



Technical paper N° 10/2015

Note on the geographical scope of the EUNIS species component

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And contributions from
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The main focus of the species component of the EUNIS web application is to provide relevant information about

- European species and subspecies protected by the EU Directives, International Conventions and Agreements.
- Species included in the European Red Lists prepared by IUCN for the European Commission.

To know which these “European” species and subspecies are, two kinds of cases have to be considered:

- **Species and subspecies mentioned individually in legal texts of exclusively European scope**

In this case, all of them are of course covered by the legal text. For instance, *Emys orbicularis*, included in the Annex II of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), *Aegypius monachus*, included in the Annex I of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), or *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*, included in ASCOBANS.

- **Species and subspecies mentioned collectively in legal texts of exclusively European scope, and species and subspecies mentioned individually or collectively in legal texts of scope broader than Europe**

In these cases, the EUNIS species component considers ‘European legal species and subspecies’ to be those whose distribution area includes European territories of some of the European countries that have signed and ratified the concrete convention or agreement or, in the case of EU Directives, that are part of the European Union¹.

For that purpose, see here how Europe is geographically defined in the following legal texts. When the category of “Non-Party Range States” exists in some convention or agreement, EUNIS species component does not consider the species occurring only in those countries.

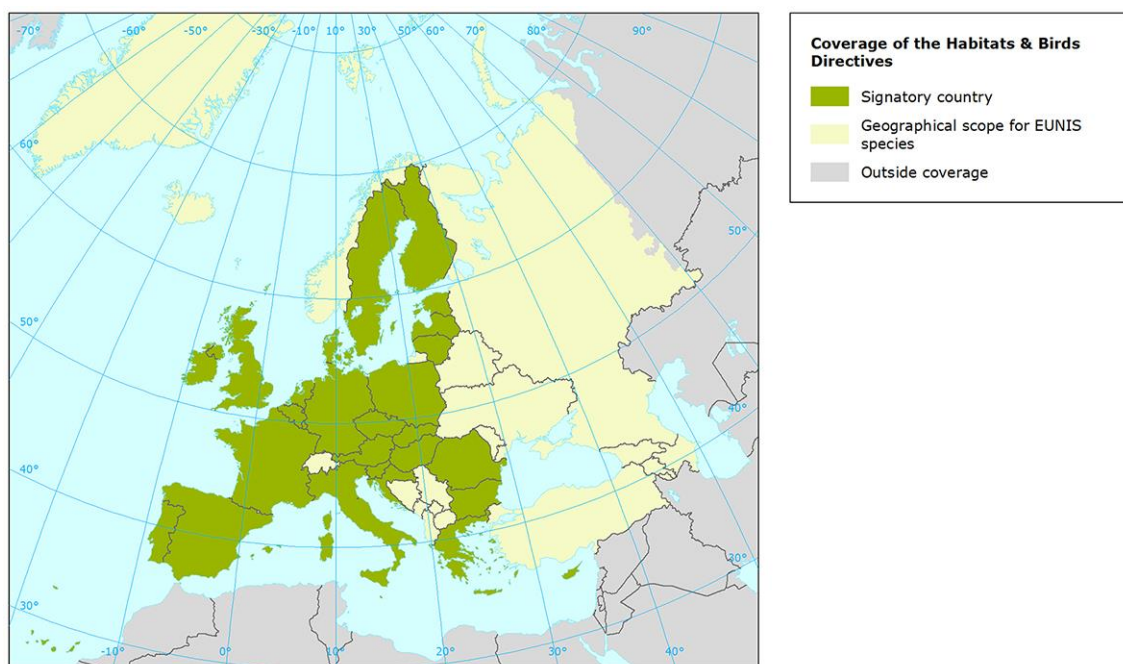
The present note aims at clarifying the geographical scope of species and sub-species falling into this second category.

1. Species and subspecies mentioned in legal texts

1.1 Habitats and Birds Directives

For the collective names as, for instance, *Eudontomyzon* spp. in Annex II of Habitats Directive, or bird species not mentioned in Annex I but covered by the general protection of the Birds Directive (*This Directive relates to the conservation of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States...*), EUNIS species component only shows the species whose distribution area covers European territories of some of the 28 Member States of the Union (in November 2015), including the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores.

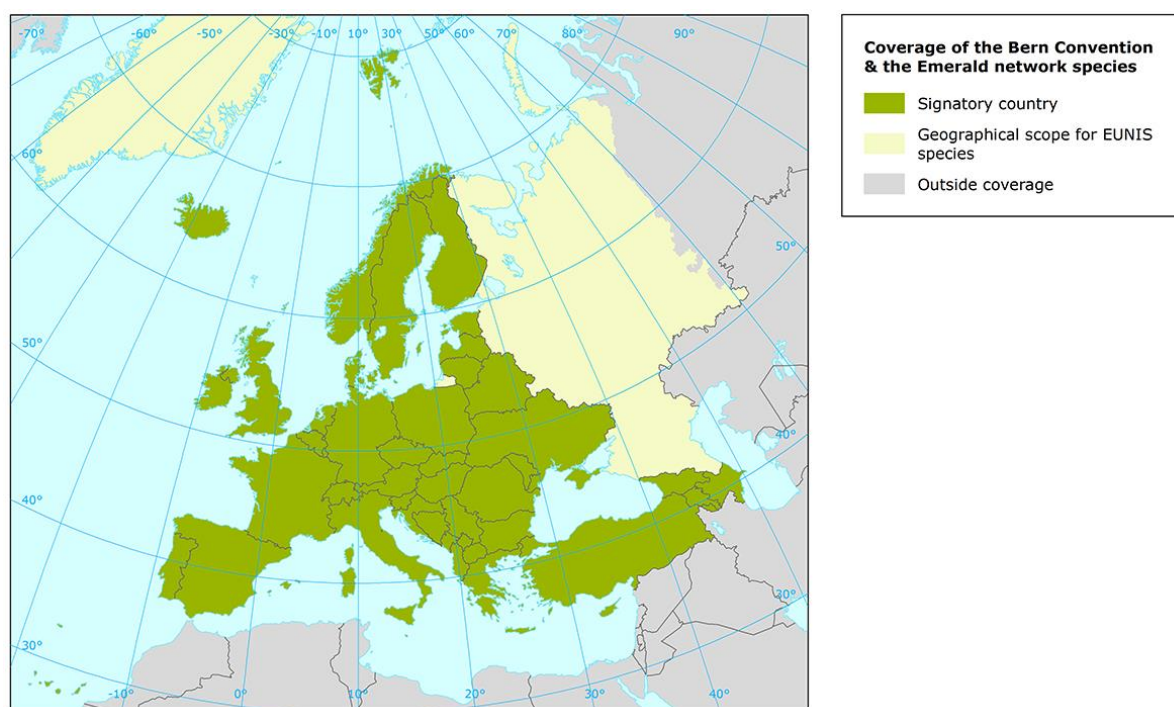
¹ See articles 2.1 and 1(c) (iii) of the Habitats Directive, and article 1.1 of the Birds Directive



1.2 Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats; also encompassing species mentioned in the Revised Annex I of Resolution 6 – Emerald network species)

For the collective names, for instance “All species of Falconiformes”, protected under Annex II of the Bern Convention, or *Alosa* spp, protected under Annex I of Resolution 6, EUNIS species component only considers the species whose distribution area includes some of the 45 European countries member of the Council of Europe and signatory to the Convention, plus Belarus, also signatory to the Convention but not member of the Council. For the Bern Convention, Europe also comprises Turkey and the Caucasus countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

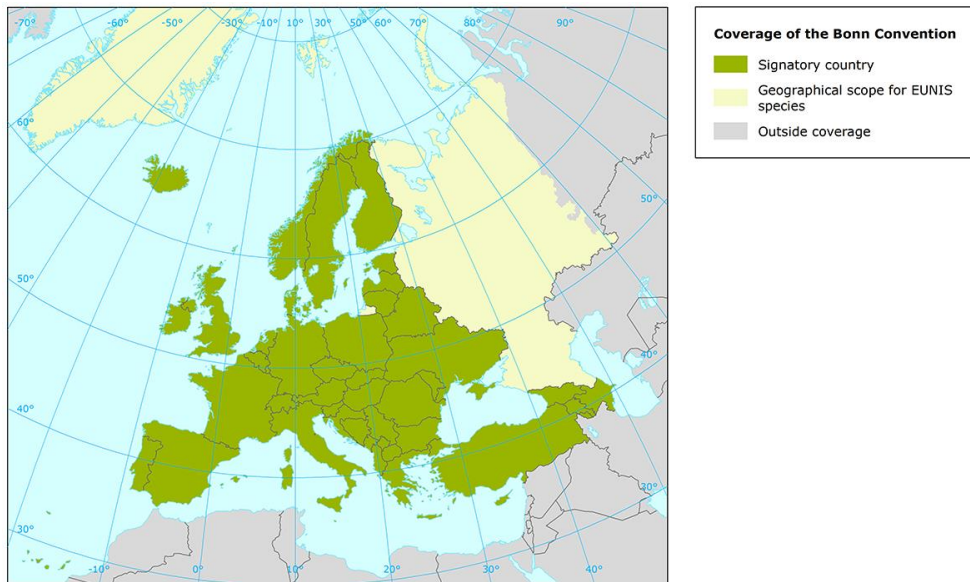
<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=104&CM=8&DF=&CL=ENG>



1.3 Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals)

For the collective names, for instance “European populations of species of Rhinolophidae”, or “migratory species of Anatidae”, protected under Annex II, EUNIS species component shows the species whose distribution area includes some of the 42 European countries party to the Convention, plus the European Union. Two Caucasus countries are included (Armenia and Georgia), while Israel is not considered by the EUNIS species component.

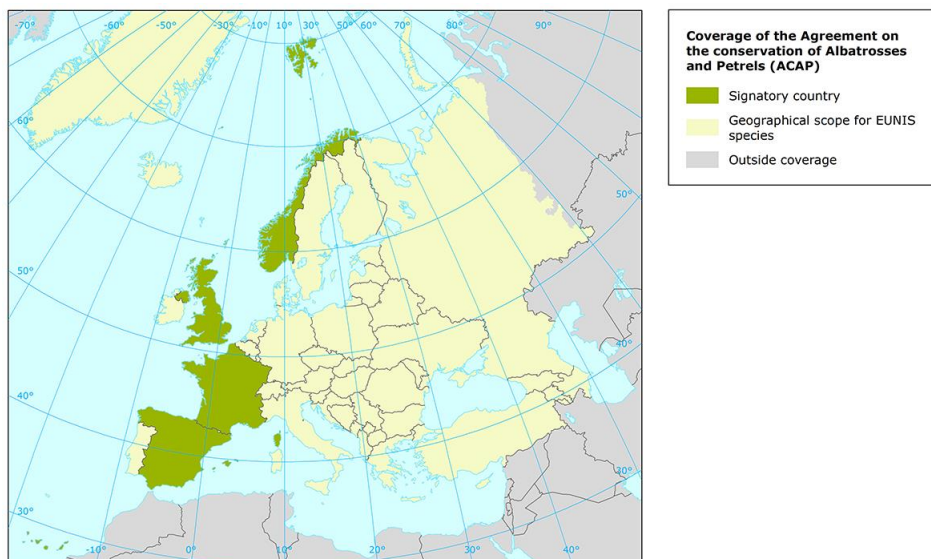
<http://www.cms.int/en/parties-range-states>



1.4 ACAP (Agreement on the conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels; under Bonn Convention)

There is only one European species (*Puffinus mauretanicus*), whose distribution area comprises some of the European territory of the only four European countries parties to the Agreement (France, Norway, Spain and United Kingdom).

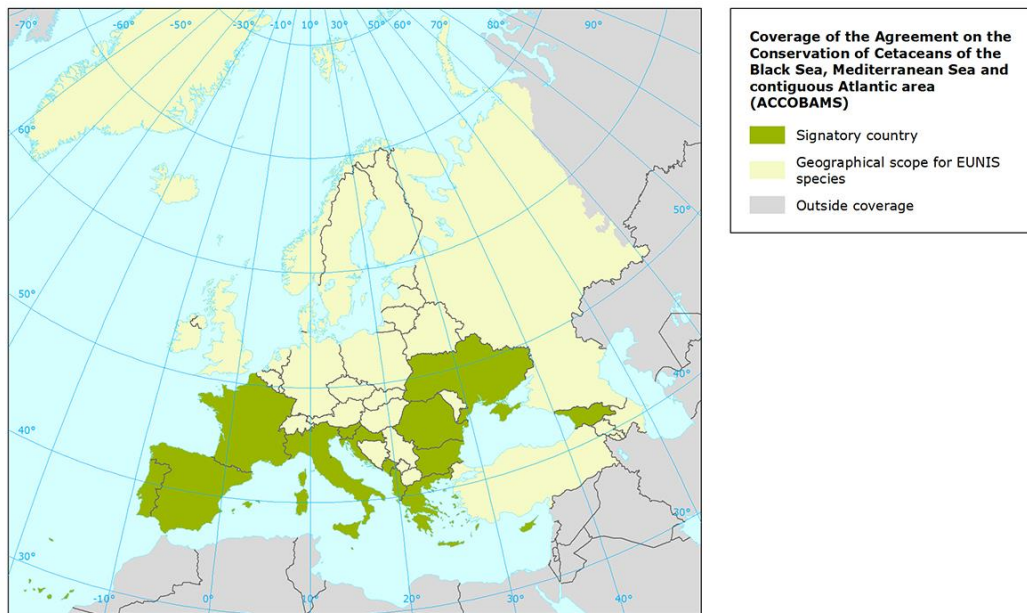
<http://www.acap.aq/en/resources/parties-to-acap>



1.5 ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area; under Bonn Convention)

The species shown in EUNIS species component are those whose distribution area includes the sea waters of some of the 16 European countries party to the Agreement. There are no collective names.

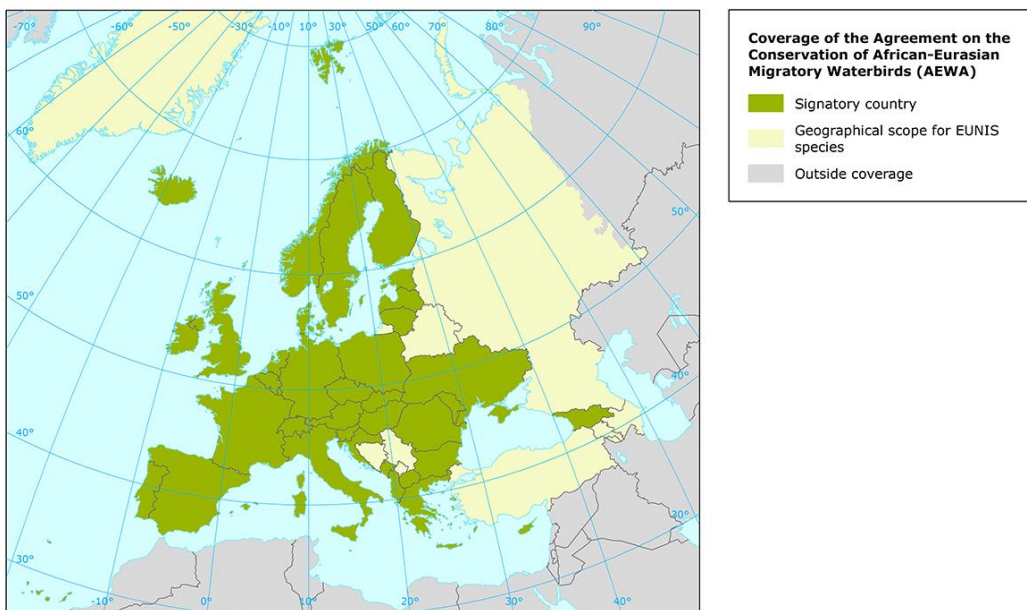
http://accobams.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1078:agreement-area&catid=68:presentation&Itemid=1



1.6 AEWA (Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds; under Bonn Convention)

There are 34 European countries (including the Caucasus countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), plus the European Union party to the Agreement. It does not have collective names.

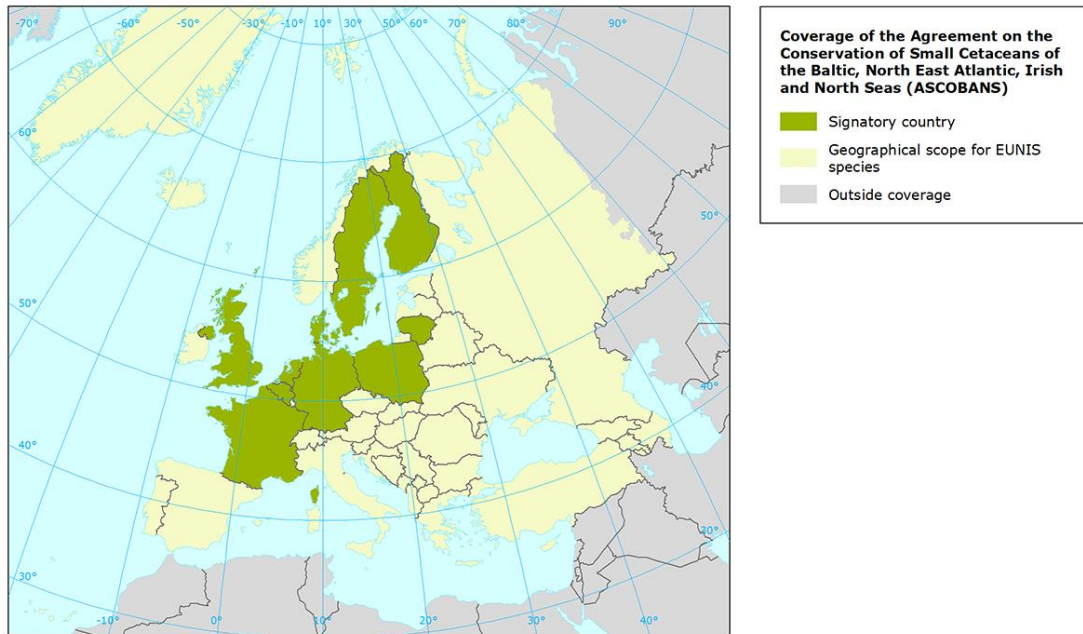
<http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/parties-range-states>



1.7 ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas; under Bonn Convention)

This is an Agreement of European scope, with 10 European countries parties to it, and no groups of species mentioned collectively.

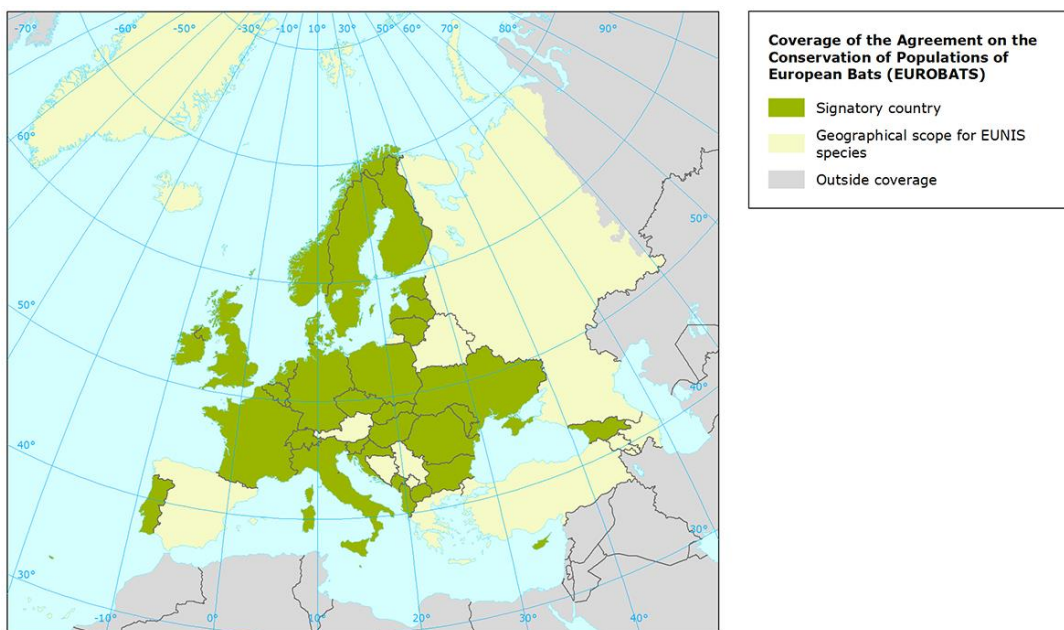
<http://www.ascobans.org/en/parties-range-states>



1.8 EUROBATS (Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats; under Bonn Convention)

There are 35 European countries parties to the Agreement, including Georgia. Israel is not considered by the EUNIS species component. No groups of species mentioned collectively.

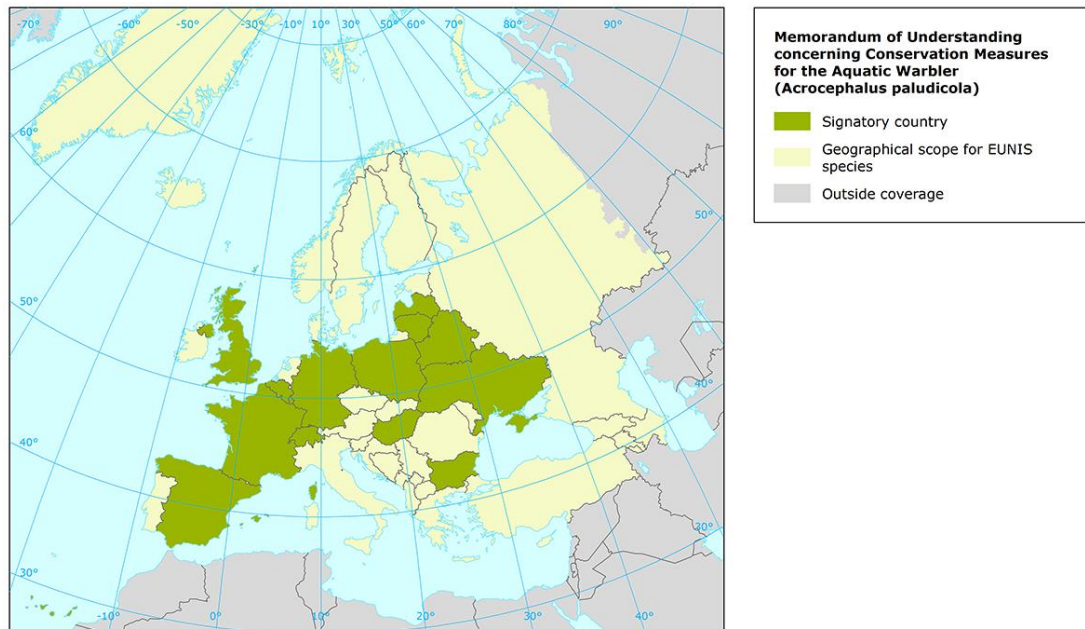
<http://www.eurobats.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/List of Parties for Profile rev2.pdf>



1.9 Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*); under Bonn Convention

There are 14 European countries parties to this Memorandum, which applies to only one species, the aquatic warbler, the only globally threatened passerine bird found in mainland Europe.

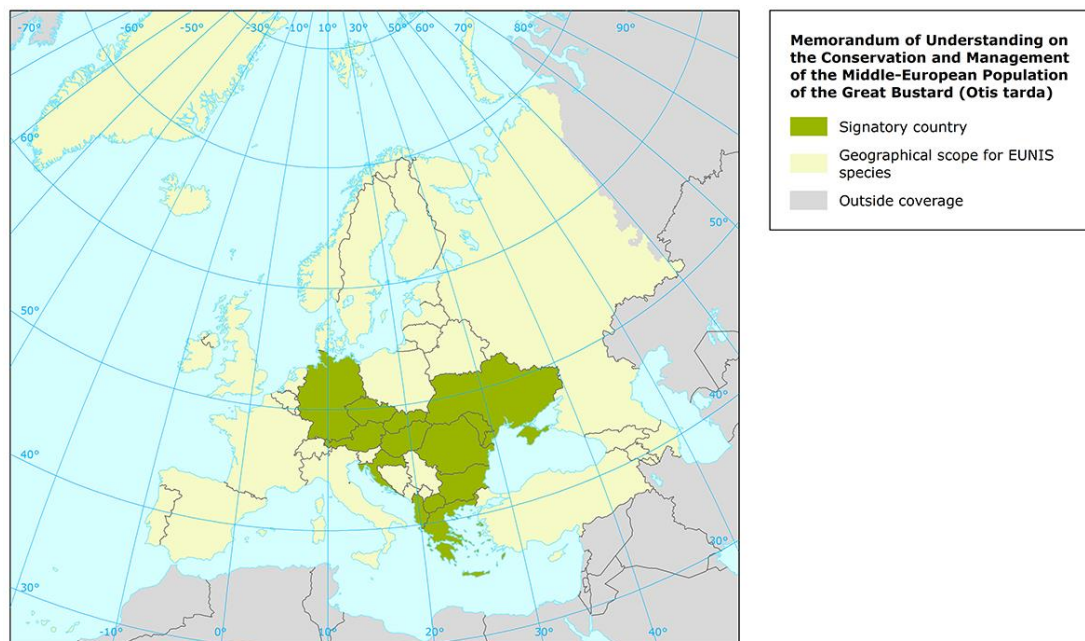
<http://www.cms.int/aquatic-warbler/en/legalinstrument/aquatic-warbler>



1.10 Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*); under Bonn Convention

There are 13 European countries parties to this Memorandum, which applies to only one species, the great bustard.

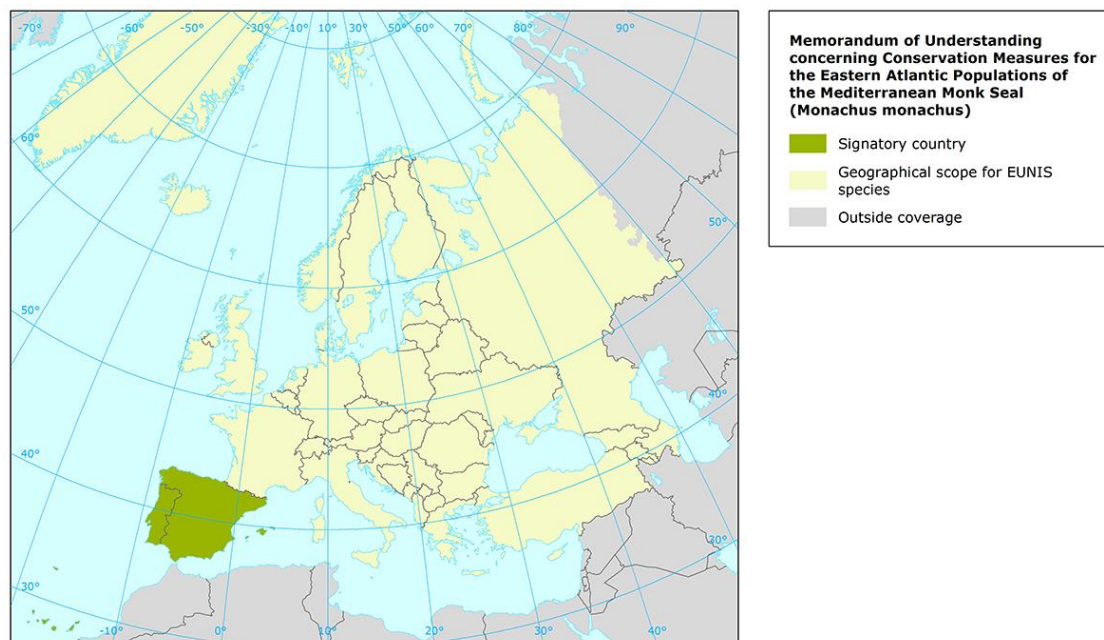
<http://www.cms.int/great-bustard/en/legalinstrument/middle-european-great-bustard>



1.11 Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Eastern Atlantic Populations of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*); under Bonn Convention

Only two European countries, Portugal and Spain, are parties to this Memorandum that applies to only the monk seal.

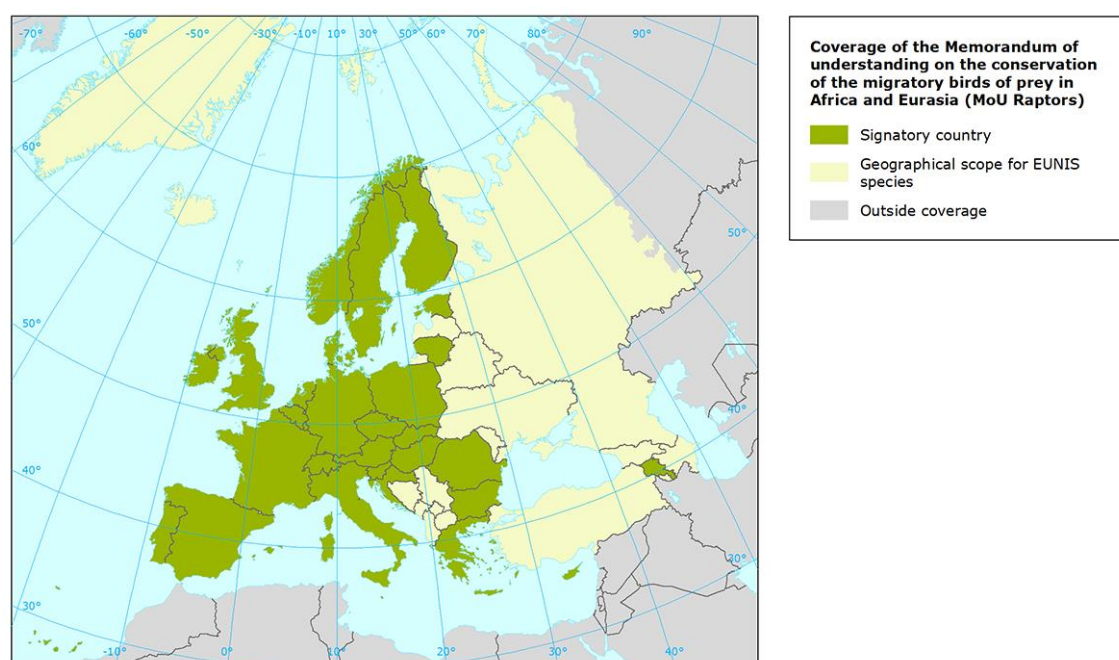
<http://www.cms.int/monk-seal/en/legalinstrument/monk-seal-atlantic>



1.12 MoU Raptors (Memorandum of understanding on the conservation of the migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia; under Bonn Convention)

The European Union plus 20 European countries are signatories to this Memorandum. No groups of species are mentioned collectively.

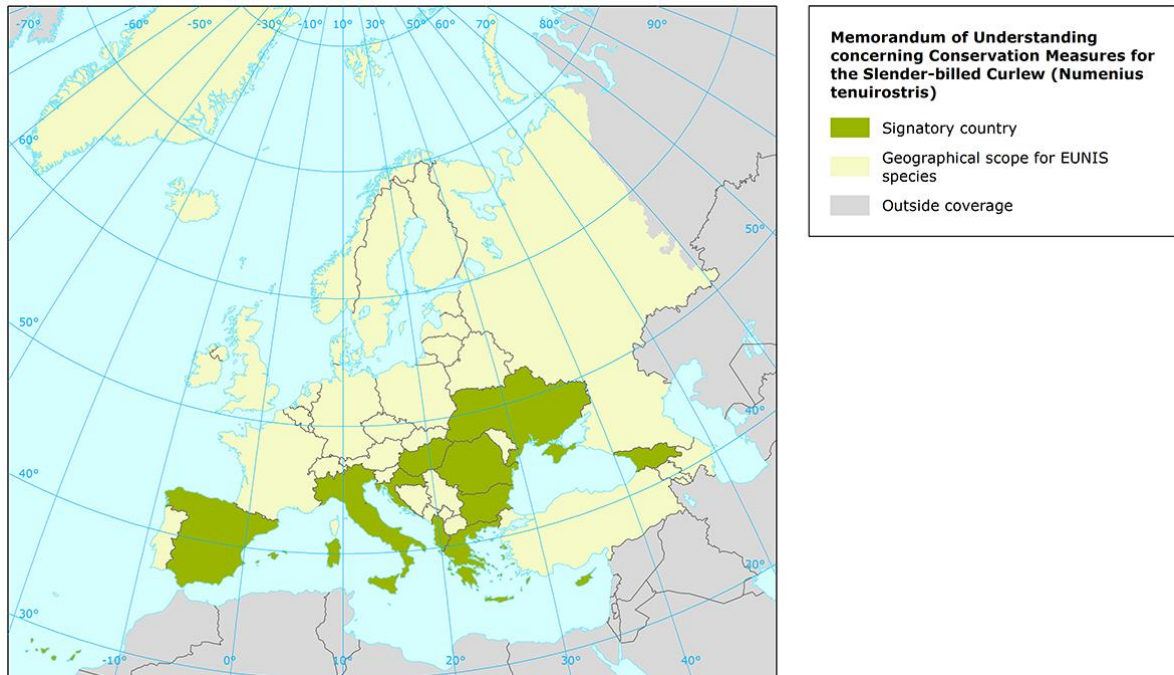
<http://www.cms.int/raptors/en/signatories-range-states>



1.13 Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*); under Bonn Convention

There are 11 European countries parties to this Memorandum, which also applies to only one species, the slender-billed curlew.

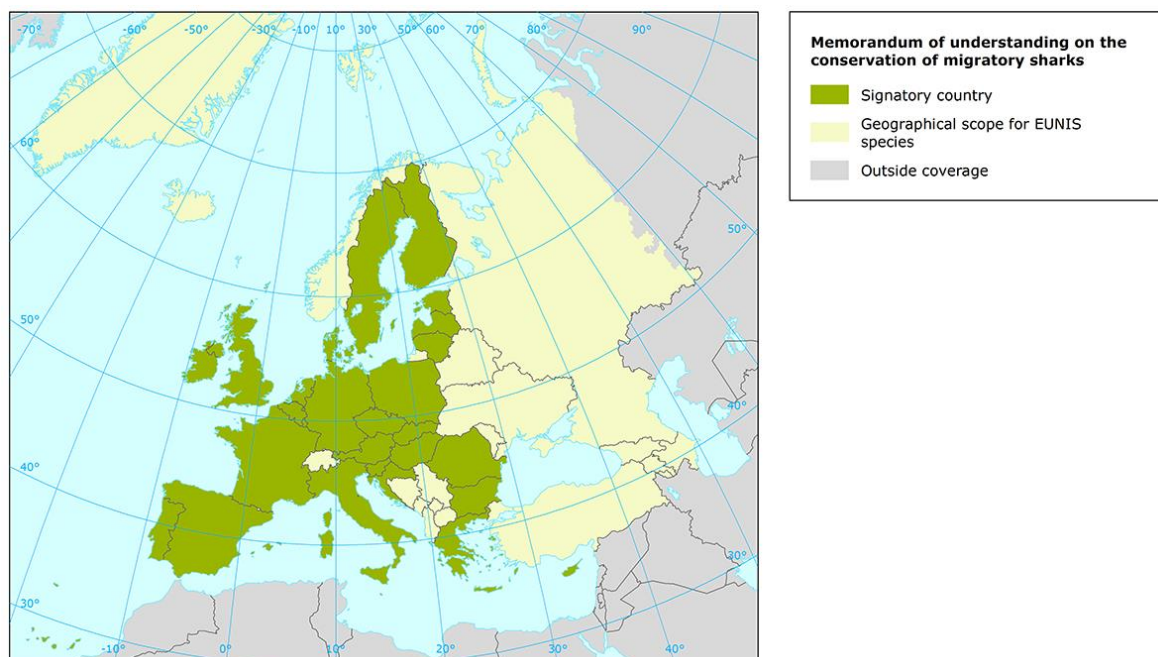
<http://www.cms.int/slender-billed-curlew/en/legalinstrument/slender-billed-curlew>



1.14 Sharks MoU (Memorandum of understanding on the conservation of migratory sharks; under Bonn Convention

The European Union plus 9 European countries are signatories to this Memorandum. No groups of species are mentioned collectively.

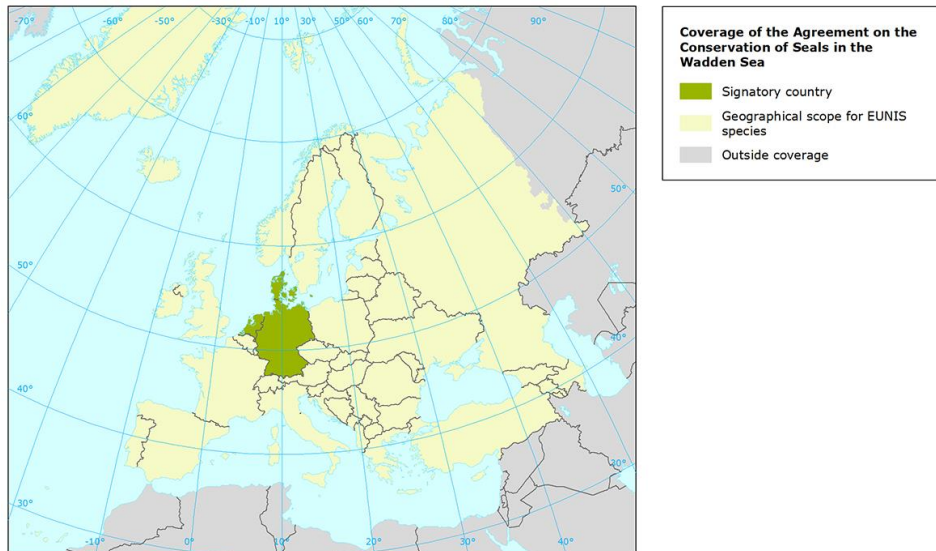
<http://www.cms.int/sharks/en/signatories-range-states>



1.15 Wadden Sea Seals (Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea; under Bonn Convention)

This is a trilateral Agreement concluded by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, and related to only two species of seals, *Phoca vitulina* and *Halichoerus grypus*.

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/management/seal-management>

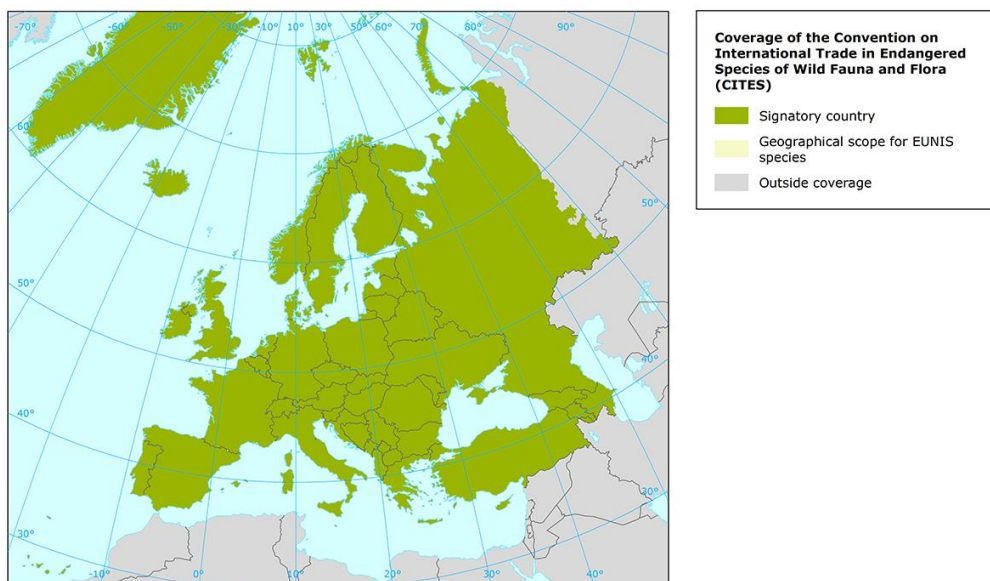


1.16 CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

For the collective names, for example Falconiformes spp., EUNIS species component shows the species whose distribution area includes some of the 46 European countries party to the Convention, plus the European Union. Turkey and the Caucasus countries are included, while Israel is not.

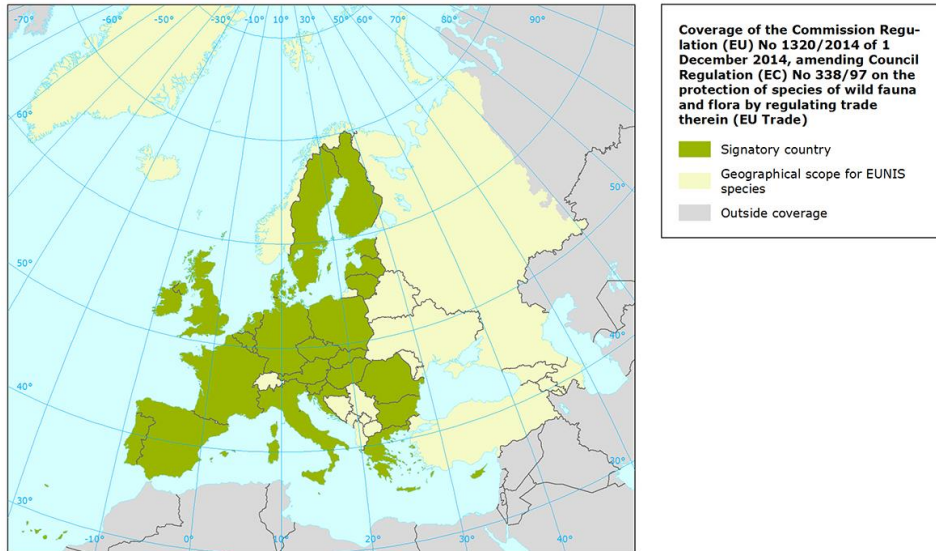
In the case of the Russian Federation, also party to the Convention, EUNIS species component only considers the species whose distribution area includes its European part, the Urals forming its easternmost limit.

<https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/parties/index.php>



1.17 EU Trade (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1320/2014 of 1 December 2014, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein)

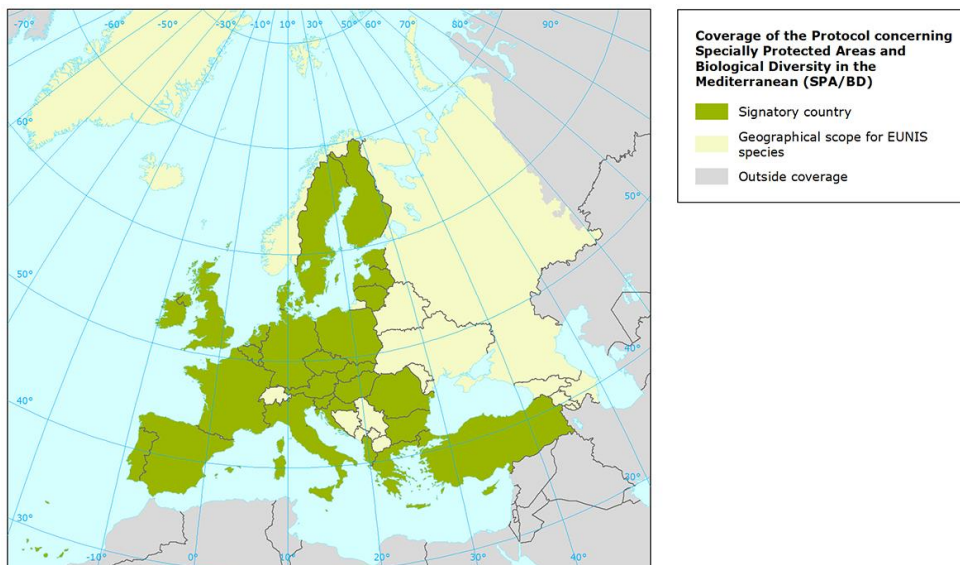
As this regulation is about trade and follows CITES (although goes beyond it), in spite of listing many no-European species and collective names (for example *Falconiformes* spp.), EUNIS species component only considers those whose distribution area includes European territories of some of the 28 countries that are part of the European Union (in November 2015).



1.18 SPA/BD Protocol (Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean; under the Barcelona Convention – Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution)

For the collective names, for instance *Aplysina* sp. plur., EUNIS species component only shows information regarding the species whose distribution area coincide with the territory of some of the 12 European countries (including Turkey) parties to the Agreement, plus the European Union.

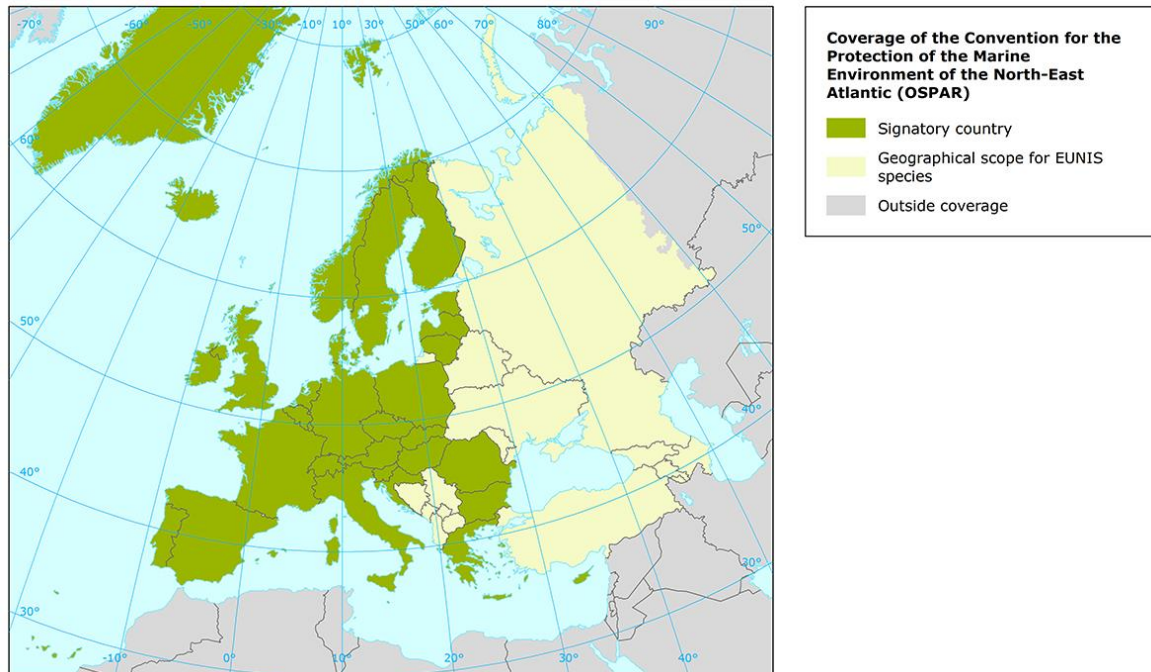
http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/signatures_ratification_bc_spabd.pdf



1.19 OSPAR Convention (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic)

This Convention is of European scope: 15 European countries plus the European Union are the contracting parties. No groups of species are mentioned collectively.

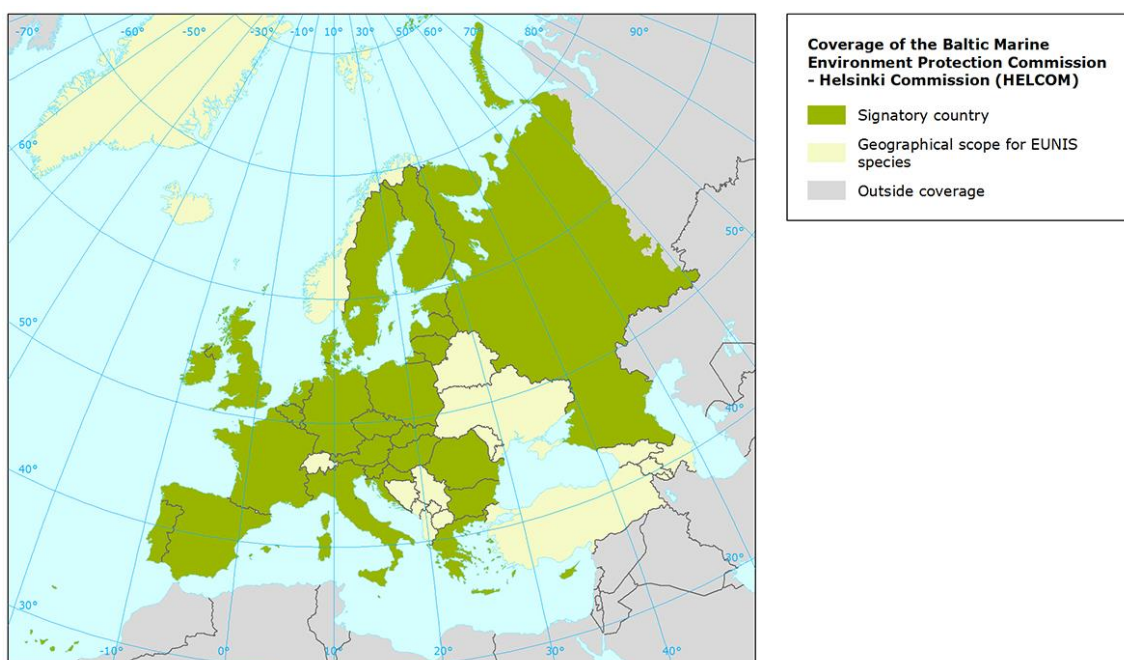
<http://www.ospar.org/organisation/contracting-parties>



1.20 HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission)

Only aimed to protect the Baltic Sea, so with an exclusively European scope, eight European countries plus the European Union and Russia are the contracting parties to the Commission.

<http://helcom.fi/about-us/contracting-parties>



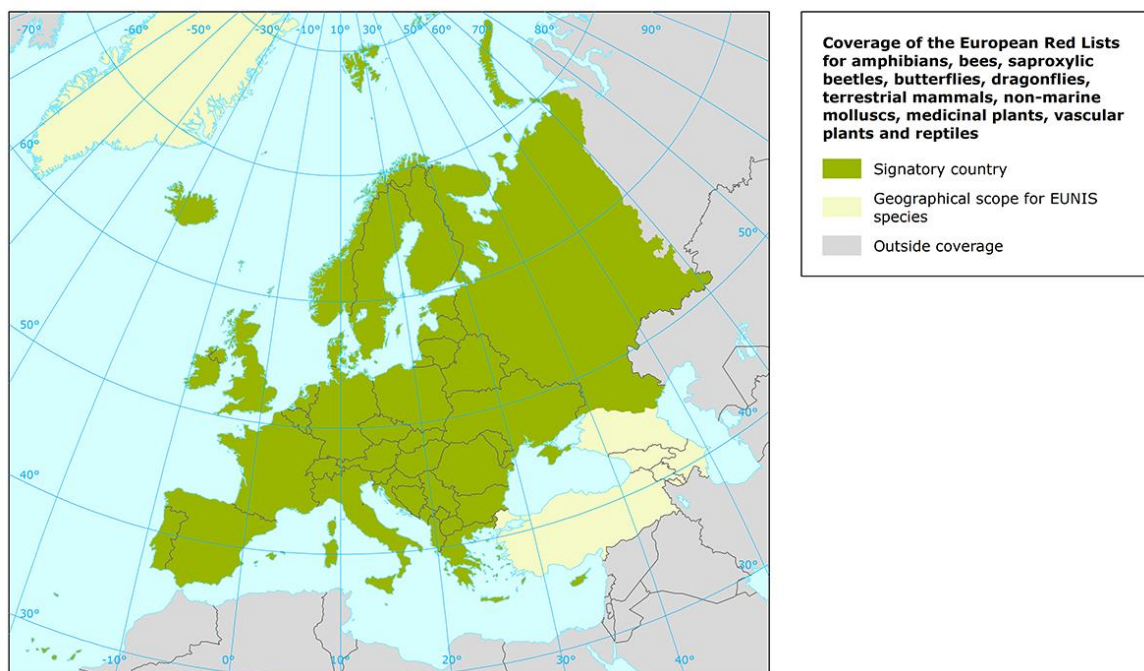
2 European Red Lists

The European Red Lists are prepared by IUCN for the European Commission. So far IUCN has assessed the threat status of the vertebrate, some Invertebrate groups and certain plant groups (November 2015). The European Red Lists reports are available from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/redlist/index_en.htm

IUCN assesses as NA, Not Applicable, species introduced to Europe by man after 1500 A.D. and species that are vagrant or of marginal occurrence in Europe. In the case of marine fishes when less than 1% of its global range is considered to occur within the European marine assessment region. According to that, EUNIS species component does not consider these species as European, and does not show them, unless they are listed on some of the legal texts revised here.

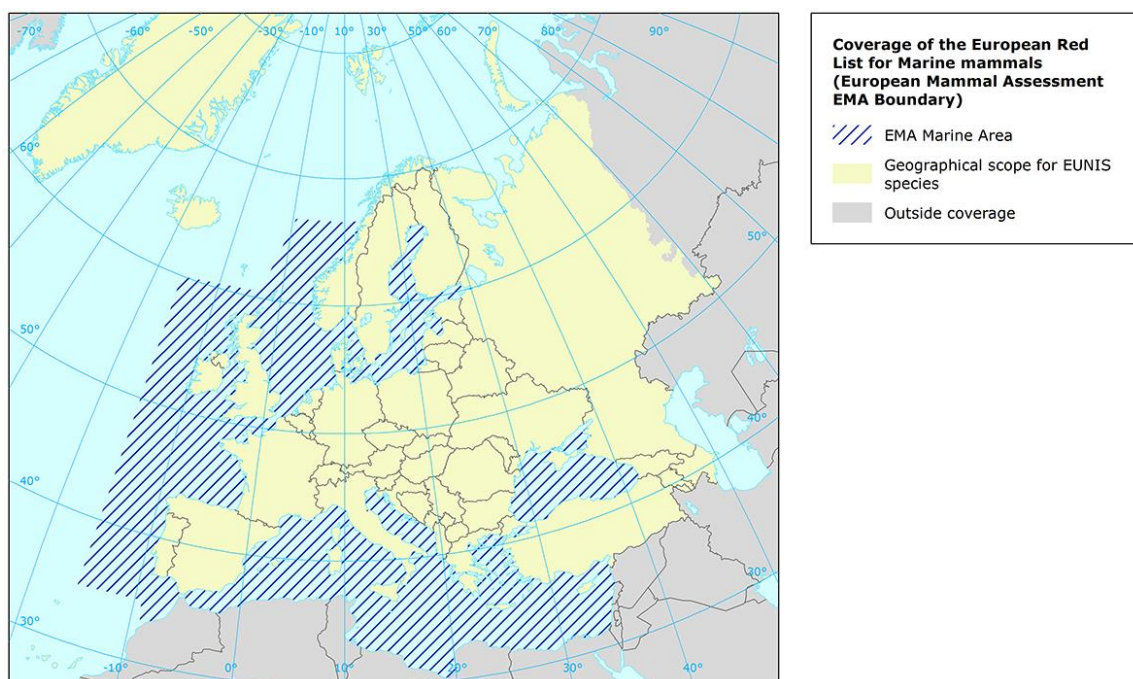
2.1 Amphibians, bees, butterflies, dragonflies, terrestrial mammals, medicinal plants, non-marine molluscs, reptiles, saproxylic beetles and vascular plants

For these species the geographical scope is continent-wide, extending from Iceland in the west to the Urals in the east (including European parts of the Russian Federation), and from Franz Josef Land in the north to the Mediterranean in the south. The Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores were also included. In the southeast, where definitions of Europe are most contentious, the Caucasus region was not included.



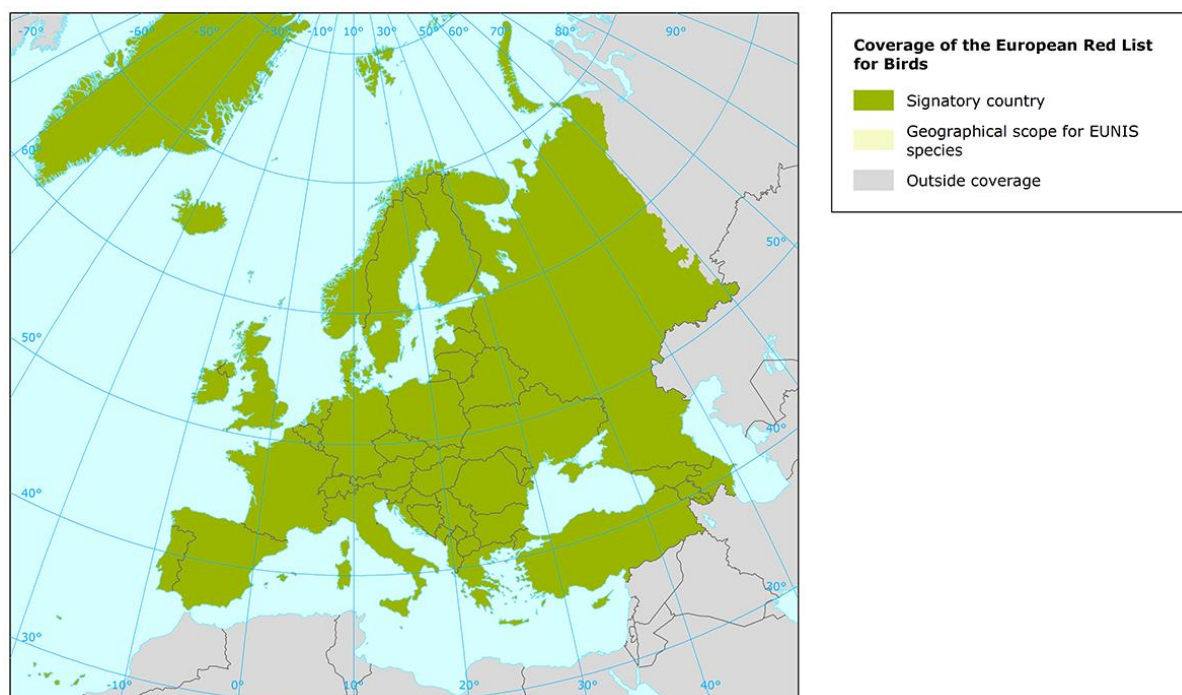
2.2 Marine Mammals

The marine area covered by the European Mammal Assessment encompasses the continental shelf seas of Europe (excluding Arctic waters), along with adjacent parts of the open seas. The whole of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea is included. The EMA marine area corresponds to the region covered by the ACCOBAMS5 and ASCOBANS6 agreements plus the portion of Norway's Exclusive Economic Zone that lies south of the Arctic Circle.



2.3 Birds

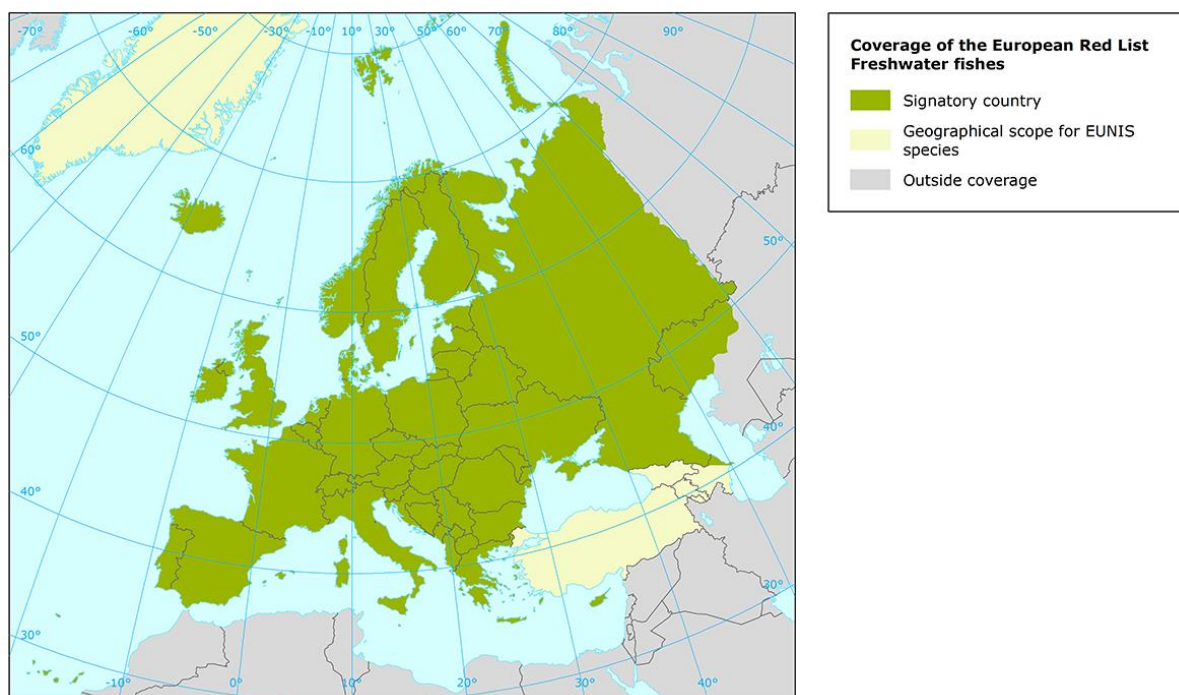
The geographical scope is continent-wide, extending from Iceland in the west to the Urals in the east (including European parts of the Russian Federation), and Turkey and the Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). From the Arctic in the north to the Mediterranean in the south, as well as the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores.



2.4 Freshwater fish

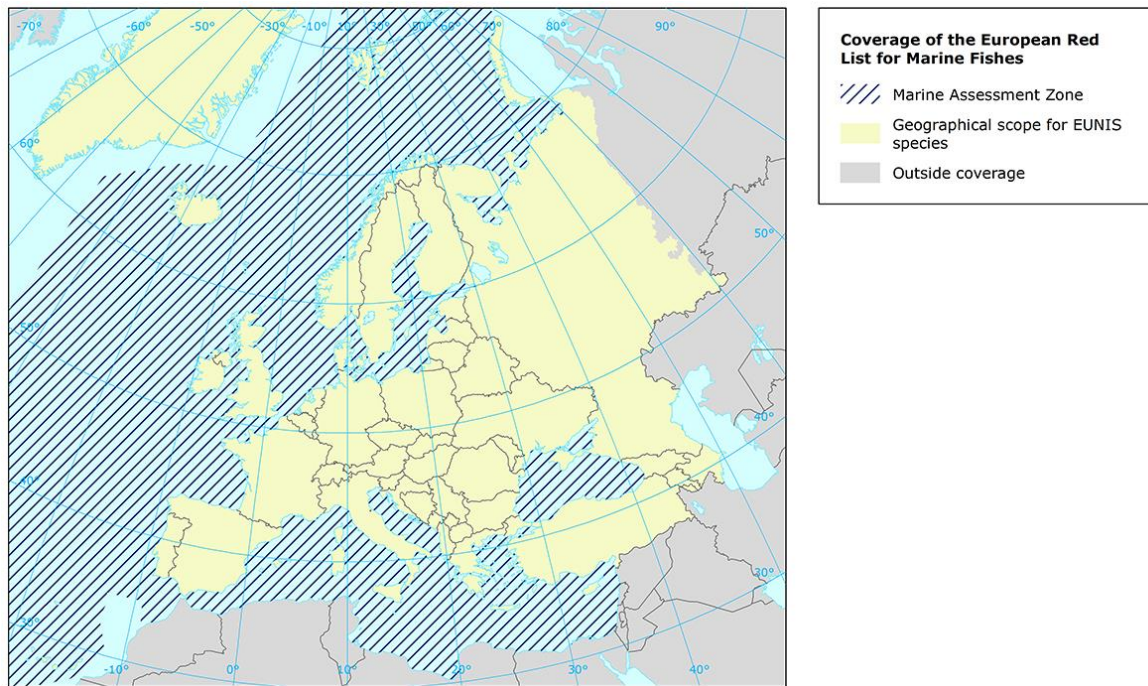
The boundaries of Europe as defined for the purpose of the assessment of Freshwater fish include all sub-basin catchments that fall within geographical Europe (from Iceland in the west to the Urals in the east, including the European part of the Russian Federation, and from

Franz Josef Land in the north to the Mediterranean in the south). Because sub-catchments do not always fall along political boundaries, the area covered extends sometimes beyond the geographical definition: the eastern boundary is drawn by the Baidaratsa Bay and the Ural Range divide as far south as Orsk. From Orsk southward, the perimeter is defined by the divide between the Ural River and the Or (a tributary entering the Ural at Orsk) and the Sagiz and Emba (two Caspian Sea tributaries). It also extends into the Caucasus, where its limits are defined by the Greater Caucasus range, which (approximately) starts to the west at the Black Sea near to the Russian city of Novorossiisk, then runs along the Caucasus divide until Baku (Azerbaijan) on the Caspian Sea. The upper-most reaches of the Terek in Georgia are also included, as is Turkey, north of the Bosphorus. In the Aegean Sea, the boundary follows the political border between Greece and Turkey. Crete and Malta, Cyprus, Spanish and Portuguese islands in the Atlantic Ocean are included. Species occurring only in the saline or brackish parts of the Baltic, Black and Caspian Seas are not included.



2.5 Marine fish

Finally, for the Marine fish, the geographic scope of the European Red List assessment encompasses the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and/or the European part of the Atlantic Ocean (i.e., the territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of all European countries in the eastern part of the Atlantic Ocean, also including the EEZs of the Macaronesian islands belonging to Portugal and Spain), the North Sea and the Northeastern Atlantic Ocean, excluding the EEZs of Greenland, Morocco and Western Sahara.



SOURCES

To find if the distribution of the species is ‘European’ or not, the range maps provided by different institutions have been used:

Amphibians: IUCN (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/initiatives/europe>).

Birds: The EBCC atlas of European breeding birds (<http://s1.sovon.nl/ebcc/ea/>), BirdLife (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species>) and IUCN (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/initiatives/europe>).

Fishes: FishBase (<http://fishbase.se/search.php?>) and IUCN (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/initiatives/europe>).

Mammals: The European Mammals Database (<http://www.european-mammals.org/php/mapmaker.php>) and IUCN (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/initiatives/europe>).

Marine species (Invertebrates and Vertebrates): WORMS – World Register of Marine Species (<http://www.marinespecies.org/>) and ERMS – The European Register of Marine Species (<http://www.marbef.org/data/erms.php>).

Reptiles: The Reptile Database (<http://www.reptile-database.org/>) and IUCN (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/initiatives/europe>).

Terrestrial invertebrates: IUCN (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/initiatives/europe>).