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

United Kingdom and Gibraltar sections A-B

(Version 2016)

UK PAF Overview Sections A and B

Contents

UK PAF Overview Sections A and B

Introduction

This is the first update of the UK Prioritised Action Framework (PAF). The original UK PAF was submitted to the Commission in 2013. The UK PAF is presented as a UK overview with six Annexes, representing each country in the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales), UK offshore waters and Gibraltar, covering the Mediterranean region of the UK.

The UK overview, sections A and B of the UK PAF, include information for both Metropolitan UK in the Atlantic Biogeographic Region and the Rock of Gibraltar and Southern Waters in the Mediterranean Biogeographic Region. For ease of explanation, the Atlantic and Mediterranean areas of the UK are dealt with separately in this overview document, with the Atlantic Region first, followed by the Mediterranean Region.

This overview summarises the current situation for Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species, and Birds Directive Annex I and migratory bird species, those for which Natura 2000 sites are designated. The information for the UK Atlantic Region has been derived from the 2013 Article 17 and Article 12 reporting under the Habitats and Birds Directives.

The country PAF Annexes provide a summary of the current situation for Natura 2000 features in each country and highlight funding needs and management priorities. The UK PAF Country Annexes can be found on the JNCC website (http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6934).

Strategic priorities for Habitats Directive Natura 2000 features in the UK Atlantic Region

In addition to the priorities identified at country level in the UK PAF country annexes, this overview provides some strategic priorities for Natura 2000 across the UK. Strategic UK level priorities have been selected to give maximum focus to improving conservation status in the UK and in the Atlantic Biogeographic region. The priorities include habitats and species where the UK resource is of major European importance and where action within and outside UK Natura 2000 sites could result in improvements in conservation status across the Atlantic Region. This helps to articulate the international importance of taking forward initiatives (be it at site level, landscape or strategic) that might benefit *inter alia* these habitats and species, for example in funding bids. Birds Directive species are not included in this prioritisation exercise.

The UK strategic priorities do not diminish the importance of country level priorities but rather complement them and provide a framework for a strategic approach to joint working. The strategic priorities identified are only applicable to the UK Atlantic Region. Figure 1 shows how the UK strategic approach to selecting priorities for improving conservation status in the Atlantic region complements, but does not take precedence over, the four UK countries and offshore priorities.

The Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitats and Annex II species where UK action could have greatest impact on Atlantic Region conservation status are listed in Tables 1 and 2. Appendix 1 to this document provides detail of how the lists were compiled.

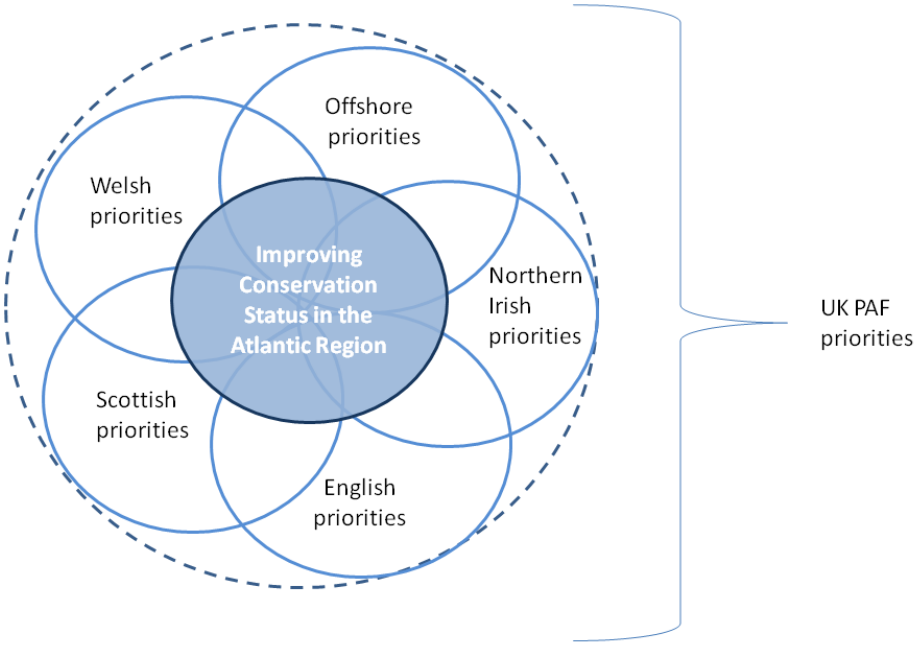

Figure 1. The UK priorities for contributing to the conservation status in the Atlantic Biogeographic region complement, but do not take precedence over, the four UK countries and offshore priorities in the PAF annexes

Table 1. Annex I habitats for which action in the UK could have most impact on conservation status in the Atlantic Biogeographic region

EU code	Habitat Type	Estimated percentage of Atlantic Biogeographic Region resource in the UK	Proportion in SACs
H1220	Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves	75% - 100%	25%-75%
H21A0	Machair		25%-75%
H4080	Mountain willow scrub		>75%
H6130	Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals		>75%
H6150	Montane acid grasslands		25%-75%
H6520	Mountain hay meadows		25%-75%
H7130	Blanket bog		<25%
H7240	High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage		>75%
H8110	Acidic scree		<25%
H8120	Base-rich scree		>75%
H91A0	Western acidic oak woodland		<25%

H91C0	Caledonian forest		25%-75%
H91J0	Yew-dominated woodland		25%-75%
H1170	Reefs		25%-75%
H1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	55%-74%	The area of this habitat is unknown at a UK-level due to an absence of data[1] below
H2150	Coastal dune heathland		>75%
H2250	Dunes with juniper thickets		>75%
H4060	Alpine and subalpine heaths		25%-75%
H8330	Sea caves		The area of this habitat is unknown at a UK-level due to an absence of data[1] below
H9180	Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes		25%-75%
H1110	Subtidal sandbanks	25%-54%	>75%
H1130	Estuaries		>75%
H1140	Intertidal mudflats and sandflats		25%-75%
H1160	Shallow inlets and bays		25%-75%
H1310	Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand		>75%
H1330	Atlantic salt meadows		>75%
H2130	Dune grassland		25%-75%
H3130	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels		The area of this habitat is unknown at a UK-level due to an absence of data[1]
H3260	Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot		The area of this habitat is unknown at a UK-level due to an absence of data1
H4010	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath		<25%
H4030	Dry heaths		<25%
H6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands		>75%
H6210	Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone		25%-75%
H7110	Active raised bogs		25%-75%
H7120	Degraded raised bog		25%-75%

[1] The UK surface area was set as unknown because information in one or more countries was not available or because estimates provided were known to significantly underestimate the surface area of habitat

H7140	Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface		The area of this habitat is unknown at a UK-level due to an absence of data[1] above
H7220	Hard-water springs depositing lime		The area of this habitat is unknown at a UK-level due to an absence of data[1] above

Table 2. Annex II species for which action in the UK could have most impact on conservation status in the Atlantic Biogeographic region

EU code	Species name	Estimated Percentage of Atlantic Biogeographic region resource in UK	Proportion in SACs
S1015	Round-mouthed whorl snail (*Vertigo genesii*)	75%-100%	>75%
S1654	Early gentian (*Gentianella anglica*)		The population of this species is unknown within SACs due to an absence of data2
S1386	Green shield-moss (*Buxbaumia viridis*)		>75%
S1833	Slender naiad (*Najas flexilis*)	55%-74%	The population of this species is unknown within SACs due to an absence of data2
S1163	Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*)	25%-54%	<25%
S1365	Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*)		25-75%
S1029	Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)		25-75%
S1395	Petalwort (*Petalophyllum ralfsii*)		>75%
S1390	Western rustwort (*Marsupella profunda*)		>75%
S1902	Lady's-slipper orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*)		>75%
S4035	Fisher's estuarine moth (*Gortyna borelii lunata*)		>75%
S1102	Allis shad (*Alosa alosa*)		The population of this species is unknown within SACs due to an absence of data[2]
S1065	Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*)		The population of this species is unknown

[2] The UK population within SACs was set as unknown because information in one or more countries was not available or because estimates provided were known to significantly underestimate the surface area of habitat

			within SACs due to an absence of data2
S1106	Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar)*		The population of this species is unknown within SACs due to an absence of data2

Section A. Introductory overview of the Natura 2000 network for the UK Atlantic and Marine Atlantic Regions

A.1 Annex I habitats and Annex II species of the Habitats Directive and Bird species for which Natura 2000 sites are designated

Annex I Habitats and Annex II Species

There are 77 Annex I habitat types and 45 Annex II species in the UK Atlantic and marine Atlantic Regions. In accordance with the Habitats Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been designated to represent all of these habitat types.

The variety of terrestrial habitats reflects the extent of coastline within the UK, the range of climatic and topographical conditions, and the rich heritage and variety of semi-natural conditions and land use history. They include: 18 coastal, 11 woodland, 10 grassland, 9 wetland, 8 freshwater, 7 heathland/scrub, and 6 rocky habitats. The eight marine habitat types include: four tidal areas, three open sea habitats and one rocky habitat.

There are 45 species in the UK Atlantic region recognised under Annex II, 41 terrestrial and 4 marine. Of these there are 9 mammals; 13 invertebrates; 8 fish; 9 vascular plants; 5 bryophytes; and, 1 amphibian species.

Table 3. Annex I habitat types and Annex II species

Region	Annex I Habitats	Annex II Species
Atlantic	69	41
Marine Atlantic	8[(a)]	4
Total	77	45

(a) note that habitat type H1150 Coastal Lagoons is classed as a marine habitat by the UK for assessment purposes under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Annex I and migratory birds

The UK's geographic position, a north temperate island close to a major continental land-mass, results in its particular European importance for a number of 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-forest. The UK is exceptionally important for many populations of breeding seabirds. Together with Ireland, the UK holds over half the relevant Biogeographic (and in some cases, the world) populations of six species[3].

Britain is the wintering area for many waterbirds (ducks, geese, swans, waders) breeding throughout Arctic and sub-Arctic areas. Birds visiting the UK come from as far afield as the

[3] Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, Gannet *Morus bassanus*, Great Skua *Catharacta skua*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* and Puffin *Fratercula arctica.* These species are excluded from the priority species in the Overview section due to positive short-term or long-term population trends (where short term is unknown) for Manx Shearwater, Storm Petrel Gannet, Great Skua and Puffin. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was excluded due to site management activities being unable to address the issues causing short-term population declines (see Annex I).

central Canadian Arctic (110º W) and central Siberia (110º E). Most of these waterbirds nest at very low densities over extensive areas of the arctic but gather in winter in UK wetlands in dense aggregations. Thus, the UK has significant international responsibility for high proportions of total populations. For many other waterbirds, the UK is not their final destination but is a stepping-stone on their migratory flyways to ultimate winter destinations in Africa. For many waders[4], the coast of the UK is of crucial importance during the spring and autumn passage periods.

The British uplands have a unique and characteristic bird community. Species such as Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and Merlin *Falco columbarius* probably nest at higher densities in the British uplands than anywhere else in Europe, whilst several Arctic breeding birds, such as Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*, are at the southern edge of their breeding range. The ancient Caledonian pine-forests of the central Scottish Highlands contain Britain's only endemic bird species, the Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*.

A high proportion, in some cases all, of the national and international populations of such species utilise the UK Special Protection Area (SPA) network. In summer, the network holds over 4,946,000 breeding seabirds, whilst in winter it supports an average of over 2,487,000 non-breeding waterbirds. The habitat protection provided for these birds is a major contribution to their international conservation.

Table 4. Annex I and migratory bird species/populations for which SPAs are designated

	Number of bird species/populations
Breeding	68
Passage	3
Non-breeding	59
Total	130

A.2 Number and area of Natura 2000 sites in the UK Atlantic Region

Table 5. Number and extent of SCIs and SACs designated

Candidate SCI	*1 site*
Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)	*31 sites*
Reference to Commission Decisions on SCIs	*http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/biogeog_regions/index_en.htm*
Designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	*620 sites*
Total SACs (includes Candidate SCI, SCI and designated SAC)	*652 sites – 80,135 km²*
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	*270 sites - 27,993 km²*
Total Natura 2000 area	*95071 km²*
Total Natura 2000 terrestrial area	*19521 km²*
Total Natura 2000 marine area	*75550 km²*

[4] such as Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina* and Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

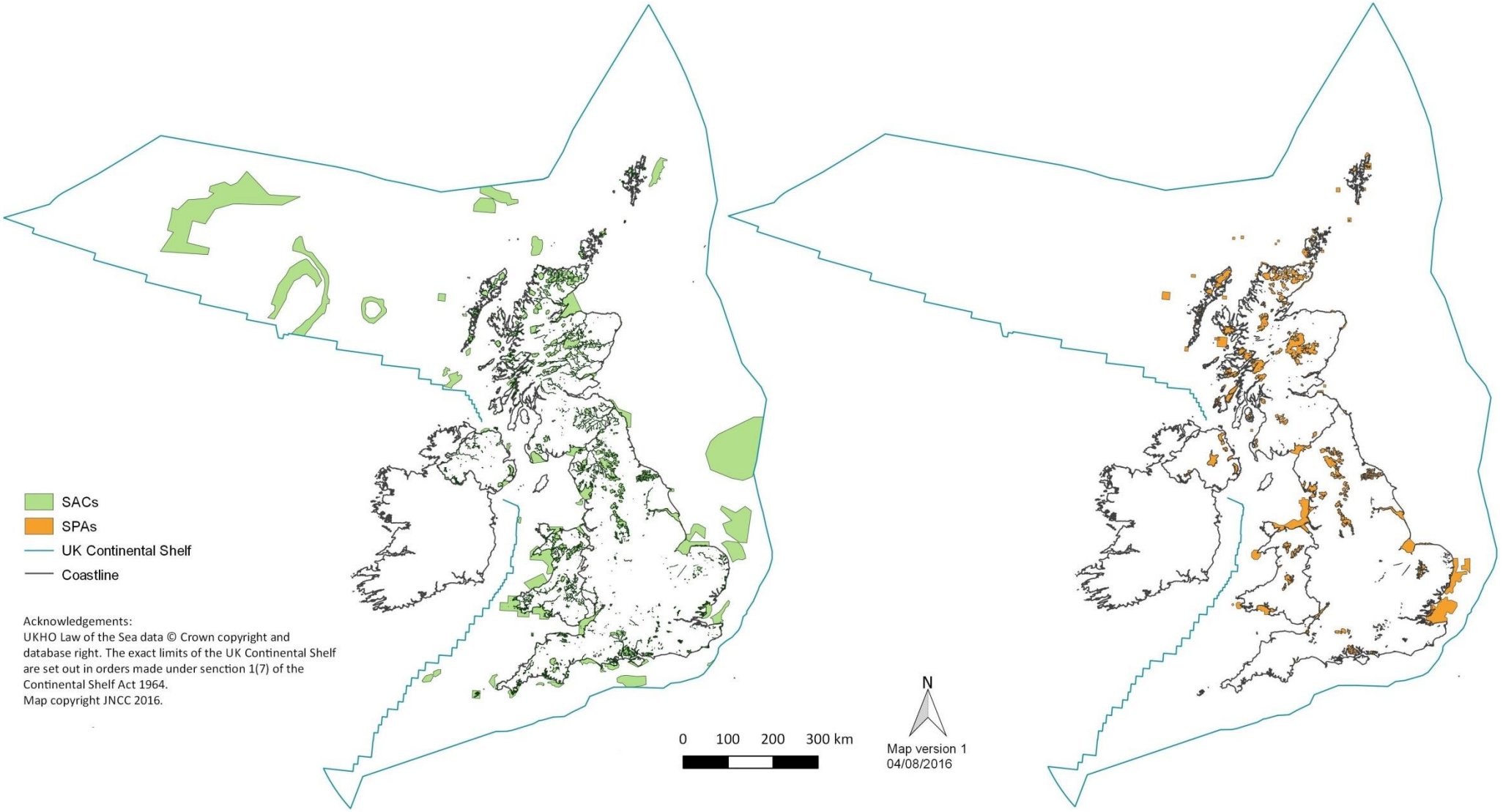

Figure 2. Overview maps of the UK Natura 2000 site series: Updated 14 March 2016

The above sites shown in Figure 2 are listed on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Website. See page http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1458 for SACs and http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1400 for SPAs. Figures include sites submitted to the EU in January 2016 for incorporation into the EU Natura 2000 database.

All area figures given in Table 6 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. Information on Natura 2000 sites and their marine qualifying features can be downloaded here: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4658

Please note that there is considerable overlap between SACs and SPAs in the UK Atlantic region, hence the discrepancy between the total area of SACs and SPAs and the total Natura 2000 area in the table.

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

In Natura 2000 sites in the UK, wetland, heathland and semi-natural grassland together comprise 80% of terrestrial land cover, while the majority of marine sites are categorised as marine areas and sea inlets, representing the extensive areas designated in offshore SACs. Over 70% of the UK's Natura 2000 site area is marine. Figure 3 describes the land use cover of the terrestrial and marine UK Natura 2000 sites as a whole, while Figure 4 shows SAC coverage and Figure 5 shows SPA coverage. Data used to construct these figures were taken from the Natura 2000 standard data forms as submitted to the European Union on 22 December 2015.

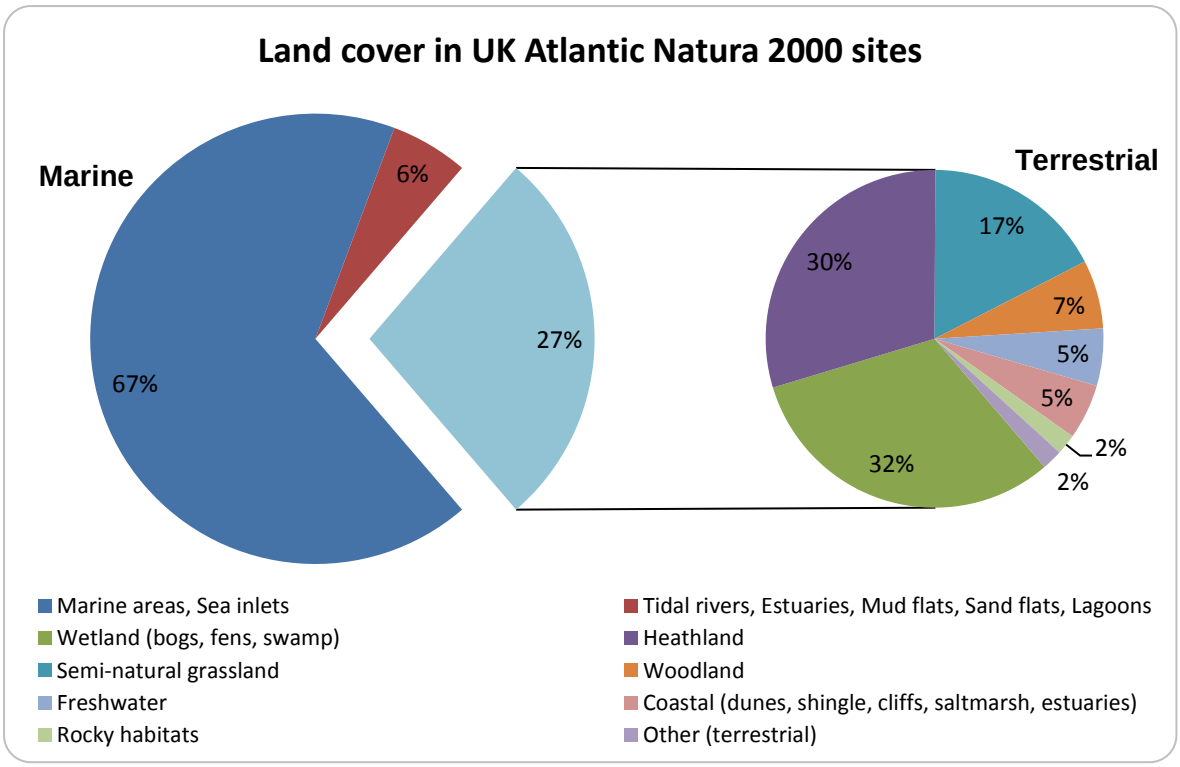

Figure 3. Main land use cover and ecosystem categories for terrestrial and marine Natura 2000 sites in the UK and their relative proportions.

Please note that the analysis used to construct Figure 3 does not take into account the considerable overlap between many SACs and SPAs. Where these overlaps occur, the habitat classes are double counted. However, percentages quoted are representative of Natura land cover in the UK.

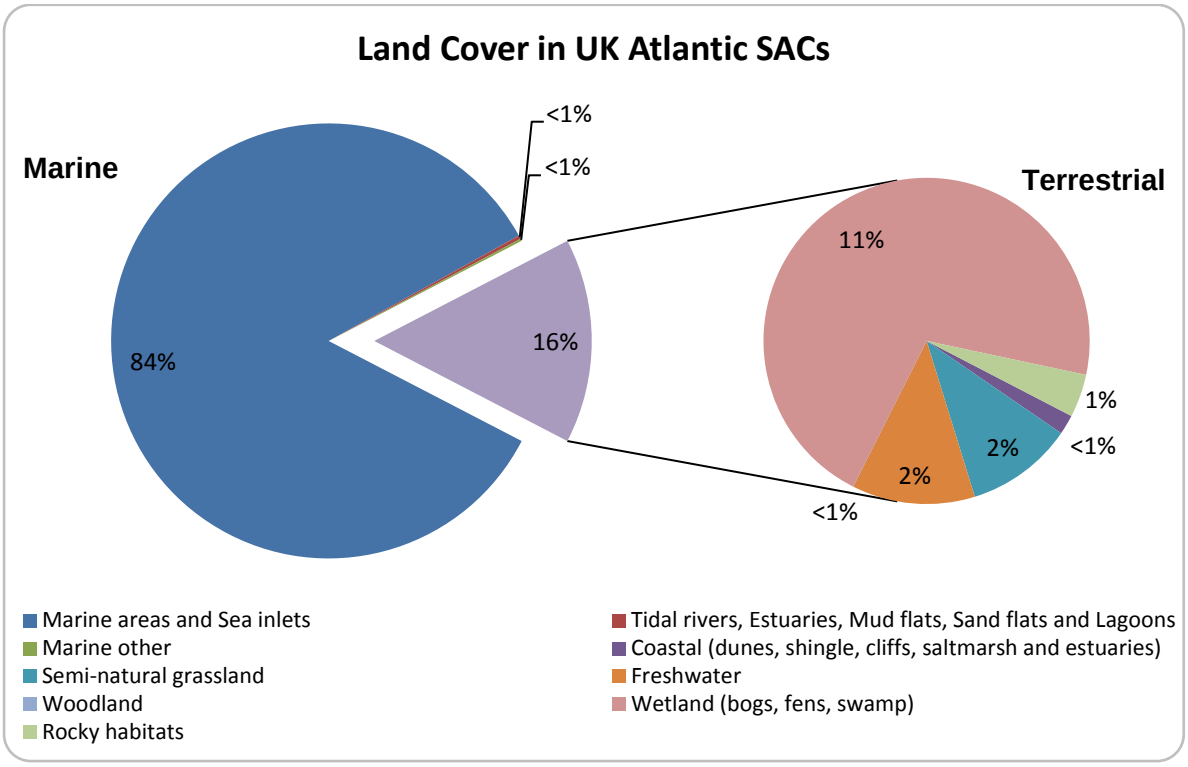

Figure 2. Land cover in UK Atlantic SACs

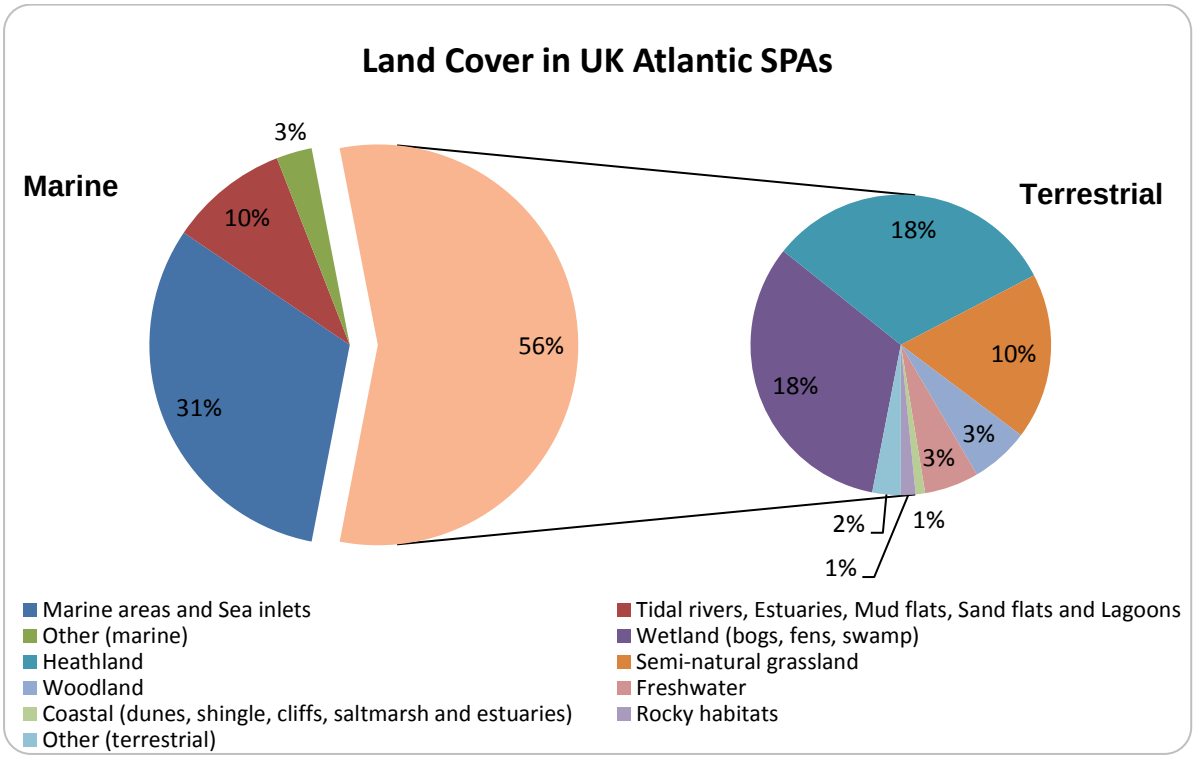

Figure 3. Land cover in UK Atlantic SPAs

Section B. Status of Annex I Habitats and Annex II Species for the UK Atlantic and Marine Atlantic Regions

B.1 Summary of the most recent assessment of conservation status of species and habitat types

Introduction

The most recent reporting on the conservation status of UK species and habitats under the Habitats Directive covered the period 2007-2012[5] and that UK Article 17 Report (2013) is the source for the information in this section. The report included full assessments of the conservation status of 77 Annex I habitats (69 terrestrial and 8 marine) and 45 Annex II species (41 terrestrial and 4 marine) within the Atlantic and Marine Atlantic region[6].

Tables 7 and 8 show the overall conclusions reached on conservation status. Very few habitats attained favourable status, and amongst those with unfavourable status most were assessed as unfavourable-bad. The position for species was better: a much greater percentage were assessed as favourable, including most marine assessments, and the majority of the remainder were assessed as unfavourable-inadequate rather than unfavourable-bad. The percentage of unknown conclusions was greater for species than habitats.

Table 6. Conservation Status of UK Atlantic and Marine Atlantic Annex I Habitats

Annex I Habitats	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Atlantic	2	7	**59**	1
Marine Atlantic		**3**[(a)]	**3**	2
Atlantic Total	2	10	62	3

(a) Note that habitat type H1150 Coastal Lagoons is classed as a terrestrial habitat in the Article 17 Habitats Directive Reporting and as a marine habitat for UK assessment purposes

Table 7. Conservation Status of UK Atlantic and Marine Atlantic Annex I Species

Annex II Species	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Atlantic	11	**12**	11	6
Marine Atlantic	**3**		1	
Atlantic Total	14	12	13	6

Annex I Habitats

Table 9 shows the conclusions reached across the individual assessment parameters (range, area, etc)[7] for Atlantic terrestrial and marine habitats combined. This shows that in almost all cases the conclusion on range was favourable, the conclusion on area was at best

[5] see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6387

[6] a further 32 'vagrant' species had only partial assessments prepared, which did not conclude on their conservation status

[7] The conclusions reached for these individual parameters are combined to reach an overall conclusion on conservation status

mostly unfavourable-inadequate, and the conclusion for structures & functions and future prospects mostly unfavourable-bad.

Table 8. Parameter conclusions for UK Atlantic and Marine Atlantic habitats

Annex I Habitats	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Range	**70**	1	2	4
Area	25	**31**	6	15
Structures & Functions	3	11	**60**	3
Future Prospects	9	18	**45**	5

Annex II Species

Table 10 shows the conclusions reached across the individual assessment parameters (range, population, etc)[7 above] for Atlantic terrestrial and marine species combined. This shows that, for the majority of species, range and habitat for the species are favourable. Only 16 species were assessed as having favourable status for population and future prospects and for both these parameters as well as habitat for the species, there were a large number of species for which their status is unknown.

Table 9. Parameter conclusions for UK Atlantic and Marine Atlantic species

Annex II Species	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Range	**34**	4	6	1
Population	**16**	10	11	8
Habitat for the species	**24**	7	3	11
Future Prospects	**16**	11	8	10

Annex I and migratory Birds

Table 11 shows the conclusions reached for population and distribution trends for Bird species in the UK Atlantic region.

Table 10. Summary information on the status of breeding and non-breeding birds in metropolitan UK. Most frequent trend category for each attribute is highlighted.

Breeding Birds	Increasing	Stable[8]	Decreasing	Unknown	Fluctuating
Population trend: short-term	**35 (51%)**	2 (3%)	28 (41%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)
Population trend: long-term	**35 (51%)**	9 (13%)	19 (27%)	5 (7%)	0 (0%)
Distribution trend: short-term	22 (32%)	7 (10%)	**38 (56%)**	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
Distribution trend: long-term	28 (41%)	9 (13%)	**30 (44%)**	1 (1%)	0 (0%)

Non-breeding Birds	Increasing	Stable**Error! Bookmark not defined.**	Decreasing	Unknown
Population trend: short-term	17 (29%)	3 (5%)	**36 (61%)**	3 (5%)
Population trend: long-term	**39 (66%)**	2 (3%)	15 (25%)	3 (5%)

[8] Defined as less than ± 5% change

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

Annex I Habitats

Table 12 summarises the conservation status of different Annex I habitat groups within the Atlantic and Marine Atlantic Region. Freshwater habitats ranked highest in terms of overall favourability, with one habitat in favourable status and only 50% in unfavourable-bad status. Although all marine and rocky habitats were assessed as unfavourable status, only 50-60% of these were evaluated as unfavourable-bad. In contrast, most or all of the habitats within the remaining groups were assessed as unfavourable-bad.

Table 11. Conservation status assessments for habitats in each group

Annex I Habitats	Favourable	Unfavourable -inadequate	Unfavourable -bad	Unknown
Freshwater habitats	1	3	4	
Marine habitats		3	3	2
Rocky habitats		2	3	1
Heathland/scrub habitats	1		7	
Coastal habitats		1	17	
Woodland habitats		1	9	
Bog/ fen habitats			9	
Grassland habitats			10	
Total	2	10	62	3

Of the 62 habitats in unfavourable-bad conservation status, 18 received the qualifier 'improving' and 26 were found to be 'stable.' 17 habitats fell into the worst conservation status category, i.e. unfavourable-bad and declining status and have been listed below. Most of these were coastal, grassland, bog or woodland habitat types.

Habitats assessed as unfavourable-bad and declining

- H1130 Estuaries
- H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes
- H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (`white dunes`)
- H2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (`grey dunes`)
- H2140 Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum
- H2190 Humid dune slacks
- H4080 Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub
- H6230 Species-rich Nardus grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas
- H6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils
- H6520 Mountain hay meadows
- H7110 Active raised bogs
- H7130 Blanket bogs
- H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
- H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
- H9160 Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests
- H9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines
- H91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles
- H91C0 Caledonian forest

Annex II Species

Table 13 summarises the conservation status of Annex II species in the Atlantic and Marine Atlantic Region, ranked from the most to least favoured by species group. Mammals are largely ranked as favourable with only one species ranked as unfavourable-bad and 67% ranked as favourable and ¼ of fish species are ranked as favourable with only one species ranked unfavourable-bad. Invertebrates and vascular plants both had more species ranked unfavourable-bad than favourable or unfavourable-inadequate and no vascular plants had one in each known ranking. Overall, 25 species were in unfavourable condition and 14 in favourable; the conservation status of 6 species is currently unknown.

Table 12. Conservation status assessments for species in each group

Annex II Species	Favourable	Unfavourable -inadequate	Unfavourable -bad	Unknown
Mammals	6	1	1	1
Fish	2	3	1	2
Invertebrates	3	4	6	
Vascular plants	2	3	4	
Non-vascular plants	1	1	1	2
Reptiles and Amphibians				1
Grand Total	14	12	13	6

Of the 13 Annex II species in unfavourable-bad conservation status, two were found to be 'improving' and 4 are 'stable.' The remaining seven fell into the worst conservation status category, i.e. unfavourable-bad and declining status and have been listed below. There are four invertebrates, one marine mammal and one vascular and one non-vascular plant species. Six Annex II species have unknown conservation status, also listed below.

Annex II Species assessed as unfavourable-bad and declining

- S1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana)
- S1029 Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)
- S1079 Violet click beetle (Limoniscus violaceus)
- S1092 White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)
- S1365 Common seal (Phoca vitulina)
- S1390 Western rustwort (Marsupella profunda)
- S1903 Fen orchid (Liparis loeselii)

Annex II Species with unknown conservation status

- S1095 Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)
- S1163 Bullhead (Cottus gobio)
- S1166 Great crested newt (Triturus cristatus)
- S1308 Barbastelle (Barbastella barbastellus)
- S1385 Bruchia moss (Bruchia vogesiaca)
- S1386 Green shield-moss (Buxbaumia viridis)

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

The tables below show the most frequently listed pressures and threats (those which applied to at least 20% of features) for Annex I terrestrial and marine habitats and Annex II terrestrial and marine species, based on those pressures which scored as high or medium rank. All pressures and threats data are taken from the 3rd Article 17 reporting. The classifications of

pressures and threats provided on the Article 17 reference portal[9] are used throughout. The values given are the number and percentage of habitats subject to the pressure, from the total 77 Annex I habitats in the UK Atlantic region.

Annex I Terrestrial habitats

Table 13. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for terrestrial habitats including number and percentage of habitats affected (total 69)

Terrestrial Annex I Habitats	Pressures n (%)	Threats (n) (%)
Air pollution	45 65%	45 (65%)
Over- or under-grazing	41 (59%)	40 (58%)
Hydrological issues	29 (42%)	30 (43%)
Invasive non-native species	24 (35%)	23 (33%)
Succession (e.g. scrub invasion)	22 (32%)	19 (28%)
Deer grazing/ browsing/ trampling	21 (30%)	21 (30%)
Recreational issues	20 (29%)	18 (26%)
Problematic native species (e.g. bracken)	15 (22%)	14 (20%)
Changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change	14 (20%)	43 (62%)

Air pollution and grazing are currently pressures on and threaten over 50% of terrestrial Annex I habitats. Hydrological issues, invasive non-native species, succession, deer impacts, recreational issues and problematic native species are pressures on and threats to between 20 and 50% of habitats. The number of habitats subject to these pressures and threats is not expected to change significantly in the foreseeable future. However, changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change is currently a pressure on 20% of habitats but is expected to increase significantly and be a threat for 62% of Annex I terrestrial habitats.

Annex I Marine habitats

Table 14. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for marine habitats including number and percentage of habitats affected (total 8)

Marine Annex I Habitats	Pressures n (%)	Threats n (%)
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	6 (75%)	6 (75%)
Pollution to surface waters	3 (38%)	2 (25%)
Hydrological issues	2 (25%)	2 (25%)
Changes in biotic conditions due to climate change	2 (25%)	1 (13%)
Marine water pollution	1 (13%)	3 (38%)
Changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change	1 (13%)	3 (38%)
Renewable energy use	1 (13%)	2 (25%)
Pollution discharges	1 (13%)	2 (25%)
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	1 (13%)	2 (25%)
Other human intrusions and disturbances	1 (13%)	2 (25%)
Invasive non-native species	0 (0%)	3 (38%)

75% of Annex I marine habitats are both pressured and threatened by fishing and harvesting of aquatic resources.

[9] EIONET Article 17 Reference Portal. Available online at http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_17/reference_portal

Three marine habitats are currently threatened by pollution to surface waters, though this is expected to decrease to two. Hydrological issues currently are and are expected to continue to be pressures on two habitats. Marine water pollution and changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change threaten triple the number of habitats as they are currently pressures on. Renewable energy use, pollution discharges, marine and freshwater aquaculture and other human intrusions and disturbances are listed as pressures on one marine habitat and threats for two. Invasive non-native species are expected to become an important pressure: it is listed as a threat for 38% of habitats.

Annex II Terrestrial species

Table 15. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for terrestrial species including number and percentage of species affected (total 41)

Terrestrial Annex II Species	Pressures n (%)	Threats n (%)
Hydrological issues	23 (56%)	23 (56%)
Pollution to surface waters	16 (39%)	16 (39%)
Over- or under-grazing	15 (37%)	12 (29%)
Other ecosystem modifications	10 (24%)	11 (27%)
Changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change	3 (7%)	12 (29%)
Biocenotic evolution and succession	6 (15%)	8 (20%)

There were four main pressures which affect over 20% of terrestrial species: hydrological issues, pollution to surface waters, grazing and other ecosystem modifications[10]. Hydrological issues are both a pressure and a threat to 58% of Annex II terrestrial species while pollution to surface water is a pressure and threat to 40%. Grazing is a pressure to 15 species but a threat to 12 and other ecosystem modifications threaten 11 species though are currently a threat to 10. Changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change and biocenotic evolution and succession will be increasingly significant, threatening 30% and 20% of Annex II terrestrial species respectively.

Annex II Marine species

Table 16. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for marine Annex II species including number and percentage of species affected (total 4)

Marine Annex II Species	Pressures n (%)	Threats n (%)
Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Marine water pollution	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	2 (50%)	1 (25%)
Other human intrusions and disturbances	2 (50%)	1 (25%)
Interspecific faunal relations	2 (50%)	1 (25%)
Other hunting, fishing or collecting activities	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
Recreational activities	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
Renewable energy use	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
Changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change	0 (0%)	2 (50%)

[10] Other ecosystem modifications includes reduction or loss of specific habitat features including prey availability, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity (fragmentation) (including reduction in migration/migration barriers, dispersal and genetic exchange), reduction/lack or prevention of erosion , and applied (industrial) destructive research (e.g. marine scientific research in a broad sense)

Changes in biotic conditions due to climate change	0 (0%)	2 (50%)
Problematic native species	0 (0%)	1 (25%)

Marine and freshwater aquaculture and marine water pollution are listed as pressures and threats to 50% of Annex II marine species. Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, other human intrusions and disturbances and interspecific faunal relations are listed as pressures to 50% of species but threats to only 25%, suggesting they are decreasing. Other types of hunting, fishing or collecting activities and recreational activities are pressures on and are expected to continue to be pressures on 25% of species.

Renewable energy use, changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change, changes in biotic conditions due to climate change and problematic native species are not currently listed as pressures for marine species. However, renewable energy use is listed as a threat for 100% of marine species, changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change and changes in biotic conditions due to climate change threaten 50% of marine species and problematic native species threaten 25%.

Annex I and migratory Birds

Table 18 shows the most frequently listed pressures and threats to birds in metropolitan UK. Only those pressures and/or threats which applied to at least 5% of assessed bird species/populations are shown.

Please note that, as assessed species were a biased sub-sample of all species (109 of the 130 Annex I and migratory bird species in the UK Atlantic Region), it is known that other issues, such as various impacts of intensive agriculture, are under-reported. As such, table 18 does not provide a comprehensive overview of the pressures and threats to bird species in the UK and should not be seen to diminish the value of those species for which pressures and threats have not been listed.

Table 17. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for bird species including number and percentage of species affected (total 109)

Birds	Pressures n (%)	Threats n (%)
Changes in biotic conditions due to climate change	8 (7%)	77 (71%)
Changes in abiotic conditions due to climate change	5 (5%)	27 (25%)
Other ecosystem modifications	15 (14%)	21 (19%)
Impacts from invasive non-native species	16 (15%)	20 (18%)
Interspecific faunal relations	18 (17%)	19 (17%)
Fishing and harvesting of aquatic resources	10 (9%)	16 (15%)
Renewable energy use	3 (3%)	16 (15%)
Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)	11 (10%)	14 (13%)
Recreational issues	9 (8%)	12 (11%)
Over- or under-grazing	7 (6%)	10 (9%)
Hydrological issues	7 (6%)	9 (8%)
Modification of agricultural cultivation practices	3 (3%)	7 (6%)

The most frequent categories of **Pressure** were Natural processes (e.g. competition, predation, successional change); Invasive species; Biological resource use (e.g. illegal persecution and taking, by-catch, effects of bottom dredging of shell-fisheries, various aspects of legal killing); and Natural system modifications (e.g. habitat change, loss or fragmentation, drainage, fire impacts, land-claim).

Climate change related impacts are the most frequent category of threats to bird species with the future impact potential expected to impact the majority of species (77%). Biological resource use, Agriculture, renewable energy and Natural system modifications all represent significant threats for bird species.

A few factors are influencing species entirely outside the EU, emphasising the value of wider international initiatives such as those under the Convention on Migratory Species to address these.

Section A. Introductory overview of the Natura 2000 network for the UK Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean Region – Gibraltar

A.1 Annex I habitats and Annex II species of the Habitats Directive and Bird species for which Natura 2000 sites are designated

Annex I Habitats and Annex II Species

In the Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean Biogeographical region, the UK's overseas territory Gibraltar has two designated sites: one terrestrial and one marine Special Area of Conservation/ Special Protection Area (SAC/SPA). The terrestrial Rock of Gibraltar SAC/SPA boasts rich flora and is dominated by a dense cover of mostly maquis, with some garrigue with many fruit-bearing shrubs which support large passerine populations during passage periods and in winter.

The marine SAC/SPA is recognised as an important marine area, due to its rich diversity in species and habitats. Sea cliffs and caves, reefs and sandy marine habitats all form part of the marine ecosystem and the abundance and richness of species is largely influenced by the strong currents and upwelling in the Strait of Gibraltar.

There are a total of 10 Annex I habitat types in the UK Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean region. Eight of these are terrestrial comprising three coastal, two sclerophyllous scrub, one rocky habitat and one woodland alongside a further two marine habitats: reefs and submerged or partially submerge sea caves.

There are 4 species in the UK Mediterranean region which are included in Annex II of the Habitats Directives: two mammal species in the terrestrial environment and one mammal and one reptile in the marine.

Table 1. Count of Annex I habitats and Annex II species types in the UK Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean regions (Gibraltar)

Region	Annex I Habitats	Annex II Species
Mediterranean	8	2
Marine Mediterranean	2	2
Total	10	4

Annex I and migratory Birds

Gibraltar is an important strategic location for migratory birds moving from Western Europe to Africa. Both its particular physical shape and proximity to Africa facilitates the annual migration of millions of birds across the Mediterranean. Comprised of a terrestrial and a

marine SAC/SPA Gibraltar plays a critical role for wintering, breeding and migratory terrestrial and marine species.

There are 45 species types in the UK Mediterranean region which are included in Annex I of the Birds Directives. 29 of these are found in the terrestrial environment and 16 in the marine. A further 57 migratory birds which are not listed in Annex I are found in the Mediterranean Region, of which 38 are terrestrial species and 19 are marine species.

Table 2. Count of Annex I and migratory bird species for which SPAs are designated in the UK Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean region (Gibraltar)

Region	Annex I Species	Regularly occurring Migratory Birds not listed on Annex I
Mediterranean	29	38
Marine Mediterranean	16	19
Total	45	57

A.2 Number and area of Natura 2000 sites

Table 3. Number and extent of SCIs and SACs designated in the UK Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean Region (Gibraltar)

Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)	*2 sites*
Reference to Commission Decisions on SCIs	*Link to Decisions at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/sites_hab/biogeog_regions/index_en.htm*
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	*2 sites – 56.87 km^2*
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	*2 sites – 56.87 km^2*
Total Natura 2000 area	*56.87 km^2*
Total Natura 2000 terrestrial area	*2.00 km^2*
Total Natura 2000 marine area	*54.87 km^2*

The above sites are listed on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Website. See page http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3507

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.

Information on Natura 2000 sites and their marine qualifying features can be downloaded here: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4658

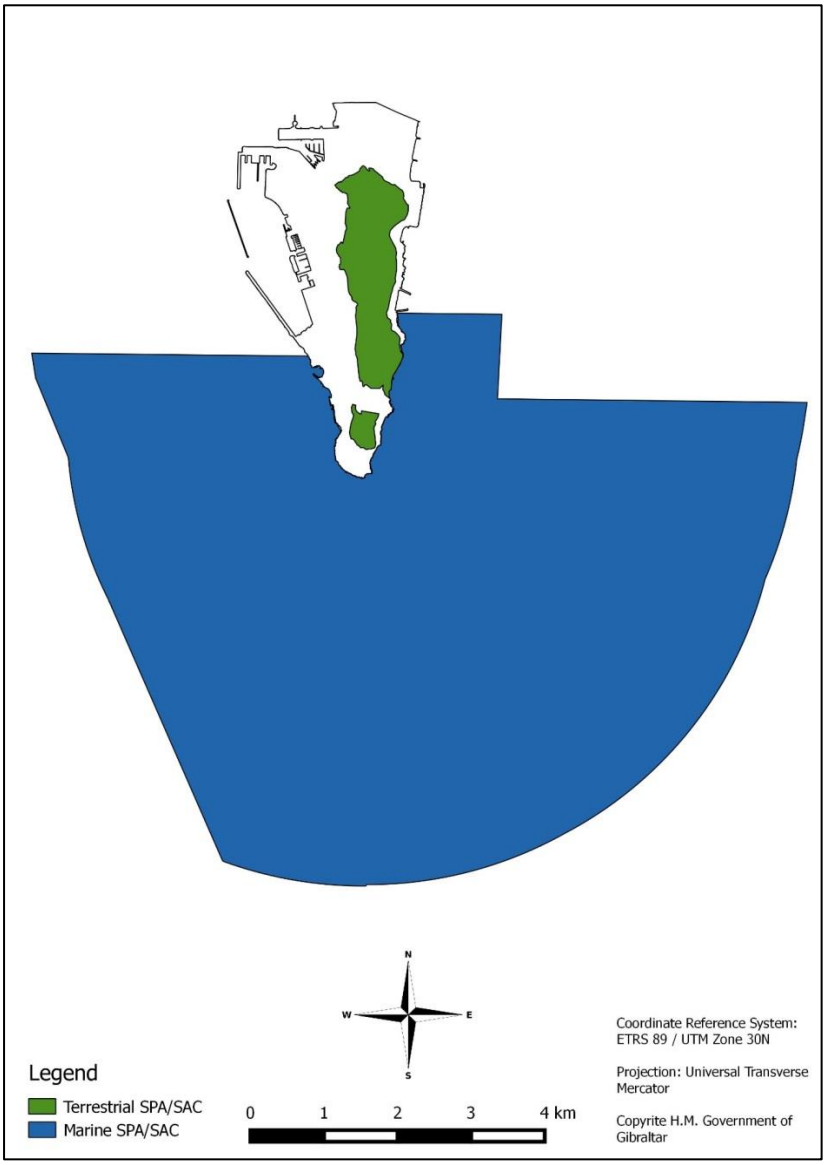

Figure 1. Map of Gibraltar Natura 2000 sites

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

Figure 2 describes the land use cover of the terrestrial and marine UK Natura 2000 sites in the Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean regions. Woodlands and rocky habitats each comprise 30% of terrestrial land cover while grasslands cover 20%. A large majority of marine sites are categorised as marine areas and sea inlets, representing the extensive areas designated in offshore SACs. 96% of the UK's Mediterranean Natura 2000 site area is marine due to the extensive area contained within the Southern Waters SAC/SPA. Data used to construct these figures were taken from the Natura 2000 standard data forms as submitted to the European Union on 22 December 2015.

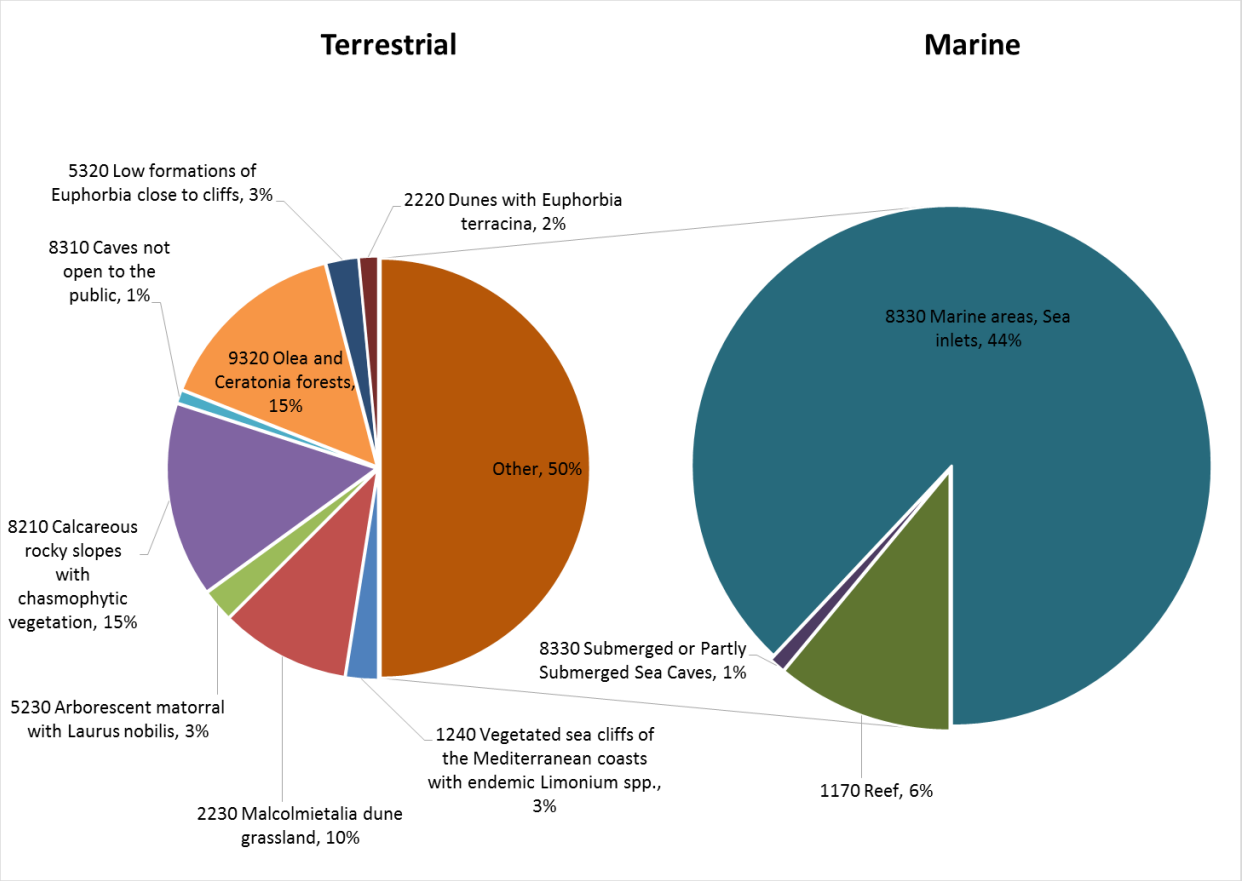

Figure 2. Land use cover of the terrestrial and marine UK Natura 2000 sites

Section B. Status of the Annex I Habitats and Annex II Species for the UK Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean Region – Gibraltar

B.1 Summary of the most recent assessment of conservation status of species and habitat types

Introduction

Within the Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean region, no habitats were assessed as unfavourable-bad, although six of the ten habitats were assessed as unfavourable-inadequate. With regards to Annex II species, three were assessed as unfavourable-inadequate and a further one as unfavourable-bad.

Table 4. Conservation Status of UK Atlantic and Marine Atlantic Annex I Habitats

Annex I Habitats	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Mediterranean	4	4		
Marine Mediterranean		2		
Mediterranean Total	4	6		

Table 5. Conservation Status of UK Atlantic and Marine Atlantic Annex II Species

Annex II Species	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Mediterranean		1	1	
Marine Mediterranean		2		
Mediterranean Total	0	3	1	

Annex I Habitats

Table 6 shows the conclusions reached across the individual assessment parameters (range, area, etc)[1] for Mediterranean terrestrial and marine habitats combined. This shows that in all cases the conclusion on range was favourable and the conclusion on area was predominantly favourable. The conclusions for structures & functions and future prospects were mostly favourable but there were a number of unfavourable-inadequate conclusions.

Table 6. Parameter conclusions for UK Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean habitats

Annex I Habitats	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Range	10			
Area	8	2		
Structures & Functions	7	3		
Future Prospects	6	4		

Annex II Species

Table 7 shows the conclusions reached across the individual assessment parameters (range, population, etc)[1] for Mediterranean terrestrial and marine species combined. This shows that for each of the parameters assessed, species are in almost all cases, the range, population and habitat for the species is either favourable or unknown. For future prospects, 8 species have a favourable status, while 4 species are recorded as unfavourable-inadequate and 1 species is recorded as unfavourable-bad.

Table 7. Parameter conclusions for UK Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean species

Annex II Species	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Range	2		1	1
Population		1	1	2
Habitat for the species	2	2		
Future Prospects		3	1	

Annex I and migratory Birds

Table 8 shows the conclusions reached for population and distribution trends for Bird species in the UK Mediterranean region.

Table 8. Summary information on the status of breeding birds in Gibraltar for the period 2007-2012. Most frequent trend category for each attribute is highlighted

[1] The conclusions reached for these individual parameters are combined to reach an overall conclusion on conservation status

Birds	Increasing	Stable**Error! Bookmark not defined.**	Decreasing	Fluctuating	Unknown
Population trend: short-term	-	4 (9%)	1 (2%)	2 (4%)	**38 (84%)**
Population trend: long-term	2 (4%)	2 (4%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)	**38 (84%)**
Distribution trend: short-term	1 (2%)	4 (9%)	-	-	**40 (89%)**
Distribution trend: long-term	1 (2%)	4 (9%)	-	-	**40 (89%)**

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

Annex I Habitats

Table 9 summarises the conservation status of different habitat groups within the Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean Region. Coastal, rocky and woodland habitats ranked highest in terms of overall favourability, with all habitats in these groupings in favourable condition. Half of marine habitats were assessed as favourable, while the other half were unfavourable-inadequate. Both of the sclerophyllous scrub habitats were assessed as unfavourable-inadequate.

Table 9. Number of habitats of each group which were assessed, overall, as favourable, unfavourable-inadequate, unfavourable-bad and unknown

Annex I Habitats	Favourable	Unfavourable -inadequate	Unfavourable -bad	Unknown
Coastal	3			
Rocky habitats	2			
Woodland	1			
Marine	1	1		
Sclerophyllous scrub		2		
Total	7	3		

Annex II Species

Table 10 summarises the conservation status of Annex II species in the Mediterranean and Marine Mediterranean Region, ranked from the most to least favoured by species group. All four of the Annex II species in Gibraltar were in unfavourable condition: the cetacean and reptile were both ranked as unfavourable-inadequate, as was one mammal species and the other mammal species was ranked as unfavourable-bad.

Table 10. Number of species of each group which were assessed, overall, as favourable, unfavourable-inadequate, unfavourable-bad and unknown

SPECIES	Favourable	Unfavourable -inadequate	Unfavourable -bad	Unknown
Cetaceans		1		
Reptiles and Amphibians		1		
Other mammals		1	1	

Total		3	1	

One Annex II species was assessed as currently in unfavourable-bad condition and declining.

Annex II Species assessed as unfavourable-bad and declining

- S1324 Greater Mouse-eared Bat (*Myotis myotis*)

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

Annex I Terrestrial habitats

Table 11 shows the most frequently listed pressures and threats for Annex I terrestrial habitats, based on those which were scored as high or medium rank (only those pressures and threats which applied to at least 20% of habitats are shown).

Table 11. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for terrestrial habitats including number and percentage of habitats affected (total 8)

Terrestrial Annex I Habitats	Pressures (n) (%)	Threats (n) (%)
Invasive non-native species	3 (38%)	3 (38%)
Continuous urbanisation	1 (13%)	1 (13%)
Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	1 (13%)	1 (13%)
Military manoeuvres	1 (13%)	1 (13%)
Species composition change (succession)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)

Annex I Marine habitats

Table 12 shows the most frequently listed pressures and threats for Annex I marine habitats, based on those which were scored as high or medium rank (only those pressures and threats which applied to at least 20% of habitats are shown).

Table 12. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for marine habitats including number and percentage of habitats affected (total 2)

Marine Annex I Habitats	Pressures (n) (%)	Threats (n) (%)
Professional active fishing	1 (50%)	1 (50%)
Marine water pollution	1 (50%)	0 (0%)
Leisure fishing	1 (50%)	0 (0%)
Sand and gravel extraction	1 (50%)	0 (0%)
Sea-level changes	0 (0%)	1 (50%)

Annex II Terrestrial species

Table 13 shows the most frequently listed pressures and threats for Annex II terrestrial species, based on those which were scored as high or medium rank. As there are only two Annex II terrestrial species in the UK Mediterranean region, those which apply to at least one species are shown below.

Table 13. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for terrestrial species including number and percentage of species affected

Terrestrial Annex II Species	Pressures n (%)	Threats n (%)

Recreational cave visits	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
Species composition change (succession)	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
Habitat shifting and alteration	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
Vandalism	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
Noise nuisance, noise pollution	2 (100%)	2 (100%)

Annex II Marine species

Table 14 shows the most frequently listed pressures and threats for Annex II marine species, based on those which were scored as high or medium rank. As there are only two Annex II marine species in the UK Mediterranean region, those which apply to at least one species are shown below.

Table 14. Most frequently listed pressures and threats for marine species including number and percentage of species affected

Marine Annex II Species	Pressures n (%)	Threats n (%)
Shipping lanes	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
Professional active fishing	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
Other human intrusions and disturbances	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
Other forms of pollution	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
Marine water pollution	1 (50%)	1 (50%)

Annex I and migratory Birds

Table 15 shows the most frequently listed pressures and threats to birds in the UK Mediterranean region. Information on pressures and threats is only available for 14 of the 45 Annex I bird species in the UK Mediterranean Region and the data below relate to those 14 species. As such, table 30 does not provide a comprehensive overview of the pressures and threats to bird species in Gibraltar and should not be seen to diminish the value of those species for which pressures and threats have not been listed.

Table 15. Pressures and threats to birds in Gibraltar

Birds	Pressures n (%)	Threats n (%)
Oil spills in the sea	6 (43%)	6 (43%)
Netting	3 (21%)	3 (21%)
Demersal longlining	3 (21%)	3 (21%)
Leisure fishing	2 (14%)	2 (14%)

Appendix I – Methods for selecting Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species

Selection of Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species UK priorities

The selection process was as follows:

1. Habitats and species known to be at FCS with a strong evidence base at either UK or Atlantic Biogeographic region level were not included.
2. The UK's potential influence on Atlantic region conservation status and trend in conservation status was considered. Habitats and species were categorised according to the percentage of the Atlantic Biogeographic region resource found within the UK and the influence the UK could have on improving the Atlantic region conservation status for a particular habitat or species, which was based on the Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting formats. The categories are:

   - 75 – 100% of the resource. In this case, conservation status in the UK could directly determine the overall status in the Atlantic region because the majority of the resource is in the UK.
   - 55 – 74% of the resource. The UK could have a direct influence on the trend and a big influence on overall conservation status i.e. habitats and species must be at FCS in the UK in order for the Biogeographic status to be favourable, but conservation status in other MS is also important.
   - 25 – 54% of the resource. In this case the UK could have a big influence on the overall conservation status i.e. habitats and species must be at FCS in the UK in order for the Biogeographic status to be favourable, but conservation status in other MS are of greater importance.

   Habitats and species where the UK holds less than 25% of the Atlantic Biogeographic resource were not included. Nevertheless, they may still be a priority in the regional annexes.

3. The proportion of each habitat or species found within Natura 2000 sites in the UK was calculated in order to assess where improvements would most usefully be targeted, within Natura 2000 sites or in the wider countryside. They were categorised as:
   - 75%- largely inside SACs;
   - 25%-75% - inside and outside SACs;
   - <25% - largely outside SACs.

   The 37 Annex I habitats and 12 Annex II species that are recognised as UK strategic priorities are listed in Tables 1 and 2 of the PAF overview document.