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Italy's approach to the target of non deterioration and improving the conservation status of habitats and species

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Conservation status target of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030: non deterioration and 30% conservation improvement of species and habitats in unfavorable / non-secure status.

No official pledges submitted by Italy on this target yet

Two connected ongoing processes:

Preliminary lists drawn up by ISPRA



Identification of conservation objectives and measures by the regions for all SACs

Given that the pledges must be implemented through the realization of the measures and the achievement of the conservation objectives, the final version of the lists will be produced at the end of the current work on conservation objectives and measures at site-level

Preliminary Lists

The lists of species and habitats protected by the two Directives have been defined with the technical support of ISPRA.

Habitat and species were included into the 4 sections defined by the European format for submitting national pledges:

- 1. 30 % target for improving status and trends
- 2. target of non-deterioration
- 3. non-deterioration unlikely to be achieved
- 4. reducing unknowns

ISPRA working group: S. Ercole, A. Aradis, S. Agnesi, P. Angelini, L. Casella, E. Carli, V. Giacanelli, A. Grignetti, G. La Mesa, V. La Morgia, G. Mo, R. Nardelli, I. Prisco, M. Scalisi, L. Serra

1				-					
Reg_Biogeo Habitat	PROPOSTA TARGET	motivazio ni per	RANKING finale	Eur	IV	IV	IV	IV	I¥ Re
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	DETERIORAMEN	e con	raggiungib		usi	sio	sio	usi	RA
-	TO 3=NON	Region	ilità	~	~	~	*	~	Ψ.
ALP_9220	1	ranking alto,	854	NT	F۷	F۷	F۷	U1	U1
CON_5330	1	ranking alto.	827,4	VU	F۷	U1	F۷	F۷	U1
ALP_9210	1	ranking alto.	823,5	NT	F۷	U1	F۷	F۷	U1
CON_9540	1	ranking alto,	584	LC	F۷	F۷	U2	xx	U2
CON_1420	1	ranking alto,	476	NT	U1	F۷	F۷	U1	U1
ALP_9510	1	ranking alto,	279,5	LC	U1	F۷	U1	U1	U1
MED_8320	1	ranking alto, solo	246,25	LC	U1	F۷	F۷	F۷	U1
MED_6130	1	ranking alto,	245,5	EN	F۷	U2	U1	U1	U2
MED_9510	1	ranking alto,	202,75	LC	U1	5	U1	XX	U1
MED_8110	1	ranking alto, F¥	197,375	LC	F۷	U1	F۷	F۷	U1
CON_1240	1	ranking alto,	194	LC	U1	F۷	F۷	U1	U1
CON_5210	1	ranking intermedi	119	LC	F۷	U1	F۷	U2	U2
MED_8240	1	ranking intermedi	116	LC	U1	F۷	xx	F۷	U1
CON_6170	1	ranking intermedi	102,8	LC	F۷	F۷	F۷	U1	U1
ALP_4090	1	ranking intermedi	86,25	LC	XX	U2	F۷	F۷	U2
MED_8120	1	ranking intermedi	84,125	LC	F۷	U1	F۷	F۷	U1
MED_5430	1	ranking intermedi	83	LC	F۷	U1	F۷	F۷	U1
CON_8120	1	ranking intermedi	81,5	LC	F۷	U1	F۷	F۷	U1
CON_2270	1	ranking intermedi	78	LC	U1	U1	F۷	U1	U1
MED_7230	1	ranking intermedi	74,8	EN	U1	F۷	F۷	F۷	U1
CON_8110	1	ranking intermedi	67,775	LC	F۷	U1	F۷	F۷	U1
CON_8130	1	ranking intermedi	66,125	LC	F۷	U1	F۷	F۷	U1
MED 4030	1	ranking	66	VU	F۷	F۷	F۷	U1	U1

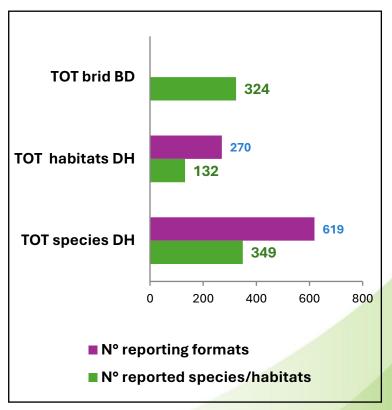
National responsibility and effort

For Italy, the responsibility for conservation and the commitment required by the Strategy are very high, being influenced by:

- ✓ Number of species and habitats of unional interest present in the MS, very high in Italy (349 species and 132 habitat types of HD and 324 bird pop. reported in 2019)
- Endemism rate (approx. 40% for flora and 30% for terrestrial and inland water fauna of HD)
- Number of unfavourable and unknown
 - √ 322 "cases" for species
 - √ 239 "cases" for habitats
 - √ 124 birds populations

Number of species/habitat reported in HD and BD and related formats

(data from ISPRA 349/2021 Report)



«case» = species/habitat + Reg Bio



Criteria used to assemble the preliminary lists

- The proposed method is based on a prioritization system based on criteria and specific indicators:
 - > 4 criteria (CE criteria + additional criteria to refine the analysis)
 - > Specific indicators have been developed for each criterion, with scoring scales tailored around the peculiarities of each group
 - > The final ranking is the overall score obtained for each case, which defines its priority

Species	Reg Bio	Criterion1 indicator 1.1	Criterion1 indicator 1.2	Criterion1 indicator 1.3	Criterion2 indicator 2.1	••••	Final Ranking Σ
Species 1	MED	2	2	2	2	•••	8
Species 1	CON	2	1	0	1		4
Species 2	CON	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••

Criteria used to assemble the preliminary lists

✓ Criteria proposed by EU Commission:

- Biodiversity criteria
- Synergy with other environmental or climatic targets
- «Low hanging fruit» approach



- ✓ Integrated criteria (CE criteria + ISPRA criteria)
 - Vulnerability (includes the CE extinction risk criteria)
 - Responsibility (includes National responsibility and Distribution)
 - Feasibility (includes LHF)
 - Reachability (includes LHF)

Indicators used for each criterion

Vulnerability

- Conservation status and overall trends
- Inclusion in IUCN red lists (for species)
- Inclusion in HD Annexes as priority habitat/species

Responsibility

- Number of Member States with the species/habitat
- Number of Natura 2000 network sites at national level compared to European level
- Regional responsibility (N° Italian Regions/PA)

✓ Feasibility

- Coverage of the species distribution within the Natura 2000 network
- Inclusion in Life projects (from 2010 to present) or Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs)
- Is the trend increasing?
- Is the "area" param. FV (for habitats)?

Reachability

- Number of parameters (ex.Art 17) unfavorable (IV Report)
- Number of NAT2000 sites with species/habitat
- Specific critical aspects (e.g. long generation times)

Criteria and indicators: an example for animal species

epoo	species name	REG BIO	Vu1 Vulnerability Overall CS U2=4; U1=2; XX=4	Vu2 Vulnerability Overall TREND D=3; S=1; I=1; UNK=1,5	Vu3 Vulnerability Priority species HD (*) *=2 no*=1	Vu4 Vulnerability IUCN category CR=5 EN=4 VU=3 NT=2 LC=1 DD=3 NE and NA=0,5	Re1 UE Responsibility N° Member State 1 MS (End IT)=2; 2 MS =1; 3 - 7 MS=0,5; > 7 MS=0.2	Re2 Responsibility % sites IT/EU >90%=4 89-75=3 74-60=2 <59=1	Re3 National Responsibility N° italian Region 1 REG=3; 2 REG=2; 3 REG=1; <= 4 REG=0,5	Fa1 Feasibility Overall Trend (Stable and Increment) =2; S=1.5 if CS1/2 <=2; S=1 if CS1/2 >2; D e XX=1	coverage	Fa3 Feasibility LIFE - Best practices with LIFE=2 without LIFE=1	PAF sufficiente=4	Ra1 Reachability: N. unfavourable CS 1 CS U=4; 3 e 4 U=0,5; resto =1	Ra2 Reachability N of B/C NAT2000 sites 1-7 = 4; da 8 a 14= 2; da 15 a 35 = 1.5; da 36 a 64 = 1; >65= 0.5
_	•	7	▼	ž	*	_	▼	▼	▼	▼		*	▼	▼	▼
5828	Salmo fibreni	MED	4	3	1	5	2	4	3	1	4	1	0,5	0,5	4
1220	Emys orbicularis	MED	4	3	1	4	0,5	1	0,5	1	2	2	4	0,5	0,5
5357	Bombina pachypus	MED	4	3	1	4	2	4	0,5	1	3	1	4	0.5	0.5
	Emphasise m	nost d	critical											1	

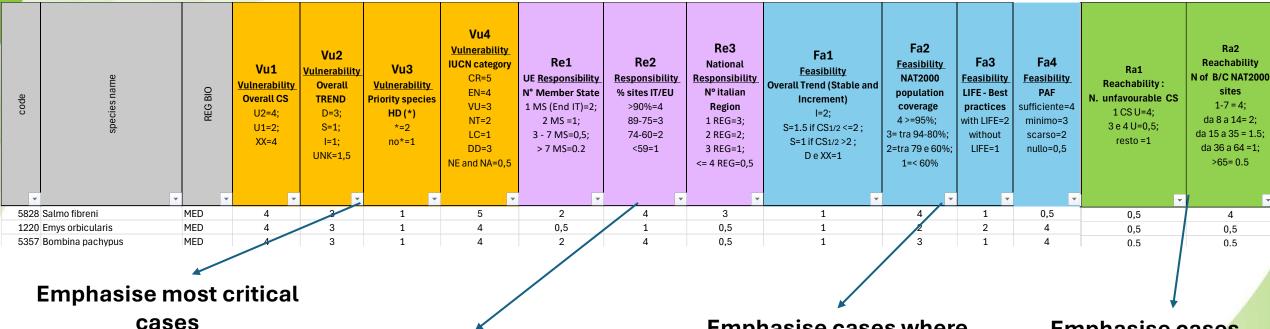
Emphasise cases of higher responsability at National and Regional level

cases

Emphasise cases where improvements are expected due to planned/ongoing conservation projects

Emphasise cases
with lower number
of unfavorable
parameters and
smaller
distribution

Criteria and indicators: an example for animal species



Emphasise cases of higher responsability at National and Regional level

Emphasise cases where improvements are expected due to planned/ongoing conservation projects

Emphasise cases
with lower number
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distribution

Final ranking = Vulnerability + Responsibility + Feasibility + Reachability

Preliminary lists

TARGET 1 (30% IMPROVEMENT)

- ✓ 24 plants*
- √ 63 animals*
- ✓ 2 marine animals*
- ✓ 75 habitats*
- ✓ 38 bird pop.

TARGET 3 (NON-REACHABLE)

- ✓ 6 plants*
- √ 1 animals*
- ✓ 1 marine animals*
- √ 6 habitats*
- ✓ 5 bird pop.

TARGET 2 (NON-DETERIORATING)

- √ 43 plants*
- √ 141 animals*
- √ 1 marine animals*
- ✓ 114 habitats*
- ✓ 86 bird pop.

TARGET 4 (REDUCTION OF XX)

- √ 8 plants*
- ✓ 7 animals*
- √ 22 marine habitats and species*
- √ 19 habitats*
- ✓ 93 bird pop.

^{*«}case» = species/habitat + Reg Bio

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES STANDARD FORM

A format for the definition of site-specific conservation objectives and measures, prepared based on the indications received from the technical services of the EC, has been implemented to overcome the EU infringement procedure 2015/2163 – failure to estabilish the necessary conservation objectives and measures for the SACs.

Sections in the format:

- 1. Basic data
- 2. Objectives, attributes and targets
- 3. Measures

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									:H	ABITAT		SPI	ECIEs				HAE	HTAT	SPE	CIEs						
legion	Regis	Ste	Site code	Stename	Group	Habitat code	Species code	Species name	Cover	Represe ntativity	Rel surface	Popul ation	Isolation	Conserv	Global	Range	Area	Structure and functions	Population	Habitat for the species	Future prospects	Overall accessment	darabution -	Limited databation - bio region	Pressures	Threatz
iemonte	ALP	8	T1130002	Val Sessera		91E0	- 3		10,79	D.				0.00								4				
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lemonte	ALP	8	IT1130002	Val Sessera		9180			10,79	D												->				

		SECTION. 2 - OBJECTIVES			
Habitat	Objective	Art. 17 Parameters	Attributes	Targets	Additional information
		Area	Surface	No decrease in the site	
	Long term maintenance of the favourable conservation status, as defined by the following attributes and target			Dominance of typical species	For typical species please see. Angelini P., Casella L., Grignetti A., Genovesi P. (ed.), 2016.
		Structure and functions s	Species composition	Absence or irrelevant coverage of	
				species linked to dynamic	
1060 Alpine and boreal heaths				phenomena (herbs, wood species)	
			Distribution	No fragmentation	
				No damage due to wild herbivore	
			Other quality parameters	fauna	
		Art. 17 Parameters	Pressures	Targets	Additional information
			Abandonment of pastoral systems, absence of pasture	Maintenance of extensive grazing	
		Future prospects	Ski resorts	No direct/indirect relevant impact on the habitat	

					SECTION 3 - MEASURES							
species/habitats	Conservation status	Pressures	Objectives	Priority (yesho)	Measures	Target (unit and quantity e.g. 100 ha. 3 ponds etc.)	sible bodies	measures)	Financing 2014-2020	Measure included in PAF 2021-2027	PAF 2021-	Further information on the implementation of measures (e.g. implemented measure, measure included in a programme or project, or in FDPs, costs, timefable etc.).
			,		Obligation no intervention of any kind except this one envisaged in the management plan, aimed either at the conservation of the habitat or at the improvement of habitat suitability for Carabus.	Whole area covered by the habital (about 500 ha)	Dismonto	D.G.R. n. 24 4043 del 10/10/2016 e D.M. 3/2/2017		NA	NA	The measure is set out in D.G.R. in 24, Art. 11. The interventions are envisaged in the Forestry Plan which includes the rules for the management of grasslands set out in the LIFE Corebus project [http://www.lifecorebus.eulindex.php?tang+ii]
4060 Alpine and boreal heaths	A	Abandonment of pastoral systems, absence of pasture Ski resort	Lang term maintenence of the favourable conservation status		In case of natural dynamics detrimental for the habital, implementation of selective culting and for extensive grazing	10% of the area	Piemonte region			N/A		The measure is set out in D.G.R. n. 24, Art. 11. The specific implementing rules are set out in the above mentioned Forestry Plan
		an result			Ban on the construction of new skill slopes and skill lift		Piemonte region	Si - D.G.R n. 24-4043 del 19/19/2016 e D.M. 3922017		N/A	N/A	The bans are implemented through surveillance activities by the Carabineri Carps and other surveillance structures in the region. Violations are sanctisned under Regional Lave 19(200).

ITALIAN REGIONS ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE COMPILATION OF THIS FORMAT FOR ALL SACS

A very demanding task!



- More than 2000 SACs
- 19 administrative regions, 2 autonomous provinces
- 131 habitats, 91 plant species, 21 mammals, 10 reptiles, 17 amphibians, 29 fishes, 42 invertebrates

Once completed, the form will provide:

- a realistic and clear view of the conservation efforts needed to improve or mantain the conservation status of habitats and species
- a picture of the committments that the regions can actually afford (the forms report actual intentions and possibilities)

FINAL STEPS

A review of the preliminary lists drawn up by ISPRA in the light of the outcomes of the objectives and measures standard form will provide a second draft of the pledges to be submitted to the regions for their technical review and final approval.



Final lists, realistic approach

- > Then it is envisaged to submit the pledges to the Committee for the National Biodiversity Strategy for a vote
- Finally the lists will be transmitted to the Commission

This road map would not end before the first half of 2025. In the meantime italian regions, in line with the PAFs, are implementing active restoration measures with EU funds, especially the ERDF.

Furthermore, to speed up the process and to provide additional financial support, the Ministry has allocated a fund (15 million euros over 2023 and 2024) focused primarily on the implementation of restoration measures in N2000 sites, inviting the regions to concentrate their activities in a coordinate manner on habitats and species included in the preliminary list n.1 (30% improvement).

