

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

and

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

FORMAT FOR A PRIORITISED ACTION FRAMEWORK (PAF) FOR NATURA 2000

For the EU Multiannual Financing Period 2014-2020

(Final Version 11 May 2012)

A. Introductory overview of Natura 2000 network for territory

Sections A and B of this document include information for Metropolitan UK in the Atlantic Biogeographic Region and the Rock of Gibraltar and Southern Waters in the Mediterranean Biogeographic Region.

A.1 Short introduction to the habitat types of Annex I and species of Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I and migratory bird species for which Natura 2000 sites are designated

Atlantic Region

The UK supports a wide variety of species and habitats, ranging from cold water coral reefs to saltmarshes and mountain summits. A key policy tool for conserving them all is the designation and management of protected sites - areas of land, inland water and the sea that have special legal protection to conserve important habitats and species.

Over the last 60 years, there has been a reduction in the extent of semi-natural habitat and in the populations of many species of plants and animals in the UK. Over the same period, the UK has taken conservation action to mitigate this general decline in biodiversity through the establishment of a substantial network of protected areas, and has brought in measures to protect species populations from unsustainable exploitation. The UK's protected areas programme includes work to identify, protect and conserve National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Areas of Special Scientific Interest in Northern Ireland) and other protected wildlife areas.

Under Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats, Metropolitan UK hosts 77 Annex I habitat types and 43 species listed on Annex II for which Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated.

Habitat groups include 8 marine habitats and 69 terrestrial. The terrestrial habitats comprise: 8 freshwater, 17 Coastal, 8 Lowland grasslands, 4 Lowland heathlands, 6 lowland wetlands, 14 Upland, 11 Woodland, and 1 Cave. The species groups include: 8 fish species, 1 amphibian, 12 invertebrates (of which two are freshwater), 9 mammals (of which four are marine), and 13 plants.

There are 22 priority habitats found within the UK including coastal lagoons, Caledonian forest and active raised bogs. This comprises nearly a third of the European protected habitats found in the UK. Of these priority habitats 9 are considered to be widespread, 6 are localised, 2 are restricted and 5 are very restricted.

There is one priority species listed for the UK and that is the lower plant *Marsupella profunda* which is found in the UK only in Cornwall at a small number of locations associated with china clay. The species has a narrow ecological niche and is at the edge of its range in the UK.

Under Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds there are 103 species for which SPAs have been designated in the UK. The UK is of major international significance for several groups of birds. These included breeding seabirds, wintering and passage waterbirds, birds of Britain's distinctive uplands, and birds of the Caledonian pine-forest. A high proportion – in some cases all – of the national and international populations of such species utilise the UK SPA network.

Mediterranean Region

Under Directives 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds and 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats, Gibraltar hosts 10 Annex I habitat types which support 45 species of Annex I, 3 Annex II species, alongside a further 138 priority species.

The **Rock of Gibraltar** nature reserve SAC/SPA (see figure 1) has undergone several transformations in its habitats and uses. Habitats have ranged from a once (presumably) forested landscape to a totally denuded slope during the Great Siege, 1779 – 1783, to a succession of vegetation back to dense maquis with scattered patches of garrigue and pseudosteppe in recent times. More recently, the emphasis has changed to that of a Nature Reserve which remains, a tourist attraction with several tourist sites.

The Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA boasts a rich flora, with 363 species having been recorded within the boundary of the Nature Reserve (Linares 2003). The vegetation of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve is dominated by closed Mediterranean shrubland known as maquis (a tall, thick type of Mediterranean matorral), which consists of a dense community of evergreen, sclerophyllous shrubs that typically replaces evergreen woodland after fire or deforestation (Rocamora, 1997), as was the case with the Upper Rock following the initial removal of its Mediterranean woodland. Maquis habitats are not determined by any species of trees or bushes in particular (Tomaselli 1977), but the typical shrub genera that dominate in this habitat, depending on location, soil and other conditions, are *Arbutus*, *Cistus*, *Erica*, *Olea*, *Phyllirea*, *Genista*, *Calycotome*, *Sarothamnus*, *Quercus*, *Ulex*, *Rhamnus*, *Pistacia* and *Myrtus* (Rocamora 1997).

The Rock of Gibraltar, and in particular the Upper Rock Nature Reserve is dominated by a dense cover of mostly maquis, with some garrigue, and these habitats include many important fruit-bearing shrubs that support large passerine populations during passage periods and in winter (Heath et al. 2000). The slopes of the Rock also serve as a staging site for large numbers of passerine and near-passerine migrants. Most migratory western European species can occur at Gibraltar during the northward or southward migration periods (Cortes 1996). The passerine and near-passerine species that occur within the Nature Reserve on migration are listed in table 1, which shows that a number of these birds have an unfavourable conservation status within Europe.

In addition, many migratory birds of prey and storks congregate at the Strait of Gibraltar on their way towards their wintering grounds in Africa. When westerly winds blow across the Strait, Gibraltar itself sees the majority of raptor passage during both the pre-nuptial (northerly) and post-nuptial (southerly) migrations, and most of these birds fly directly over the Upper Rock Nature Reserve. The species that can be observed over the Rock on migration are listed in table 2.

Extending three miles to the East and South of Gibraltar and stretching all the way up to the median line to the West of Gibraltar, the marine SAC/SPA or **Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA** has long been recognized as an important marine area due to its rich diversity in species and habitats (see figure 2). Sea cliffs and caves, reefs and sandy marine habitats all form part of the marine ecosystem found along the southern shores of Gibraltar. The abundance and richness of species is largely influenced by the strong currents and upwelling that are so characteristic of the Strait of Gibraltar. Seasonal abundance, due to migratory movements between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, results in a multitude of pelagic and

predatory fish along with cetaceans including the Striped and Common Dolphins. The latter cetaceans breed in the Bay of Gibraltar.

The Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA is also located on an important migration route for seabirds. Many species stop over and feed within the marine SAC/SPA during their migratory journeys and some, such as the Cory's Shearwater, forage in the marine SAC/SPA whilst breeding. Other species rely on the SAC/SPA during the winter in variable numbers depending on weather conditions (e.g. numbers of Gannets feeding inshore during storms).

Table 1. Migrant passerines and near-passerines of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve, together with their frequency of occurrence and conservation status and category attributed to them by BirdLife International.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Frequency of Occurrence	SPEC Category	Threat Status
stone curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus	0	3	V
woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	0	4	S
turtle dove	Streptopelia turtur	R	3	D
great spotted cuckoo	Clamator galandrius	R		S
common cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	0		S
European scops owl	Otus scops	R	2	D
common nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	R	2	D
red-necked nightjar	Caprimulgus ruficollis	R		S
common swift	Apus apus	R		S
pallid swift	Apus pallidus	R		S
alpine swift	Apus melba	R		S
European bee-eater	Merops apiaster	R	3	D

		Frequency of	SPEC	Threat
Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurrence	Category	Status
European roller	Coracias garrulus	O	2	D
Eurasian hoopoe	Upupa epops	R		S
Eurasian wryneck	Jynx torquilla	R	3	D
short-toed lark	Calandrella brachydactyla		3	V
woodlark	Lullula arborea	0	2	V
common skylark	Alauda arvensis	R	3	V
sand martin	Riparia riparia	R	3	D
crag martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	R		S
barn swallow	Hirundo rustica	R	3	D
red-rumped swallow	Hirundo daurica	R		S
house martin	Delichon urbica	R		S
tawny pipit	Anthus campestris	R	3	V
tree pipit	Anthus trivialis	R		S
meadow pipit	Anthus pratensis	R	4	S
yellow wagtail	Motacilla flava	R		S
grey wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	R		S
white wagtail	Motacilla alba	R		S
rufous bush robin	Cercotrichas galactotes	0		S
European robin	Erithacus rubecula	R	4	S S S S S S S S S
common nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	R	4	S
black redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	R		S
common redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	R	2	V
whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	R	4	S
stonechat	Saxicola torquata	R	3	D
northern wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	R		S
black-eared wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica	R	2	V
rock thrush	Monticola saxatilis	0	3	D
ring ouzel	Turdus torquatus	R	4	S
song thrush	Turdus philomelos	R	4	S
redwing	Turdus iliacus	R	4	Š
zitting cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	R	·	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$
grasshopper warbler	Locustella naevia	R	4	S
sedge warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobae		4	S
European reed warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	R	4	S
olivaceous warbler	Hippolais pallida	0	3	V
Olivadedus warbier	ι πρροιαίο ραπίσα	ĕ	5	v

melodious warbler	Hippolais polyglotta	R	4	S
Dartford warbler	Sylvia undata	R	2	V
spectacled warbler	Sylvia conspicillata	R		S
subalpine warbler	Sylvia cantillans	R	4	S
Orphean warbler	Sylvia hortensis	R	3	V
common whitethroat	Sylvia communis	R	4	S
garden warbler	Sylvia borin	R	4	S
blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	R	4	S
western Bonelli's warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli	R	4	S
wood warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Ο	4	S
common chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	R		S
willow warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	R		S
firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus	R	4	S
spotted flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	R	3	D
pied flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca	R	4	S
Short-toed treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla	Ο	4	S
golden oriole	Oriolus oriolus	R		S
woodchat shrike	Lanius senator	R	2	V
Spanish sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis	Ο		S

		Frequency of	SPEC	Threat
Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurrence	Category	Status
chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	R	4	S
brambling	Fringilla montifringilla	0		S
European serin	Serinus serinus	R	4	S
greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	R	4	S
goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	R		S
siskin	Carduelis spinus	R	4	S
linnet	Carduelis cannabina	R		S
common crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	0		S
ortolan bunting	Emberiza hortulana	R	2	V

Frequency of Occurrence:

R = regular (every year)
O = occasional

- SPEC category (Taken from Tucker & Heath (1994)):
 1 = species of global conservation concern
 2 = concentrated in Europe and with an unfavourable conservation status
- 3 = not concentrated in Europe but with an unfavourable conservation status
- 4 = concentrated in Europe and with a favourable conservation status

European Threat Status (Taken from Tucker & Heath (1994)):

- **E** = Endangered **V** = Vulnerable
- D = Declining R = Rare
- S = Stable

Table 2. Raptor, stork and crane species that can be seen from the Upper Rock Nature Reserve on migration, together with their frequency of occurrence and conservation status and the category attributed to them by BirdLife International (which follow those of table 1).

		Frequency of	SPEC	Threat
Common Name	Scientific Name	Occurrence	Category	Status
black stork	Ciconia nigra	R	3	R
white stork	Ciconia ciconia	R	2	V
honey buzzard	Pernis apivorus	R	4	S
black-winged kite	Elanus caeruleus	Ο	3	V
black kite	Milvus migrans	R	3	V
red kite	Milvus milvus	R	4	S
griffon vulture	Gyps fulvus	R	3	R
cinereous vulture	Aegypius monachus	Ο	3	V
short-toed eagle	Circaetus gallicus	R	3	R
marsh harrier	Circus aeruginosus	R		S
hen harrier	Circus cyaneus	R	3	V
Montagu's harrier	Circus pygargus	R	4	S
goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	Ο		S
sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	R		S
common buzzard	Buteo buteo	R		S
Spanish imperial eagle	Aquila adalberti	0	1	Е

booted eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	R	3	R
Bonelli's eagle	Hieraaetus fasciatus	R	3	Е
osprey	Pandion haliaetus	R	3	R
lesser kestrel	Falco naumanni	R	1	V
common kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	R	3	D
merlin	Falco columbarius	Ο		S
hobby	Falco subbuteo	R		S
Eleonora's falcon	Falco eleonorae	R	2	R
lanner	Falco biarmicus	Ο	3	E
peregrine	Falco peregrinus	R	3	R
European crane	Grus grus	0	3	V

Frequency of Occurrence:

- R = regular (every year)
- **O** = occasional

SPEC category (Taken from Tucker & Heath (1994)):

- 1 = species of global conservation concern
- 2 = concentrated in Europe and with an unfavourable conservation status
- 3 = not concentrated in Europe but with an unfavourable conservation status
- 4 = concentrated in Europe and with a favourable conservation status

European Threat Status (Taken from Tucker & Heath (1994)):

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- V = Vulnerable
- **D** = Declining
- R = Rare
- S = Stable

Sources of information:

Cortes, J.E. (1979) A description of the vegetation of Gibraltar, with considerations on its development. B.Sc. Thesis, Royal Holloway College.

Cortes, J.E. (1996) Windmill Hill Flats: a good view of migration across the Strait of Gibraltar. Almoriama, 15, 163-184.

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Linares, L. (2003) Flowers found in the Upper Rock, including lower slopes, Martin's Path and Mediterranean Steps. Unpubl.

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National Natura 2000 database.

Rocamora, G. (1997) Mediterranean forest, shrubland and rocky habitats. In: Habitats for Birds in Europe: A Conservation Strategy for the Wider Environment – Birdlife Conservation Series No. 6, pp.239-266. Birdlife International, Cambridge, UK.

Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme.

Tomaselli, R. (1977) Degradation of the Mediterranean maquis. MAB Technical Notes 2. UNESCO.

Tucker, G.M. & Heath, M.F. (1994) Birds in Europe: their conservation status.

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Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd. (2007) Six year report for the EC Habitats directive 2000 – 2006: Gibraltar

A.2 Number and area of Natura 2000 sites

Atlantic Region

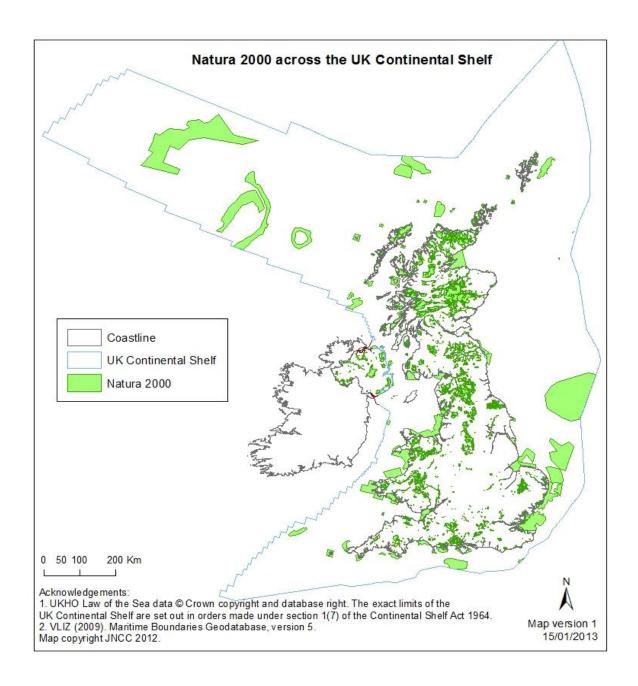
The figures include all sites submitted to the EU in October 2012 for incorporation into the EU Natura 2000 database.

Candidate SCI	11 sites
Sites of Community	24 sites
Importance (SCIs)	
Reference to Commission	Link to Decisions at
Decisions on SCIs	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/bi
	ogeog_regions/index_en.htm
Designated Special Areas	614 sites
of Conservation (SACs)	
Total SACs (includes	649 sites – 80,009 sq km
Candidate SCI, SCI and	
designated SAC)	
Special Protection Areas	269 sites - 27,482 sq km
(SPAs)	
Total Natura 2000	20,890 sq km
terrestrial area	
Total Natura 2000 marine	73,895 sq km
area	

The above sites are listed on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Website. See page http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1458 for SACs and http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1400 for SPAs.

All area figures given in the table above are in the Europe Albers Conic Equal Area Projection. The Marine Natura 2000 area includes all parts of sites that are a) below High Water and b) are on sites that are defined as having marine components. See http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/MN2KPG16_13_MN2KDefs.pdf for an explanation of the latter.

Figure 1. Overview map of the UK Natura 2000 site series



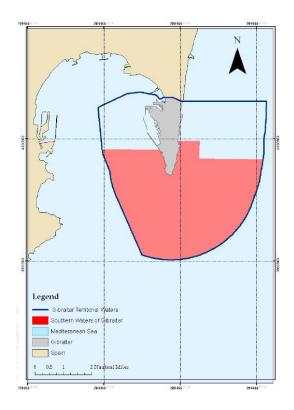
Mediterranean Region

Mediterranean Region	
Sites of Community	2 sites
Importance (SCIs)	
Reference to Commission Decisions on SCIs	Link to Decisions at Commission Decision 2012/9/EU of 18 November 2011 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a fifth updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number
	C(2011) 8172) 2011/85/EU of 10 January 2011 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a fourth updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2010) 9676) 2010/45/EU of 22 December 2009 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive
	92/43/EEC, a third updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2009) 10406) 2009/95/EC of 12 December 2008 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a second updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2008) 8049)
	2008/335/EC of 28 March 2008 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, a first updated list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2008) 1148)
	2006/613/EC of 19 July 2006 adopting, pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC, the list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region (notified under document number C(2006) 3261)
	http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/biogeog_regions/index_en.htm
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	2 sites
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	2 sites
Total Natura 2000 terrestrial area	200.5 (ha)
Total Natura 2000 marine area	5486.5 (ha)

Figure 2. Outline map of Gibraltar with the boundary of the Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.



Figure 3. Extent and location of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC / SPA



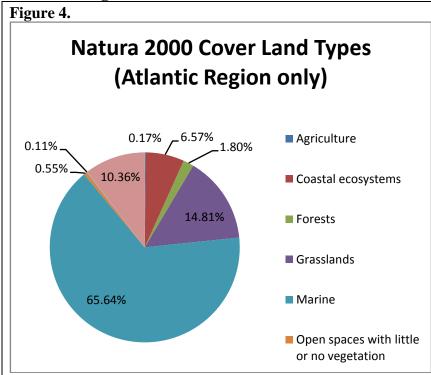
Key:

Rock of Gibraltar Special Area of Conservation

 Legend:
 0
 1km
 2km

A.3 Main land use cover and ecosystem categories for Natura 2000 sites

Atlantic Region



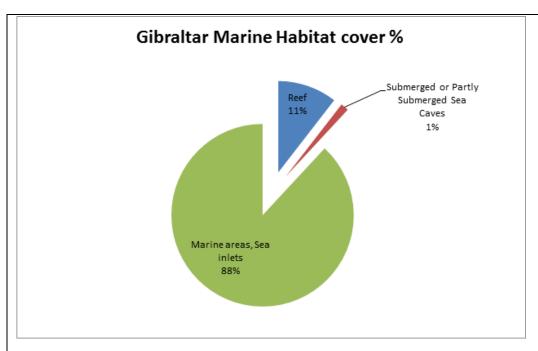
Source: Natura 2000 Database as submitted to the EU in October 2012. This includes data for the extent of each habitat class on every individual SAC and SPA.

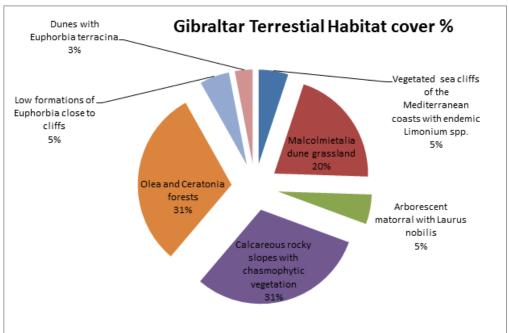
Note (Atlantic Biogeographic Region only). This does not take into account the considerable degree of overlap between many SAC and SPA. Where these overlaps occur the habitat classes are double counted. However, the percentages quoted are representative of Natura land cover in the UK

Mediterranean Region

		Gibraltar		
Cultivated land %	Arable Land %	Permanent crops %	Other lands %	Total Land Area (km2)
0	0	0	100	7
	Reefs			10.5
1170		•		
	Submerge	d or partially subme	rged sea caves	1.42
8330		T · · · · J	0	
8330 Upper Rock SPA 1		r r r r J		
				% Cover

2230	Malcolmietalia dune grasslands	20	
5230	Arborescent matorral with Laurus nobilis	5	
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	30	
8310	Caves not open to the public	2	
9320	Olea and Ceratonia forests	30	
5320	Low formations of Euphorbia close to cliffs	5	
2220	Dunes with Euphorbia terracina	3	





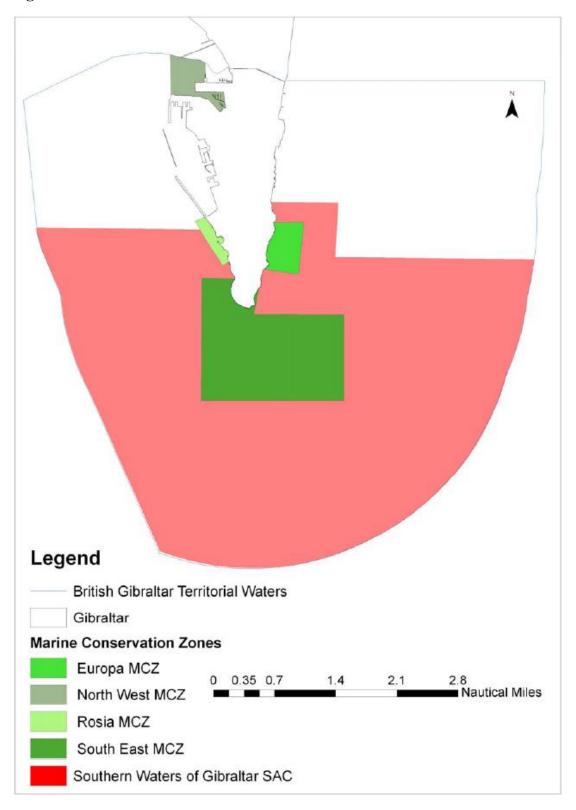
Figures 5a and b. Habitats cover types in marine and terrestrial environmentsSource: Natura 2000 Database as submitted to the EU in October 2012. This includes data for the extent of each habitat class on every individual SAC and SPA.

Table 3. Cortes' (1979) classification of vegetation types on the Upper Rock. Domin values are given as approximations, and both these and species compositions may obviously differ slightly from one area to another.

Vegetation Type	Species	(Approximate) Domin Value
High Maquis	Olea europea	8
3	Pistacia lentiscus	5
	Rhamnus alaternus	5
	Osyris quadripartita	4
	Chamaerops humilis	3
	Calicotome villosa	2
	Genista linifolia	2
	Acanthus mollis	_ 5
	Pinus pinea (in some areas)	8-9
	(
Low Maquis	Genista linifolia	9
	Calicotome villosa	5
	Olea europea	5
	Pistacia lentiscus	4
	Osyris quadripartita	3
	Coronilla valentina	3
		-
Maquio-garrigue	Olea europea	6
1 3 9	Oxalis pes-capre	6
	Hyparrhenia hirta	6
	Rhamnus alaternus	5
	Osyris quadripartita	3
	Calicotome villosa	3
	Genista linifolia	3
	Pistacia lentiscus	3
	Coronilla valentina	2
	Garrigue	bare ground
	5	-
	Oxalis pes-capre	5
) // //	Marcissus papyraceus	5
	Acanthus mollis	4
	🚺 Pistacia lentiscus	3
	Asphodelus aestivus	3
	Chamaerops humilis	3
	· ·	
	Pseudosteppe & Steppe	bare ground
	5	ŭ
	Dactylis glomerata	5
	Ferula tingitana	3
A STATE OF THE STA	Smyrnium olusatrum	3
editerranean Woodland	Asteriscus maritimus	3
th some Exotics	Asphodelus aestivus	3
, Semi-exotic woodland	Narcissus papyraceus	3
Pseudosteppe	Gladiolus communis	2
Description of Confess		
Pseudosteppe/Garigue		
idosteppe/High Maquis	Table 4 Domin scale w	ith the definition of each value.
Low Maquis	Table 4. Bernin scale, w	iar are definition of each value.
High Maquis	Amount of cover/speci	es Domin valu
	cover about 100%	10
Low/high Maquis	cover >75%	9
Maquio-garigue	cover 50-75%	8
Garigue	cover 33-50%	7
	cover 25-33%	6
Cliff	abundant, cover about 2	
	abundant, cover about 2	
	scattered, cover small	3
	very scattered, cover small	
scarce, cover small	very scattered, cover sin	Δ
isolated, cover small	X	
isolatoa, tover siriali	^	

Figure 6: Map of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve

Figure 7: Marine Conservation Zones within British Gibraltar Territorial Water



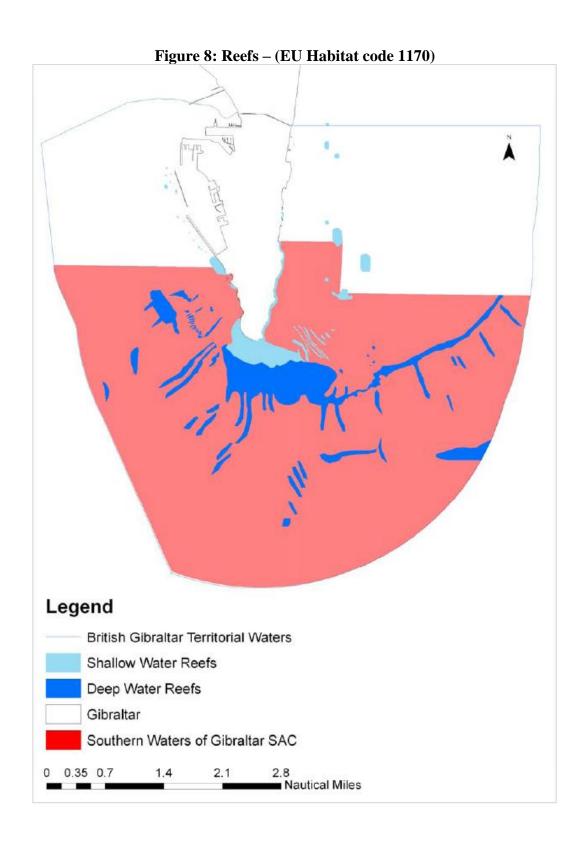
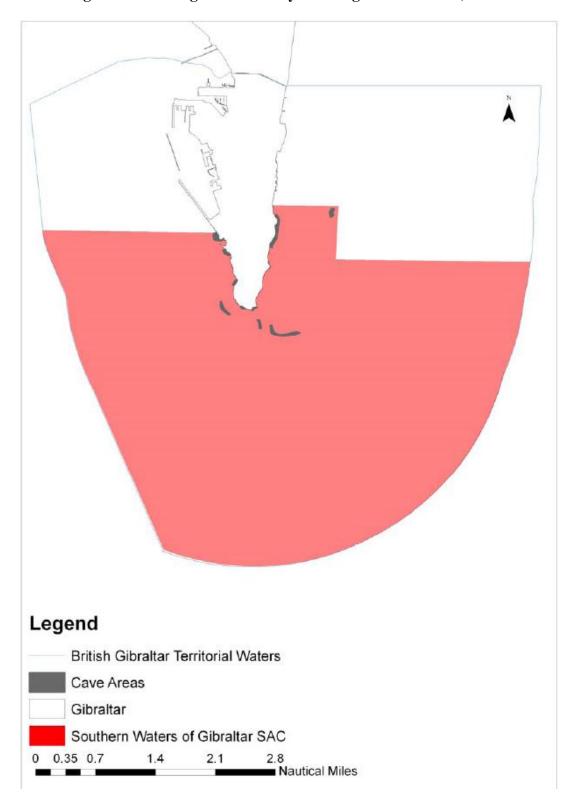


Figure 9: Submerged or Partially submerged sea caves – (EU Habitat code 8830)



B. Status of the Habitats and Species

B.1 Most recent assessment of conservation status of species and habitat types for territory

The information below is taken from the <u>UK Article 17 Report for the period 2001-2006</u>. A report for the period 2007-2012 is in preparation, but is not sufficiently complete to be able to use the data in this document.

B.1.a Habitats and species of Habitats Directive

Atlantic Region – numbers of species and habitats in each category

								- 0		
Conservation Status		Н	ABITAT	ΓS				SPECIES	S	
Assessments	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA
Terrestrial (including freshwater)	4	6	57	2		17	24	16	16	4
Marine		1	4	3		6	3		7	25
Atlantic Region total	4	7	61	5		23	27	16	23	29

FV - Favourable; U1 - Unfavourable inadequate; U2 - Unfavourable bad; XX - Unknown; NA - Not reported

Parameter		HABITATS					SPECIES				
Conclusion	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	
Range	71	0	1	5		69	6	6	8		
Area / Population	30	26	6	15		30	15	16	28		
Structure / Habitat	6	6	61	4		20	25	4	40		
Future Prospects	16	20	34	7		39	23	6	21		

FV - Favourable; U1 - Unfavourable inadequate; U2 - Unfavourable bad; XX - Unknown; NA - Not reported

In the 2001-2006 Article 17 Report Metropolitan UK provided conservation status assessments for 166 features, 77 habitats and 89 species, and also provided comment, but not a full report, on 29 rare and uncommon vagrant species. The UK reported on overall conservation status, assessing the four specified parameters: range, area, structure and function and future prospects for habitats; and range, population, habitat for the species and future prospects for species. Features were assessed as favourable, unfavourable-inadequate, unfavourable-bad or unknown. In order to provide an additional level of information to qualify the unfavourable assessments, the UK included an indication of whether conservation status was improving or deteriorating. These qualifiers were not required in the 2007 Article 17 report, but will be obligatory for all Member States to report in the 2013 and so have been included in the diagrams and tables for Metropolitan UK in this document to improve the level of information.

Taking all the results for habitats and species together, two thirds have unfavourable status, with nearly half (46%) being in unfavourable-bad status and 16% in favourable status (Figure 10). However, if improving and deteriorating trends are considered, then nearly a third of unfavourable assessments (32%) are improving, with just over a fifth deteriorating (Figure 11).

Figure 10: Conservation Status of UK species and habitats showing the four conclusions

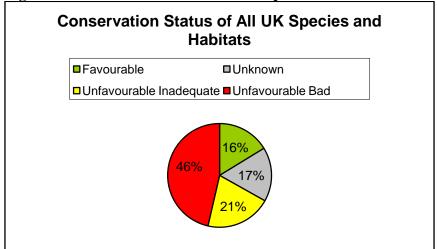
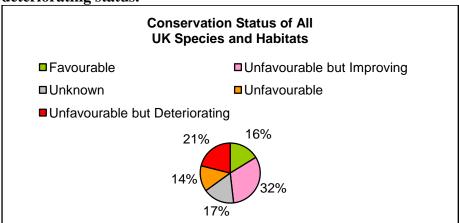


Figure 11: conservation Status of UK species and habitats showing improving and deteriorating status.



Mediterranean Region - numbers of species and habitats in each category

Conservation Status Assessments	S HABI	TATS	SPECII	ES						
	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA
Rock of Gibraltar	6	2						1		1
Southern Waters	1	1					3			
Mediterranean	•									
Region total	7	3					3	1		1

 $^{{\}sf FV-Favourable;U1-Unfavourable\;inadequate;U2-Unfavourable\;bad;XX-Unknown;NA-Not\;reported}$

Parameter		HABITATS					SPECIES					
Conclusions	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA	FV	U1	U2	XX	NA		
Range	8					3	1			1		
Area / Population	6	2				2	2			1		
Structure / Habitat	6	2				3	1			1		
Future Prospects	6	2					3	1		1		

FV – Favourable; U1 – Unfavourable inadequate; U2 – Unfavourable bad; XX - Unknown; NA – Not reported

B.1.b Bird species of Birds Directive

Atlantic Region

Metropolitan UK is of major international importance for several groups of birds. These include: breeding seabirds, wintering and passage wildfowl and waders, birds of Britain's distinctive uplands, and birds of the Caledonian pine-forests. A high proportion (in some cases all) of the national and international populations utilise the UK's SPA network (Stroud *et al.* 2001¹).

Many Annex I bird species occur in the UK SPA network during breeding and non-breeding seasons. During the summer, the network supports over 4,946,000 breeding seabirds and in the winter holds an average of over 2,186,000 non-breeding waterbirds.

Species of greatest conservation concern on the whole have the highest proportion of their populations within the UK SPA network, as well as those species with small geographic ranges and those where the UK holds a high proportion of the global population.

SPAs are not appropriate for all species, particularly those migratory species that are broadly dispersed. A range of wider countryside policies, legal protection and other species conservation measures have been put in place to conserve these species.

The UK wild bird indicator is used as one of the measures of the state of biodiversity within the UK. It aggregates population trends of 121 bird species to show broad trends of bird populations within four general habitats (Farmland; Woodland; Water and Wetlands; and Marine). Indicators showed a general increase in breeding populations between 2009 and 2010, with the exception of Farmland species; which generally fell to their lowest levels in 2010 and are now overall at less than half the size they were in 1970.

During the winter the UK holds internationally important populations of swans, geese, ducks and waders. Wintering waterbird trends in the UK are recorded using data from the Wetland Bird Survey and the Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme. Long-term trends indicate a steady increase in wintering waterbirds in the UK from the mid-1970s to the late 1990s, partly due to the establishment of a network of protected wetland sites. However, average waterbird numbers have levelled off since the mid-1990s and have recently shown a marginal decline, particularly for waders. Status of a number of species/populations run counter to overall trends, and typically have shown long-term declines.

The Seabird Monitoring Programme has coordinated the monitoring of breeding seabird populations in the UK since 1986. The programme receives data on 26 species from between 200 and 250 sites. It has provided recent population estimates for five Annex I tern species, of these three have shown a population increase between 2000 and 2011.

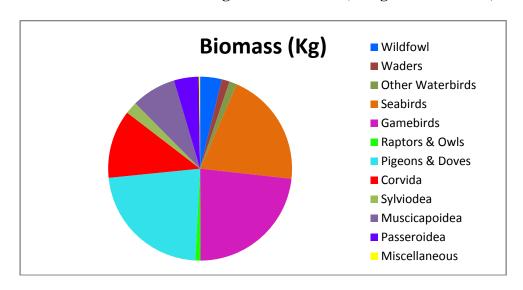
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¹ Stroud, D.A., Chambers, D., Cook, S., Buxton, N., Fraser, B., Clement, P., Lewis, P., McLean, I., Baker, H. & Whitehead, S. (eds.) (2001). *The UK SPA network: its scope and content*. JNCC, Peterborough. Three volumes. (90 pp; 438 pp; 392 pp)

Table 5: Numbers of breeding birds in the UK. Source Musgrove et al. 2013².

Species group	Breeding pairs
Raptors & Owls	237,145
Wildfowl	240,227
Miscellaneous	313,693
Other Waterbirds	373,928
Waders	513,980
Gamebirds	2,638,420
Seabirds	3,465,556
Corvida	4,652,744
Pigeons & Doves	7,207,691
Sylviodea	17,464,676
Passeroidea	21,902,607
Muscicapoidea	23,928,531

Figure 12. Overall biomass of breeding birds in the UK (Musgrove et al. 2013)



Mediterranean Region

Birds comments

The Upper Rock Nature Reserve boasts an impressive diversity of birds. This is largely due to its geographical position; the Strait of Gibraltar provides the most important bottleneck for migrating birds in Western Europe. An estimated 250,000 raptors cross the Strait in a season, and many passerines and near-passerines use the Rock as a stop-over site (Heath & Evans 2000). The number of these that cross the Strait undoubtedly exceeds that of soaring birds by many thousands (Moreau 1961). As well as this, a number of species that BirdLife International deem to be Species of European Conservation Concern (SPECs) breed regularly

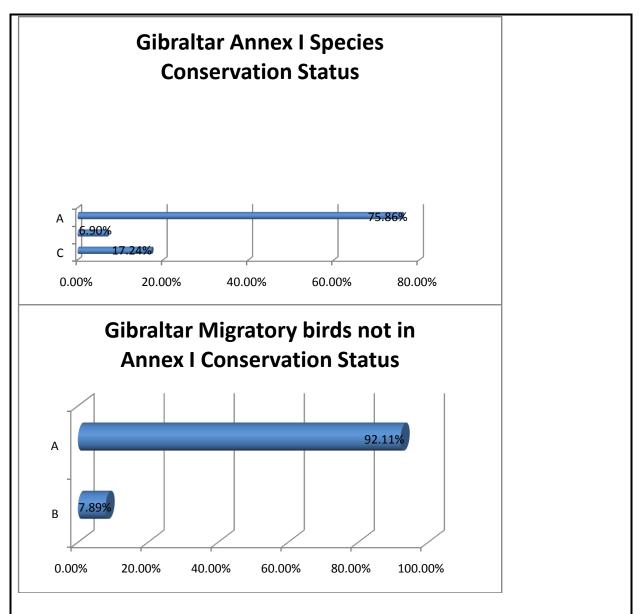
² Musgrove, A.J., Aebischer, N.J., Eaton, M.A., Hearn, R.D., Newson, S.E., Noble, D.G., Parsons, M., Risely, K. & Stroud, D.A. 2013. Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom. *British Birds* 106

within the Upper Rock. These include the lesser kestrel *Falco naumanni*, which is of global conservation concern (Tucker & Heath 1994; Heath & Evans 2000).

Birds	listed o	on Annex I	
1.	A079	Aegypius monachus	2. A229 Alcedo atthis
3.	A111	Alectoris barbara	4. A255 Anthus campestris
5.	A215	Bubo bubo	6. A243 Calandrella brachydactyla
7.	A224	Caprimulgus europaeus	8. A031 Ciconia ciconia
9.	A030	Ciconia nigra	10. A080 Circaetus gallicus
11.	A081	Circus aeruginosus	12. A082 Circus cyaneus
13.	A084	Circus pygargus	14. A379 Emberiza hortulana
15.	A098	Falco columbarius	16. A100 Falco eleonorae
17.	A095	Falco naumanni	18. A103 Falco peregrinus
19.	A245	Galerida theklae	20. A078 Gyps fulvus
21.	A092	Hieraaetus pennatus	22. A246 Lullula arborea
23.	A073	Milvus migrans	24. A074 Milvus milvus
25.	A077	Neophron percnopterus	26. A094 Pandion haliaetus
27.	A072	Pernis apivorus	28. A392 Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii
29.	A302	Sylvia undata	

Migra	atory bi	rds not listed on Annex I			
1.	A086	Accipiter nisus	2.	A297	Acrocephalus scirpaceus
3.	A247	Alauda arvensis	4.	A257	Anthus pratensis
5.	A256	Anthus trivialis	6.	A226	Apus apus
7.	A227	Apus pallidus	8.	A087	Buteo buteo
9.	A225	Caprimulgus ruficollis	10.	A366	Carduelis cannabina
11.	A364	Carduelis carduelis	12.	A363	Carduelis chloris
13.	A365	Carduelis spinus	14.	A268	Cercotrichas galactotes
15.	A335	Certhia brachydactyla	16.	A289	Cisticola juncidis
17.	A211	Clamator glandarius	18.	A113	Coturnix coturnix
19.	A212	Cuculus canorus	20.	A253	Delichon urbicum
21.	A269	Erithacus rubecula	22.	A099	Falco subbuteo
23.	A096	Falco tinnunculus	24.	A322	Ficedula hypoleuca
25.	A359	Fringilla coelebs	26.	A438	Hippolais pallida
27.	A300	Hippolais polyglotta	28.	A252	Hirundo daurica
29.	A251	Hirundo rustica	30.	A233	Jynx torquilla
31.	A341	Lanius senator	32.	A290	Locustella naevia
33.	A271	Luscinia megarhynchos	34.	A230	Merops apiaster
35.	A383	Miliaria calandra	36.	A280	Monticola saxatilis
37.	A281	Monticola solitarius	38.	A262	Motacilla alba
39.	A261	Motacilla cinerea	40.	A260	Motacilla flava
41.	A319	Muscicapa striata	42.	A278	Oenanthe hispanica
43.	A277	Oenanthe oenanthe	44.	A337	Oriolus oriolus
45.	A214	Otus scops	46.	A273	Phoenicurus ochruros
47.	A274	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	48.	A313	Phylloscopus bonelli
49.	A315	Phylloscopus collybita	50.	A618	Phylloscopus ibericus
51.	A314	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	52.	A316	Phylloscopus trochilus
53.	A267	Prunella collaris	54.	A266	Prunella modularis

55.	A250	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	56.	A318	Regulus ignicapillus
57.	A249	Riparia riparia	58.	A275	Saxicola rubetra
59.	A276	Saxicola torquatus	60.	A155	Scolopax rusticola
61.	A361	Serinus serinus	62.	A210	Streptopelia turtur
63.	A351	Sturnus vulgaris	64.	A311	Sylvia atricapilla
65.	A310	Sylvia borin	66.	A304	Sylvia cantillans
67.	A309	Sylvia communis	68.	A303	Sylvia conspicillata
69.	A306	Sylvia hortensis	70.	A305	Sylvia melanocephala
71.	A228	Apus melba	72.	A286	Turdus iliacus
73.	A283	Turdus merula	74.	A285	Turdus philomelos
75.	A282	Turdus torquatus	76.	A232	Upupa epops



CONSERVATION: Degree of conservation of the features of the habitat which are important for the species concerned, and possibilities for restoration.

This criterion comprises two sub-criteria:

- i) degree of conservation of the features of the habitat important for the species
- ii) restoration possibilities

Synthesis

A. conservation excellent = elements in an excellent condition, independent of the grading

of the possibility of restoration

B: good conservation = elements well conserved independent of the grading of the

possibility of restoration

C: average or

reduced conservation = all other combinations

B.2 Overall assessment of conservation status by habitat category / species group

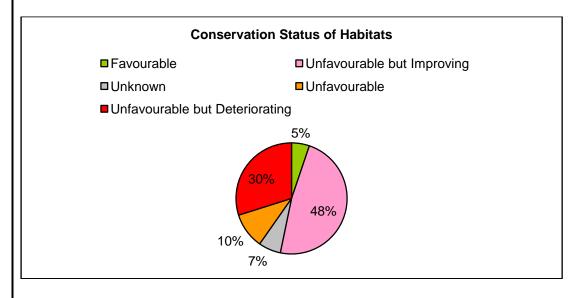
Atlantic Region

Information from the 2001-2006 Article 17 summary report http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4067

Habitats

The summary results of overall conservation status for the 77 Annex I habitats in Metropolitan UK (taking into account assessment of all four parameters) are: 5% favourable, 9% unfavourable-inadequate, 79% unfavourable-bad, and 6% unknown. However, if improving or deteriorating qualifiers are taken into consideration, 48% of the habitats are improving in status, with fewer than 30% of habitats deteriorating (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Overall Conservation Status of all Annex I habitats including improving and declining status



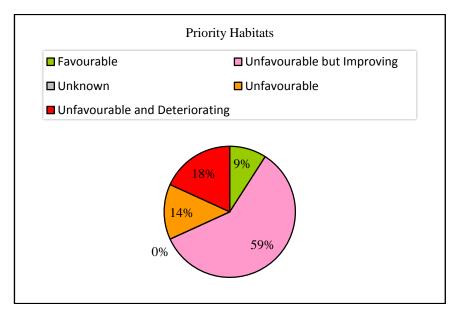
Considering individual parameters, for range 92% of habitats are favourable. For area 39% of habitats are favourable, 34% unfavourable-inadequate and 5% unfavourable-bad. This is generally because the habitats have declined or because the small size and fragmented nature of the habitat area means that they are unlikely to sustain their complement of typical species. For 19% of habitats the area is unknown.

For structure and function (assessment of the quality of the habitats), 79% of habitats are unfavourable-bad. The consequence of poor structure and function is due to the quality of the habitats deteriorating over time, despite the fact that their area may have been maintained.

The future prospects parameter suggests an improving situation, with 21% of habitats having favourable prospects, 26% unfavourable-inadequate and 44% unfavourable-bad, with 6% unknown. This demonstrates the value of the conservation measures which have been taken, and the management programmes which have been put in place, in recent years. Nonetheless, the proportion of habitats assessed as likely to fall in the overall unfavourable-bad category for the next 10 to 15 years remains high at over a third, and illustrates the need for additional conservation measures to be taken, particularly to maintain and restore habitat quality. For a small number of habitats, notably including some of the saltmarsh habitats, future prospects seem particularly poor because of the continued erosion expected to result from relative sea level rise.

Of the 22 Priority habitats, over three quarters (91%) fall within an unfavourable category. Nevertheless, 59% of these habitats have improving status (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Conservation Status of Priority Habitats



Habitat categories

Table 6 shows the numbers of Annex I habitats in each group in Metropolitan UK and their conservation status assessment in the 2001-2006 Article 17 report, including whether the status was deteriorating or improving. The Table shows that although the majority of habitats (61) were assessed as unfavourable-bad, 32 of those are improving in status, while 22 are deteriorating. In the unfavourable-inadequate category, again more habitats are improving than are deteriorating. However, the overall picture shows a great deal needs to be done to improve the conservation status of the majority of habitats. In relation to this the UK SNCBs produced a report Acting On The Outcomes Of The Favourable Conservation Status Report on actions required to improve the conservation status of these habitats

Table 6: Conservation status of habitat categories including improving and deteriorating status

I I	L abitat	Status									
Group	Туре	(FV) - Favourable	$({\rm U1}\text{-})$ - Inadequate and deteriorating	$(\mathrm{U1+})$ - Inadequate but improving	(U2) - Bad	(U2-) - Bad and deteriorating	(U2+) - Bad but improving	(XX) - Unknown	(blank)	(U1) - Inadequate	Total
Marine	Marine					4		3		1	8
Marine Total						4		3		1	8
Terrestrial	Coastal	1	1	1	2	9	3				17
	Lowland Grassland					1	6	1			8
	Lowland heathlands	1				2	1				4
	Lowland wetlands				1	2	3				6
	Upland			2	3	1	8				14
	Woodland			1			10				11
	Caves							1			1
Terrestrial Total		2	1	4	6	15	31	2			61
Freshwater	Freshwater	2		1	1	3	1				8
Freshwater Total		2		1	1	3	1				8
Grand Total		4	1	5	7	22	32	5		1	77

Figures 15a, b & c: Conservation status of, marine, terrestrial and freshwater habitat groups, including improving and declining status

15a. Marine habitats

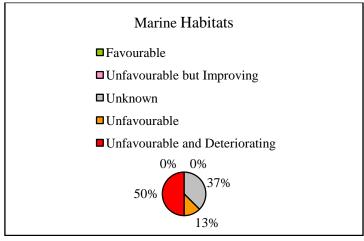


Figure 15b. Terrestrial habitats

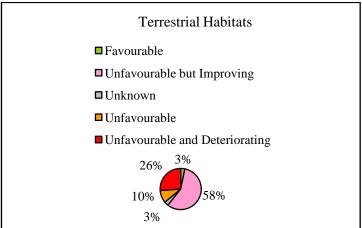
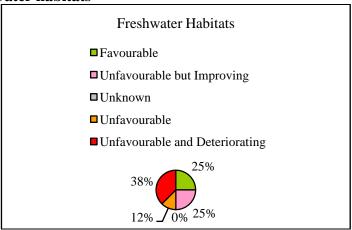


Figure 15c. Freshwater habitats



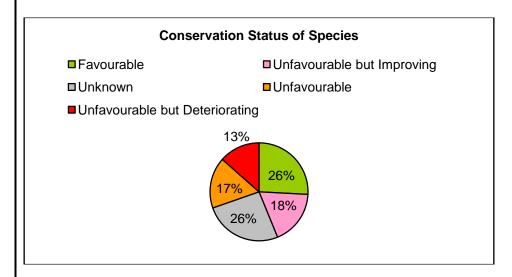
With regards to the major groupings of habitats, the majority (87%) of marine habitats are judged to be either deteriorating or unknown (figure 15a). This reflects the difficulty and cost of surveying and the lack of knowledge about the ecological functioning of the marine

environment. Significant proportions (57%) of terrestrial habitats were shown to be improving, yet few (3%) were favourable, mainly due to deficiencies in structure and function (Figure 15b). Freshwater habitats are the most favourable (25%) of the three groups, despite a large proportion (38%) being shown to be deteriorating (Figure 15c). Whilst there have been concerted effort to improvement the chemical quality of many rivers and lakes, this does not necessarily equate to improvements in biological quality.

Species

The summary results of overall conservation status for species in Metropolitan UK (taking into account all four parameters) are: 26% favourable, 30% unfavourable-inadequate, 18% unfavourable-bad and 26% where the status is unknown. However, if improving or deteriorating qualifiers are taken into consideration 18% of species are improving in status, with 13% of species deteriorating (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Overall Conservation Status of all species including improving and declining status



Considering individual parameters, for three-quarters (78%) of the species, range in the UK is considered to be favourable. For a small number (14%) of species, the range is unfavourable and for ~9% of species it is unknown. In terms of overall population, a third (34%) of species are favourable, nearly one fifth (18%) of species are assessed as being unfavourable-bad. These are species whose populations are too small to be viable, or those which have shown continuing population declines. Nearly a third (31%) of species the population is unknown. This included many of the cetaceans and other species which are difficult to survey.

A quarter of the habitats (22%) for the species are favourable. a third (28%), are unfavourable-inadequate and only a few (4%) are considered unfavourable-bad. For nearly half (45%) of species the condition of the habitat that they use is unknown, largely because it is difficult to assess.

For species, as for habitats, the future prospects parameter suggest an improving situation, with 44% assessed as favourable, 26% unfavourable-inadequate and only 7% unfavourable-bad. The future status, which is based primarily on actions taken but the full benefits for species had yet to be realised, indicates a significant improvement on the overall assessment figures, with unfavourable-bad assessments reduced by two thirds, and a general shift towards favourable status.

Species groups

Table 7 shows the numbers of Annex II, IV and V species in each group in Metropolitan UK and their conservation status assessment in the 2001-2006 Article 17 report, including whether the status was deteriorating or improving. The Table shows a better situation for species in the UK than for habitats, with 43 species assessed as unfavourable, 23 favourable and 23 unknown. In the unfavourable category, the majority (27) are unfavourable-inadequate and 16 species are improving in status, while 12 are deteriorating. There is a greater percentage of unknown assessments for species than for habitats.

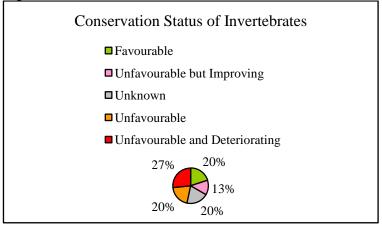
Table 7: Conservation status of species groups including qualifiers for improving and

1 4	•	4 •	4 4
data	riari	ntina	ctatuc
ucic	uvi	umz	status

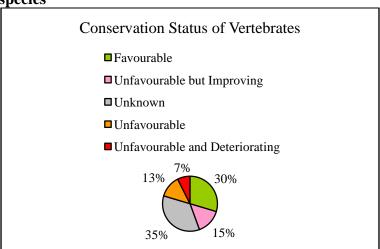
					;	Statu	ıs			
Spec	ies	(FV) - Favourable	(U1) - Inadequate	(U1-) - Inadequate and deterioratir	(U1+) - Inadequate but improving	(U2) - Bad	(U2-) - Bad and deteriorating	(U2+) - Bad but improving	(XX) - Unknown	Grand Total
Amphibian Amphibian		1	1					2		4
Amphibian Total		1	1					2		4
Fish	Lamprey				3					3
Other		1	2	1		1	1		3	9
Fish Total	T	1	2	1	3	1	1		3	12
Invertebrate	Beetle	1					1			2
	Butterfly				1	2				3
	Mollusc	1	1	1			1		3	7
	Other	1			1		1			3
Invertebrate Total		3	1	1	2	2	3		3	15
Mammals	Bat	5	1		1				9	16
	Cetacean	5							6	11
	Seal	1	1							2
	Other	3	1				2			6
Mammals Total		14	3		1		2		15	35
Plants	Non-Vascular	2	4		1		1		1	9
	Vascular	2	1		2		1	3		9
	Other			2						2
Plants Total		4	5	2	3		2	3	1	20
Reptile	Reptile				2				1	3
Reptile Total					2				1	3
Grand Total			12	4	11	3	8	5	23	89

Figure 17a, b & c: Conservation status of invertebrate, vertebrate and plant species groups, including improving and declining status

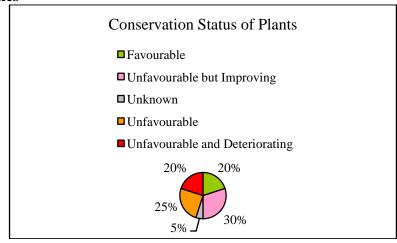
17a. Invertebrate species



17b. Vertebrate species



17c. Plant species



The assessments of the broad groups of species indicated that the status of a quarter (27%) of the invertebrates listed is deteriorating. This is probably due to the difficulties of taking

effective conservation action for this group. The status for a considerable number (35%) of vertebrates is unknown. This is due to the difficulty of interpreting the way in which these species utilise a variety of habitats during different times throughout their life cycles; the complex nature of their ecology; or because they are difficult to survey (particularly bats and cetaceans). Results indicated that around a third (30%) of the plant species have an improving conservation status.

Mediterranean Region

Please refer to section G3 of Gibraltar PAF for an overall assessment of conservation status for both habitats and species in the Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA and the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SAC/SPA.

B.3 Overview of pressures and threats to species and habitats

Atlantic Region

There is no further analysis available on pressures and threats identified in the 2001-2006 Article 17 report than the figures provided by the Commission in the Table below. However, we expect more information to be available at the end of 2013 as a result of the Article 17 Report currently underway. In addition please see the Report Acting On The Outcomes Of The Favourable Conservation Status Report, which provides information on the main issues for each of the Annex I habitats identified as in unfavourable status.

	HABI	TATS	SPECIES		
Category of pressure / threat	Actual	Future	Actual	Future	
	pressures	threats	pressures	threats	
Agriculture, Forestry	67		53	55	
Fishing, hunting and collecting	14	6	38	38	
Mining and extraction of materials	28	2	30	20	
Urbanisation, industrialisation and similar activities	17	3	32	26	
Transportation and communication	9	5	39	29	
Leisure and tourism (other than above)	7	1	23	18	
Pollution and other human impacts/activities	10	28	54	56	
Human induced changes in wetlands and marine					
environments	9	5	51	51	
Natural processes (biotic and abiotic)	8	5	57	57	

Mediterranean Region

	HABI	TATS	SPECIES		
Category of pressure / threat	Actual pressures	Future threats	Actual pressures	Future threats	
Agriculture, Forestry	1				
Fishing, hunting and collecting	2	2	3	3	
Mining and extraction of materials	1				
Urbanisation, industrialisation and similar activities		3	3	3	
Transportation and communication					
Leisure and tourism (other than above)	1	2			
Pollution and other human impacts/activities	6	5	5	5	
Human induced changes in wetlands and marine					
environments	1				
Natural processes (biotic and abiotic)	8	5	1	1	

Number of key pressures and threats relevant to the management and restoration of the Natura 2000 sites