



4090 *Endemic oro-Mediterranean heaths with gorse*

Habitat code	4090
Priority	No
Habitat group	Heath & scrub
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Continental, Macaronesian, Mediterranean

The habitat 4090 "Endemic oro-Mediterranean heaths with gorse" includes Primary cushion heaths of the high, dry mountains of the Mediterranean and Irano-Turanian regions, with low, cushion-forming, often spiny shrubs, such as *Acantholimon*, *Astragalus*, *Erinacea*, *Vella*, *Bupleurum*, *Ptilotrichum*, *Genista*, *Echinopartum*, *Anthyllis* and various composites and labiates; secondary, zoogenic cushion heaths of the same regions, either downslope extensions of the high-altitude formations, and dominated by the same species, or specifically montane or steppic, often *Genista*-dominated in the Mediterranean region. Excluded are cushion heaths of thermo-Mediterranean lowlands and of deserts and semideserts.

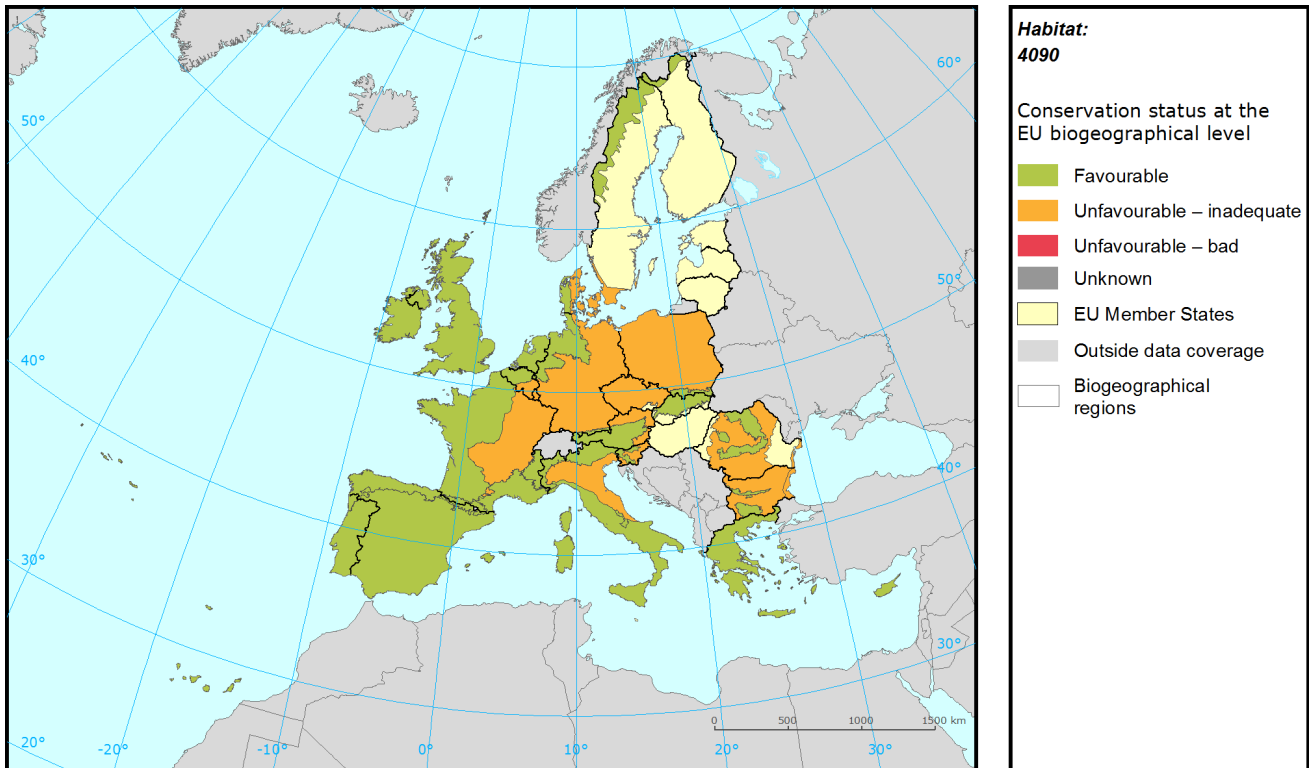
The conservation status is favourable in Alpine, Atlantic, Macaronesian and Mediterranean biogeographical regions and unfavourable-inadequate in Continental and Black Sea regions. The unfavourable-inadequate status in these two regions is due to assessment of structure & function and future prospect in this category by Bulgaria – the only country in which this habitat occurs in the respective region. In other regions all countries reported the conservation status favourable except France in Mediterranean region (unfavourable-bad) and Italy in Alpine region (unknown). Currently, the range is assessed favourable in all regions. The great improvement in the habitat knowledge is recorded because in previous assessment, the conservation status was considered unknown in all regions except Macaronesian region where it was unfavourable-inadequate.

The habitat is threatened mostly by forest and plantation management & use, agricultural intensification, burning down, continuous urbanisation, fire and fire suppression.

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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	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	5	XX	Not genuine
ATL	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV	=	10	XX	Not genuine
BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	0.03	XX	Not genuine
CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	0.65	XX	Not genuine
MAC	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV	=	0.46	U1	Not genuine
MED	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV	=	83	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Habitat: 4090

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		2.5		
ES	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		26.5	XX	Changed method
FR	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		66.7	U1	Better data
IT	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		4.3	FV	No data
ES	ATL	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		100.0	XX	Changed method
BG	BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	100.0		
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	100.0		
ES	MAC	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		100.0	U1	Changed method
ES	MED	FV	XX	FV	FV	FV		82.9	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	FV	U2	U1	U2	U2	-	6.0	U1	Better data
GR	MED	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		5.7	FV	
IT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		4.1	FV	
PT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.3	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.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	30
J01	Fire and fire suppression	30
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	20
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	20

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	33
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	33
J01	Fire and fire suppression	33

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	3		100	65		
ES	54	86			100	24
FR	6					100
IT	58					73
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	44
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	19
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	19
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	19

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=4090>

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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.