



4020 Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix*

Habitat code	4020
Priority	Yes
Habitat group	Heath & scrub
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean

The habitat 4020 "Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix*" includes hygrophilous heaths of areas with a temperate oceanic climate, on semi-peaty or dried-out soils, with surface minerals in the case of peaty soils (hydromor), with vegetation of the alliances *Genistion micrantho-anglicae* and *Ulicion minoris*.

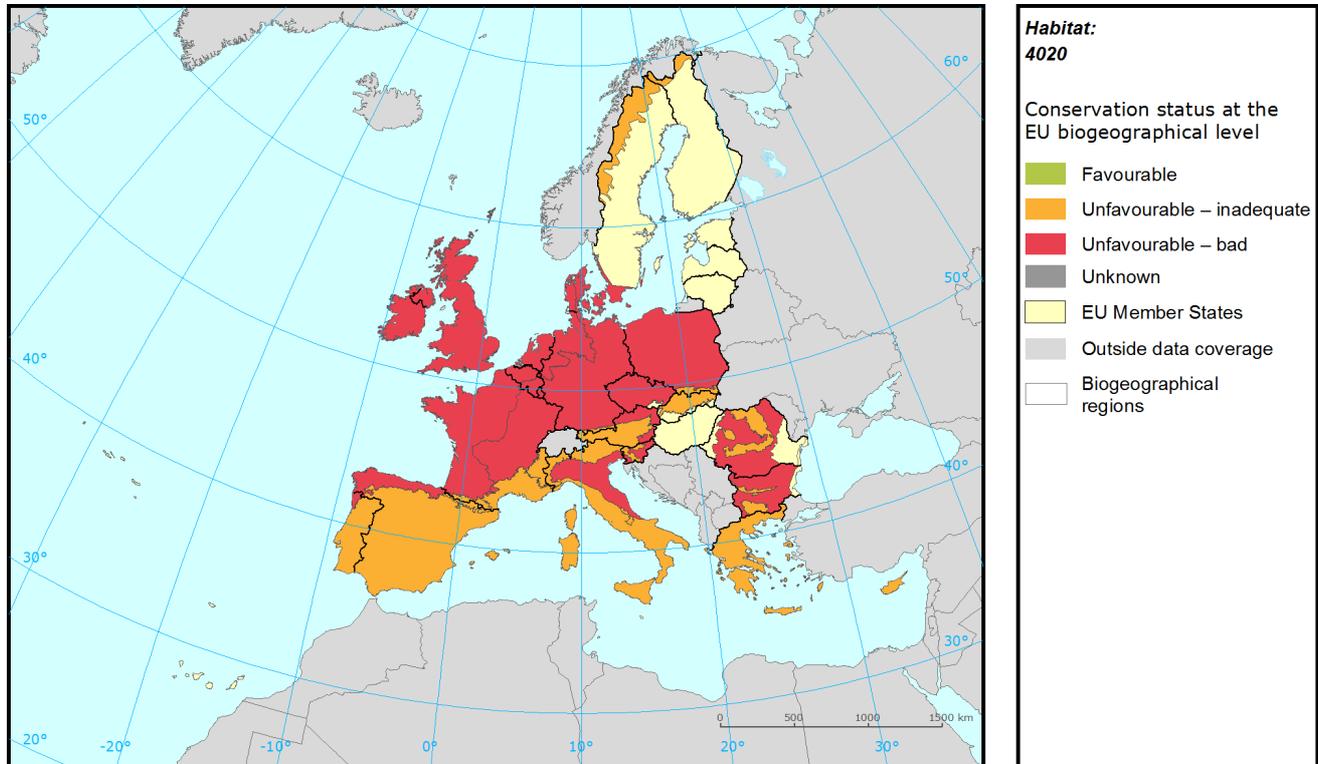
The conservation status of the habitat is unfavourable-bad in Atlantic and Continental biogeographical regions, unfavourable-inadequate in Alpine and Mediterranean regions. The range was assessed mostly as favourable while other parameters mostly as unfavourable-inadequate. The structure and functions as well as the future prospects are unfavourable-bad in two countries each and this drove the overall assessment to unfavourable-bad in the respective regions. In comparison with the previous assessment, there are changes in some parameters and regions, but generally the habitat remains in the unfavourable conditions with no visible improvement.

The habitat is threatened mostly by biocenotic evolution, succession, human-induced changes in hydraulic conditions, pollution to groundwater and surface water, modification of cultivation practices, grazing, problematic native species, forest planting, and air-borne pollutants.

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



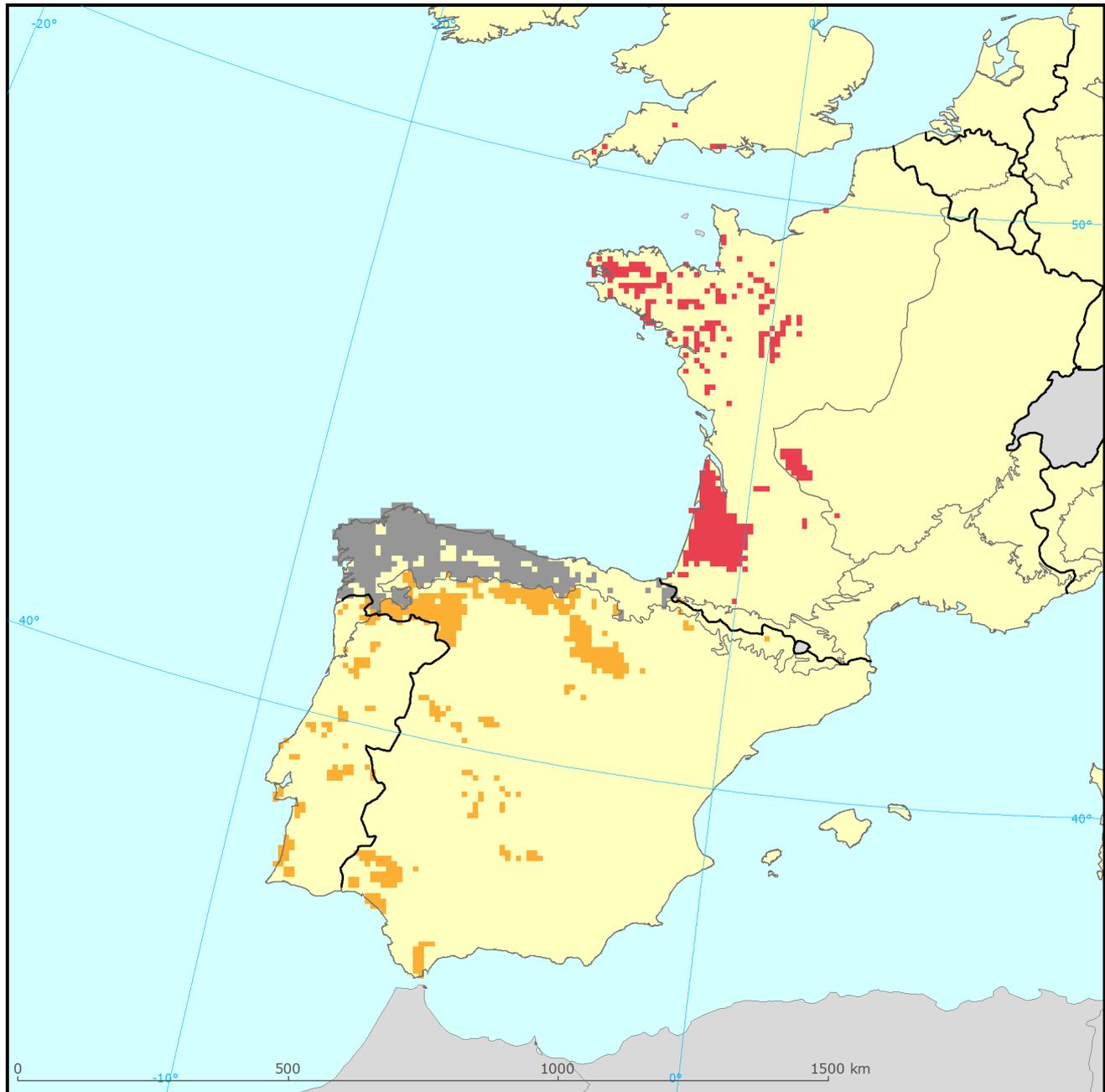
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	XX	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	0.17	U2	Not genuine
ATL	FV	U1	U2	XX	U2	x	63	U2	
CON	U1	U1	U1	U2	U2	-	2	U1	Genuine
MED	XX	FV	XX	U1	U1	x	35	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Habitat: 4020

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					
ES	ALP	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	100.0	U1	Changed method	
ES	ATL	FV	FV	XX	XX		57.7	XX		
FR	ATL	FV	U1	U2	U1	=	40.5	U2		
PT	ATL	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	1.1	U1		
UK	ATL	FV	U1	U2	U2	=	0.8	U2+	Changed method	
FR	CON	U1	U1	U1	U2	-	100.0	U1	Genuine	
ES	MED	XX	FV	XX	U1	x	81.9	XX	Changed method	
PT	MED	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	18.1	U1		

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	28
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	17
A04	Grazing by livestock	11
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	6
B01	Afforestation	6
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	6
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	6
H01	Pollution to surface waters	6
H02	Pollution to groundwater	6
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	6

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	21
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	14
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	7
A04	Grazing by livestock	7
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	7
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	7
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	7
H01	Pollution to surface waters	7
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	7
I02	Problematic native species	7

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	CON	MED
ES	74	14		55
FR		72	52	
PT		x		x
UK		100		

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	33
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	22
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	11
3.0	Other forestry-related measures	11
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	11
8.0	Other measures	11

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=Heath+%26+scrub&period=3&subject=4020>

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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.