



**National Pledges on improving trends for  
30% of species and habitats in unfavourable  
/ non-secure status and non-deterioration in  
the conservation status and trends of all  
habitat and species by 2030**

**Mediterranean Biogeographical Seminar**

**17-19 April 2024, Larnaca, Cyprus**

## National pledge process

1. Cyprus has submitted the pledge on conservation status improvement on 31.03.2023
2. The pledge includes two subtargets:
  - Improving status (or at least showing a strong positive trend) for 30% of species and habitats in unfavourable / non secure status
  - No further deterioration in conservation trends
3. The pledge has been prepared by the Department of Environment (Habitats Directive), with contributions from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (marine environment) and the Game and Fauna Service (Birds Directive)

Baseline: report for the period 2013-2018

## National pledge process – Habitats Directive

1. Cyprus reports on 45 habitat types (5 marine) and on 59 species of the Habitats Directive (4 marine)
2. 25 habitat types are assessed as unfavourable (24 U1 or U2) or unknown (1) and 24 species are assessed as unfavourable (13 U1 or U2) or unknown (11)
3. For selecting habitats and species we followed the “Guidance to Member States on how to select and prioritise species/habitats for the 30% conservation improvement target under the strategy”
4. Under the improving status for 30% of species and habitats in unfavourable status target, **8 habitat types** and **7 species** should be included
5. Under the non-deterioration in the conservation trend targets, **6 habitat types** show a decreasing trend and should be included (no species show a decreasing trend, although 15 species have an unknown trend)

Baseline: report for the period 2013-2018

## National pledge process – Birds Directive

1. 37 breeding bird species in Cyprus are not assessed as Secure at the EU-level and 12 breeding species show a decreasing trend at national level
2. For selecting bird species we followed the “Guidance to Member States on how to select and prioritise species/habitats for the 30% conservation improvement target under the strategy”
3. Under the improving status for 30% of species in non-secure status, **11 breeding bird species** should be included in the target
4. Under the non-deterioration in the conservation trends target, **12 breeding bird species** should be included

Baseline: report for the period 2013-2018

# National pledge process – Prioritizing habitat and species

1. Criteria used for prioritizing habitats:
  - umbrella effect for endemic or endangered species
  - secured funding for conservation actions (under projects or policies which are either in place or planned to be implemented)
  
2. Criteria used for prioritizing species:
  - endemic species or species present only in Cyprus within the EU
  - endangered species
  - secured funding for conservation actions (under projects or policies which are either in place or planned to be implemented)
  
3. Criteria used for prioritizing bird species
  - endemic species or subspecies in Cyprus or the Mediterranean or Cyprus supports an important percentage of the EU population
  - decreasing short term population trend in Cyprus
  - secured funding for conservation actions (under projects or policies which are either in place or planned to be implemented)

## **Habitats selected for the 30% target for improving status (or at least showing a strong positive trend)**

1. *1310*-Salicornia & other annuals colonizing mud and sand (U2-decreasing trend, umbrella effect for endemic plant species, secured funding for Action Plan, conservation actions)
2. 6420-Mediterranean tall humid grasslands of the Molinio-Holoschoenion (U2-stable trend, secured funding for Action Plan, conservation actions)
3. 92A0-Salix alba & Populus alba galleries (U2-stable trend, secured funding for Action Plan, conservation actions)
4. 92C0-Platanus orientalis & Liquidambar orientalis woods (Platanion orientalis) (U2-stable trend, secured funding for Action Plan, conservation actions)
5. 92D0-Southern riparian galleries & thickets (Nerio-Tamaricetea and Securinegion tinctoriae) (U2-stable trend, secured funding for Action Plan, conservation actions)
6. 1210-Annual vegetation of drift lines (U2-unknown trend, secured funding for Action Plan, conservation actions)
7. *2230*-Malcolmietalia dune grasslands (U2-decreasing trend, secured funding for Action Plan, conservation actions)
8. *2240*-Brachypodietalia dune grasslands with annuals (U2-decreasing trend, secured funding for plan)

Baseline: report for the period 2013-2018

## Examples for conservation actions

Improve condition of habitats e.g. fencing and visitor management infrastructure, clearance of invasive species and other competitive species e.g. reeds, restoration of river flow



## Habitats for halting deterioration

1. 1410-Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) – U2, deteriorating trend – secured funding for removal and management of competitive reeds from wetland areas
2. 1420-Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*) – U2, deteriorating trend - secured funding for removal and management of competitive reeds from wetland areas
3. 3290-Intermittently flowing Mediterranean rivers of the Paspalo-Agrostidion – U2, deteriorating trend – plans to implement river flow restoration actions

In addition, 3 habitat types with deteriorating trend (1310, 2230, 2240) are already selected for a pledge for improvement

## **Species selected for the 30% target for improving status (or at least showing a strong positive trend)**

1. *Scilla morrisii* (U1, stable trend, endangered and endemic plant species, secured funding for conservation actions)
2. *Mauremys rivulata* (U1, unknown trend, secured funding for Action Plan and conservation actions)
3. *Rousettus aegyptiacus* (U2, unknown trend, Cyprus is the only EU country hosting this species, secured funding for Action Plan and conservation actions)
4. *Natrix natrix cypriaca* (U2, unknown trend, endemic subspecies, secured funding for Action Plan and conservation actions)
5. *Chelonia mydas* (U1, improving trend, secured funding for Action Plan and conservation actions)
6. *Monachus monachus* (U1, improving trend, endangered at the time of the preparation of the pledges, secured funding for conservation actions)
7. *Tulipa cypria* (U1, stable trend, endangered and endemic plant species, expansion of Natura 2000 area)

Baseline: report for the period 2013-2018

## Examples of conservation actions

1. Population re-inforcement (*S. morrisii*)
2. Expansion or designation of new N2K areas (*M. rivulata*, *T. cypria*, *M. monachus*)
3. Create microhabitats with fruit trees and small ponds within rivers (*R. aegyptiacus*, *N. natrix cypriaca*)
4. In-situ protection of nests (*C. mydas*)
5. Decrease population of invasive alien species (*M. rivulata*)

Baseline: report for the period 2013-2018

## Species for halting deterioration

1. *Ovis orientalis ophion*– FV, stable trend (short-term for 5 years), but the species has a decreasing trend estimated at 23% based on 20+ years of standardized counts (2000-2020), the creation of forest openings will increase forage sites and will have a positive impact on the species



Photo: Elena Erotokritou

## **Bird species selected for the 30% target for improving status (or at least showing a strong positive trend)**

1. *Charadrius alexandrinus* (EU population status declining, stable trend in Cyprus, secured funding for conservation actions)
2. *Vanellus spinosus* (EU population status threatened, increasing trend in Cyprus, 50% of breeding population is located in Cyprus, biggest population in EU, secured funding for conservation actions)
3. *Coracias garrulus* (EU population status unknown, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus, Cyprus supports important % of EU and European population, secured funding for conservation actions, European Red List-2021: population decreasing)
4. *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii* (EU population status unknown, stable trend in Cyprus, Mediterranean endemic subspecies, secured funding for conservation actions, European Red List-2021: population decreasing)
5. *Coturnix coturnix* (EU population status unknown, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus, European Red List-2021: Near Threatened)

Baseline: report for the period 2013-2018

## **Bird species selected for the 30% target for improving status (or at least showing a strong positive trend)**

6. *Fulica atra* (EU population status depleted, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus)
7. *Galerida cristata* (EU population status declining, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus)
8. *Otus scops* (EU population status unknown, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus, now recognized as a separate species, *Otus cyprius*, endemic in Cyprus)
9. *Melanocorypha calandra* (EU population status depleted, stable trend in Cyprus)
10. *Streptopelia turtur* (EU population status near threatened, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus)
11. *Sylvia melanothorax* (EU population status depleted, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus, endemic in Cyprus)

Baseline: report for the period 2013-2018

## Examples of conservation actions

1. Enhancement of resting and feeding opportunities by reducing disturbance and predation by feral cats, as well as improving breeding success by securing water levels on key wetlands (*C. alexandrinus*, *V. spinosus*, *F. atra*)
2. Placement of nest boxes (*C. garrulus*)
3. Agri-environment and similar measures (delayed harvest, set-asides, 'space for nature' measures, reduction of herbicides and insecticides) under Cyprus Strategic plan for the CAP (*C. garrulus*, *O. scops*, *C. coturnix*, *G. cristata*, *M. calandra*, *S. melanothorax*)
4. Protect islet nesting sites, coastal cliff nesting sites and key at-sea feeding areas from incompatible activities and disturbance. These must be first identified through relevant studies which are in progress (*P. aristotelis desmarestii*)

## Bird species for halting deterioration

1. *Cisticola juncidis* (EU population status secure, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus, agri-environment measures are expected to improve the available habitat of the species)
2. *Gyps fulvus* (EU population status secure, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus, secured funding for conservation actions, e.g. campaigns to combat placing poison baits and measures to prevent electrocution, reinforcement of the population by importing individuals from other countries, enhanced provision of carcasses)
3. *Loxia curvirostra* (EU population status secure, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus, restoration of *Pinus nigra* forest)
4. *Spatula clypeata* (EU population status near threatened, decreasing trend in Cyprus, there are some previous nesting records, but this is not a nesting bird in Cyprus, wintering numbers have declined on the island mostly because of very mild winters and high winter temperatures compared to past numbers)
5. *Upupa epops* (EU population status secure, *decreasing trend* in Cyprus, agri-environment measures will improve the available habitat of the species)

In addition, 7 breeding bird species (*F. atra*, *G. cristata*, *O. scops*, *S. turtur*, *S. melanothorax*, *C. garrulus*, *C. coturnix*) with decreasing trend are already selected for a pledge for improvement



Thank you for your attention!