



Technical paper N° 2/2016

**Supporting elements for
Atlantic Natura 2000 review seminar
(2nd part: Fact sheets for “Low hanging fruits” habitats)**

Mora Aronsson, Luboš Halada, Katarina Gerhatova,
Alexandra Klimantova, Dominique Richard and Jérôme Bailly Maitre

October 2016

Authors' affiliation:

Mora Aronsson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SE)
Luboš Halada, Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SK)
Katarina Gerhatova, Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SK)
Alexandra Klimantova, Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SK)
Dominique Richard, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (FR)
Jérôme Bailly Maitre, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (FR)

EEA project manager:

Beate Werner, European Environment Agency (DK)

ETC/BD production support:

Muriel Vincent, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (FR)

Context:

The Topic Centre has prepared this Technical paper in collaboration with the European Environment Agency (EEA) under its 2016 work programmes as a contribution to the EEA's work on support to the New Natura 2000 biogeographical process.

Citation:

Please cite this report as
Aronsson, M., Halada, L., Gerhatova, K., Klimantova, A., Richard, D. and Bailly Maitre, J., 2016. Supporting elements for Atlantic Natura 2000 review seminar (2nd part: Fact sheets for "Low hanging fruits" habitats). ETC/BD report to the EEA.

Disclaimer:

This European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) Technical Paper has not been subject to a European Environment Agency (EEA) member country review. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the official opinions of the EEA. Neither the ETC/BD nor any person or company acting on behalf of the ETC/BD is responsible for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report.

©ETC/BD 2016
ETC/BD Technical paper N° 2/2016
European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity
c/o Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
57 rue Cuvier
75231 Paris cedex, France
Phone: + 33 1 40 79 38 70
E-mail: etc.biodiversity@mnhn.fr
Website: <http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/>

Contents

1	Introduction	4
2	Fact sheets for LHF habitat types.....	5
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.....	6
1340	Inland salt meadows	11
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	14
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	18
2180	Wooded dunes of the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal region	22
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>).....	26
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.....	30
3180	Turloughs.....	35
3270	Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation	38
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	42
5230	Arborescent matorral with <i>Laurus nobilis</i>	47
6440	Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the <i>Cnidion dubii</i>	50
9110	Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests	53
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests.....	57
9150	Medio-European limestone beech forests of the Cephalanthero-Fagion.....	61
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles.....	65
91C0	Caledonian forest.....	68
91J0	<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles.....	71
9260	<i>Castanea sativa</i> woods.....	74
3	Template for reporting on Member States perspectives	77

1 Introduction

The following fact sheets describe 19 habitat-types from the Atlantic region selected as “Low Hanging Fruits’ habitats according to the methodology described in the document entitled “Supporting elements for the Atlantic review seminar, 1st part: core document”.

The following information is provided for each habitat:

- Summary: A summary of main features described in the following sections:
- Habitat description: as reflected in Manual of Habitats interpretation
- Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network: as reported by Member States in their 2013 report (covering the period 2007-2012)
- Biogeographical conservation status assessment: as reported by Member States in their 2013 report (covering the period 2007-2012) and available at:
<http://bd.Eionet.europar.eu/article17/reports2012>
- Pressures, threats and proposed measures: as reported by Member States in their 2013 report (covering the period 2007-2012)
- Reason for selection as ‘Low Hanging Fruit’ habitat in the Atlantic region: outcome of an analysis of the parameters which could rapidly improve
- Priority conservation measures needed: outcome of an expert judgement analysis
- Links: link to the relevant page on the Art 17 portal
<http://bd.Eionet.europar.eu/article17/reports2012>
- In addition, a section to be filled by Member States is appended to each fact-sheet.

2 Fact sheets for LHF habitat types

1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate due to the assessment of Ireland, two other countries (United Kingdom and Denmark) assessed the conservation status in their territory as unfavourable – bad. Habitat 1230 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region distributed along coasts of Ireland (89% of the habitat area), United Kingdom, northwest France and northwest Spain, with rare occurrence in Denmark, Germany and Portugal.

The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires improvement of structure and function and stopping of decreased trend of the habitat area in Ireland. It is necessary to address especially following pressures: sand and gravel extraction, sea defence structures (tidal barrages), paths, tracks and cycling tracks as well as invasive non-native species.

Habitat description

Vegetated cliffs exhibit a complex pattern of variation reflecting the degree of maritime exposure, geology and geomorphology, biogeographical provenance and pattern of human management. Typically, on the most exposed cliffs there is a zonation from crevice and ledge communities of the steepest slopes beside the sea (*Crithmo-Armerietalia*) through to closed maritime grasslands on upper cliff slopes, cliff tops and cliff ledges where there is deeper accumulation of soils (*Silenion maritimae*). Further inland and on more sheltered cliffs, these grade into a complex assemblage of maritime and paramaritime types of heath, calcareous grassland, acid grassland, therophyte, tall herb, scrub and wind-pruned woodland vegetation, each enriched by coastal floristic elements.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

The habitat is widespread along the whole coastline of United Kingdom and Ireland. It also occurs on the Atlantic coast of northwest France, and northwest Spain. It is rare in Denmark, Germany and Portugal. Ireland hosts the largest habitat area (close to 90%), United Kingdom around 9% and in other countries the habitat type occurs in small area.

Around half of the area of the habitat type in the Atlantic biogeographical region is protected in Natura 2000 sites, with highest proportion in Germany and Spain (ca 88%).



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage/%/	Nb of sites
Belgium			
Germany	0.2	88.0	5
Denmark	0.4-4.0	20.0-200.0*	5
Spain	29.0	87.9	46
France	30.0-45.0	50.0-75.0	53
Ireland	990.0-1,067.0	45.9-49.4	34
Netherlands			
Portugal	0.2		2
United Kingdom	86.9	39.2	57
ATL Region	1,136.6-1,232.2	45.9-49.8	202

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographicalal region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

* too broad range reported

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographicalal region is unfavourable-inadequate and stable due to assessment of Ireland – the main distribution of the habitat is in this country. Except for range that is favourable, all other parameters were assessed as unfavourable inadequate. United Kingdom and Denmark reported unfavourable – bad status, while Spain unknown status. The area of the habitat is slightly decreasing and there are problems with structure and functions and future prospect in most of the MS.

The overall conservation status for the region has been changed from unknown to unfavourable – inadequate against previous assessment (2001-2006) due to better data in Denmark. United Kingdom reported change in the overall qualifier from improving to stable as a genuine change.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
DE	1020.85	1.1	0	1020.85	0.25	0	0	≈0.25	FV	XX	FV		FV	nc	1500	1	500	0.6
DK	2	0	0	≈2	2	0.1	0	≈2	U2	U2	U2	x	XX	b1	3700	2.5	700	0.8
ES	16516	18.4	x	≈16516	33	1.3	x	≈33	XX	XX	XX		XX		17400	11.8	12100	14.5
FR	14700	16.4	0	≈14700	60	2.4	0	≈60	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	14600	9.9	14600	17.4
IE	24000	26.7	0	24000	2159	87.2	-	2159	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	20700	14	17500	20.9
PT	200	0.2	0	≈200	N/A	N/A	-	≈	U1	U1	U1	-	U1	nc	200	0.1	200	0.2
UK	33463.04	37.2	0	33463.04	221.38	8.9	-	>221.38	U2	U1	U2	=	U2+	a	89400	60.6	38100	45.5

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	89902	1	0	89902	2476	1	-	>2476	2XA	2XA	MTX	=	XX	no	D	=

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
----------------------------	----	------------	----	---------------------------	----	--------------------	----	---------

Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown
--------------	---

Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

The countries reported broad range of pressures, considering urbanisation, sport and invasive non-native species as the most important ones. The negative impacts of measures to control coastal erosion contribute to the unfavourable conservation status.

The restoration of coastal areas and establishing protected areas were identified as the highly needed measures.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A04	grazing									H
A08	Fertilisation			H						
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above									M
C01.01	Sand and gravel extraction						M			
D01	Roads, paths and railroads					M				
D01.01	paths, tracks, cycling tracks						M			
D03	shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions				M					
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation				H	H			M	
E02	Industrial or commercial areas				M					
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture				M					
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources				M					
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities				M	H				H
G02	Sport and leisure structures								M	
G04	Military use and civil unrest					M				
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances				M					M
G05.01	Trampling, overuse								H	
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)				M					
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants			M						M
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)				H					M
I01	invasive non-native species			M	M	M	M			
I02	problematic native species									H
J01	fire and fire suppression					M				
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions									M
J02.12.01	sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages						M			
J03.01	reduction or loss of specific habitat features		M							
J03.02	anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity			M						
J03.03	reduction, lack or prevention of erosion		M							
K01	abiotic (slow) natural processes			M						
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession					M				
K04	Interspecific floral relations					M				
L05	collapse of terrain, landslide						M			
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions									M
M01.03	flooding and rising precipitations						M			
Note:										

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.1	No measures needed for the conservation of the habitat/species					H				
1.2	Measures needed, but not implemented						M			
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats					M				H
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality				M					
4.4	Restoring coastal areas				H	H				H
5.0	Other marine-related measures		H							
6.0	Other spatial measures		H			M			H	
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites				H	H			H	
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species				H		M			
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking					M				
Legend:	L	Low intensity	M	Medium intensity	H	High intensity				

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 1230 reached the LHF score 20.96. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement,

the change from stable to improving trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of quite high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (45-50 %) and the fact that the improvement of trend of two parameters (area; structure and functions) in one country (Ireland) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of the decreasing trend of habitat area and reaching improvement of the structure and function in Ireland is needed. Stopping of decreased trend of the habitat area in Ireland probably should be not very problematic – Ireland assessed area as favourable, with extent corresponding to the reference value. The measures for maintenance of existing habitat sites and (if needed) for restoration of damaged sites should be applied. The attention should be paid also to improvement of structure and functions of the habitat and to address especially pressures reported by the country: sand and gravel extraction, sea defence structures (tidal barrages), paths, tracks and cycling tracks as well as invasive non-native species. None of them was reported as high-intensity pressure by Ireland, what gives better chances for their elimination.

The measures for stopping the decrease of the habitat area should be taken besides Ireland also in Portugal and United Kingdom. It is urgent to improve structure and functions in United Kingdom and Denmark. Despite generally high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites, the establishment of protected areas is considered as the most important measure. It could be applied especially in countries having relatively lower proportion of the habitat area protected (United Kingdom, Ireland, possibly France. Three countries proposed the restoration of coastal areas – this measure could be beneficial for this and also other coastal habitat types.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Coastal+habitats&subject=1230®ion=ATL>

1340 Inland salt meadows

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using "Low hanging fruit" approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate due to the assessment of Germany that assessed all parameters in this category. Habitat 1340 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region very rare, occurring only in Germany and United Kingdom, with high proportion (97.9 %) being in United Kingdom.

The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires to adopt measures for proper agricultural management of the habitat areas. The location of whole distribution of the habitat type in the Natura 2000 sites should facilitate implementation of necessary measures.

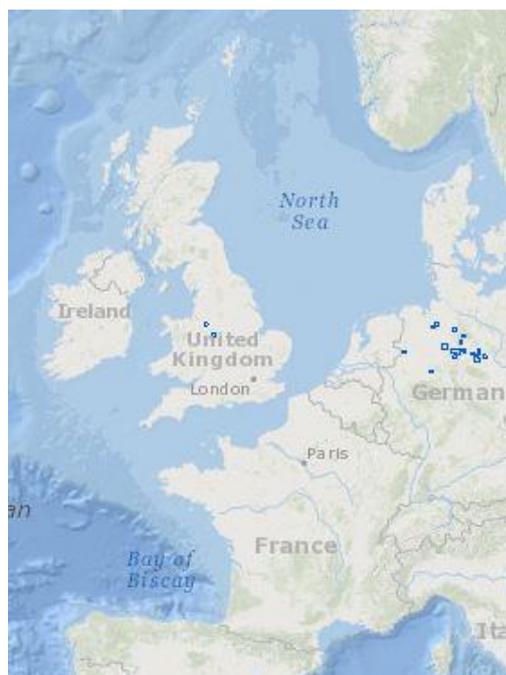
Habitat description

Non-coastal natural salt basins made up of different habitat types consisting of zones of seepage of saline water, running or stagnant saline water, with typical halophilous vegetation and of reed beds at the edge of brackish waters.

Artificial or partly artificial sites should only be considered here in specific cases where they harbour a species listed in Annex II of the Directive, or where there are no remaining natural (primary) examples of the habitat at regional or national level.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

Habitat is very rare in the Atlantic biogeographical region, its main distribution is in Continental region. In Atlantic region, it mostly occurs in Germany and there are only two sites known in the United Kingdom. It does not occur in other countries of the region. The habitat area is small – corresponding to 0.21 km² with dominant (98%) distribution in Germany. The habitat distribution is well covered by Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany	0.2-0.2	100.0-104.3	13
Denmark			
Spain			
France			
Ireland			
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom	0.005	100.0	1
ATL Region	0.205	102.1	14

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable-inadequate due to assessment of Germany that assessed all parameters in this category. By contrast, range, area and future prospect are considered favourable in the United Kingdom but structure & function is unfavourable bad. In Germany, the biggest and most important primary sites are stable while the secondary sites are partially deteriorating.

The overall conservation status for the region was improved against previous assessment (2001-2006) when it was reported as unfavourable - bad. However, this improvement is reported as not genuine, due to improved knowledge on the habitat.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
DE	3482.54	89.7	-	>3482.54	0.23	97.9	0	>0.23	U1	U1	U1	-	U2	b1	7400	87.1	2400	92.3
UK	400	10.3	0	400	0.01	2.1	0	0.01	U2	FV	U2	+	U2+		1100	12.9	200	7.7

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	3883	1	-	>3883	0.235	1	0	>0.235	2XA	2XA	MTX	-	U2	no	C	-
EU27	3883			3883	0.235			0.235				N/A	N/A		D	=

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographical Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

Lack of mowing, abandonment of sites and succession steaming from the previous are noted as high intensity pressures. To pressures of medium intensity belong fertilisation and abandonment of pastoral system.

Number of highly important measures was proposed. Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats, establish protected areas, manage landscape features and legal protection of habitats and species are required.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A03.03	abandonment / lack of mowing		H							
A04.03	abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing		M							
A08	Fertilisation		M							
C01.05.01	abandonment of saltpans (salinas)		M							
K02.01	species composition change (succession)		H							
A04	Grazing									H

Note:

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures									M
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats		H							H
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites		H							H
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species		H							H
6.4	Manage landscape features		H							
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures		H							
Legend:	L Low intensity	M Medium intensity	H High intensity							

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 1340 reached the LHF score 5.0. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from negative to stable trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because almost all distribution of the habitat is located in Natura 2000 sites and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and functions) in one country (Germany) is needed to reach the overall improvement. It is also feasible to address the pressures reported for this habitat (abandonment, fertilisation, species composition changes).

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and functions in Germany is needed. The main pressures are related to abandonment of agriculture and Salinas and resulting successional changes of vegetation. Thus, it is crucial to adopt measures for proper agricultural management of the habitat areas. Due to small area of the habitat type in Germany and its location in Natura 2000 sites, implementation of these measures should be feasible.

Similar measures, especially suitable intensity of grazing should be applied in the habitat sites also in United Kingdom.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Coastal+habitats&subject=1340®ion=ATL>

1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate due to the assessment of structure and function by France. Habitat 1420 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region restricted to coastal areas in the south of the Atlantic region, mainly in France and Spain, more rare is in United Kingdom and Ireland, with high proportion (83.7 %) being in France.

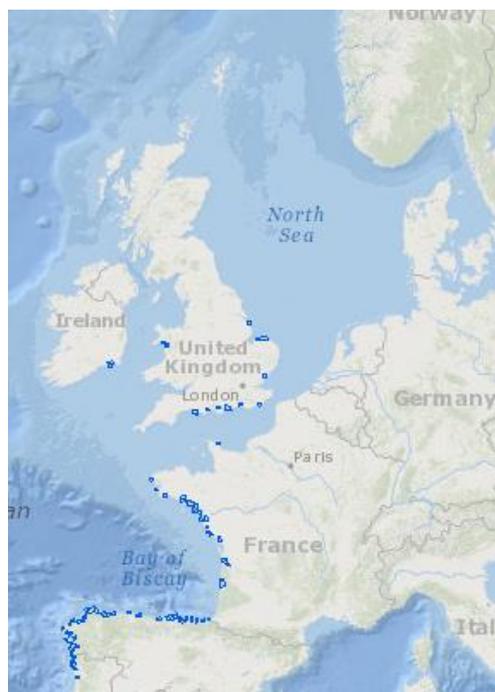
The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires improvement of the parameter Structure and function in France, especially addressing the reported pressures (roads, paths and railroads as well as marine and freshwater aquaculture) in the Natura 2000 sites.

Habitat description

Perennial vegetation of marine saline muds (schorre) mainly composed of scrub, essentially with a Mediterranean-Atlantic distribution (*Salicornia*, *Limonium vulgare*, *Suaeda* and *Atriplex* communities) and belonging to the *Sarcocornetea fruticosi* class.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

The habitat is mostly distributed in the Mediterranean region. In the Atlantic biogeographical region it is restricted to coastal areas of its south part: mainly in the Atlantic coast of Spain and southwestern part of the France coast. A few sites are spread in the south of the United Kingdom and Ireland. The centre of the habitat distribution in Atlantic region is in France with main part of the habitat area (ca 84 %). Spain hosts 14.5 % of the habitat area, the habitat occurrence in other countries is low. The habitat is well represented in the Natura 2000 sites in Atlantic region.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany			
Denmark			
Spain	10.00	118.2	41
France	49.00	100.0	24
Ireland	0.01	100.0	2
Netherlands			
Portugal			3
United Kingdom	1.07	100.0	5
ATL Region	60.08	102.6	75

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographicalal region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - inadequate due to assessment of structure and function by France. United Kingdom and Ireland assessed the conservation status in their territories as unfavourable – bad. Better information about the habitat is required in Spain.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
ES	13946	62.1	0	≈13946	8.47	14.5	0	≈8.47	XX	XX	XX		XX		14400	51.8	7700	53.8
FR	3800	16.9	0	≈3800	49	83.7	0	≈49	U1	FV	U1	=	U1	nc	3800	13.7	3800	26.6
IE	400	1.8	0	400	0.01	0	-	>0.01	FV	U1	U2	-	U2	a	300	1.1	300	2.1
PT	2200	9.8	0	≈2200	N/A	N/A	0	≈	U1	FV	U1	=	U1	nc	2000	7.2	700	4.9
UK	2099.24	9.4	0	2099.24	1.07	1.8	x	>1.07	U2	U1	U2	+	U1-	a	7300	26.3	1800	12.6

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																	
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1		
															Contrib.	Type	
EU27	22445	1	0	22445	59	1	0	>59	2XA	2XA	MTX	=	XX	no	D	=	

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status FV Favourable U1 Unfavourable - inadequate U2 Unfavourable - bad XX Unknown

Trend 0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown

Qualifier = stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown

Nature of change a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change

Target 1 contribution A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

A wide range of threats and pressures are reported. Grazing, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, erosion, silting up, species composition change and changes in abiotic conditions are noted as highly intensive. From medium intensive pressures more countries mentioned urbanisation, roads, paths and railroads, ports, marine constructions, and pollution to surface waters.

Several countries proposed restoring coastal areas and establish protected sites, lepal protection of species and species-oriented measures are considered important as well.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A01	Cultivation				M					
A04	grazing				H					
A04.01.01	intensive cattle grazing						M			
A08	Fertilisation				M					
D01	Roads, paths and railroads				M	M				
D03	shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions				M					M
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation				M				M	
E02	Industrial or commercial areas				M					
E03	Discharges				M					

Fact sheets for LHF habitats in the Atlantic region

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture					M				
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above								M	
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities				M					
G01.02	walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles						M			
G01.03.02	off-road motorized driving								M	
G01.03.02	off-road motorized driving						M			
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances									M
G05.01	Trampling, overuse								M	
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)				M				M	
H03	Marine water pollution									M
I01	invasive non-native species								M	
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions				H					H
J02.01.01	polderisation				M					
J02.01.02	reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh								M	
J02.02	Removal of sediments (mud...)								M	
J02.02.02	estuarine and coastal dredging								M	
J02.03.02	canalisation				M					
K01.01	Erosion						H			
K01.02	Silting up						H			
K02.01	species composition change (succession)						H			
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions						M			H
M02	Changes in biotic conditions						M			
Note:										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.2	Measures needed, but not implemented					M	M			
1.3	No measure known/ impossible to carry out specific measures						H			
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats				M					
2.2	Adapting crop production				M					
4.0	Other wetland-related measures								H	
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality				M					
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime				M					
4.4	Restoring coastal areas				M		H			H
6.0	Other spatial measures								H	
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites				M				M	H
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species				M		H			
6.4	Manage landscape features				M					
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures						H			
9.0	Other resource use measures								H	
Legend:		L Low intensity		M Medium intensity		H High intensity				

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 1420 reached the LHF score 10.0. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to positive trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and functions) in one country (France) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of the parameter Structure and function in France is needed. France reported only two pressures of medium intensity, namely roads, paths and railroads as well as marine and freshwater aquaculture. Probably better control of investments, recreation and aquaculture industry could help reduce or minimize this pressure. The fact that whole habitat area in France is located in Natura 2000 sites should facilitate implementation of necessary measures.

Besides above mentioned, the decrease of the habitat area in Ireland should be stopped and measures improving the habitat structure and functions in United Kingdom to be adopted. They should address the main reported pressures: changes in hydrologic and abiotic conditions port and marine constructions. More information about habitat state in Spain is needed.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Coastal+habitats&subject=1420®ion=ATL>

2140 Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using "Low hanging fruit" approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate due to the assessment of due to assessment of Denmark and other three countries (Netherlands, Germany, and Ireland). Habitat 2140 occurs only in the north part of the Atlantic biogeographical region, in Denmark, Germany and Scotland, rare is in Ireland. Almost 80% of the habitat area is located in Denmark.

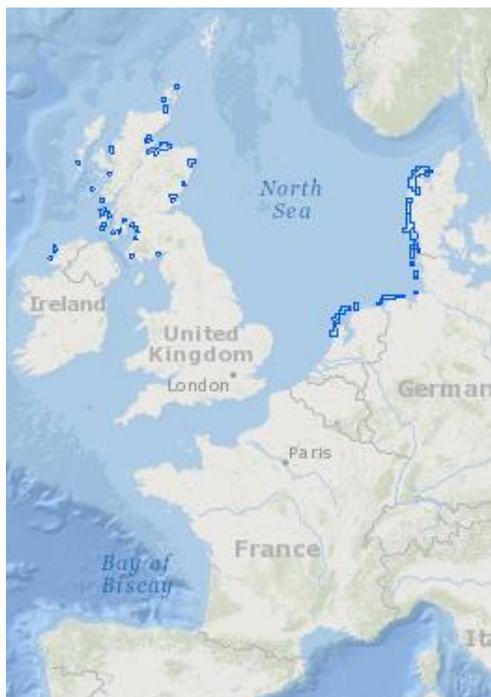
The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires improvement of parameter Structure and function in Denmark, what means to address a range of pressures: reinstatement of suitable grazing, removal of invasive species, reduction or removal of effect of urbanisation and embankment.

Habitat description

Decalcified dunes colonised by *Empetrum nigrum* heaths of the coasts. Syntaxa associated to this habitat type: *Empetrion nigri*, *Calluno Genistion pilosae* p., *Ericion tetralicis* p. The term "fixed" should be taken to mean the opposite of "shifting". The psychrophilic coastal association *Carici trinervis-Callunetum vulgaris* de Foucault & Gehu 78 may be included here.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

In the Atlantic biogeographical region is significant part of the habitat distribution in Europe (it occurs also along coast of Baltic Sea in Continental and Boreal regions). In the Atlantic region, the habitat occurs only in its north part - in Denmark, Germany and Scotland. Further south and west it is replaced by habitat 2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*). It is reported also from the northwest of Ireland but there is some doubt if the habitat is type 2140 or 2150, excluding the Irish report would not alter the regional assessment. Almost 80% of the habitat area is located in Denmark. The representation of the habitat types in Natura 2000 sites is high - around 70%. In three countries (Ireland, Netherlands, and United Kingdom) the whole national habitat area is located in Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany	13.4-14.7	90.4-99.5	9
Denmark	105.0	62.5	20
Spain			
France			
Ireland	0.01	100.0	5
Netherlands	3.2	100.0	8
Portugal			
United Kingdom	3.2	100.0	5
ATL Region	146.6-148.0	69.5-70.1	47

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographicalal region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographicalal region is unfavourable-inadequate and stable due to assessment of Denmark and other three countries (Netherlands, Germany, and Ireland), United Kingdom assessed the conservation status as unfavourable – bad.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006) although there is indicated deterioration in both Germany and the United Kingdom - reported as genuine in both countries.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
DE	2549.70	23.4	0	2549.70	14.80	7	0	14.80	U1	U1	U1	-	FV	a	3800	12.2	1700	13.4
DK	700	6.4	0	≈700	168	79.6	x	≈168	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	7300	23.4	4300	33.9
IE	300	2.7	0	300	0.01	0	0	≈0.01	U1	U1	U1	=	U2	b1	300	1	300	2.4
NL	1800	16.5	0	≈1800	25	11.8	0	≈25	U1	FV	U1	=	U1	nc	1900	6.1	1800	14.2
UK	5566.17	51	0	5566.17	3.22	1.5	-	3.40	U2	U2	U2	-	U1+	a	17900	57.4	4600	36.2

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																	
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1		
															Contrib.	Type	
EU27	10916	1	0	≈10916	211	1	0	≈211	2XA	2XA	MTX	=	U1	nc	D	=	

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic							

change	review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

High number of different pressures was reported by the Member States. To most important ones belong changes in grazing regime, input of nitrogen, atmospheric pollution, invasive and non-native species, problematic native species and vegetation succession.

The Member Countries consider maintaining grasslands and other habitats as highly needed. Germany considers highly important also establishing of protected areas and specific single species or species group management measures.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A02.01	agricultural intensification						M			
A04	grazing									H
A04.03	abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing			H			H			
B01	forest planting on open ground									H
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation			H						
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities									M
G04	Military use and civil unrest									M
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants			H						M
H04.01	Acid rain		M							
H04.02	Nitrogen-input		H					H		
I01	invasive non-native species		H	H			M			M
I02	problematic native species			M			M			H
J01	fire and fire suppression									M
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions									M
J02.07	Water abstractions from groundwater							H		
J02.12	Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general			H						
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession									M
K02.01	species composition change (succession)		H				M			
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions			M						M
M02	Changes in biotic conditions									M

Note:

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.1	No measures needed for the conservation of habitat/species							M		
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats		H					M		H
4.4	Restoring coastal areas									M
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites		H							
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species						H			
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures		H							

Legend: **L** Low intensity **M** Medium intensity **H** High intensity

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 2140 reached the LHF score 10.01. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to improving trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (ca 70 %) and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in one country (Denmark) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of parameter Structure and function in Denmark is needed. There is quite high number of pressures of high intensity influencing the habitat structure and function that Denmark reported: abandonment of pastoral systems, urbanisation, air pollution, invasive non-native species, and embankment. The reinstatement of suitable grazing and removal of invasive species represent measures that can be relatively easier implemented. The reduction or removal of effect of urbanisation and embankment is more difficult and air pollution represents more general problem that should be addressed on higher level than level of habitat. Relatively large part of the habitat area is located in Natura 2000 sites and this can facilitate implementation of majority of measures needed.

The unfavourable – bad status of habitat in United Kingdom indicates need to improve parameters that are reported as unfavourable – including decreasing habitat area.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Dunes+habitats&subject=2140®ion=ATL>

2180 Wooded dunes of the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal region

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

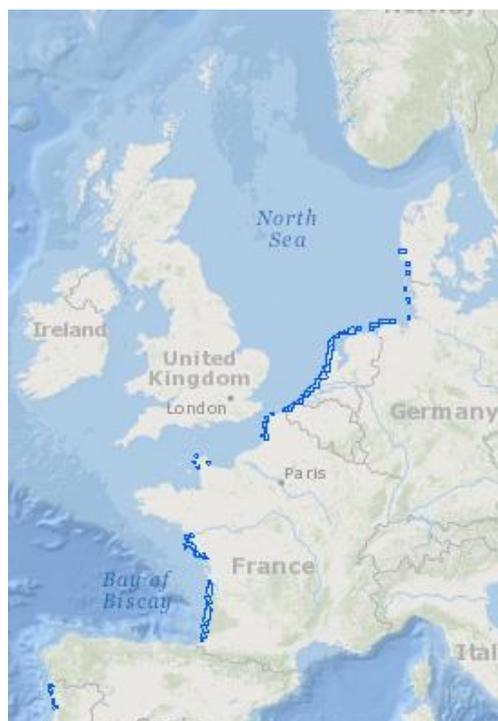
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate due to the assessment of due to assessment of France and Netherlands. The habitat 2180 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region distributed along the Atlantic coast from Denmark to northern Portugal although apparently absent from Spain and rare in northern France. France and Netherland share the main part of the habitat area (69.4% and 28.1% respectively). The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires improvement of structure and function in France and Netherlands. While in France the improvement of the conservation status will be probably difficult due to high number of reported pressures, situation is much better in Netherland that reported only groundwater abstraction.

Habitat description

Natural or semi-natural forests (long established) of the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal region coastal dunes with a well developed woodland structure and an assemblage of characteristic woodland species. It corresponds to oak groves and beech-oak groves with birch (*Quercion robur-petraeae*) on acid soils, as well as forests of the *Quercetalia pubescenti-petraeae* order. Pioneer stages are open forests with *Betula* spp. and *Crataegus monogyna*, mixed forests with *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Quercus robur*, *Ulmus minor* and *Acer pseudoplatanus* or, in wet dune slacks, pioneer forests with *Salix alba* which develop into humid mixed forests or marsh forests. On southern atlantic coasts, it mainly corresponds to mixed *Pinus pinaster-Quercus ilex* forests, forests of *Quercus suber* and *Quercus robur* or forest stage with *Quercus robur* or *Quercus pubescens*. On Baltic coasts also pioneer forests of *Alnus* spp. or *Pinus sylvestris*.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

This habitat is reported along the Atlantic coast from Denmark to northern Portugal although apparently absent from Spain and rare in northern France. France and Netherland share the main part of the habitat area (69.4% and 28.1% respectively). More than 79% of the habitat area is located in Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage %/	Number of sites
Belgium	2.3	76.7	1
Germany	2.1-2.2	100.0-103.8	8
Denmark	1.1	55.0	4
Spain			
France	150.0-200.0	75.0-100.0	37
Ireland			
Netherlands	73.0	90.1	16
Portugal	N/A	N/A	1
United Kingdom			
ATL Region	228.5-278.6	79.3-96.7	67

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographicalal region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

N/A – not available

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographicalal region is unfavourable-inadequate due to assessment of France and Netherlands sharing together more than 97% of the habitat area. Germany assessed all parameters as favourable, but the habitat is unfavourable - bad in Belgium and Portugal. The habitat is rare in both countries although no value for area is reported by Portugal.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006).

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
BE	1300	7.4	0	1300	2.96	1	0	4.71	U2	U2	U2	=	U2	nc	1200	4.8	800	5.2
DE	1763.04	10	0	1763.04	2.10	0.7	+	2.10	FV	FV	FV		FV	nc	3000	12	1300	8.4
DK	700	4	0	≈700	2	0.7	x	≈2	U2	U2	U2	=	XX	c2	7300	29.1	400	2.6
FR	7600	43.3	+	≈7600	200	69.4	+	≈200	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	7600	30.3	7600	49.4
NL	4800	27.3	0	≈4800	81	28.1	0	≈81	U1	FV	U1	=	U1	nc	4600	18.3	4400	28.6
PT	1400	8	0	≈1400	N/A	N/A	-	>	U2	U1	U2	=	U2	nc	1400	5.6	900	5.8

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	17563	1	+	17563	288	2GD		290	2GD	2GD	MTX	=	U1	nc	D	=

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
----------------------------	----	------------	----	---------------------------	----	--------------------	----	---------

Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

A wide variety of threats and pressures are reported, invasive and non-native species are reported by majority of countries. To other important pressures belong air and water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, water abstraction, urbanisation, roads, paths and railroads, and abiotic natural processes.

France considers highly important restoring/improving forest habitats, adapt forest management, regulation of hunting and other forestry-related measures. Other Member Countries propose restoring coastal areas and establish protected areas.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use					M				
B02.03	removal of forest undergrowth								M	
B03	forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth					M				
D01	Roads, paths and railroads					H				
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation					M			M	
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)					M				
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities					M				
G05.01	Trampling, overuse	M								
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)					M				
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)					M				
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants			H		M				
I01	invasive non-native species	M	M	M		M			H	
I02	problematic native species					H				
I03	introduced genetic material, GMO					M				
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions					H				
J02.07	Water abstractions from groundwater		M					M		
J03	Other ecosystem modifications					M				
J03.02	anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity	M								
K01	abiotic (slow) natural processes					H				
K03	Interspecific faunal relations					M				
K04	Interspecific floral relations					M				
L07	storm, cyclone					M				
L09	fire (natural)					M				
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions					M				

Note:

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.1	No measures needed for the conservation of the habitat/species					M		M		
1.2	Measures needed, but not implemented					H				
3.0	Other forestry-related measures					H				
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats					H				
3.2	Adapt forest management					H				
4.4	Restoring coastal areas	H								
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites		H			M				
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking					H				

Legend: **L** Low intensity **M** Medium intensity **H** High intensity

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 2180 reached the LHF score 12.59. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to improving trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (more than 79%) and the fact that the improvement of the only one parameter (structure and function) in two countries (France and Netherlands) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographicalal region, especially improvement of structure and function in France and Netherlands is needed. France already identified measures needed – all of them are related to forestry and hunting management. Taking into account high representation of this habitat in Natura 2000 sites, it should be feasible to implement them. However, additional pressures reported by France should be addressed as well, including invasive non-native species, problematic native species, roads, paths urbanisation, recreation, water and air pollution. Due to high number of pressures, improvement of the conservation status of this habitat will be probably quite difficult.

Netherlands reported only one pressure – groundwater abstraction. The removal of effect of this pressure should be feasible, taking into account also high part of the habitat area located in Natura 2000 sites (90%).

The improvement of the conservation status is necessary also in some other countries, especially in those reporting unfavourable – bad status: Belgium, Denmark, and Portugal. The stopping of the habitat area decrease and habitat restoration in Portugal is needed as well.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Dunes+habitats&subject=2180®ion=ATL>

3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)

x	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - bad due to the assessment of Ireland and France; Belgium, Germany, and Netherlands assessed the conservation status in the same category. Habitat 3110 is widespread in the Atlantic region from northern Denmark to northwest Spain although almost absent from the northern half of the United Kingdom. Ireland hosts biggest part of the habitat area (66.2 %). The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires especially elimination of the surface water pollution from different sources: agricultural and forestry activities, households sewage and waste waters, industrial plants.

Habitat description

Shallow oligotrophic waters with few minerals and base poor, with an aquatic to amphibious low perennial vegetation belonging to the *Littorelletalia uniflorae* order, on oligotrophic soils of lake and pond banks (sometimes on peaty soils). This vegetation consists of one or more zones, dominated by *Littorella*, *Lobelia dortmana* or *Isoetes*, although not all zones may not be found at a given site.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

The habitat type is widespread in the Atlantic region from northern Denmark to northwest Spain although almost absent from the northern half of the United Kingdom. It is most widely distributed in France and western Ireland, Ireland hosts 66.2% of the habitat area. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is quite low (up to 23.5%) due to low part of the habitats in Natura 2000 sites in countries where the habitat is most abundant (Ireland and France). All habitat area in Belgium and Germany is located in Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium	0.03	100.0	5
Germany	0.6	100.0	16
Denmark	1.5	20.7	15
Spain	38.0	x	39
France	10.0-30.0	5.0-15.0	98
Ireland	70.1	17.2	39
Netherlands	0.3	75.0	5
Portugal			
United Kingdom	4.04		4
ATL Region	124.5-144.5	20.2-23.5	221

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographicalal region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

X – unrealistic value, probably mistake in reporting

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - bad due to assessments of Ireland and France. Also Belgium, Germany, and Netherlands assessed the status in the same category. France and Netherlands assessed all parameters as unfavourable – bad. However, range and area are favourable in several countries, including Ireland.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006), but the overall qualifier changed from stable to negative. The national conservation status changed in several countries, including a genuine change from unfavourable - bad (improving) to unfavourable - inadequate (improving) in the United Kingdom. The positive genuine change of the qualifier reported Belgium while negative genuine change indicated Ireland and Netherlands (from stable to negative in category unfavourable – bad).

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
BE	300	0.4	0	661	0.03	0	+	0.16	U1	U1	U2	+	U2	a	300	0.4	300	0.6
DE	1834.48	2.7	0	≈1834.48	0.57	0.1	0	0.81	U2	U1	U2	=	U2	nc	5800	7	1500	3
DK	2085	3	0	≈2085	7	1.1	0	>7	U1	U1	U1	x	U2	c1	2300	2.8	700	1.4
ES	4207	6.1	+	≈4207	0.20	0	x	x	XX	U1	U1	=	XX	c1	4000	4.8	4000	7.9
FR	26500	38.6	-	>>26500	200	32.5	-	>>200	U2	U2	U2	=	U2	nc	25800	31.2	22500	44.5
IE	22900	33.4	0	22900	407.10	66.2	0	407.10	U2	U2	U2	-	U2	a	22700	27.5	17000	33.6
NL	800	1.2	-	>>800	0.40	0.1	x	>>0.40	U2	U2	U2	-	U2	a	700	0.8	700	1.4
UK	9964.48	14.5	0	9964.48	N/A	N/A	0	≈	U1	U1	U1	+	U2+	a	21000	25.4	3900	7.7

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	68591	1	x	>>68952	615	2GD	x	>615	2GD	2GD	MTX	-	U2	nc	C	-

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographical Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

The countries reported very broad range of pressures. All countries consider the surface water pollution as a most important pressure and it is logical – the habitat represents oligotrophic water and any pollution represent change towards mesotrophic or eutrophic state. To other pressures having high intensity in several countries belong: human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, pollution of groundwater, nitrogen input and pressures associated with agriculture and leisure, as well as invasive non-native species.

Fact sheets for LHF habitats in the Atlantic region

The Member Countries consider improving water quality and restoring hydrological regime and as highly needed. Also adapting crop production, establishing protected areas and legal protection of habitats and species are measured of high importance.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A02.01	agricultural intensification			H	H					
A04.01	intensive grazing				H					
A05	livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)				M					
A07	use of biocides, hormones and chemicals				M					
A08	Fertilisation				M	M				
C01.03.02	mechanical removal of peat						H			
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities					H				H
G02	Sport and leisure structures					H				
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances					M				
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic, terrestrial, marine, brackish)	H	H		H	H				H
H01.01	pollution to surface waters by industrial plants						M			
H01.02	pollution to surface waters by storm overflows						M			
H01.05	diffuse pollution surface waters due to agriculture and forestry			H			H			
H01.08	diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters						H			
H01.09	diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed						H			
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	H			H					H
H02.06	diffuse groundwater pollution due to agriculture and forestry							H		
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants			M						
H04.01	Acid rain	M								
H04.02	Nitrogen-input	H	H					H		
I01	invasive non-native species	M			M	M				H
I02	problematic native species	M								
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions		M		H	H				H
J02.07	Water abstractions from groundwater	M					H	M		
J03.02	anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity	H								
K01.02	Silting up		H							
K02.02	accumulation of organic material	M	M							
K02.04	acidification (natural)		H							
M01.04	pH-changes							H		

Note:

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.3	No measure known/ impossible to carry out specific measures					M				
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures			M						
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	H								
2.2	Adapting crop production	H	H							H
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	H	H				H	M		H
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	H	H	M				H		H
4.3	Managing water abstraction									H
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	H	H		H					
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species			H	H		H			

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
6.4	Manage landscape features		H							
7.2	Regulation/ Management of fishery in limnic systems									M
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures									H
Legend:	L	Low intensity	M	Medium intensity	H	High intensity				

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 3110 reached the LHF score 130.02. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from negative trend to stable situation within the category U2 (unfavourable - bad) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in one country (Ireland), i.e. stopping of decline in quality in Ireland is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Reason for selection for the first Atlantic seminar

The habitat type was selected for the first Atlantic seminar because of its high value of the Priority index. The habitat 3110 reached score 144 because of its occurrence in 8 countries and high value of criterion B. Seven countries assessed the conservation status as unfavourable – bad and Spain as unknown, therefore criterion B reached high value 15.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of the habitat structure and function in Ireland is needed. Ireland reported favourable area, it means that the restoration is not inevitable and the measures should be focused to elimination of factors negatively influencing the habitat quality. Ireland reported as most important pressures the surface water pollution from different sources: agricultural and forestry activities, households sewage and waste waters, industrial plants. The measures improving the water quality are thus crucial for the habitat status improvement.

In other countries is improvement of the water quality most important measure as well, especially in those showing negative trend. The habitat restoration is needed especially in France, but also in Denmark and Netherlands. United Kingdom probably can share experience how to improve the habitat conservation status.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Freshwater+habitats&subject=3110®ion=ATL>

3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

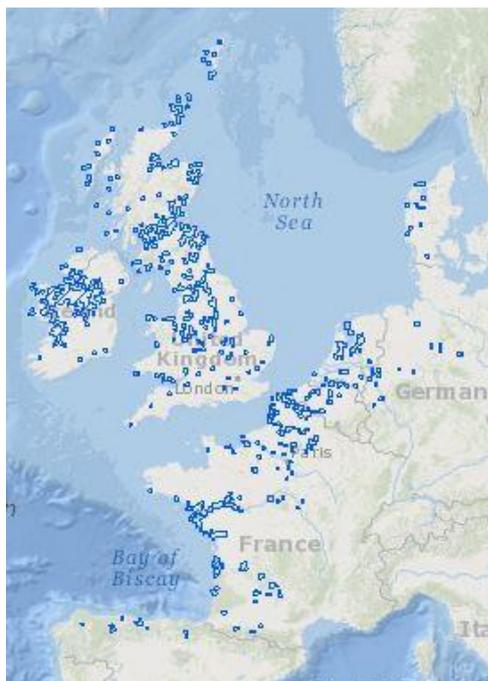
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable – bad with negative qualifier due to assessment of Ireland. Habitat 3140 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region scattered over the whole region with higher representation in Ireland, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Belgium and France. The highest habitat area is in Ireland (63.7 %). The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires measures aimed at reduction of water pollution in Ireland for stopping negative trend recorded for this habitat type. For further improvement of the conservation status, the same measures should be applied in all other countries except Belgium. In addition, the habitat restoration is needed in France, to reach the favourable reference value of the habitat area.

Habitat description

Lakes and pools with waters fairly rich in dissolved bases (pH often 6-7) (21.12) or with mostly blue to greenish, very clear, waters poor (to moderate) in nutrients, base-rich (pH often >7.5). The bottom of these unpolluted water bodies are covered with charophyte, *Chara* and *Nitella*, algal carpets. In the Boreal region this habitat type includes small calcareous-rich oligomesotrophic gyttja pools with dense *Chara* (dominating species is *C. strigosa*) carpets, often surrounded by various eutrophic fens and pine bogs.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

This habitat type occurs scattered over the whole region with highest representation in Ireland, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Belgium and France. In smaller areas it occurs in Denmark, northwest Germany, and north of Spain. It is most widely distributed in Ireland, hosting 63.7 % of the habitat area. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is quite high, close to 70% in average; in Netherlands more than 90 % of the habitat area is located in Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium	0.74	26.42	10
Germany	1.42	36.41	16
Denmark	15.40	22.64	23
Spain	6.85	3113.63 ^x	12
France	76.00	50.66	103
Ireland	419.70	75.48	20
Netherlands	83.00	90.21	13
Portugal			
United Kingdom	7.32		20
ATL Region	610.43	69.92	217

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

x - unrealistic value, probably mistake in reporting.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable – bad with negative qualifier due to assessment of Ireland. The habitat is unfavourable – bad also in Denmark and United Kingdom. Range and habitat area are favourable in most countries, Belgium reported all parameters favourable. The need of restoration measures indicates only France.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006), but the qualifier changed from stable to negative. The genuine changes reported Ireland (from U2 stable to negative), United kingdom (from U2 negative to stable) and Netherlands (from U1 stable to positive).

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
BE	6500	3.9	0	≈6500	2.80	0.3	0	≈2.80	FV	FV	FV		U2	c1	6100	2.8	2500	3
DE	3033.94	1.8	0	≈3033.94	3.90	0.4	0	3.90	U1	U1	U1	=	U2	c1	8000	3.6	2000	2.4
DK	13500	8.1	0	≈13500	68	7.8	+	≈68	U2	U2	U2	+	U2	nc	17900	8.1	1200	1.4
ES	1700	1	+	>1700	0.22	0	x	x	U1	U1	U1	-	XX	c1	1600	0.7	1600	1.9
FR	27200	16.3	0	≈27200	150	17.2	0	>150	U1	U1	U1	=	U2	b1	26600	12	23500	28.3
IE	25200	15.1	0	25200	556	63.7	0	556	U2	U2	U2	-	U2	a	24600	11.1	16500	19.9
NL	4400	2.6	+	≈4400	92	10.5	+	≈92	U1	U1	U1	+	U1	a	4600	2.1	4200	5.1
UK	85351.50	51.1	0	85351.50	N/A	N/A	0	≈	U2	U2	U2	=	U2-	a	131700	59.6	31600	38

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																		
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1			
															Contrib.	Type		
EU27	166885	1	+	≈166885	873	2XA	0	873	2XA	2XA	MTX	-	U2	nc	C	-	0/0	EEA-ETC/BD

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Fact sheets for LHF habitats in the Atlantic region

Conservation status	FV Favourable	U1 Unfavourable - inadequate	U2 Unfavourable - bad	XX Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown			
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown			
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change			
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.			

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

A long list of pressures was reported by member countries. Pollution of surface waters and ground waters were reported as pressure of high intensity by almost all countries. Agricultural intensification, fertilisation, invasive and non-native species, water regime changes (including human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, water abstraction from groundwater and modification of hydrographic functioning) and biocenotic evolution were listed in the same category. Other nine pressures with medium intensity were reported.

The member states proposed improving water quality and hydrological regime, legal protection of habitats and species, regulation/management of fishing and hunting and some other forestry, agriculture and wetland-related measures.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A02.01	agricultural intensification			H						
A04	grazing					M				
A08	Fertilisation				H					
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation					M				
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture					H				
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities					M				M
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	H	M		H	H				H
H01.01	pollution to surface waters by industrial plants						H			
H01.02	pollution to surface waters by storm overflows						M			
H01.05	diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities			H			H	H		
H01.09	diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed						M			
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	H			H	H				M
H02.06	diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities						H	H		
H02.07	diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population						H			
I01	invasive non-native species				H	M		M		H
I02	problematic native species		M			M				
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions		M			H				H
J02.01	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general			M						
J02.05	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general				H					
J02.07	Water abstractions from groundwater							H		
K01.02	Silting up		M							
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession		M			H				
K03.05	antagonism arising from introduction of species	H								
K04	Interspecific floral relations					M				

Note:

Fact sheets for LHF habitats in the Atlantic region

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A02.01	agricultural intensification			H						
A04	grazing					M				
A08	Fertilisation				H					
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation					M				
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture					H				
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities					M				M
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	H	M		H	H				H
H01.01	pollution to surface waters by industrial plants						H			
H01.02	pollution to surface waters by storm overflows						M			
H01.05	diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities			H			H	H		
H01.09	diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed						M			
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	H			H	H				M
H02.06	diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities						H	H		
H02.07	diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population						H			
I01	invasive non-native species				H	M		M		H
I02	problematic native species		M			M				
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions		M			H				H
J02.01	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general			M						
J02.05	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general				H					
J02.07	Water abstractions from groundwater							H		
K01.02	Silting up		M							
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession		M			H				
K03.05	antagonism arising from introduction of species	H								
K04	Interspecific floral relations					M				
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
2.2	Adapting crop production	H								
3.0	Other forestry-related measures					H				
4.0	Other wetland-related measures					H				
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality	H					H	H		H
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	H		M		H				M
4.3	Managing water abstraction							H		H
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites		H		H	M				
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species			H	H		H			
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking		H							
7.2	Regulation/ Management of fishery in limnic systems		H							M
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures		H							
9.1	Regulating/Management exploitation of natural resources on land		H							
Legend:	L	Low intensity	M	Medium intensity	H	High intensity				

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit“ (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 3140 reached the LHF score 20.26. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the

change from negative trend to stable situation within the category U2 (unfavourable - bad) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (close to 70 %) and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in one country (Ireland) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of trend in structure and function in Ireland is needed. Ireland reported pollution of surface and groundwater by agriculture, forestry and industry as main pressures to habitat type. Thus, measures aimed at reduction of water pollution are crucial for stopping negative trend recorded for this habitat type. From their application could profit also other freshwater and wetland habitats.

The further improvement of the conservation status needs restoration measures in France, and implementation of measures for the reduction of water pollution in all countries except Belgium where the conservation status is favourable.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Freshwater+habitats&subject=3140®ion=ATL>

3180 Turloughs

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using "Low hanging fruit" approach

Summary

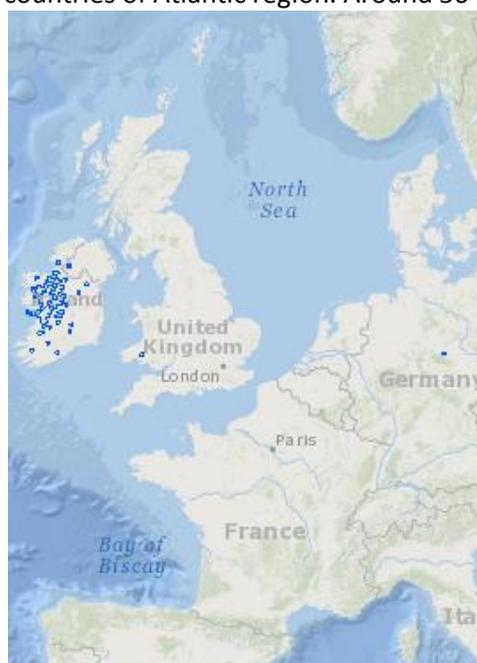
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate due to the assessment of structure and functions as well as future prospect in Ireland. Habitat 3180 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region distributed mostly in Ireland (99.9% of the habitat area), but it also occurs more locally in Northern Ireland and Wales (United Kingdom), and in Germany. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires regulation of grazing intensity and measures for improvement of water quality and better control of water pollution (especially by agricultural activities like fertilisation).

Habitat description

Temporary lakes principally filled by subterranean waters and particular to karstic limestone areas. Most flood in the autumn and then dry up between April and July. However, some may flood at any time of the year after heavy rainfall and dry out again in a few days; others, close to the sea, may be affected by the tide in summer. These lakes fill and empty at particular places. The soils are quite variable, including limestone bedrock, marls, peat, clay and humus, while aquatic conditions range from ultra oligotrophic to eutrophic. The vegetation mainly belongs to the alliance *Lolio-Potentillion anserinae* Tx. 1947, but also to the *Caricion davallianae* Klika 1934.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

This habitat was firstly described from Ireland and the centre of distribution lies in the Atlantic biogeographical region despite records also from other regions. In Atlantic region, the habitat is most abundant in Ireland (99.9% of the habitat area), but it also occurs more locally in Northern Ireland and Wales (United Kingdom), only one site is known from Germany. It does not occur in other countries of Atlantic region. Around 56 % of the habitat area is located in the Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany			1
Denmark			
Spain			
France			
Ireland	38.5	55.9	45
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom	0.05	100.0	2
ATL Region	38.6	55.9	48

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - inadequate due to assessment of structure and functions as well as future prospect in Ireland. Germany reported unfavourable – inadequate conservation status as well, while United Kingdom reported unfavourable – bad. The range and habitat area were assessed favourable by all three countries.

Assessed as Unfavourable inadequate (and stable) although Range and Area are Favourable. This reflects the situation in Ireland which has almost 100% of the habitat area. In the United Kingdom the habitat is considered Unfavourable bad although the improvement from deteriorating in 2001-06 to stable is considered a genuine improvement.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006). The overall qualifier in assessment of United Kingdom changed from negative to stable and United Kingdom indicated this as genuine change. The change in assessment of Germany from favourable to unfavourable – inadequate and decreasing is not genuine - it is due to improved knowledge and better data.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
DE	196.59	1.2	0	196.59	0.01	0	0	0.01	FV	U1	U1	-	FV	b1	200	1.2	100	1
IE	15800	97.5	0	15800	68.87	99.9	0	68.87	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	15700	93.5	10200	97.1
UK	200.26	1.2	0	200.26	0.05	0.1	0	0.05	U2	U2	U2	=	U2-	a	900	5.4	200	1.9

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																	
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1		
															Contrib.	Type	
EU27	16197	1	0	16197	69	1	0	69	2XA	2XA	MTX	=	U1	nc	D	=	

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

Many reported pressures are associated with agriculture and pollution. Grazing impacts and human changes of hydraulic conditions have been considered as highly intensive. To medium intensive pressures belong fertilisation, pollution of groundwater, succession and intensive cattle grazing.

The maintenance of grasslands, hydrologic regime restoration, legal protection of habitat and species, and other spatial measures are the main proposed measures. Water quality improvement is listed as measure with medium importance.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A04	grazing									H
A08	Fertilisation									M
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)									M
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions									H
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession									M
A04.01.01	intensive cattle grazing						M			
H02.06	diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities						M			
Note:										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats									H
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality									M
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime									H
6.0	Other spatial measures		H							
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species						H			
Legend:	L Low intensity	M Medium intensity	H High intensity							

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 3180 reached the LHF score 5.36. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to positive trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of relatively high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (55.9 %) and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and functions) in one country (Ireland) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and functions in Ireland is needed. Ireland did not report any pressure of high intensity. To pressures of middle intensity belong intensive grazing and groundwater pollution by agricultural and forestry activities. The regulation of the grazing intensity and better protection of the groundwater quality is thus needed to reach improving status of the habitat. In this aspect, it is possible to use synergy effect as these measures that are contributing to general quality of underground water important also for human supply.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Freshwater+habitats&subject=3180®ion=ATL>

3270 Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodium rubri* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p. vegetation

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - bad with negative overall qualifier due to assessment of habitat area and structure and functions by France. Habitat 3270 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region distributed from Denmark to north Portugal, with high proportion (67.6 %) of habitat area being in France. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires implementation of measures to reduce water pollution, improve the water regime and remove of invasive species

Habitat description

Muddy river banks of plain to submontane levels, with annual pioneer nitrophilous vegetation of the *Chenopodium rubri* p.p. and the *Bidention* p.p. alliances. During the spring and at the beginning of the summer, sites look like muddy banks without any vegetation (develops later in the year). If the conditions are not favourable, this vegetation has a weak development or could be completely absent.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

The habitat has discontinuous distribution from Denmark to north Portugal. It occurs also in Ireland, but absent in United Kingdom. It is most widely distributed in France that that hosts 67.6% of the habitat area. Germany did not report the habitat area. Quite significant occurrence is in northwest Spain (Galicia), in other countries (Portugal, Ireland, Netherland, Denmark) is less distributed.

The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is quite high, highest in Ireland (91%), it is protected in highest number of Natura 2000 sites in France (30) and in Germany (24).



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium	0.08	20.0	2
Germany	12.60		24
Denmark		0.0	2
Spain	0.05	1.3	4
France	17.00-18.00	63.0-66.7	30
Ireland	1.10	91.1	7
Netherlands	1.90	82.6	8
Portugal			3
United Kingdom			
ATL Region	32.8-33.8	81.0-84.5	80

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable – bad with negative overall qualifier due to assessment of habitat area and structure and functions by France. Besides France, also Germany assessed conservation status as unfavourable – bad, on the other hand, Ireland and Portugal reported favourable conservation status.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006). The change of overall qualifier from stable to negative is not considered as a genuine change.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
BE	1900	1.6	0	2100	0.40	1	0	0.44	U1	U1	U1	=	U2	c1	1600	1.4	1600	2.5
DE	5641.77	4.7	0	≈5641.77	N/A	N/A	0	x	U2	XX	U2	=	U2	nc	11100	9.4	4600	7.2
DK	1070	0.9	x	x	5	12.5	x	x	XX	XX	XX		XX		1000	0.8	400	0.6
ES	31506	26.2	+	>31506	4	10	x	x	U1	U1	U1	=	XX	c1	29800	25.3	18100	28.3
FR	72100	59.9	0	>72100	27	67.6	0	>>27	U2	U1	U2	-	U2	nc	66600	56.6	33200	52
IE	1600	1.3	0	1600	1.24	3.1	0	1.24	FV	FV	FV		FV		1600	1.4	1200	1.9
NL	5100	4.2	0	≈5100	2.30	5.8	+	≈2.30	U1	FV	U1	=	U1	nc	4900	4.2	4300	6.7
PT	1500	1.2	0	≈1500	N/A	N/A	+	<	FV	FV	FV		FV		1100	0.9	500	0.8

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																	
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1		
EU27	120418	2GD	+		40	2GD	x		2GD	2GD	MTX	-	U2	nc	C	-	

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV Favourable	U1 Unfavourable - inadequate	U2 Unfavourable - bad	XX Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown			
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown			
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change			
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.			

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

The Member States reported long list of pressures. To the most important threats belong pollution of surface waters, modification of hydrographic functioning, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, water abstractions from surface waters, and invasive non-native species

The restoration or improvement of the hydrological regime is the main proposed measure. Other highly needed measures include improving water quality, regulation of fishery in limnic system and other wetland-related measures. From more general measures establishing protected areas and legal protection of habitats and species are mentioned.

Fact sheets for LHF habitats in the Atlantic region

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A02	modification of cultivation practices								M	
A04	grazing					M				
A04.02.01	non intensive cattle grazing			M						
A09	Irrigation				M					
C01	Mining and quarrying				M					
C01.01	Sand and gravel extraction	M								
D02	Utility and service lines				M					
D03	shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions		H							
D03.02	Shipping lanes	M								
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities		M							
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic, terrestrial, marine, brackish)		M			H				
H01.01	pollution to surface waters by industrial plants				M					
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)					M				
I01	invasive non-native species			M		H			M	
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions		H			H				
J02.02.01	dredging/ removal of limnic sediments			H						
J02.02.02	estuarine and coastal dredging	M								
J02.03	Canalisation & water deviation			H	H					
J02.04	Flooding modifications							H		
J02.04.02	lack of flooding			H						
J02.05	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general	H			H					
J02.05.02	modifying structures of inland water courses			M						
J02.06	Water abstractions from surface waters				H					
J02.06.08	surface water abstractions for navigation	M								
J02.10	management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes			M						
J02.11.02	Other siltation rate changes	M								
J02.12.02	dykes and flooding defense in inland water systems	M								
J03.02	anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity		M							
K02.01	species composition change (succession)			H					M	
K05	reduced fecundity/ genetic depression				M	M				
Note:										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats							M		
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	H	H			M			H	
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality				H	H				
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	H	H	M	H	H		H		
4.3	Managing water abstraction					M				
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites		H		H	H				
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species				H		H			
7.2	Regulation/ Management of fishery in limnic systems		H							
8.1	Urban and industrial waste management	H								
Legend:	L Low intensity	M Medium intensity	H High intensity							

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 3270 reached the LHF score 28.76. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from negative to stable trend within the category U2 (unfavourable - bad) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (more than 80 %) and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and functions) in one country (France) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and functions in France is needed. Three pressures are considered highly important in France: pollution of surface waters, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions and invasive non-native species. However, measures to reduce water pollution, improving the water regime and removal of invasive species represent quite demanding measures. Their implementation could be therefore complicated.

Similar measures are needed in Germany as well. In addition, the habitat restoration is needed in France and improvement of knowledge in Spain.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Freshwater+habitats&subject=3270®ion=ATL>

4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

x	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - bad and stable due to assessment of structure and functions and future prospect in United Kingdom. Habitat 4010 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region widespread mostly in the northern part of the Atlantic region and it occurs in all Member Countries, with high proportion (69 %) being in United Kingdom. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires improvement of structure and function in United Kingdom, mostly by implementation of measures for maintenance of open habitats, regulation of hunting and establishment of protected areas. Traditional forms of management remain a key requirement for the habitat maintenance within a wider heathland complex. These practices combine to stop succession to woodland once areas were cleared; with balanced grazing as the main management concept.

Habitat description

Humid, peaty or semi-peaty heaths, other than blanket bogs, of the Atlantic and sub-Atlantic domains. The habitat is dominated by dwarf shrub species and usually occurs on acidic, nutrient-poor substrates, such as shallow peats (<0.5m) or sandy soils with impeded drainage. Wet heath generally has a water table that is above or at ground level for at least some of the year. The community includes mixtures of *Erica tetralix* (cross-leaved heath), *Trichophorum cespitosus* (deer grass), *Calluna vulgaris* (heather) and *Molinia caerulea* (purple moor-grass), and in some cases over an under-storey of mosses, often including carpets of *Sphagnum* species (bog mosses) (Hampton 2008).

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

Despite occurring marginally also in other biogeographical regions, the centre of the habitat occurrence is in Atlantic bioregion. The habitat type is widespread mostly in the northern part of the Atlantic region and it occurs in all Member Countries. It covers almost the whole Ireland and large part of United Kingdom. It spreads from the western coast of Denmark, through north of Germany, Netherland, Belgium to France. Some small sites can be found in the north of Spain and Portugal. It is most widely distributed in United Kingdom and Ireland that hosts 69 % and 21.1 % of the habitat area respectively. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is relatively low, less than 30 %.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium	19.5	97.5	26
Germany	10.6-14.6		120
Denmark	24	42.1	37
Spain	2.5	551.1*	
France	80.0-90.0	14.6-16.4	39
Ireland	771.5	54.0	51
Netherlands	27.0	75.0	47
Portugal	4.0-7.0	53.3-93.3	2
United Kingdom	1034.3	22.1	135
ATL Region	1,973.3-1,990.3	29.1-29.4	457

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

* - not realistic value, probably reporting mistake

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographicalal region is unfavourable – bad and stable due to assessment of structure and functions and future prospect in United Kingdom. The unfavourable – bad status reported also all other countries except Spain (unknown) and Portugal (unfavourable – inadequate). Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and Portugal reported also negative overall qualifier. The actual habitat area is lower than the reference value in Belgium, France, Ireland, Netherlands, and Portugal.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006). The change of overall qualifier in United Kingdom (from negative to stable) and Germany (from stable to negative) are indicated as genuine changes.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
BE	7000	2.6	0	7100	20	0.3	+	>>20	U2	U2	U2	=	U2-	nc	6400	1.9	5100	3.1
DE	19813.16	7.4	-	34722.41	N/A	N/A	x	18.62	U2	U2	U2	-	U2	a	36900	11	15500	9.3
DK	13300	4.9	0	≈13300	57	0.8	-	≈57	U2	U2	U2	-	U2	nc	17500	5.2	6200	3.7
ES	600	0.2	x	x	0.45	0	0	x	XX	XX	XX		XX		600	0.2	600	0.4
FR	20800	7.7	0	≈20800	550	8.1	0	>550	U2	U2	U2	=	U2	nc	20400	6.1	7900	4.7
IE	57100	21.2	0	57100	1429.66	21.1	-	>1429.66	U2	U2	U2	=	U2	nc	54700	16.3	40600	24.3
NL	16300	6.1	0	≈16300	36	0.5	0	>>36	U1	U1	U2	-	U1	c2	15700	4.7	13900	8.3
PT	1200	0.4	0	≈1200	7.50	0.1	-	>7.50	U1	U1	U1	-	U1	nc	1000	0.3	800	0.5
UK	132751.78	49.4	0	132751.78	4677.14	69	0	4677.14	U2	U2	U2	=	U2-	a	183200	54.5	76600	45.8

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	268865	1	0	≈283274		2GD				2GD	2GD	MTX	=	U2	nc	D =

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS –

Fact sheets for LHF habitats in the Atlantic region

previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.							
Conservation status	FV Favourable	U1 Unfavourable - inadequate	U2 Unfavourable - bad	XX Unknown			
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown						
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown						
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change						
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.						

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

Very wide range of threats and pressures were reported for this type of habitat. As highly important are noted grazing, changes in pastoral systems and abandonment, succession changes, hunting, air pollution, nitrogen input and human induced changes in hydrological regime.

The maintenance of grasslands and other open habitats is considered as highly important by almost all countries. Highly needed are also restoration of hydrological regime, establishing of protected areas and wilderness areas, legal protection of habitats and species, and adaptation of military land use.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A02	modification of cultivation practices					H				
A04	Grazing									H
A04.01	intensive grazing								M	
A04.02.02	non intensive sheep grazing						H			
A04.03	abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing		H	H						
A08	Fertilisation			M						
B01	forest planting on open ground					H				M
B01.02	artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees)						M			
C01	Mining and quarrying					M				
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use						M			M
D01	Roads, paths and railroads									M
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation					M				
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)									H
G04.01	Military manoeuvres	M								
G05.01	Trampling, overuse								M	
G05.07	missing or wrongly directed conservation measures	M								
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic, terrestrial, marine, brackish)	M								
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	M				M				
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants			H						H
H04.01	Acid rain	M						H		
H04.02	Nitrogen-input	H	M					H		
I01	invasive non-native species			H						
I02	problematic native species			M						M
J01	fire and fire suppression	M								H
J01.01	burning down						M		M	
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions		H			H				
J02.05	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general								H	
J02.06	Water abstractions from surface waters								M	
J02.07	Water abstractions from groundwater	M		M				H	M	
J03.02	anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity	M	M							
K01.01	Erosion						H			
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession		H			H				M
K02.01	species composition change (succession)	M						H		
K04	Interspecific floral relations					M				

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
Note: Ireland reported C03.03 wind energy production										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.1	No measures needed for the conservation of the habitat/species					M				
1.2	Measures needed, but not implemented					M	M			
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures			H						
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	H	H	H		H	H		H	H
3.0	Other forestry-related measures					M				
4.0	Other wetland-related measures					M			H	
4.1	Restoring/improving water quality							H		
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	H	H					H		
4.3	Managing water abstraction	H								
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites		H			H				H
6.2	Establishing wilderness areas/ allowing succession				H					
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species			H			H			
6.4	Manage landscape features		H							
6.5	Adaptation/ abolition of military land use	H	H							
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking									H
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures			M						
Legend:		L	Low intensity	M	Medium intensity	H	High intensity			

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 4010 reached the LHF score 99.83. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to improving trend within the category U2 (unfavourable - bad) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in one country (United Kingdom) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Reason for selection for the first Atlantic seminar

The habitat type was selected for the first Atlantic seminar because of its high value of the Priority index. The habitat 4010 reached score 198 because of high values in all three criteria. The species occurs in all 9 countries (criterion A). Criterion B reached high value because the habitat was reported unfavourable – bad by 6 countries, unfavourable – inadequate by Netherland and Portugal and unknown by Spain. Trends (criterion C) were assessed negative in seven cases.

The Priority Index was calculated using information from the reports of Member States based on requirements of the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive for period 2001-2006. It is based on three parameters: A) Number of Member States where habitat type is present; B) Unfavourable conservation status of the habitat type (U2 – 2 points; U1 & XX – 1 point each), and C) Trend information: number of negative trends for parameters “Area of the habitat type” and qualifiers for “Structure & functions”. The index is then calculated using formula: $A*(B+C)$.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographicalal region, especially improvement of structure and function) in one country (United Kingdom) is needed. United Kingdom reported as highly important pressures grazing, hunting, fire and air pollution. Almost all these pressures (except air pollution) can be managed and controlled and the United Kingdom also proposed the respective measures: maintaining open habitats, regulation of hunting and establishment of protected areas. Traditional forms of management remain a key requirement

for the habitat maintenance within a wider heathland complex. These practices combine to stop succession to woodland once areas were cleared; with balanced grazing as the main management concept (Hampton 2008). United Kingdom achieved progress in the previous period (change from negative to stable overall qualifier) and the experience from previous period is could be used for further improvement.

Besides UK, it is needed to stop negative trend in Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and Portugal. There is also need of habitat restoration, namely in Belgium, France, Ireland, Netherlands, and Portugal.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Heath+%26+scrub&subject=4010®ion=ATL>

Hampton M. (2008): Management of Natura 2000 habitats. 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. European Commission, Technical Report 2008 08/24, 26 pp.

5230 Arborescent matorral with *Laurus nobilis*

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate with negative trend due to assessment of the habitat area in Portugal. Habitat 5230 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region reported by Article 17 (2007-2012) report from Portugal only; however distribution of the habitat in the Atlantic region of Spain indicate both Article 17 map and Natura 2000 database (2015). The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires stopping of the decrease of the habitat area in Portugal. The declaration of protected areas and/or legal protection of the habitat could be suitable measure to achieve it.

Habitat description

Humid arborescent matorral with tall laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) with characteristic plants: *Arbutus unedo*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Quercus ilex*, *Rubia peregrina* ssp. *longifolia*, *Smilax aspera* var. *altissima* and *Viburnum tinus*.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

The occurrence of this habitat type in the Atlantic biogeographical region is marginal - the core of the habitat distribution lies in the Mediterranean region. In Atlantic biogeographical region, the habitat was reported in Article 17 report (2007-2012) only by Portugal. Portugal did not provide the size of the habitat area in Atlantic bioregion; the habitat is reported from one Natura 2000 site. However, it is possible, that it occurs in the Atlantic region of Spain as well: Article 17 distribution map indicates occurrence of the habitat in the region and the habitat is reported also from several Natura 2000 sites from ES/ATL in the Natura 2000 database.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany			
Denmark			
Spain			8
France			
Ireland			
Netherlands			
Portugal			1
United Kingdom			
ATL Region			10

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable-inadequate with negative trend due to assessment of the habitat area in Portugal. The range and structure and function have been assessed as favourable.

Despite the previous overall conservation status (2001-2006) for the region was unknown, Portugal reported no change in the 2007-2012 assessment.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
PT	2200	100	0	≈2200	N/A	100	-	>	FV	XX	U1	-	U1	nc	2000	100	900	100

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	2200	00	0	≈2200		00	-	>	00	00	MTX	-	XX	no	C	-

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

The invasive non-native species represent the main pressure to the habitat, to pressures acting in medium intensity belong afforestation, urbanisation, trampling and paths, tracks, cycling tracks.

Portugal proposed wetland-related and spatial measures as highly needed while medium need assigned to the habitat restoration.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
B01	forest planting on open ground								M	
D01.01	paths, tracks, cycling tracks								M	
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation								M	
G05.01	Trampling, overuse								M	
I01	invasive non-native species								H	
Note:										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats								M	
4.0	Other wetland-related measures								H	
6.0	Other spatial measures								H	
Legend:	L	Low intensity	M	Medium intensity	H	High intensity				

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Because of absence of information on the habitat area, it was not possible to calculate the LHF index. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from negative to stable trend within the category U1 (unfavourable – inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (habitat area) in one country (Portugal) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographicalal region, especially improvement of the habitat area in Portugal in is needed. The stopping of the decrease of the habitat area is necessary and the declaration of protected areas and/or legal protection of the habitat seem to be suitable measure supporting it.

Besides this immediate aim, also restoration of the habitat is the needed as the habitat area is lower than the reference value. If the restoration is successful, there is potential for significant improvement of the conservation status of habitat – the structure and function is reported as favourable.

The occurrence of the habitat type in the Atlantic region of Spain should be clarified and if relevant, the suitable measures proposed.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Sclerophyllous+scrubs&subject=5230®ion=ATL>

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

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

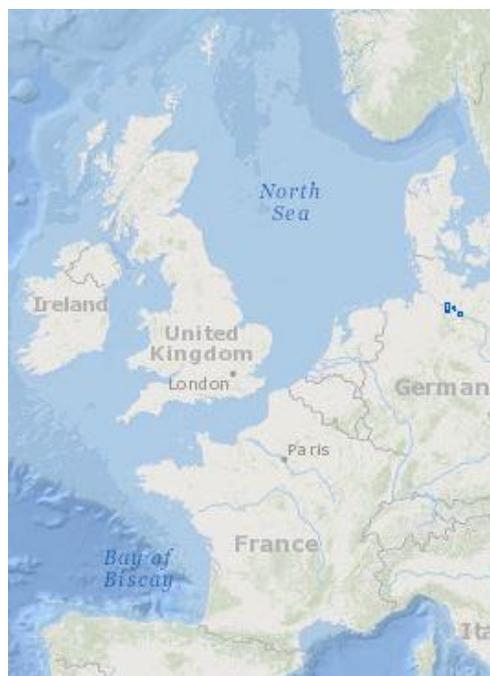
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - bad due to assessment of structure and function in Germany that is the only country reported the habitat occurrence in the Atlantic biogeographical region. Habitat 6440 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region distributed only in small areas in northwestern Germany. The improvement of the conservation status of the habitat requires regular management of sites - the low-intensity mowing. Grazing is less suitable and implementing it, it is crucial to control access, duration and intensity of grazing.

Habitat description

Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the vegetation alliance *Cnidion dubii* are formed by natural flooding regime under continental to sub-continental climatic conditions. It is a transition habitat between wet and dry meadows. Their species composition is influenced especially by the frequency, duration and time of flooding, which is the main source of nutrients. These meadows have long tradition of high-quality hay production (Šeffer et al., 2008).

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

This occurrence of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is very marginal – the centre of its distribution lies in central Europe. It is reported in the Atlantic biogeographical region only from Germany. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is high- more than 75% of the habitat area is protected in three Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany	0.25-0.3	78.12-93.75	3
Denmark			
Spain			
France			
Ireland			
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom			
ATL Region	0.25-0.3	78.12-93.75	3

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - bad due to assessment of structure and function. The overall qualifier is unknown. The reference value of the habitat area is larger than the actual habitat area.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006)

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
DE	570.51	100	0	570.51	0.32	100	+	>0.32	U2	XX	U2	x	U2	nc	1200	100	500	100

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																			
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1				
															Contrib.	Type			
EU27	571	00	0	571	0.32	00	+	>0.32	00	00	MTX	x	U2	nc	D	=			0/0 EEA-ETC/BD

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV Favourable	U1 Unfavourable - inadequate	U2 Unfavourable - bad	XX Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown			
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown			
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change			
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.			

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

Main pressures reported are modification of cultivation practices and abandonment (including the lack of mowing), fertilisation and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.

Germany considers highly important measures for maintenance of grasslands, restoring hydrological regime and management of landscape features.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A02	modification of cultivation practices		H							
A03.01	intensive mowing or intensification		M							
A03.03	abandonment / lack of mowing		H							
A04.01	intensive grazing		M							
A08	Fertilisation		H							
J02	human induced changes in hydraulic conditions		M							
Note:										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats		H							
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime		H							
6.4	Manage landscape features		H							
Legend:	L Low intensity	M Medium intensity	H High intensity							

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 6440 reached the LHF score 3.56. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from unknown to positive trend within the category U2 (unfavourable - bad) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (%) and the

fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in one country (Germany) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and function in Germany is needed. The low-intensity mowing is recommended for conservation of these meadows, in particular the prevention of land degradation and scrub encroachments. If feasible, the restoration or simulation of natural hydrological regime of sites is recommended. Grazing is less suitable and implementing it, it is crucial to control access, duration and intensity of grazing (Šeffler et al., 2008).

Besides of improvement of structure of existing meadows, also the restoration of damaged ones is necessary in order to reach the reference value for the habitat area.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Grasslands&subject=6440®ion=ATL>

Šeffler J., Janak M., Šefflerova Stanova V., 2008: Management models for habitats in Natura 2000 Sites. 6440 Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the *Cnidion dubii*. European Commission, Technical Report 2008 17/24, 20 pp.

9110 Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using "Low hanging fruit" approach

Summary

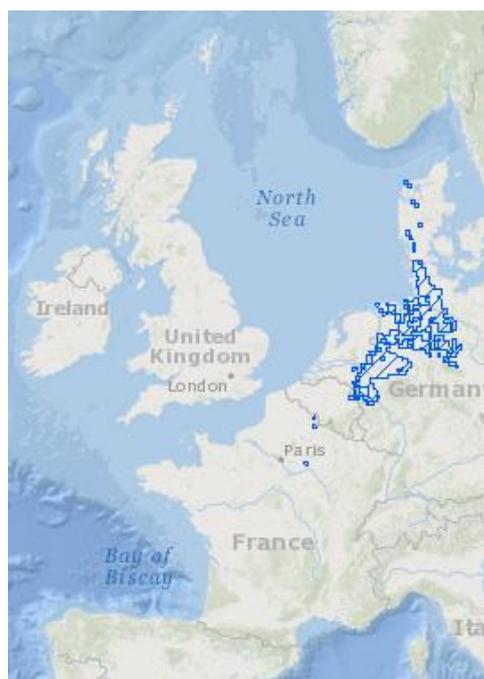
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate due to the assessment of structure and function in Germany. Habitat 9110 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region distributed especially in its north part, with high proportion (96.5 %) being in Germany. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires measures focused to adaptation of forest management in order to improve forest structure. The establishing of protected and wilderness sites could contribute to this improvement.

Habitat description

Fagus sylvatica and, in higher mountains, *Fagus sylvatica-Abies alba* or *Fagus sylvatica-Abies alba-Picea abies* forests developed on acid soils of the medio-European domain of central and northern Central Europe, with *Luzula luzuloides*, *Polytrichum formosum* and often *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Calamagrostis villosa*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*. The presence of decaying and dead wood is an important indicator of habitat quality, providing shelter for numerous saproxylic beetles, birds, bats and mosses listed in Annex II or IV of the Habitats Directive (Thauront et Stallegger 2008).

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

Luzulo-Fagetum is one of the most widespread habitat types in Central and Northern Europe. It occurs mostly in continental areas, in Atlantic biogeographical region is on west periphery of its range. The habitat type is distributed especially in the north part of Atlantic biogeographical region. It spreads from western Denmark, through northern Germany to Netherland. Some small sites occur in France. It is most widely distributed in Germany that hosts 96.5 % of the habitat area. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is around 40-53 % what for climax forest habitats is quite high figure.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage %/	Number of sites
Belgium			3
Germany	92.4-127.6	37.7-52.1	200
Denmark	0.2	20.0	8
Spain			
France	2.7	90.0	3
Ireland			
Netherlands	4.9	100.0	1
Portugal			
United Kingdom			
ATL Region	100.2-135.4	39.5-53.3	215

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - inadequate and stable due to assessment of structure & functions and future prospects in Germany. France and Netherlands assessed the conservation status in their territories in the same category while Denmark assessed it as unfavourable - bad. The positive aspect is assessment of range and habitat area as favourable in three countries. Better information on range and area required from France that assessed these parameters as unknown.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006). The change from favourable to unfavourable - bad assessment in Denmark is considered non-genuine, due to application of different thresholds.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
DE	59561.83	90.8	0	59561.83	244.88	96.5	+	≈244.88	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	66000	88.9	45900	96.8
DK	4300	6.6	0	≈4300	1	0.4	x	≈1	U2	U2	U2	=	FV	c2	7500	10.1	1000	2.1
FR	1300	2	0	x	3	1.2	0	x	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	500	0.7	300	0.6
NL	400	0.6	0	≈400	4.90	1.9	0	≈4.90	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	200	0.3	200	0.4

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	65562	2XA	0	64262	254	2XA	+	251	2XA	2XA	MTX	=	U1	nc	D	=
EU27	65562	2XR		64262	254			251				N/A	N/A			

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographical Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

The not suitable forest management and use (including removal of dead trees) and air pollution represent the major pressures to this habitat type. To pressures of medium intensity belong leisure activities, tree surgery, damage caused by game, acid rain, nitrogen-input and changes of abiotic conditions.

Restoring forest habitats, adapt forest management, establishing protected areas or wilderness areas and managing landscape features are the main proposed measures.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use			H		M				
B02.01	forest replanting							H		
B02.02	forestry clearance		M							
B02.04	removal of dead and dying trees		M					H		

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above		H							
F03.01.01	damage caused by game (excess population density)		M							
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities		M							
G05.06	tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees		M							
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants			H						
H04.01	Acid rain		M							
H04.02	Nitrogen-input		M							
I02	problematic native species		M							
J03.02	anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity		M	M						
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions					M				
Note:										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.3	No measure known/ impossible to carry out specific measures					M				
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats		H					H		
3.2	Adapt forest management		H	H						
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites		H							
6.2	Establishing wilderness areas/ allowing succession		H					M		
6.4	Manage landscape features		H							
Legend:	L Low intensity	M Medium intensity	H High intensity							

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 9110 reached the LHF score 15.03. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to positive trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of quite high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in one country (Germany) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and function in Germany is needed. Germany indicated the forestry activities as pressures of high intensity, impact of some of them (forest clearance, removal of dead and dying trees) are of medium intensity. Some other pressures of medium importance were identified including sport and leisure activities, tree surgery and removal of trees outside forest, pollution by acid rain and nitrogen input, reduction of habitat connectivity and problematic native species. Taking into account these pressures, the priority conservation measures should be focused to adaptation of forest management in order to improve forest structure. The establishing of protected and wilderness sites could contribute to this improvement, but the forestry measures are crucial.

The habitat management may be linked to several strategic issues, such as natural regeneration, recovery of typical species, diversification of both horizontal and vertical structures, encouraging species diversity, i.e. mixed stands, precautions regarding infrastructures, specific biodiversity measures, e.g. maintaining dead wood, etc. Faced with threat of afforestation with non-native trees, it is important to favour indigenous species, local ecotypes and rare tree species and mixed species stands. As regards structure, it is advisable to maintain heterogeneity (vertical and horizontal) and

good connectivity for species with low dispersal capability. On a landscape scale, it is advisable to have several regimes (reserves, coppices, even-aged stands, uneven-aged stands) in a mosaic, which could be achieved by creating more small cutting and regeneration areas. It is advisable to develop microhabitats, such as mega-trees and old trees, and decaying or dead wood to increase forest biodiversity and provide suitable habitat for species of European interest (Thauront et Stallegger 2008).

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Forests&subject=9110®ion=ATL>

Thauront M. & Stallegger M. 2008. Management of Natura 2000 habitats. 9110 Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests. European Commission. Technical Report 2008 22/24, 26 pp.

9130 *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using "Low hanging fruit" approach

Summary

The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate and stable due to unfavourable structure & functions and future prospects in France. Habitat 9130 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region distributed especially in its north part: from Denmark, through Germany and Belgium to the north of France, with high proportion (96.5 %) being in France. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires adaptation of forest management, measures for improvement of the forest structure and for regulation of hunting. The establishment of further protected areas could be beneficial as well.

Habitat description

Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and, in higher mountains, beech-fir (*Fagus sylvatica-Abies alba*) or beech-fir-spruce (*Fagus sylvatica-Abies alba-Picea abies*) forests developed on neutral or near-neutral soils, with mild humus (mull), of the medio-European and Atlantic domains of Western Europe and of central and northern Central Europe, characterised by a strong representation of species belonging to the ecological groups of *Anemone nemorosa*, of *Lamium* (*Lamium*) *galeobdolon*, of *Galium odoratum* and *Melica uniflora* and, in mountains, various *Dentaria* spp., forming a richer and more abundant herb layer than in the forests of 9110 and 9120.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

The habitat type is in Atlantic biogeographical region distributed especially in its north part: from Denmark, through Germany and Belgium to the north of France, where its largest area lies. There are also some smaller isolated sites in southern parts of France. In United Kingdom, this habitat occurs only in the south of England. It is most widely distributed in France that hosts 96.5 % of the habitat area. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is very low - 5-7% only.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium	40.58	43.17-48.48	45
Germany	98.12-114.2		126
Denmark	0.4	13.33	5
Spain			
France	150-250	2.5-4.1	109
Ireland			
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom	24.36	19.80	17
ATL Region	313.46-434.54	5.03-6.98	302

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - inadequate and stable due to unfavourable structure & functions and future prospects in France. The habitat status is unfavourable also in other countries: unfavourable - bad in Belgium, Denmark and United Kingdom and unfavourable - inadequate in Germany. The habitat area is favourable in three countries (Denmark, Germany, and France and unfavourable in Belgium and United Kingdom.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006). From changes on national level is considered genuine only change in Belgium from unfavourable - inadequate to unfavourable - bad with negative overall qualifier.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
BE	11500	6.3	0	11500	94	1.5	0	145	U2	U2	U2	-	U1	a	10500	4.3	9100	5
DE	N/A	N/A	0	≈	N/A	N/A	0	≈	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	48000	19.7	25700	14.1
DK	3000	1.6	0	≈3000	3	0	x	≈3	U2	U2	U2	=	FV	c2	5800	2.4	1300	0.7
FR	142300	77.6	0	≈142300	6000	96.5	0	≈6000	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	146300	60	138800	75.9
UK	26508.69	14.5	0	26508.69	123	2	0	135.30	U1	U2	U2	=	U2+	c1	33400	13.7	8000	4.4

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																		
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1			
															Contrib.	Type		
EU27	183309	0	0	183309	6220	2GD	0	6283	2GD	2GD	MTX	=	U1	nc	D	=	0/0	EEA-ETC/BD

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

The countries reported a long list of pressures, considering forest management, air pollution and invasive and non-native species. Restructuring agricultural land holding and removal of dead trees are also highly important pressures. To pressure with medium intensity belong forestry clearance, tree surgery or anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity. Elements resulting from human activities as roads, paths and railroads; urbanised, industrial and commercial areas, hunting, outdoor sports and leisure activities are listed among pressures of medium intensity as well.

The adaptation of the forest management is the most important measure needed as it was proposed by all countries. The establishing of protected and wilderness areas, forest habitats restoration and hunting management are considered highly needed, too.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding									H
B01	forest planting on open ground					M				
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use			H		H				M

Fact sheets for LHF habitats in the Atlantic region

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
B02.02	forestry clearance	M	M							
B02.04	removal of dead and dying trees	H	M							
B03	forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	M								
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	H	H							H
C01	Mining and quarrying									M
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	M				M				
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	M								M
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	M								M
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)									M
F03.01.01	damage caused by game (excess population density)		M							
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreation		M			M				
G01.03.02	off-road motorized driving	M								
G05.06	tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees	M	M							
G05.07	missing or wrongly directed conservation measures	M								
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	M								
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants			H						H
H04.01	Acid rain	M								
H04.02	Nitrogen-input	M	M							
I01	invasive non-native species	H								H
I02	problematic native species		M							M
J02.07	Water abstractions from groundwater	M								
J03	Other ecosystem modifications									M
J03.02	anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity	M	M	M						
K04	Interspecific floral relations									H
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions									M
Note:										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.1	No measures needed for the habitat/species conservation					M				
1.2	Measures needed, but not implemented					H				
2.0	Other agriculture-related measures									H
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	M	H			M				M
3.2	Adapt forest management	H	H	H		M				M
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	M	H			M				H
6.2	Establishing wilderness areas/ allowing succession	H	H							
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	H								H
6.4	Manage landscape features									M
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking		H			H				
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures									H
Legend:	L Low intensity	M Medium intensity	H High intensity							

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 9130 reached the LHF score 237.93. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to positive trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of the fact that the improvement from stable to positive trend of only one parameter (structure and functions) in one country (France) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographicalal region, especially improvement of structure and functions) in one country (France) is needed. France reported forest and plantation management and use as pressure of high intensity and some further pressures operating on medium intensity: outdoor sports and recreation, roads , paths and railroad. Forest management adaptation, measures for improvement of the forest structure and regulation of hunting represent the most urgent measures to be taken. The establishment of protected areas is an important measure supporting achieving the improvement of the habitat structure. It is important also because the representation of the habitat type in Natura 2000 sites is in Atlantic biogeographicalal region low.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Forests&subject=9130®ion=ATL>

v

9150 Medio-European limestone beech forests of the Cephalanthero-Fagion

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

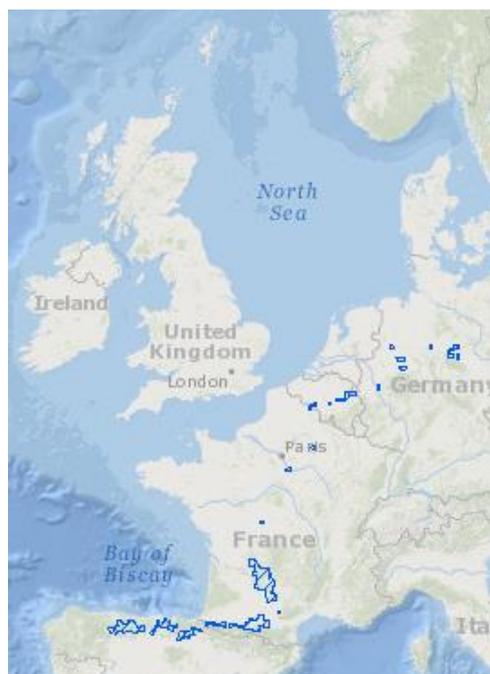
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate and stable due to assessment of structure and functions as well as future prospects in France and Spain. Habitat 9150 is in the Atlantic biogeographical region distributed mostly in the north Spain and south France, it is rare in the central France, Belgium and Germany. The high proportion of its habitat area is located in France (54.1 %) and in Spain (45 %). The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires adaptation of the forest management - support the natural species composition and natural regeneration, implementation of measures supporting vertical, spatial and age heterogeneity.

Habitat description

Xero-thermophile beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) forests developed on calcareous, often superficial, soils, usually of steep slopes, of the medio-European and Atlantic domains of Western Europe and of central and northern Central Europe, with a generally abundant herb and shrub undergrowth, characterized by sedges (*Carex digitata*, *Carex flacca*, *Carex montana*, *Carex alba*), grasses (*Sesleria albicans*, *Brachypodium pinnatum*), orchids (*Cephalanthera* spp., *Neottia nidus-avis*, *Epipactis leptochila*, *Epipactis microphylla*) and thermophile species, transgressive of the *Quercetalia pubescenti-petraeae*. The bush layer includes several calcicolous species (*Ligustrum vulgare*, *Berberis vulgaris*) and *Buxus sempervirens* can dominate.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

The habitat type is rare in Atlantic region, occurring at western edge of its overall distribution. In the Atlantic bioregion, it occurs mostly in the north of Spain and south of France. Some small isolated sites are in the central France, in Belgium and Germany. The habitat it is most widely distributed in France and Spain that hosts 54.1% and 45 % of the habitat area. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is more than 40 % - however, data from France are missing, their completion could change the overall picture.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium	0.6-0.9	30.0-42.5	13
Germany	0.4-0.5	74.0-94.0	6
Denmark			
Spain	115.0	92.0	25
France	Not available	-	16
Ireland			
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom			
ATL Region	116.0-116.4	41.8-41.9	60

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographicalal region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographicalal region is unfavourable - inadequate and stable due to assessment of structure and functions as well as future prospects in France and Spain. Belgium and Germany assesses the conservation status in their territories as unfavourable - inadequate as well. The habitat area is favourable in all countries except Belgium (but difference against the reference value is small. Germany reported structure and function as favourable.

The overall conservation status for the region has changed against previous assessment (2001-2006) when it was reported as unknown, but this change is not genuine (no change indicated).

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
BE	2100	5.9	0	2100	2	0.7	0	2.05	U1	U1	U1	x	U2	b1	1400	4	1200	5.1
DE	3019.20	8.4	0	≈3019.20	0.50	0.2	0	≈0.50	FV	U1	U1	=	U2	c1	5700	16.1	1700	7.2
ES	14589	40.7	x	≈14589	125	45	0	≈125	U1	U1	U1	=	XX	c1	11700	33.1	7600	32.1
FR	16100	45	0	≈16100	150	54.1	0	≈150	U1	U1	U1	=	U1	nc	16500	46.7	13200	55.7

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	35808	0	0	35808	278	2XA	0	278	2XA	0	MTX	=	XX	no	D	=

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status FV Favourable U1 Unfavourable - inadequate U2 Unfavourable - bad XX Unknown

Trend 0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown

Qualifier = stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown

Fact sheets for LHF habitats in the Atlantic region

Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

A variety of threats and pressures were reported but most countries mentioned removal of dead trees, inappropriate forest and plantation management. Other pressures are related to agriculture (razing, livestock farming), species composition change (succession), reduction of habitat connectivity and missing or wrongly directed conservation measures.

The Member Countries consider highly important to restore forest habitats, adapt forest management, establish protected and wilderness areas and legal protection of habitats and species. The regulation of hunting and species-oriented measures are proposed as well.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A04	Grazing				H					
A05	livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)				H					
B01	forest planting on open ground				M					
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use				M	H				
B02.02	forestry clearance		M		M					
B02.03	removal of forest undergrowth				M					
B02.04	removal of dead and dying trees	H	H		M					
B02.06	thinning of tree layer		M		M					
B03	forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth				M					
B06	grazing in forests/ woodland				M					
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	M	H		M					
F03.01.01	damage caused by game (excess population density)		M							
F04.01	pillaging of floristic stations		M							
G05.06	tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees		H							
G05.07	missing or wrongly directed conservation measures	H								
J01	fire and fire suppression				M					
J03.02	anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity		H							
K02.01	species composition change (succession)		H							
K04	Interspecific floral relations				M					
K04.05	damage by herbivores (including game species)		M							

Note:

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats	H	H		M					
3.2	Adapt forest management	H	H		M	M				
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	M	H		H					
6.2	Establishing wilderness areas/ allowing succession	H								
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	H			H					
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking		H							
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures		H							
Legend:	L Low intensity	M Medium intensity	H High intensity							

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 9150 reached the LHF score 4.39. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to positive trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in two countries (France, Spain) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and function in France and Spain is needed. Both France and Spain reported forest plantation management and use as an important pressure, Spain considered indicated also grazing and livestock farming as pressures of high intensity. Spain listed a high number of pressures of medium intensity, most of them are linked to forest management, in addition also fire. These pressures need to be addressed. The most important measures are already proposed by France and Spain - adaptation of the forest management, improving forest habitat. This includes support to native species composition, to prefer natural regeneration where possible, measures supporting vertical, spatial and age heterogeneity, including keeping old, dying and dead trees that improve the habitat quality. The establishment of protected areas and legal protection of habitats and species could support the forest management adaptation.

Similar measures are needed also in Belgium, in addition, as the habitat restoration is needed as the reference value is bigger than the actual habitat area.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Forests&subject=9150®ion=ATL>

91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using "Low hanging fruit" approach

Summary

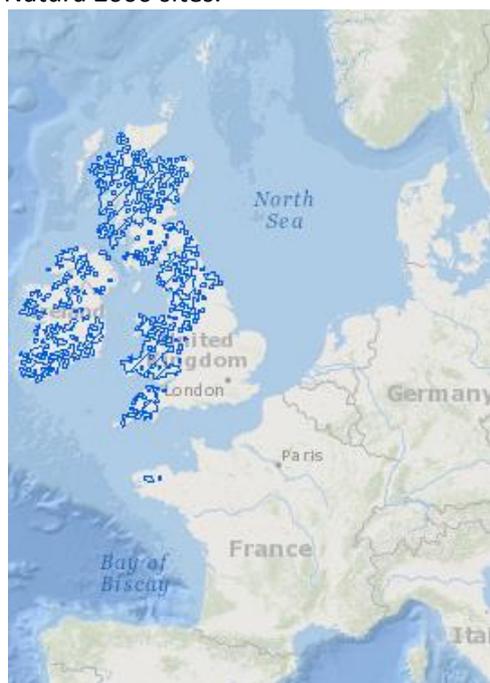
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate - bad and deteriorating due to assessment of structure and function by United Kingdom. Habitat 91A0 is restricted to the Atlantic biogeographical region, where it is mainly found in the United Kingdom and Ireland, isolated occurrence is in westernmost part of France (Brittany). The largest part of the habitat area (94.4 %) is located in United Kingdom. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires adaptation of the forest management - implementation of measures supporting structural heterogeneity of stands, removal of invasive non-native species and support to indigenous species. The habitat restoration is needed as well in order to achieve the reference value of the habitat area.

Habitat description

Acidophilous *Quercus petraea* woods, with low, low-branched, trees. The habitat type occupies acidic, base-poor soils which are reflected in the composition of the plant communities. The ground layer includes mosses, lichens, ferns and acidophilous grasses along with evergreen bushes such as holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) in the bush layer.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

This habitat type is by its distribution restricted to the Atlantic biogeographical region, where it is mainly found in the United Kingdom and Ireland, but absent in the south-east region of the England. The isolated occurrence is in westernmost part of France (Brittany). It is most widely distributed in United Kingdom that hosts 94.4 % of the habitat area. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is quite low, less than 23%. In Ireland, more than 66 % of the habitat areas is located in Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany			
Denmark			
Spain			
France	0.0-1.0	0.0-100.0	4
Ireland	39.0	66.5	41
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom	202.2	20.1	95
ATL Region	241.2-242.2	22.6-22.7	140

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - bad and deteriorating due to assessment of structure and function by United Kingdom. It is unfavourable - bad also in France while Ireland reported unknown status

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006). The overall qualifier changed from stable to negative, but this change is not considered genuine - it is caused rather by different methodical approach and better data knowledge than real change in quality of the habitat.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
FR	900	0.5	0	≈900	1	0.1	0	≈1	XX	XX	XX		U1	c1	900	0.4	600	0.6
IE	39900	22.2	0	39900	58.61	5.5	+	399	U2	U2	U2	+	U2	a	39600	18.6	23300	23.1
UK	138618.29	77.3	0	138618.29	1009	94.4	0	1109.90	U2	U2	U2	-	U2+	c1	172400	81	77000	76.3

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	179418	0	0	≈179418	1069	1	0	1510	2XA	2XA	MTX	-	U2	nc	C	-

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

The grazing in forests/woodlands and invasions of non-native species are considered as the main pressures. As highly important are reported also forest and plantation management and air pollution (United Kingdom). To pressures with medium intensity belong hunting and collection of wild animals.

The restoration/improving of forest habitats and legal protection of habitats and species are indicated as highly needed by United Kingdom and/or Ireland. United Kingdom proposed a range of other measures of medium importance related to forest management, establishing of protected areas, regulation of hunting and management of landscape features.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A04	grazing									M
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use									H
B06	grazing in forests/ woodland						H			H
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)									M
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants									H
I01	invasive non-native species					M	H			H

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
I02	problematic native species						M			
Note:										
Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
1.1	No measures needed for the conservation of the habitat/species					M				
1.2	Measures needed, but not implemented						M			M
3.0	Other forestry-related measures									M
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats						H			H
3.2	Adapt forest management									M
6.0	Other spatial measures									M
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites									M
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species						H			M
6.4	Manage landscape features									M
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking									M
Legend:	L	Low intensity	M	Medium intensity	H	High intensity				

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 91A0 reached the LHF score 39.72. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from negative to stable trend within the category U2 (unfavourable - bad) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in one country (United Kingdom) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and function in United Kingdom is needed. United Kingdom indicate forest management and use, grazing in forests, air pollution and invasive non-native species as pressures of high intensity. To improve the habitat structure and function, the adaptation of the forest management is needed. This means implementation of measures supporting structural heterogeneity of stands, removal of invasive non-native species and support to indigenous species. There is also need of the habitat restoration as the reference value is bigger than the actual habitat area. It seems also important to increase representation of the habitat type in Natura 2000 sites and/or other protected areas because of high responsibility of United Kingdom for this habitat type.

Similar measures as mentioned for United Kingdom should be adopted also in Ireland where the habitat restoration seems to be more urgent because of bigger difference between actual habitat area and the reference value. More information about the habitat in France is needed.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Forests&subject=91A0®ion=ATL>

91C0 Caledonian forest

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using "Low hanging fruit" approach

Summary

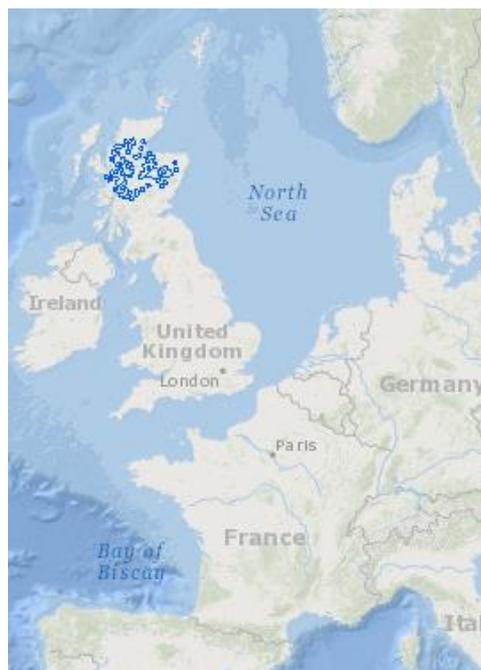
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - bad with negative trend caused mostly due to habitat fragmentation and isolation - therefore both structure and functions and future prospects were assessed as unfavourable - bad. Habitat 91C0 is restricted to the Atlantic biogeographical region occurring only in The United Kingdom. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires improvement of structure and function in United Kingdom - especially control of grazing, removal of invasive non-native species and not indigenous tree species used for past afforestations. Further habitat fragmentation and loss should be avoided.

Habitat description

Caledonian forest (91C0) dominated by relict, indigenous Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* var. *scotica*) occurs only in the Grampian Mountains and in the Highland of Scotland. It can be associated with *Betula* and *Juniperus* woodlands of northern character, within this area. It has fragmented and isolated character and can be found mostly on acidic soils with a ground layer rich in ericaceous species and bryophytes, in particular *Hylocomium splendens*, and often harbouring abundant *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Goodyera repens*, *Listera cordata*, *Corallorhiza trifida*, *Linnaea borealis*, *Trientalis europaea*, *Pyrola minor*, *Moneses uniflora*, *Orthilia secunda*. The dominant trees are: *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Betula pubescens*, *B. pendula*, *Juniperus communis*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Populus tremula*.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

This habitat is restricted to the Atlantic biogeographical region occurring only in The United Kingdom in the Grampian Mountains and in the Highland of Scotland. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is quite high (close to 60%), what is important also because the country responsibility for this habitat.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany			
Denmark			
Spain			
France			
Ireland			
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom	151.77	59.66	18
ATL Region	151.77	59.96	18

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - bad with negative trend caused mostly due to habitat fragmentation and isolation - therefore both structure and functions and future prospects were assessed as unfavourable - bad.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006).

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
UK	23038.88	100	0	23038.88	254.40	100	0	279.84	U2	U2	U2	-	U2+	a	28500	100	10000	100

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	23039	00	0	23039	254	00	0	280	00	00	MTX	-	U2	nc	C	-

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV Favourable	U1 Unfavourable - inadequate	U2 Unfavourable - bad	XX Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown			
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown			
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change			
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.			

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

United Kingdom reported as pressures of high intensity grazing in forest, air-borne pollution, invasive and non-invasive species and interspecific floral relations. Inappropriate forestry activities, problematic native species and fire are listed as pressures of medium intensity.

United Kingdom proposed the only measure - forest habitat restoration and improving. It is considered as highly needed.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use									M
B06	grazing in forests/ woodland									H
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants									H
I01	invasive non-native species									H
I02	problematic native species									M
J01	fire and fire suppression									M
J03	Other ecosystem modifications									M
K04	Interspecific floral relations									H

Note:

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats									H

Legend: **L** Low intensity **M** Medium intensity **H** High intensity

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 91C0 reached the LHF score 5.03. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from negative to stable trend within the category U2 (unfavourable - bad) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of quite high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (60 %) and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and function) in one country (United Kingdom) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and function in United Kingdom is needed. High attention was and is paid to this habitat type and its history; its requirements and threats are known. Probably the control of grazing represents the most important measure supporting natural regeneration of the endemic pine. Other important measure is the removal of invasive non-native species and not indigenous tree species used for past afforestations. The conversion to other habitats and further habitat fragmentation should be avoided.

Further, the habitat restoration is necessary as the actual habitat area is smaller than the reference value.

Links

[http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=For
ests&subject=91C0®ion=ATL](http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=For%20ests&subject=91C0®ion=ATL)

91J0 *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using "Low hanging fruit" approach

Summary

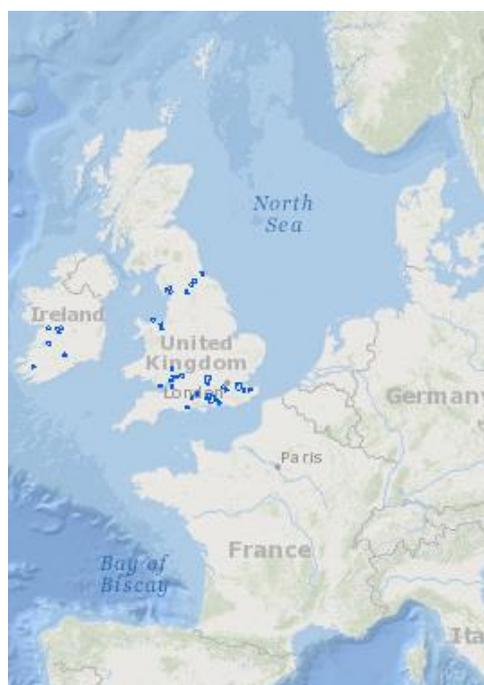
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - bad and stable due to assessment of structure and function as well as future prospect by United Kingdom. Habitat 91J0 is restricted to the Atlantic biogeographical region, occurring in United Kingdom and Ireland, with high proportion (94 %) being in United Kingdom. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires improvement of structure and functions in United Kingdom. Especially adaptation of forest management and control of hunting are necessary.

Habitat description

Taxus baccata woods with *Sorbus aria* or *Mercurialis perennis* are associated with oceanic climate of British Isles where covering dry valleys and scarp slopes on the chalk and limestone hills. The shrub layer comprises evergreen shrubs such as box (*Buxus sempervirens*) or holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Undergrowth is very poorly developed or mostly missing as only few plant species can prosper beneath tree canopy.

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

This habitat type is restricted to the Atlantic biogeographical region. It occurs in south-east England, very locally covering scarp slopes of the Durham Magnesium limestone, Morecambe Bay and in the forest of Muckross (Killarney, Ireland). It is most widely distributed in United Kingdom that hosts 94 % of the habitat area. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is around 55%, whole habitat distribution in Ireland is located in Natura 2000 sites.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany			
Denmark			
Spain			
France			
Ireland	0.8	100.0	5
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom	6.8	52.3	14
ATL Region	7.6	55.2	19

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographical region is unfavourable - bad and stable due to assessment of structure and function as well as future prospect by United Kingdom. Ireland reported unfavourable - bad status as well. The quality of the habitat is still poor due to overgrazing, lack of regeneration and invasive species.

The overall conservation status for the region has not changed against previous assessment (2001-2006). However the overall qualifier changed in Ireland from stable to improving due to progress in removal of invasive species and control of grazing.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
IE	700	6	0	1200	0.83	6	0	1.50	U2	U1	U2	+	U2	a	700	3.3	700	15.2
UK	10982.45	94	0	10982.45	13	94	0	13	U2	U2	U2	=	U2+	c1	20700	96.7	3900	84.8

EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1	
															Contrib.	Type
EU27	11682	1	0	12182	14	1	0	14	0	2XA	MTX	=	U2	nc	D	=

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographical Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

The main threats are grazing in forests, hunting, air pollution and invasion of non-native species.

The restoration/improvement of forest habitat, legal protection of habitats and species, regulation of hunting, and species-oriented measures were proposed as highly needed, while to adaptation of the forest management was assigned medium importance.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)									H
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants									H
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions									M
B06	grazing in forests/ woodland						H			
I01	invasive non-native species						H			
Note:										

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats						H			M
3.2	Adapt forest management									M
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species						H			M
7.1	Regulation/ Management of hunting and taking									H
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures									H
8.0	Other measures									H
Legend:		L	M	H						
		Low intensity	Medium intensity	High intensity						

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 91J0 reached the LHF score 14.5. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from stable to positive trend within the category U2 (unfavourable - bad) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites (55.2 %) and the fact that the improvement of trend of only one parameter (structure and functions) in one country (United Kingdom) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of structure and functions in United Kingdom is needed. Because of reported threats, especially control of hunting is necessary. Other measures should be focused to adaptation of forest management. The habitat should profit also from general measures to improve the air quality.

For the further improvement, the same measures should be taken in Ireland. In addition, control of grazing and removal of invasive species is important. The habitat restoration should be done in Ireland because the actual habitat area is lower than the reference value.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Forests&subject=91J0®ion=ATL>

9260 *Castanea sativa* woods

	Selected for first round of Biogeographical Seminar
x	Selected using “Low hanging fruit” approach

Summary

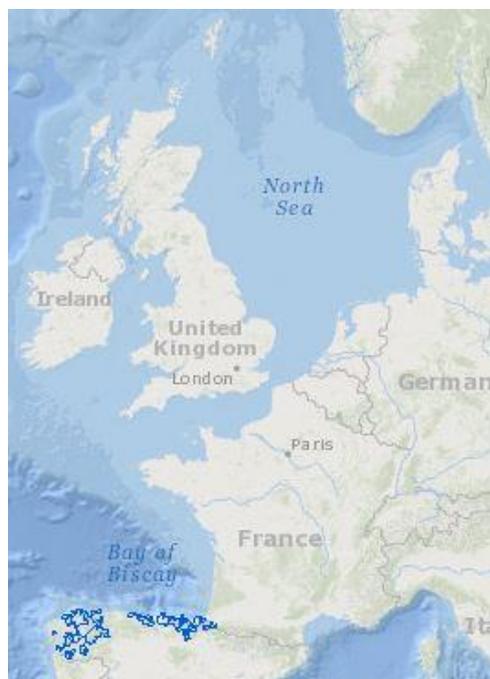
The overall conservation status in the Atlantic region is unfavourable - inadequate with decreasing qualifier due to assessment of range, area and future prospect in Spain. Only Spain reported the habitat 9260 from the Atlantic biogeographical region – the habitat is otherwise distributed mainly in Mediterranean biogeographical region. The improving the conservation status of the habitat requires especially habitat restoration.

Habitat description

Supra-Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean *Castanea sativa* - dominated forests and old, established plantations with semi-natural undergrowth. The habitat includes the mixed forests with abundant chestnut and planting chestnut trees (fruit and wood) with undergrowth characterized by certain naturalness

Distribution in the Atlantic region and coverage by Natura 2000 network

Castanea sativa woods are in the Atlantic region at the north boundary of their distribution (the main part of its range lays in the Mediterranean region). In Atlantic region, this habitat type occurs only in Spain, in the north-west part of the country. The Art 17 nap indicates occurrence in north Portugal as well, but this habitat was not reported by Portugal. The representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites is high, but more precise assessment is not possible due to discrepancies between Natura 2000 database and Article 17 reporting.



Natura 2000 sites			
Country	Area /km ² /	Coverage /%/	Number of sites
Belgium			
Germany			
Denmark			
Spain	87	133.84 ^x	27
France			2
Ireland			
Netherlands			
Portugal			
United Kingdom			
ATL Region	87	133.84	29

The table above shows size of the habitat area in Natura 2000 sites and its proportion compared to habitat area in the whole biogeographical region („coverage“) as reported by MS in the 2013 Article 17 report. The number of sites was extracted from the 2015 Natura 2000 database.

^x - not realistic value due to discrepancies in reporting

Biogeographical conservation status assessment

The overall conservation status of this habitat type in Atlantic biogeographicalal region is unfavourable - inadequate with decreasing qualifier due to assessment of range, area and future prospect in Spain in this category. The parameter "structure and function" is considered favourable.

The overall conservation status for the region has changed against previous assessment (2001-2006) from unknown to unfavourable - inadequate. However, this change is considered non-genuine, due to different methodology used.

Treated data from Member States reports																		
MS	Range (km ²)				Area				Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Overall asses.				Areas from gridded maps(km ²)			
	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.			Curr. CS	Qualifier	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
ES	37928	100	-	x	65	100	0	>65	FV	U1	U1	-	XX	c1	38000	100	21000	100
EU Biogeographical assessment and proposed corrections																		
MS/EU27	Surface	Range Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Surface	Area Concl.	Trend	Ref.	Struct. func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS Concl.	Qualifier	Prev. CS Concl.	Nat. of ch.	Target 1			
															Contrib.	Type		
EU27	37928	00	-	x	65	00	0	>65	00	00	MTX	-	XX	no	C	-		

Legend: MS – Member State; Overall asses- Overall assessment; % MS – percentage of the surface area in the respective Member State compared to whole Biogeographicalal Region; Ref. – reference value; Struct & func. - structure and functions; Future prosp. – future prospect; Curr. CS – current conservation status; Prev. CS – previous conservation status; Nat. of ch. – nature of change; EU27: assessment on the level of all EU Member Countries; Concl. – conclusion; Target 1: - target 1 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy.

Conservation status	FV	Favourable	U1	Unfavourable - inadequate	U2	Unfavourable - bad	XX	Unknown
Trend	0 = stable; + = increase; - = decrease; x = unknown							
Qualifier	= stable; + positive; - negative; x unknown							
Nature of change	a – genuine change; b – change due to better data or improved knowledge; b2 – due to taxonomic review; c1 – due to different methods to measure or evaluate; c2 - due to different thresholds use; d - no information about nature of change; e - due to less accurate or absent data; nc - no change							
Target 1 contribution	A - favourable assessments; B - improved assess.; C - deteriorated assessments; D - unfavourable and unknown assessments that did not change; E - assessments that became unknown.							

Pressures, threats and proposed measures

To the most important threats and pressures belong natural fire and invasive non-native species. To the medium intensive pressures belong forest and plantation management and use, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth, and fire and fire suppression.

All proposed measures are considered less important. They include forest habitat restoration, forest management adaptation, establishment of protected areas, and legal protection of habitats and species.

Code	Pressure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
A02	modification of cultivation practices				M					
A04	Grazing				M					
B01	forest planting on open ground				M					
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use				M					
B03	forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth				M					
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances				M					
I01	invasive non-native species				H					
J01	fire and fire suppression				M					
K03.03	introduction of disease (microbial pathogens)				M					
K04	Interspecific floral relations				M					
L09	fire (natural)				H					

Note:

Code	Measure name	BE	DE	DK	ES	FR	IE	NL	PT	UK
3.0	Other forestry-related measures				L					
3.1	Restoring/improving forest habitats				L					
3.2	Adapt forest management				L					
6.0	Other spatial measures				L					
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites				L					
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species				L					
Legend:	L Low intensity	M Medium intensity	H High intensity							

Reason for selection as “Low Hanging Fruit” (LHF) habitat in the Atlantic region

Applying the methodology to identify LHF habitats in the Atlantic region, habitat 9260 reached the LHF score 2.00. This habitat type was classified as LHF especially because to reach improvement, the change from negative to stable trend within the category U1 (unfavourable-inadequate) is sufficient. It is normally much easier to improve a trend than to reach change in category. The habitat type was included to LHF also because of high representation of the habitat in Natura 2000 sites and the fact that the improvement of trend of two parameters (range and habitat area) in one country (Spain) is needed to reach the overall improvement.

Priority conservation measures needed

For the improvement of the overall conservation status in the Atlantic biogeographical region, especially improvement of the range and area in Spain is needed. As the habitat structure and function were assessed as favourable, the focus should be to habitat restoration.

Probably the fire management should play an important role as well.

Links

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/summary/?period=3&group=Forests&subject=9260®ion=ATL>

3 Template for reporting on Member States perspectives

Each descriptive fact should be completed by a report compiled by Member States, answering questions according to the below template

Member States perspectives (to be filled by MS, experts; length not restricted)

Situation of the habitat (conservation status and main problems)
Is the habitat considered a good candidate for the 'Low Hanging Fruit' approach
Could a intensified cooperation with other MS be considered in practical terms?
What changed since last seminar? (cons. status, measures undertaken and planned, other)
Conservation objectives
Conservation measures undertaken and planned
Specialist species linked to the habitat type
Other comments