APPENDIX 1 – ANNEXES OF DOCHAB 04-03/03-REV.3

Annex A - General reporting format for the 2001-2006 report

This second report will focus on a first assessment of conservation status of all habitats and species of Community interest. A full-scale reporting on active management measures and their impact on conservation status would therefore be premature and should start with the third implementation report. However, the reporting obligation in Article 17.1 covers more than just the conservation status of habitats and species of Community interest or the results of the surveillance (art.11).

As Member States have already started putting in place the necessary management tools, including management plans, for a large number of sites as well as other measures, the report should include concise and brief information on the progress made on this issue. There should be one national report per Member State, eventually consolidating the information contained in regional-level reports.

The table enclosed defines, which type of information the second implementation report should provide, in addition to the information related to the conservation status of habitats and species of Community interest. Some of the information is marked as “optional”, i.e. Member States are free to decide if they wish to include information there or not. In addition, and although the information is available to the Commission through other instruments (legal transposition database, Natura 2000 database), the national reports should include, for the use by the general public, information on the legal framework and the implementation of Natura 2000.

Proposal of a data format:

1. Legal framework		
Legal texts	list of legal texts that transpose the Directive at national and/or regional level	Can be replaced by Internet address where this information is available, if that is the case
2. State of designation of Natura 2000		
Site designation	biogeographic region	
	number of sites of Community importance	Where appropriate give figures for both marine & terrestrial sites separately
	total area of sites of Community importance	Where appropriate give figures for both marine & terrestrial sites separately
	number of sites designated as special areas of conservation	Where appropriate give figures for both marine & terrestrial sites separately
	total area of special areas of conservation	Where appropriate give figures for both marine & terrestrial sites separately
3. Management tools (Art. 6(1))		
Management plans	number of sites for which comprehensive management plans have been adopted (with list of sites)	
	Number of sites for which comprehensive management plans are in preparation	optional
Management bodies	number of sites for which management bodies have been created (with list of sites and type of management bodies created)	
Other planning instruments	number of sites which do not have a dedicated management plan but for which nature conservation objectives have been included in the relevant territorial planning instruments (with list of sites and type of planning instruments used)	these may include land-use plans, forestry or agricultural plans, general territorial plans, etc.
Non-planning instruments (e.g. management agreements)	number of sites for which nature conservation objectives are not defined in a territorial planning instrument (dedicated management plan or other) but where other management instruments have been put in place (with list of sites and description of the types of instruments used)	

4. Conservation measures (Art. 6(1)) and evaluation of their impact on the conservation status (Art. 17(1))		
	general description of the main conservation measures taken (overview at national level, not detailed descriptions site by site)	
	impact of those measures on conservation status (general overview at national level, indicating species or habitats affected by the measures, impact on conservation status and area concerned)	optional
5. Measures to avoid deterioration of habitats /habitats of species & disturbance of species (Art. 6(2))		
	general description of the main measures taken (overview at national level, not detailed descriptions site by site)	
6. Measures taken in relation to approval of plans & projects (Art. 6(3, 4))		
	number of projects/plans for which compensation measures were necessary (with list of sites and types of projects concerned)	
	number of projects/plans for which a Commission opinion was requested (with list of sites and types of projects concerned)	
	impact of projects in need of compensation measures on conservation status (general overview at national level indicating species or habitats affected by the projects, impact of the projects and of the compensations measures, separately if possible, area concerned and whether a follow-up of the compensation measures was carried out)	optional
7. Financing (Art. 8)		
	estimated total annual costs for managing Natura 2000 sites	optional
	measures essential for the maintenance or re-establishment at a favourable conservation status of the priority natural habitat types and priority species (overview at national level) – Art. 8(2)	optional
	estimated annual costs for measures covered by Art. 8(2)	optional
	co-financing provided by the EU for measures covered by Art. 8(2) (may be listed per habitat and species)	optional
8. Measures taken to ensure coherence of the Network (Art. 10)		
	general description of the main measures taken (overview at national level, not detailed descriptions site by site)	optional
9. Measures taken to establish a surveillance system (Art.11)		
	what are the main measures undertaken to establish a system to monitor the conservation status of natural habitats and species referred to in Art.2 of the directive?	
10. Measures taken to ensure the protection of species (Arts. 12 to 16)		
Measures taken for the strict protection of species (Articles 12, 13)	what are the requisite measures taken to establish a system of strict protection of Annex IV species? List them by group of species or by species if appropriate.	
	does a control system exist for the incidental capture and killing of species (Article 12(4)), which species are concerned and how is it ensured that there will not be a significant negative impact on those species?	

Takings/exploitation (Articles 14, 15)	what are the general main measures established to deal with the taking/exploitation in the wild of specimens of wild species of Annex V? Which species are concerned (please list them)?	
	what type of control exists to ensure that indiscriminate means (see Article 15) of capture and killing of the species of Annex IVa) and Va) are not used?	
11. Supporting Measures and additional provisions		
Research (Art. 18)	general description of the main efforts and results obtained (identify major projects)	optional
(Re-)introduction of species (Art 22.a,)	Species name, EU-code	optional
	logical field (Yes/no) for successful reintroduction	optional, indicating if natural reproduction has already taken place and/or population is growing
	logical field for FCS	optional, indication if reintroduced species is already at FCS
Deliberate introduction of non-native species (art 22.b):	species introduced (Latin name)	optional
	list of species and/or habitats of Annex I,II or IV concerned	optional
	regulation measures taken to avoid threats/ damages	optional
Education & information (Art. 22 c)	general description of the main measures taken	optional

ANNEX B - Reporting format on the 'main results of the surveillance under Article 11' for Annex II, IV and V SPECIES

Data	*Comments/Guidelines for reporting data*
1. National Level	
Species code	Species code as used in as in Standard Data Forms, e.g. 1061
Member State	The MS for which the reported data apply; use 2 digit ISO code
Biogeographic regions concerned within the MS	Alpine (ALP), Atlantic (ATL), Boreal (BOR), Continental (CON), Mediterranean (MED), Macaronesian (MAC), Pannonian (PAN)
1.1 Range	Range within the country concerned
Map	Attach a map as a GIS file – vector format or grid map – together with relevant metadata

2. Biogeographic level (complete for each biogeographic region concerned)	
2.1 Biogeographic region	Alpine (ALP), Atlantic (ATL), Boreal (BOR), Continental (CON), Mediterranean (MED), Macaronesian (MAC) or Pannonian (PAN)
2.2 Published sources	If data given below is from published sources give bibliographic references or link to Internet site(s)
2.3 Range	Range within the biogeographical region concerned (for definition, see Annex F, further specifications on how to measure range will be developed in the frame of the guidance document of ETC-BD)
2.3.1 Surface area	Total surface area of the range within biogeographical region concerned in km²
2.3.2 Date	Date (or period) when range surface area was determined
2.3.3 Quality of data	3 = good 2 = moderate 1 = poor
2.3.4 Trend	0 = stable + xx% = net increase by xx% – xx%= net loss by xx% If known provide magnitude of change in km² (2.3.5)
2.3.6 Trend-Period	Give dates of beginning & end of the period for which the trend has been reported (e.g. 1981 to 1991)
2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	Assumed main reasons for change of range where known 0 = unknown 1 = improved knowledge/more accurate data 2 = climate change 3 = direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction) 4 = indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence 5 = natural processes 6 = other (specify)
2.4 Population	

1.2 Distribution map	Presence/absence, use GIS based map – vector format or grid map
2.4.1 Population size estimation	Total population in biogeographic region of the country concerned (data or best estimate) - number of individuals or other relevant surrogate (e.g. pairs, breeding males, number of colonies or localities)
2.4.2 Date of estimation	Date (or period) when population size was determined
2.4.3 Method used	3 = from complete inventory 2 = extrapolation from surveys of part of the population, sampling 1 = based on expert opinion
2.4.4 Quality of data	3 = good 2 = moderate 1 = poor
2.4.5 Trend	0 = stable + xx% = net increase by xx% – xx% = net loss by xx% If known provide magnitude of change in number of individuals or other relevant surrogate in the biogeographic region (2.4.6)
2.4.7 Trend-Period	Give dates of beginning & end of the period for which the trend has been reported
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	Assumed main reasons for change of populations where known 0 = unknown 1 = improved knowledge/more accurate data 2 = climate change 3 = direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction) 4 = indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence 5 = natural processes 6 = other (specify)
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends	In case a MS is not using the indicative suggested value of 1% per year when assessing trends, this should be duly justified in this free text field
2.4.10 Main pressures	List main pressures impacting on the species and/or its habitat(s) in the past or at the moment (past/present impacts) Use codes from Appendix E to the Standard Data Forms to 2nd or 3rd level *(these may need to be revised in the near future)* E.g. 160 General Forestry management, 167 Exploitation without replanting
2.4.11 Threats	List threats affecting long term viability of the species and/or its habitat(s) (future/foreseeable impacts) Use codes from Appendix E to the Standard Data Forms to 2nd or 3rd level *(these may need to be revised in the near future)*
2.5 Habitat for the species	
2.5.2 Area estimation	Estimate of area in km²
2.5.3 Date of estimation	Date (or period) when habitat area surface was determined
2.5.4 Quality of data	3 = good 2 = moderate 1 = poor

2.5.5 Trend	0 = stable + = net increase – = net loss
2.5.6 Trend-Period	Give dates of beginning & end of the period for which the trend has been reported
2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend	Assumed main reasons for change of species habitat where known 0 = unknown 1 = improved knowledge/more accurate data 2 = climate change 3 = direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction) 4 = indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence 5 = natural processes 6 = other (specify)
2.6 Future prospects	Is the species viable in the long term? 1 = good prospects 2 = poor prospects 3 = bad prospects

2.7 Complementary information	
2.7.1 Favourable reference range	In km² (+vector or grid map if feasible); See definition in DocHab-04-03/03 rev.3
2.7.2 Favourable reference population	Number of individuals or other relevant surrogate (e.g. pairs, breeding males, number of colonies or localities), see definition in DocHab-04-03/03 rev.3
2.7.3 Suitable Habitat for the species	Give area of suitable habitat in km² - area of habitat which the species could potentially occupy (if available):
2.7.4 Other relevant information	
2.8 Conclusions ***(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)***	
Range	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
Population	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
Habitat for the species	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
Future prospects	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1)/ Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
Overall assessment of CS[1]	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)

[1] A specific symbol (e.g. arrow) can be used in the unfavourable categories to indicate recovering populations

ANNEX C - Assessing conservation status of a SPECIES

General evaluation matrix *(per biogeographic region within a MS)*

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	Favourable ('green')	**Unfavourable - Inadequate ('amber')**	**Unfavourable - Bad ('red')**	***Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)***
2.3 Range[2]	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS **OR** more than 10% below favourable reference range	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
2.4 Population	Population(s) above 'favourable reference population' AND reproduction, mortality and age structure not deviating from normal (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS AND below 'favourable reference population' OR More than 25% below favourable reference population OR Reproduction, mortality and age structure strongly deviating from normal (if data available)	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
2.5 Habitat for the species	Area of habitat is sufficiently large (and stable or increasing) AND habitat quality is suitable for the long term survival of the species	Any other combination	Area of habitat is clearly not sufficiently large to ensure the long term survival of the species OR Habitat quality is bad, clearly not allowing long term survival of the species	*No or insufficient reliable information available*

[2] Range within the biogeographical region concerned (for definition, see Annex F, further guidance on how to define range (e.g. scale and method) will be given in a foreseen guidance document to be elaborated by ETC-BD in cooperation with the SWG.

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	Favourable ('green')	**Unfavourable - Inadequate ('amber')**	**Unfavourable - Bad ('red')**	***Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)***
2.6 Future prospects (as regards to population, range and habitat availability)	Main pressures and threats to the species not significant; species will remain viable on the long-term	Any other combination	Severe influence of pressures and threats to the species; very bad prospects for its future, long-term viability at risk.	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Overall assessment of CS[3]	All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'	One or more 'amber' but no 'red'	One or more 'red'	Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all "unknown"

[3] A specific symbol (e.g. arrow) can be used in the unfavourable categories to indicate recovering populations

ANNEX D - Reporting format on the 'main results of the surveillance under Article 11' for Annex I Habitats Types

Detailed technical specifications will be developed after agreement by the Habitats Committee in the frame of a guidance document to be elaborated by ETC-BD in cooperation with the SWG.

Data	**Comments/Guidelines for reporting data**
1. National level	
Habitat Code	From Annex I of the Habitats Directive, e.g. 1110 (do not use subtypes)
Member State	The MS for which the reported data apply; use 2 digit ISO code
Biogeographic region concerned within the MS	Alpine (ALP), Atlantic (ATL), Boreal (BOR), Continental (CON), Mediterranean (MED), Macaronesian (MAC), Pannonian (PAN)
1.1 Range	Range within the country concerned
Map	Attach a map as a GIS file – vector format or grid map – together with relevant metadata;

2. Biogeographic level (complete for each biogeographic region concerned)	
2.1 Biogeographic region	Alpine (ALP), Atlantic (ATL), Boreal (BOR), Continental (CON), Mediterranean (MED), Macaronesian (MAC) or Pannonian (PAN)
2.2 Published sources	If data given below is from published sources give bibliographic references or link to Internet site(s)
2.3 Range	Range within the biogeographical region concerned (for definition, see Annex F, further specifications on how to measure range will be developed in the frame of the guidance document of ETC-BD)
2.3.1 Surface area	Total surface area of the range within biogeographical region concerned in km²
2.3.2 Date	Date (or period) when range was determined
2.3.3 Quality of data	3 = good 2 = moderate 1 = poor
2.3.4 Trend	0 = stable + xx% = net increase by xx% – xx% = net loss by xx% If known provide magnitude of change in km²(2.3.5)
2.3.6 Trend-Period	Give dates of beginning & end of the period for which the trend has been reported (e.g. 1981 to 1991)

2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	Assumed main reasons for change of range where known 0 = unknown 1 = improved knowledge/more accurate data 2 = climate change 3 = direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction) 4 = natural processes 5 = indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence 6 = other (specify)
2.4 Area covered by habitat	Area covered by habitat within the range in the biogeographic region concerned (km^2)
1.2 Distribution map	Presence/absence, use GIS based map – vector format or grid map
2.4.1 Surface area	In km²
2.4.2 Date	Date (or period) when area surface was determined
2.4.3 Method used	3 = ground based survey 2 = based on remote sensing data 1 = based on expert opinion
2.4.4 Quality of data	3 = good 2 = moderate 1 = poor
2.4.5 Trend	0 = stable + xx% = net increase by xx% – xx% = net loss by xx% If known provide magnitude of change in km² (2.4.6)
2.4.7 Trend-Period	Give dates of beginning & end of the period for which the trend has been reported
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	Assumed main reasons for change of area covered where known 0 = unknown 1 = improved knowledge/more accurate data 2 = climate change 3 = direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction) 4 = natural processes 5 = indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence 6 = other (specify)
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends	In case a MS is not using the indicative suggested value of 1% per year when assessing trends, this should be duly justified in this free text field
2.4.10 Main pressures	List main pressures impacting on the habitat in the past or at the moment (past/present impacts) Use codes from Appendix E to the Standard Data Forms to 2nd or 3rd level *(these may need to be revised in the near future)* E.g. 160 General Forestry management, 167 Exploitation without replanting

2.4.11 Threats	List threats affecting long term viability of the habitat (future/foreseeable impacts) Use codes from Appendix E to the Standard Data Forms to 2nd or 3rd level *(these may need to be revised in the near future)*
2.5 Complementary information	
2.5.1 Favourable reference range	In km² + map (vector or grid map); See definition in DocHab-04-03/03 rev.3
2.5.2 Favourable reference area	In km² ; See definition in DocHab-04-03/03 rev.3
2.5.3 & 2.5.4 Typical species	List the typical species used (2.5.3) and describe method used to assess their status (2.5.4).
2.5.5 Other relevant information	
2.6 Conclusions ***(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)***	
Range	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
Area	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
Specific structures and functions (incl. typical species)	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
Future prospects	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
Overall assessment of CS[4]	Favourable (FV) / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)

[4] A specific symbol (e.g. arrow) can be used in the unfavourable categories to indicate recovering habitats

ANNEX E - Assessing conservation status of a HABITAT type

General evaluation matrix *(per biogeographic region within a MS)*

Parameter	Conservation Status			
	Favourable ('green')	**Unfavourable – Inadequate ('amber')**	**Unfavourable - Bad ('red')**	***Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)***
2.3 Range[5]	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference range'	Any other combination	Large decrease: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS OR More than 10% below 'favourable reference range'	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
2.4 Area covered by habitat type within range[6]	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing AND not smaller than the 'favourable reference area' AND without significant changes in distribution pattern within range (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decrease in surface area: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS OR With major losses in distribution pattern within range OR More than 10% below 'favourable reference area'	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Specific structures and functions (including typical species[7]**)**	Structures and functions (including typical species) in good condition and no significant deteriorations / pressures.	Any other combination	More than 25% of the area is unfavourable as regards its specific structures and functions (including typical species)[8]	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Future prospects (as regards range, area covered and	The habitats prospects for its future are excellent /	Any other combination	The habitats prospects are bad, severe impact from	*No or insufficient reliable information*

[5] Range within the biogeographical region concerned (for definition, see Annex F, further guidance on how to define range (e.g. scale and method) will be given in a foreseen guidance document to be elaborated by ETC-BD in cooperation with the SWG.

[6] There may be situations where the habitat area, although above the 'Favourable Reference Area', has decreased as a result of management measures to restore another Annex I habitat or habitat of an Annex II species. The habitat could still be considered to be at 'Favourable Conservation Status' but in such cases please give details in the Complementary Information section ("Other relevant information") of Annex D.

[7] A definition of typical species will be elaborated in the frame of the guidance document by ETC-BD in cooperation with the SWG.

[8] E.g. by discontinuation of former management, or is under pressure from significant adverse influences, e.g. critical loads of pollution exceeded.

Parameter	**Conservation Status**			
	Favourable ('green')	**Unfavourable – Inadequate ('amber')**	**Unfavourable - Bad ('red')**	***Unknown (insufficient information to make an assessment)***
specific structures and functions)	good, no significant impact from threats expected; long-term viability assured.		threats expected; long-term viability not assured.	*available*
Overall assessment of CS [9]	All 'green' OR three 'green' and one 'unknown'	One or more 'amber' but no 'red'	One or more 'red'	Two or more 'unknown' combined with green or all "unknown'

[9] A specific symbol (e.g. arrow) can be used in the unfavourable categories to indicate recovering habitats

ANNEX F - The Natural Range of Species and Habitats under the Habitats Directive

elaborated in the frame of the Scientific Working Group under the Habitats Committee, based on a version dealing with animal species from the article 12 working group

The term "natural range" appears in various places in the text of the Directive and in different contexts. A definition of the term must therefore take account of the directive as a whole.

1. Context

Many species and habitats of Community interest listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive have historically suffered decreases and fragmentation of their natural range and some continue to do so. Today's natural range of some species and habitats of Community interest may in a good number of cases be insufficient to guarantee their maintenance on a long term basis. This was among other reasons one important factor in their identification as species of Community interest. The natural range and its trends is therefore one element that needs to be considered when judging the conservation status of a species or habitat. It also should be considered when elaborating conservation measures and restoration strategies and objectives. The achievement of favourable conservation status as described in art.1(i) of the directive for species and art. 1(e) for habitats should be kept in mind.

2. Definition - a dynamic concept

The natural range describes roughly the spatial limits within which the habitat or species occurs. It is not identical to the precise localities or territory where a habitat, species or sub-species permanently occurs. Such actual localities or territories might for many habitats and species be patchy or disjointed (*i.e.* habitats and species might not occur evenly spread) within their natural range. If the reason for disjunction proves to be natural i.e. caused by ecological factors, the isolated localities should no be interpreted as continuous natural range, for example for an alpine species the range may be the Alps and the Pyrenees, but not the lower area between. The natural range includes however areas that are not permanently used: for example for migratory species "range" means all the areas of land or water that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration[10]. Vagrant or occasional occurrences (in the meaning of accidental, erratic, unpredictable) would not be part of the natural range.

Natural range as defined here is not static but dynamic: it can decrease and expand. Natural range can also be in an unfavourable condition for a habitat or a species ie. it might be insufficient to allow for the long-term existence of that habitat or species.

When a species or habitat spreads naturally (on its own) to a new area/territory or when a re-introduction of a species consistent with the procedures foreseen under art. 22[11] of the Habitats Directive has taken place of a species into its former natural range, this territory has to be considered a part of the natural range. Similarly restoration/recreation or management of habitat areas, as well as certain

[10] See also article 1 of the Bonn Convention

[11] The term “native” as used in Article 22 should be interpreted in a way that a species or habitat should be considered native, when it is within its natural range (as defined in this paper), or within the limits of any historical or potential (to where it spreads naturally) natural range.

agricultural and forestry practices can contribute to the expansion of a habitat or a species and therefore its range. However, individuals or feral populations of an animal species introduced on purpose or accidentally by man to places where they have not occurred naturally in historical times or where they would not have spread to naturally in foreseeable future, should be considered as being outside their natural range and consequently not covered by the directive.

Example ***Hucho hucho*** (Danube salmon, covered by Annex II and V). This species naturally occurs in the Danube river basin. All occurrences (natural or re-introduced) within the Danube river basin, where it used to occur widely before its decline, are therefore part of the natural range of this species. Occurrences in other European river basins (eg. Rhine), where the species was introduced by man do not form part of the natural range of the species.

In order to help with the practical work of defining range, one may refer to the IUCN definition (see IUCN red list categories and criteria, Version 3.1) of "extent of occurrence": Extent of occurrence is defined as the area contained within the shortest continuous imaginary boundary which can be drawn to encompass all the known, inferred or projected sites of present occurrence of a taxon, excluding cases of vagrancy. ***Further guidance on the practical application of the concept will be given in the guidance document to be elaborated by ETC-BD in cooperation with SWG.***

3. Changes in natural range

The Directive makes it clear that natural range is dynamic: it may increase or decrease over time. Natural range may alter for a number of reasons. Natural reasons include for example changing climatic conditions, the successions of habitats or the exploitation of a new food resource by an animal species. Some of these reasons may be considered as natural responses to environmental conditions or natural variation in the characteristics of species, over which we have no influence.

But other range changes are and have been in the past clearly associated with human interventions (or discontinuation of former interventions) in the natural environment. These are likely to be the consequence of major modifications to the environment resulting from its management by human populations, for example changes in the extent and types of agricultural and forest land, modifications to water courses from barrages, fragmentation of habitats and natural areas by transport systems, or direct extermination. Such type of range changes, where they have detrimental effects (i.e. lead to regression of range) on habitats or species of Community interest are in contradiction to the aims of the directive ie. to maintain or restore habitats and species of Community interest at a favourable conservation status. But human intervention can also lead to positive range changes: as the directive is not only dealing with natural, but also with semi-natural habitat types like for example hay-meadows and certain semi-natural forests-types, human intervention (for example the expansion of certain agricultural or forestry practices) can contribute to an enlargement of the natural range of an Annex I habitat type.

In order to evaluate range changes & trends (eg. for monitoring purposes or conservation management), reference points in time may be useful. One reference point to evaluate trends under the Habitats Directive (therefore also evaluating the effectiveness of the directive) might be the date of entry into force of the directive. This assumes however that member states have comprehensive quality data for this date, which unfortunately will not always be the case. In practical terms we will need to use the best quality data, which is available for the first assessment of conservation status. We must remember however that with regard to the overall objective of the directive we cannot assume that the actual natural range of 1994 or of any other date since then represents automatically a favourable condition. Natural range might be too small to allow for a long-term existence of its habitat or species.