



6260 *Pannonic sand steppes*

Habitat code	6260
Priority	Yes
Habitat group	Grasslands
Regions	Continental, Pannonian

Pannonic sand steppes are formations dominated by medium or tall perennial tuft-forming grasses or suffrutescents (herbs of which the above-ground parts die back annually to a woody base), with lacunar ground cover, together with their associated annual communities developed on mobile or fixed sands within the range of the Pannonic steppes (mostly the Pannonic and West Pontic basins).

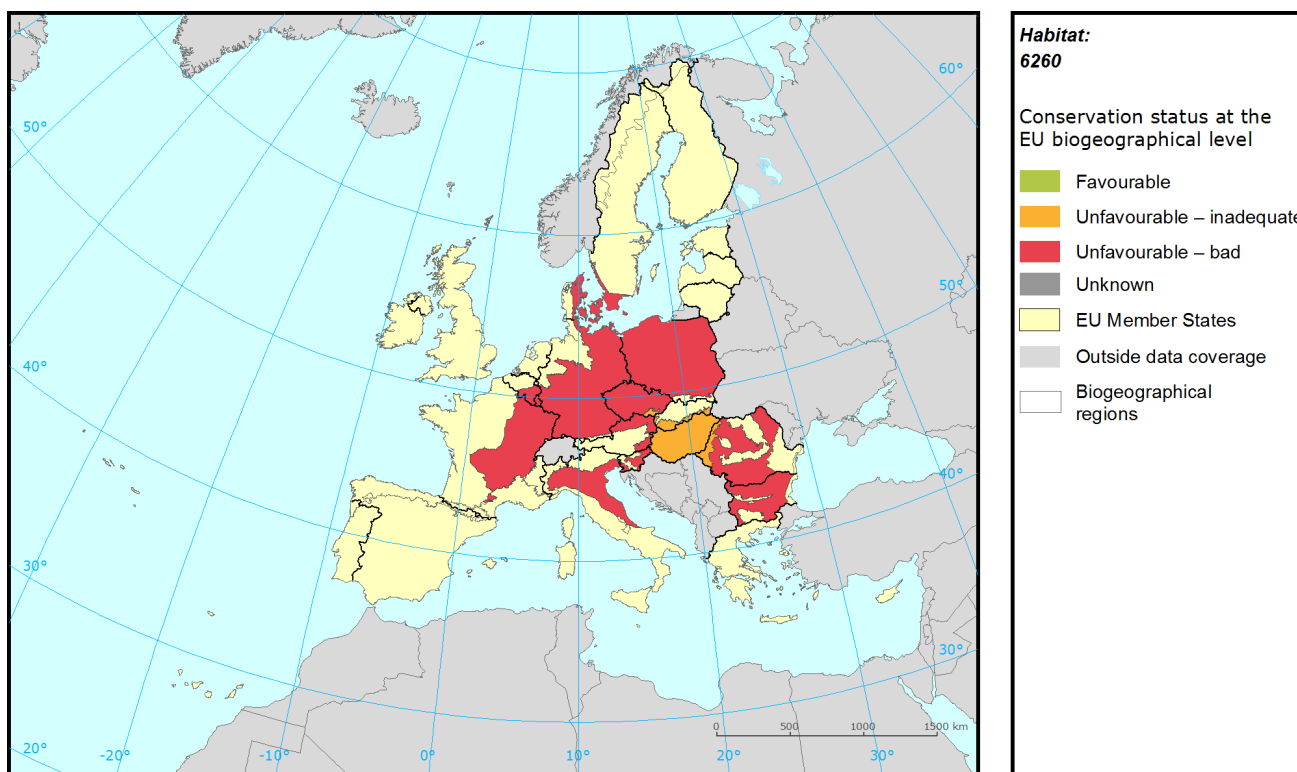
The conservation status of this habitat is unfavourable: inadequate and deteriorating in its typical region – Pannonian (due to Hungary, improved but only thanks to better data) and still bad but improving in the Continental region (due to Austria).

Main pressures and threats are mostly lack of grazing linked to succession or on the other hand intensive grazing, as well as problematic native and invasive non-native species, sand and gravel quarries and anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity.

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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					
CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	U2	+	5	U2	
PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	95	U2	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information¹

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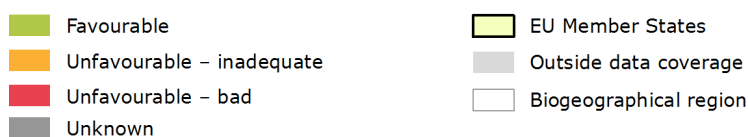
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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Habitat: 6260

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	CON	FV	U2	U2	U2	+	89.5	U2+		
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	=	10.5			
CZ	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.8	U2	Better data	
HU	PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	96.6	U2	Better data	
SK	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U2	-	2.7	U2-		

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	38
C01	Mining and quarrying	13
I01	Invasive alien species	13
I02	Problematic native species	13
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	13
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	13

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A04	Grazing by livestock	38
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I01	Invasive alien species	13
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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

	CON	PAN
AT	93	
BG	60	
CZ		90
HU		54
SK		79

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	25
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	25
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	17
2.2	Adapting crop production	8
3.0	Other forestry-related measures	8
6.0	Other spatial measures	8
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	8

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=6260>

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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.