



7230 Alkaline fens

Habitat code	7230
Priority	No
Habitat group	Bogs, mires & fens
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian

Alkaline fens are wetlands mostly or largely occupied by peat- or tufa-producing small sedge and brown moss communities developed on soils permanently waterlogged, with a soligenous or topogenous baserich, often calcareous water supply, and with the water table at, or slightly above or below, the substratum. Peat formation, when it occurs, is infra-aquatic. Calciphile small sedges and other Cyperaceae usually dominate the mire communities.

Alkaline fens occur in all biogeographical all over Europe, except in the Steppic, Black Sea and Macedonian biogeographical region. The main distribution area covers the Alpine, Boreal and Continental regions.

In the alpine regions, Sweden covers c. 84% of the habitat area and reported a favorable conservation status in all components with stable trends. Just as well, Finland reported the habitat as favorable. In southernly regions, the member states reported unfavorable status, throughout. So the overall current conservation status was assessed as unfavorable inadequate for the whole alpine biogeographical region just as in the previous report. Abandonment, lack of mowing and grazing, agricultural intensification, fertilization, peat extraction, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, burning down, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits and Water abstractions from groundwater were among the reported high important pressures and threats.

In the atlantic biogeographical region the largest areas of Alkaline fens are in Spain, France and Ireland. Except for the range conclusion, all other conservation status conclusions were unfavorable bad with negative trends for area. The previous conclusion was unfavorable bad too, so the conservation status of Alkaline fens still worrisome in the atlantic region. Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, water pollution, water abstractions from groundwater, fertilization, grazing and abandonment of pastoral systems are among the reported high important pressures and threats.

The main distribution area for Alkaline fens in the boreal regions are in Finland and Sweden. Overall, Alkaline fens were assessed as unfavorable inadequate in all components just as in the previous report with negative area trend and qualifier. Modification of hydrographic functioning, species composition change (succession), forestry activities, abandonment of pastoral systems and lack of grazing and mowing were among the reported high important pressures and threats.

The Alkaline fens are widespread in the continental regions with their main distribution in France, Poland, Denmark and Germany. Range, area and structure and function were assessed as unfavorable inadequate with negative trends for area and range; future prospects as unfavorable bad. The overall conclusion is unfavorable bad just as the previous report. Abandonment, lack of mowing, species composition change, modification of

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hydrographic functioning and agricultural intensification were among the most frequent reported high important pressures and threats.

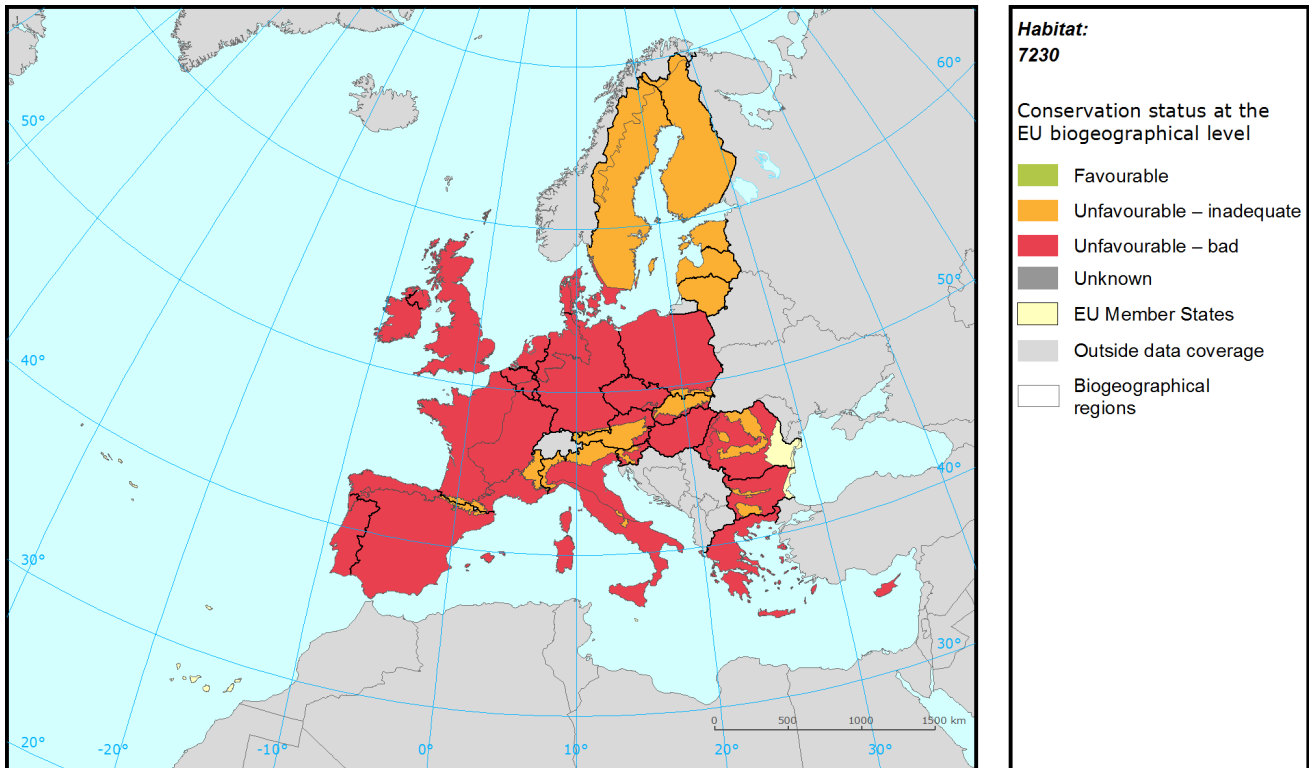
In the Mediterranean region, Alkaline fens predominately occur in France and Spain with only minor areas in Italy and Greece. The conclusions vary considerably between the components. Range was assessed as favorable, structure and function as unfavorable inadequate and area as well as future prospects as unfavorable bad, with a negative trend for area. The overall conservation status was hence unfavorable bad with a negative qualifier. The previous conclusion was unfavorable bad, too. Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, Water abstractions from groundwater, fertilization, grazing and mowing were among the most frequent reported high important pressures and threats.

In the Pannonian region, Alkaline fens occur in Hungary (with > 98% of range and area) and with a marginal occurrence in Slovakia. While range was reported as favorable, area and future prospects were reported as unfavorable inadequate. Though, structure and function were reported as unfavorable bad, so the overall current conservation status is unfavorable bad, too. The previous conclusion was unfavorable bad.

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



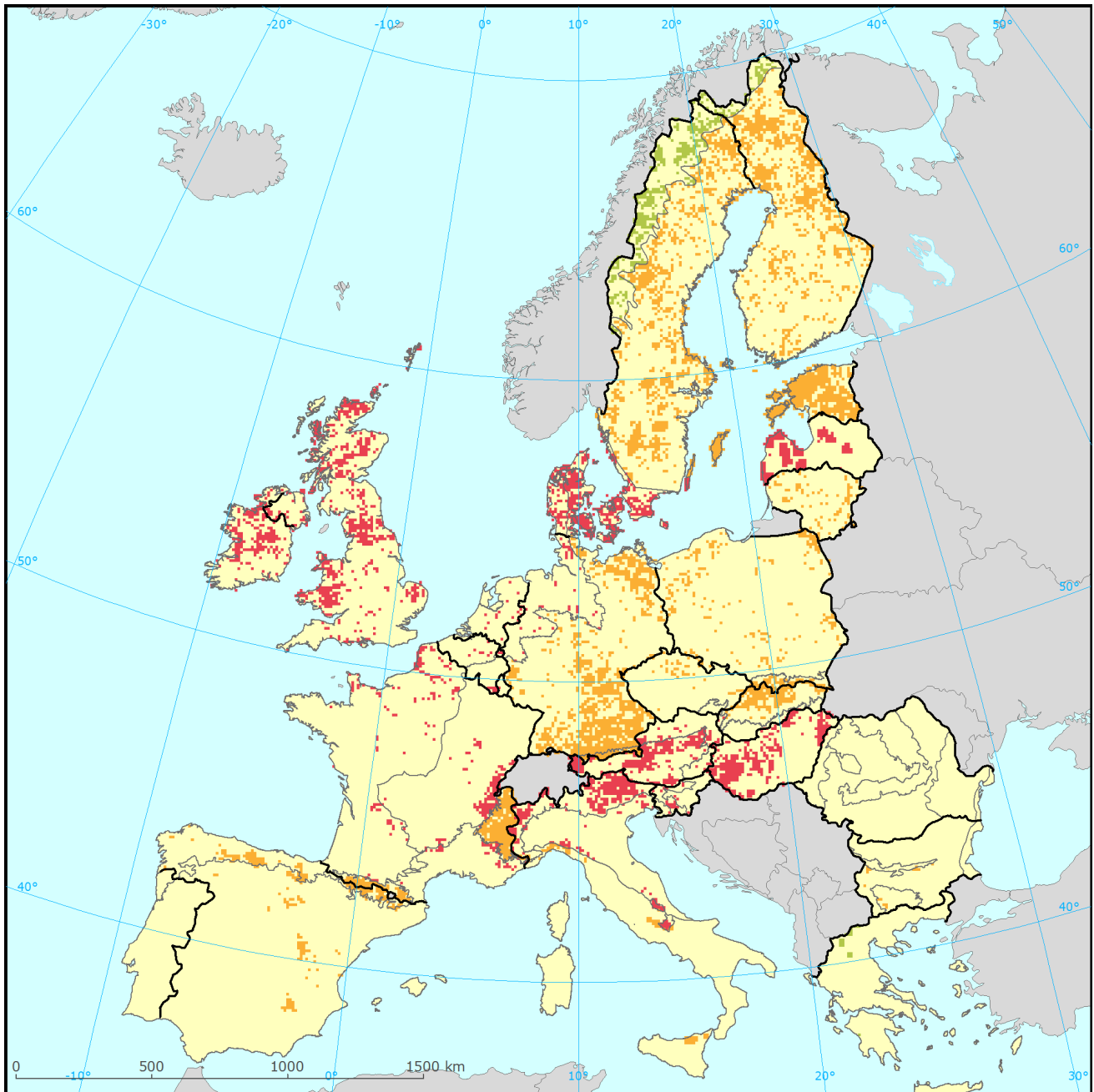
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	FV	FV	U1	=	20	U1	
ATL	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	x	15	U2	
BOR	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	35	U1	
CON	U1	U1	U1	U2	U2	-	23	U2	
MED	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	3	U2	
PAN	FV	U1	U2	U1	U2	-	4	U2	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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
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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



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Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Favourable |  EU Member States |
|  Unfavourable – inadequate |  Outside data coverage |
|  Unfavourable – bad |  Biogeographical region |
|  Unknown | |

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

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MS	Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Area	Structure & functions	Future prospects					
AT	ALP	U1	U1	XX	U2	U2	x	14.8	U2	
BG	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	0.4		
DE	ALP	FV	U1	U1	FV	U1	=	3.2	U1	
ES	ALP	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	+	3.2	XX	Changed method
FI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.3	FV	
FR	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	18.4	U1	
IT	ALP	U1	U1	U2	U2	U2	-	17.4	FV	Changed method
PL	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	3.7	U1	
RO	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1				
SE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		23.0	FV	
SI	ALP	FV	U2	U1	U1	U2	-	1.2	U2	Genuine
SK	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	10.3	U1	Genuine
BE	ATL	U1	U2	FV	U1	U2	=	0.7	U2	
DE	ATL	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	3.3	U2	Genuine
DK	ATL	FV	U1	U2	U2	U2	=	6.2	U2	
ES	ATL	U1	FV	FV	U1	U1	=	6.4	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	10.6	U2	
IE	ATL	FV	U1	U2	U2	U2	x	17.6	U2	
NL	ATL	U2	U2	U2	U1	U2	-	1.9	U2	
UK	ATL	FV	XX	U2	U2	U2	+	53.3	U2	Changed method
EE	BOR	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	16.1	U2	Better data
FI	BOR	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	34.2	U1-	
LT	BOR	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	3.2	U1-	
LV	BOR	U1	U2	U1	U1	U2	x	6.6	U1-	Changed method
SE	BOR	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	40.0	U1-	
AT	CON	U2	U2	XX	U2	U2	x	2.2	U2	
BE	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	0.5	U2	Genuine
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	0.5		
CZ	CON	FV	FV	U1	FV	U1	-	2.2	U1	Changed method
DE	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	52.8	U1	
DK	CON	FV	U1	U2	U2	U2	=	14.6	U2	
FR	CON	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2	-	6.3	U2	
IT	CON	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	2.6	FV	Changed method

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MS	Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Area	Structure & functions	Future prospects					
PL	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	12.6	U1		
RO	CON	U1	U2	U1	U1					
SE	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	-	5.4	U2-		
SI	CON	FV	U2	U1	U1	-	0.2	U2	Genuine	
ES	MED	FV	FV	FV	U1	+	48.8	XX	Changed method	
FR	MED	FV	U2	U1	U2	-	18.9	U2		
GR	MED	FV	FV	FV	XX		4.0	FV		
IT	MED	XX	XX	U1	U1	-	28.4	FV	Changed method	
HU	PAN	FV	U1	U2	U1		99.0	U2		
SK	PAN	U2	U2	U1	U2	=	1.0	U1	Genuine	

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the [Article 17 Reference Portal](#). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the habitats and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance'; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as 'high', for some habitats there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	28
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	12
A04	Grazing by livestock	10
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	9
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	6
H01	Pollution to surface waters	6
H02	Pollution to groundwater	6
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	4
A11	Other agriculture activities	2
B01	Afforestation	2

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	25
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	13
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	11
A04	Grazing by livestock	9
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	5
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	5
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	4
H01	Pollution to surface waters	4
H02	Pollution to groundwater	4
A11	Other agriculture activities	2

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Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

Member States were asked to report the area of the habitat which is covered by the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of the habitat area covered by the network was estimated by comparing the area within the network and the total area in the biogeographical/marine region.

Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region

	ALP	ATL	BOR	CON	MED	PAN
AT	16			49		
BE		92		95		
BG	100			89		
CZ				73		
DE	81	95		82		
DK		37		32		
EE			99			
ES	87	100*			100*	
FI	85		30			
FR	80	88		65	100	
HU						84
IE		49				
IT	79			53	100	
LT			45			
LV			93			
NL		73				
PL	75			74		
RO	92			88		
SE	5		7	96		
SI	90			13		
SK	39					87
UK		55				

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Most frequently reported conservation measures

Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this habitat using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 17 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many habitats there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	18
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	18
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	17
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	13
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	6
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	5
4.3	Managing water abstraction	5
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	3
6.0	Other spatial measures	3
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	3

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at: <http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?group=Bogs%2C+mires+%26+fens&period=3&subject=7230>

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i Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level: Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the habitat area occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.

ii Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region: In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the habitat area and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece. The values are only provided for regions, in which the occurrence of the habitat has been reported by the Member States.