



Wildlife and  
Countryside



## Joint Links Fitness Check Evidence Submission 25/03/2015

### **Annex II: BirdLife NATURA 2000 SPA and SAC Designation Barometer (November 2013)**

This work was undertaken by Pip Goodwin for the RSPB on behalf of BirdLife, with assistance from BirdLife staff and other BirdLife members.

The aim was to produce RAG (Red-Amber-Green) ratings of the adequacy of the coverage of terrestrial and marine Natura 2000 sites in each member state of the European Union.

#### **Terrestrial Sites**

For terrestrial sites, the simplest means was to use the percentage overlap of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) with SPAs, for the adequacy of the SPA network. This data was obtained from the spreadsheet compiled by Ian Burfield in August 2012 for Birdlife's Road to Recovery Report.

For the terrestrial IBA/SPA overlap the RAG rating followed the Birdlife thresholds for measuring progress on designation from the above report:

- Red <40%;
- Amber 40%-70%;
- Green >70%.

The adequacy of the SCI network on land was assessed using information from the European Commission's CIRCABC website. This contains the Commission's Conclusions on the adequacy of the representation of habitat types and species of Community interest in the Natura 2000 network and was last updated at the end of 2012. The percentage of those habitats and species considered not sufficient out of the total number of such habitats and species as listed on the Reference Lists<sup>1</sup> for each biogeographical region was calculated. The percentages for all biogeographic regions of each member state were combined to calculate an overall country rating.

The RAG rating of the adequacy of SCI used the correlative thresholds of those used above:

- Red >60% of species and habitats deemed insufficient;
- Amber 30%-60% of habitats deemed sufficient;
- Green <30% of species and habitats deemed insufficient.

#### **Marine Sites**

Similarly, marine SPAs were assessed using the Marine IBA/SPA percentage overlap data tabled by Phil Taylor and Ivan Ramirez at the Marine Task Force meeting in November 2013 (and which were used in the Road to Recovery report).

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<sup>1</sup> [http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura\\_2000/chapter2](http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/chapter2)

For the marine IBA/SPA overlap the RAG rating kept the same Birdlife thresholds as for terrestrial sites:

- Red <40%;
- Amber 40%-70%;
- Green >70%.

As with terrestrial sites, the adequacy of the SCI network in the marine environment was assessed using the Commission's CIRCABC website and a percentage for insufficiency was calculated using the same methods as described above.

The RAG rating of the adequacy of marine SCI is identical to terrestrial sites, ie:

- Red >60% of species and habitats deemed insufficient;
- Amber 30%-60% of habitats deemed sufficient;
- Green <30% of species and habitats deemed insufficient.

Two further assessments for marine sites were carried out: first, the percentage of a member state's national seas covered by marine SPA taken from the minutes of the Ornithology Committee meeting held on 5 October 2012 (available on the CIRCABC website). Secondly, the percentage of a member state's national seas covered by Natura 2000 sites was rated, based on minutes of the expert meeting on marine Natura 2000 (SPA and SAC) sites held on 6 November 2012 (also available on CIRCABC).

In each case the RAG rating thresholds were lower, to take account of the much lower percentages being achieved in the marine environment:

- Red <10%;
- Amber 10%-20%;
- Green >20%.

**The results of this analysis are presented in the attached spreadsheet: Annex IIb.**