

EUROPEAN RED LIST OF REPTILES

Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*)

May 2009

The Grass Snake is an often common species that ranges throughout most of Europe, with fragmented populations in some areas. It is locally threatened by habitat fragmentation, water pollution, drainage of wetland habitats, agricultural intensification, general persecution and mortality on roads. It is protected by international legislation and national legislation in some range countries. This species is listed as Least Concern in Europe, according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.



The Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) ranges throughout most of Europe, being absent only from Ireland, northern Scandinavia, southeastern Spain, the Balearic Islands (Spain) and Crete (Greece). It is one of the world's most widespread snakes, also ranging from European Russia eastwards into Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, China and Mongolia.

It is an often common species but with fragmented populations in parts of its range, particularly so in southern areas.

Animals are found in both humid and dry areas with abundant vegetation. It is most often associated with water bodies, but can be encountered in woodland, meadows, hedgerows, coastal areas, and some suburban areas (especially rural gardens).

Populations are locally threatened in parts of its range by water pollution impacting its prey (mostly frogs), drainage of wetland habitats and the continuing intensification of agricultural methods. Some subspecies, such as those on Mediterranean islands, are considered to be threatened. As with many snakes this species is generally persecuted by people. Road traffic is a threat in many areas, as is continuing habitat fragmentation through development of its habitat.

This species is protected by national legislation in some range countries and it is listed on Appendix III of the Bern Convention. The construction of corridors underneath roads could aid in significantly reducing mortality on roads for some populations.

This species is listed as Least Concern in Europe, according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.