



Shadow list and biogeographic seminars – NGOs' role

Andrey Kovatchev

Natura 2000 Expert, BALKANI Wildlife
Society, Bulgaria





Biogeographical seminar

Habitats Directive:

- Art. 4 (1) and Annex III Stage 1- National list (pSCIs)
- Art. 4 (2) and Annex III Stage 2 – Assessment by the Commission in agreement with Member State (biogeographic seminars followed by bilateral negotiations)

Formal requirement – to select SCIs from a larger list of pSCIs (criteria in Stage 1 define broader set of zones)

Reality during biogeographical seminars – to assess insufficiencies in the official Member state proposals and identify places for upgrading with new sites to achieve coherence





Biogeographical seminar

Preparation - *the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) (important to be lobbied by the NGOs)*

- *official advisory scientific body, participating at the seminar*
- *Preliminary technical and scientific analysis of the pSCIs*
- *Preparation of the official documentation prior the seminars:*
 - a. The reference lists for each biogeographical region
 - b. The Natura 2000 standard data forms of all the sites proposed by the Member States for the biogeographical region
 - c. Maps of sites proposed - each habitat/species per biogeographical region
 - d. A summary table - each habitat/species per biogeographical region ,
 - the number of sites proposed by each Member States
 - the coverage (indicated by %)
 - Coherence analyses, first preliminary conclusions and comments





Biogeographical seminar

Criteria stage 2 for selecting SCIs (Annex III Habitats Directive)-

- *relative national value*
- *migration routes of species*
- *cross-border ecosystem (internal Community frontiers)*
- *total area of the site*
- *number of habitats and species in the site*
- *global ecological value (unique aspect of its features) of the site*





Biogeographical seminar

Stage 2 - criteria in Hab. 97/2 rev. 4 18/11/97

“Pre-selection” phase 20-60% Rule (biogeographical region) – applied during the seminar.

The habitats/species which occurrence is covered to an extent:

- *higher than 60% are considered, in principle, as sufficiently represented*
- *lower than 20% are considered, in principle, as insufficiently represented*
- *between 20% and 60% are the subject of a case-by-case analysis*

For priority, rare, endangered species and habitats lowest required threshold for coverage in the region is 60%!



Biogeographical seminar

Hab. 97/2 rev. 4 18/11/97

“Case by case ” phase (biogeographical region)

- *“Priority” criterion - at least one priority habitat or species*
- *“Uniqueness” criterion - containing the only significant example of a non priority habitat or species*
- *“High-quality” criterion - having a high national value for at least one non-priority habitat or species*
- *“High-diversity” criterion - containing a significant number of non-priority habitats and/or species*
- *“Network coherence” criterion - playing a role to ensure the coherence (as well structural as functional) of the Natura 2000 Network - migration routes, ecological corridors, “relic” localisations, cross-border ecosystems, bordering a major protected area, restoration measures for at least one priority habitat or species*
- *“Safeguard clause” criterion – safeguarding sufficient coverage*





Biogeographical seminar

The seminar

The seminars discuss

- *reference lists per biogeographical regions*
- *the sufficiency of each species and habitat, according to the agreed reference lists separately for each biogeographical region*





Biogeographical seminar

Criteria used during the biogeographical seminar

Simplified and reversed criteria of Hab. 97/2 rev. 4 18/11/97 to answer the question - is the submitted list of pSCIs sufficient?

- *“Pre-selection” criterion 20-60% widely used (low coverage)*
- *Geographical insufficiency/gap – missing sites in certain area with proven distribution or at the border of natural distribution*
- *Missing locality – for rare species with few localities*
- *Missing best/representative locality or several best/representative localities*
- *Missing locality/site playing role of stepping stone bio-corridor – ecological coherence (site should host species permanently in order to be accepted)*
- *Not presented important variation (subtype, subspecies)*





Biogeographical seminar

Possible decisions on sufficiency – habitats/species review

- SUF (Sufficient) No further sites needed
- IN MAJ (Insufficient major) No sites proposed at present. A major effort to designate sites is needed.
- IN MOD (Insufficient moderate). One or a number of additional sites (or maybe extension to sites) required.
- IN MOD GEO - means that additional site(s) are required in certain region to eliminate geographical gap.
- IN MIN (Insufficient minor) - habitat/species should be noted on sites already proposed for other habitats/species
- CD (Correction of data) Data needs to be corrected/completed/deleted
- Sci Res (Scientific reserve) A definite conclusion is not possible: need to investigate/clarify a scientific issue





Biogeographical seminar

Participants

- *European Commission*
- *ETC/BD*
- *Independent experts invited by the Commission*
- *National Governments and their experts*
- *NGOs (through Habitats Forum)*
- *Observers*

Decisions – consensus led by the chairmen from the Commission, input from the ETC/BD and independent experts crucial (lobby them!!)





Biogeographical seminar

NGOs - how to prepare prior seminars

- a. *Ensure good unofficial cooperation scientists/NGOs (scientists are not always in a position to say freely everything, but NGOs could be)*
- b. *Establish good communication with the Commission and ETC/BD on the topic as soon as possible*
- c. *Choose as fast as possible your representatives (knowledgable and trustable), 1-3 persons for the seminar through consensus*
- d. *Lobby through European Habitats Forum members (WWF-European Policy Office, CEEWEB, BirdLife) and directly through the Commission to receive invitation for these persons*
- e. *Prepare alternative NGOs assessments, shadow lists and reports and distribute them as early as possible*





Biogeographical seminar

NGOs - how to prepare prior seminars

- a. Make critical analyses of the Governmental proposal*
- b. Revise reference lists – they should be truly presented in the biogeographical region/ or missing species/habitats*
- c. For every or for most important habitat and species from the reference list:*
 - make an assessment of coverage and coherence of the official list
 - try to propose a shadow list of sites
 - prepare a report with maps (shadow list, localities of the species, habitats etc) and submit it to the secretariat of the convention and the ETC prior the seminar (as early as possible)





Biogeographical seminar

NGO's shadow lists – could be a

- *Complicated map - containing detailed NATURA 2000 data base and border of sites (in some countries NGOs developed official proposals)*
- *Simplified map - polygons (GIS or even GOOGLE EARTH) accompanied with a simple EXCEL table with a referent list of species and habitats for each polygon*
- *Or even a map of localities for particular species and habitats*

The shadow list is our demand for enlarging the network – there was no case in other EU countries NGOs to be satisfied by the Governmental proposal.





Biogeographical seminar

NGOs assessment of coverage

- *Number of localities covered*
- *% of distribution - simple overlapping with UTM grids or similar simplified methods*
- *Maps of distribution*
- *Deductive models of suitable habitats (for species) using free GIS layers*





2006-2007

Biogeographical seminar – Bulgarian case

Preparation by NGOs

Mapping species and habitats in 2006 and 2007

- *Forest habitats – full forestry inventory (1: 5 000 scale) and assessment of the type of habitat by modeling of forestry data*
- *Grasslands – partial inventory and modeling in scale 1:100 000 (CORINE Land Cover based)*
- *Species – distributional data available for most of the species (presence/absence) and deductive models of suitable habitats developed in scale 1:100 000 (problems – old data or scarce data especially for invertebrates)*

In 2007 critical reassessment of all network on systematic basis – on the base of developed GIS maps!!





2008

Biogeographical seminar – Bulgarian case

The documentation prepared by the NGOs in 2008

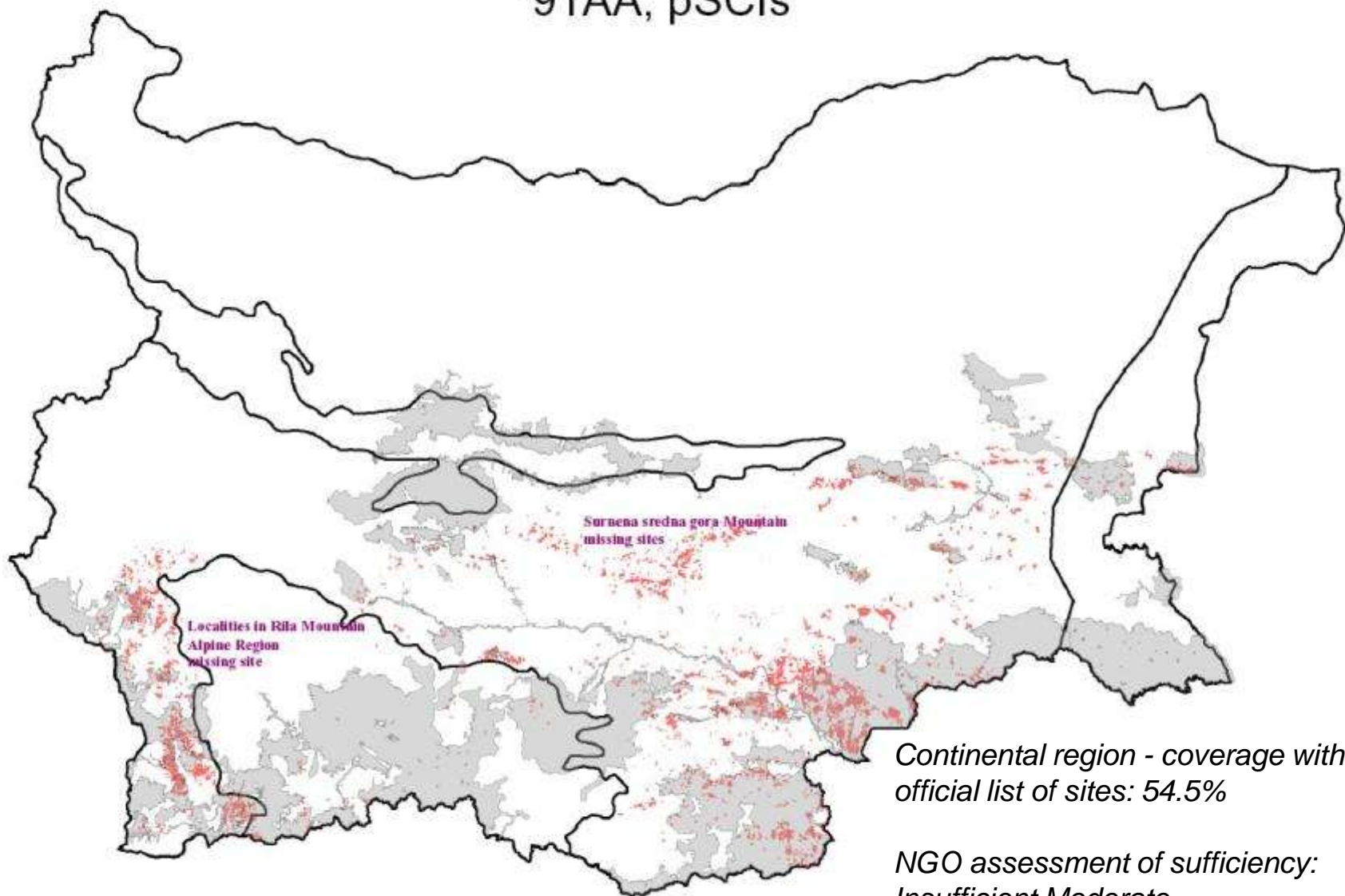
- a. Analyses of coverage made for most of species and habitats*
- b. A report for 23 species and 9 habitats for which network was regarded to be insufficient for biogeographical region concerned. Maps and GIS accompanied every individual report.*
- c. Reports sent to the ETC in 10 April 2008, 2 months prior to the seminar – included in the preliminary official analyses of the ETC*
- d. BG – RO NGO preparation meeting in the end of April 2008.*
- e. Biogeographical seminars for BG and RO – June 2008. NGO participation – 3 experts (through European Habitats Forum)*



2008

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*91AA, pSCIs

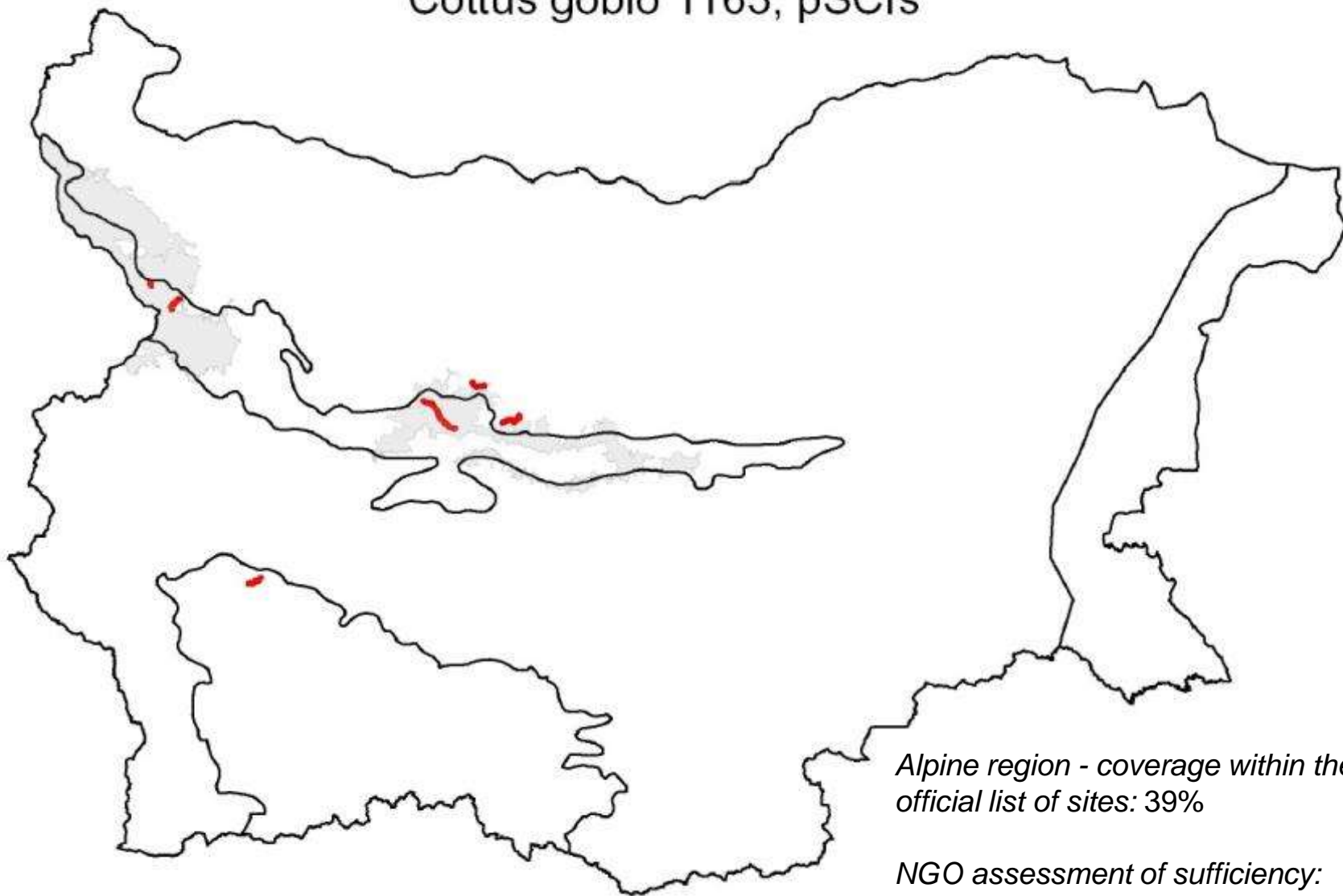


Low coverage: priority habitat with less than 60% coverage in the region.

Geographical coherence: There are no sites in the area of Surnena Sredna Gora Mountain.

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Cottus gobio 1163, pSCIs



Alpine region - coverage within the official list of sites: 39%

*NGO assessment of sufficiency:
Insufficient Moderate*

Low coverage: glacial relict, endangered species

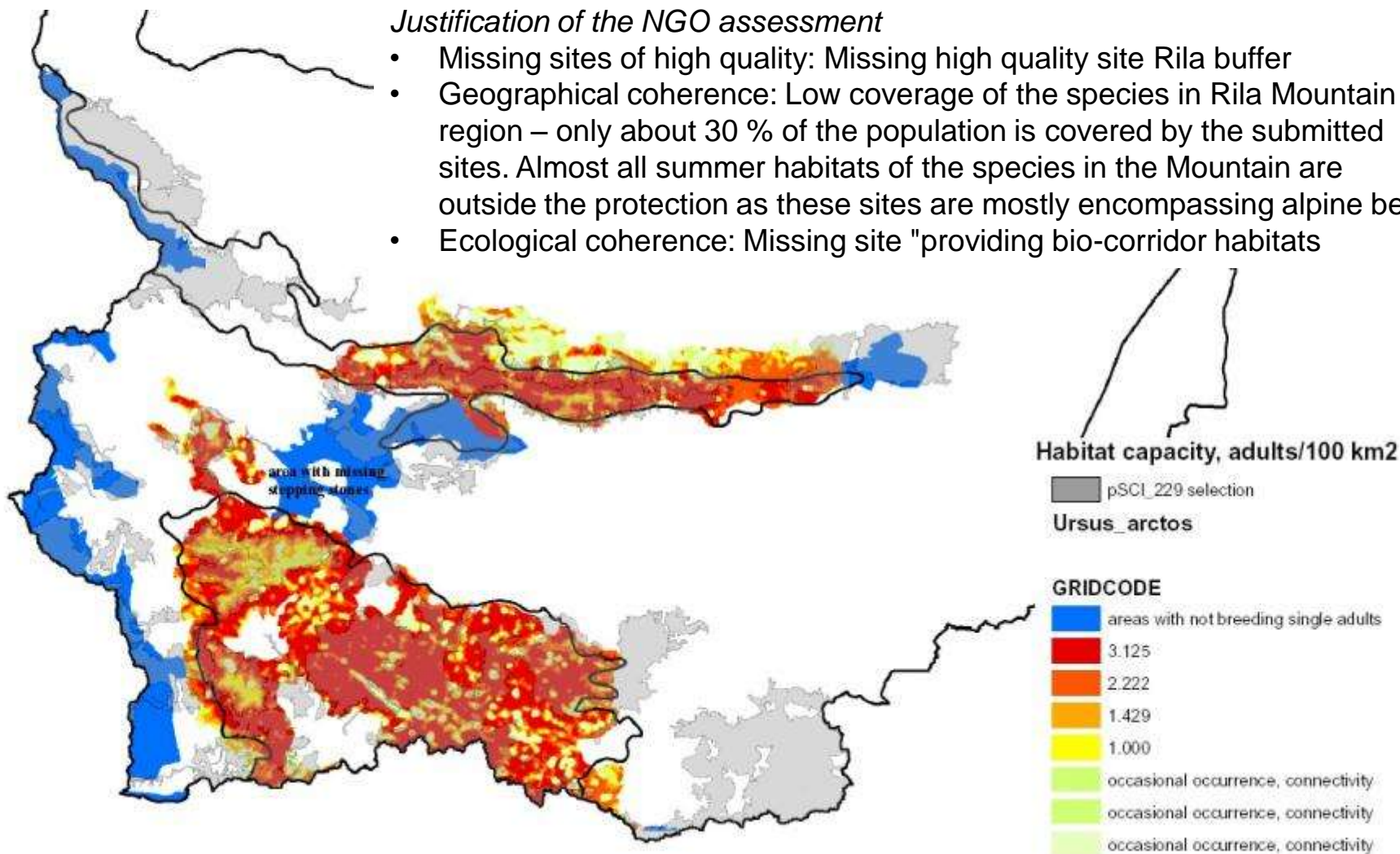
Geographical coherence: There are no sites in the area of Rila Mountain (missing site Rila – buffer).

*Ursus arctos 1354, pSCIs

Alpine region - coverage within the official list of sites: 67,25%. NGO assessment of sufficiency: Insufficient Moderate

Justification of the NGO assessment

- Missing sites of high quality: Missing high quality site Rila buffer
- Geographical coherence: Low coverage of the species in Rila Mountain region – only about 30 % of the population is covered by the submitted sites. Almost all summer habitats of the species in the Mountain are outside the protection as these sites are mostly encompassing alpine belt.
- Ecological coherence: Missing site "providing bio-corridor habitats"

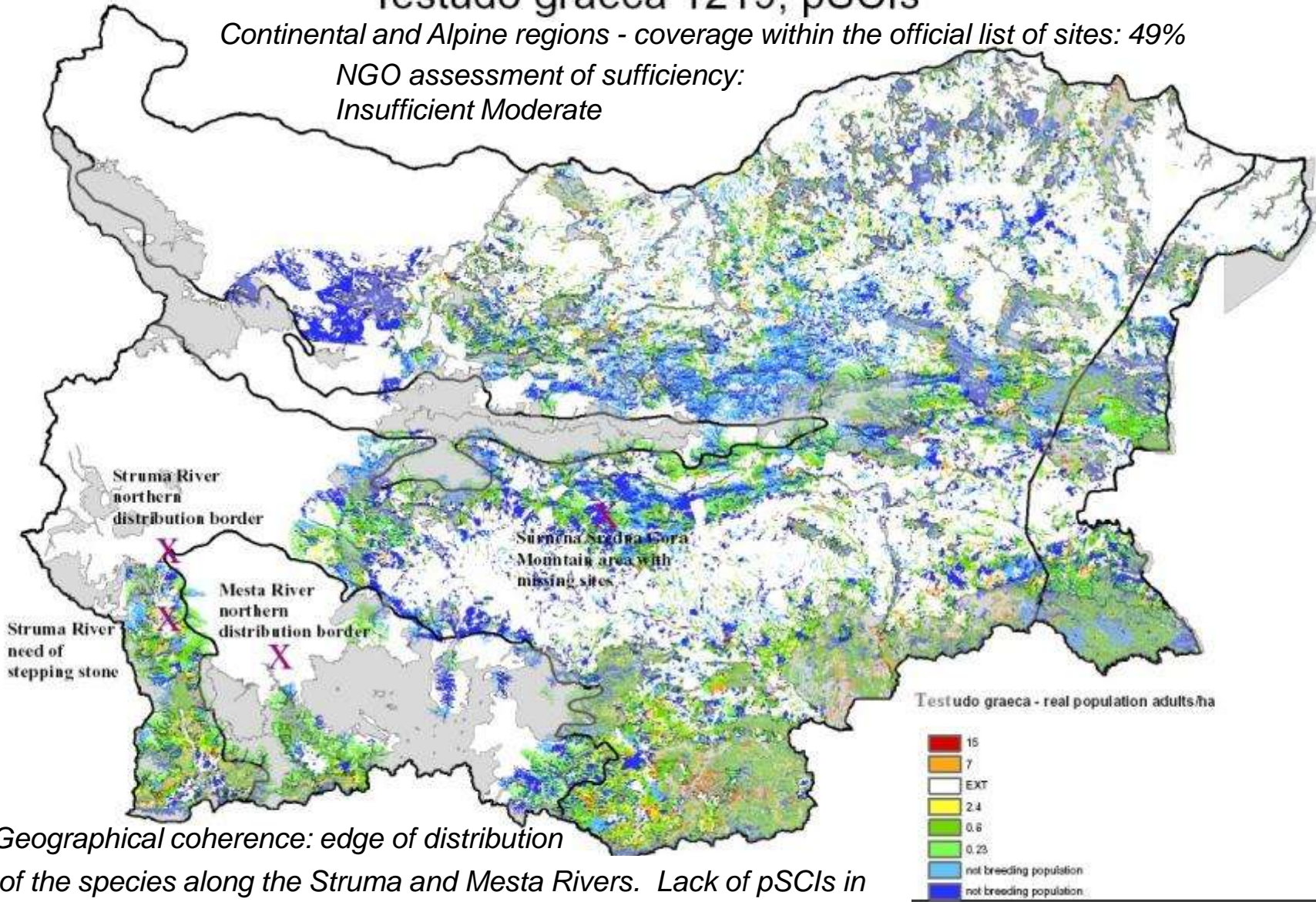


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Testudo graeca 1219, pSCIs

Continental and Alpine regions - coverage within the official list of sites: 49%

NGO assessment of sufficiency:
Insufficient Moderate

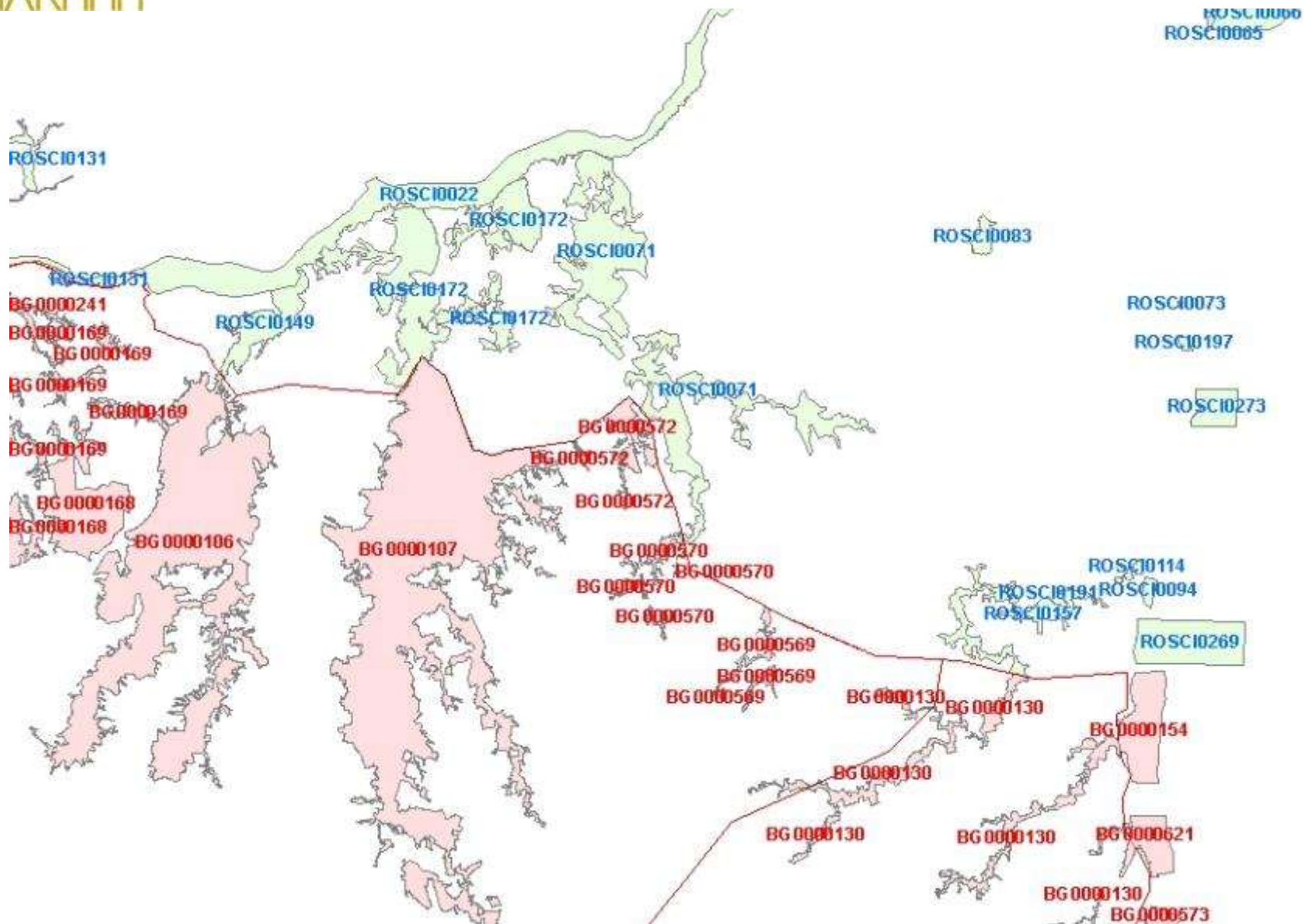


- Geographical coherence: edge of distribution of the species along the Struma and Mesta Rivers. Lack of pSCIs in Surnena Sredna Gora Mountain.
- Ecological coherence: stepping stones along river valley of Struma River



2008

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Example of NGO's BG-RO cross-border analyses (sent to the ETC and Commission in May 2008) – map of sites



2008

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Example of NGO's BG-RO cross-border analyses (sent to the ETC and Commission in May 2008) – list of species in cross - border sites

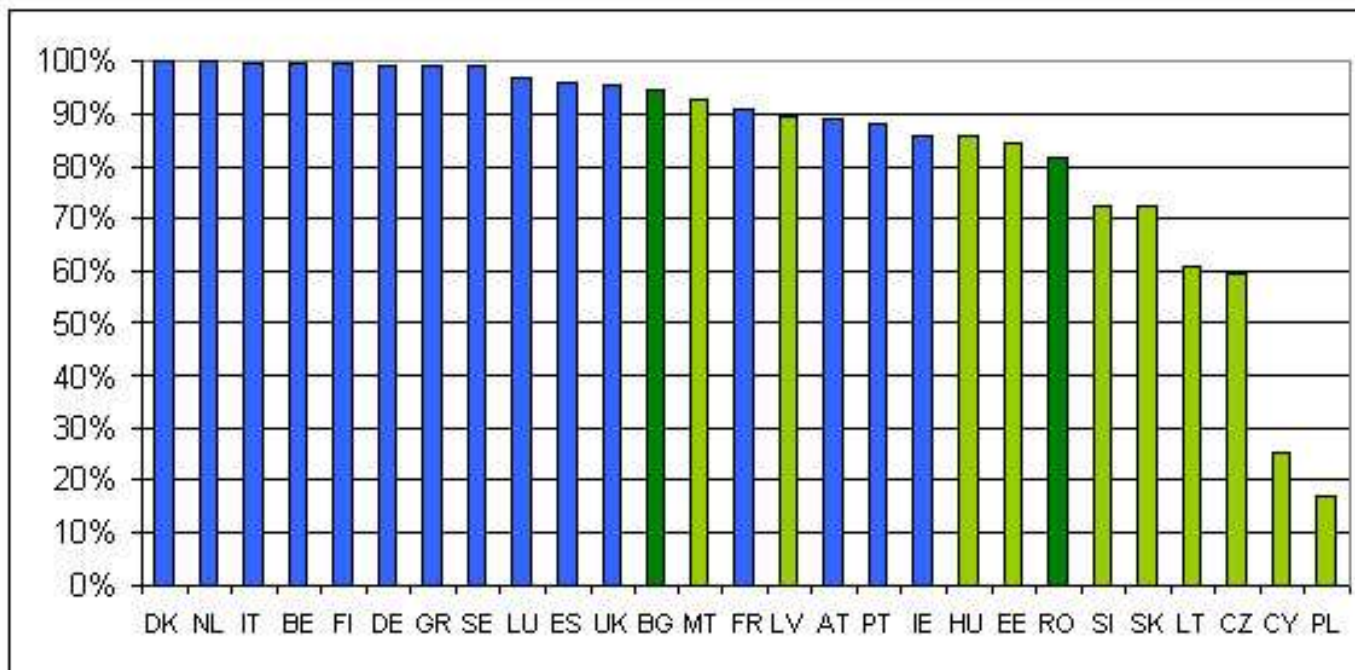
			Krajmorska Dobrudzha(130)	Padurea Hagieni – Cotul Vaii (157)
Plant	2125	Potentilla emilii-popii	D	+
Plant	2253	Centaurea jankae		+
		Himantoglossum caprinum		+
Plant	2327			
Invert	1060	Lycaena dispar		+
		Callimorpha quadripunctaria		+
Invert	1078			
Invert	1083	Lucanus cervus	+	+
Invert	1087	Rosalia alpina	+	
Invert	1088	Cerambyx cerdo	+	
Invert	1089	Morimus funereus	+	
	4027	Arytrura musculus		+
Invert			Missing in the national reference list	
Invert	4033	Erannis ankeraria	Missing in the national reference list	+
Amp/Rep	1219	Testudo graeca	+	+
Amp/Rep	1279	Elaphe quatuorlineata	+	
Mammal	1302	Rhinolophus mehelyi		+
		Rhinolophus ferrumequinum		+
Mammal	1304			
Mammal	1305	Rhinolophus euryale	+	
Mammal	1310	Miniopterus schreibersi	+	+
Mammal	1335	Spermophilus citellus	+	+
Mammal	2609	Mesocricetus newtoni	+	+
Mammal	2633	Mustela eversmannii	+	+
Mammal	2635	Vormela peregusna	+	



2008

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Results – despite high % of the network number of moderate and minor insufficiencies and correction of data, as well as scientific reserves



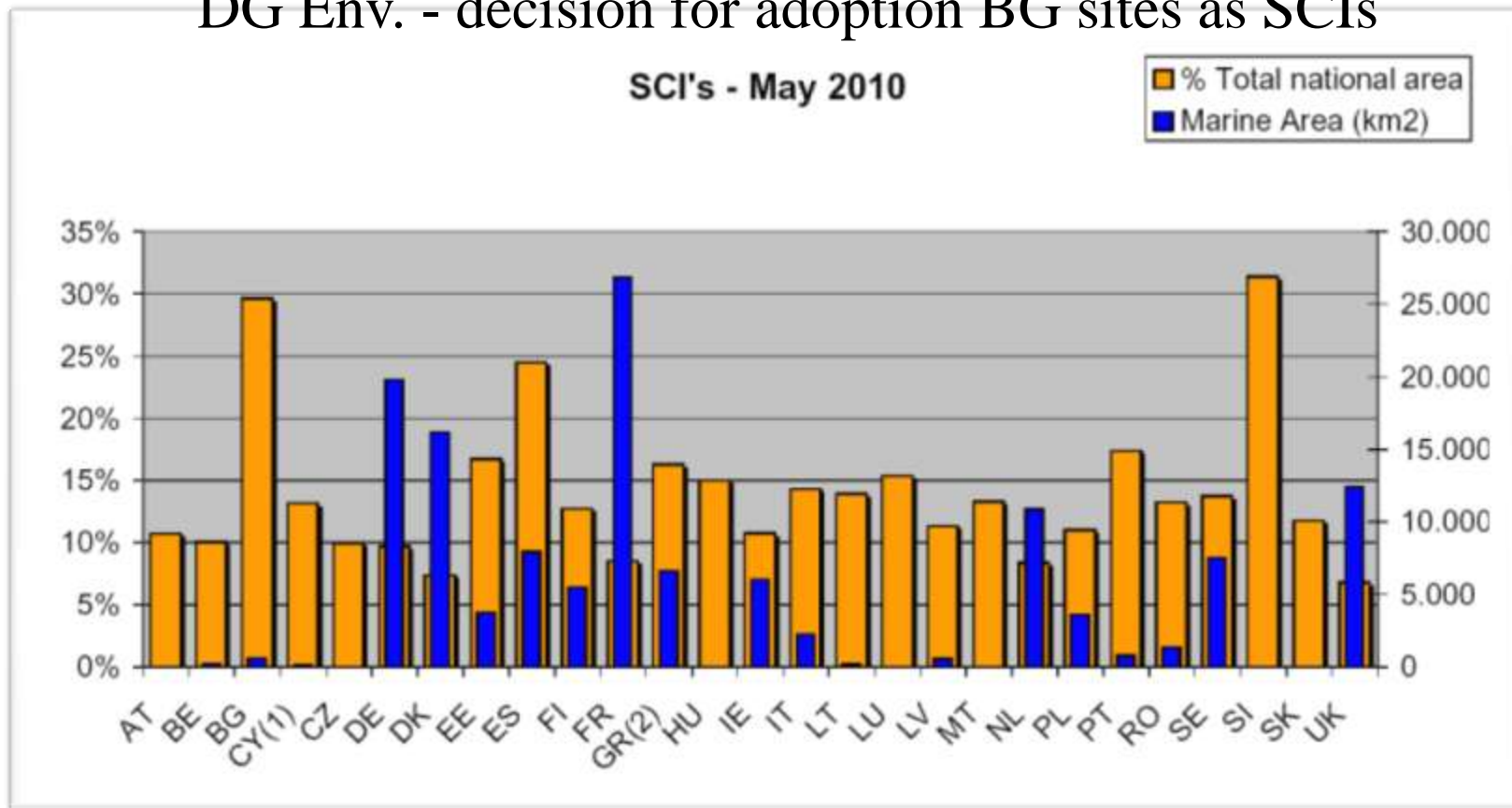
State of **progress** in reaching sufficiency for the Habitat Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species, *June 2008*



2008

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DG Env. - decision for adoption BG sites as SCIs





Thank you for your attention

[Andrey Kovatchev](#)

[BALKANI Wildlife Society](#)

kovatchev6@gmail.com

www.balkani.org

