

## Important Bird Areas in Europe – Appendix 5

**Appendix 5.** The regions of EU countries used in the application of Important Bird Area criteria for species threatened at the EU level (criterion C6).

Threatened species are those listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive (see Appendix 2b).					
Country/territory	Biogeographic region <sup>1</sup>	NUTS level <sup>2</sup>	Administrative unit <sup>2</sup>	Number of regions <sup>2</sup>	Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) of largest region <sup>2</sup>
<b>Austria</b>	Alpine, Continental	1	Gruppen von Bundesländer	3	34,400
<b>Belgium<sup>3</sup></b>	Atlantic, Continental	0	—	1	30,600
<b>Denmark</b>	Atlantic, Continental	1	—	1	43,100
<b>Finland</b>	Boreal	3	Maakunnat	19	98,900
<b>France</b>	Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean	2	Régions + DOM	22	83,900
<b>Germany</b>	Alpine, Atlantic, Continental	1	Länder	16	70,600
<b>Greece<sup>4</sup></b>	Mediterranean	1	Groups of development regions	4	56,800
<b>Italy</b>	Alpine, Continental, Mediterranean	2	Regioni	20	25,700
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Continental	0	—	1	2,600
<b>Netherlands</b>	Atlantic	0	—	1	41,200
<b>Portugal</b>	Mediterranean	2	Comissaoes de coordenacao regiona	5	27,000
<b>Portugal, Azores</b>	Macaronesian	1	Regio autonomas	1	800
<b>Portugal, Madeira</b>	Macaronesian	1	Regio autonomas	1	2,400
<b>Republic of Ireland<sup>5</sup></b>	Atlantic	0	—	1	68,900
<b>Spain<sup>6</sup></b>	Alpine, Atlantic, Mediterranean	2	Comunidades autonomas	17	94,200
<b>Spain, Canary Islands</b>	Macaronesian	2	—	1	1,300
<b>Sweden</b>	Alpine, Boreal, Continental	3	Län	24	98,900
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Atlantic	1	Standard regions	11	77,100

1. Division of biogeographical regions as defined in the framework of the EC Habitats Directive (see Appendix 1).

2. NUTS regions and other data taken from Natura 2000 Standard Data Form.

The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) was established by Eurostat, to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the European Union. Although the NUTS has no legal value per se, it has been used since 1988 in the Community legislation. NUTS regions are based on human population density: regions are larger where population density is lower. Because many species of birds occur in remote areas the NUTS approach is not ideal for birds. Different NUTS levels have therefore been selected for the purpose of IBA identification, such that the size of the NUTS region used is roughly the same across the European Union (and preferably be within the size range 25,000–100,000 km<sup>2</sup>). The Macaronesian islands belonging to Portugal and Spain have been considered as distinct regions.

3. In the previous pan-European IBA inventory (Grimmett and Jones 1989), NUTS level 1 was applied for Belgium, recognizing two distinct regions, Flanders (13,800 km<sup>2</sup>) and Wallonne (16,800 km<sup>2</sup>).

4. In the previous pan-European IBA inventory NUTS level 2 was applied for Greece, recognizing 13 distinct regions (average area 10,200 km<sup>2</sup>, maximum area 19,100 km<sup>2</sup>).

5. In the previous pan-European IBA inventory NUTS level 3 was applied for the Republic of Ireland, recognizing eight distinct regions (average area 7,700 km<sup>2</sup>, maximum area 12,200 km<sup>2</sup>).

6. Division according to the CORINE manual (CEC 1991).

### References

- CEC [COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES] (1991) *CORINE Biotopes Manual*. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
- GRIMMETT, R. F. A. AND JONES T. A. (1989) *Important Bird Areas in Europe*. Cambridge, UK: International Council for Bird Preservation (Tech. Publ. 9).