



6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)*

Habitat code	6230
Priority	Yes
Habitat group	Grasslands
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian

This is a semi-natural grassland widespread across much of the European Union with distinct upland and lowland subtypes. The definition of this habitat has caused problems as several countries have large areas of species poor grassland dominated by matgrass (*Nardus stricta*) as a result of long periods of overgrazing of little interest for nature conservation - these grasslands should not be included in this habitat.

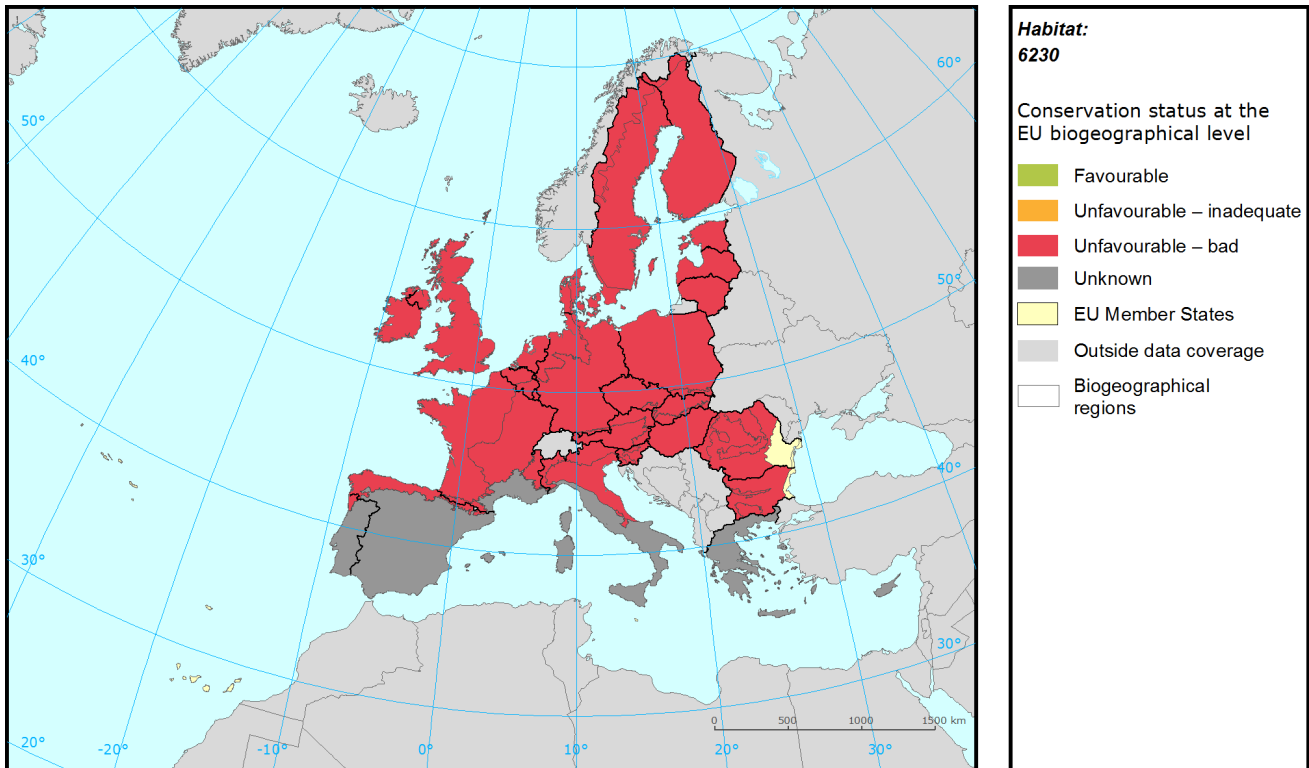
The conservation status of this habitat is unfavourable-bad and deteriorating in all regions in which it occurs except for the Mediterranean region where it is unknown (due to Spain, most other countries reported unfavourable-inadequate). The status in the Alpine region is almost unfavourable-inadequate (and sensitive to the method used with the area in Romania apparently overestimated data).

Main pressures and threats are mostly related to modification of cultivation practices: intensification, fertilisation and intensive grazing or abandonment of grazing or eventually of mowing, linked to succession and natural eutrophication. This habitat can suffer also from air, soil or other forms of pollution, trampling, skiing, taking plants, forest planting on open ground and anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity.

Habitat: 6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands - in mountain areas -*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



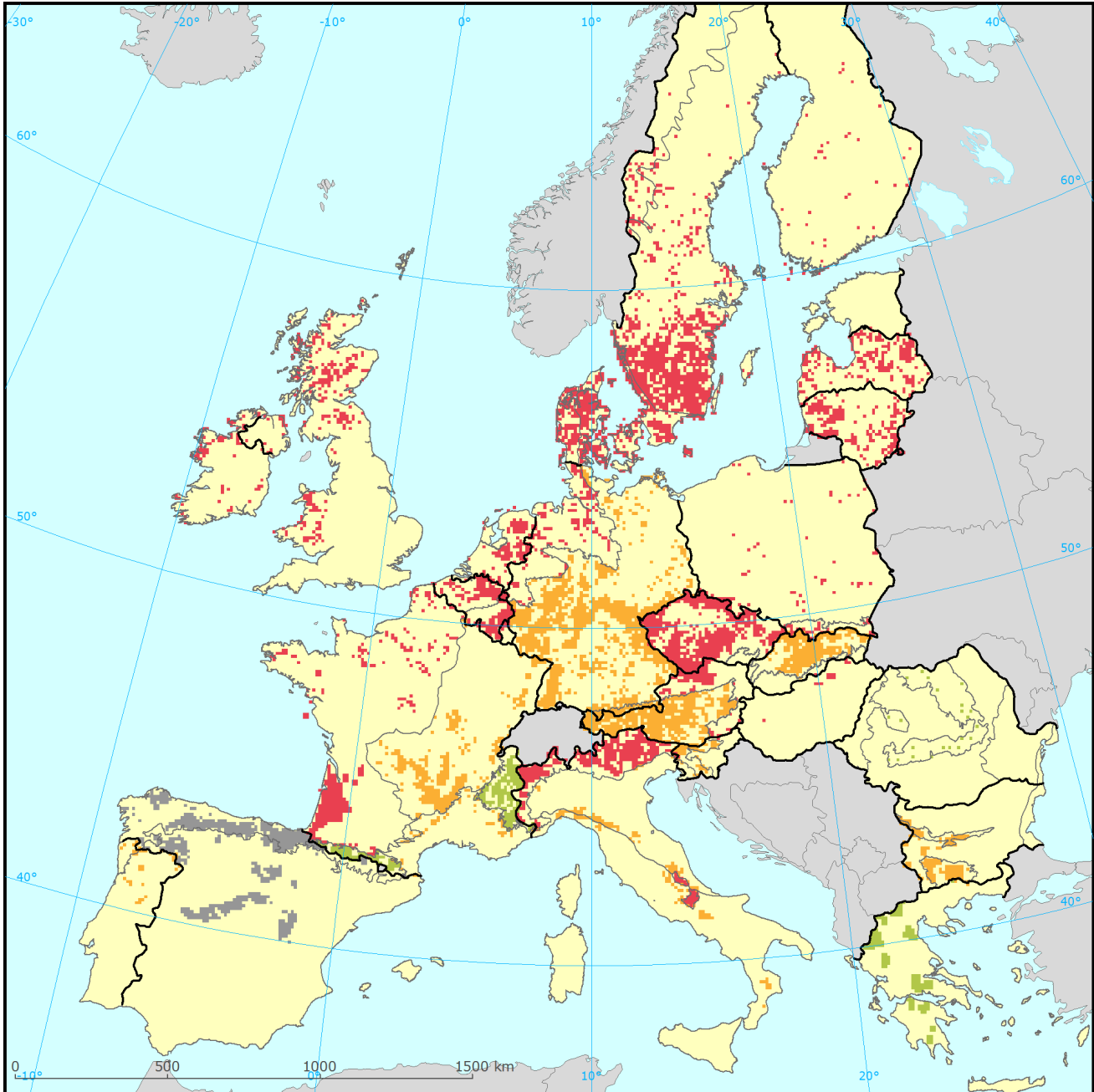
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	U2	U2	U2	-	21	U1	Not genuine
ATL	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	19	U2	
BOR	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	17	U2	
CON	U1	U1	U2	U2	U2	-	35	U2	
MED	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	7	U1	Not genuine
PAN	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	0.24	U2	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

Habitat: 6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands - in mountain areas -*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Habitat: 6230

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.

Habitat: 6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands - in mountain areas -*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

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	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	=	25.9	U1	
BG	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	6.9		
DE	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	2.8	U1	Genuine
ES	ALP	FV	FV	XX	XX	XX		1.4	XX	
FR	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		14.7	U1	Changed method
IT	ALP	U1	U1	U2	U2	U2	-	23.3	FV	Changed method
PL	ALP	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	1.8	U2	
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.6		
SE	ALP	FV	FV	U2	U2	U2	-	2.8	U2-	
SI	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	3.4	U1	Genuine
SK	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	15.4	U1	Better data
BE	ATL	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	=	6.0	U2	
DE	ATL	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	10.1	U2	Genuine
DK	ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	7.3	U2	
ES	ATL	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		19.6	XX	
FR	ATL	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	23.6	U2	
IE	ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	5.8	U2	Genuine
NL	ATL	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	8.4	U2	
PT	ATL	FV	U1	U1	XX	U1	-	0.6	U1	
UK	ATL	FV	U1	U2	U2	U2	-	18.6	U2	Genuine
FI	BOR	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	4.2	U2-	
LT	BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	16.0	U2-	
LV	BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	17.4	U2	Genuine
SE	BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	62.4	U2-	
AT	CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	3.6	U2	Genuine
BE	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	+	2.6	U2	Genuine
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	1.6		
CZ	CON	FV	FV	U2	U2	U2	-	18.7	U2	Changed method
DE	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	40.5	U1	Genuine
DK	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	x	9.7	U2	
FR	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	12.9	U2	No data
IT	CON	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	-	2.5	FV	Changed method
LU	CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	+	0.3	U2+	

Habitat: 6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands - in mountain areas -*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

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	XX	U1	U2	U2	-	2.6	U2	
SE CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	5.0	U2-	
ES MED	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		55.9	XX	
FR MED	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	9.9	U1	
GR MED	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		14.6	FV	
IT MED	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	-	13.8	FV	Changed method
PT MED	XX	U1	U1	XX	U1	-	5.8	U1	
HU PAN	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	100.0	U2	

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	26
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	10
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	10
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	10
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	7
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	6
B01	Afforestation	5
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	5
G02	Sport and leisure infrastructures	3
H07	Other forms of pollution	3

Habitat: 6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands - in mountain areas -*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A04	Grazing by livestock	23
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	13
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	11
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	10
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	8
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	7
G02	Sport and leisure infrastructures	3
I02	Problematic native species	3
B01	Afforestation	2
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	2

Habitat: 6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands - in mountain areas -*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

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	28			31		
BE		65		94		
BG	99			97		
CZ				43		
DE	95	x		77		
DK		43		32		
ES	70	47			x	
FI			3			
FR	41	27		x	100	
HU						54
IE		61				
IT	71			76	94	
LT			66			
LU				90		
LV			31			
NL		70				
PL	77			x		
PT		82			81	
RO	64					
SE	90		5	13		
SI	89					
SK	59					
UK		91				

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Habitat: 6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands - in mountain areas -*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

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	38
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	13
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	8
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	6
2.2	Adapting crop production	6
6.0	Other spatial measures	5
6.4	Manage landscape features	5
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	5
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	5
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	2

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=Grasslands&period=3&subject=6230>

Habitat: 6230 *Species-rich Nardus grasslands - in mountain areas -*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

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.