

NRR and rare species monitoring



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Rare Pollinator Species - EU legislation & funding

- ▶ The **Habitats Directive 1992** protects rare habitats and species, including **25 butterflies and 5 moths**. However, there are no bees or hoverflies species, monitoring has been poor, and the species lists are out-of-date.
- ▶ The EU has funded the **4 European Red lists** in the last 11 years: *Bees 2014; Hoverflies 2025; Butterflies 2025; and Moths (due in 2026)*
- ▶ The EU has funded **3 species action plans for rare pollinators**, published in 2023:
 - Canarian Islands endemic pollinators of the Laurel Forest zone
 - Teasel-plant specialised bees in Europe
 - Hoverflies specialised to veteran trees in Europe



NRR Delegated Act EU 2025/2188

- ▶ **Article 7** Data collection protocol for rare pollinator species
- ▶ Member States shall carry out targeted monitoring of all bee, hoverfly and butterfly species that are assessed as critically endangered, in the European Red List or a National Red List
- ▶ Species shall be monitored by targeted **field visits at least once per year** at known locations of the species, establishing presence or absence. Member States may discontinue the monitoring of a species in a given year once its presence has been established at least at one location
- ▶ Monitoring will **start in December 2026** (in practice, Spring 2027)



Endangered - *Nevada Blue*
Polyommatus golgus © Miguel Munguira

ERL Critically Endangered Butterflies

Only 5 EU27 butterfly species are Critically Endangered

Species	EU Member State
Piedmont Anomalous Blue <i>Polyommatus humedasaе</i>	Italy
Ponza Grayling <i>Hipparchia sardini</i>	Italy
Karpathos Grayling <i>Hipparchia christenseni</i>	Greece
Nevada Grayling <i>Pseudochazara williamsi</i>	Spain
Bosnian Blue <i>Agriades dardanus</i>	Bulgaria, Greece

There are 2 other CR species: Pallas' Heath *Coenonympha Phryne*, in Ukraine and Russia; and Macedonian Grayling *Pseudochazara cingovskii*, in North Macedonia



Critically endangered
Pseudochazara williamsi
© Sam Ellis

ERL Critically Endangered (CR) Pollinators

Taxa	CR species in EU27	Total species in EU27
Bees	6	1900
Butterflies	5	431
Hoverflies	41	859
Moths (approx)	24	2845

So, Article 7 monitoring will be mainly for hoverflies and moths

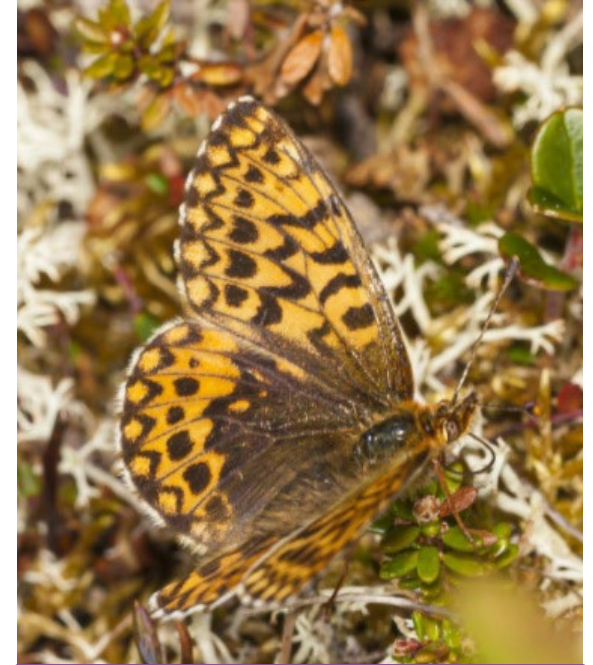


Photo: Egbert Friedrich

Critically endangered - *Psodos baldensis* (Italy) © Egbert Friedrich

Issues to consider

- ▶ The Art. 7 requirements to **only monitor critically endangered species** and only to find a species at one location each year are minimalist. *How do we encourage Member States to carry out more rare species monitoring?*
- ▶ Art. 7 monitoring could **be carried out by academics** as part of their research and using students to monitor remote areas. Funding academics might be more cost-effective for Member States than using paid professional surveyors
- ▶ The location of rare species may have to be kept secret to prevent collectors
- ▶ BCE Partners have substantial experience of monitoring rare butterflies. *How do we make that experience available to Member States?*
- ▶ *Do the European bee, hoverfly and moth experts have experience of monitoring rare species? Do we need to learn from them and vice-versa?*



Endangered - Frejya's
Fritillary *Boloria freija*
© Nils Ryrholm