



Fourth Mediterranean Natura 2000 seminar

Cyprus, Larnaca, 17-19 April 2024



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

State of play of the improvement pledges for the Mediterranean Region

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The improvement pledge

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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



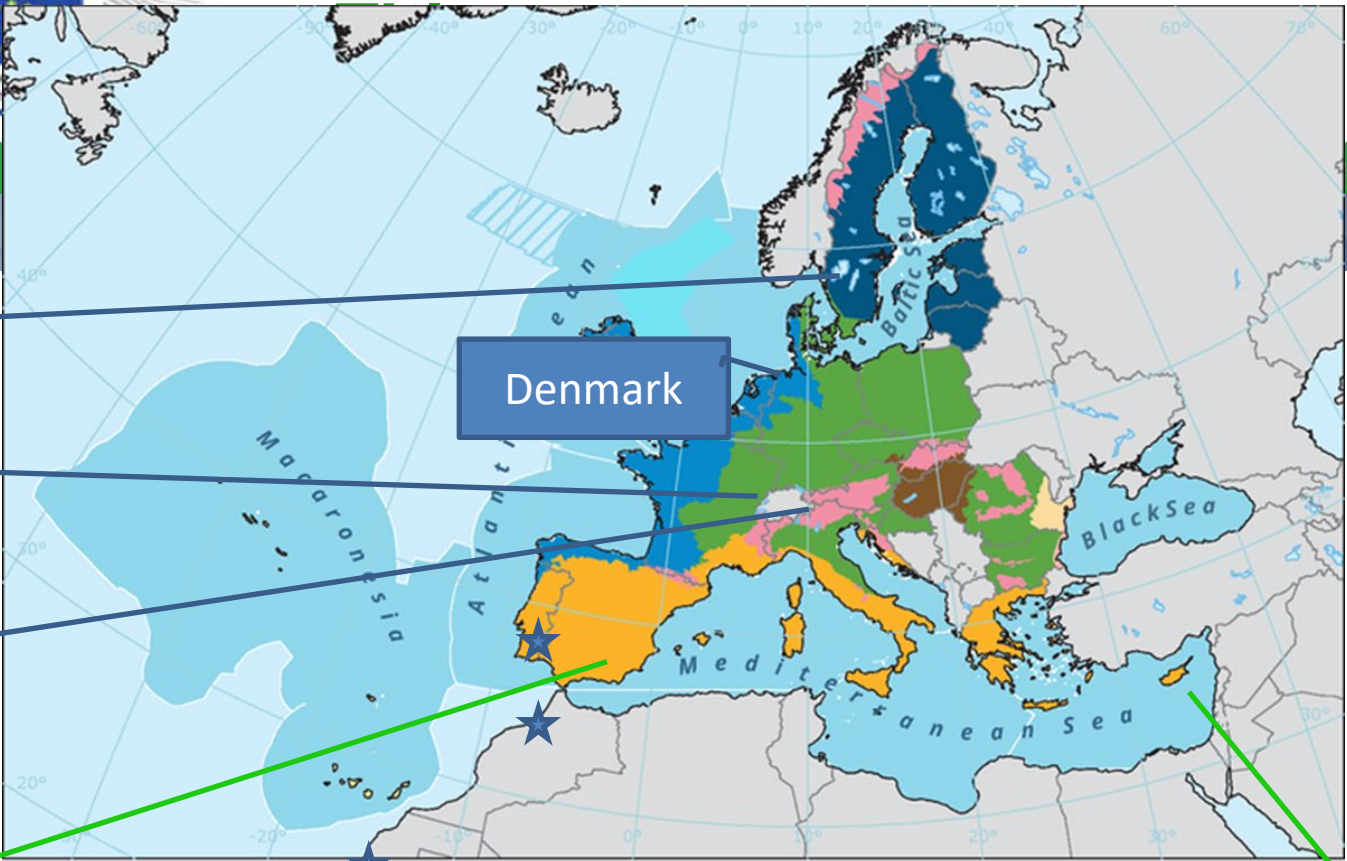
ccess

Sweden

Luxembourg

Germany

Spain



Two pledges received from Member States which are part of the Mediterranean region

Cyprus

Reference data: ©ESRI

Biogeographical and marine regions in the EU

- Biogeographical regions
- Alpine
 - Atlantic
 - Black Sea
 - Boreal
 - Continental
 - Macaronesia
 - Mediterranean
 - Pannonian
 - Steppic

- Marine regions
- Marine region names are given in the map
 - Overlapping submissions to UNCLOS





Analysis undertaken so far...

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Member State level

- Completeness” at MS level, i.e. all features (other than the ones in FV/ secure status) covered by the pledge
- 30 % improvement target reached

Mediterranean region

- Habitats and species groups pledged for improvement & non -deterioration
- Habitat types and species for which deterioration is unavoidable



How is status assessed for Habitats Directive?

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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?

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Trend (short & long term) MS level

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



Status EU level

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



Member State -Completeness

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

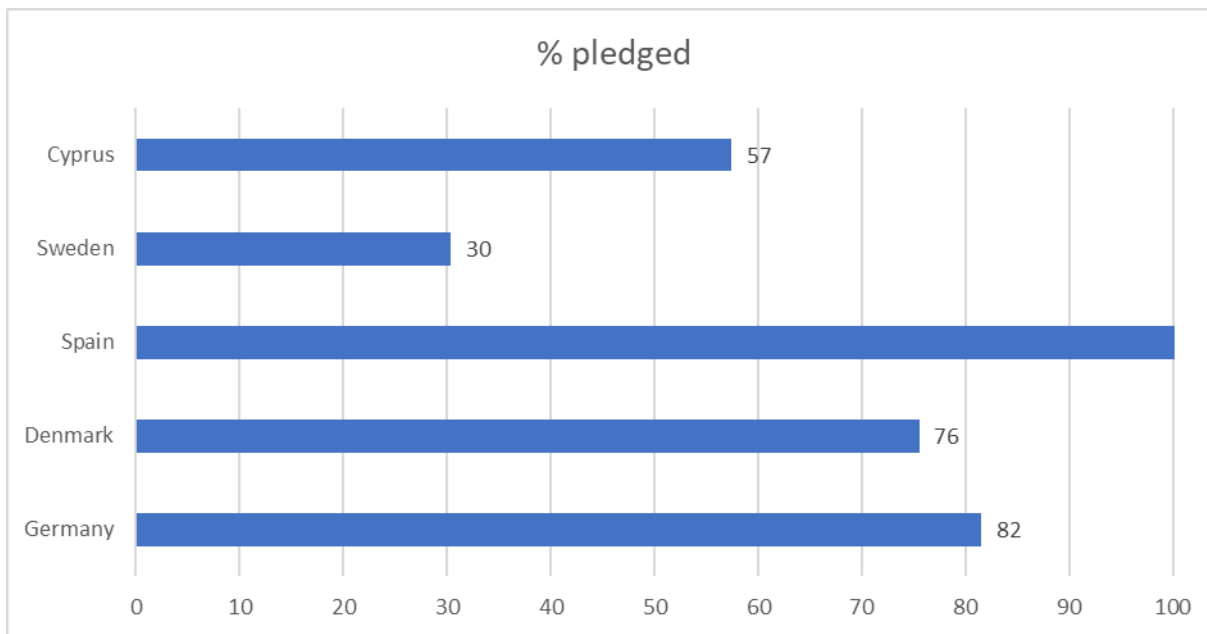
	Habitats	Species
U1-I	X	x
U1 -S	X	X
U1-D	X	X
U1- UKN	X	X
U2- I	X	X
U2- S	X	X
U2-D	X	X
U2-UNK	X	x
FV -I		
FV-S		
FV-D		
FV-UNK		
XX	x	x

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



Member State -Completeness

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Conclusions

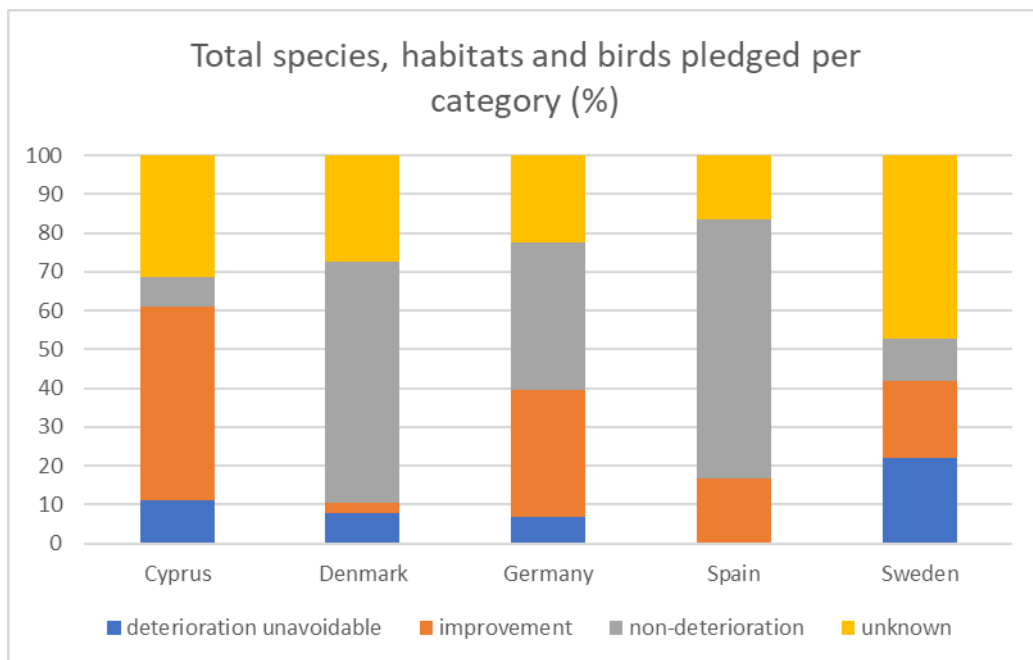
- Completeness of pledges is relatively high
- Species not pledged:
 - Wintering and passing birds
 - Habitats and species with stable or increasing trends (mostly U1)

Some data information errors



Member State - 30% improvement target reached

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

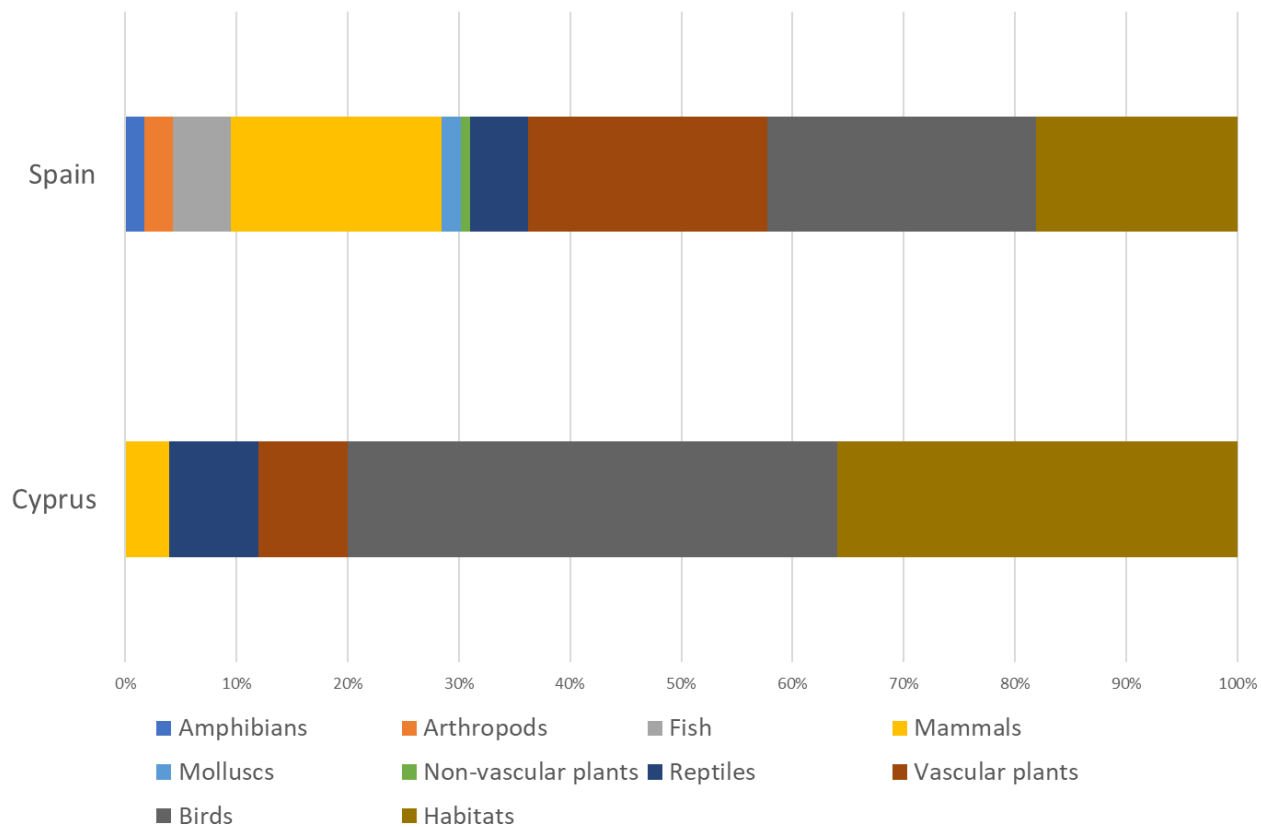
- Not all Member States reach the target
- Possible explanation
 - Unclearly on whether all species or only species with declining trend needed to be pledged for improvement?
 - How to pledge unknowns?
 - No pledges for improvement if no resources were available for actions



Pledged for improvement- Mediterranean region

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Pledges for improvement in the Mediterenean region

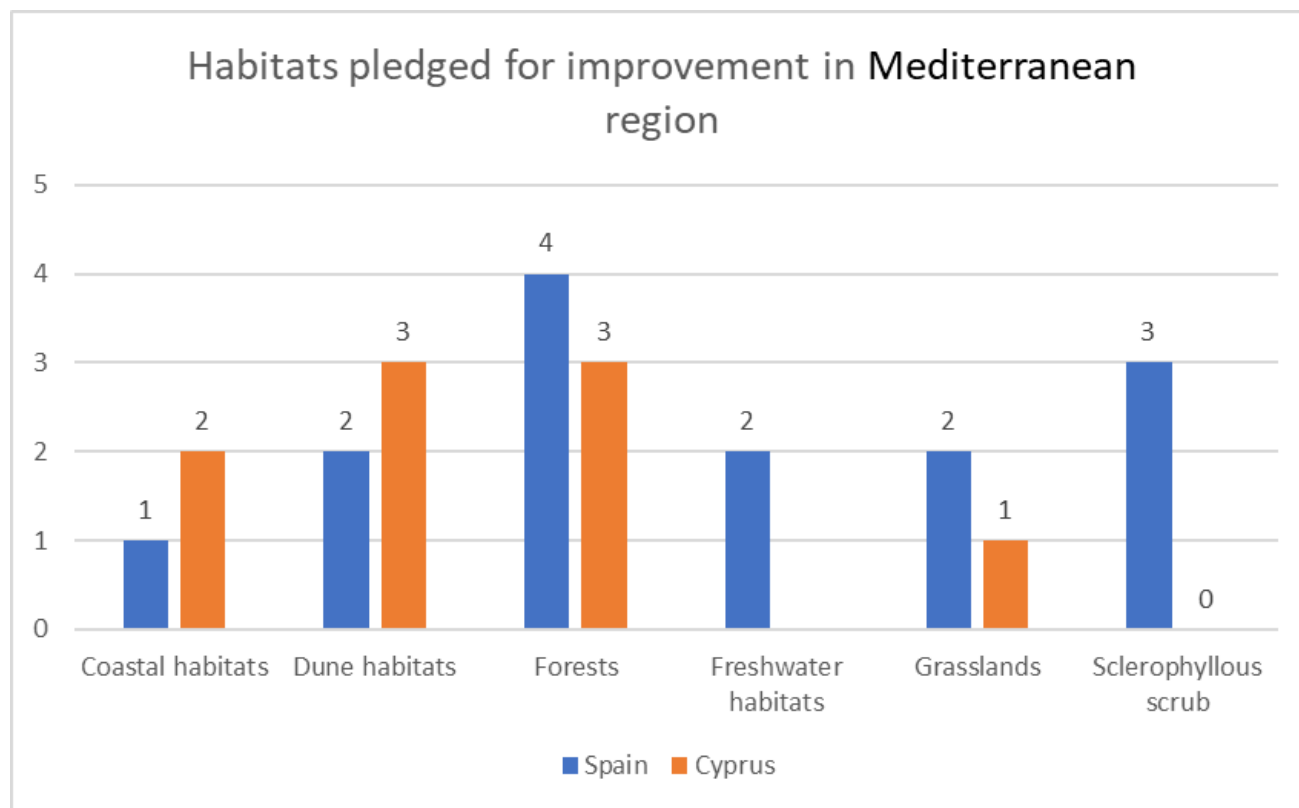


- The pledges focus on primarily on birds and habitats
- After birds, mammals and vasular plants are most represented



Habitats pledged for improvement Mediterranean region

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- The pledges of Cyprus focus -on the restoration of dune habitats and forests
- The pledge of Spain targets forest and sclerophyllous shrubs



Some examples

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Morris squill (Scilla morrisii)
<https://eunis.eea.europa.eu/species/9273>



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



Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*)
@ Saxifraga-Henk Sierdsema



Some examples

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



Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*)
@ Saxifraga-Piet Munsterman



Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) @ Saxifraga-Luc Hoogenstein



Measures taken for species and habitats

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- 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 Mediterranean region?

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Country	birds	habitats	Habitat species
Spain	0	0	0
Cyprus	2 (breeding)	0	4

Cyprus

Four endemic plants species

- *Salvia veneris* - Kythrean sage
- *Brassica hilarionis*
- *Delphinium caseyi* - Casey's larkspur
- *Sideritis cypria* - the Cyprus ironwort



Overall conclusions

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



Issues for discussion

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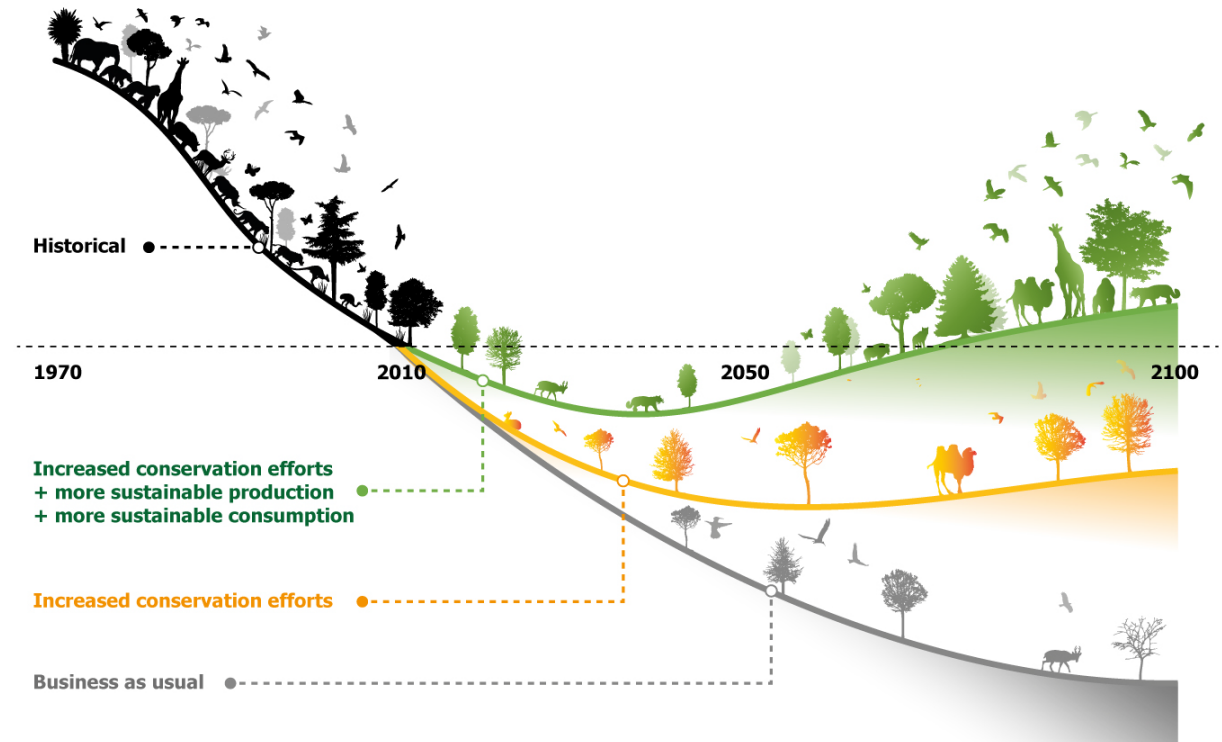
- What is the timeline for submission of the missing pledges?
- Does this analysis reflect the pledges of missing Member States?
- Will pledges be followed by concrete actions on the ground?



Issues for discussion

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How feasible is it to reverse trend?



artwork illustrates the main findings of the article, but does not intend to accurately represent its results (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2705-y>)



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Thank you !