

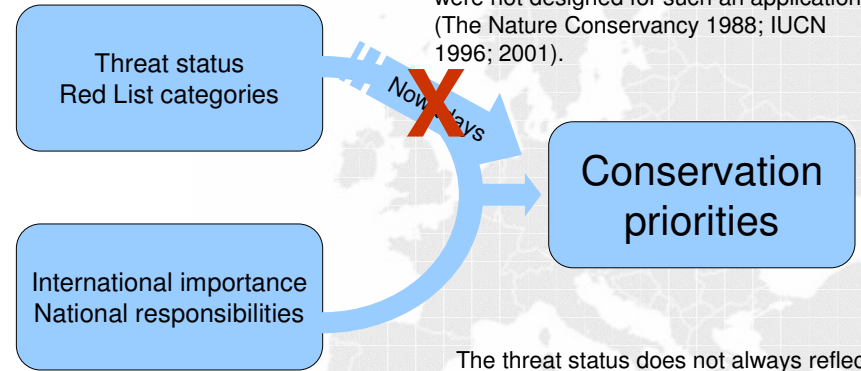
Conservation priorities

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Conservation priorities

Red lists are the most prominent and important tool for priority setting in applied conservation, despite the fact that red lists were not designed for such an application (The Nature Conservancy 1988; IUCN 1996; 2001).



The threat status does not always reflect actual conservation needs and renders inadequate for setting conservation priorities (Gärdenfors 2000, 2001).

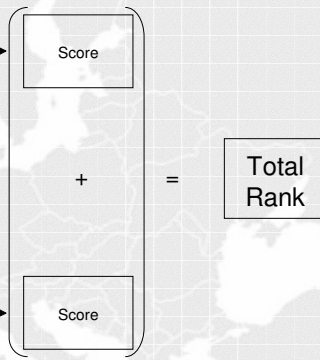
National responsibilities to Conservation priorities

1. Conservation Status*
Habitats and Birds
Directive Annex

Extinct in the Wild	15
Critically Endangered	12
Endangered	10
Vulnerable	08
Near Threatened	06
Least Concern	01
Annex II priority species	12
Annex I (BD)	10
Annex II	10
Annex IV	08
Annex V	01
Annex II (BD)	01

2. National Responsibility

Very high	10
High	05
Medium	02
Basic	01



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

The rank categories

Rank	Actions needed	Points	Meaning
1	Immediate action	20 – 25	The loss of the focal nation's population will lead to the global extinction of the species as the main distribution area lies within the countries borders and the species is highly threatened. The country has to undertake immediate conservation actions and needs to locate considerable resources to the conservation of such species to increase populations in space and numbers.
2	High priority	13 – 18	The loss of the focal nation's population will lead to the global extinction of the species in the near future as a high proportion of the distribution area lies within its borders and the species is threatened or nearly threatened. The country has to give conservation actions a high priority and has to set up a long-term conservation plan to improve the conditions for the species.

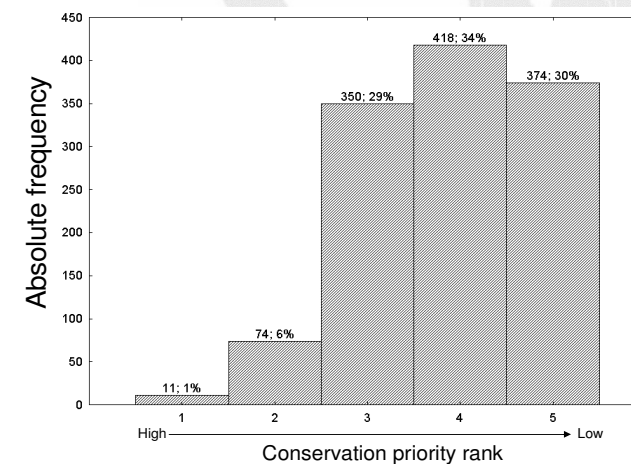
The rank categories

Rank	Actions needed	Points	Meaning
3	Priority	9 – 12	The loss of the focal nation's population will not directly lead to the global extinction, as either only a small proportion of the total distribution range lies within the focal nation or the threat status is low. However, populations at the periphery of the distribution often are evolutionary significant units and thus important for evolutionary processes and essential for the maintenance of genetic diversity. Conservation actions are necessary to be started with priority.
4	Improvement of knowledge	--	The currently available data is not sufficient to assess the conservation status and/or the national responsibilities. The country has to give high priority to improve its data on the species by e.g. monitoring status and trend of its populations and surveying its distribution.
5	Under observation	2 – 8	The species is distributed mainly outside the focal nation's area and/or its global survival is not endangered. The country needs to undertake preventive actions, such as data collection, to be able to assess the status of its populations.

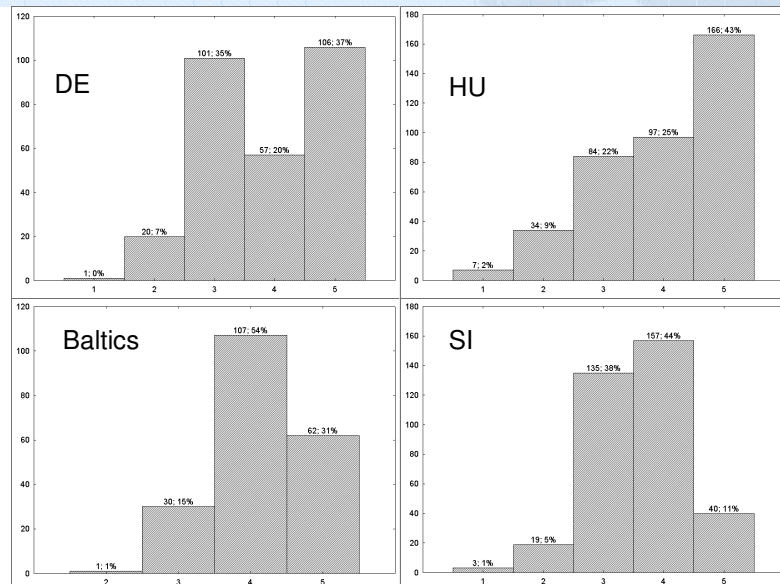
International importance vs threat status

- A species highly threatened in a specific country can occur with some single individuals in that country, leading to a high preservation effort for the species there. Due to the low number of individuals, however, the global survival of the species will not be influenced at all.
- In contrast, a common non-threatened species can occur mainly in one country and therefore the international importance of the population and the responsibility in that country for the species is very high

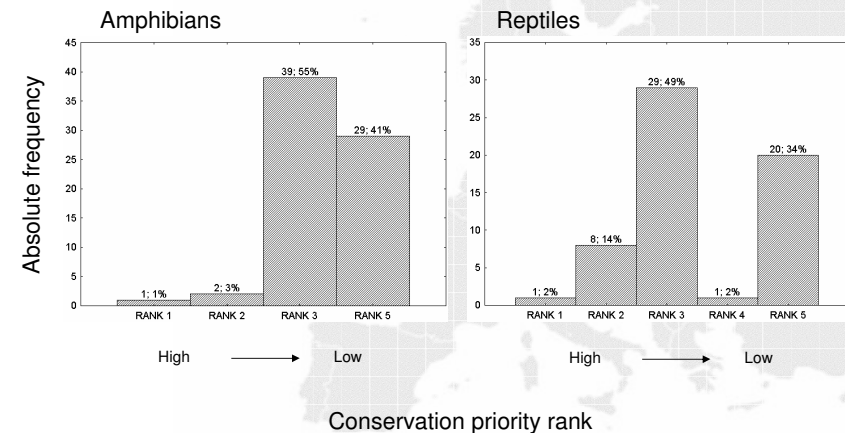
Application (overall)



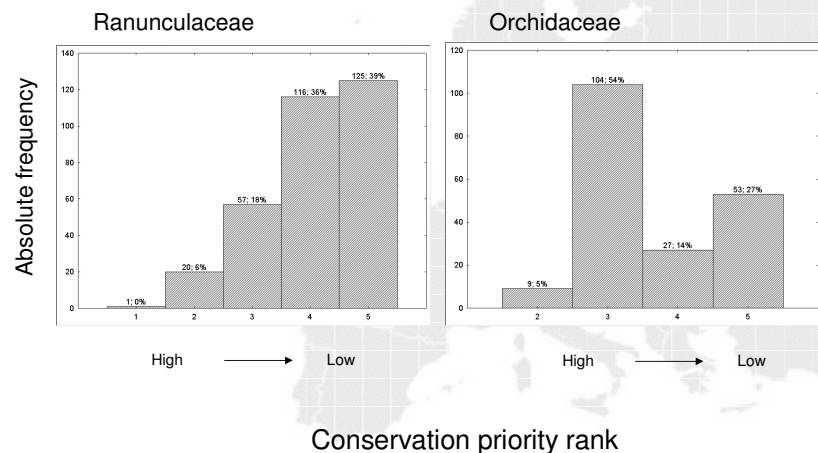
Application (by country)



Application (by species group)



Application (by species group)



Problematic issues

- Bias by Red Lists
 - International vs national vs regional RL
 - Does hardly exist for habitats
- Data availability
 - For many species, distribution data was not available
 - For many species no threat status could be found in any red list
 - Worse situation for habitats

Conclusion

- Scientifically sound reasoning
- Few categories
- Adjustable to future changes of distribution data and threat status
- Adjustable to different scales
- Automatization possible (database needs to be constructed)



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

