

Report on the main results of the surveillance under article 11 for annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

SPECIES NAME: **Mustela putorius**

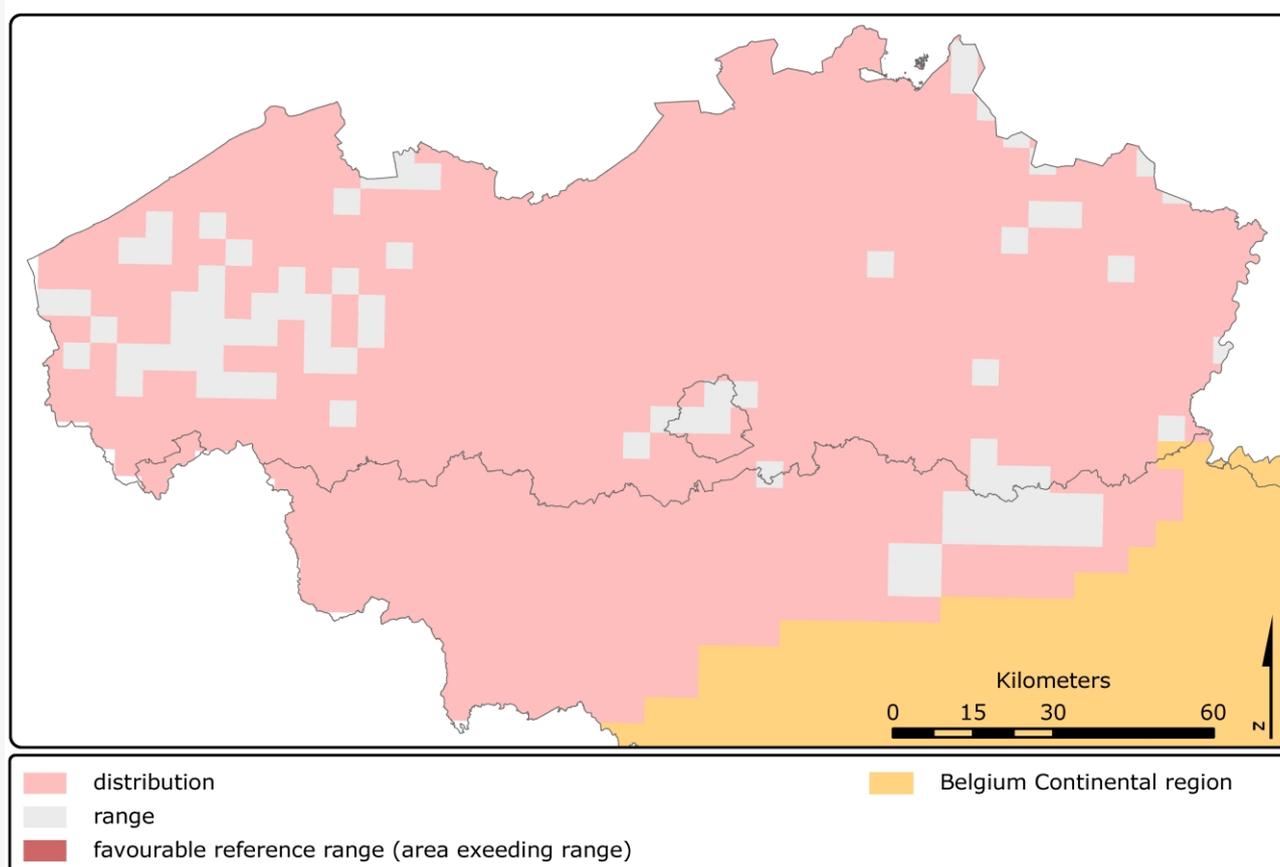
1. National level

Biogeographic regions and/or marine regions concerned in the MS: **ATL CON**

2. Biogeographical or marine level

2.1 Biogeographical region or marine region: Atlantic

Van Den Berge K. (2008) Conservation status of the Natura 2000 species Polecat (*Mustela putorius*) for the Belgian Atlantic region, In: Paelinckx D., Van Landuyt W. & De Bruyn L. (ed.). Conservation status of the Natura 2000 habitats and species. Report of the Research Institute for Nature and Forest, INBO.R.2008.15. Brussels. In prep



2.2 Published sources and/or websites

Van Den Berge, K. & De Pauw W., 2003. Bunzing *Mustela putorius* (Linnaeus, 1758). In: Verkem, S., De Maeseneer, J., Vandendriessche, B., Verbeylen, G. & Yskout, S. Zoogdieren in Vlaanderen. Ecologie en verspreiding van 1987 tot 2002. Natuurpunt Studie en JNM-Zoogdierenwerkgroep, Mechelen & Gent, België. www.inbo.be/natura2000be

2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region

2.3.1 Surface range of the species in 18829

km2	
2.3.2 Date of range determination	1978-2006
2.3.3 Quality of data concerning range	Moderate e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation
2.3.4 Range trend	Stable (=)
2.3.5 Range trend magnitude (km2) - optional	0
2.3.6 Range trend period	1998-2006
2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	Unknown
Other (specify)	N/A

2.4 Population of the species in the biogeographic region or marine region

2.4.1 Population size estimation		
Minimum population	Maximum population	Population units
746	746	Grids
2.4.2 Date of population estimation	1998-2006	
2.4.3 Method used for population estimation	Extrapolation from surveys of part of the population or from sampling	
2.4.4 Quality of population data	Moderate e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation	
2.4.5 Population trend	Decreasing (-)	
2.4.6 Population trend magnitude	N/A	
2.4.7 Population trend period	1985-2006	
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	Unknown Direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction) Indirect anthro(zoo)genic influence Natural processes	
Other (specify)	N/A	
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)	N/A	
2.4.10 Main pressures	110 Use of pesticides 150 Restructuring agricultural land holding 151 - removal of hedges and copses 243 - trapping, poisoning, poaching 502 - roads, motorways 623 - motorised vehicles 709 - other forms or mixed forms of pollution 967 - antagonism with domestic animals 974 - genetic pollution	
2.4.11 Threats	110 Use of pesticides 150 Restructuring agricultural land holding 151 - removal of hedges and copses 243 - trapping, poisoning, poaching 502 - roads, motorways 623 - motorised vehicles 709 - other forms or mixed forms of pollution 967 - antagonism with domestic animals 974 - genetic pollution	

2.5 Habitat for the species in the biogeographic region or marine region

2.5.1 Habitats for the species	The habitat consists of mixed landscapes with a combination of half open or small forests, brook and river valleys, swamps and pond borders, old orchards, pastures and rough herbage, small scaled culture land
2.5.2 Area estimation (km2)	18828
2.5.3 Date of estimation	2006

2.5.4 Quality of the data	Moderate e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation
2.5.5 Trend of the habitat	Stable (=)
2.5.6 Trend period	2000-2006
2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend	Direct human influence (restoration, deterioration, destruction) Indirect anthropo(zoo)genic influence
Other (specify)	N/A
2.6 Future prospects for the species	Poor prospects - species likely to struggle unless conditions change

2.7 Complementary information

2.7.1 Favourable reference range (km ²)	18829
2.7.2 Favourable reference population	More than field 2.4.1 746
2.7.3 Suitable habitat for the species	18828
2.7.4 Other relevant information	Population size estimation Polecats have relative large home ranges (M : up to 500 ha, F : up to 100 ha – cf. current radio-telemetry research) with intra-sexual exclusion, resulting in low natural densities. Male and female home ranges overlap, so the number of animals can vary from about 0.1 to 1 animal / km ² . Trend decreasing. Polecats still occur all over the region, but privileged observers (poll 2006) almost unanimously note a decline or even a remarkable decline for the last 10 or 20 years. Yearly numbers of collected specimen affirm this, although this method cannot guarantee a constant effort and is susceptible for changes in availability of the network volunteers.

Conclusion	Biogeographical or marine level	Conclusions within Natura 2000 sites (optional)
(2.3) Range	Favourable (FV)	N/A
(2.4) Population	Inadequate (U1)	N/A
(2.5) Habitat for the species	Inadequate (U1)	N/A
(2.6) Future prospects	Inadequate (U1)	N/A
Overall assessment	Inadequate (U1)	N/A