

## Establishing the monitoring of Habitats directive butterfly species in Slovenia

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Based on the Habitats directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) the EU member states are required to monitor the status of threatened species included in to Appendix II and IV of the Directive. Slovenia has a rather specific situation with some of the listed species being widespread and limited resources both in terms of financing the monitoring and availability of experts. Therefore we tried to make the monitoring affordable and feasible by finding the fine edge between resource limitations and not compromising the detectability of trends of monitored species. We designed three levels of monitoring: - monitoring of selected populations (population size); - monitoring of selected core areas of species distribution (patch occupancy); - monitoring of isolated sites (occurrence of the species). This means that not all populations are monitored, but the majority of them is at of the above specified levels. Additionally, depending on known trends or habitat requirements, the monitoring intervals differ from species to species between monitoring every second year and every fifth year. There is a backup plan, that if the trends at a specific level are negative above a certain threshold level, the monitoring must be repeated the next year. Detailed protocols were elaborated for each species and they will be regularly updated based on the field observations and results of the monitoring. The first results confirm the suitability of our monitoring design. In species *Phengaris teleius* and *Phengaris nausithous* negative trends were detected at different, but not all levels of monitoring. We consider such monitoring design as suitable for any other member state with similar limitations in terms of financing and human resources.