



8240 *Limestone pavements*

Habitat code	8240
Priority	Yes
Habitat group	Rocky habitats
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean

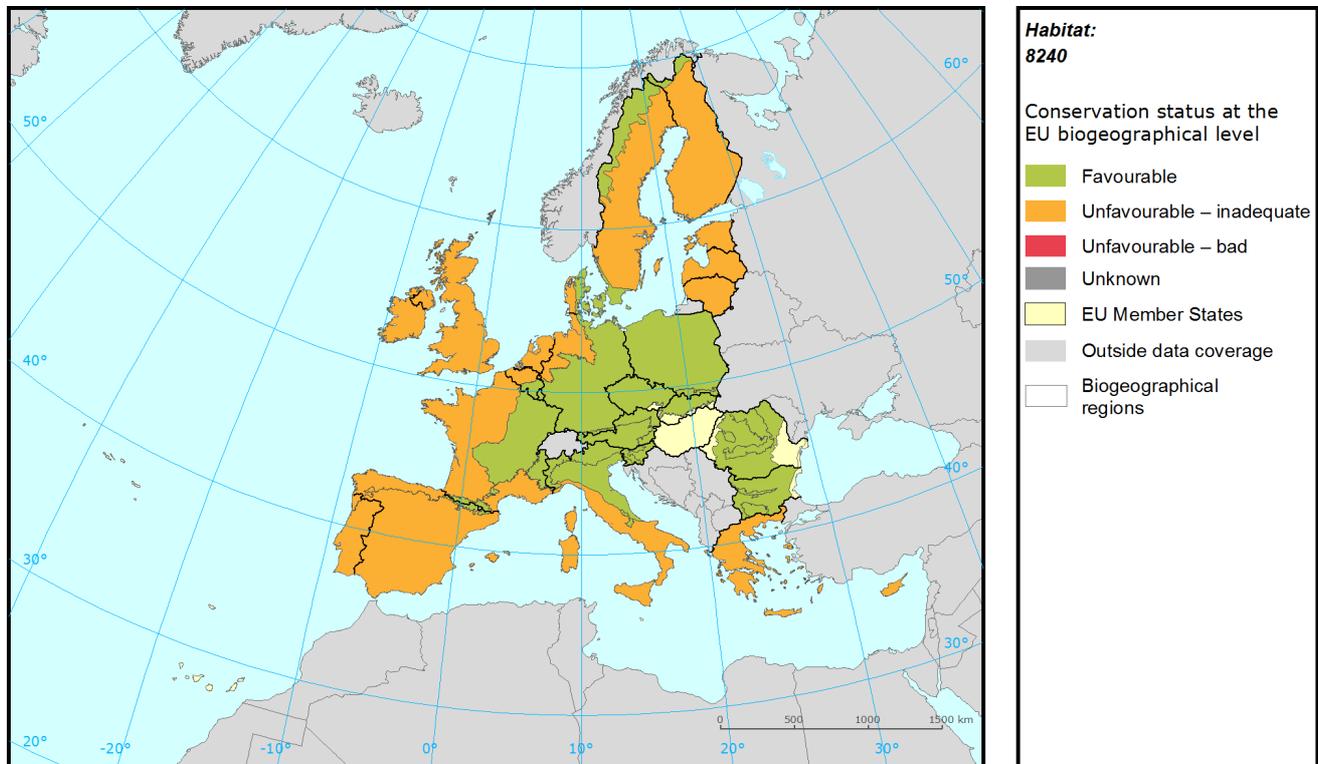
Limestone pavements (8240) – vegetation of horizontal calcareous outcrops of rocks with broken surface forming various patterns of crevices, clints and vertical fissures. Soil is hardly developed. Plant communities include mosaic of woodland, scrub, grassland and open vegetation. Crucial factor to preserve this habitat is grazing.

The conservation status is “Unfavourable-inadequate” in the Atlantic, Boreal and Mediterranean regions with declining trend in the two latter. In the Alpine and Continental region the conservation status is “Favourable” as all the member states. The only member state with an overall assessment “Unfavourable Bad” is the United Kingdom, but with improving trend. Main threats are mineral extraction and abandonment of pastoral systems which leads to overgrowth. Changes in overall conservation status between 2001-06 and 2007-12 reports are caused by different methodical approach and better data.

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



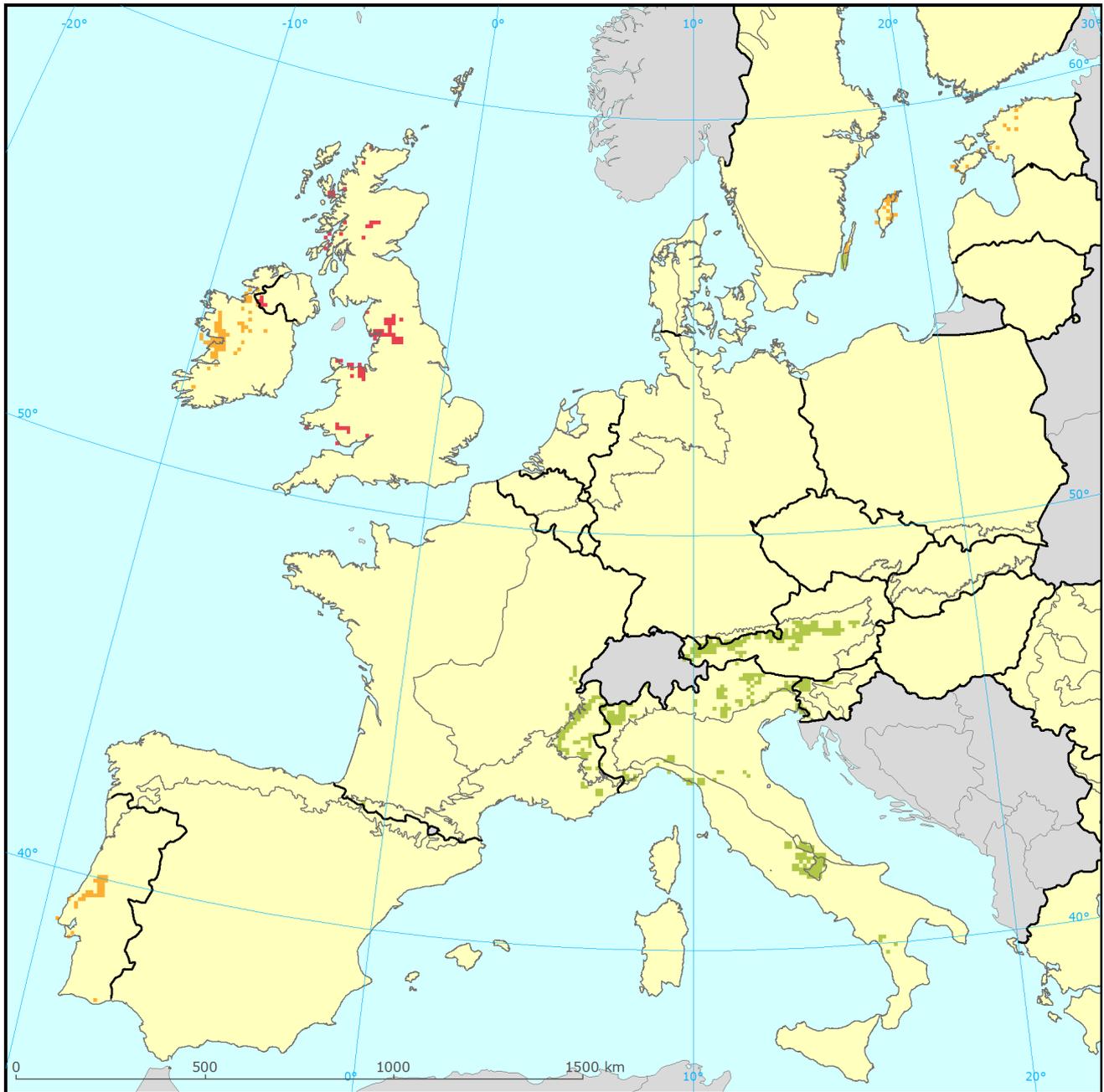
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	54	FV	
ATL	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	23	U2	Not genuine
BOR	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	6	U1	
CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		3	XX	Not genuine
MED	FV	U1	FV	U1	U1	-	14	U1	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



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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					
AT	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		38.7	FV		
FR	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		18.4	FV		
IT	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		37.4	FV		
SI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		5.5	FV		
IE	ATL	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	45.3	U1		
UK	ATL	FV	FV	U2	U1	+	54.7	U2+		
EE	BOR	FV	XX	U1	U1	-	42.1	U1		
SE	BOR	FV	FV	FV	U1	-	57.9	U1	Better data	
FR	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		56.2	XX	Better data	
IT	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV			FV		
SE	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV		43.8	FV		
FR	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV		8.4	FV		
IT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV		54.2	FV		
PT	MED	FV	U1	FV	U1	-	37.3	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
A04	Grazing by livestock	25
C01	Mining and quarrying	25
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	13
E03	Discharges (household/industrial)	13
E05	Storage of materials	13
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	13

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
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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	BOR	CON	MED
AT	22				
EE			100		
FR	62			100	100
IE		83			
IT	100			12	100
PT					x
SE			5	100	
SI	100				
UK		96			

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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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	29
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	21
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	21
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	14
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	7
6.4	Manage landscape features	7

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=Rocky+habitats&period=3&subject=8240>

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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.