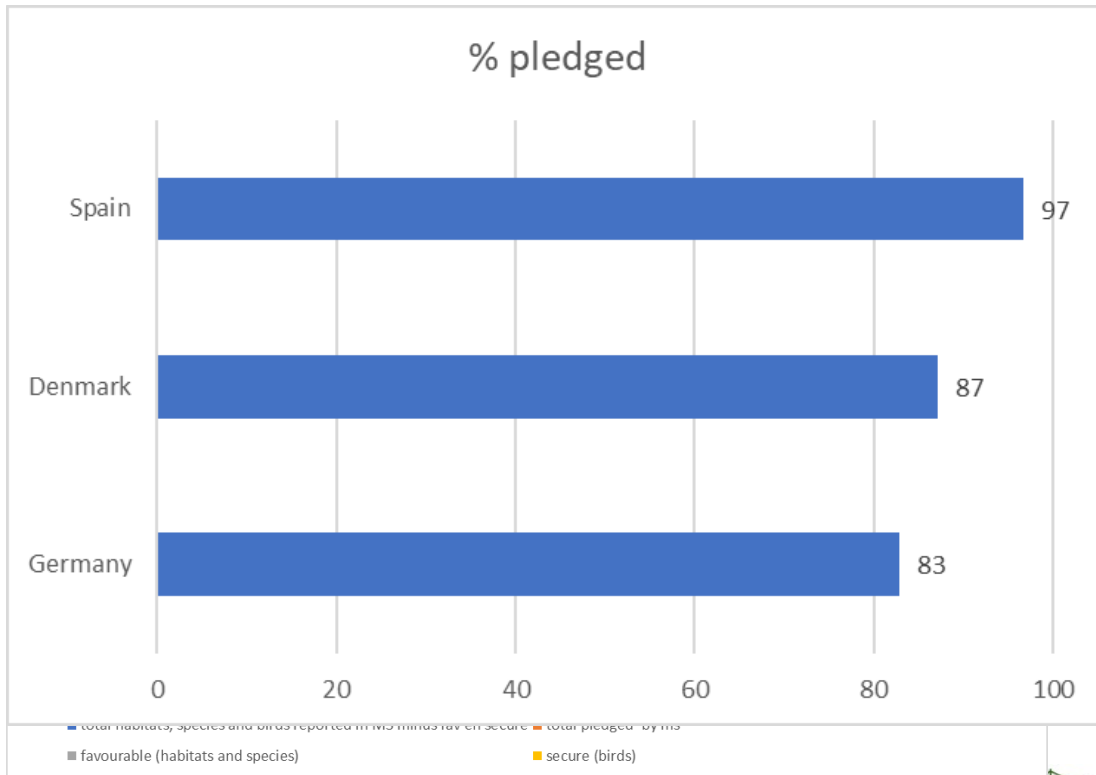
	Habitats	Species
U1-I	x	x
U1 -S	x	x
U1-D	x	X
U1- UKN	x	x
U2- I	x	x
U2- S	x	x
U2-D	x	X
U2-UNK	x	x
FV -I		
FV-S		
FV-D		
FV-UNK		
XX	x	x

Birds – short term trend	
secure	
near threatened	x
declining	x
depleted	x
fluctuating	x
unknown	x



# Member State -Completeness

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process



### Conclusions

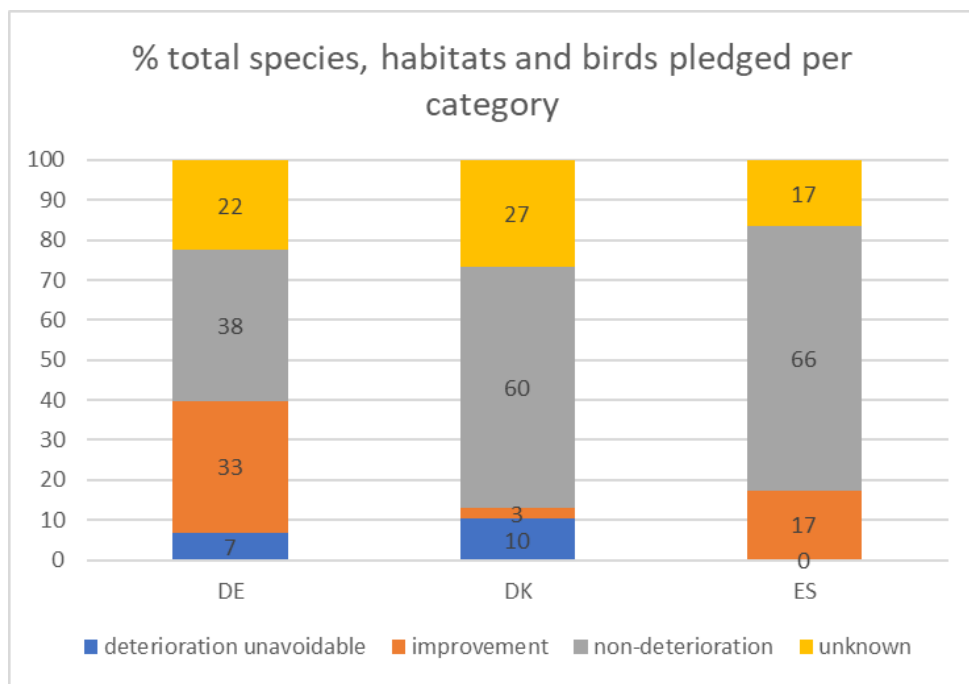
- Sufficiency of pledges is relatively high
- Species not pledged:
  - Wintering and passing birds
  - Habitats and species with stable or increasing trends
  - Data information errors





# Member State - 30% improvement target reached

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process



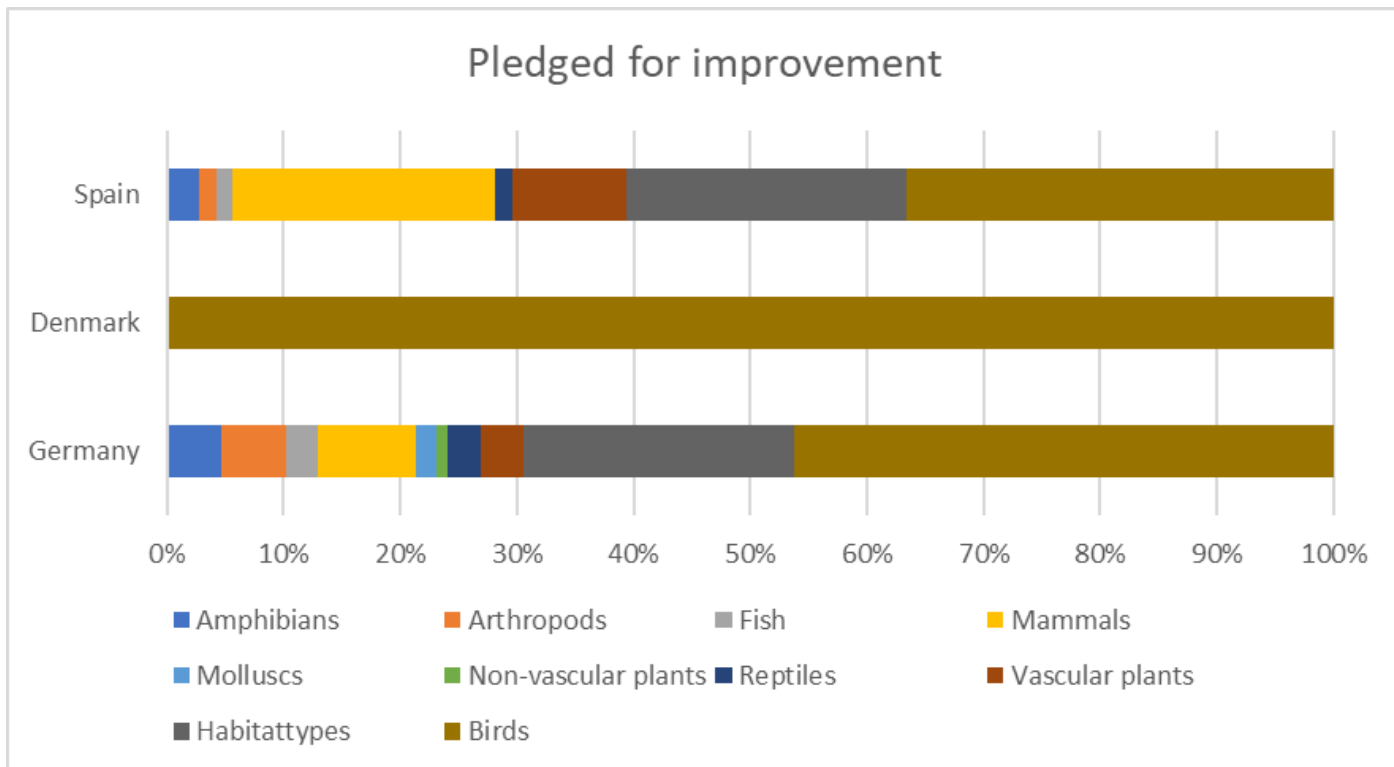
Do Member States pledge to improve 30% of species and habitat assessments for achieving improving trends by 2030?

- Not all Member States reach the target
- Possible explanation
  - Unclearity on whether all species or only species with declining trend needed to be pledged for improvement ?



## Pledged for improvement- Atlantic region

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

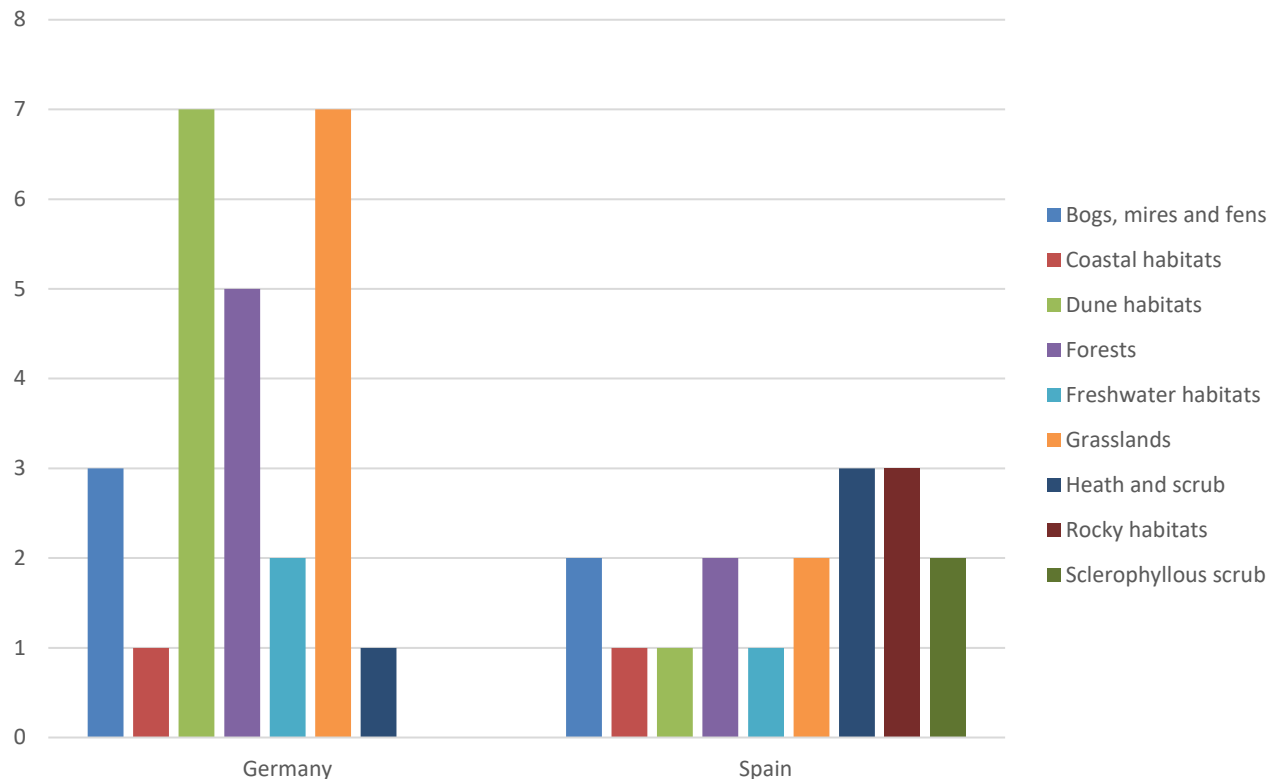


- The pledges focus on primarily on birds and habitats
- After birds, mammals are most represented
- Denmark only pledged birds



# Habitats pledged for improvement Atlantic region

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

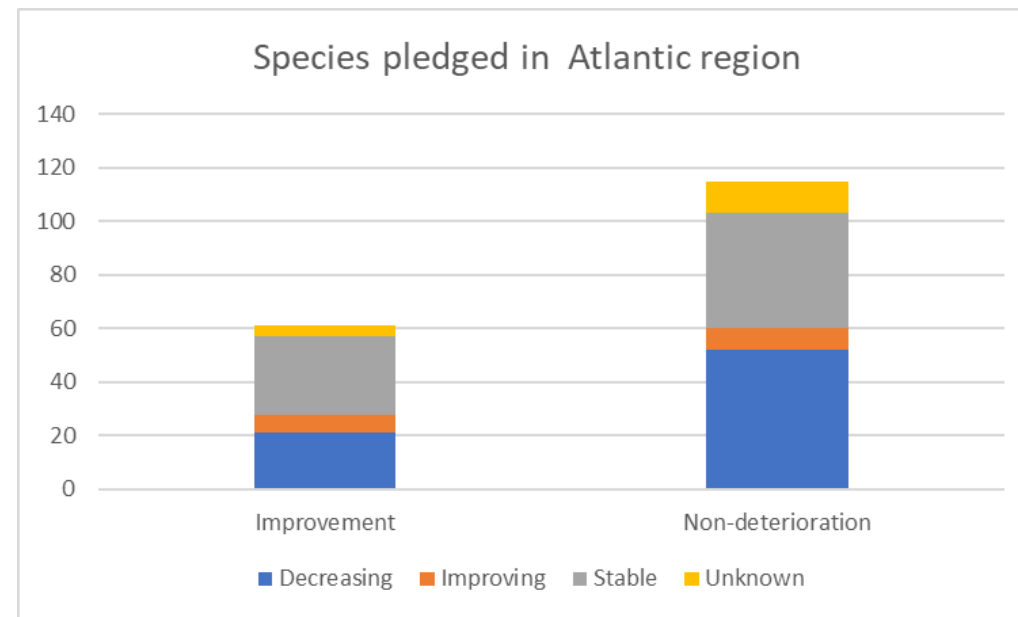
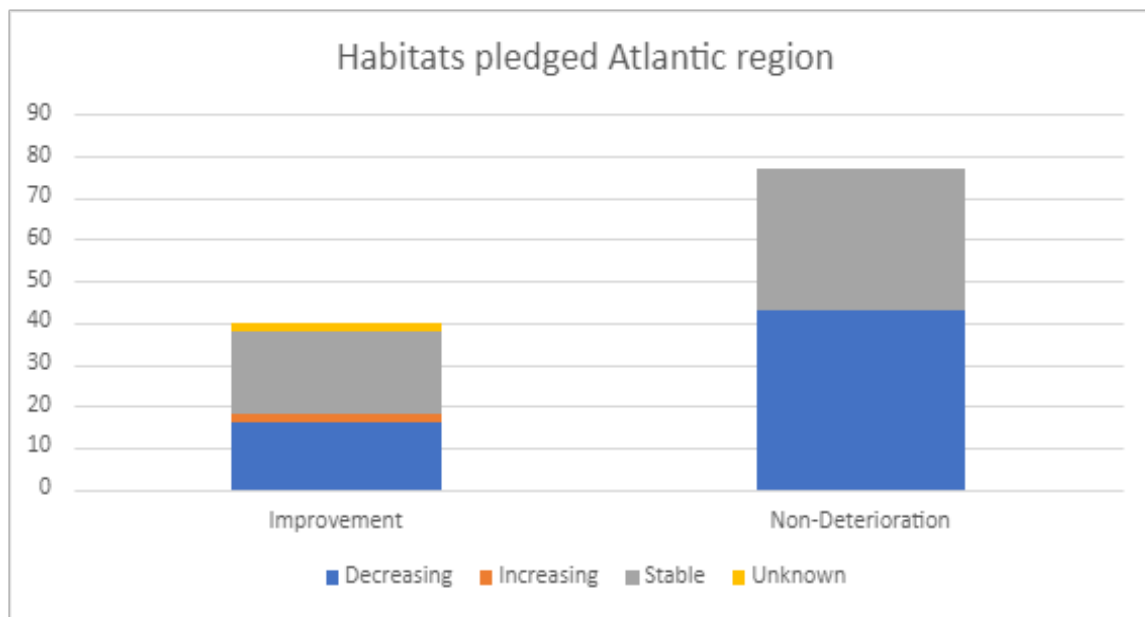


- The pledges of Germany focuss on the restoration of grasslands and dune habitats
- The plegde of Spain targets rocky habitats and heath and scrubs



# Current conservation status pledged species and habitats

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process



Source Conservation status: Art. 17 reporting (2012-2018) database



## Some examples

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process



Dusky Large Blue (*Maculinea nausithous*)  
© Saxifraga-Mark Zekhui



European mink (*Mustela lutreola*),  
© Nicolai Meyer/Wikipedia



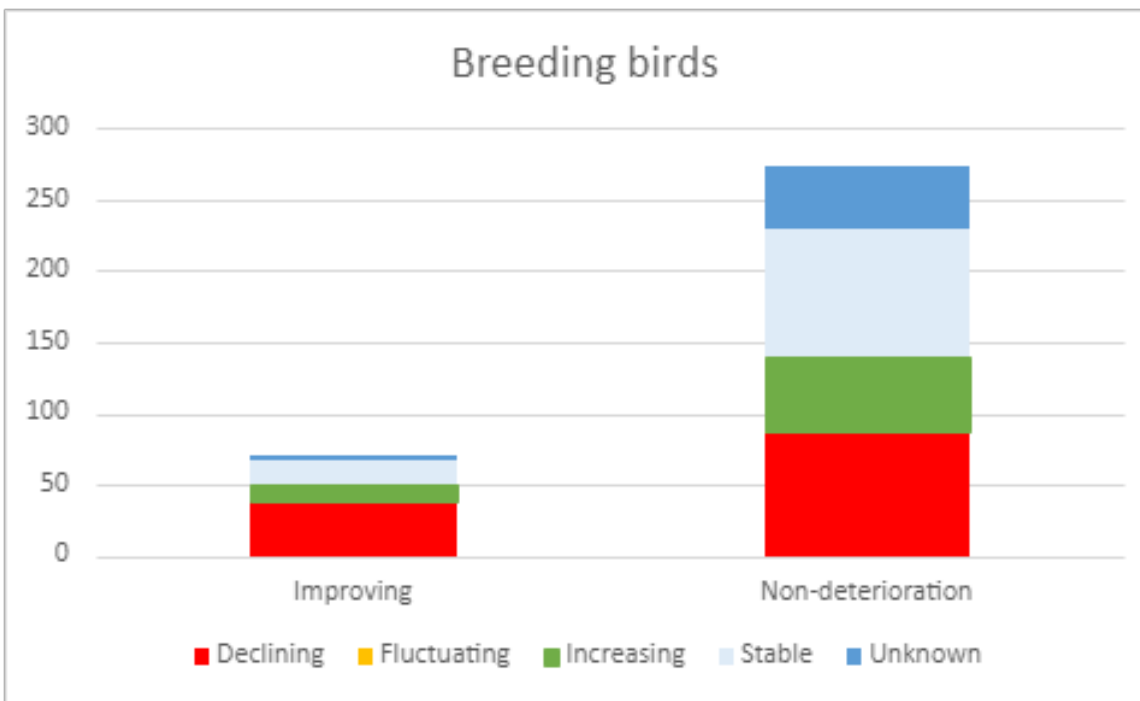
H-2120-Shifting dunes along the  
shoreline with *Ammophila  
arenaria* ("white dunes")  
© SBB/DLG



## Current conservation status pledged birds

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Based on EU status trend





## Some examples

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process



Swift (*Apus apus*) – D  
© Saxifraga-Luc Hoogenstein



Great reed warbler  
(*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)  
-D  
© Saxifraga-Joerg Mager



Red kite (*Milvus milvus*) -I  
© Saxifraga-Mark Zekhuis



## Measures taken for species and habitats

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

- Not analysed due to limited data
- Sufficiency of measures difficult to assess
  - Improve condition of existing habitats (either Annex I or species habitats) through active area-based restoration measures
  - Prevent, control, eradicate or mitigate negative impacts of Invasive alien (plant or animal) species



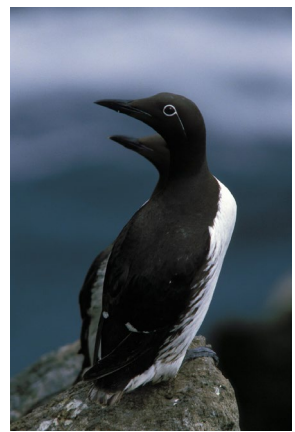


# Deterioration unavoidable Atlantic region?

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Country	birds	habitats	species
Germany	5 (4 breeding, 1 wintering)	1	6
Denmark	15 (breeding)		
Spain	1		1

### Spain



Iberian guillemot  
*Uria aalge ibericus*  
source: *Saxifraga-Janus Verkerk*



*Jungermannia handelii*



# Deterioration unavoidable?

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

### Denmark



Tawny pipit (breeding)

*Anthus campestris*

© Saxifraga - Mark Zekhuis



Short-eared owl (breeding)

*Asio flammeus*

© Saxifraga-Piet Munsterman



Greater scaup (breeding)

*Aythya marila*

© Saxifraga-Jan van der Straaten



# Deterioration unavoidable?

## Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

### Germany



Scarce heath  
*Coenonympha hero*  
source: *Saxifraga-Frits Bink*



Hazel grouse (breeding)  
*Tetrao urogallus*  
source: *Saxifraga-Bart Vastenhouw*



Active raised bogs  
source: *Saxifraga-Marijke Verhagen*



## Overall conclusions

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

- Overall sufficiency is relatively high
- Ambition level is considerable -> improvement pledges for species and habitats with decreasing trends
- Limited number of species and habitats for which deterioration cannot be halted



## Issues for discussion

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

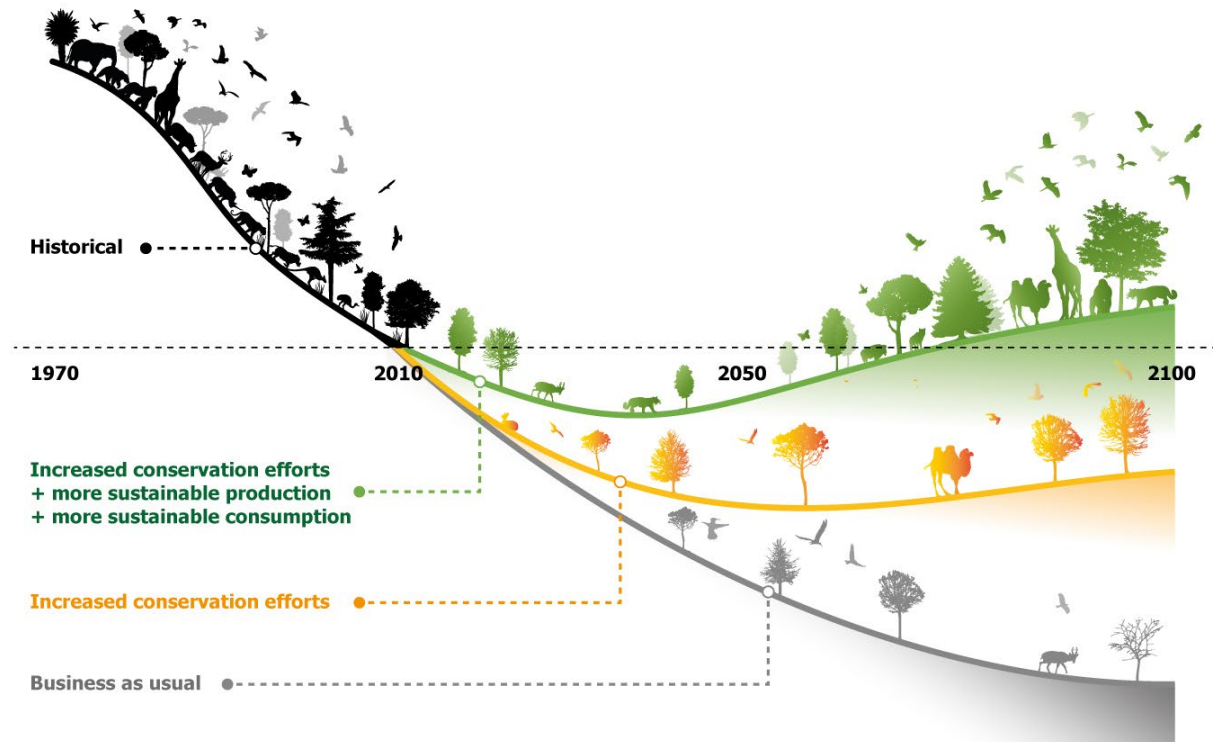
- What is the timeline for submission of the missing pledges?
- Does this analysis reflect the pledges not yet submitted of other Member States?



## Issues for discussion

### Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

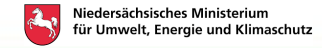
How feasible is it to reverse trend?





# 4<sup>th</sup> Natura 2000 Atlantic Seminar

## Hannover, Germany



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

Thank you !

*Irene Bouwma & Lian Grabijn (WUR)*