



6220 *Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea*

Habitat code	6220
Priority	Yes
Habitat group	Grasslands
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean

Open grasslands of the Mediterranean basin on nutrient poor but base-rich soils with both perennial and annual communities. Although typical of the Mediterranean region, where some 99% of the habitat area occurs, it is also found in adjacent parts of the Alpine, Atlantic and Continental regions. Similar vegetation on coastal dunes is habitat type '2240 *Brachypodietalia dune grasslands with annuals*'.

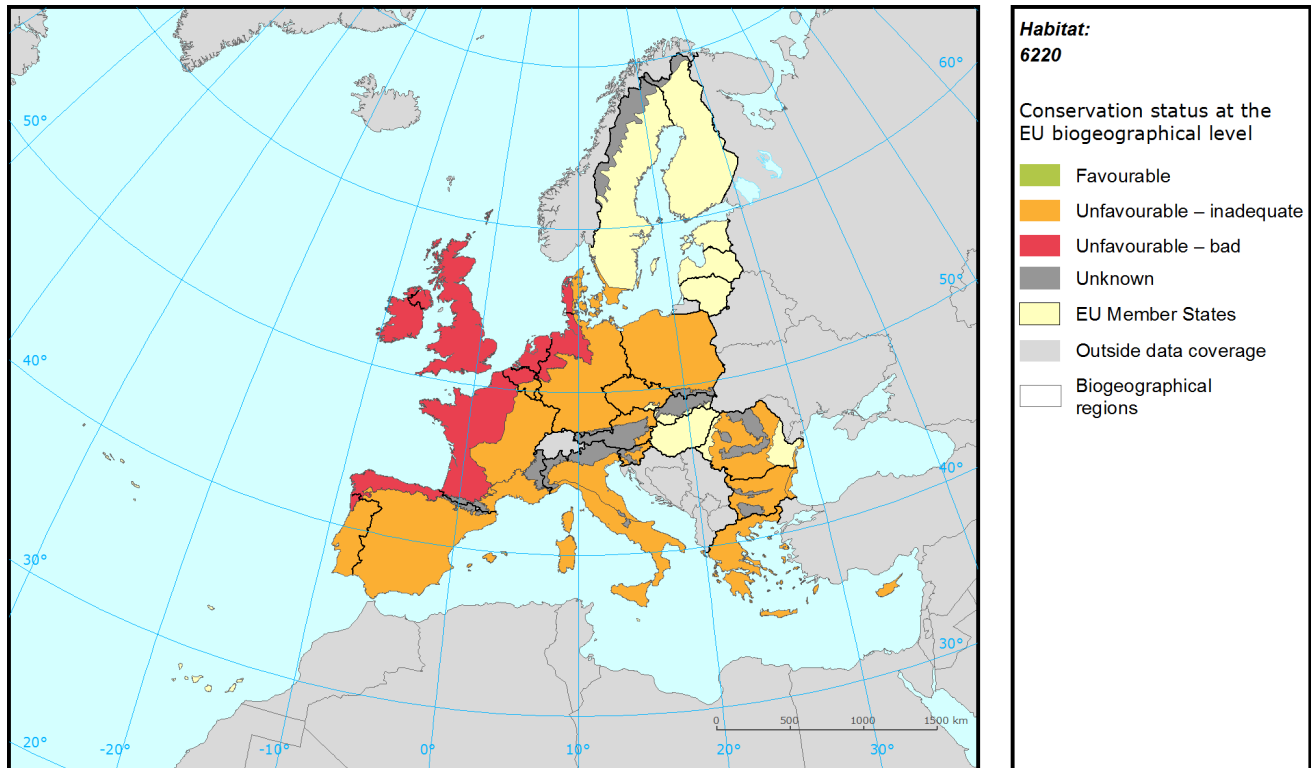
The conservation status of this habitat is generally unfavourable: unfavourable-inadequate in three regions (Black Sea – only Bulgaria reporting; Continental – due to Bulgaria and Italy; and Mediterranean – due to Spain), unfavourable-bad in the Atlantic region (due to France) but unknown in the Alpine region (due to Italy). In all regions only France reported unfavourable-bad status (always), Bulgaria, Spain and Italy unfavourable-inadequate. The trend is mostly unknown at regional level although deteriorating in the Continental region. There was no genuine change at regional level.

The main pressures and threats are mostly linked to cultivation practices and their modification (including fertilisation, intensive grazing or its lack while grazing itself helps annual plants), forestry activities (including planting native and non-native trees), urbanisation, development of infrastructure and problems with native or non-native species (eventually succession). Factors of lower importance include sport and recreational activities, trampling, taking plants and waste deposition.

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



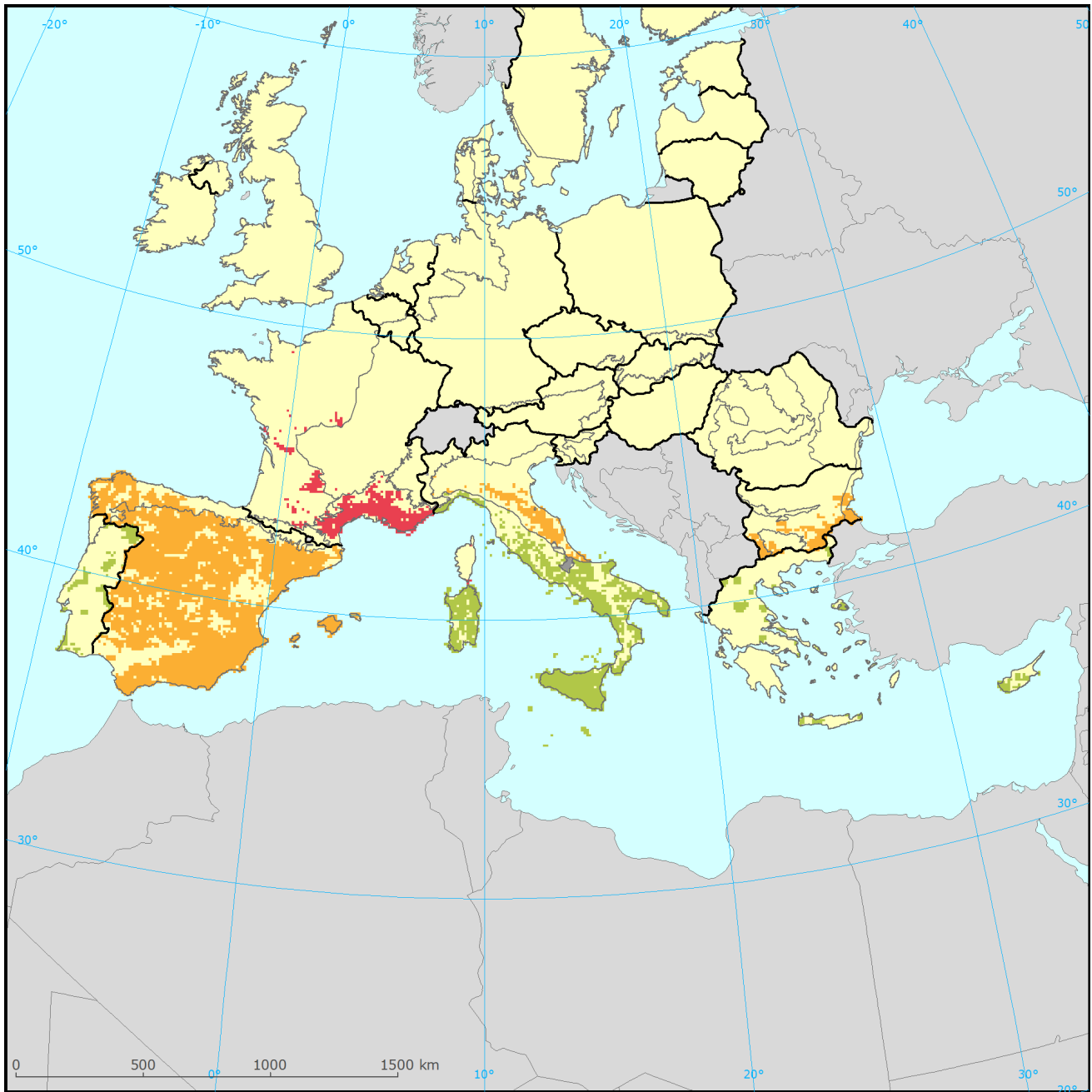
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	0.78	XX	
ATL	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	x	7	XX	Not genuine
BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	0.74	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	6	FV	Not genuine
MED	FV	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	86	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Habitat: 6220

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					
BG	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	44.0		
ES	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	6.0	XX	Changed method
IT	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		50.0	FV	No data
ES	ATL	U1	U1	XX	U1	U1	x	74.9	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	25.1	XX	Better data
BG	BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	100.0		
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	42.8		
FR	CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	x	2.1	U2	
IT	CON	U1	U1	FV	FV	U1	-	55.1	FV	Changed method
CY	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.8	XX	Better data
ES	MED	FV	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	63.8	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	7.1	U1	Better data
GR	MED	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		1.6	FV	
IT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		23.6	FV	
MT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.2	U1	Better data
PT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3.0	FV	

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
A04	Grazing by livestock	27
A01	Agricultural cultivation	8
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	8
B01	Afforestation	8
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	8
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	4
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	4
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	4
C01	Mining and quarrying	4
C03	Production of renewable energy (abiotic)	4

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A04	Grazing by livestock	26
A01	Agricultural cultivation	11
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	7
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	7
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	7
J01	Fire and fire suppression	7
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	4
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	4
C01	Mining and quarrying	4
C03	Production of renewable energy (abiotic)	4

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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	BLS	CON	MED
BG	90		80	99	
CY					83
ES	86	100*			12
FR		x		x	100
IT	96			8	38
MT					87
PT					x

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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	22
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	19
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	11
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	11
2.2	Adapting crop production	8
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	6
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	6
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	3
3.2	Adapt forest management	3
4.0	Other wetland-related 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/?>

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[group=Grasslands&period=3&subject=6220](#)

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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.