6410 *Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clavey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)*

Habitat code   6410
Priority   No
Habitat group   Grasslands
Regions   Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic

Meadows with purple moorgrass (*Molinia caerulea*) on wet, unfertile soils resulting from long periods of traditional management such as mowing. Species-poor meadows dominated by purple moorgrass, often a result of draining peat bogs, are not included in this habitat. This habitat is widespread across central, northern and western Europe, it also occurs more rarely in the Mediterranean region.

The conservation status of this habitat is generally unfavourable and mostly deteriorating: unfavourable-bad in five out of eight regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental and Pannonian) and unfavourable-inadequate in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. It is favourable only in the Steppic region (only Romania). The unfavourable status and the need of increased conservation efforts is emphasised by the fact that only in 10% of cases was the country conclusion favourable (mostly from Romania where the area appears overestimated when compared to spatial data and information in Standard Data Forms, and in one case from Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany and Spain). No genuine improvement were recorded at regional level.

Main pressures and threats on this habitat are mostly associated with agriculture (lack of mowing or grazing linked to succession, accumulation of organic material and natural eutrophication or on the contrary intensification and fertilisation linked to water pollution), changes to hydrology (including water abstraction, canalisation land reclamation and drying out mainly for arable land), but also air pollution, urbanisation, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity and forest planting on open ground. The pressures and threats of medium intensity (reported from regions in Romania) are grazing, erosion and development of industrial or commercial areas.

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level
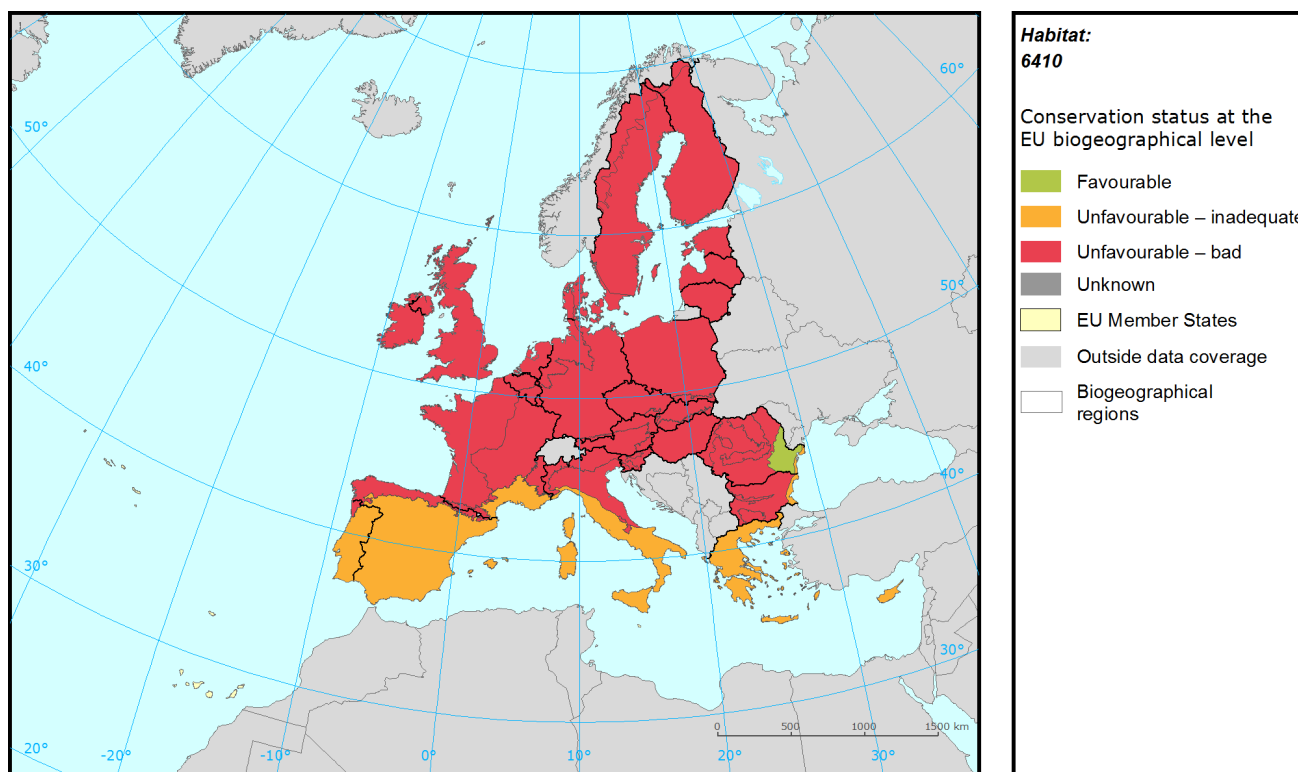
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U2	XX	U2	U2	-	8	U2	
ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	20	U2	
BLS	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	-	0.01	XX	Not genuine
BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	21	U2	
CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	38	U2	
MED	XX	XX	U1	XX	U1	x	9	XX	Not genuine
PAN	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2	-	4	U2	
STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	0.02	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level
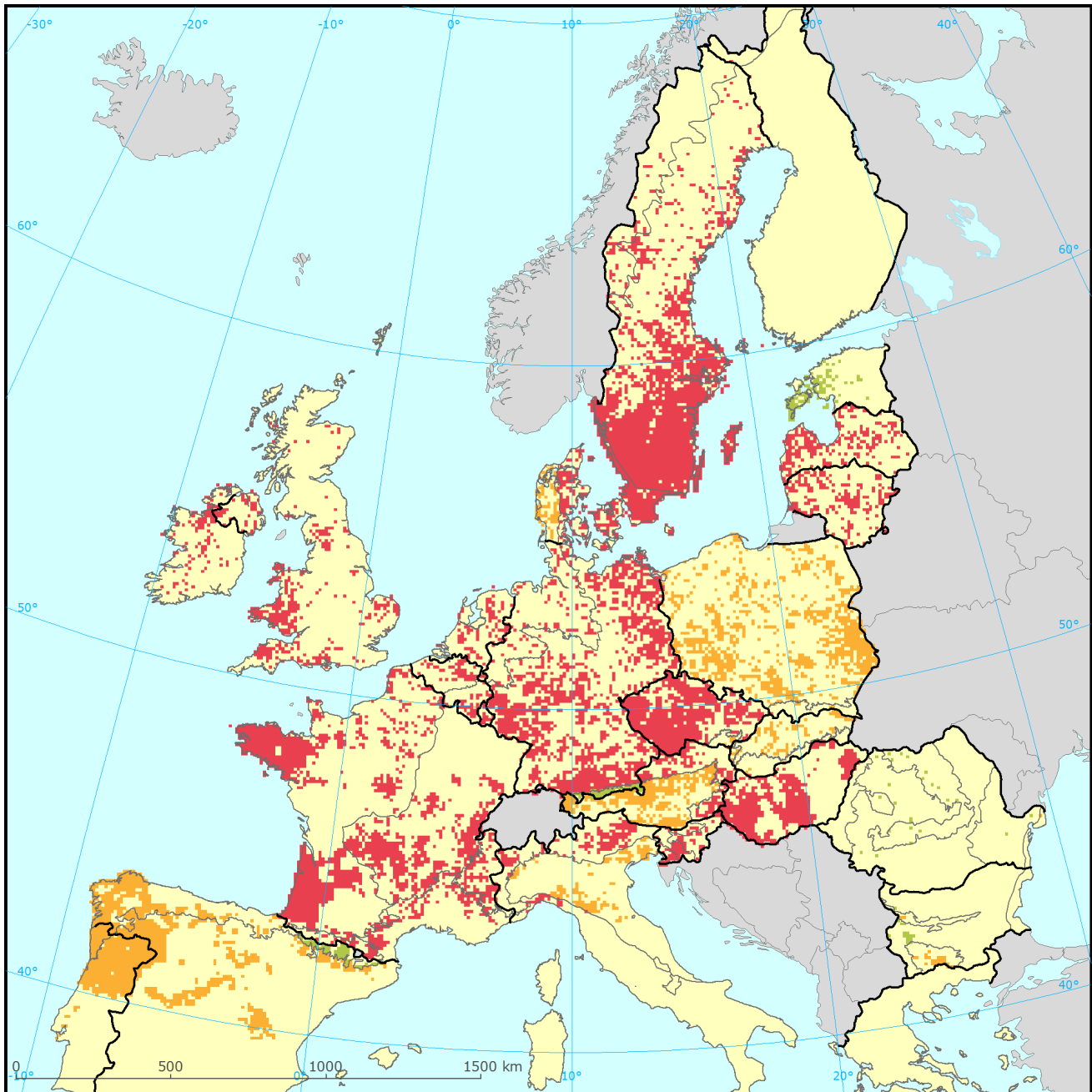
Habitat: 6410

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.

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	XX	U1	U1	-	33.6	U1	Genuine
BG	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	3.1		
DE	ALP	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		4.6	XX	Better data
ES	ALP	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		6.2	U1	Changed method
FR	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2	-	15.4	U1	
IT	ALP	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	15.6	U1	Changed method
PL	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	0.5	U1	
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.8		
SE	ALP	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	6.7	U2-	
SI	ALP	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	3.6	U2	Genuine
SK	ALP	FV	U1	U1	FV	U1	=	9.0	U1	
BE	ATL	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	=	2.4	U2	
DE	ATL	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	4.5	U2	Genuine
DK	ATL	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	3.7	U2	Changed method
ES	ATL	FV	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	14.7	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	44.6	U2	
IE	ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	5.4	U2	Genuine
NL	ATL	U1	U2	U2	U1	U2	=	4.4	U2	
PT	ATL	XX	FV	U1	XX	U1	=	2.5	FV	Changed method
UK	ATL	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	17.8	U2-	
RO	BLS	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1	-	100.0		
EE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.6	FV	
FI	BOR	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	0.2	U2-	Better data
LT	BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	8.8	U2-	
LV	BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	10.2	U2	Genuine
SE	BOR	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	76.3	U2-	
AT	CON	FV	U2	XX	U2	U2	-	3.2	U2	Genuine
BE	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	=	0.9	U2	
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.4		
CZ	CON	FV	FV	U2	U1	U2	-	14.0	U2	Changed method
DE	CON	U1	U2	U1	U1	U2	-	31.3	U2	Genuine
DK	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	x	4.5	U2	
FR	CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	13.1	U2	

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					
IT	CON	XX	XX	U1	U1	U1	=	3.3	U1	Better data
LU	CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	=	0.3	XX	
PL	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	22.5	U2	Better data
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.2		
SE	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	5.0	U2-	
SI	CON	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	1.3	U2	Genuine
ES	MED	FV	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	50.1	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	12.4	U1	
IT	MED	FV	FV	U1	U2	U2	-	2.2	U1	Changed method
PT	MED	XX	FV	U1	XX	U1	=	35.4	FV	Changed method
CZ	PAN	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	1.3	U2	Better data
HU	PAN	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2	-	96.7	U2	Genuine
RO	PAN	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1				
SK	PAN	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	=	2.0	U1	
RO	STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0		

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	21
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	15
A04	Grazing by livestock	15
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	10
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	9
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	8
H02	Pollution to groundwater	4
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	4
B01	Afforestation	3
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	3

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	20
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	17
A04	Grazing by livestock	13
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	10
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	10
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	9
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	4
B01	Afforestation	3
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	2
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	2

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	BOR	CON	MED	PAN	STE
AT	12				40			
BE		70			80			
BG	97				98			
CZ					22		92	
DE	43	x			74			
DK		37			34			
EE				24				
ES	34	x				x		
FI				16				
FR	38	14			65	100		
HU							73	
IE		35						
IT	100				100	100		
LT				55				
LU					65			
LV				50				
NL		83						
PL	1				x			
PT		x				x		
RO	72		59		74		59	0
SE	100			26	70			
SI	90				58			
SK	17						86	
UK		57						

See the endnotes for more information[ii]

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	36
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	21
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	10
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	7
6.4	Manage landscape features	6
2.2	Adapting crop production	5
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	3
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	2
6.0	Other spatial measures	2
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	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=6410

[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.