

Ziele und Methoden des bundesweiten FFH-Monitorings am Beispiel der Amphibien- und Reptilienarten*

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Monitoring under the Habitats Directive in Germany: Objectives and methods taking amphibian und reptile species as examples

According to the obligations under article 11 of the Habitats Directives member states of the European Union shall establish monitoring programmes to assess the conservation status of the species listed in the annexes II, IV and V (as well as habitat types of annex I). These data shall provide a sound basis for the national reports given by the member states every 6 years. The last national report provided by Germany in 2007 covers the timeframe from 2001 until 2006 and was mainly based on expert opinion and heterogeneous data provided by the German federal states nature conservation agencies since a nation wide monitoring plan with standardized methods was lacking. For the ongoing reporting period (2007–2012) the German federal states and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation developed a harmonized monitoring plan that started in 2008. Taking amphibians and reptiles as examples, we describe the demands given by the European Union and the corner stones of the German monitoring concept under the Habitats Directive. Taking into account some statistical settings and agreements, in Germany annex species with more than 63 occurrences within a given biogeographical region are sampled at 63 randomly chosen localities. For species with a lower number of occurrences all known localities are included into the monitoring. For each species, always the same localities were covered by the monitoring (constant plots), as long as the species is present there. Species specific assessment schemes define the relevant parameters to be recorded and assessed (using threshold values) during the field work at the sampled localities. For amphibians and reptiles, population monitoring mainly base on semi-quantitative field methods e. g. egg mass counts, calling surveys, line transect counts rather than more time consuming capture mark recapture techniques. The Monitoring under the Habitats Directive in Germany is an overview surveillance mainly to provide data for the national report. For more detailed information e. g. for species management or action plans at the level of single federal states or single protected additional monitoring activities are required.

Key words: Habitats Directive, field methods, sampling design, conservation status, Annex species, amphibians, reptiles, Article 11.

* Das gesamte Monitoringkonzept inkl. der zugehörigen Bewertungsschemata kann in Kürze auf der Webseite des BfN unter http://www.bfn.de/0315_ffh_richtlinie.html als pdf-Dateien heruntergeladen werden.