

National and subnational Red Lists in European and Mediterranean countries: Current state and use for conservation

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Introduction

The **IUCN Red List of threatened species** is recognized as the most comprehensive source of information on species conservation status and associated threats. The IUCN standardized methodology allows the classification of species in 11 categories of threats, available on the iucnredlist.org website. Established first on a global scale, Red Lists have been multiplied on all scales (regional, national, subnational) thanks to local initiatives. While the Red List was celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014, we assessed national and subnational Red Lists in the Euro-Mediterranean region and their use in national conservation strategies to obtain an overview on Red Lists current state and scope for species conservation in the region.



Methods

- An online Survey (Limesurvey ®) ran during May and June 2014
- 53 countries investigated in the Euro-Mediterranean region
- 134 respondents (from 1 to 6 by country)
- A synthesis of answers by country according to a standardized protocol

Taxonomic coverage of national and subnational Red Lists

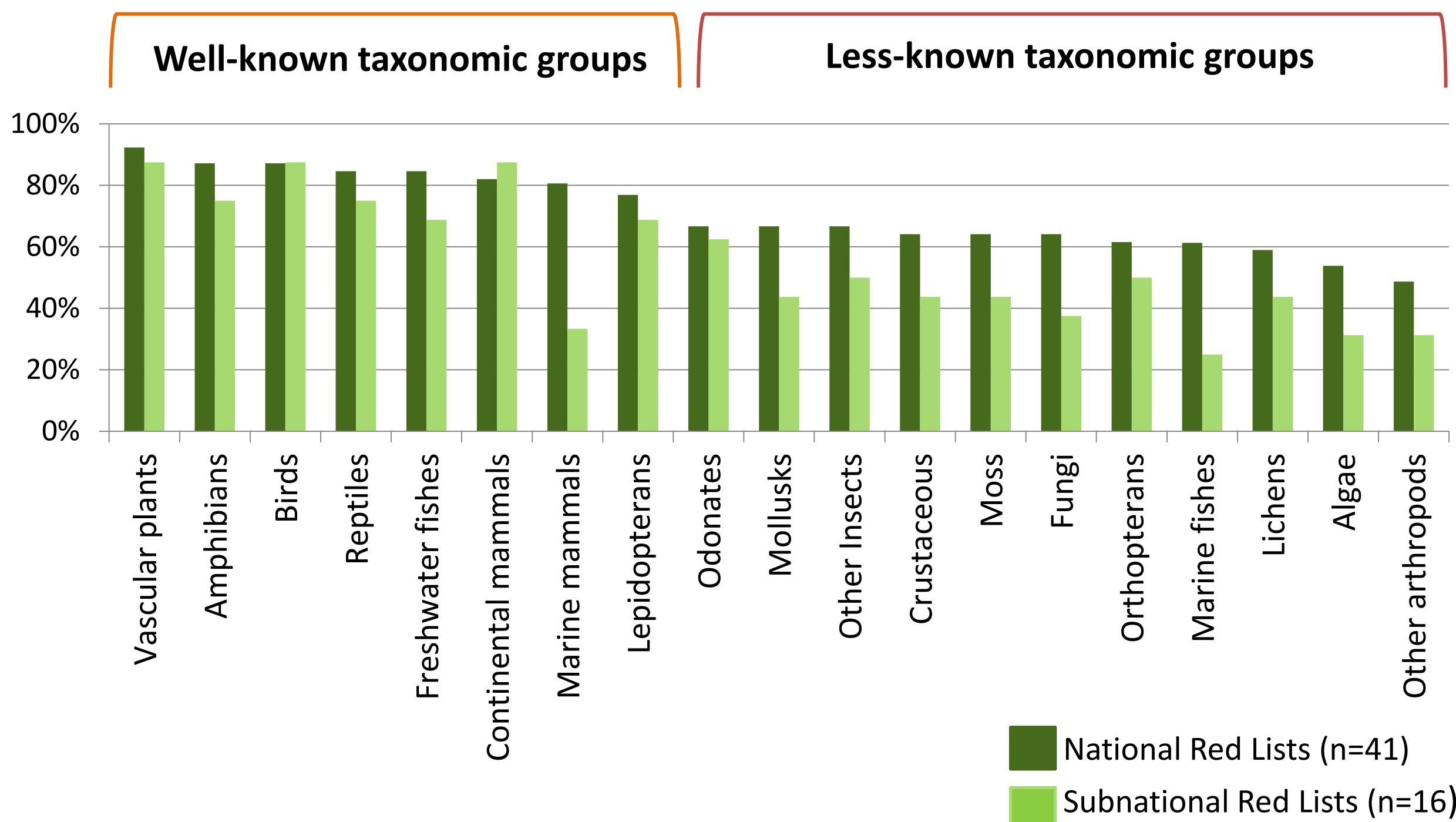


Figure 1. Proportion of taxonomic groups assessed by national and subnational Red Lists
In a percentage of countries that have developed national Red Lists (41 countries) and subnational Red Lists (16 countries).
Marine fishes and mammals have been calculated according to the number of countries that have access to the sea.

Current state of national and subnational Red Lists in the Euro-Mediterranean region in 2014

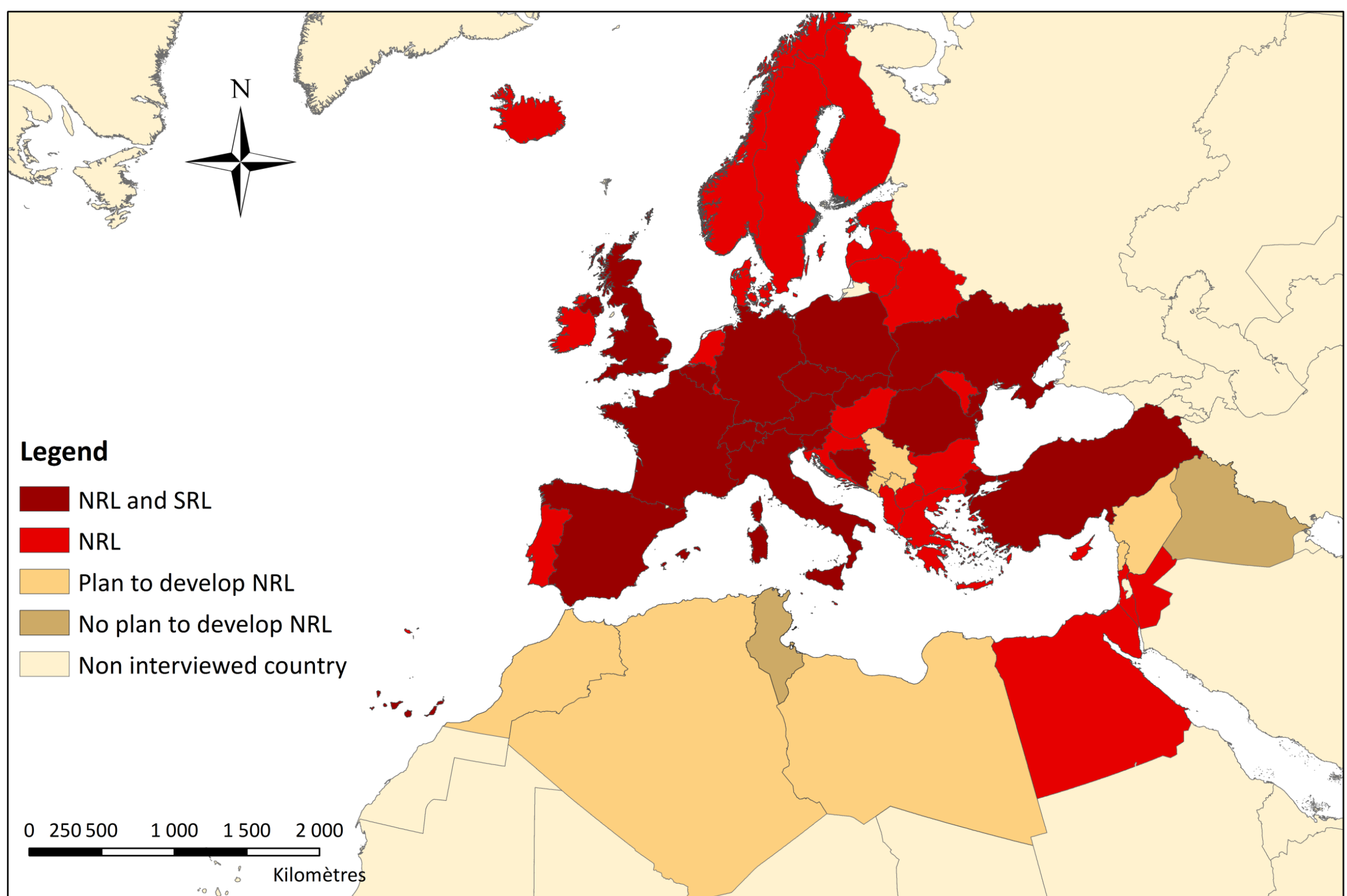


Figure 2. Distribution of national and subnational Red Lists (NRL and SRL) elaborated in Euro-Mediterranean countries

→ National Red lists in 41 countries
→ Subnational Red lists in 16 countries

Different methodologies for species Red Lists assessments

	National Red Lists (n=41)	Subnational Red Lists (n=16)
• IUCN categories and criteria 2001	49%	38%
• Tailored categories and criteria	44%	69%
• IUCN categories and criteria 1994	7%	19%

Several methodologies can be adopted to elaborate subnational Red Lists within a country.

Stakeholders of national and subnational Red Lists

- **Coordination:** mostly public sector and research institutes (universities and natural history museum)
- **Funding:** mostly public sector
- **Production:** driving role of voluntary scientific experts

Use of Red Lists in national conservation strategies

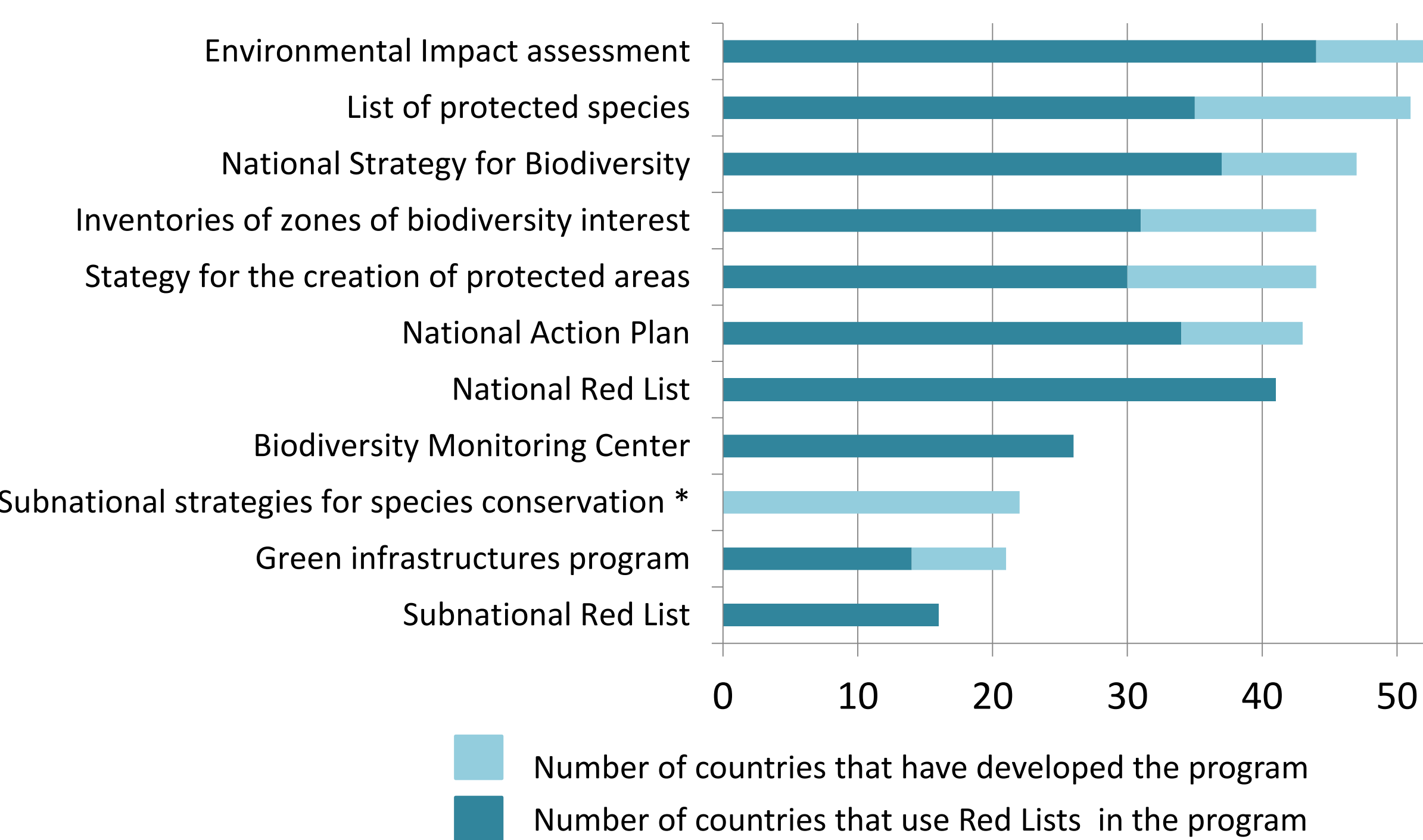


Figure 3. Use of Red Lists in conservation programs and policies

* Data unavailable for the number of countries that use Red Lists in subnational strategies for species conservation

Which Red Lists are used in those programs? (rank of use)

- 1st. National Red Lists
- 2nd. Regional Red List (European, Mediterranean etc.)
- 3rd. Global Red List

For what purpose?

1. Prioritization tool
2. Information and communication
3. Advice for decision makers
4. Indicator of the state of the biodiversity
5. A guide for research

Conclusion

- A successful appropriation of Red lists by local stakeholders
- A necessary investment on less-known taxonomic groups to avoid bias in conservation programs
- The need for knowledge transfer towards scientific and political stakeholders in the southern part of the Mediterranean basin
- The necessary strengthening of a network of Red Lists producers and users to ensure harmonized development of national and subnational Red Lists

To go further: iucnredlist.org - Nationalredlist.org