

Haliaeetus albicilla -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- ACCIPITRIFORMES -- ACCIPITRIDAE

Common names: White-tailed Sea-eagle; Grey Sea Eagle; Pigargo Coliblanco; Pigargo Coliblanco de Groenlandia; Pigargo Europeo

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Year published: | 2015 |
| Date assessed: | 2015-03-31 |
| Assessor(s): | BirdLife International |
| Reviewer(s): | Symes, A. |
| Compiler(s): | Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L. |

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

In Europe this species has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be increasing, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in Europe.

Within the EU27 this species has a very large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be increasing, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Greenland (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Latvia; Lithuania; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine

Origin Uncertain:

Faroe Islands (to DK)

Reintroduced:

United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Belgium; Cyprus; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Luxembourg; Malta; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Portugal; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES)

Population

The European population is estimated at 9,000-12,300 pairs, which equates to 17,900-24,500 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 3,500-4,200 pairs, which equates to 7,000-8,500 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see

The species requires large and open expanses of lake, coast or river valley, within the boreal, temperate and tundra zones, near to undisturbed cliffs or open stands of large, old-growth trees for nesting. Its food is vertebrates (fish, mammals and especially birds), from marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments. It is mainly migratory in the north and east of its breeding range, wintering in continental Europe and southern Asia, but sedentary elsewhere. Birds are usually seen singly, or in twos or threes (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001).

| Habitats & Altitude | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Habitat (level 1 - level 2) | Importance | Occurrence |
| Artificial/Aquatic - Aquaculture Ponds | suitable | breeding |
| Artificial/Aquatic - Aquaculture Ponds | suitable | non-breeding |
| Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over ha) | suitable | breeding |
| Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over ha) | suitable | non-breeding |
| Forest - Boreal | suitable | breeding |
| Forest - Temperate | suitable | breeding |
| Grassland - Subarctic | suitable | breeding |
| Grassland - Tundra | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Freshwater Lakes | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Freshwater Lakes | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Estuaries | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Estuaries | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged) | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged) | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy | suitable | non-breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud | suitable | breeding |
| Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud | suitable | non-breeding |
| Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands | suitable | breeding |
| Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha) | major | breeding |
| Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha) | major | non-breeding |
| Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls) | suitable | breeding |
| Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls) | suitable | non-breeding |
| Wetlands (inland) - Tundra Wetlands (incl. pools and temporary waters from snowmelt) | suitable | breeding |
| Altitude | Occasional altitudinal limits | |

Threats

Threats that affect this species include loss and degradation of wetlands, human disturbance and persecution, environmental pollution, collision with wind generators (Krone and Scharnweber 2003), and indiscriminate use of poisons (Orta *et al.* 2013) and pesticides (Tucker and Heath 1994). Modern forestry methods reduce the availability of suitable nesting habitat (Orta *et al.* 2013).

| Threats & Impacts | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Threat (level 1) | Threat (level 2) | Impact and Stresses | | | |
| Agriculture & aquaculture | Agro-industry farming | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Minority (<50%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation | | | |
| Agriculture & aquaculture | Agro-industry plantations | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Ecosystem degradation | | | |
| Biological resource use | Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (persecution/control) | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Whole (>90%) | Negligible declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Species mortality | | | |
| Energy production & mining | Renewable energy | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Minority (<50%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Species mortality | | | |
| Human intrusions & disturbance | Recreational activities | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Whole (>90%) | Negligible declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Species disturbance | | | |
| Pollution | Industrial & military effluents (type unknown/unrecorded) | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Whole (>90%) | Negligible declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Ecosystem degradation | | | |

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

CITES Appendix I and II. CMS Appendix I and II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. Reintroduction programmes have been successful in re-establishing populations in areas including Scotland and southern Bohemia (Orta *et al.* 2013).

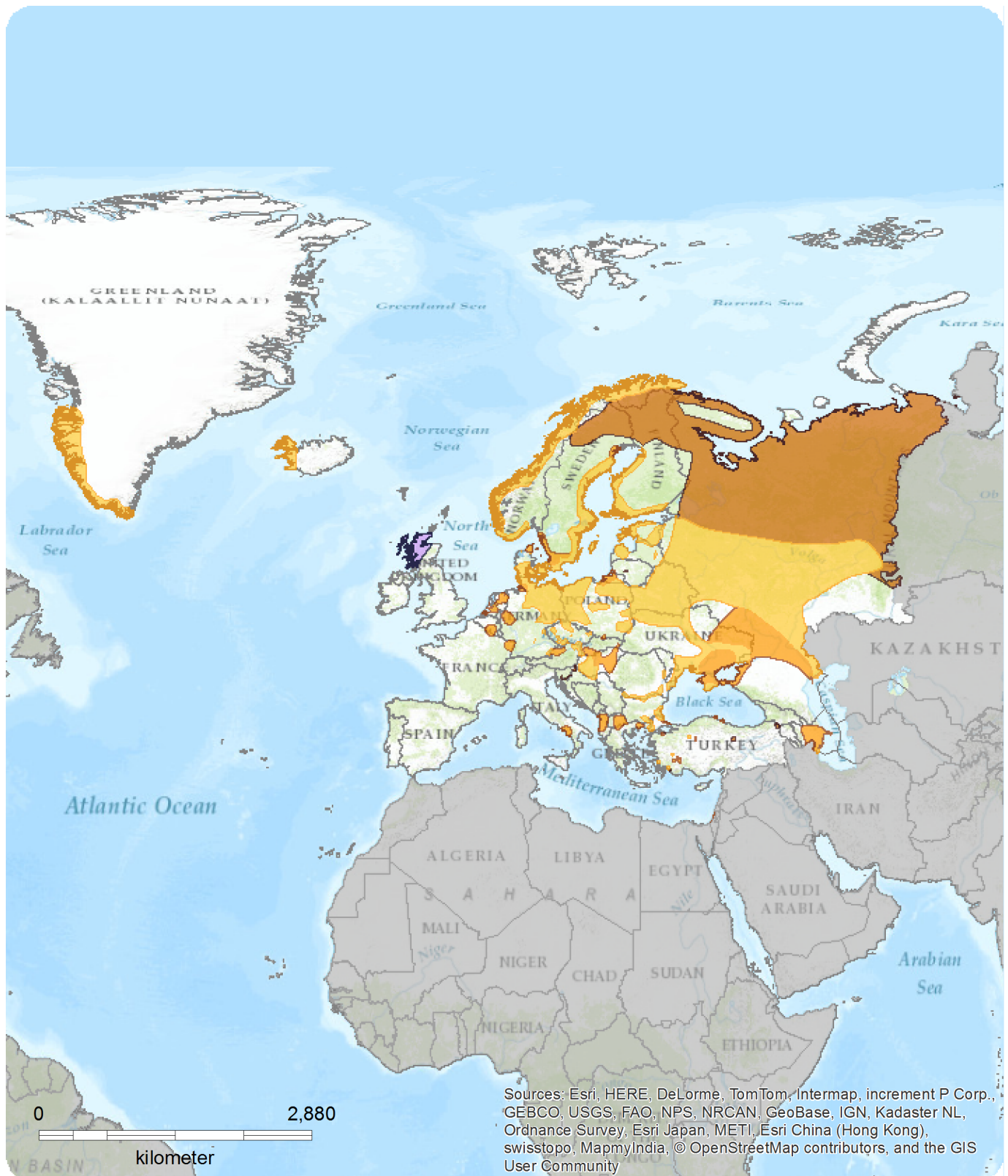
Conservation Actions Proposed

Conservation measures should include the prevention of habitat loss from modern forestry and from human developments encroaching on nesting and hunting areas. Nests should also be protected from human disturbance and robbing; action should be taken against illegal shooting as well as the use of poisoned bait for predators. Reintroductions have proven successful and could be used in the future. In some areas the provision of feeding stations would help juvenile survival and increase reproduction rates (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Bibliography

- Ferguson-Lees, J. and Christie, D.A. 2001. *Raptors of the world*. Christopher Helm, London.
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Map (see overleaf)



Haliaeetus albicilla

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)
- Reintroduced

Citation:
BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds



Map created 05/13/2015

