



6170 *Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands*

Habitat code	6170
Priority	No
Habitat group	Grasslands
Regions	Alpine, Atlantic, Continental, Mediterranean

Calcareous grasslands of the alpine and subalpine zones of the Alps and other mountains. This habitat type includes much regional variation and the Interpretation manual of European Union habitats lists six subtypes.

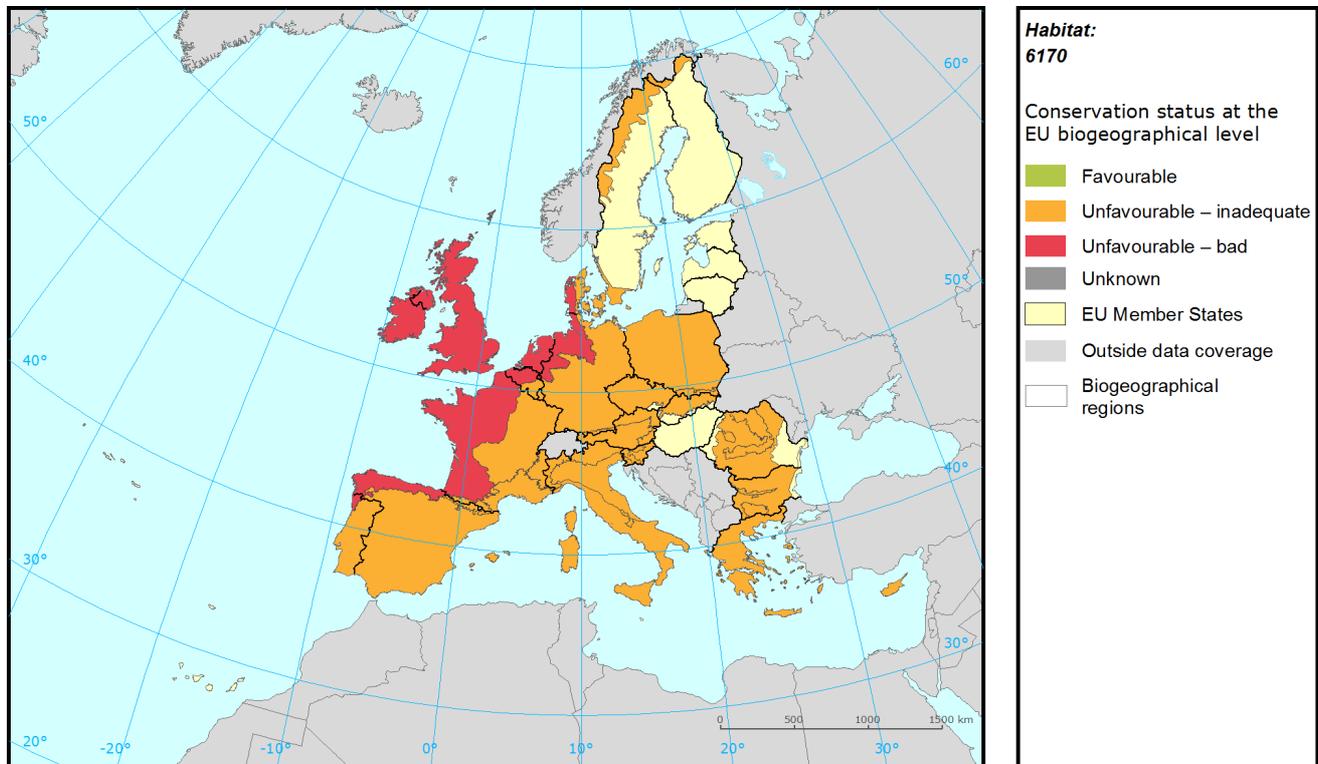
The conservation status of this habitat is unfavourable in all regions in which it occurs – unfavourable-inadequate in the Alpine, Continental and Mediterranean regions and unfavourable-bad in the Atlantic region (due to the status of the structure and functions of the habitat and its future prospects in the United Kingdom). The trend is clearly negative only in the Continental region, while in other regions it is unknown or stable. In the Alpine region most countries report this habitat as favourable. Although though no change in regional status was considered genuine, the change from improving to stable in the United Kingdom was reported to be genuine.

In the United Kingdom where the status is worst, the most intensive pressure and threat is the air pollution with changes in abiotic conditions (mostly due to climate change), species composition change due to succession or problematic native species and also trampling and overuse considered as medium importance. These factors are reported by other countries to be also of high intensity, complemented by intensive grazing and sport or recreational infrastructure and activities (skiing, also off-piste, and taking of plants), both leading to erosion. Fire and/or natural fire suppression and mining/quarrying are also noted.

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Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



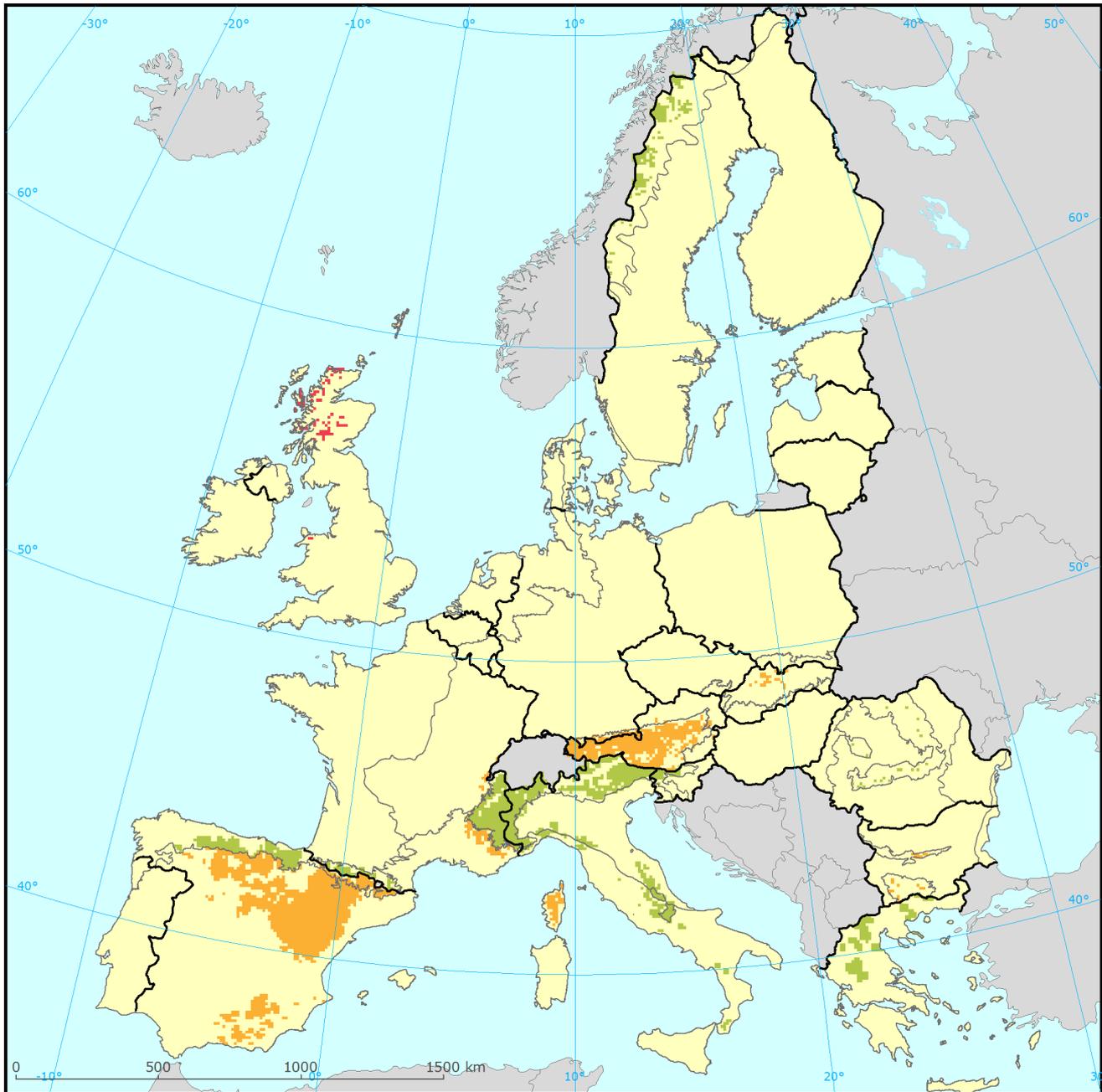
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Area	Structure & Functions	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	x	45	U1	
ATL	FV	FV	U2	U2	U2	=	7	U2	
CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	3	U1	
MED	FV	U1	XX	U1	U1	x	44	XX	Not genuine

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



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	U1	U1	U1	x	27.0	U1		
BG	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	=	1.5			
DE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	U1	=	2.4	U1		
ES	ALP	FV	U1	XX	FV	U1	x	5.0	XX	Changed method
FR	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		17.4	FV		
IT	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		28.5	FV		
PL	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.4	FV		
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		1.5			
SE	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		12.4	FV		
SI	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		2.2	FV		
SK	ALP	U1	FV	FV	XX	U1	=	1.7	U1	
ES	ATL	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		66.2	XX	Changed method
UK	ATL	FV	FV	U2	U2	U2	=	33.8	U2+	Genuine
AT	CON	FV	U1	XX	U1	U1	x	11.4	U1	
FR	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	15.2	U1	
IT	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		73.3	FV	
ES	MED	FV	U1	XX	U1	U1	x	80.5	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	7.5	U1	
GR	MED	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		5.6	FV	
IT	MED	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		6.3	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.

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
A04	Grazing by livestock	27
G02	Sport and leisure infrastructures	14
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	9
E04	Scattered structures and buildings	9
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	9
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	5
C01	Mining and quarrying	5
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	5
F04	Taking and collection of terrestrial plants	5
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	5

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A04	Grazing by livestock	30
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	10
E04	Scattered structures and buildings	10
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	5
C01	Mining and quarrying	5
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	5
F04	Taking and collection of terrestrial plants	5
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	5
G02	Sport and leisure infrastructures	5
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	5

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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	CON	MED
AT	14		5	
BG	96			
DE	71			
ES	51	100*		62
FR	70		66	100
IT	40		68	62
PL	100			
RO	57			
SE	85			
SI	94			
SK	87			
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
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	41
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	36
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	9
6.4	Manage landscape features	5
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking	5
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	5

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-

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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=6170>

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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.