



62C0 Ponto-Sarmatic steppes

Habitat code	62C0
Priority	Yes
Habitat group	Grasslands
Regions	Black Sea, Continental, Steppic

Ponto-Sarmatic steppes are steppes of the plains, plateaus and hills of the western Black Sea, west of the Dniester and the basins of Transylvania and of northern Thrace (including those of the lower Danube), of the southern edge and valleys of the Podolian plateau, of the Central Russian plateau, of the Volga plateau, of Orenburg and of Bachkiria, with grasses such as *Stipa capillata*, *S. lessingiana*, *Koeleria lobata* (*Koeleria degeni*), *Festuca valesiaca* and *Dichanthium ischaemum* (syn. *Bothriochloa ischaemum*).

The conservation status of this habitat is unfavourable-inadequate with stable or unknown trends in all the reported regions (Black Sea, Continental and Steppic). This habitat is reported for the first time and the conclusions are due to such status in Bulgaria and Romania. The status is exceptionally reported as favourable from Romania in the Continental region. The habitat area in Romania is however overestimated when compared with map data and checking the Standard Data Forms of 2011* therefore it had to be balanced in the regional conclusions (using map distribution data).

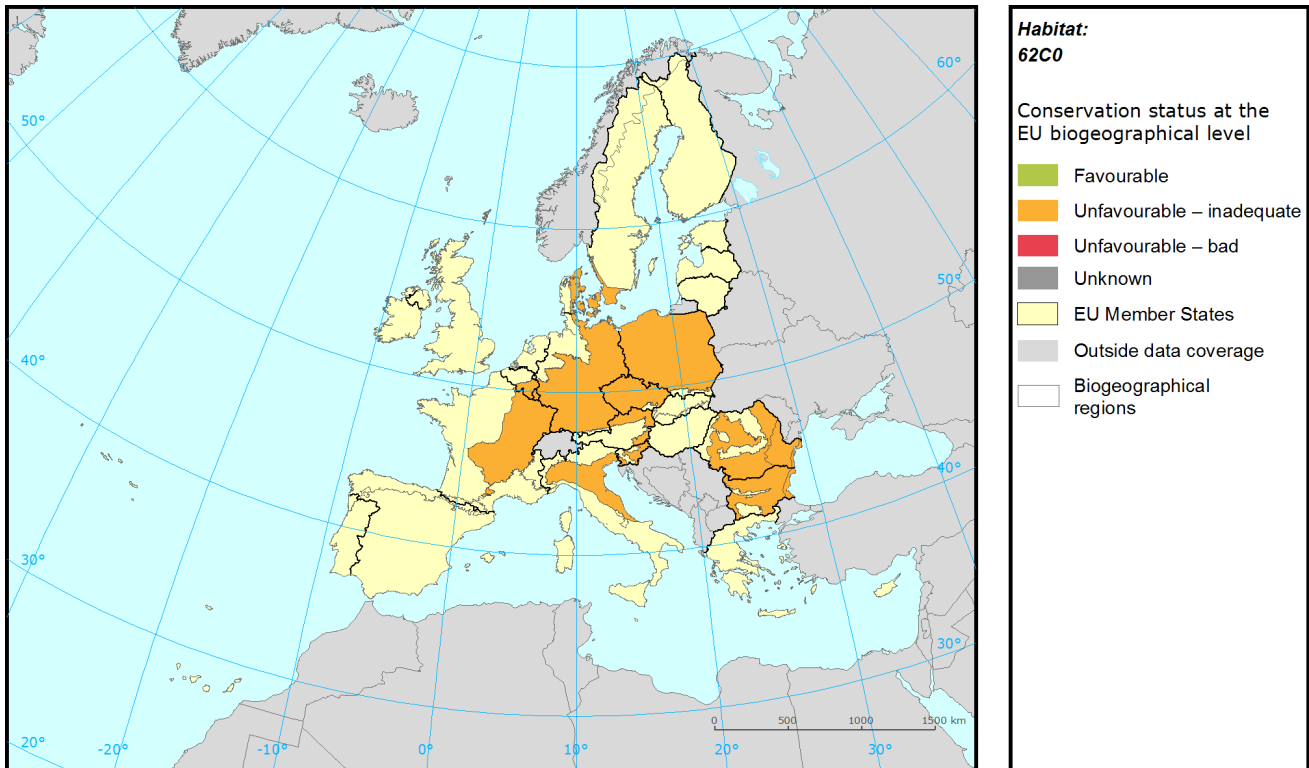
Main pressures and threats are mostly intensive grazing and sand and gravel quarries. Factors of lesser intensity are even non intensive sheep grazing, development of infrastructure, solid waste deposition and grassland removal for arable land.

*http://www.mmediu.ro/protectia_naturii/biodiversitate/2011-10-20_protectia_naturii_RO_SCI_SDF_2011.pdf

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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					
BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	27	XX	Not genuine
CON	FV	FV	U1	XX	U1	=	45	XX	Not genuine
STE	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	x	28	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Habitat: 62C0

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	BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	100.0		
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	56.8		
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	XX	FV		43.2		
RO	STE	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1		100.0		

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	50
C01	Mining and quarrying	50

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A04	Grazing by livestock	50
C01	Mining and quarrying	50

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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

	BLS	CON	STE
BG	74	29	
RO		72	91

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
2.2	Adapting crop production	25
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	25
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	25

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=62C0>

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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.