



3220 Alpine rivers and the herbaceous vegetation along their banks

Habitat code	3220
Priority	No
Habitat group	Freshwater habitats
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Macaronesian, Mediterranean

This habitat includes rivers in the Alps and other high mountains where the banks are dominated by herbaceous plants rather than trees or scrubs. Although typical of the Alpine biogeographical region it is also reported from mountains in the Boreal, Continental, Macaronesian and Mediterranean regions.

Assessed as Unfavourable inadequate in the Alpine, Continental and Mediterranean regions, Favourable in the Boreal and Macaronesia and Unknown in the Atlantic region. Although there have been some changes in national assessments there have been no genuine changes in Conservation Status since 2001-06.

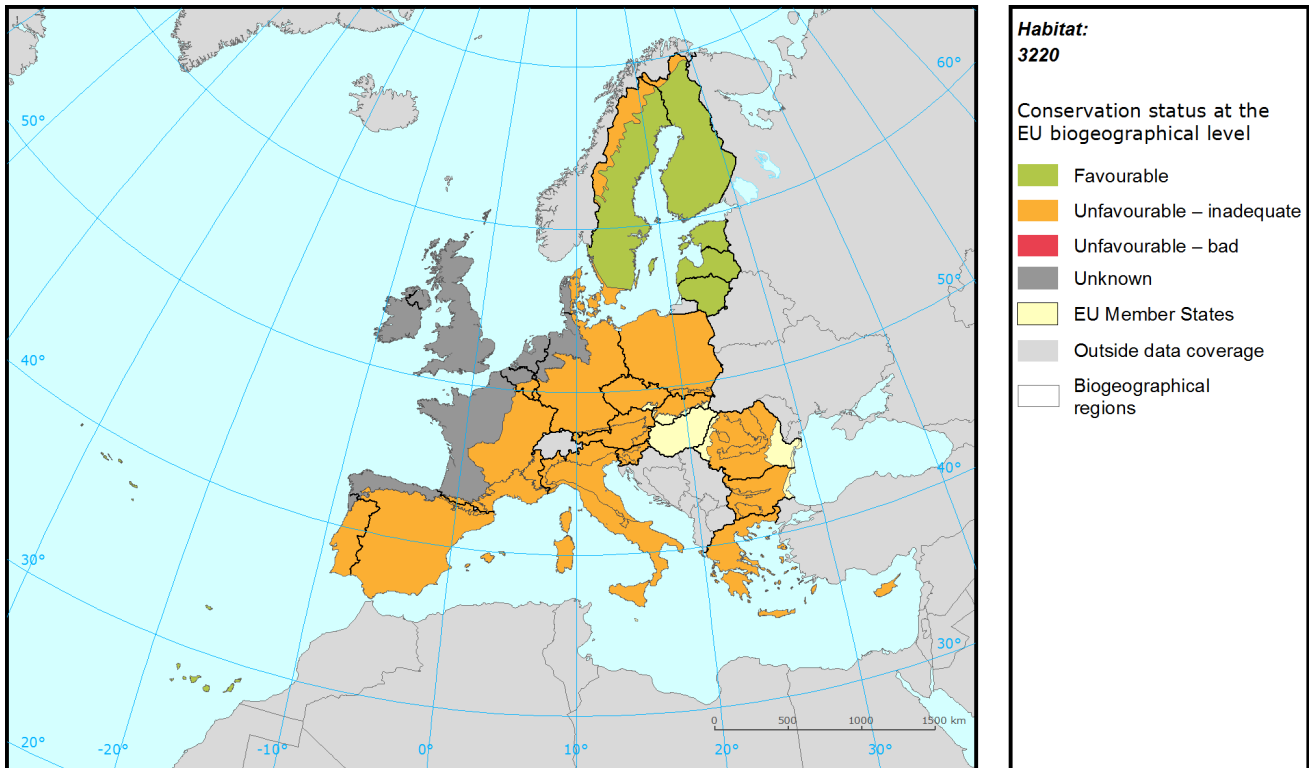
Although data quality has improved in some countries many reference values and some trends are still unknown. Romania has reported values for area which are clearly wrong and this has consequences for the methods chosen for the EU regional assessments.

A wide variety of threats and pressures are reported, the most frequent are changes to hydrology, others include mineral extraction and sport.

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



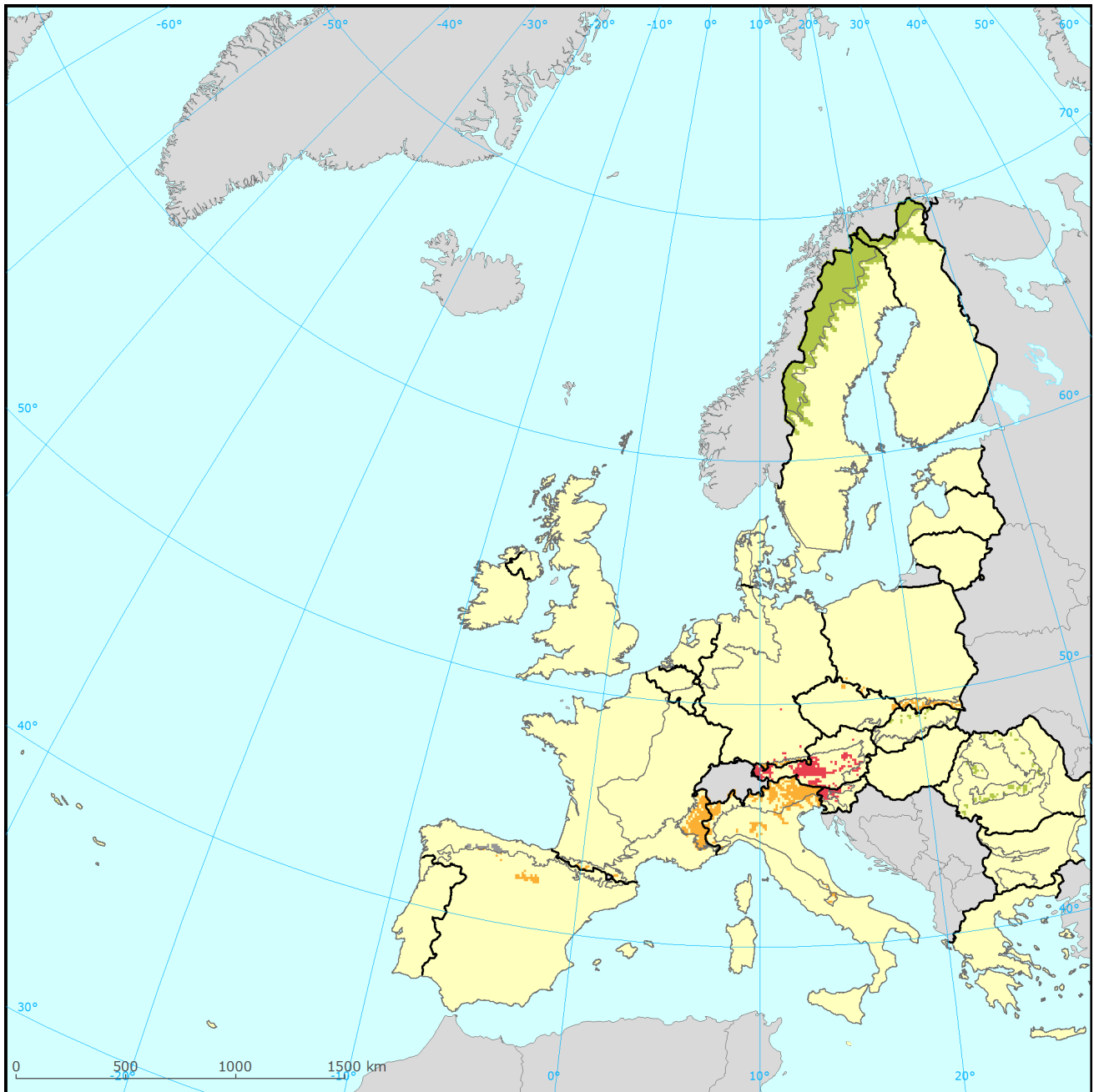
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	79	U1	
ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	1	XX	
BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	12	FV	
CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	6	U2	Not genuine
MAC	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	0.04	FV	
MED	FV	XX	XX	U1	U1	=	1	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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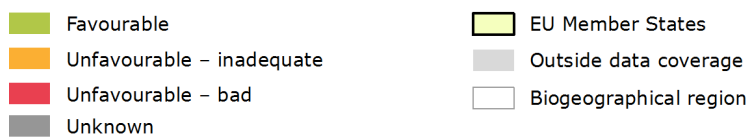
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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



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Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level



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	U2	x	9.8	U2		
DE	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	1.5	U1		
FI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		9.6	FV		
FR	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	9.2	U1		
IT	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	13.8	FV	Changed method	
PL	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	=	2.9	U1		
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.5			
SE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		46.7	FV		
SI	ALP	FV	U1	U2	U2	-	1.7	U2		
SK	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.2	U1	Better data	
ES	ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX		100.0	XX		
FI	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV		28.5	FV		
SE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV		71.5	FV		
AT	CON	U2	U2	U1	U2	x	7.3	U2		
CZ	CON	FV	FV	U1	FV	=	9.3	U2	Genuine	
DE	CON	U2	U1	U2	U1	=	5.3	U2		
IT	CON	FV	U1	FV	FV	-	54.3	FV	Changed method	
PL	CON	XX	XX	U1	U1	=	9.3	U2	Better data	
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		9.3			
SI	CON	FV	U1	U2	U2	-	5.3	U2		
PT	MAC	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0	FV		
ES	MED	FV	XX	XX	U1	=	100.0	XX	Changed method	

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.

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	46
C01	Mining and quarrying	29
L08	Flooding (natural processes)	13
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	4
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	4
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	4

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	48
C01	Mining and quarrying	39
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	4
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	4
I01	Invasive alien species	4

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	MAC	MED
AT	39			18		
CZ				81		
DE	84			79		
ES		100*				22
FI	80		95			
FR	53					
IT	42			18		
PL	45			100		
PT					100	
RO	0			0		
SE	44		4			
SI	92			85		
SK	38					

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	28
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	19
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	14
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	11
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	6
4.3	Managing water abstraction	6
6.2	Establishing wilderness areas/ allowing succession	6
3.0	Other forestry-related measures	3
6.0	Other spatial measures	3
6.4	Manage landscape features	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=Freshwater+habitats&period=3&subject=3220>

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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.