



6420 *Mediterranean tall humid grasslands of the Molinio-Holoschoenion*

Habitat code	6420
Priority	No
Habitat group	Grasslands
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Continental, Macaronesian, Mediterranean

Humid grasslands formed by tall grasses and rushes, often associated with coastal dunes, found throughout the Mediterranean basin and around the Black Sea. The habitat also occurs on the Canary Islands (Spain).

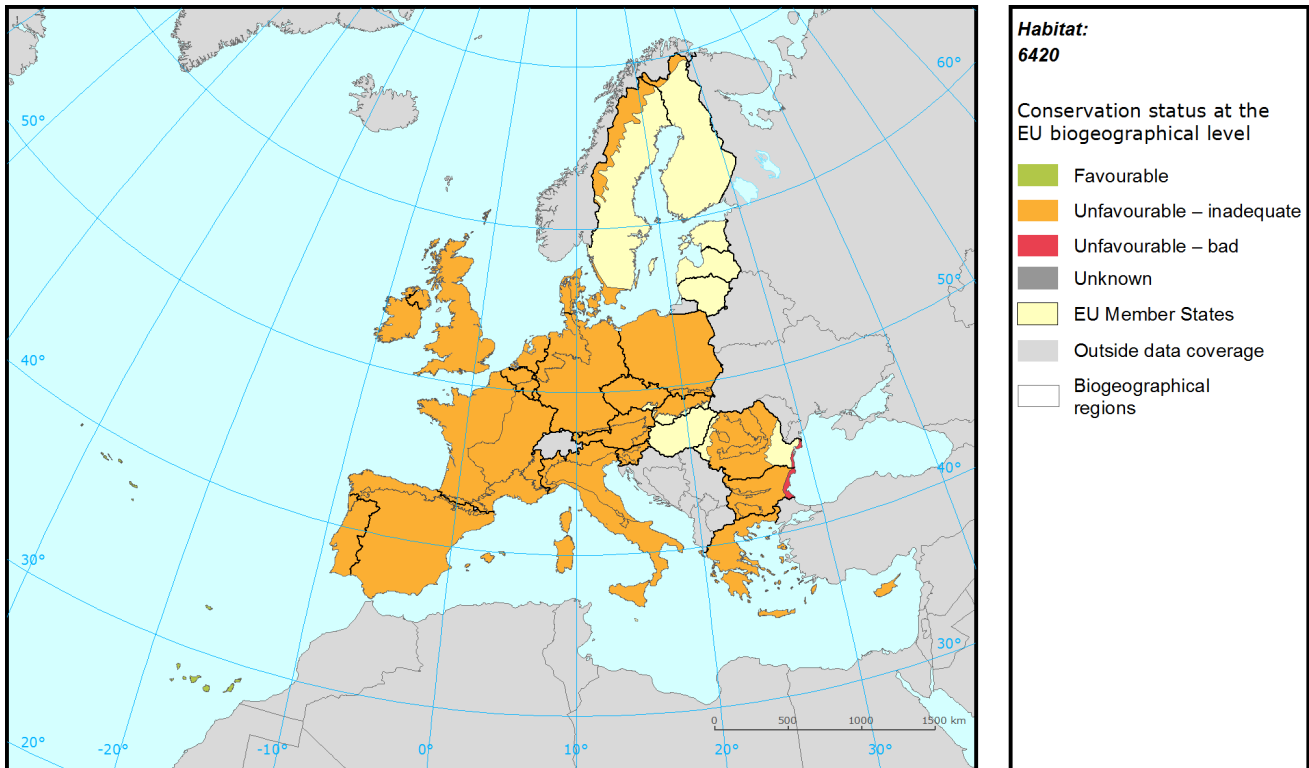
The conservation status of this habitat is unfavourable in all regions except Macaronesia with Unfavourable-inadequate in four of seven regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Continental and Mediterranean) and Unfavourable-bad (and deteriorating) in the Black Sea region (only Romania reporting). The habitat is assessed as Favourable for Macaronesia. Previous regional conclusions were unknown or unfavourable-bad, none of the changes are considered genuine.

The major pressures and threats are mostly changes in hydrology (including water abstractions from groundwater, canalisation and grassland removal for arable land) and pollution of surface waters. Additional factors include lack of grazing or mowing leading to succession but also mowing or intensive grazing, and urbanisation (including roads and commercial areas).

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



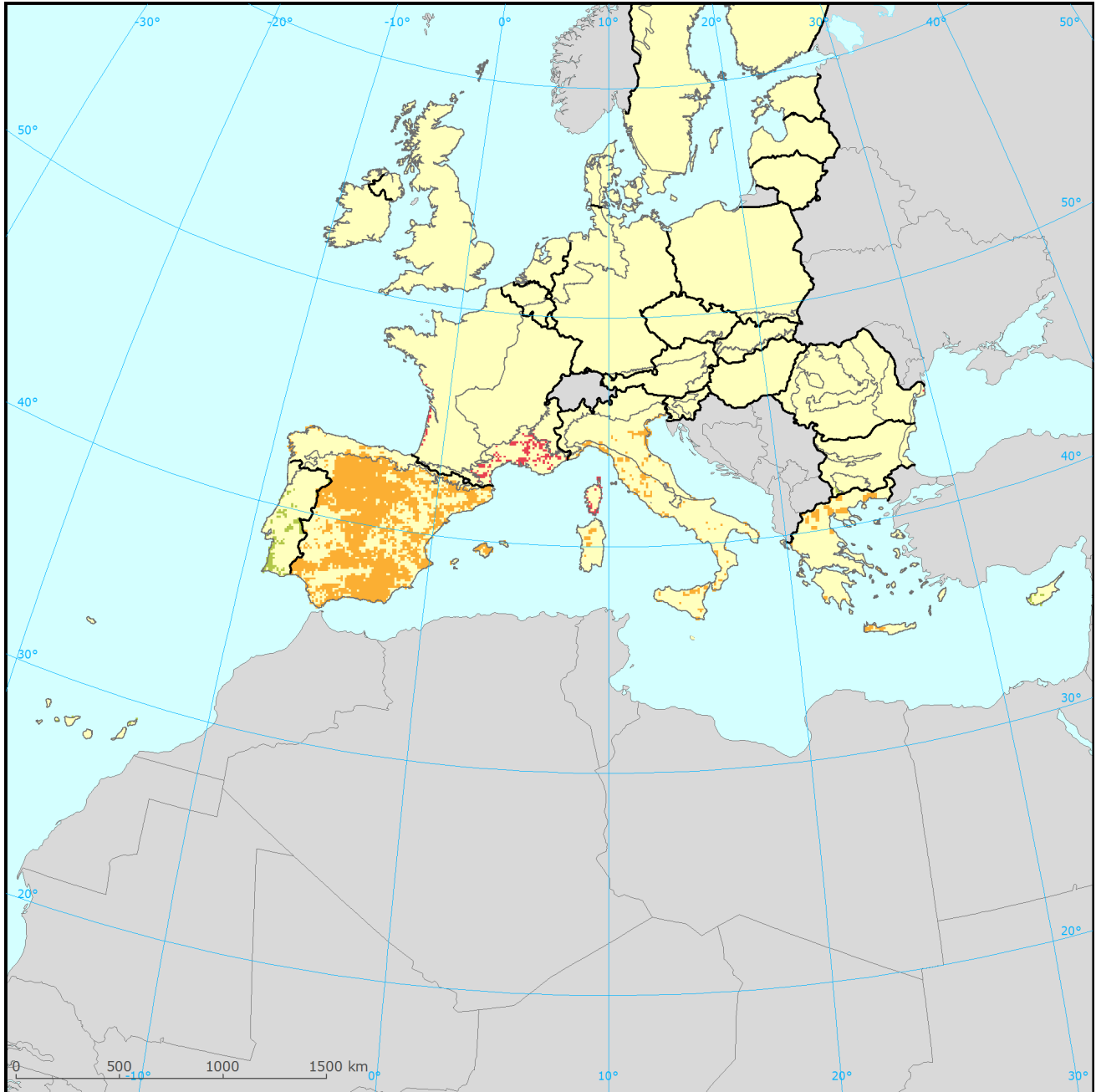
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	XX	XX	U1	x	0.82	XX	Genuine
ATL	U1	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	3	U2	Not genuine
BLS	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	0.03	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	2	XX	Not genuine
MAC	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV	=	0.17	U2	Not genuine
MED	U1	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	94	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Habitat: 6420

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	FV	FV	FV		6.9		
ES	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	72.4	XX	Changed method
IT	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		20.7	XX	
ES	ATL	U1	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	79.8	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	XX	XX	U1	U2	U2	-	20.2	U2	
RO	BLS	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	100.0		
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		7.2		
IT	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	92.8	XX	Better data
ES	MAC	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		100.0	U2	Changed method
CY	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.3	U1+	Better data
ES	MED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	81.3	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	5.9	U2	
GR	MED	U1	U1	FV	U1	U1		2.1	U1	
IT	MED	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	6.3	FV	Changed method
PT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.1	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
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	25
H01	Pollution to surface waters	17
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	13
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	8
A01	Agricultural cultivation	4
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	4
A04	Grazing by livestock	4
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	4
A09	Irrigation in agriculture	4
B07	Other forestry activities	4

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	23
H01	Pollution to surface waters	15
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	12
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	8
A01	Agricultural cultivation	4
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	4
A04	Grazing by livestock	4
A07	Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture	4
A09	Irrigation in agriculture	4
B07	Other forestry activities	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	MAC	MED
BG	100			17		
CY						80
ES	51	x			70	69
FR		x				100*
IT	77			60		91
PT						x
RO			59			

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
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	21
2.2	Adapting crop production	17
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	17
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	14
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	10
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	10
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	3
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	3
8.1	Urban and industrial waste management	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=Grasslands&period=3&subject=6420>

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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.