Pelobates fuscus

Region: 10

Taxonomic Authority: (Laurenti, 1768)

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Common Spadefoot	English
Grzebiuszka Ziemna	Polish
Obyknovennaya Chesnochnitsa	Russian
pelobate fosco	Italian

Order: Anura

Family: Pelobatidae

Notes on taxonomy: Further systematic work is currently underway on this taxon. It seems possible that it might be a complex of more than one species.

General Information

Biome ☑ Terrestrial ☑ Freshwater ☐ Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This is a lowland species found throughout much of the plains and hilly regions of Europe, from eastern Netherlands, eastern Belgium and eastern France, east through Germeny, Denmark and central Europe to western Siberia (Russia) and northwestern Kazakhstan. Records from the Bosphorus area of Turkey reported by Eiselt (1988) need to be confirmed and are not mapped here. It ranges from sea level up to 675m asl. There is a very isolated population in Argenton-sur-Creuse in central France, and another isolated population (an endemic subspecies, Pelobates fuscus insubricus) in the Po Valley of northern Italy.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is mostly present in open areas, generally avoiding moist soils. It inhabits clear spaces in coniferous, deciduous and mixed forests (and their edges), groves, steppes, fields, meadows, sand dunes, heath land, gravel pits, parks and gardens. Spawning sites are mostly permanent, small still waterbodies including ditches, ponds and lakes. It may occur in modified habitats such as rice fields (in Italy).

Conservation Measures:

It is protected by national legislation in most European range states. Listed on Appendix II of the Berne Convention. It is listed on Annex IV and Pelobates fuscus insubricus is listed on Annex II of the EU Natural Habitats Directive. The species is recorded in a number of national and sub-national Red Data Books and Lists. It is present in many protected areas. In parts of this species' range, mitigation measures to reduce road kill have been established. A conservation programme is in place for the isolated population in central France.

Threats:

The species seems to be very sensitive to water quality and soil structure. Pollution of wetlands by industry, domestic sewage and agriculture (including eutrophication), drainage of breeding pools and introduction of predatory fishes and crayfish are major threats to the species. The species is also threatened by loss of terrestrial habitats (such as meadows) by factors such as intensive agriculture (e.g., over-stocking of cattle) and mortality on roads (and off-road driving). The species is collected in small numbers for the pet trade.

Species population information:

Populations are reported to be declining or rare in some European countries (eg. Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Slovenia, Hungary). It is generally common in Poland. The species is common and widespread in the European part of the former Soviet Union. It is extinct in Switzerland.

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Austria	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Belarus	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Belgium	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bosnia and Herzegovina	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bulgaria	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Croatia	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Czech Republic	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Denmark	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Estonia	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
France	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Germany	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hungary	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Italy	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Kazakhstan	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Latvia	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lithuania	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Moldova	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Netherlands	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Poland	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Romania	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Russian Federation	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced
Slovakia	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Slovenia	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sweden	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Switzerland	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Ukraine	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Serbia and Montenegro	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

FAO Marine Habitats

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

		Score
1.4	Forest - Temperate	1
3.3	Shrubland - Boreal	1
3.4	Shrubland - Temperate	1
4.4	Grassland - Temperate	1
5.5	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	2
5.7	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1
5.8	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1
5.13	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Inland Deltas	2
10.2	Coastline - Sand, Shingle or Pebble Shores (incl. sand bars, spits, sandy islets, dune systems)	2
11.1	Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	1
11.2	Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	1
11.4	Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	1
11.5	Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	2
12.2	Artificial/Aquatic - Ponds (below 8ha)	1
12.5	Artificial/Aquatic - Excavations (open)	1
12.7	Artificial/Aquatic - Irrigated Land (includes irrigation channels)	1
12.8	Artificial/Aquatic - Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Land	1
12.9	Artificial/Aquatic - Canals and Drainage Channels, Ditches	1

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

	Score
Broadleaf Forest	1
Conifer Boreal Forest	2
Conifer Forest	1
Cool Broadleaf Forest	1
Cool Conifer Forest	2
Cool Crops and Towns	2
Cool Fields and Woods	1
Cool Mixed Forest	2
Deciduous Broadleaf Wood	1
Dry Woody Scrub	1
Fields and Woody Savanna	1
Grass Crops	1
Low Sparse Grassland	1
Mediterranean Scrub	1
Mixed Forest	1
Shrub Deciduous	1
Urban	1

Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
1	Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)	☑	☑	☑
1.1	Agriculture	☑	☑	☑
1.1.1	Crops	☑	☑	☑
1.1.1.3	Agro-industry farming	☑	☑	☑
1.1.4	Livestock	☑	☑	☑
1.1.4.3	Agro-industry	☑	☑	☑
1.4	Infrastructure development	☑	☑	☑
1.4.1	Industry	☑	☑	☑
1.4.2	Human settlement	☑	☑	☑
2	Invasive alien species (directly affecting the species)	☑	☑	☑
2.2	Predators	☑	☑	☑
6	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	☑	☑	☑
6.3	Water pollution	☑	☑	☑
6.3.1	Agriculture	☑	☑	☑
6.3.2	Domestic	☑	☑	☑
6.3.3	Commercial/Industrial	☑	☑	☑

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	☑	☐
1.2	Legislation	☑	☐
1.2.1	Development	☑	☐
1.2.1.1	International level	☑	☐
1.2.1.2	National level	☑	☐
1.2.2	Implementation	☑	☐
1.2.2.1	International level	☑	☐
1.2.2.2	National level	☑	☐
1.2.2.3	Sub-national level	☑	☐
2	Communication and Education	☑	☑
2.2	Awareness	☑	☑
3	Research actions	☐	☑
3.2	Population numbers and range	☐	☑
3.3	Biology and Ecology	☐	☑
3.4	Habitat status	☐	☑
3.5	Threats	☐	☑
3.6	Uses and harvest levels	☐	☑
3.8	Conservation measures	☐	☑
3.9	Trends/Monitoring	☐	☑
4	Habitat and site-based actions	☑	☑

4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	☑	☑
4.4	Protected areas	☑	☑
4.4.2	Establishment	☑	☐
4.4.3	Management	☑	☑
5	Species-based actions	☑	☐
5.1	Re-introductions	☑	☐

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	**Subsistence**	**National**	**International**	***Other purpose:***
13. Pets/display animals, horticulture	☐	☑	☑	

Primary forms removed from the wild	**100%**	**>75%**	**51-75%**	**26-50%**	**<25%**	***Other forms removed from the wild:***
1. Whole animal/plant	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Source of specimens in commercial trade	**100%**	**>75%**	**51-75%**	**26-50%**	**<25%**	***Other source of specimens:***
Wild	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years: Unknown

Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years: Unknown

CITES: Not listed

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Least Concern (LC) ☐ Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria:

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, presumed large population, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing **Date of Assessment:** 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Sergius Kuzmin, David Tarkhnishvili, Vladimir Ishchenko, Natalia Ananjeva, Nikolai Orlov, Boris Tuniyev, Theodore Papenfuss, S

Notes on Red listing: The subspecies, Pelobates fuscus insubricus is reported to be declining significantly in most of its northern Italian distribution. The disappearance of populations of this form is possibly due to the habitat alteration and general urbanisation (F. Andreone, pers. comm.). The species is extremely threatened in France.

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