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

# 6510 *Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)*

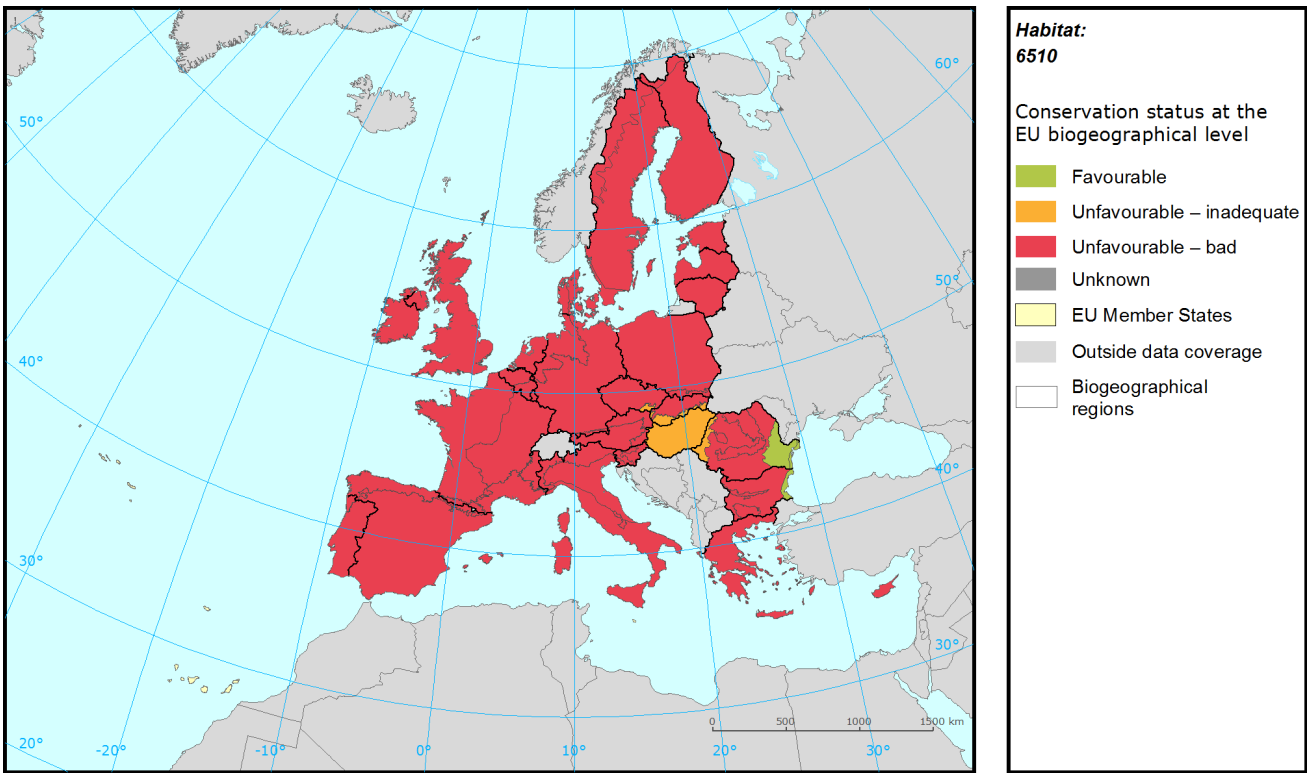
| | |
|---|---|
| **Habitat code** | 6510 |
| **Priority** | No |
| **Habitat group** | Grasslands |
| **Regions** | Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic |

Haymeadows at low altitudes which are mown after most of the plants have flowered, they may be lightly fertilised but frequent or heavy fertilisation quickly reduces the species diversity. These meadows are important for a wide range of invertebrates as well as plants. This habitat is widespread in central and northern Europe, also occurring, but more rarely, in the Mediterranean region.

The conservation status of this habitat is generally unfavourable: Unfavourable-bad (and deteriorating) in five out of eight regions (Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental and Mediterranean and usually due to several countries) and unfavourable-inadequate but stable only in the Pannonian region (due to Hungary). It is favourable only in the Black Sea and Steppic regions (only Bulgaria and Romania). However the areas reported by Romania appear overestimated when compared with the map data and the Standard Data Forms for sites where this habitat occurs. The change from Unfavourable-inadequate to Unfavourable-bad (and deteriorating) in the Continental region is considered genuine although partly due to changes in methodology.

The major pressures and threats are modification of cultivation practices (agricultural intensification in mowing or grazing and grassland removal for arable land but also abandonment), cultivation itself and fertilisation and use of chemicals, urbanised areas and their development, forest planting on open ground and invasive non-native species.

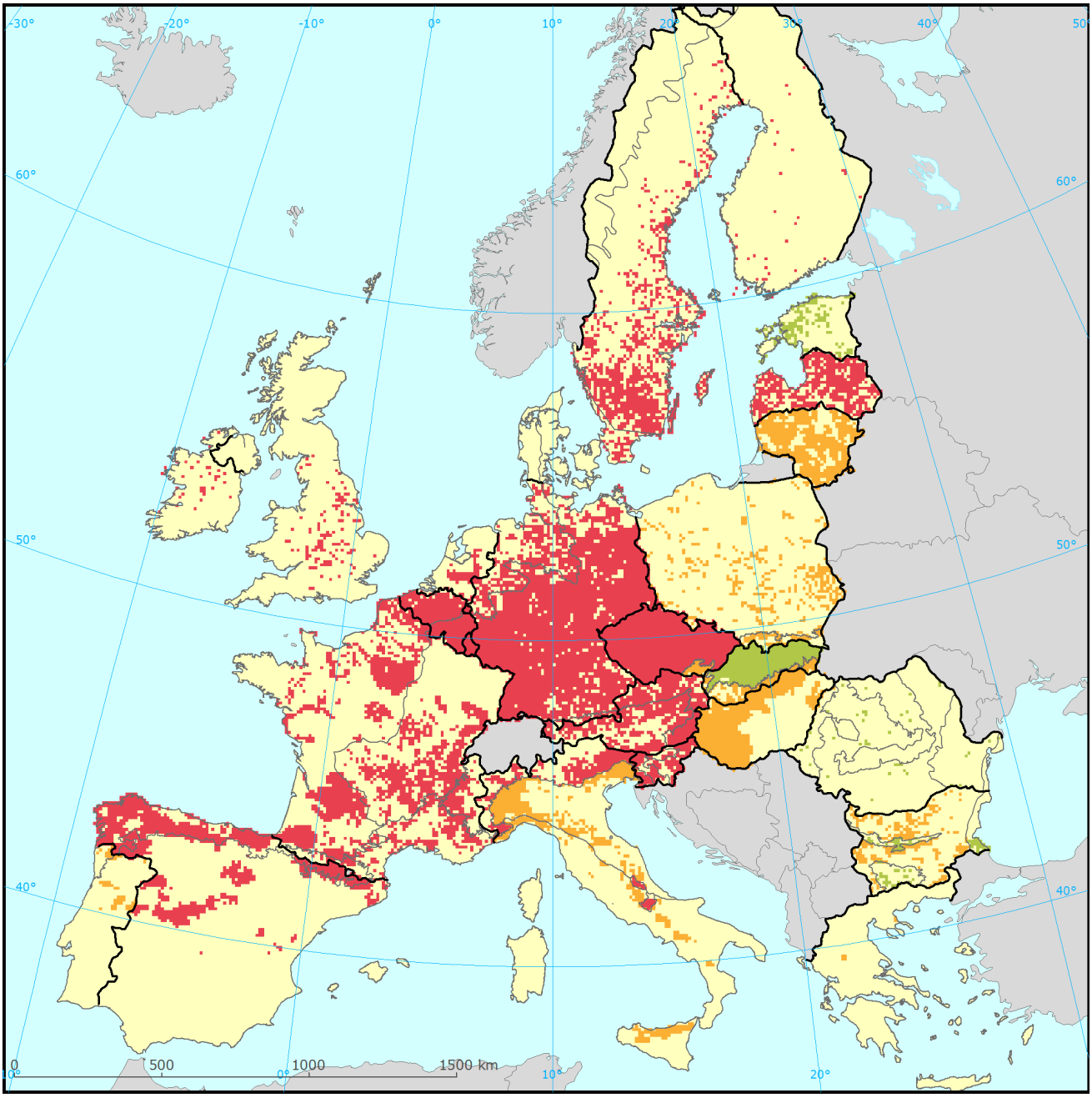
# Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level




| 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 | U2 | U2 | - | 11 | U1 | Not genuine |
| ATL | U1 | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 17 | U2 | |
| BLS | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | = | 0.2 | XX | Not genuine |
| BOR | U1 | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 16 | U2 | |
| CON | U1 | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 44 | U1 | Genuine |
| MED | U1 | U1 | XX | U2 | U2 | - | 7 | XX | Not genuine |
| PAN | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | U1 | = | 5 | U2 | Not genuine |
| STE | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | = | 0.04 | XX | Not genuine |

See the endnote for more information[i]

## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level




***Habitat: 6510***

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.

| 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 | U2 | U2 | x | 25.2 | U2 | |
| BG | ALP | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 4.1 | | |
| DE | ALP | U1 | U2 | U1 | U1 | U2 | - | 1.7 | U2 | Genuine |
| ES | ALP | U1 | U1 | XX | U2 | U2 | - | 6.7 | XX | Changed method |
| FR | ALP | FV | U1 | U1 | U2 | U2 | - | 8.5 | U1 | Genuine |
| IT | ALP | U1 | U1 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 19.2 | U1 | Changed method |
| PL | ALP | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | U1 | - | 3.6 | U1 | |
| RO | ALP | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 0.4 | | |
| SI | ALP | FV | U2 | U1 | U2 | U2 | - | 3.4 | U2 | Genuine |
| SK | ALP | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 27.3 | FV | |
| BE | ATL | FV | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 8.9 | U2 | Genuine |
| DE | ATL | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 16.9 | U2 | Genuine |
| ES | ATL | U1 | U1 | U1 | U2 | U2 | - | 22.3 | XX | Changed method |
| FR | ATL | FV | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 41.2 | U2 | |
| IE | ATL | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | = | 1.7 | U2 | |
| NL | ATL | U2 | U2 | U1 | U1 | U2 | = | 2.9 | U2 | |
| PT | ATL | FV | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | - | 0.4 | U1 | |
| UK | ATL | FV | U1 | U2 | U2 | U2 | + | 5.6 | U2+ | |
| BG | BLS | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 95.8 | | |
| RO | BLS | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 4.2 | | |
| EE | BOR | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 7.2 | FV | |
| FI | BOR | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 2.0 | U2- | |
| LT | BOR | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | U1 | = | 24.6 | U1 | Genuine |
| LV | BOR | FV | U1 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 22.2 | U1 | Better data |
| SE | BOR | FV | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 44.0 | U2- | |
| AT | CON | FV | U1 | U1 | U2 | U2 | x | 4.8 | U2 | |
| BE | CON | FV | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 2.3 | U2 | Genuine |
| BG | CON | FV | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | = | 4.2 | | |
| CZ | CON | FV | FV | U2 | U1 | U2 | + | 14.6 | U2 | Changed method |
| DE | CON | U1 | U2 | U1 | U2 | U2 | - | 45.9 | U1 | Genuine |
| FR | CON | U1 | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 10.8 | U2 | |
| IT | CON | U1 | U1 | U1 | U1 | U1 | = | 6.1 | U1 | Changed method |
| LU | CON | FV | U1 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 0.5 | U1 | Genuine |

| 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 | | | | | |
| PL | CON | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | U1 | - | 6.9 | U1 | |
| RO | CON | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 0.5 | | |
| SE | CON | FV | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 1.5 | U2- | |
| SI | CON | FV | U2 | U1 | U2 | U2 | - | 1.8 | U2 | Genuine |
| ES | MED | U1 | U1 | XX | U2 | U2 | - | 47.1 | XX | Changed method |
| FR | MED | FV | U2 | U2 | U2 | U2 | - | 24.2 | U2 | |
| GR | MED | U1 | U1 | FV | U1 | U1 | | 0.2 | U1 | |
| IT | MED | FV | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | - | 23.4 | FV | Changed method |
| PT | MED | FV | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | - | 5.1 | U1 | |
| CZ | PAN | FV | U1 | U1 | FV | U1 | = | 4.9 | U2 | Better data |
| HU | PAN | FV | U1 | U1 | U1 | U1 | = | 78.4 | U2 | Changed method |
| RO | PAN | FV | FV | FV | FV | FV | | 0.9 | | |
| SK | PAN | FV | U1 | FV | FV | U1 | = | 15.8 | 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 |
|---|---|---|
| A03 | Mowing or cutting grasslands | 24 |
| A02 | Modification of cultivation practices | 22 |
| A08 | Fertilisation in agriculture | 16 |
| A04 | Grazing by livestock | 12 |
| A01 | Agricultural cultivation | 6 |
| E01 | Urbanisation and human habitation | 5 |
| B01 | Afforestation | 3 |
| A07 | Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture | 2 |
| E02 | Industrial or commercial areas | 2 |
| I01 | Invasive alien species | 2 |

**Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats**

| Code | Activity | Frequency |
|---|---|---|
| A03 | Mowing or cutting grasslands | 23 |
| A02 | Modification of cultivation practices | 21 |
| A08 | Fertilisation in agriculture | 15 |
| A04 | Grazing by livestock | 12 |
| A01 | Agricultural cultivation | 8 |
| E01 | Urbanisation and human habitation | 5 |
| B01 | Afforestation | 3 |
| E02 | Industrial or commercial areas | 3 |
| A06 | Crops of annuals & perennials (non-timber) | 2 |
| A07 | Use of 'pesticides' in agriculture | 2 |

## 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 | BOR | CON | MED | PAN | STE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AT** | 22 | | | | 31 | | | |
| **BE** | | 20 | | | 33 | | | |
| **BG** | 61 | | 32 | | 68 | | | |
| **CZ** | | | | | 16 | | 26 | |
| **DE** | 70 | x | | | 48 | | | |
| **EE** | | | | 52 | | | | |
| **ES** | 26 | 10 | | | | 36 | | |
| **FI** | | | | 100 | | | | |
| **FR** | 45 | 15 | | | x | 100 | | |
| **HU** | | | | | | | 79 | |
| **IE** | | 56 | | | | | | |
| **IT** | 12 | | | | 9 | 76 | | |
| **LT** | | | | 27 | | | | |
| **LU** | | | | | 16 | | | |
| **LV** | | | | 36 | | | | |
| **NL** | | 80 | | | | | | |
| **PL** | 9 | | | | 18 | | | |
| **PT** | | x | | | | x | | |
| **RO** | 34 | | 59 | | 86 | | 75 | 78 |
| **SE** | | | | 23 | 26 | | | |
| **SI** | 79 | | | | 31 | | | |
| **SK** | 15 | | | | | | 15 | |
| **UK** | | 44 | | | | | | |

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 | 37 |
| 6.1 | Establish protected areas/sites | 20 |
| 2.0 | Other agriculture-related measures | 9 |
| 6.3 | Legal protection of habitats and species | 6 |
| 2.2 | Adapting crop production | 5 |
| 6.4 | Manage landscape features | 5 |
| 4.2 | Restoring/improving the hydrological regime | 4 |
| 6.0 | Other spatial measures | 4 |
| 9.1 | Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land | 4 |
| 4.0 | Other wetland-related measures | 2 |

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=6510

[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.