Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Pledges and approaches: Setting Conservation Status improvement targets in Germany

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(Dep. II 2.2, Habitats Directive/ Natura 2000)

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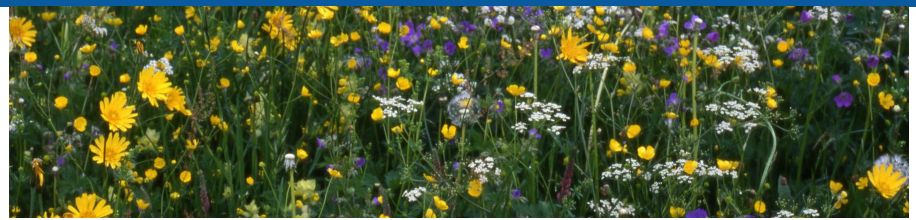

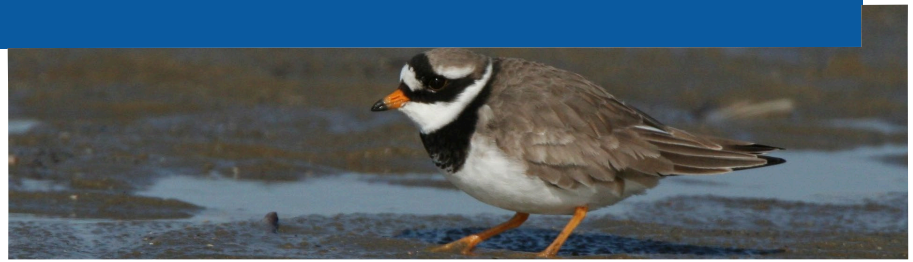

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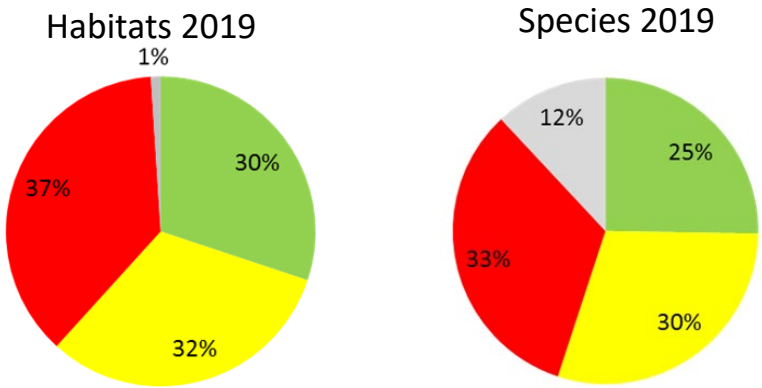
Case study Germany ... (I)

- **Key facts of Germany‘s Natura 2000-network**
  - ca. 15.5 % of the terrestrial area (slightly below the EU average of 18.5 %)
  - 4544 SAC‘s and 742 SPA‘s, average size of SAC‘s among the smallest of the EU
  - ca 45% of the marine area
  - large sites and very high percentage compared to other MS

- Range of habitat/species coverage within N2000 is comparable to other MS between ca. 20% (wide spread species, mostly 50-70%, rare habitats/ species up to 100 %)

SAC‘s Germany

Case study Germany ... (II)

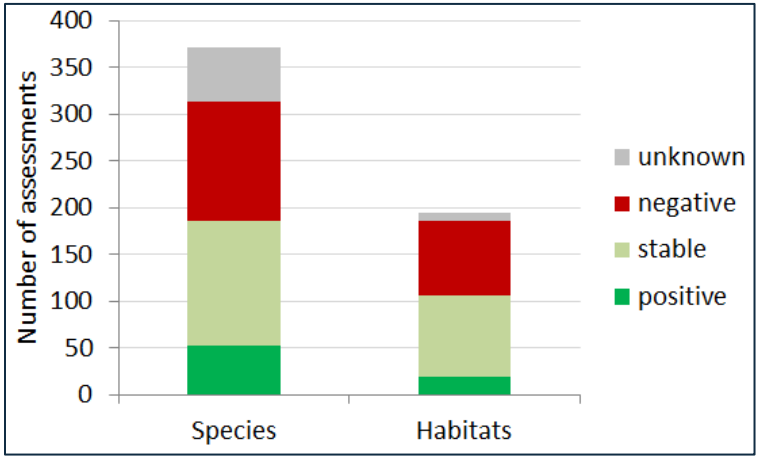


Overall trends 2019:

- ca. 41% of species trends are negative
- ca. 34% of habitat trends are negative
- 15% unknown trends in species

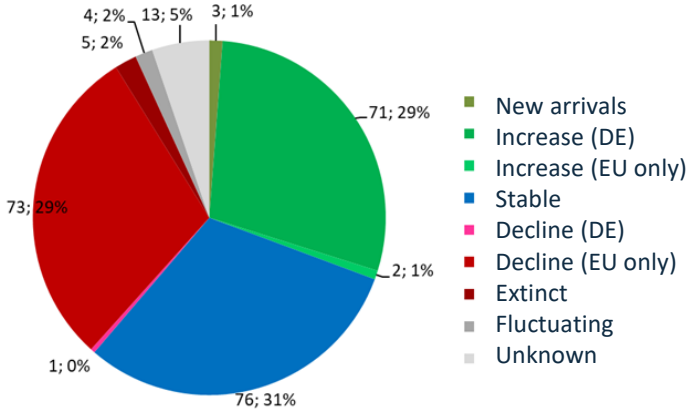
Conservation Status 2019:

- ca. 1/3 of habitat and 1/4 of species assessments are favourable (FV)
- Variation between biogeographical regions:
  unfavourable-bad (U2) assessments for habitats:
  7% ALP, 40% CONT, 55% ATL
  U2 assessments for species: 13% ALP, 38%CONT, 39% ATL
- Unknown assessments mainly in species (12%)



Results of the last national Art. 12 report 2019

Breeding birds



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- 12-year-population trends: One third each of the species show a decreasing, increasing or stable trend
- increasing population trends especially for species for which intensive conservation measures have already been implemented, e.g. white-tailed eagle, eagle owl and black stork

German Baseline and what happened in the past?

German Baseline is 135 habitats and 236 species per biogeographic region and 125 birds not in favourable condition

- Almost no real changes of conservation status compared to the 2013 report
- Positive changes on local or district level yes, bus usually too weak for a change at biogeographical level, few “real” positive changes in species
- Most changes only relate to methodological changes or better data
- Positive development: significant reduction of unknown assessments for species, but still a long way to go…

The situation is not an exception, but a general problem of many Member States ....

Selected key results for birds in the 2019 national Art. 12 report

- Further declining long term trends in breeding birds, especially in the bird species of the agricultural landscape, e.g. black-tailed godwit or partridge by 80-90% (over 36 years)
- Over 45% of long-distance migratory birds also show significant decreasing trends over the last 12 years (e.g. smoke + house martin)
- Strong declines also in species of open habitats and settlement areas (redstart, jackdaw)
- Proportion of species with population declines has increased significantly in the 12-year period compared to the 36-year period

Selected major (additional) challenges?

How to best stop or control slow degradation from adjacent areas – need for buffer zones or enlarged protected areas?

How to promote better integrated approaches with land-users?

- Additional recent challenges of the past 2-3 decades:
  - **Massive decline of insect species**, especially due to intensive agriculture (loss of typical species, quality, food for insectivorous birds)
  - **No significant reduction in N-input** yet (about 1/2 of habitats are very sensitive to Nitrogen with CL<20kg/ha x a) with higher management costs
  - **Additional fragmentation** (both spatially and in time by monotony of land use practices)
  - **Growing chemical pollution**: Pesticide and seed-coating input (Neonicotinoids etc.), new fungicides etc.
  - more effects of **climate change** are visible
  - Possible negative effects by enforcement and implementation of **renewable energies** (e.g. offshore wind parks in main European migration routes in the Wadden Sea): birds & bats under additional pressure

Selected deficiencies and obstacles in implementation

- Insufficiently consistent implementation of conservation objectives via management planning to site management
- Lack of resources (financial & human) - cost estimate for Natura 2000 terrestrial (2016) approx. 1.4 billion/ a, but only approx. 1/3 is available
- Lack of responsibility of the main causers of pressures, insufficient implementation or adaptation of legal framework conditions in land use
- Deficiencies in enforcement, especially with regard to deterioration and protection of the environment
- Insufficient consequences from the report to remedy deficiencies or unfavourable EHZ (restoration!)

Aims and targets for the next decade and beyond

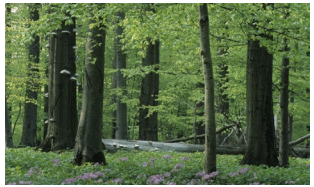
- The EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy defines measurable targets both for protected areas (30%, 10% strictly protected) and for the Nature Directives more specifically (30% improvement, no negative trends, no unknown assessments).

- To reach these goals **a substantial amount of restoration** (and also time to be effective) is needed
- Annex I habitats and species of Community Interest, nor the N2000 sites alone can be enhanced without **considering real connectivity and banning negative impacts or pressures from outside**
- To stop quality degradation in most habitats will also **need to integrate typical species** (both plant and animal) in enhanced monitoring and management
- Currently almost no habitat is in a real favourable situation regarding its typical species (many red listed or declining)

Dealing with the pledges in Germany

Selection process

- Information used to identify the habitats and species for the 30% target for improving status (or at least showing a strong positive trend) by 2030:
  - Estimation of the different Federal States in Germany concerning a possible improvement of habitats/ species by 2030 in the respective Federal State
  - Nature Conservation Priorities in the Federal States
  - Low Hanging Fruits analysis based on the data of the 2019 national report under the Habitats Directive
  - National threat categories for birds together with EU„non secure“-Status of German bird species
  - Focus on breeding birds with some additions of overwintering and migrating birds
  - Use of populations trends (e.g. Bird report 2019), German Red list of breeding birds 2021, and high priority for action in Germany

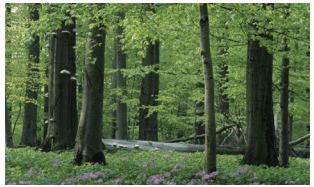


Where are we now and next steps for conservation status pledges

- 44 habitats, 72 species, 50 bird species selected for the 30% target for improving status by 2030

Examples:

Habitats	HD species	Bird species
1110, CON + ATL	Bombina variegata, ALP	Alauda arvensis
1170, CON + ATL	Rhinolophus hipposideros, ALP	Cepphus grylle
1330, ATL	Lutra lutra, ALP, ATL	Circus pygargus
40A0, CON	Phocoena phocoena ATL+CON	Crex crex
6240, CON	Lampetra fluviatilis, ATL	Gavia stellata
6410, CON + ATL	Leucorrhinia caudalis, CON	Milvus milvus
6520, ALP	Apium repens, ATL	Perdix perdix
7120, ALP	Cypripedium calceolus, CON	Streptopelia turtur
9110, ATL	Lacerta viridis, CON	Vanellus vanellus



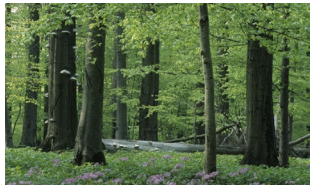
Where are we now and next steps for conservation status pledges

- Federal distributed responsibilities are an additional challenge in setting up the pledges and needed long discussions to reach an agreement

1st tranche (lists of habitats and species): Species and habitats for the different sub targets have been submitted End of May

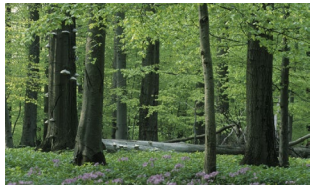
2nd tranche (measures to reach the sub targets), planned for 2023 (2024)

- BfN compiled a preliminary national draft for the management measures and recommendations for filling in the necessary information, including standards for collecting detailed expertise of the Federal States with their experience in implementation,
- an analysis and consolidation of this additional information is currently ongoing, the consolidated version will be passed back to the Federal States
- A communication with Ministries at National Level is planned



The positive side ….

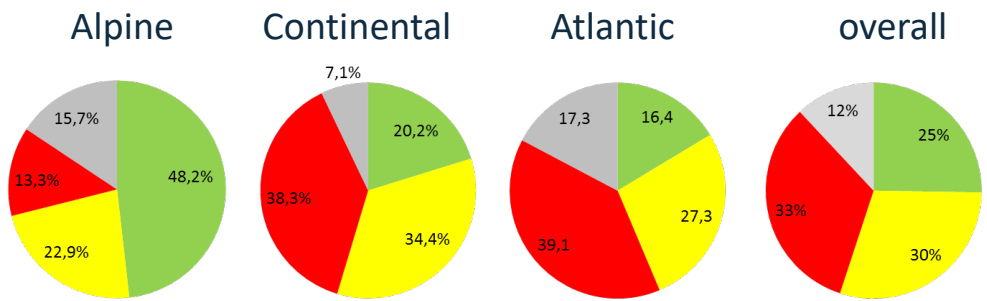
- **More direct care and assistance in management in the regions and at site level** is increasing chances of positive implementation (Natura 2000 stations, additional biological stations, new forestry consultancy in Baden-Württemberg first German e-learning training courses for Natura 2000 site managers, etc.)
- **More scientific knowledge and practical implementation advice on restoration** becomes available, an example is hay meadow and dry grassland restoration – previously thought to need more than 3-4 decades, now possible in some cases in 10-15 years, more experiences in IAS combat
- In some of the Länder examples for detailed planning concepts on Natura 2000 including restoration potential (Hamburg), however difficult to get for larger areas
- **Upscaling of local and regional positive management is possible** but needs more efforts, cooperation and resources, see Life project: „Atlantic sand landscapes“ involving several German Federal States



Have a nice and fruitful conference!

Results of the last national Art. 17 report 2019

Conservation status of species



Summary of all German species assessments:

- Overall 25% of species in a favourable conservation status, e.g. brown long-eared bat, ibex or alpine longhorn beetle
- 33% in a bad conservation status, especially insects and other invertebrates, amphibians and higher plants, e.g. fen orchid and European tree frog