Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Period 2007-2012

**European Environment
Agency**
*European Topic Centre
on Biological Diversity*

6440 *Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the Cnidion dubii*

Habitat code   6440
Priority   No
Habitat group   Grasslands
Regions   Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Continental, Pannonian, Steppic

These meadows, which occur alongside large rivers, result from a combination of regular flooding and mowing for hay production and were typical of central Europe. The area of this habitat has been greatly reduced during the 20th Century.
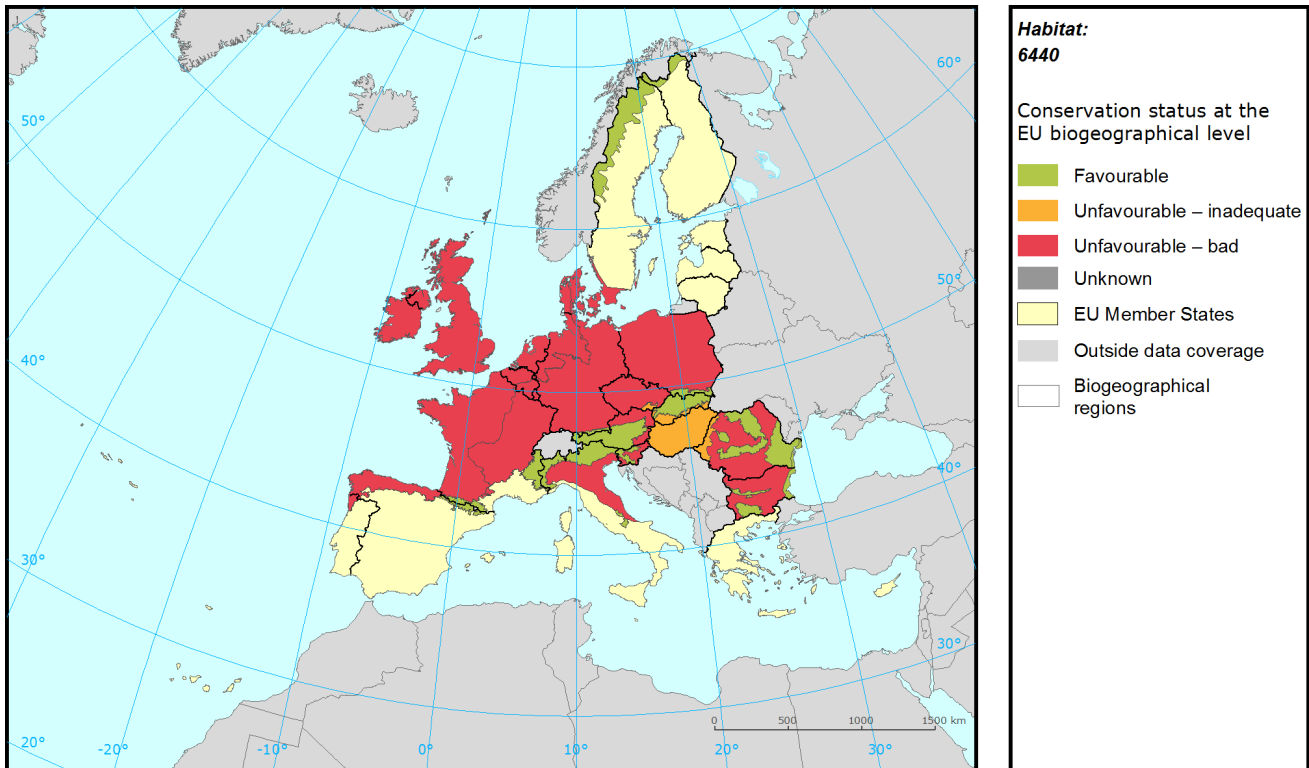
In the Atlantic and Continental region the habitat is assessed as Unfavourable-bad while in the Pannonian region the status is Unfavourable-inadequate (and deteriorating). Only Romania has reported this habitat from the Alpine, Black Sea and Steppic region and as Favourable in each region, Romania was the only country to report this habitat as Favourable in the Continental region, in each case the area reported appears to be an overestimate. There have been no genuine changes in conservation status.

The major pressures and threats include modification of cultivation practices (including agricultural intensification in mowing, grazing or grassland removal for arable land or on the contrary abandonment of mowing or grazing linked to succession), cultivation and related fertilisation, changes in hydrology or invasive non-native species. From Romania intensive mixed animal grazing is reported as a factor of medium intensity.

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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	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	0.35	XX	Not genuine
ATL	FV	U1	U2	XX	U2	x	0.44	U2	
BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	0.18	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	U1	U2	U1	U2	=	23	U2	
PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	75	U2	Not genuine
STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV	=	0.88	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information[i]

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level

Habitat: 6440

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- Favourable
- Unfavourable – inadequate
- Unfavourable – bad
- Unknown

- EU Member States
- Outside data coverage
- Biogeographical region

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					
RO	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0		
DE	ATL	FV	U1	U2	XX	U2	x	100.0	U2	
RO	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		100.0		
AT	CON	U1	U2	U1	U2	U2	=	6.8	U2	
BG	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	3.8		
CZ	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	4.9	U2	Better data
DE	CON	FV	U1	U2	U1	U2	=	62.5	U2	
FR	CON	U2	U2	U2	U1	U2	-	0.8	U2	
PL	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	15.5	U1	
RO	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		5.7		
CZ	PAN	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	=	1.5	U2	Better data
HU	PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	95.3	U2	Changed method
RO	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		0.4		
SK	PAN	FV	U1	FV	FV	U1	=	2.8	U1	
RO	STE	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		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
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	24
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	24
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	18
A04	Grazing by livestock	12
A01	Agricultural cultivation	6
I01	Invasive alien species	6
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	6
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	6

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	25
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	19
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	19
A03	Mowing or cutting grasslands	13
A01	Agricultural cultivation	6
A04	Grazing by livestock	6
I01	Invasive alien species	6
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	6

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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	BLS	CON	PAN	STE
AT				100		
BG				70		
CZ				80	74	
DE		86		96		
FR				100		
HU					76	
PL				42		
RO	57		71	54	53	64
SK					50	

See the endnotes for more information[ii]

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	28
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	20
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	16
6.0	Other spatial measures	12
2.2	Adapting crop production	8
6.4	Manage landscape features	8
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures	4
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land	4

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/?

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group=Grasslands&period=3&subject=6440

[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.