

National responsibilities and conservation priorities

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What for?

- 27 countries
- 27 national „collection“ centers
- Hundreds of regional organisations, governmental, NGOs, scientific etc.



But only ONE international instance in Europe

No general tool for control and budgeting

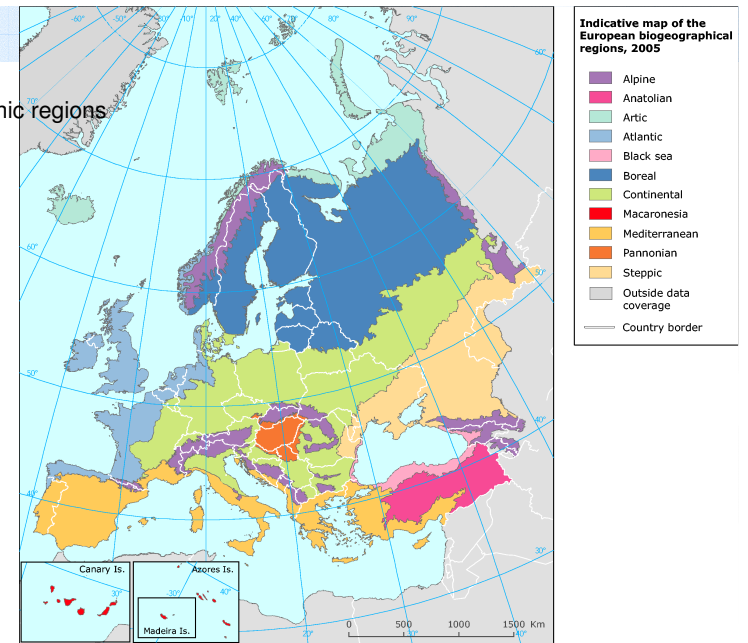
Why?



Gasc et al. (1997) Atlas of amphibians and reptiles in Europe. www.gli.cas.cz/SEH/atlas/atlas.htm

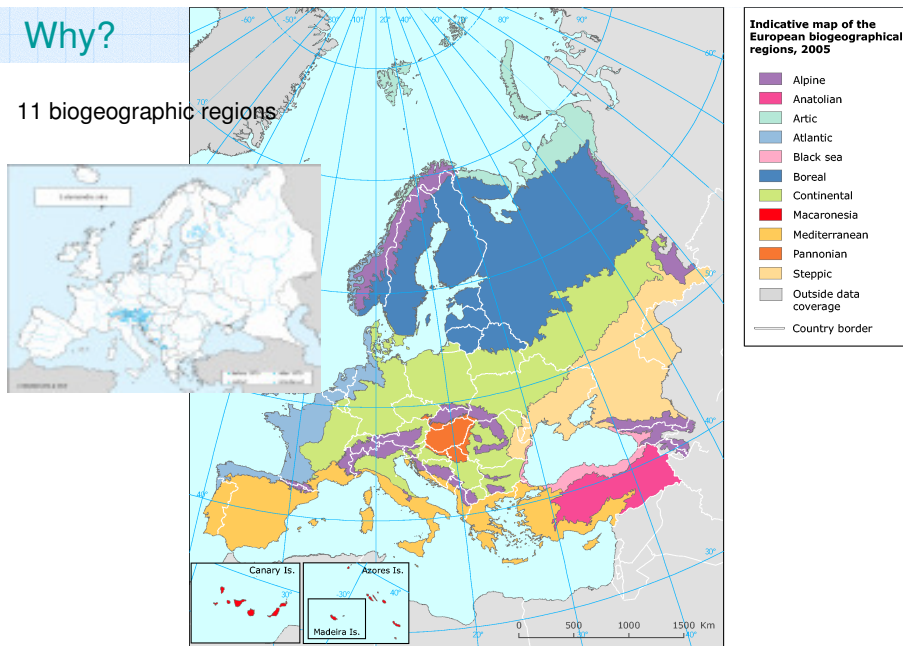
Why?

11 biogeographic regions



Why?

11 biogeographic regions



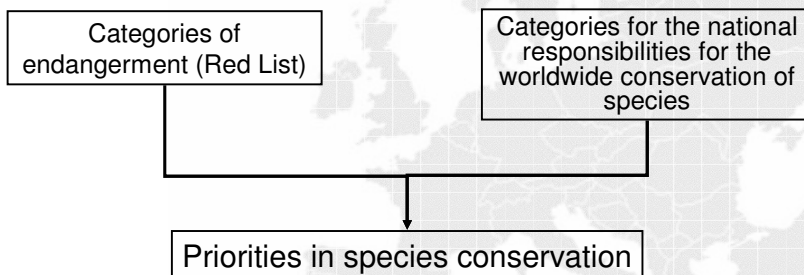
National responsibilities

Definition

- ▶ Responsibility of a country for a species that occurs within its borders
- ▶ Responsibility is derived from the importance of a reference area for the global survival of a species

National responsibility (NR) can be thought of as a measurement directly correlated with the effect of the loss of a population in the area of a political entity on the species global survival. Such a method allows conservation decisions to be based not only on the conservation status of a species (Red List) but also on the responsibility of a geographic or administrative entity for the survival of a species.

Conservation priorities

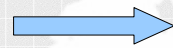


National responsibilities

- Part of conservation prioritization
- Allocation of resources based on the responsibilities of a political entity

National responsibilities

- First methods were developed in 1994
- Various concepts
 - Multinational concepts
 - National concepts determining NR
 - National concepts determining CP



More details at day 3

National responsibilities

- Some of the criteria used for the determination of international importance are:
 - fragmentation index,
 - population decline,
 - rarity status,
 - isolated outposts,
 - endemism,
 - percentage of distribution area falling into the focal area, and
 - distribution center

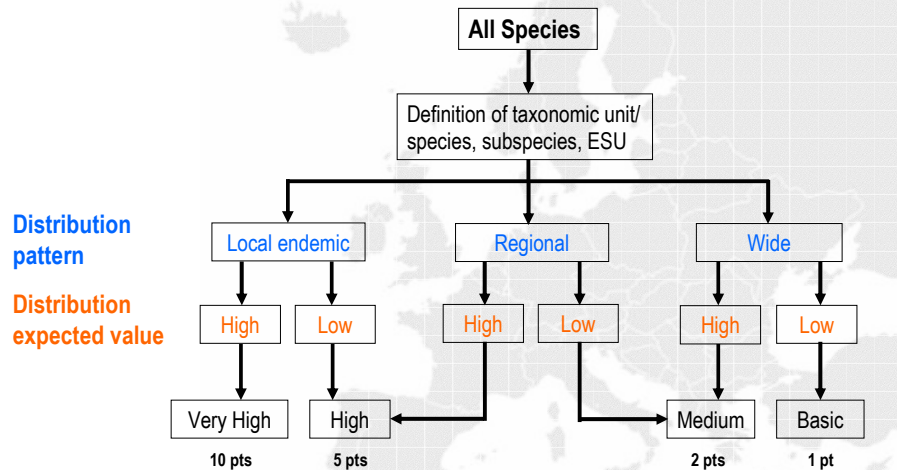
National responsibilities

- Shortcomings
 - None of the methods was applicable to another scenario than the one it was developed for
 - Some of the criteria were country specific
 - No scalability
 - Only applicable to certain species groups
 - No standard approach

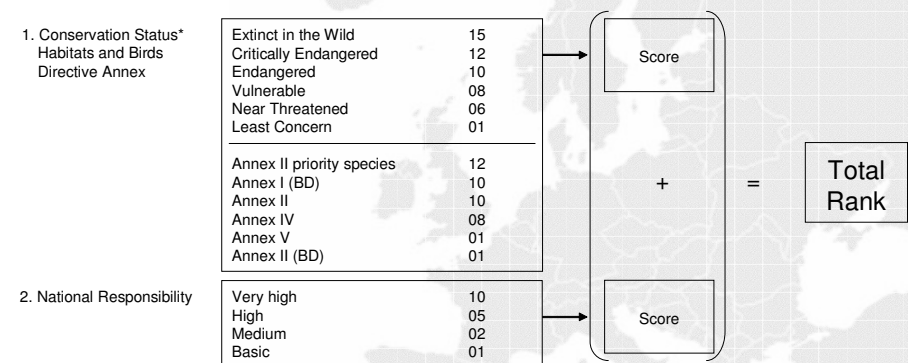
National responsibilities

- Requirements
 - Applicability to most taxa
 - Precise definition of categories
 - Adaptability to different scales
 - Minimal, but sound data requirements
 - Complementarity of conservation status and (national) responsibility

EuMon method



National responsibilities to Conservation priorities



National responsibilities to Conservation priorities

	very high	high	medium	basic
Extinct in the Wild	25	20	17	16
Critically Endangered Annex II (HD) priority species	22	17	14	13
Endangered Annex II (HD) Annex I (BD)	20	15	12	11
Vulnerable Annex IV (HD)	18	13	10	9
Near Threatened	16	11	8	7
Least Concern Annex V (HD) Annex II (BD)	11	6	3	2

Conclusion

- A common approach in determining national responsibilities and setting conservation priorities would allow direct comparisons between provinces, countries, regions, and even continents.
- Conservation decisions would become more transparent, allowing an optimal allocation of limited financial and human resources across supra-national states (USA, Canada, Australia) and state unions (European Union) in a comprehensive way.

Conclusion

- Poorer countries, located in biodiversity rich regions, may also use such a common approach to explain demands for financial support for the conservation of populations and species of high international importance.
- A common approach would also make clear to decision makers where biodiversity monitoring needs to be intensified and improved in order to close information gaps in regards to distribution, abundance, and taxonomic status of species.



EuMon – EU-wide monitoring methods and systems of surveillance for species and habitats of Community interest – EuMon Conference: 28.- 30. January 2008

