



7240 Alpine pioneer formations of *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*

Habitat code	7240
Priority	Yes
Habitat group	Bogs, mires & fens
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean

Alpine pioneer formations of *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae* are alpine, peri-Alpine and northern British communities colonising neutral to slightly acid gravely, sandy, stony, sometimes somewhat argilous or peaty substrates soaked by cold water, in moraines and on edges of springs, rivulets, glacial torrents of the alpine or sub-alpine levels, or on alluvial sands of pure, cold, slow-flowing rivers and calm backwaters. A permanent or continuous soil frost over a long period is essential for the existence of this habitat type. Low vegetation composed principally of species of *Carex* and *Juncus* (*Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*).

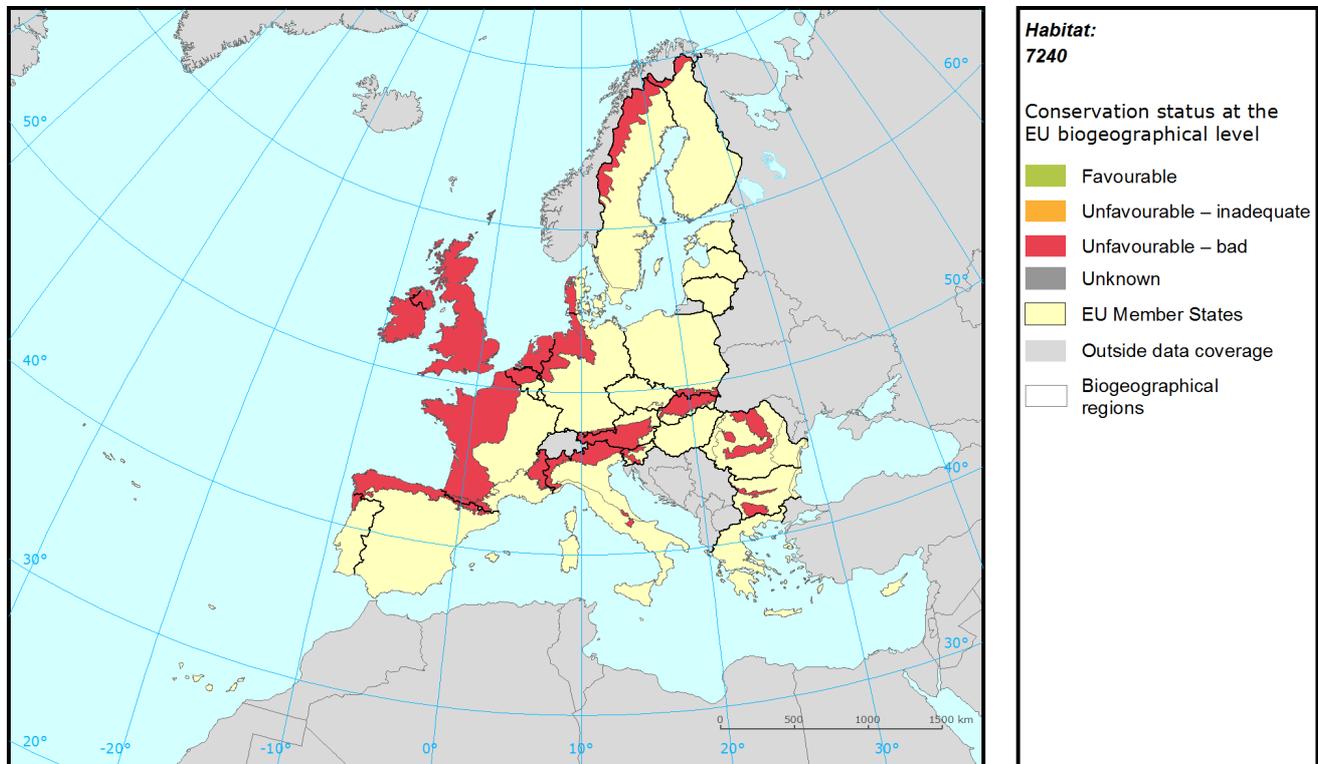
The Alpine pioneer formations of the *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae* occur in all high mountain regions of the EU. While the range seems to be sufficient in the northern regions, member states in central and southern Europe (except France) report an unfavorable range size for the habitat. The habitat area was assessed as unfavorable inadequate and bad in more than 90% of the distribution area with overall negative trends in habitat area. Similar, structure and function as well as future prospects were assessed as unfavorable for more than 80% of the distribution area. This overall unfavorable conclusions resulted in an unfavorable bad overall conclusion for this habitat just like in the previous report. Mowing and cutting of grassland, grazing, fertilization, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, succession and water abstractions from surface waters were among the high important pressures and threats.

In the atlantic region Alpine pioneer formations of the *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae* only occur in Great Brittan and have been assessed as unfavorable bad just as in the previous report. Grazing, Hunting and collection of wild animals have been reported as high important pressures and threats.

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

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	U2	U1	U1	U2	-	88	U2	
ATL	FV	XX	U2	U2	U2	+	12	U2	

See the endnote for more information¹

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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	U2	U1	U1	U2	x	18.7	U2	
DE	ALP	FV	FV	XX	XX	XX		5.1	FV	Changed method
ES	ALP	U1	XX	XX	U1	U1	x	3.8	XX	Changed method
FI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.9	FV	
FR	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	31.3	U2	Better data
IT	ALP	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	23.7	FV	Changed method
RO	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
SE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		16.5	FV	
UK	ATL	FV	XX	U2	U2	U2	+	100.0	U2+	
FR	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				No data
FR	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				No data

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
A04	Grazing by livestock	27
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	18
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	9
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	9
E06	Other urban/industrial developments	9
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	9
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	9
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	9

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A04	Grazing by livestock	18
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	18
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	18
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	9
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	9
E06	Other urban/industrial developments	9
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	9
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	9

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
AT	57	
DE	67	
ES	x	
FI	100	
FR	100	
IT	100	
RO	100	
SE	100	
UK		100*

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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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
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	36
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	18
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	9
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	9
6.4	Manage landscape features	9
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	9
9.0	Other resource use measures	9

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=7240>

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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.